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Project Summary

Project Number : NEP/04/01

Project Name : **Natural Resource Management and Livelihood Improvement program**

Grant Recipient : Development Project Service Centre, Nepal

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Location of Project : Dolpa District in Mid-western region of Karnali Zone, Nepal

Project Start and End dates (as originally proposed) : November 2004-October 2005

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Report submitted by : DEPROSC-Nepal

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Signature : _____

Date : April 2006

1. Introduction

Natural Resource Management and Livelihood Improvement Program was initiated in Dolpa district from April 1, 2005. The program, supported by Small Grant Program (SGP) of Global Environment Facility (UNDP, GEF) is of one year duration. This program aims at facilitating GEF/SGP in its initiation of environment conservation and raising the income level of rural population by promoting and properly handling natural resources. More specifically, the following are the objectives of this program.

2. Objectives

- Develop, empower and strengthen groups, and motivating them for preserving/balancing natural resources as well as eco-system.
- Improve the environment and livelihood conditions of the participating communities,
- Promotion of renewable energy in the process of reducing the vulnerability for climate change,
- Improve local people's access and their capacity to actively manage resources through social mobilization, training and technology transfer.

3. Approaches for Program Implementation

3.1 Empowerment of the poor

The program emphasizes empowerment of the poor through self-organization, economic activities and educational opportunities. It is very important to note that poverty is directly related to poor school enrollment. Nepal human development Report 1998 shows, for instance, that the demand for work prohibits children from going to school.

3.2 Participation

The program is based on the rural development approach assisted through external help is basically a process that must be sustained by local institutions and beneficiary groups who have prime interest in such development

3.3 Women first

The project focuses on gender sensitization in development activities. It specifically promotes the participation of woman with a view to improving their access to and control over productive resources. They should also be involved in decision- making that affects their lives.

3.4 Transparency and accountability

The program maintains transparency regarding the loan and activities, fund allocation and responsible institutions. It also encourages other actors to follow this principle such that avenues for cooperation could be easily identified and coordinated for implementation.

3.5 Decentralization and subsidiary

The program supports the spirit of decentralization and functions as district level programs. The program intends to assist in strengthening the capability of the community based organizations (CBOs). CBOs are the outcomes of spontaneous activities undertaken

by people at the community level. They are therefore, sustainable. Keeping in this view the program will promote CBOs in the field of environment education, income generation and rural finance, The principle of subsidiary means that all supporting organization play only roles which the beneficiaries cannot.

3.6 Sustainability

Value of self-reliance will be the main basis and test for sustainability of the project activities and benefit. In order to achieve self-sustaining development in the community, the project is looking beyond purely physical targets of forming community level institutions. It aims at improving the scope and quality of social and economic transactions so that the beneficiary groups and their institutions can sustain the activities and enterprises at the local level even after the termination of the Project. To this end, the project envisages an active role for CBOs. In this context, support from VDC, district Forest Office, District Soil conservation Office will be sought since the beginning.

3.7 Environment Protection

The project attempts to search for suitable and appropriate technologies and encourages actors to apply them in the implementation process so that the environment is protected and natural resources are managed in sustainable manner.

4. Target Population/beneficiaries

The target beneficiaries consists of the following groups of people

- Poor agricultural households
- Deprive caste people
- Ethnic communities
- Women and children

5. Coverage

The program covered five VDCs in Dolpa district namely, Tripurakot, Raha, Dunai, Jufal and Sunhoo. Map of Dolpa district showing working VDCs has been attached as Annex 1.

6. Progress in Program Implementation

6.1 Activities of User/Right groups in buffer zone and in community

18 user groups were strengthened and capacitated for conducting conservation related activities. These groups were supported with a tin-trunk which contained necessary stationary materials required for office management. All the groups are now regularly conducting monthly meeting and collecting individual savings. Members of 11, out of 18 groups have already started to mobilize the saving for various income generation activities, including fresh vegetable production. The total saving collected by 18 user groups amount NRs. 819027.00 out of which NRs 567535.00 is mobilized as loan by 11 user group members for various income generation activities. The details are in [Annex 2](#),

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Table 1: List of materials supported to the user groups

S.N	Particular	Quantity
1	Register	2
2	Calculator	1
3	Punching Machine	1
4	Stapler machine with pins	1
5	White paper	2 rims
6	Scale (steel)	1
7	Loose file	4
8	Carbon paper	5 pieces

6.2 Norms development for the utilization of natural resources

Members of all 18 user/right groups including community members were oriented on environment conservation, forest utilization and NTFP harvesting, water use, grazing etc. Each group was provided a one-day orientation; group members later on conducted a meeting and decided unanimously to prepare detail by-laws for utilization of natural resources in their surroundings.

6.3 Identification of indigenous species of NTFP, timber and fodder

A survey for identification of indigenous species of NTFP, timber and fodder started with the initiation of UNDP/SGP program in Dolpa. The survey was conducted in close coordination and technical support from the District Forest Office and Se-phoksundo National Park authority. The survey has been completed in the entire program VDCs of Dolpa. Samples were taken from the community forest in the program VDCs. There will be a separate report which will include necessary information on the indigenous species of NTFP, timber and fodder and identify those species and their area of occurrence which need preservation and protection in-situ after the data analysis is complete (The report will be submitted to SGP along with PCR). However, the major findings from the survey are:

Tree species: The occurrence of Khote Salla (*Pinus roxborgii*), Gobre Salla (*Pinus wallichiana*), Jhule Salla (*Picea smithiana*), Bhoj Patra (*Betula utilis*) were relatively high in the program VDCs where as the occurrence of Devdar (*Cedrus deodara*), Okhar (*Juglans regia*), Lauth Salla (*Taxus baccata*), Laligurans (*Rhododendron Spp*) were relatively low. Olive (*Olea cuspidata*) tree species were also found in some of the community forests but the occurrence was very low.

NTFP species: The occurrence of Jatamasi (*Nardostachys grandiflora*), Sugandhawal (*Valeriana jatamansii*), Pakhanbedh (*Bergenia ciliata*), Padamchal (*Rheum owstrale*), Nirbisi (*Parnassia nubicola*), Sea buckthorn (*Hippophae salicifolia*), Sajaino (*Coleus barbatus*), Bish (*Aconitum spictum*), Kurilo (*Asparagus racemosus*) were relatively high in the program VDCs where as Pachaule (*Dactylorhiza Hatagirea*), Kutki (*Picorhiza scrophulariiflora*), Gucchichau (*Marchellaa conica*), Yarsagumba (*Cordecyps sinansis*), Atis (*Delphinium himalayai*) were relatively low.

Fodder species: In case of fodder tree species, the occurrence of Khasru (*Quercus semicarpifolia*) was higher. The occurrence of Bhote Pipal (*Populus ciliata*), was

relatively low. Similarly, ground grass used as fodder was found abundant in entire survey area.

Conclusions from the survey

- The status of regeneration, number of seedlings, saplings, poles and growing stock in the forest was found low in comparison to the standard set in the MoFSC guidelines.
- Pachaule (*Dactylorhiza Hatagirea*), and Kutki (*Picorhiza scrophulariiflora*) need urgent attention for in-situ conservation.

6.4 Protection and Propagation of indigenous species

Inventory complemented by social survey was conducted jointly with SPNP and DFO to identify the endangered plant species in the program VDC. The survey found that Jatamasi (*Nardostachys grandiflora*), Sugandhawal (*Valeriana jatamansii*), Pachaule (*Dactylorhiza Hatagirea*), Kutki (*Picorhiza scrophulariiflora*), Padamchal (*Rheum owstrale*) and Atis (*Delphinium himalayai*) were found to be the major endangered NTFP species in that area. Similarly, Olive (*Olea cuspidata*) and Bhote Pipal (*Populus ciliata*) were also endangered tree species in that area. After the identification, measures were taken for in-situ conservation of these species. In total, three in-situ, conservation locations were identified and protected.

An area covering almost a ropani (450 Sq m) was identified in Rasi of Tripurakot VDC. In that area, one of the low abundant species (as identified after survey) Pachaule (*Dactylorhiza Hatagirea*) including Padamchal (*Rheum owstrale*), Pakhanbedh (*Bergenia ciliata*), and Atis (*Delphinium himalayai*) were protected by constructing a compound wall around that area. A small temporary nursery was also established inside for the purpose of propagation of these species. Members of the group of Himali Batabaran Sanrakshan Samuha (promoted by this programme) are looking after this protected area and the nursery as well. In this year, the group has targeted to raise 1000 seedlings (of above mentioned species) in that nursery. In addition, farmers of the group have also planned to plant them in their private land. After protection by constructing the dry wall fence, grazing has been restricted therefore; new shoots of NTFPs can be seen in that area now.

A nursery belonging to Jufal community forest, supported by DFO in Jufal was in need of protection. Compound wall of the nursery were in poor condition, therefore, cattle entered inside the nursery and destroyed the seedlings. This nursery was supplying seedlings for plantation in Jufal community forest. Support from SGP was therefore, provided in this nursery for maintenance of dry wall fencing. Now Bojho, Atis and Sugandhawal are raised in the nursery. Seedling production started in February 2006. This year during monsoon the community is planning to plant the seedlings in their community forest.

One protection area of 1 hectare was identified in Kagani of Raha VDC. This area is a pocket area for NTFP conservation. It is situated enroute from Jufal to Sey Phoksundo Lake (famous route for tourist). Kagani is campsite for these tourists. Identifying its potential to act both as recreation and protection area, SGP fund was allocated to construct a compound wall (dry stone) to protect this area. SPNP provided 1200 seedlings of Bains, Bhote pipal and Bakaino, NMCP (Northern Mountain Conservation Project, a program supported by WWF) contributed 4 bags of cement and 850m pipes for watering the plants after plantation. Members of Devi Mahila Samiti and local community are responsible for

operation and maintenance of this recreation and conservation park. The members have already prepared 1200 pits for plantation of the seedlings and will plant them this year in monsoon. 100 apple seedlings have already been planted in February 2006.

6.5 Training and capacity building on sustainable harvest management

3 trainings on sustainable harvest management were conducted in Dolpa during the project period. In total, 67 people, including 40 females were benefited from the training.

Sustainable harvest management training was organized in Dunai from 1-5 September 2005. In the five-day's training program, 25 people (9 males and 16 females) have adopted and expanded the knowledge on sustainable harvest management. The participants were representing 15 out of 18 user groups mentioned above. After the training, the participants from Ranga village of Suhoo VDC have established nursery for sea buckthorn (*Hippophae salicifolia*), they have already produced 150 seedlings. Similarly, after the training the participants of Jiyu village of Sunhoo have committed to plant 10 tree species in their terraces in the next season.

Similarly, the participants from Upper Dunai VDC have planted 250 seedlings of Salla (*Pinus spp*), fodder tree species (Bhote Pipal) and Okher (*Juglans regia*), in an open area around Shree Dhruvatar Primary School and participants of Tipla village of Dunai planted 650 seedlings of different tree species in their community forest. To protect the plantation, they have also developed norms to collect only dead, dying and decayed trees from the community forest. Participants from Tripurakot VDC have planted trees around the natural water springs to protect the water source. One additional refresher training has recently been organized (December 20-22) for sustainable harvesting and management of NTFP. 24 participants (14 females and 10 males) from the 16 (out of 18) user groups participated in that training. A second follow up training was conducted in Jufal from 8-10 March 2006. Altogether 18 participants including 10 females participated in the event.

At the end of the training, participants have committed to harvest NTFP in the community and national forest according to the harvest calendar that was distributed during the training. BDS-MAPS and District Forest Office jointly prepared this calendar. This calendar contains information on when to harvest a particular species.

6.6 Training and follow up of household waste management and Awareness raising activities

Household waste management training was also organized in Dunai from 1-5 September 2005. In the five day's training, 22 participants including 3 males from 8 above mentioned user groups participated. After the training and conduction of various awareness creating rallies and street dramas with the theme "keep the neighborhood clean", regular cleaning activities have started in 5 settlements namely, Dunai Bazaar, Upallo Dunai, Motipur, Maddhu and Dangibada. The participants from Motipur village of Jufal VDC have started preparing compost pits and use the compost prepared in those pits in their vegetable garden. Similarly, three of those participants have also constructed simple pit latrines in their houses.

After the training, Mahadevi Didibahini Samuha has constructed six wooden dumping containers in Ruma of Tripurakot VDC with support from SGP fund. Similarly, 13 such containers were constructed, 4 in jiyu of Suhoo VDC (deuti samuha), 3 in Dangibada (bhimshen Batabaran sanrakshan Samuha) of Jufal VDC and 6 in Raha (Devi Mahila Samiti) VDC. Similarly, in Upallo Dunai 3 dumping pits made from dry stone were constructed by the members Jawala Deval Batabaran Sanrakshan Samuha with SGP fund's support. Communities are now gradually developing habit to dump their waste in the pits/containers.

Similarly, part of CET fund has also been utilized for construction of toilets. In Ranga of Sunhoo VDC, the lekali falful tatha tarkari biyu utpadan krisak samuha had received NRs. 36000.00 as CET fund. From this money (CET fund), 6 out of 15 members received loan @ 4000.00 each for construction of toilets in their households. They have committed to pay the loan back within 6 months at the annual interest rate of 15%. Out of the remaining amount in CET fund, 2 members have taken loan for vegetable production and one member has taken loan for small grocery shop. Details of the CET fund and its status is in Annex 5.

Participants from Ruma and Maddhu village of Tripurakot VDC have started discussing on the importance of cleanliness and forest protection during their regular monthly group meetings. The participants of Upallo Dunai (Dunai VDC) and Dangibada (Jufal VDC) have shared their learning to their respective group members. Now the people of these two settlements are cleaning their surroundings regularly every week.

Similarly, 4 essay competitions were organized; one in higher secondary, 2 in secondary and one in lower secondary schools on the topic "clean environment and our health". Winners of the competition received different prizes. Two street dramas were organized in Dangibada of Jufal VDC. The theme of the drama was "importance of clean environment in daily life". Similarly, 19 rallies were organized by mobilizing 18 user groups. Students from various schools also participated in the rallies. These rallies were organized to make the community aware on importance of clean neighborhood for their own health.

6.7 Source preservation and protection

8 different water sources have been protected which benefited 470 households. Out of the 8 water sources, 6 were protected for the purpose of drinking water and two for the purpose of Irrigation and Ghatta operation. Four water sources have been protected by fencing in Jufal VDC. Fencing was followed by plantation of water retaining species like Seabuckthorn (*Hippophae salicifolia*) and Salix (*Salix babylonica*). Villagers belonging to 15 households of this village named Parang have benefited from this protection initiative. Similarly, in Motipur, water source conservation has benefited 17 households. In Ruggad, another village of Jufal VDC, villagers had to bring water from a far away source using a community made canal. The water from this canal was used for drinking purpose, operating ghatta and irrigating almost 5 ropani of land. The canal was damaged in several places therefore; there was a lot of water loss from these damaged places. Moreover, the source itself was in need of protection. The main water source was protected and technical inputs were given to the villagers to repair the canal with the support of this program. Now the canal is in operation as it used to be before. In Dangibada, 98 households have benefited from protection of drinking water source. Four additional water sources, one in

Raha, 2 in Suhoo and one in Dunai VDC, were fenced by using dry stonewall followed by plantation of Salix. (Table 2).

Table 2: list of areas and beneficiaries from source preservation and protection

S.N	Name of Group	V.D.C.	Benefited Households	No. of Tree Planted	Remarks
1	Samaj Sudhar Didibahini Samuha	Dunai-2,3, Tipla	91	33	Apple, Salix
2	Tatopani Sanranshan Mahila Samuha	Jufal-1,2 Rupagad	6	-	Plantation in monsoon
3	Gura Mahila Samuha	Jufal-1,2 Paranga	13	15	Salix
4	Durga Mahila Samitee	Jufal-9, Motipur	39	5	Salix
5	Shun Samudahik Ban Upabhokta Samuha	Shun- 7-9, Ranga	52	22	Salix Sea buckthorn
6	Lekali Falful Tatha Tarkari Beu Utpadan Samuha	Shun- 7, Ranga	41	30	Salix, Sea buckthorn and Dhupi
7	Devi Mahila Samitee	Raha-4-9,Thulo Raha	130	22	Salix, Sea buckthorn and Dhupi
8	Bhimsen Bataabaraan Sanranshan Samuha	Jufal- 7,8,Dangibada	98	38	Sea buckthorn, Salix
	Total		470	165	

6.8 Training on terrace improvement and land management

Two trainings were organized on terrace improvement in coordination with district forest office Dunai, Dolpa. 33 people including 21 females from all the 18 groups participated in the training. The trainings were organized during February and March 2006. The training was mainly focused on giving the concept to the participants on Sloping Agricultural Land Technology (SALT) and using A frame for contour cultivation. The training covered both the theoretical and practical aspects on terrace improvement. On the last one day of the training, practical class on using "A" frame for contour cultivation was conducted in private land in Jufal and Dunai VDCs to give the trainees hands on experience on using the tool to better manage their land.

6.9 Runoff Water control and promotion of forestry

10 locations, which were severely in need to control runoff water to protect potential landslide in Tripurakot, Dunai, Jufal, Raha and Suhoo VDCs in the catchments area of Bheri river. 735 households were benefited after the construction of check dams. Dry stone check dams were constructed in all 10 locations. Construction of check dams is now complete. These areas will be planted with tree saplings to make the soil stable in coming monsoon. (Table 3) **below:**

Table 3: List of the groups who benefited from run-off water control and promotion of forestry

S.N	Name of Groups	V.D.C.	Benefited Households	Remarks
1	Himali Batabaran Sanranshan Samuha	Tripurakot-7,8,Rasi	93	Plantation in these areas will be done this monsoon.
2	Mahadevi Didibahini Samuha	Tripurakot-5,6, Ruma	101	
3	Himali Didibahini Samuha	Tripurakot-4, Maddu	85	
4	Sundari Ganga Didibahini Samuha	Tripurakot-3, Ralli	46	
5	Mahila Samaj Sudhar Didibahini Samuha	Dunai-2,3, Tipla	91	
6	Javala deval Batabaran Sanranshan Samuha	Dunai-4,5, Uppalo Dunai	45	
7	Javala deval Batabaran Sanranshan Samuha	Dunai-4,5, Uppalo Dunai	45	
8	Deuti Falful Tatha Tarkari Utpadan Samuha	Shun-5,6, Jiun	65	
9	Mahila Samaj Sudhar Samitee	Jufal, Jufal gaun	79	
10	Devi Mahila Samitee	Raha-4-9, Thulo Raha	130	
Total Benefitted Households			735	

One location which needed urgent protection from the landslide was at Tipla in Dunai VDC, where a dry stone retaining wall has been constructed. The construction of the wall is now complete. Villagers had to cross this landslide affected area to reach the forest from where they get their day to day need of fodder and firewood. After the construction of the wall, 91 households (population 584) living in that area have benefited because now the route to the forest has both become safer and quicker. Now, they can reach the forest and collect the products in less time than before.

In Rasi village of Tripurakot VDC, one agroprocessing center (ghatta) was in threat to be swept away by a landslide which was occurring above the location of the Ghatta. This potential landslide area was protected by construction of dry stone retaining wall. 93 households (550 families) have benefited after the construction. Annex 3.

6.10 Solar panel Installation

Pre-feasibility study for installation of Peltrict set was conducted in Jiyu of Sunhoo VDC and Parali of Raha VDC. These two VDCs were the potential area for installation of the peltrict set. The technical team made an assessment and found that, in case of Jiyu, the perennial source of water was from a river names Khor Khola. If peltric set is to be installed in Khor Khola, the power house has to be built around 180 meters deep. Furthermore, the distance from the Power house and the settlement was around 1300 meters. Both of these factors increased the cost of installation of the peltrict set which was beyond the scope of UNDP-SGP funding. In Raha also, it was not feasible within the given time frame of the project.

Therefore, installation of solar panels was proposed by the members of Shree Deuti Tarkari tatha Fulful Utpaadan Samuha (translated as: Shree Deuti vegetables and fruits production group) of Jiyu. This group is located in ward no 5 and 6 in Jiyu village.

Altogether 65 households are associated with this group. Most of the families are poor, and they normally use the Diyalo for the lightening purpose. The cost of kerosene NRs. 90.00 at a local market two hours walk from the VDC, is very high which is normally not within the reach of the poor family. An assessment done by the field staff and discussion with the community it was found that on an average one Devdar (*Cedrus devdara*) tree is consumed per day for lightening the houses of all these poor families. Moreover, the children and old members of better off families who used kerosene for lightening were also suffering from respiratory diseases. Burning of kerosene emits CO₂ in the atmosphere, which was polluting the environment too. Villagers said that during last few years, rate of deforestation has increased which has led to drying up of natural wells, a prime source of drinking water to these rural people.

Out of 65 households, 27 houses have installed subsidized solar panels from their own resources. However, the rest 38 households (mostly poor) are still using Diyalo for lightening purpose.

This group has been supported by UNDP/SGP program for the last 8 months and the group members have been involved in various income generating activities like cultivation of vegetables with the support from SGP. This season, 11 progressive farmers of that group produced 600 Kg of fresh vegetables, sold it at the local market and earned NRs. 14000.00 within a short time interval. Similarly, the group has been involved in creating awareness campaigns on forest and environment conservation and protecting natural water sources.

Installation of peltrict set by using CET fund from UNDP/SGP was earlier proposed in this village. However, the feasibility survey revealed that, it is not feasible within the budget limitation of GEF/SGP fund. Therefore, in the last meeting held on 8 December 2005, the community decided to request the project to support them with solar panels. They decided to collect NRs. 2000.00 from each household and pay NRs. 200.00 every month if the solar is subsidized to them. As the community was very much involved in income generation activity from the cultivation of fresh vegetables, it is very logical to say that, the community members will have enough opportunity to pay back the loan amount they receive from the CET fund for solar panel installation. Moreover, a part of SGP fund will be utilized in construction of an irrigation system with the commodity (rice) support for unskilled labour from WFP in that village which will help to irrigate their land. This will also increase their capacity to pay back the loan. Furthermore, the community has committed to pay back at least half of their loan by July 2006 (after Yarsagumba harvest is over the people will earn substantial amount of money). Therefore, installation of solar panel was found very feasible in that area which will positively contribute to environment conservation by reducing consumption of devdar tree for lightening.

This group was provided by NRs.360000.00 as CET fund. From this amount, 20 poorest of the poor households got loan with community consensus. Each family got NRs 18000.00 as loan. They added NRs 1500.00 as matching fund to buy the solar panels. The details of loan repayment is in CET fund status table. Solar panels have already been installed in these 20 VDCs and now are using it for lightening. The members who received loan from CET fund had also committed to plant 10 trees around their surrounding for the improvement of environment.

6.11 Business literacy classes

Five classes were conducted one each in a VDC. Thirty eight participants including 23 females participated in these classes. The classes were conducted for two to three days. Participation of the treasurer of the above-mentioned 18 groups in the class was mandatory. Either one between the group secretary and the chairperson, from each group participated in the class. The class mainly focused on record keeping (book keeping) of the CET fund that the groups have received from UNDP/SGP. After completion of business literacy class most of the groups have started maintaining their financial records systematically.

6.12 Vegetable cultivation program

This activity is almost complete and till now interested farmers of all 18 user groups have been supported. Several farmers have produced fresh vegetables; sold in the local market and earned good amount of money. Until last reporting period 11.59 tons of vegetables was sold in the market after household consumption. After selling the vegetables, farmers earned NRs. 213150.00 In this season, total quantity of vegetable produced was almost 4.295 tons. The group members sold these vegetable after household consumption and earned NRs. 83420.00. Details of the vegetable produced until now and total income made by the group members are in [Annex 2](#). Excited from the income after selling vegetables, 5 members of Tatopani Sanrakshan Mahila Samuha of Rupgad of Jufal VDC and 6 members from Kanjirowa Taaja Tarkari Utpadan Samuha of Dunai VDC and 3 members from Lekali falful tatha tarkari biyu utpadan samuha, Ranga (Sunhoo VDC), 3 members from Durga Mahila Samuha of Motipur of Jufal VDC (where irrigation scheme is proposed), 4 members of Bhimsen Bataban Sanrakshan Samuha of Dangibada of Jufal VDC have already started commercial cultivation of fresh vegetables. Their main market is Dunai and Jufal (base camps of Army and Police).

6.13 Construction of small scale irrigation scheme

Construction of three irrigation schemes have already started. One such area is in Jiyu village of Sunhoo VDC. This place has a potentiality to be developed as a pocket area for vegetable cultivation. 230 ropani of land in this area is very potential agricultural land. Detail design and estimation of the irrigation canal showed that the water availability at the tail point was only sufficient to irrigate 100 ropani of land. The survey showed that allocated budget from UNDP-SGP is not sufficient to construct the irrigation canal as the distance between the source and the settlement was high. Therefore, co-funding was expected. Recently DEPROSC and WFP reached into an agreement to mobilize rice to create productive assets in Sunhoo VDC among others. Almost 4 metric tons of rice will be mobilized in this scheme for unskilled labour to construct the canal. 44 households are expected to benefit from the construction of this irrigation scheme.

Another potential irrigation scheme has been identified in Motipur village of Jufal VDC. This area also has very much potential to develop as a pocket area for vegetable cultivation because this place is almost equidistant from the market of both Dunai and Jufal VDC. 55 Ropani (2.75 hectare) of cultivable land has now remained less fertile just due to the lack of irrigation. Surrounding this land is a village where Durga Mahila Samuha (a group which is supported by UNDP-SGP fund) is actively involved in

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environment conservation and income generating activities. This area lies higher than the Bheri river that flows nearby this village. Due to this, though they have water all around there is not even a drop for irrigation. The group has proposed a very innovative idea to irrigate this patch of land. A small water lifting electric pump of 5 Horse power and its accessories has been supported to this group. They can irrigate this patch of land and all the group members can get the benefit from it. Nepal Electricity Authority Dolpa, has supported this project by providing a 3 phase transformer, and technical inputs. Until now construction of pump house is complete. Pumping set and transformer set has already reached the construction site. However, due to the problem with the main electric power supply at Dunai the work is progressing at slow rate. NEA is working on resuming the power supply in Dunai and Jufal by Mid May 2006.

The third irrigation scheme was feasible in Ruma of Tripurakot VDC. A small stream that was flowing above the Ruma village was creating a potential threat of landslide in the village. On the other hand, villagers did not have sufficient water to irrigate their land. Fund from UNDP SGP was utilized to purchase HDP pipes to tap the water from the stream and use the tapped water to irrigate the field of size 110 Ropani. This irrigation is going to benefit 80 households. HDP pipes have already reached the construction site. Construction work has already begun.

None of the three construction work has completed till the end of March 2006. It is because in Dolpa, snowfall is a regular phenomenon during the winter season. Due to extremely cold weather in this season, construction activities came to complete halt. Snow started to melt by mid February. Due to the irregular cargo service from Nepalgunj to Dolpa, the construction materials like HDP pipes, cement, pump sets, CGI sheets could not transported on time. Therefore, construction of the irrigation schemes was delayed by almost 2 months. Now the construction work has already started, if power supply resumes in the time mentioned by NEA, it is anticipated that all these schemes will be complete by the end of May 2006.

User groups and User committees have already been formed in all three locations to look after the construction of these schemes. The money that is necessary for construction has also been released to these groups and agreement has already been signed. Construction work has already begun and it will take almost two months to complete the construction.

6.10 Improvement of Agro-processing centers

10 agro-processing centers were improved ([Table 4](#)). After the improvement of these centers, members of 673 households of 10 user groups of 5 VDCs have benefited. Now villagers have saved travel time and have used this time to do other household activities.

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Table 4: List of user groups where agro-processing centers were improved

S.N	Name of Group	V.D.C.	Benefited Households	Remarks
1	Samaj Sudhar Didibahini Samuha	Dunai-2,3, Tipla	91	Part time job for Mr. Janak Budha TRPAP, DESERT, GEF/SGP
2	Javala Deval Batabaran Sanranshan Samuha	Dunai-5,6 Uppalo Dunai	45	12 dalit household use for free
3	Durga Mahila Samuha	Jufal-9, Motipur	39	Part time job for Mr.Ram Bdr. Kathayat
4	Parila Sahakarya Mahila Samuha	Raha-1-3, Parila	29	NMCP, VDC and GEF/SGP
5	Himali Batabaran Sanranshan Samuha	Tripurakot-7,8, Rasi	93	
6	Himali Didibahini Samuha	Tripurakot-4, Maddu	85	
7	Devi Mahila Samuha	Raha-4-9, Thulo Raha	130	
8	Durga Mahila Samuha	Jufal-9, Bhatti	60	Including beneficiaries from Shun and Tripurakot VDC.
9	Shun Samudahik Ban Upabhokta Samuha	Shun-8, Ranga	36	
10	Deuti Falful Tatha Tarkari Utpadan Kirsak Samuha	Shun-5,6, Jiun	65	
Total			673	

6.11 The status of CET Fund

Out of the 18 groups which are being supported by UNDP-SGP fund, 13 groups are provided with CET fund Annex 5. 13 out of 18 groups were selected because either their saving was quite low or they didn't have enough opportunity to invest money on loan to its members due to lack of awareness of different income generating activities they can initiate with this money. Business literacy class was initiated in all 18 groups. After attending the classes, the group members become aware of various income generating activities as well as environment conservation activities; became able to keep the records and mobilize their CET fund and the savings. Major part (NRs. 360000.00) of the CET Fund was made available to Shree Deuti Tarkari tatha Fulful Utpaadan Samuha so that the group members became able to borrow the money for installation of solar panels in their respective houses. The remaining 390000.00 was provided to the rest 12 groups according to the need of the group and capacity of the members on using the fund for environment conservation income generating activities. Details of amount and transactions from the CET Fund in these groups is listed in Annex 5.

Until now, mobilization status of CET fund has been seen satisfactory. After attending the business literacy class both the treasurer and chairperson/secretary have shown confidence that they can now handle the CET fund according to the rules their group has earlier made. Therefore, now all groups will mobilize the CET fund by the joint signatory of chairperson and treasurer.

Most of the user/right group, which are supported by CET fund are women's group. These groups in one way or another are linked with District Women Development Office

(WDO). These groups have already started conducting public audit ceremony every two months. Therefore, it is expected that chances of misuse of the fund is low in these groups.

7. Recommendations

Protection of Indigenous species of NTFPs, timber and fodder:

Special program to create awareness to people to protect *Rhododendron spp* and *Taxus baccata* should be initiated. Similarly, forest in these areas contains many openings in between. Some of the openings are very large. Special focus should be given to fill these openings with new plantation.

Due to the low occurrence of fodder tree species, the program should now give special focus in promoting the indigenous fodder tree species for example Bhote Pipal, and *Salix babylonica*.

In the upper belt of the area that was surveyed, there are large plateaus, which are rich in NTFP species. These areas are mostly within the reach of all the villagers living near it and they collect the valuable species every year. However, no any specific management system has been introduced in those areas. It is therefore, recommended that some kind of rotational management system is introduced in those areas after dividing the areas into different management blocks.

Monitoring CET fund mobilization

All 13 group members have already been trained on mobilization and book keeping of the CET fund transactions. However, their activity still needs regular monitoring to ensure that they invest their money in environment conservation and income generation aspects. DEPROSC-Nepal district office is still working in Dolpa. If one person is supported by UNDP/SGP fund for another two months, it can be well ensured that the groups are mobilizing their CET fund in proper way.

Program extension

All three irrigation schemes as mentioned in section 6.13 are not complete until the end of April 2006:

The reasons are:

- During the winter season Poush to Falgun, the weather in the district is very cold due to snowfall. In these months, most of the construction work comes to a complete stop. Construction of the irrigation schemes therefore, could not be started on time due to climatic conditions of the district.
- Dolpa district is well renowned for Yarsagumba trade. Most people of the district are busy in collection of Yarsagumba after snow starts melting (Chaitra-Baisakh). During this time very few people are available in the villages. Due to the lack of villagers (unskilled workers) construction work proceeds at a slower rate.
- Lift irrigation was proposed in Motipur village. Lift irrigation needed electric Pump. Electric pump had to be transported from Nepalgunj to Dolpa. In Dolpa only means of transportation is by air. The air service is very irregular even during

the summer time. In winter, the air service was disrupted. Therefore, the pumpset and its accessories could not be transported on time. Now the pumpsets have already reached the district and construction of pump house is complete. It will take another 10-15 days for installation of the pump. However, power supply in the district only will resume from Jestha. Therefore, before the month of Jestha the actual irrigation can not be started.

- Surface irrigation scheme at Jiyu village of Suhoo was relatively a bigger scheme, which was not feasible only with the budget from UNDP/SGP. Therefore, co-funding (in kind) from WFP was expected in this scheme. However, it took more time than expected to reach into agreement between DEPROSC-Nepal and WFP. Therefore, this scheme had to be delayed by few months. Now the construction work has already begun here, it is expected that the work will complete within next month.

It will require not more than two months to complete all these schemes. The responsible person will not only assist the communities to complete these schemes but will also facilitate and capacitate the groups receiving the CET fund to mobilize the fund in proper way.

Moreover, the financial statement showed that 64,306.88 is balance in direct support cost of this program. Within this limit, the project can be extended for another two month. No cost extension is therefore, proposed for two months (upto May 2006). The detail is in Annex 6.

Annex 1: Map of Dolpa District showing Program VDCs in highlight

DOLPA



Annex 2: The status of User Groups savings and income after selling fresh vegetables

S.N.	Name of the Group	VDC	Date of formation /adoption	Number of members			Monthly meeting date	Name of the Chair person	Quantity of vegetable produced in KG	Income from selling after household consumption	Savings (NRS)			Remarks
				F	M	Total					Per month	Total	On loan	
1	Sri Jawala Deval Batabaran Sanrakshan Samuha	Dunai 4,5	062/1/24	8	8	16	1 st day of every month	Mrs. Shanti Shahi	180	2500	10	1500	1400	New
2	Sri Parila Sahakarya Mahila Samuha	Raha 1,2,3	062/3/24	15		15	24 th day of every month	Mrs. Nima Sagmu Mahat	750	14160	25	600	600	New
3	Sri Himali Batabaran Sanrakshan Samuha	Tripurakot 7,8	062/3/25	4	7	11	2 nd Saturday of each month	Mr. Kaman Budha	1000	20400	10	2610	0	New
4	Sri Mahadeva Didi Bahini Samuha	Tripurakot 5,6	062/2/17	11		11	15 th of each month	Mrs. Mangsiri Budha	340	4260	20	3780	0	New
5	Sri Bhimsen Batabaran Sanrakshan Samuha	Jufal 6,7,8	062/2/18	2	7	9	1 st Saturday of each month	Mr. Nara Bahadur Dangi	1500	23100	10	6000	0	New
6	Sri Tatopani Sanrakshan Mahila Samuha	Jufal 9	062/3/10	5		5		Mrs. Shiva Kumari Shah	300	6000	100 (one time) 25 each month	5000	0	Old
7	Sri Durga Mahila Samuha	Jufal 9	062/3/12	26		26	5 th day of each month	Mrs. Dhankuli Kathayat	820	12100	25	34000	0	Old
8	Sri Karnali Mahila Bahuudessiya Sahakarya Sanstha	Jufal 3,4	062/3/13	50		50	2 nd day of each month	Mrs. Man kumari Shahi	1500	33315	25	27000 0	267900	Old
9	Sri Mahila Sudhar Samuha	Jufal 4,5	062/3/13	41		41	1 st day of each month	Mrs. Indra Kumari Shahi	1870	36250	25	65299	46935	Old
10	Sri Mahila Samaj Sudhar Didibahini Samuha	Dunai, Tipla	062/3/14	43		43	5 th of each month	Mrs. Chinta Budha	1200	15000	25	51500	48000	Old
11	Sri Kanjirowa Taaja Tarkari Utpadan Samuha	Dunai bazaar		15		15		Mrs. Shanti Saahi	1000	26735	25	6000	0	

S.N.	Name of the Group	VDC	Date of formation /adoption	Number of members			Monthly meeting date	Name of the Chair person	Quantity of vegetable produced in KG	Income from selling after household consumption	Savings (NRS)			Remarks
				F	M	Total					Per month	Total	On loan	
12	Sri Gura Mahila Samuha	Parang, Jufal		11		11		Mrs. Bhagawati Saahi	250	2700	20	17000	13500	
13	Sri Devi Mahila Samiti	Raha		25		25			1300	32000	15	97841	95000	
14	Himali Didibahini Samuha	Maddhu, Tripurakot		32		32		Mrs. Pitha Budha	785	9000	15	140997	29900	
15	Sundari Ganga Didibahini Samuha	Ralli, Tripurakot		44		44		Mrs. Laxmi Ukheda	820	17000	10	9500	1800	
16	Deuti Tarkari Tatha Falful Utpadan Samuha	Jiyu, Sohoo		4	11	15		Mr. Sukalal B.K	730	16050	20	17250	13000	
17	Lekali Tarkari Tatha Falful Utpadan Samuha	Rang, Suhoo		6	9	15		Mr. Manoj Buda	700	12000	25	17000	0	
18	Bhawani Taaja Tarkari Utpadan Krisak Samuha	Dangibada, Jufal		5	11	16		Mr. Dhan B Dangi	810	14000				
Total				347	53	400			15855	296570				

Annex 3: Status of activities implemented in 18 different groups

S.N.	Name of the Group	Name of the village	VDC	Program Activities			Remarks	
				Ongoing	Number	Completed		Number
Raha VDC								
1	Sri Parila Sahakarya Mahila Samuha	Parila	Raha 1,2,3			Ghatta improvement	1	NMCP/UNDP-SGP/VDC/SPNP
						Vegetable seed distribution	1	
						Inventory	1	
						Landslide control	1	
						Stationary kit distribution	1	
2	Sri Devi Mahila Samiti	Thulo Raha	Raha, 5,6,7,8,9			Protection and propagation of indigenous species	1	SPNP/UNDP-SGP
						Vegetable seed distribution	1	
						Inventory	1	
						Source preservation and protection	1	
						Awareness raising activities	1	
						Stationary kit distribution	1	
Jufal VDC								
3	Sri Bhimsen Batabaran Sanrakshan Samuha	Dangibada	Jufal 6,7,8			Vegetable Seed support	1	DFO/UNDP-SGP
						Stationary kit support	1	
						Inventory	1	
						Source preservation and protection	1	
						Improvement of Ghatta	1	
						Awareness raising program	1	
4	Sri Tatopani Sanrakshan Mahila Samuha	Rupgad	Jufal 9			Vegetable Seed support	1	
						Stationary kit support	1	
						Norms development for utilization of natural resources	1	
						Source preservation and protection	1	

S.N.	Name of the Group	Name of the village	VDC	Program Activities			Remarks	
				Ongoing	Number	Completed		Number
5	Sri Durga Mahila Samuha	Motipur	Jufal 9	Lift irrigation scheme (electric pump)	1	Vegetable Seed support Stationary kit support Source preservation and protection Improvement of Ghatta	1 1 1 1	DFO/UNDP-SGP
6	Sri Karnali Mahila Bahuudessiya Sahakarya Sanstha	Jufal	Jufal 3,4			Vegetable Seed support Stationary kit support Protection and propagataion of indigenous species Inventory	1 1 1 1	DFO/UNDP-SGP
7	Sri Mahila Sudhar Samuha	Jufal	Jufal 4,5			Vegetable Seed support Runoff Water control Stationary kit support	1 1 1	
8	Sri Gura Mahila Samuha	Parang	Jufal, 1			Vegetable Seed support Stationary kit support Source preservation and protection	1 1 1	
9	Bhawani Taaja Tarkari Utpadan Krisak Samuha	Dangibada	Jufal, 6,7,8			Vegetable Seed support	1	Due to internal conflict within the group the support to this group was stopped

S.N.	Name of the Group	Name of the village	VDC	Program Activities			Remarks	
				Ongoing	Number	Completed		Number
Dunai VDC								
10	Sri Mahila Samaj Sudhar Didibahini Samuha	Tipla	Dunai, 2,3			Vegetable Seed support	1	UNDP-SGP/DFO/TRPAP
						Stationary kit support	1	
						Inventory	1	
						Source Preservation and protection	1	
						Landslide control	1	
						Improvement of Ghatta	1	
						Norms development for utilization of natural resources	1	
		Awareness raising program	1					
11	Sri Kanjirowa Taaja Tarkari Utpadan Samuha	Dunai bazaar	Dunai, 1			Vegetable Seed support	1	DDC/UNDP-SGP
						Stationary kit support	1	
						Norms development for utilization of natural resources	1	
						Awareness raising program	1	
12	Sri Jawala Deval Batabaran Sanrakshan Samuha	Uppallo Dunai	Dunai 4.5			Vegetable Seed support	1	DFO/UNDP-SGP
						Stationary kit support	1	
						Inventory	1	
						Improvement of Ghatta	1	
						Norms development for utilization of natural resources	1	
						Awareness raising program	1	

S.N.	Name of the Group	Name of the village	VDC	Program Activities			Remarks	
				Ongoing	Number	Completed		Number
Tripurakot VDC								
13	Himali Didibahini Samuha	Maddhu	Tripurakot, 4			Vegetable Seed support	1	SPNP/UNDP
						Stationary kit support	1	
						Inventory	1	
						Improvement of Ghatta	1	
						Source Preservation and protection	1	
						Awareness raising program	1	
14	Sundari Ganga Didibahini Samuha	Ralli	Tripurakot, 3			Vegetable Seed support	1	
						Source Preservation and protection	1	
						Stationary kit support	1	
15	Sri Himali Batabaran Sanrakshan Samuha	Rasi	Tripurakot 7,8			Vegetable Seed support	1	SPNP/UNDP
						Stationary kit support	1	
						Inventory	1	
						Improvement of Ghatta	1	
						Protection and propagation of indigenous species	1	
						Landslide control	1	
16	Sri Mahadeva Didi Bahini Samuha	Ruma	Tripurakot 5,6	Pipe Irrigation	1	Vegetable Seed support	1	SPNP/UNDP
						Stationary kit support	1	
						Landslide control	1	
						Inventory	1	

S.N.	Name of the Group	Name of the village	VDC	Program Activities			Remarks	
				Ongoing	Number	Completed		Number
Suhoo VDC								
17	Lekali Tarkari Tatha Falful Utpadan Samuha	Rang	Suhun, 1,2,3,4,7			Vegetable Seed support	1	DFO/UNDP-SGP
						Stationary kit support	1	
						Source preservation and protection	1	
						Landslide control	1	
						Inventory	1	
18	Deuti Tarkari Tatha Falful Utpadan Samuha	Jiun	Suhun 5,6	Surface Irrigation Scheme	1	Vegetable Seed support	1	with rice support from WFP, DFO/UNDP-SGP
						Stationary kit support	1	
						Solar panel distribution	1	
						Norms development for utilization of natural resources	1	
						Inventory	1	
						Improvement of Ghatta	1	

Annex 4: Implementation status of the proposed activities

S.N	Particulars/activities	Unit	Cost Details	Target	Status till March 2006	Remarks
A	Program Costs					
1	User's/Right group formation in the Buffer Zone and in community	No	Orientation meeting cost, group minute registers, basic stationary	18	18	Completed
2	Norms development for the utilization of natural resources	No	Counseling meeting cost, stationary	18	18	Completed
3	Identification of indigenous species of NTFP timber and fodder	No	Survey and documentation cost	1	1	Survey and documentation complete
4	Protection and propagation of indigenous species	No	Identification of endangered places, local resource person identification and training, natural propagation	3	3	Completed
5	Training and capacity building on sustainable harvest management	No	Resource person cost, participants cost, training hall, stationary and documentation cost	1	1	Completed
6	Training and follow-up of household waste management	No	Sensitization training on household waste management, poster production	1	1	Training and follow-up complete
7	Source preservation and protection	No	Plantation and fencing of the source	8	8	Complete
8	Training on terrace improvement and land management	No	Resource person cost, participants cost, training hall, stationary and documentation cost	2	2	Complete (1 in Dunai and 1 in Jufal)
9	Runoff water control and promotion of forestry	No	Identification of critical areas, inducement of controlling measures like check dams	10	10	Completed, all in catchment of Bheri river
10	Pre-feasibility of micro-hydro	No	Pre-feasibility survey	1	2	Completed, not feasible in program VDCs; support solar panels
11	Construction of micro hydro project(possibly built up with irrigation and agro-processing)	No	Peltrict set, external materials, skill labor, wiring poles	1	0	Micro hydro switched to solar panels. Completed
12	Awareness raising activities (orientation, rally, street drama, essay competition etc)	No	Participants cost, logistics and prizes	10	18	Completed
13	Business literacy classes	No	Books, stationary, tutor cost	5	5	Completed
14	Vegetable Cultivation program	No	Seeds, poly-pots, poly-sheets, sprayers, water cans etc	12	18	Completed
15	Construction of irrigation schemes	No	External materials, skill labor and technical costs	2	3	Construction work has begun will end by May 2006
16	Improvement of agro-processing centers	No	External materials and technical costs	10	10	completed
17	Community mobilizers	No	One in each two VDCs for 13 months	3	3	Completed
18	Progress report	No	Half yearly and completion reports	2	4	Quarterly reports prepared

Annex 5: Status of CET Fund in 13 user groups

S.N.	Name of Groups	Objective	Initial amount in CETF	Amount on loan	Interest paid	Loan Repayment	Balance at hand in CET fund	Nepal Bank A/C number
1	Deuti Falful Tatha Tarkari Utpadan Samuha Shun -5,6, Jiun	To install Solar Panel	360000	360000	7200	4000	11200	724/1
2	Lekali Falful Tatha Tarkari Beu Utpadan Samuha Shun- &, Ranga	To Construct Toilet and Vegetable cultivation	36000	36000	450	0	450	4485/15
3	Sundari Ganga Didibahini Samuha Tripurakot- 3, Ralli	vegetable Cultivation and Small business program	30000	30000	600	0	600	3520
4	Himali Didibahini Samuha,Tripurakot-4, Maddu	vegetable Cultivation and Small business program	30000	30000	600	0	600	3116
5	Mahadevi Didibahini Samuha Tripurakot-5,6, Ruma	vegetable Cultivation and Small business program	30000	30000	300	0	300	5186
6	Himali Batabaran Sanranshan Samuha Tripurakot-7,8, Rasi	Vegetable cultivation and fruit production	40000	40000	400	0	400	5136
7	Devi Mahila Samitee raha-4-9, Thulo Raha	Vegetable cultivation and Livestock Farming	20000	20000	400	0	400	4305/14
8	Kanjiroba Taja Tarkari Utpadan Kirsak Samuha Dunai-1, Dunai	vegetable Cultivation	14000	14000	146.2	0	146.2	3576
9	Javala Deval Batabaran Sanranshan Samuha Dunai-5,6, uppalo Dunai	Vegetable cultivation and Livestock Farming	50000	50000	1000	0	1000	734
10	Mahila Samaj Sudhar Didibahini Samuha Dunai-2,3, Tipla	Vegetable cultivation and Livestock Farming	50000	50000	1000	0	1000	3421
11	Gura Mahila SamuhaJufal-1,2, Paranga	Vegetable cultivation	10000	10000	200	0	200	4279/14
12	Durga Mahila SamiteeJufal-9, Motipur	Vegetable cultivation ,Livestock Farming and Toilet Construction	40000	40000	1200	0	1200	4350/14
13	Bhimsen Batabaran Sanranshan Samuha, Jufal-7,8, Dangibada	Vegetable cultivation and Fruit Production	40000	40000	800	0	800	5134
Total			750000	750000	14296.2	4000	18296.2	

Annex 6: Program and Direct support cost for the two months (No cost extension)

S.N	Particulars/activities	Unit	Cost Details	Target	Rate	Total
A. Program Costs						
1	Protection and propagation of indigenous species	No	Support to the above mentioned three major places where protection and propagation work has initiated and in Suhoo	4	20000	80000
2	Awareness raising activities (orientation, rally, street drama, essay competition etc) in all 18 groups	No	Dumping containers	18	4500	72000
3	Follow up of Business literacy classes	No	Follow-up training on record keeping of CET fund to the groups who have received CET fund	13	4000	52000
4	Vegetable Cultivation program	No	Seeds, poly-pots, poly-sheets, sprayers, water cans etc to groups in Raha and Tripurakot who have not started commercial farming of vegetables	6	15000	90000
5	Construction of irrigation schemes	No	Follow up only	3	No cost required in this period	
6	Progress report	No	Project completion reports	1	10000	10000
Sub total (A)						304,000
B. Direct support cost						
1	Sub overseer	Man month	To monitor the construction of the irrigation schemes	2 man month	10000	20000
2	CET fund Facilitator	Man month	To strengthen the CET fund User groups for proper mobilization of the fund	1 man month	8000	8000
3	Telephone and stationary expenses	Per month	Communication expenses	2 month	1000	2000
4	Travel expenses	Lumpsum	Travel from Nepalgunj to Dolpa and back , and internal DSA for above mentioned staff	1 time	17500	17500
Sub total (B)						47,500
Total (A+B)						351500
Overhead (5%)						17575
Grand Total						369075

Detail is in financial report