

Annex1: Some success stories from the mountain areas

A case of Himalayan Nettle

Allo (*Girardinia diversifolia*), or Himalayan nettle, is traditionally used in Nepal to make cloth. Its bark contains fibres that are strong and smooth, with a silky lustre. In 2014, tICIMOD under its Kailash Sacred Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative (KSLCDI) identified the allo value chain in Khar VDC, Darchula, Nepal as an entry point for increasing the income of the poor through value addition, capacity building and forming market linkages.

Before the project, communities mostly collected allo and sold it as a raw material to middlemen. The few making allo thread used traditional methods, which are labour and energy intensive and produce poor quality thread. Caustic soda was used to boil the thread, which took at least 6 hours and 240 kg of wood. Local tools such as the katuwa (hand spinner) are used and the thread produced is coarse and thick. The balls of thread produced in this way fetched around NPR 800 per kg and were used to make carpets.

A market study conducted in early 2014 revealed a high demand for thin and smooth thread for the fashion garment industry. Hence, the project aimed to uplift the allo thread value chain by improving the quality of the thread so that it could be used for fabric. The initiative mobilised grass-root farmers' groups, such as the Khar allo processor group, which started with about 20 founding members, of which 70% were women. The group received capacity building training on the benefits of collective action, as well as training on leadership and saving and credit schemes. This was followed by rigorous training on allo processing and thread making. The interventions also had a pro-poor and gender focus.

By 2015 March, the group was happy with the thread they were producing. Soaking it the night before made it easier to boil the next day. They used ash instead of caustic soda, which made the thread look cleaner and whiter. Proper washing and spinning techniques made the thread smooth and thin. Rocket stove technology was introduced, which uses almost three times less fuelwood and takes half the time to boil the bark. Today the group is selling allo thread at NPR 1,100 per kilo, an increase of NPR 300 per kilo (27%).

Source: <http://www.icimod.org/?q=18698>

A case of homestay tourism

A story on the success of homestay tourism from one of the rural villages 'Ghale gaun' of Lamjung district of Nepal. The village has 115 households, all of which participate in homestay tourism, an alternative to mass tourism. In homestay tourism, tourists stay with a local family in rural areas instead of living in hotel or lodge as in traditional tourism. It is based on sustainable development principle, where the local community benefits from protection of its natural environment and traditional culture is incorporated into tourism development. According to an estimate, tourism income contributed 23 percent of net total income, which is about three times more than livestock and agriculture income. The highest income share is from pensions, which is 30 percent, and remittance contributes to 20.8 percent. On the basis of wealth, total house hold was divided into five groups, each group with same population of 21, except one group with 22 households. Among the five groups, the poorest and richest income groups benefitted more from tourism income. Tourism income registered 31.6 percent total income of the poorest group. The share of tourism income to total income in rich income group was 46 percent. The tourism industry has played important role in income equaling among rural household. A reduction in the number of tourist arrivals and stays in the study village would greatly affect the welfare of the people and widen the income gap among households.

Source: <http://hdl.handle.net/11250/187940>