

Glimpse



A Newsletter of CSD, Nepal – March, 2015

Nepal MFI Leaders Impressed by Sri-Lanka Cooperative Movement

A delegation of Nepal MFIs led by CSD chairman Mr. Shankar Man Shrestha visited Sri-Lanka from February 15-21, 2015 on the invitation of Lanka Microfinance Practitioners' Association (LMPA) a network of Microfinance Practitioners in Sri Lanka. It comprised of microfinance leaders of Nepal MFIs-Mr. Yogendra Mandal of JBS, Mr. Mahendra Giri of Sahara Nepal, Mr. Chandi Prasad Poudel of CYC Nepal, Mr. Ash Narayan

Manager Mr. Yasitha Mahendra Munasinghe and other officials of the LMPA in Colombo. It was learnt that Sri-Lanka is on the process of introducing a new law for microfinance operation. Even though they have been lobbying for having a new act, it is yet to be materialized. The draft of the Microfinance Act is being awaited to be taken to the parliament. They visited MFIs like Janamithu Lanka Ltd in Colombo and



Nepali Delegates with Sarvodaya Champion Mr. A.T. Ariyaratne

Chaudhary of FORWARD, Mr. Ram Prasad Kafle of Nawa Prativa SACCOS and Mr. Shogat Bir Chaudhary of Grameen Mahila Utthan Kendra. The team visited various MFIs located in Colombo, Kandy and Nuwara Eliya. The team visited various Cooperatives and Development Banks located in those places.

They discussed on various facets of microfinance development with the President Mr. Solomon Kiriarachchi,

Lak Jaya Ltd. in Nuwara Eliya and Silvereen Microcredit Company Ltd in Kandy to observe and learn their practices of microfinance. They also visited a local Cooperative Bank. There are three things to be noted in Sri-Lanka-microfinance interest rate charged to the borrowers is around 30% flat, saving mobilization by MFIs has not been allowed and MFIs are largely unregulated unlike in Nepal.

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Nepali Delegates with the officials of SANASA Development Bank

CSD Expands its Network

CSD recently decided to extend its membership to four more organizations namely- Nerude Laghubitta Bikas Bank Ltd., FORWARD Community Microfinance Bittiya Sanstha Ltd, Chhimek Laghubitta Bikas Bank Ltd. and Mahila Upakar Manch.

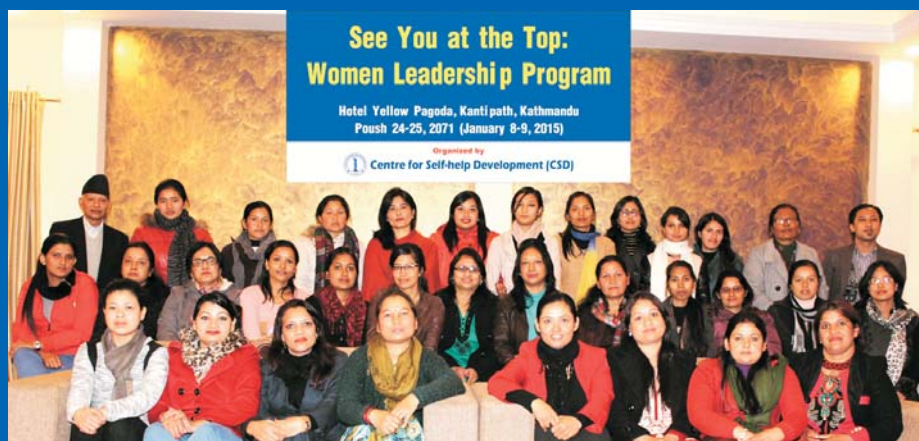
FORWARD Community Microfinance Bittiya Sanstha Ltd (FORWARD) Sunsari has been providing microfinance services to deprived and vulnerable households residing in various regions of the country. It has coverage of more than 20 districts of the country. Ms. Bhagwati Chaudhary is the Chairperson and Mr. Ash Narayan Chaudhary is the CEO of the organization. It serves a total number of 121,844 families through its 72 branches.

Chhimek Laghubitta Bikas Bank Ltd. (CLBBL) Kathmandu is one of the largest MFI in Nepal and it received its banking license in year 2058 BS, from Nepal Rastra Bank. It has an outreach of 221,912 families in the country and has 78 operational branches to serve the clientele. Ms. Bhuwaneswori Panta is the Chairperson and Mr. Ram Chandra Joshi is the CEO of the organization.

Nerude Laghubitta Bikas Bank Ltd. Biratnagar has been licensed by the Nepal Rastra Bank in the year 2064 BS. It has been serving total number of 77,898 families through 46 branches in 17 districts of Nepal. Dr. Bhes Prasad Dhamala is the Chairperson and Mr. Mani Kumar Aryal is the CEO of the organization.

Mahila Upakar Manch is a Banke based Financial Intermediary Non Government Organization (FINGO). It was established on 15th Chaitra, 2049. It received license from the Nepal Rastra Bank in the year 2061 B.S., to undertake microfinance activities. It has 9 branches in Banke district and serves a total number of 15,000 families. Ms. Shanti Dhakal is the Chairperson and Ms. Sharada Pokharel is the CEO of the organization.

CSD launched Women Leadership Program: See You at the Top



Group photograph of the participants who attended the workshop

With the mission of bringing high potential women together to build a foundation of leadership skills that will advance their personal and professional goals, the Women Leadership program namely "See You at the Top", was conducted by CSD from January 8-9, 2015. This Workshop was exclusively for the aspiring women to lead in various professional fields. This program acquainted the participants with secrets of success that women want to know.

The participants were from different professional fields such as CEO, Branch Managers, Department Heads and Senior Officers of different MFIs as well as of Commercial Banks along with few Doctors and Engineers. The workshop program was begun with the prologue on the book, "Ten Secrets of Successful Men that Women Want to Know" written by Donna Brooks & Lynne Brooks. Thus, this program provided the participants, the powerful strategies developed by the world edge consultants that can be used to gain the skills and competencies that successful leaders draw on. This workshop helped them to look beyond the corporate political stuff to reveal how women in workplace are really perceived and how those perceptions continue to keep many talented women from the success they deserve.

Overall program was very interactive and fun filled as it included experience sharing, brainstorming, group discussion, debate and games. The key resource person for the program was Ms. Usha Malla Singh from National Institute of Leadership Development (NILD). Ms Usha facilitated about the various strategies to move ahead in career. The strategies she

discussed were Develop Your Personal Brand, Making Your Brand Visible, Take Charge of Your Own Career, Create your Own Image and Style that Works for You, Identification and Application of Various Styles and Developing the Next Generation of Leaders. The participants learnt much needed growth strategies for architecting their career path. Few games were included for the refreshment of the participants by Ms. Anita Suwal, an employee of CSD.



The participants during the session

CSD Chairman, Mr. Shankar Man Shrestha expressed his joys of being with the participants and congratulated all for the successful completion of training. Mr. Shrestha also thanked Mr. Bikal Sherchan (Management Guru and a co-partner of Ms Usha in NILD) for envisioning and designing such program. He told that the learning of training program would have no meaning until practiced. Therefore, the participants need to responsibly make use of what they learnt. He added that a leader must have a vision, set goals and be able to allocate and utilize the resources wisely. He quoted, "Leaders

Make Things Happen" and "Everybody is a Leader". He distributed certificates to the participants and wished them best for their better future ahead.

There were altogether 30 participants in the program. The participants came from organizations such as Jeevan Bikas Samaj, Muktinath Bikas Bank Ltd, Nepal Credit & Commerce Bank Ltd., Nepal Women Community Service Center, Swabalamban Laghubitta Bikas Bank Ltd., Nirdhan Utthan Bank Ltd., Mahila Upakar Manch, Nawa Prativa SACCOS Ltd, Mahila Sahayatra Microfinance Bittiya Sanstha Ltd., Sahara Nepal SACCOS Ltd., Himalayan Bank Ltd, MANUSHI, Depros Laghubitta Bikas Bank Ltd, Mahuli Samudayik Laghubitta Bittiya Sanstha Ltd, Dental Arch Pvt. Ltd, Nepasoft Solution Pvt. Ltd, Rural Women Development Centre, The Perfect Smile Ortho Dental Clinic and CSD.

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Nepal MFI Leaders ...

The Sanasa Development Bank (SDB), promoted by Sanasa Cooperatives, Unions and Sanasa National Federation was also visited by the team. SDB has been providing financial services to the poor in group basis and micro and medium entrepreneurs' loan through directly lending method.

The team also got the opportunity to visit the Deshodaya Development Finance Company promoted by Sarvodaya Groups of Companies to provide microcredit to the poor households. The team met Dr.Vinya Ariyaratne (General Secretary of Lanka Jathika Sarvoda Shramadana Sangamaya and Former Chairman of DDFC), Mr. Eastman Narangoda (Chairman of DDFC), Mr. Ravindra Ranjiththe (CEO of DDFC), other Board Members and staffs of DDFC.

They also had a meeting with the world renowned Sarvodaya Champion, **Mr. Ahangamage Tudor Ariyaratne** who briefed on the history of Sarvodaya Movement and its various dimensions. The Nepali delegation was highly impressed by the cooperative movement in Sri-Lanka.

CSD building up MFIs Branch Management capacity

Considering the emerging issues and challenges faced by branch managers of MFIs, FINGOs and rural Cooperative organizations in Nepal. CSD had organized training on Branch Management to enhance their potential on financial as well as managerial aspects. It was held at Hotel Yellow Pagoda, Kantipath, Kathmandu, from February 1-4, 2015. There were 36 Branch Managers from various MFIs, FINGOs and Cooperatives.



The chief guest Mr. Manmohan Shrestha, Executive Director, NRB with CSD's Chairman and Officiating Executive Director

The main objective of the training was to help branch managers to manage their branch offices efficiently and effectively. This program has helped the participants to acquaint with basic norms of microfinance and equip them with tools for managing a branch. The training basically focused on the key issues regarding roles & responsibilities of a branch manager, financial analysis, planning & budgeting program, implementation, monitoring &

supervision, credit management, clients management and risk management. The program focused on group discussion, sharing experiences among the participants and between the participants and the facilitators.

Mr. Manmohan Shrestha, Executive Director, Bank and Financial Institution Regulation Department of the Nepal Rastra Bank, was invited as the chief guest of the Closing Ceremony. He shared his views and future prospects of microfinance sector in the country. He urged all the participants to come up with strategies and suggestions to deal with the current challenges existing in the industry so as to help operate microfinance program effectively in order to alleviate poverty from the country. He also distributed certificates to the participants.

The Chairman of CSD, Mr. Shankar Man Shrestha, in his closing remarks highlighted the socio-economic objectives of MFIs and shed light on the potentials of marketing micro-financial products to the core target groups. He urged all the branch managers not to drift away from the mission of microfinance. The mission is to bring smile on the face of disadvantaged community, make them self dependent and help in uplifting their economic status. Finally, Mr. Shrestha said, "Training will be successful only if the knowledge gained could be put into action by the participants. Branch



A group photograph of the participants

Managers need to be self disciplined and decide their own scope of operation and clientele instead of blaming each other or looking out for NRB's intervention in clients overlapping". He thanked all the participants, resource persons and others who provided support to the training program directly or indirectly for making this training a successful event.

The participants were the branch managers of DEPROSC- Nepal, UNYC Nepal, Vijaya Laghubitta Bittiya Sanstha Ltd, Nirdhan Utthan Bank Ltd, Swabalamban Laghubitta Bikas Bank, Srijana Community Development Center, Laxmi Laghubitta Bittiya Sanstha Ltd, Mahila Adarsha Sewa Kendra, Mirmire Microfinance Development Bank Ltd, Kisan Bahuudeshiya Sahakari Sanstha Ltd, Nepal Tuga SACCOS, Environment Development Cooperative Organization Ltd. (EDCOL), Sworojgar Laghubitta Bikas Bank, Chhimek Laghubitta Bikas Bank Ltd, Udaydev Bahuudeshiya Sahakari Sanstha Ltd. and CYC Nepal.

Enhancing Credit Appraisal Skill of MFI Loan Officers



A group photograph of the participants

The Training on Credit Appraisal was organized by CSD from February 23-26, 2015. The participants of the program were employees of MFIs, FINGOs and Cooperatives. It was commenced to help the participants to systemize the process of credit appraisal to safeguard their loan

portfolio and minimize risk. This training intended to improve credit decisions, collateral valuation, disseminate ideas of required information, legal consideration and documentation as well as effective monitoring and supervision of loan disbursed. This training was designed in

order to address the emerging operational issues and challenges faced by the microfinance and rural cooperative sector like identifying clients, organizing clients literacy program, conducting credit appraisal, collateral valuation, record keeping and accounts keeping etc.

The training was designed in such a way that the participants could acquire conceptual as well as practical knowledge of credit as well as clients appraisal. There were altogether 8 classroom sessions including 1 practical exercise on the cash flow of individual client/enterprise. The participants were given opportunity to visit the clients of Swabalamban Laghubittiya Bikas Bank (SLBBL) for credit

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Member Institutions Corner

SLBBL organized Relief Distribution Program for Landslide victims



Chairperson of SLBBL, Mr. Bijendra Suwal handing relief to the family

Swabalamban Laghubitta Biksa Bank Ltd. (SLBBL) celebrated its 14th anniversary on 16th of January 2015. On this occasion the bank organized relief distribution program for the landslide victim families of Sindhupalchowk district. The working areas Mankha and Tekanpur VDCs in the district of SLBBL were also affected due to landslide occurred on August 2, 2014. However, the bank had already compensated to the victimized clients as per the rule and regulations under the Life and House Protection Scheme, a micro-insurance product of the bank. SLBBL provided blankets and three thousands rupees cash in hand to each family of 28 landslide victims of the Jure and Mankha areas. Board of Directors, Chairperson and the CEO of bank handed over the relief to the families of the clients who were affected by the calamity.

Kisan Multipurpose Cooperative Society conducted Self Evaluation Workshop



A view of Self-Evaluation Workshop

CSD provided technical support to the Kisan Multipurpose Cooperative Society, Lamki, Kailali to organize an intra institutional self-evaluation workshop on January 2, 2015. This workshop was participated by the Board Members, Loan and Accounts Committee Members, CEO, Senior Officers, Branch Managers and

Field Officers. The chairman of CSD Mr. Shankar Man Shrestha was invited as the Chief Guest of the program. The workshop aimed to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the organization and trace out ways to improve its performance. All the branch managers shared their performance and profitability along with the existing problems of their respective branches. They were also asked to give their suggestions on solving the problems, retaining clients and making the organization sustainable. After the branch managers, the board members also came with their views.

The Chief Guest, Mr. Shrestha expressed his views regarding the state of microfinance in the country. He shed light on the current challenges of microfinance and urged everyone to focus on clients' protection and development. Mr. Shrestha in his closing remarks said, "Self-evaluation workshops if conducted regularly will help strengthen the organization". He further said, "Microfinance is meant for disadvantaged community. So every organization whether it's a MFI or a Cooperative or a FINGO should focus on their mission of poverty alleviation. They need to work in cooperation with each other for the fulfillment of their shared goal".

Mr. Dambar Bahadur Shah, Chief Manager of Kisan Multipurpose Cooperative Society shared his views on making the organization sustainable which will lead to sustain the employees'

future as well as the clients. Both could be possible only if all the employees work as a team for the betterment of the organization and its stakeholders. After this evaluation workshop, they reached the conclusion of enhancing the strengths and reducing the weaknesses of their organization as well as grabbing the

opportunities and combating the challenges present around the organization in order to achieve the organizational goal and provide services to the clients efficiently.

The Chairman of Kisan Multipurpose Cooperative Society, Mr. Khadananda Sapkota in his closing remarks said, "We are involved in providing financial and social services with the objective of alleviating the poverty. The employees need to work with heart and soul for the achievement of the goal." Finally he thanked Mr. Shankar Man Shrestha for his support and all the guests and the participants for making the program a success.

RWDC Dang awards best performing Micro-entrepreneurs



The chief guest handing and award to one of the winners

The Rural Women Development Centre (RWDC), a leading microfinance NGO in Dang in a fabulous 'Award Ceremony' held on 13th March, 2015 at the Municipality Hall, Ghorahi, Dang, awarded 24 women entrepreneurs as 'Successful Entrepreneur'. It also awarded 4 centers of Ghorahi branch, 4 of Lamahi branch, 4 of Tulsipur branch, 4 of Salyan branch, 4 of Narayanpur branch and 4 of Bhalubang branch as the "Best Centers" of microfinance members and the center leaders from Ghorahi, Narayanpur, Lamahi, Bhalubang, Tulsipur, Salyan, Bajipur and Gadhadhawa branches were awarded as the "Best Centre Chiefs" in the function attended by over 250 women members of microfinance groups, microfinance staff and dignitaries of Dang district. RWDC also honored two

local Journalists, Mr. Narayan Biwas from Nawa Yugabodh Rastriya Dainik and Mr. Udaya Gharti Magar from Annapurna National Daily for their contributions in bringing out microfinance success stories to the general public. The main objective of the event was to create a platform for sharing experiences of the members and motivating them to do better in future.



A view of Award Ceremony

Mr. Shogat Bir Chaudhary, Director of RWDC said that the reward program is a learning opportunity for all the members on how to have a successful micro enterprise. He shared how RWDC envisioned streamlining the women into the development agenda and used microfinance as a strong tool in uplifting the Tharu community in Dang. The occasion was graced by CSD's

Chairperson and pioneer of microfinance in Nepal Mr. Shankar Man Shrestha as the Chief Guest

Mr. Shankar Man Shrestha, expressed his greatest happiness to be among the microfinance members and successful entrepreneurs. He shared the journey of Ms. Aasmani Chaudhary, Chairman of RWDC from her initial struggle days to the date and congratulated her for the achievements and the success. He said that all the members present in the program are winners and urged them to work harder and work with determination to come out of poverty and live a life with dignity and pride. He also stimulated all to keep up the work for making Nepal free of poverty. Mr. Shrestha told that MFIs should walk hand-in-hand with their clients and fulfill their financial need to complement their skills and will power to do economic activities to win over the deprivation.

Ms. Aasmani Chaudhary thanked all the participants and guests for making the event a success. She also congratulated all the achievers and said that the program is a campaign to boost up morale of those who struggle for achievement. She said that women are the creators and they should not feel inferior in any ways. She expressed that if women get financially strong, social ills like gender violence can be discouraged. She gave special thanks to Mr. Shankar Man Shrestha for his valuable presence in the event and his guidance throughout the journey of RWDC.

RWDC Organized Intra-Institution Self Evaluation Workshop

RWDC organized intra-institutional self evaluation workshop in Hotel Green Valley, Dang on 4th March, 2015 with technical support from CSD and financial support from RMDC. Mr. Shankar Man Shrestha, Chairman of CSD was the Chief Guest on the occasion and facilitated the entire session with his guidance. The objective behind organizing the workshop was to bring together all the employees working for its microfinance program, the representatives of clients and board members in one common forum and share their experiences, identify the challenges in the field operations and seek out ways to improve services to help the poor people become micro-entrepreneur.



Mr. Shankar Man Shrestha with the participants of the program

There were altogether 50 participants. Each of the branch managers, field staffs, clients and the board members expressed their views and experiences and gave suggestions for improving the services of RWDC. The participating women borrowers also narrated their success stories on how the small loan helped them to get out of the depressed lives and could now live a life of dignity and copiousness.

Mr. Shankar Man Shrestha listened to each of them patiently and gave feedbacks. He told everyone to strive for achieving higher goals by upgrading both the quality and quantity of operation. He advised them to capitalize the existing client base by making them actively involved in income generating activities and also to come up with the products

that encourage their clients' loyalty. He also spoke to the clients and listened to what they had to say. He asked the staffs to stay loyal to the organization and told that success lies in their own hands.

Mr. Shogat Bir Chaudhary in the concluding session presented the summary of the institutional analysis - strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) drawn from the discussion and the Chairman of RWDC, Ms. Aasmani Chaudhary presented a way forward with the outlined plans to implement in the future. At the end, all the participants felt invigorated and zealous to work with enhanced spirit to the cause of the poor and deprived. They also committed that in 3 years time they will reach all the poor families in their operation areas.



The chief Guest, CSD's Chairman Mr. Shankar Man Shrestha sharing his views

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Enhancing Credit Appraisal ...



Resource Person, Mr. Bhoj Raj Bashyal facilitating a session

analysis. They visited the household of four different clients of SLBBL, Taukhel Branch Office.

The chairman of CSD, Mr. Shankar Man

Shrestha addressed the participants in the closing session. He said the most important stakeholders of MFIs are its members and the local community. He urged all the participants to work for the

betterment of the both, members and community; and act as a change agent. He also distributed the certificates of achievement to the participants and the first prize to the group which gave the best presentation on field study. He concluded his remarks by saying that training would be successful only if the knowledge gained by the participants is utilized for the economic transformation of the clients. He thanked all the participants, resource persons and others who provided support to the training program directly or indirectly for making the training a successful event.

The participating institutions were Swabalamban Laghubitta Bikas Bank Ltd., Deprosc Laghubitta Bikas Bank Limited, Nirdhan Utthan Bank Limited, Kisan Bahuudeshiya Sahakari Sanstha Ltd, Udaydev Bahuuddesiya Sahakari Sanstha Ltd., Sahara Nepal, ILFCO Ltd., Grameen Swoyam Sewak Samaj and Arthik Bikas SACCOS Ltd.

Exposure Visit of Cooperative Officials from Mountain Districts



The chairman of CSD Mr. Shankar Man Shrestha with the participants

An exposure visit of the cooperative officials of Dadeldhura, Doti, Achham and Bajura districts to best practiced cooperatives in Kanchanpur and Kailali districts, was initiated by Safal Project UK Aid implemented by Samridhha Pahad, UK with technical support from CSD from 31st December, 2014 to 4th January, 2015. The main objective of the program was to acquaint the participants with the basic norms of cooperative operations, roles and responsibilities of different committees and sub-committees, rules

& regulations, duties and responsibilities of employees and senior officials, significance of accounts management and the performance indicators of a cooperative.

There were altogether 41 participants from various cooperatives who were grouped into four teams and each team visited different cooperatives. The cooperatives that hosted the visitors were Kisan Multipurpose Cooperative Society Lamki, Kailali, Namaste SACCOS, Dhangadi, Kailali, Srijansheel SACCOS,

Jhalari, Kanchanpur and Udaydev Bahuuddesiya Sahakari Sanstha Ltd, Mahendranagar, Kanchanpur. The overall program was participatory as it included theoretical knowledge dissemination from various experts, field visits and institutional study by participants and interactive classroom discussions.

Mr. Bisnu Kr. Shrestha, Saving and Credit Expert facilitated a session on significance of PEARLS monitoring system. He explained PEARLS is a financial performance monitoring system designed



Participants preparing their presentation

of Samriddha Pahad in his closing remarks, said that this program would unfold a new beginning for the participants of mountain cooperatives and SAFAL Project Officers to improve the status and management of cooperatives.

CSD Chairman, Mr. Shankar Man Shrestha who was instrumental in the design and implementation of the program expressed in his closing remarks, that in order to enhance the lives of the disadvantaged people the culture of self-help must be developed. He urged all the cooperatives to follow PEARLS monitoring system to upgrade their performance. Finally, he congratulated all of them for successful completion of the event and wished every one best for their bright future.

to offer management guidance and it is also a supervisory tool for regulators for cooperative organizations. The participants appreciated the exposure visit and expressed that it had added value to their knowledge and had

enhanced motivation. After this program they felt further energized and motivated to work with heart and soul. They vowed that whatever they learnt in the program would be put into action upon return to their organizations. Mr. Arun Rana, CEO



CSD's Chairman Mr. Shankar Man Shrestha with Saving & Credit Expert Mr. Bishnu Kumar Shrestha and Samriddha Pahad Team



Participants during the study visit to Sreejanshil Saving and Credit Cooperative Ltd

Upcoming Events

Exposure Visit to the Philippines:

CSD has planned a study/exposure visit to the Philippines from May 2 to 10, 2015. The visiting team will be the Board Members and Senior Officials of various MFIs of Nepal. They will be visiting various MFIs and the Central Bank of the Philippines. The objective of the visit is to give exposure to the microfinance practices and regulatory system in the Philippines and learn from their experiences.

Exposure Visit to Bangladesh:

CSD in collaboration with the Integrated Development Foundation (IDF) is organizing an exposure study visit to various MFIs of Bangladesh from 19-28 April, 2015 which was postponed earlier due to unrest in Bangladesh. The main objective of the visit is to get the participants acquainted with microfinance practices in Bangladesh particularly Grameen Bank, BRAC, ASA and IDF.

Training on Financial Management and PEARLS Monitoring System:

In order to build the capacity of cooperative organizations CSD has planned to organize the Training on Financial Management and PEARLS Monitoring System in the month of April, 2015. This program will provide the participants with better insight on role and responsibilities of accounts committee, significance of financial management and importance of PEARLS Monitoring System.

Customized Training on Credit Appraisal:

CSD is organizing three customized training on Credit Appraisal, two for UNYC Nepal in Bardia and another one for Kisan Multipurpose Cooperative Ltd in Lamki, Kailali. This training will address the emerging operational issues and challenges faced by the microfinance and rural cooperative institutions.

CSD's Chairman Urges MFIs to make One Million Housing Campaign a reality



CSD's Chairman Mr. Shankar Man Shrestha with the participants of the event

The Habitat for Humanity Nepal held the Partners Meeting on 15th March 2015, at Hotel Annapurna, Durbar Marg. It has 40 MFIs and Cooperatives as its partners. Altogether 35 partners were present at the event. The chairman of CSD, Mr. Shankar Man Shrestha was invited as the chief guest of the program. Ms. Sushma Shrestha, Program Development Manager of HFH Nepal welcoming all the participants and expressing her gratitude to the chief guest for his presence, shed light on the upcoming projects namely "Youth Build", "Women Build", "Asia-Pacific Housing Forum" and "Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project (JRCWP)". She also said that the meeting is a forum for sharing of experience of partners who have been involved in the housing program for the poor.

Interim Country Director of HFH Ms. Almudena Bartayres Arcas mentioned that Nepal was chosen out of 70 countries by Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project which will be held from Nov 1-6, 2015 in Pokhara and Asia-Pacific Housing Forum 5 will take place in Hongkong and through satellite connection in Nepal, the Philippines and India where participants would communicate through video conference.

Mr. Yogendra Mandal of Jeevan Bikas Samaj, Mr. Mahendra Giri of Sahara Nepal, Ms. Bhagwati Chaudhary of FORWARD, Mr. Dharma Raj Pandey of Nepal Grameen Bikas Bank, Ms. Aasmani Chaudhary of RWDC, Mr. Prem Giri of HFH Nepal and Ms Richa Sharma, Youth Ambassador shared their experiences about the "Housing Program".

The chief guest Mr. Shankar Man Shrestha said, "Habitat has been working as a facilitator but we must work for ourselves. Charity never develops a country; it will destroy our dignity and self-help instinct. So instead of accepting charity from others, we need to practice helping ourselves by mobilizing our own resources. Today MFIs need to work

together for the underprivileged masses of Nepal". He saluted Habitat for Humanity, Mr. Mahendra Giri of Sahara Nepal and Mr Yogendra Mandal of Jeevan Bikas Samaj for pioneering housing finance for the poor in Nepal and urged every MFI to make the One Million Housing Campaign as their own and work sincerely to make the goal a reality.

Mr. Sandesh Parajuli, Senior M&E Manager of HFH Nepal gave his vote of thanks to Mr. Shankar Man Shrestha for his time and valuable words and he also thanked all the attendees for their participation.



A view of the program

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