

GENDER BALANCED MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT

The focus here is on ensuring that women will be equal partners in and beneficiaries of the development processes taking place in the HKH and on removing inequities. Although this is also an integral part of the main programme areas, it is presented separately because of the special emphasis needed in the early stages of development and integration.

Effective partnerships in national strategy formulation : women's entrepreneurship development in Bhutan

Experience gained from the implementation of a small but intensive, one-year long project funded by Australian Agency for International Development (Aus-Aid), Delhi is worth sharing. The success of the project demonstrated how active involvement of strategic partners can pay off, leading to effective and significant results in policy formulation at the national level. From the onset, ICIMOD decided to involve and work with the apex national body for enterprise development viz the Entrepreneurship Promotion Centre (EPC) of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Royal Government of Bhutan to implement the activity. Close collaboration, through the EPC was actively sought with all the other relevant promotional and support agencies including the private sector. The cluster of relevant organisations were as follow.

- The Bhutan Finance Development Corporation(BDFC) - a development bank with a significant rural credit support port-folio
- National Women's Association of Bhutan (NWAB) - the sole national NGO for the development of women
- Bhutan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) - to represent the private sector
- Agriculture Marketing Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture (AMU-MoA) - the major marketing promotion and support agency in Agri-business sector

Above all, about 35 women entrepreneurs (the ultimate target group) provided the inputs to the deliberations at a national workshop.

As a result of a proactive approach in involving all the relevant bodies and stakeholders as partners, the main output of the activity - a strategy document 'Enterprise Development in Bhutan with a special Focus on Women Entrepreneurs' jointly prepared by EPC and ICIMOD, incorporating the recommendations for



Hay making, Bhutan



Making butter, Bhutan



Delivering milk, Bumthang, Bhutan

sectoral priorities, regional specialisation, policies and procedures, infrastructure and services, technologies, entrepreneurship training, credit support and institutional strengthening, evoked a high degree of 'ownership' on the part of Bhutanese authorities and agencies. There is a strong possibility that its recommendations will be incorporated in the official enterprise development policies and strategies as suggested by the Hon'ble Minister for Trade and Industry, His Excellency Lyonpo Khandu Wangchuk in his Foreword to the strategy document. The Minister also urged donors to take note of the areas of support recommended by the document in order to target their assistance to bring about positive change.



Gendered elements of organisation and culture