



DIARY EXTRACTS:

MONTH IN PERSPECTIVE : FEATURE – L.E.D. PROGRAMMING UPDATE FROM DHANUSHA & RAMECHHAP : MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE L.E.D. **GREEN CAFÉ** : DIARY ENTRIES
AUGUST 2008



MONTH IN PERSPECTIVE

While the July LED Diary feature was to have been “Eco-Enterprise Value Chain Upgrading”, it was decided to devote this month’s feature instead to a mid-year status overview on LED Programming in Dhanusha and Ramechhap Districts to facilitate upcoming National Steering Committee and LED Forum meetings in August as well as ILO EmPLED’s half-yearly reporting. The emphasis during July 2008 has been on assisting the District LED stakeholders to continue to package the consensus LED strategies and activities from April-May 2008, and roll-out related action programmes and activities (i.e. support projects and interventions). Eco-enterprise will however definitely feature prominently in a forthcoming issue. The main challenge arising from the consensus strategies of the Dhanusha and Ramechhap LED Forums was to flexibly package the strategies and activities in a complimentary manner for demonstrating how LED can inclusively bring the global employment agenda to the local level. The feature kicks-off with a quick refresher on what LED is about followed by the overview of the LED action programmes in Dhanusha and Ramechhap Districts. Some programme resource allocations are current estimates and may be subject to amendment by the LED Forums in response to important emerging issues such as the global food crisis.

FEATURE - LED PROGRAMMING UPDATE FROM DHANUSHA & RAMECHHAP DISTRICTS

RECAP - “LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (LED) IN-A-BLINK” (ILO “LED OUTLOOK 2008”)

Globalization has changed the rules that govern the world’s economies, connecting national, regional and local economies more than ever before. For some countries and regions, this has meant more prosperity and more and better jobs. For less competitive regions it has meant unemployment, especially traditional industries that haven’t adapted to the processes of globalization and have lost market share to more competitive regions. At the same time, many countries have transferred development responsibilities to local authorities who often struggle to put in place the policies and practices to develop local economies, create employment and reduce poverty.

However, for many, LED remains a vague concept. What is LED and how is it different from e.g. community development local enterprise development? What is different between the ILO approach and that of other agencies working on LED? These are questions that we are often asked in training activities, by constituents and by our own colleagues. **So here it goes!**

First, LED initiatives take place within a specific territory or area. The “local” in LED therefore refers to some kind of territorial boundary, but not only restricted to administrative boundaries. Imagine for instance a production or value chain that cuts through an area in which case it makes sense to focus on the broader economic territory. However, LED is focused on sub-national localities, rather than on broad national approaches. The size of the targeted localities can vary from a town or village to a much larger region or province (e.g. Districts in Nepal), involving a whole range of local actors. The local aspect of LED also implies that development is inspired, owned and managed by actors within a given locality through the identification and mobilisation of local resources. LED promotes participation in the process of policy making to shape development that has a direct impact upon the lives of the people concerned.

Second, LED also has a strategic focus on economic potentials and builds on competitive advantages of the territory. The “economic” in LED therefore refers to the focus on economic growth, employment generation and enterprise development. The centrality of employment and decent work creation among the range of local economic concerns provides a clear focus for local development efforts and a potential rationale for the ILO’s use of this approach. But in order to increase employment a number of initiatives to promote economic development are required, along with initiatives to assure social equity and the improvement of the quality of life for local residents. Again, to realize this potential, the economic radius is not limited to local markets and resources. LED takes advantage of outside growth opportunities and links. The local economy to national and global value chains and markets.

Third, LED should be a participatory approach that is locally owned and managed. The “development” in LED involves a broad range of outcomes and a broad representation of local actors to reach these outcomes. While LED produces more and better jobs and a stronger local community, there are other outcomes that are produced as well. Development in the LED sense is a participatory process, which strengthens social cohesion through local public-private partnerships, fosters skills development, provides institutional capacity building and lays the foundations for a sustainable development process. Bring-



L.E.D. ALLOWS PEOPLE TO TAKE THEIR FUTURE INTO THEIR OWN HANDS AND WORK TOWARD A FAIRER WORLD – IT PROVIDES A BRIDGE FROM THE LOCAL TO THE INTERNATIONAL LEVELS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, FROM BEING EXCLUDED TO BEING INCLUDED.



ing together local government, the private sector and civil society can help in finding the right formula for local economic and social development. This allows the community to build from the “inside-out”, capitalizing on local assets, rather than from the “outside-in”, relying on external interventions.

In short, LED provides a way of packaging the different elements of the ILO Decent Work Agenda into a sustainable programme for economic and social development and can therefore be a powerful means to promote Decent Work at sub-national levels. LED strategies often involve a wide range of initiatives which complement each other, and which can go from skills upgrading, employment intensive investment, and social protection, to local employment strategies and labour market reform. These interventions aim at making local economies more dynamic, promoting sustainable enterprises and creating decent work

The Dhanusha and Ramechhap LED Forums and the members of the ILO EmPLED National Steering Committee have completed LED sensitization training on the above including consensus LED strategy-making.

LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GOALS & STRATEGIES

The Dhanusha and Ramechhap District LED goals and strategies are similar and are summarized as follows:

GOALS	STRATEGIES
GOAL #1: “Local stakeholders are planning and implementing pro-poor and inclusive LED strategies”	STRATEGY #1: “Strengthen LED capacities and outreach for inclusive and pro-poor planning and implementation of LED action programmes and activities”
GOAL #2: “Women and men in the targeted communities effectively engaged in, and benefiting from, decent and productive local employment and economic development opportunities”	STRATEGY #2: “Demonstrate integrated LED for the creation of pro-poor and inclusive productive employment and economic opportunities”



PROGRAMME A: DHANUSHA & RAMECHHAP JOINT L.E.D. ACTIVITIES (Total Allocation NRs 13,756,000)

L.E.D. ACTION PROGRAMME	L.E.D. SUPPORT PROJECT/ACTIVITY	ALLOCATION (NRs)
STRATEGY #DR1: STAKEHOLDER LED CAPACITIES DEVELOPMENT (Total Allocation NRs 12,436,000)		
#DR11: LED Management	#DR111: LED Forums & National Steering Committees LED sensitization training #DR112: Support to long distance travel of District participants to NSC meetings #DR113: Support to establishing LED Forums legal status #DR114: EmPLED mid-term evaluation #DR115: EmPLED final evaluation #DR116: Final EmPLED project stakeholder knowledge sharing	Allocation (NRs) 4,143,000
#DR12: LED Capacity Training & Promotion Initiatives	#DR121: Stakeholder LED training fellowships #DR122: LED PCM training for LED Forum stakeholders #DR123: Value Chain Analysis for LED stakeholders #DR124: “LED Market Place 2008” promotion initiative	Allocation (NRs) 6,943,000
#DR13: LED Promotion in VDCs & Settlements	#DR131: Printing of manuals and data collection toolkits #DR132: LED Promoter training workshops #DR133: LED VDC outreach database	Allocation (NRs) 1,350,000
STRATEGY #DR21: CREATION OF DECENT & PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT & ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES THOROUGH EMPLOYMENT-INTENSIVE INVESTMENT PROJECTS (Total Allocation NRs 1,320,000)		
#DR21: Employment-Intensive Investment Projects (EIIP)	DR211: Integrated Rural Accessibility Planning (IRAP) Training & Backstopping for LED Stakeholders and Promoters	Allocation (NRs) 1,320,000

**ACTION PROGRAMME FOCUS:****INCLUSIVE L.E.D. PROMOTION IN RURAL VDCs & SETTLEMENTS**

Commencing in August 2008, eight LED promoters will be trained in each District to pilot inclusive LED processes in a total of 51 VDCs and their settlements selected by the LED Forums from the rural VDC economic clusters in each District. The promoters are being selected through transparent calls for proposals. LED Promotion training materials and tools are being finalized and are responsive to LED absorption capacities in rural areas combining a mix of LED, Asset-Based Local Development and Appreciative Inquiry tools and approaches. The identification and targeting of ultimate LED beneficiaries in the target VDCs will be facilitated by data collection using a combination of instruments including key informant interviews, focused group discussions, and local market and household economy surveys.

Data collection and interviews as well as subsequent capacity building will be gender sensitive and also responsive to the special development needs of IPs and excluded castes as well as young men and women. One of the target outputs of the initiative is to contribute to the standardization of labour market and poverty mapping. The intervention is therefore complemented by database development and the enhancement of information capacities at the District offices.

The output of data analysis will be short VDC profiles including labour market and poverty status, and opportunities for asset-building to take advantage of employment and economic opportunities and improved living conditions and improved access to essential services. Following initial sensitization, and data collection and analysis, the promoters will assist VDC stakeholders to form inclusive and gender-balanced LED associations for linkage to the District LED Forums and for prioritization and implementation of projects on a participatory basis. These associations will ideally be representative of the substantial social capital that already exists in VDCs. Social capital asset-building is likely to include a strong focus on transformation of the roles of civil society partners from social mobilization to performance-based service delivery. In the case of infrastructure projects, LED Promoters, VDC LED stakeholders and others will be trained in the use and application of the Integrated Rural Accessibility Planning (IRAP) technique.

The output for each VDC will be a three-year action plan complimenting and enhancing District LED strategies, and as relevant, including LED interventions relevant to the 4 target VDC economic clusters in each District. In addition to seed capital and technical assistance available from ILO EmPLED for micro-infrastructure and value chain upgrading, and related skills development and social protection schemes, resource mobilization will include linkages to the 2009 decentralized District planning process, publication and promotion on forthcoming District websites, and exposure at the "LED Market Place" event planned for December 2008 in Kathmandu which will also feature products from the Dhanusha and Ramechhap Districts and information on the LED Processes.


PROGRAMME B: DHANUSHA L.E.D. ACTION PROGRAMMES
(Total Allocation NRs 45,327,000)

L.E.D. ACTION PROGRAMME	L.E.D. SUPPORT PROJECT/ACTIVITY	ALLOCATION (NRs)
STRATEGY #D1: STAKEHOLDER LED CAPACITIES DEVELOPMENT (Total Allocation NRs 5,777,000)		
D11: LED Management	#D111: Support to LED Forum monthly meetings	Allocation (NRs) 119,000
#D13: LED Promotion in VDCs & Settlements	#D131: Training and backstopping of LED promoters	Allocation (NRs) 3,223,000
	#D132: LED Promotion services delivery to VDC and settlement stakeholders	
#D14: LED Information Dissemination	#D141: Dhanusha LED Forum website	Allocation (NRs) 1,072,000
	#D142: Dhanusha LED radio programmes	
#D15: Strengthening the capacities of employer and worker organizations to contribute to effective and inclusive local economic recovery and development		Allocation (NRs) 1,363,000
<i>Cont'd/-</i>		


PROGRAMME B: DHANUSHA L.E.D. ACTION PROGRAMMES (Cont'd/-)

L.E.D. ACTION PROGRAMME	L.E.D. SUPPORT PROJECT/ACTIVITY	ALLOCATION (NRs)
STRATEGY #D21: CREATION OF DECENT & PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT & ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES THOROUGH EMPLOYMENT INTENSIVE INVESTMENT PROJECTS (Total Allocation NRs 34,647,000)		
D211: Employment-Intensive Investment Projects (EIIP) Training	D211-01: Various Trainings - Charnath Watershed Stakeholders D211-02: Various Trainings - Kamala Irrigation & Road Stakeholders D211-03: Training for Dhanusha Institutional Infrastructure Stakeholders in good labour practices, green road concept and other D211-04: Urban PPP Development Training D211-05: Tools & Knowledge Sharing:	Allocation (NRs) 1,094,000
D212-01: Demonstration Employment-Intensive Irrigation Field Canals, Roads & Watershed Management Projects D212-02 Demonstration Micro-Infrastructure D212-03: Demonstration Urban PPP Projects	D212-01-01: Demonstration Employment-Intensive Watershed Management, Charnath Sub-Watershed D212-01-02: Demonstration Irrigation Field Canal & Agricultural Road Construction, Kamala Irrigation Project areas, East Dhanusha D212-02-01: Demonstration Fish Pond Upgrading & Maintenance D212-03-01: Technical assistance for development of PPPs for solid waste management in Janakpur Municipality D212-03-01: Development of PPPs for the construction and maintenance of public toilets in Janakpur Municipality	Allocation (NRs) 33,553,000
STRATEGY #D213: CREATION OF DECENT & PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT & ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH VALUE CHAIN UPGRADING (Total Allocation NRs 4,903,000)		
#D213-01: Eco-Enterprise Value Chain Upgrading	#D213-01: Natural medicinal, and artisanal products, and bio fuel feeder value chains upgrading #D213-02: Slow food value chains upgrading (fruit and vegetables, animal products, fish products and natural foods) #D213-03: Tourism value chain upgrading including feeder value chains.	Allocation (NRs) 4,903,000


ACTION PROGRAMME FOCUS:
GREEN JOB CREATION THROUGH EMPLOYMENT-INTENSIVE INVESTMENT PROJECTS

In support of the Districts' common LED goal for the creation of new and improved employment and economic opportunities, the Dhanusha and Ramechhap LED Forums have two consensus priority action programmes: (1) employment-intensive investment projects (EIIP) to create immediate jobs, inject cash into reviving local economies, and provide/maintain quality assets supporting economic recovery and growth; and, (2) creation of employment and economic opportunities through value chain upgrading.

The Nepali economy is just emerging from severe depression following a lengthy period of conflict and difficult political transition. Due to the uncertain global economy and spiralling fuel and food costs, recovery and growth are likely to be slow for the immediate foreseeable future. There is widespread poverty and under-employment in both Districts and increasing vulnerability due to the global food supply and price rise crisis compounded by low and declining local food productivity. With limited prospects for rapid early economic recovery and growth due to the global economic crisis and rising inflation, employment-intensive works programmes and projects that create immediate employment opportunities are clearly very important to increasing the participation of the local workforce in paid employment (this currently very low) and improving local capacity to buy food for workers with marginal or no arable land holdings. Moreover, and in addition to providing and maintaining productive infrastructure for recovery and growth, local employment intensive interventions will inject cash into reviving and sustaining fragile local economies.

In this context, EIIP is a strategic response to bridging the gap between prevailing employment and economic opportunity



availability shortages (arising from the likes of conflict, natural disasters, economic recession/slow periods of economic recovery, underdevelopment and so forth) to the points in time where sustained economic growth is substantially satisfying the demand from the population for productive employment and economic opportunities. Complimented by various EIIP trainings for stakeholders including occupational health and safety and other good labour practices as well as operations and maintenance planning training, the major LED EIIP infrastructure focus is on agricultural roads construction, upgrading, repair and maintenance, irrigation field canal construction, and watershed management. Combined, these interventions will create 100,000 green workdays for over 2000 needy local workers, men and women, while injecting over NRs 20.0 million in cash wages into local economies and NRs 10.0 million into local procurement feeder value chains.

The road interventions will provide local communities with improved access to economic opportunities and essential services while increasing land and property values for settlements for households and settlements adjacent to the roads. The irrigation and watershed interventions will also provide needy households with access to productive assets for farming and forestry enterprise activities while contributing to improved food security for targeted groups. Baseline surveys are among the tools being applied to guide implementing partners in the pro-poor and inclusive recruitment of workers and beneficiaries of productive assets. At the micro infrastructure level and supporting economic opportunities for LED ultimate target beneficiary groups, pilot projects include small-scale crop irrigation schemes and intermediate technology crop storage: additional projects will be added during the LED VDC outreach programme using IRAP. Pipeline urban EIIP planned for Janakpur in Dhanusha District through public-private partnerships include solid waste management and the construction of public toilets.

In addition to immediate job creation and the other advantages of EIIP described above, the justification for the District EIIP action programmes includes enabling a portfolio of locally prioritized EIIP designed to strengthen capacities to design and implement important large, medium and micro infrastructure projects at the district and grassroots levels, and to encourage policy changes regarding investments in and mobilization of increased resources for employment intensive infrastructure development and services delivery. There are excellent early prospects for upscaling EIIP in both Districts.



PROGRAMME C: RAMECHHAP LED ACTION PROGRAMMES (Total Allocation NRs 37,399,000)

L.E.D. ACTION PROGRAMME	L.E.D. SUPPORT PROJECT/ACTIVITY	ALLOCATION (NRs)
STRATEGY #R1: STAKEHOLDER LED CAPACITIES DEVELOPMENT (Total Allocation NRs 3,338,000)		
#R11: LED Management	#R111: Support to LED Forum monthly meetings	Allocation (NRs) 121,000
#R13: LED Promotion in VDCs & Settlements	#R131: Training and backstopping of LED promoters #R132: LED Promotion services delivery to VDC and settlement stakeholders	Allocation (NRs) 3,205,000
#R14: LED Information Dissemination	#R141: Ramechhap LED Forum website	Allocation (NRs) 12,000
STRATEGY #R21: CREATION OF DECENT & PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT & ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES THOROUGH EMPLOYMENT INTENSIVE INVESTMENT PROJECTS (Total Allocation NRs 21,776,000)		
R211: Employment-Intensive Investment Projects (EIIP) Training	R211-01: Various Trainings – Okhrenei and Bhaluwajor VDCs road stakeholders R211-02: Various Trainings – Ghaledanda potato store stakeholders R211-03: Various Trainings – Rasnal potato store stakeholders R211-04: Various Trainings – Jiri-Dharapani road stakeholders R211-05: Various Trainings – Phulasi-Dadhuwa road stakeholders R211-06: Green Road Concept & Approaches Training for DTO stakeholders R211-07: Tools & Knowledge Sharing	Allocation (NRs) 506,000
R212-01: Demonstration Employment-Intensive Agricultural Roads	R212-01-01: Ch'thanti-Bhalukhop demonstration agricultural road upgrading and repair R212-01-02: Manthali-Bhaluwajor demonstration agricultural road construction, upgrading and repair R212-01-03: Jiri-Dharapani demonstration agricultural road upgrading and repair R212-01-04: Dadhuwa-Phulasi demonstration agricultural road upgrading and repair	Allocation (NRs) 21,270,000
	<i>Cont'd/-</i>	


PROGRAMME C: RAMECHHAP LED ACTION PROGRAMMES (Cont'd/-)

L.E.D. ACTION PROGRAMME	L.E.D. SUPPORT PROJECT/ACTIVITY	ALLOCATION (NRs)
R212-02 Demonstration Micro-Infrastructure Projects	R212-02-01: Ghaledanda demonstration potato storage technology R212-02-02: Rasnalu demonstration potato storage technology R212-02: Various other tba	See previous page
STRATEGY #R213: CREATION OF DECENT & PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT & ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH VALUE CHAIN UPGRADING (Total Allocation NRs 12,285,000)		
#R213-01: Eco-Enterprise Value Chain Upgrading	#R213-01: Village tourism value-chain upgrading #R213-02: Tourism feeder and other value chain upgrading including slow food (fruit and vegetables, animal products, fish and bee products and natural foods), natural products and environmentally sound processing, handcrafts, traditional art and other)	Allocation (NRs) 12,285,000


ACTION PROGRAMME FOCUS:
INCREASING EMPLOYMENT & ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH GREEN VALUE CHAIN UPGRADING

Value chain upgrading has emerged as a key modern-day approach to increasing wealth and business activity for a variety of inter-linked value chain actors such as inputs suppliers, farmers, forest users, traders, transporters, local and urban processors, wholesalers, distributors and retailers. A value chain can exist for a single product or for several products. Value chain analysis studies the price of a product at various stages of activity in the value chain from the 'upstream' starting point (e.g. raw material supply by the farmer such as potato and junar) to the point it is sold as a 'downstream' final product to consumers (e.g. fresh fruit and vegetables, potato crisps and orange squash). Carefully crafted value chain upgrading can have a significant impact on the creation of new and improved productive employment and economic opportunities for various value chain actors.

Value chain (VC) analysis examines various opportunities and constraints along the value chain. VC analysis assists in identifying key responsive interventions needed to make a value chain more competitive so as to increase the wealth of the various value chain actors usually with special emphasis on the 'upstream' producers (e.g. farmers, forest users). Business membership organizations (BMOs) such as local small business associations, producer cooperatives and local branches of Chambers of Commerce can play a key role in connecting various value chain actors so as to work together to make the value chain more competitive (for example, developing 'shared services cooperatives' to take advantage of economies of scale and financial and technical services support).

Given the seasonal calendar position in early May 2008 (main national activity focus on rice production), tourism provided an exciting value chain upgrading entry-point for Ramechhap LED stakeholders with lots of interesting feeder value chain upgrading possibilities that themselves have standalone value chain growth potential such as food production and processing, animal products, fishing, art and handcrafts, natural products production and processing, furniture-making and other. The value chain selections of the Ramechhap LED Forum are responsive to growth in the tourism sector and the increasing demand for quality local food in the wake of sharp price increases in imported commodities. The District enjoys a competitive scenic and cultural competitive advantage to exploit the expanding tourism product market in Nepal. Indigenous people (IP) beneficiaries are featuring prominently in value chain development in the isolated west of Ramechhap District where they constitute a high proportion of the population and in riverine areas.

Seasonally-friendly value chain upgrading entry-points in Dhanusha District include natural products and integrated pond farming. The natural products focus is in the North of Dhanusha targeting excluded Dalit and IP communities to develop sustainable forest-based enterprise in the production of medicinal plants, alternative fuel (jatropha oil), bio-grass for improved livestock nutrition, and bamboo for a range of uses to start with. Targeting impoverished Dalit households in the poorest wards of Janakpur Municipality and in collaboration with the skills development and surplus pond resources of the Janakpur Fisheries Development and Training Centre, assets and technical assistance will enable the needy beneficiaries to produce a range of marketable fish, livestock and crop products. Initiatives are also currently being explored to exploit the competitive advantage of the 'Janakpur Fish: brand name for the increased benefit of fishing sector entrepreneurs. An early study is



planned to identify opportunities for value chain upgrading in Maithili crafts that can harness Dhanusha's competitive advantage as the global centre of Mithila culture and also contribute to tourism growth potential.

As a holistic approach to economic development, the LED framework facilitates various simultaneous complimentary responses such as crucial infrastructure and inclusive beneficiary targeting. Specific examples include irrigation canals for increased agricultural productivity, reclaim of public riverine wastelands and irrigation ponds and canals through watershed management for transfer to needy households in the form of productive economic and service assets, and inclusive targeting of ultimate LED beneficiaries for value chain upgrading benefits through the VDC LED outreach programme in both Districts.

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE L.E.D. GREEN CAFÉ

LED STARTERS.....

Congratulations to the Chyaukethanti-Bhalukhop Road User Committee in Ramechhap District which started its agricultural road upgrading and maintenance project in Ramechhap District in advance of its LED contract which caught up quickly afterwards. The commencement of the works followed ILO's delivery of training to 29 stakeholders in good labour practices in employment intensive infrastructure projects and in project management. Similar training was also delivered to 37 stakeholders of the Manthali-Bhaluwajor Road project in Ramechhap District whose LED agricultural road construction, upgrading and maintenance will commence in August. In Dhanusha District, the Janakpur FM radio team has begun development on the first batch of 26 weekly LED radio programmes following the signing of their LED contract.

LED MAIN COURSE.....

One of six Nepali participants at May's LED Strategies Training at the ITCILO in Turin, Komal Prasad Kafle (photo on right) is the LED Green Café's 'slow food' consumer-of-the-month. The Ramechhap LDO is also Chairman of the Ramechhap LED Forum and a fan of local artisanal food products. He shared his thoughts and aspirations for LED in the District with us.

"Ramechhap is quite remote and isolated and one of the poorest Districts in Nepal. For me, LED has brought a fresh approach to poverty reduction through consensus economic development decision-making from all the key institutional and organizational stakeholders focusing on broader-based employment creation impact, especially through labour-intensive infrastructure development and value chain upgrading. The LED approach of transforming the District's asset strengths into competitive economic advantages is very dynamic compared to traditional development planning and delivery founded on needs and deficiencies. I am pleased to see a strong value chain upgrading focus on cash crops and natural village tourism as I believe these are key pillars of sustainable local economic growth. The major challenges we face in Ramechhap are underemployment and a significant food production deficit. Food security is of increasing major concern for the District authorities as we feel the effects of the food crisis.

It is important that we take advantage of the LED process opportunity to increase and diversify agricultural production at scale, and the District Authorities facilitates the mobilization of those resources needed by the LED Forum for urgent increased investment in irrigation and roads infrastructure, improving inputs and skills for organic food production, reclaim and restore our marginal lands, improve our cooperatives and provide our youth with a prosperous future in farming enterprise as a decent alternative to migration. This is a reasonable vision of the population and one worthy of additional government and donor support. Thank you for the invitation to sample 'slow food' at the LED Green Café and give my views."



LED FLAVOURS OF THE MONTH.....



FROM LEFT ABOVE: (1) THE MONSOON ARRIVES AT THE ILO COMPOUND IN JANAKPUR; (2) NISHA YONJAN, THANKA ARTIST AND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT STAKEHOLDER, DORAMBA, WEST RAMECHHAP; (3) SEASONAL PADDY PRODUCTION IN THE TAMAKOSHI RIVER VALLEY, RAMECHHAP.

DIARY ENTRIES, AUGUST 2008

DATES	EVENT	VENUE/LOCATION
TBA	LED Meetings: EmPLED National Steering Committee, Meeting	MLD, Kathmandu 14.30
TBA	Dhanusha LED Forum monthly meeting	DDC Conference Hall, Janakpur
TBA	Ramechhap LED Forum monthly meeting	DDC Conference Hall, Manthali
1 Aug-08	Training: Training in good labour practices and project management for Charnath Watershed Management project stakeholders, agroforestry component	Kamala Irrigation Management Division-3 Compound, Labtoli VDC, East Dhanusha
5 Aug-08	West and north Ramechhap Tourism value chain upgrading progress review, planning and capacity building training workshop for tourism stakeholders	Hotel Sangam, Charikot, Dolakha District, 09.00-17.30
10-13 Aug-08	Training in Nepal Green Road concept and approaches for Ramechhap DTO stakeholders	DSCO Conference Hall, Ramechhap
25-30 Aug-08	Homestay skills management training for Ramechhap tourism Homestay women beneficiaries	CPR Charikot, Dolakha District
25-29 Aug-08	EIIP Training for DSCO, KIMD, DTO and Janakpur Municipality staff covering good labour practices and LBTs, green road concept, standard design and practice, standards and norms, and community contracting practices	Lalgath Hospital Conference Room, North Dhanusha
25 Aug-08 to 12 Sep-08	Training of LED Promoters and other stakeholders in inclusive local development processes at the VDC level	CPR Charikot, Dolakha District and Kimti VDC, Ramechhap

FEEDBACK, COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS WELCOMED: kathmandu@iloktm.org.np