



## **Training for landless people in Nepal**

**Proposal:** This project is part of Concern Worldwide's sustainable agriculture project, where we are seeking funding to establish Landless Life Schools, which will offer training to poor people with little access to cultivable land. This training will include the creation of kitchen gardens, raising animals such as poultry and goats, how to earn money by processing or adding value to existing raw materials and how to access markets. We will work with men and women of all castes and ethnicities.

**Need:** Nepal is the second poorest country in Asia and ranked 142<sup>nd</sup> out of 177 countries on the 2007 United Nations Human Development Index. Concern has been working in the country since 2005.

The majority of the inhabitants in the Mid-West Development Region, where Concern works and the poorest region in Nepal, are engaged in subsistence agriculture, but almost nobody is able to produce sufficient food for a whole year. This means that people have to cope in other ways, including seasonal migration where economically productive members of the household, usually men, seeking seasonal work mainly in India, returning to Nepal for festivals, planting and harvesting only, unskilled labour such as portering, farm labour, and increasing reliance on food for work development initiatives, and reliance on government distributions of subsidised rice.

The ability of people to make a living is hampered by insufficient land for all; the majority of land holdings are small and large numbers of people are without any land, poor access to markets in the majority of hilly areas of the mid-west although this is improving, poor access to services such as veterinary support, and low levels of skills and technologies to intensify production. The lack of markets has also prevented the development of off-farm employment opportunities.

**Project Description:** Landless Life Schools (LLS) are schools driven by demand from local people that bring new technology and skills to the community. They target people who are poor with little access to cultivable land, including people with very small plots of land under 0.1ha, people with marginal land or people with no land. The schools teach skills including production in marginal land, creating kitchen gardens, processing and adding value to produce within the community, animal husbandry such as back-yard poultry and stall-fed goats, vocational skills often linked to caste based occupations, and sustainable use of common resources.

Landless Life Schools will focus on the poor, but the programme will ensure that at least 40% of active participants are women and that caste and ethnicity reflects community norms among landless people.

The project will seek to promote market linkages through LLS, encouraging landless people to be involved in processing and value adding, thereby participating in the market chain.

In addition, an exhibition day will be held every year to promote wider uptake of new skills and build pride.

**Objectives:**

- Establish Landless Life Schools to deliver demanded life skills and inputs for activities appropriate to landless households such as community-based processing, natural resource management, off-farm income generation, small ruminant and poultry management and kitchen gardening.
- Research commodity demand and prices in regional markets for information transfer to producers using information/notice boards in villages.
- Promote production of marketable products based on District Agricultural Development Office (DADO) policy, market and transport availability and ecological suitability.

**Budget:** Total grant requested: €20,000

Project Activities	Breakdown per school (€)		Total amount per school (€)
	Per school	2,000	
Establish Landless Life School	Per school	2,000	16,000
Marketable products promotion		2,000	2,000
Administration, monitoring and evaluation		2,000	2,000
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>€20,000</b>

**Case Study – Biuri Buda: Wanting to improve her family’s income**

My name is Biuri Buda. I am 25 years old. I am a daughter-in-law of a poor family. My family home is in Sakhola, Mugu, in the mid-west of Nepal. In order to search for a better livelihood my parents migrated to India, and I was born in India. I have passed class 5. I got married to Geet Buda at the age of 15 years old. I came to Ghumghadi,



Photo by Anu Adhikari, Rara VDC, Mugu, 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec 2007

Mugu, after marriage. I have two children, a seven year old son and a one year old daughter. We have altogether nine family members including my father-in-law, mother-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, my husband and my two children, and one son of my brother-in-law.

We have a small piece of land, which is not sufficient for our livelihood. Thus, we need to do extra activities. Due to the lack of opportunities inside the village, we have to do labour job. I frequently go to the airport in Rara for carrying luggage to earn some money. The majority of women go there for



labouring. Sometimes I have to return back empty handed due to the high number of porters and limited opportunities. My husband engages in house construction work. However, there are few opportunities to get these jobs, so he goes to India for to earn an income when he has no work inside the village. I am not happy with this job. I wish to get any other income generating activity, which can improve our livelihood.