

# Glimpse



A Newsletter of CSD – March 2016, Issue 13

## West Meets East

*Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn. – Benjamin Franklin*

Over the years, the Centre for Self-help Development (CSD) has been organizing numerous international exposure visit programs to Bangladesh, the Philippines and Sri Lanka to enable the Nepalese microfinance practitioners to learn from the experts in other countries. However, it has been realized that MFIs have much to learn from one another within the country itself. Seeing this as an opportunity for experience sharing and exposure to the praiseworthy work carried out by Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) in the country, CSD organized a six-day domestic study visit program of MFIs in Eastern Nepal 'West Meets East' from February 9 – 14, 2016.

The team was led by the Chairman of CSD, Mr. Shankar Man Shrestha and had a total of 17 participants from MFIs operating in mid, western and far-western Nepal. The participants comprised of Board Members and Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) from Swabalamban Laghubitta Bikas Bank Ltd., Manushi, UNYC Nepal, Mirmire Microfinance Development Bank Ltd., Mahila Sahayatra Microfinance Bittiya Sanstha Ltd., Kisan Bahuudeshiya Sahakari Sanstha Ltd., Nepal Mahila Samudayik Sewa Kendra and Swarojgar Laghubitta Bikas Bank Ltd.

The six day program covered four major MFIs operating in Eastern Nepal; Jeevan Bikas Samaj (JBS), Nerude Laghubitta Bikas Bank Ltd., FORWARD Community Microfinance Bittiya Sanstha Ltd. and Sahara Nepal SACCOS Ltd., spread across Morang, Sunsari, Jhapa and Ilam.

All the MFIs showed outstanding hospitality with the CEOs personally guiding the group during the tour. During the six-day visit, the participants were able to visit various credit as well as credit plus programs focusing on health, education, housing, vocational training, agriculture etc run by the MFIs.



**Amahi, Morang : Jeevan Bikas Samaj's birthplace and currently all-female staff branch with over 100% financial self-sufficiency**

Jeevan Bikas Samaj's Public Health Centre and Sahara Nepal SACCOS Ltd.'s Jeevan Bardhan Program were two noteworthy services run by the respective organizations for the families they have been serving. These programs were initiated when the respective MFI leaders realized the importance of providing health services to their members at the ground level itself. The participants were inspired by their initiative and have mentioned them as model health programs to learn from.

Focusing on the importance of education in the path to poverty alleviation, the visit to JBS's Jeevan Bikas Public School left all the participants in awe. Their vision and mission towards providing the underprivileged children quality education and exposure to extra curricular activities was much appreciated by the entire team. The team attended the inauguration of JBS's first pre-school Child Education Center (CECs) in the premises of its Ramchowk branch. JBS plans to open such centers in additional branches in the near future. Through these CECs they intend to provide quality

Montessori education, no less than those available in larger towns, at minimal cost to the community.

The participants visited the housing projects undertaken by the MFIs. They were oriented on the housing loan product provided by the MFIs. In this regard, the group made an on-site visit to the bamboo treatment and processing plant of JBS and Sahara Nepal SACCOS Ltd. The participants were impressed to note that most of the bamboo processed was being used for the housing projects for the ultra-poor and needy.

The group also visited the vocational training center where members and their children were provided skill based trainings. The MFIs were certified from the Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training (CTEVT) to provide a range of courses.

The participants had the opportunity to visit two such branches of JBS and Sahara Nepal that were working on full operational and financial self-sufficiency and were in fact sending money to the head office. During the interaction with

*(contd. on page 3...)*

# CSD Chairman cautions MFIs' Branch Managers not to put Clients into Loan Trap



A Group Photograph of the Participants

CSD organized a Training on Credit Appraisal in Kathmandu from January 28 – February 1, 2016. The four day long training aimed of helping MFIs to systemize the process of credit appraisal to safeguard their loan portfolio and minimize risk therein and promote and develop the clients' economic conditions.

Addressing the participants in the closing ceremony of Credit Appraisal training organized by CSD, Mr. Shankar Man Shrestha - Chairman of CSD urged the participants to emphasize more on betterment of their members by avoiding over indebtedness. He mentioned that MFIs have been prospering day by day in terms of number of clients they served, volume of loan operation, profitability and have been able to distribute good dividend to the shareholders and provide good bonus and facilities to their staff. However he questioned, "What about the clients? Have they been able to prosper in real term or have they been put into loan trap?" He urged all the participants to be concerned about their member clients. He said, "Please ask yourself – What microfinance is for and who does it target and benefit? And what microfinance could achieve at the members level? Find the answers by assessing the real conditions of your members after microfinance service". He urged them, "Focus on your members, help them grow economically and socially and work for their betterment. You must make sure your clients develop along with you and your organizations then only you will be

considered as true practitioners of microfinance."

After distributing certificate of participation to the participants he ended the ceremony wishing all the participants very best in meeting their institution's mission.

There were 31 participants from 13 different MFIs. They were equipped with different credit appraisal tools. The training tried to address the emerging operational issues and challenges faced by the microfinance and rural cooperative sector like identifying potential clients, client literacy, credit appraisal, collateral valuation, credit processing and cash flow analysis, monitoring and supervisions etc. The training also incorporated a day long practical exercise in the field by way of applying the knowledge gained in the classroom to the real clients.

The participating MFIs were- Swabalamban Laghubitta Bikas Bank Ltd., Muktinath Bikas Bank Ltd., Chhimek Laghubitta Bikas Bank Ltd., CYC Nepal, Mero Microfinance Bittiya Sanstha Ltd., Swarojgar Laghubitta Bittiya Sanstha Ltd., Solve Nepal, Mirmire Microfinance Development Bank Ltd., National Microfinance Bittiya Sanstha Ltd., Nadep Laghubitta Bittiya Sanstha Ltd., Bauddha Grameen Multipurpose Cooperative Ltd., Udaydev Multipurpose Cooperative Ltd. and Womi Microfinance Bittiya Sanstha Ltd.

## In Loving Memory of Keshar Bahadur Shrestha

The CSD family is extremely saddened by the untimely demise of Mr. Keshar Bahadur Shrestha on February 15, 2016. He was one of the pioneer practitioners of microfinance in Nepal and a long serving staff and board member of CSD.

He will be remembered long for his sincerity and dedication to microfinance sector development specially the development of the Swabalamban Laghubitta Bikas Bank Ltd.

He served CSD from January 15, 1992 to February 15, 2014; including serving as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Swabalamban Laghubitta Bikas Bank from 2002 to 2008 on deputation from CSD. We extend our heartfelt condolence to the bereaved family and pray almighty for the eternal Peace of the departed soul.



(... contd. from page 1)

## West Meets ...

the branch managers and field assistants the participants were amused with the level of loyalty, positive attitude and hard-working determination displayed by the staff.

During the field visit, the participants visited some of the successfully operated micro-enterprises of the graduated microfinance members of Nerude Laghubitta Bikas Bank Ltd. and Sahara Nepal SACCOS Ltd. The study visit focused on showcasing successful micro-enterprises as day by day the microfinance clients are growing and developing and needs to graduate into micro-entrepreneurs. The Seeno Sahara program especially supports the deprived families towards developing into micro-entrepreneurs. The program hand picks poor clients and works towards developing pocket areas like goat rearing, bee keeping, poultry etc. by providing them both technical and financial support. This program has been quickly gaining popularity among its members.

To further support the field visits, each MFI had organized an interaction between their Board Members and staff and the participants to enable them to learn from experience sharing and information dissemination. The CEOs also graciously answered the participants' queries.

The study visit program was an eye-opener and an opportunity for the participants to learn from their eastern counterparts. Towards the end, Dr. Sumitra Manandhar Gurung, CEO of Mahila Sahayatra Microfinance Bittiya Sanstha Ltd. said, "CSD has organized a really wonderful program which has given us a chance to observe the exceptional microfinance programs of the East. These MFIs have gone far ahead of us. We have a lot of catching up to do."

Mr. Ram Prasad Pandey, Public Director of Swabalamban Laghubitta Bikas Bank Ltd., remarked, "CSD has given us a golden opportunity to learn from one another. This visit portrays that microfinance is not just limited to financial activities but also extended to various credit plus programs. The public should be made aware of such progress and contribution being made by the microfinance sector." Ms. Bimala Yogi, Chairperson of Nepal Women Community Service Centre, said, "I am very thankful for CSD's initiation in organizing such a domestic study visit



Participants interacting with one of the Micro entrepreneurs of Nerude Laghubitta Bikas Bank Limited



Visit to one of the micro enterprises of Sahara Nepal SACCOS's member

program. It has made us aware of different social aspects that we need to add in our microfinance program in order to strengthen our organization. This program has boosted our enthusiasm of doing things differently. I am extremely motivated to adopt few credit plus programs to cater better services to our member."

Summing up the domestic study visit program, Mr. Shankar Man Shrestha said, "These MFIs are faring well because they not only have the willpower but also the win-power. Self-discipline along with leadership skills is vital in steering an organization towards greater heights.

Only when we have reached the last ultra-poor family in our coverage area, then we are successful in our job. Let us not forget that microfinance is a social business and we all have the power and resource to create magic."

The exposure visit ended on a high note with each and every participant inspired and enthusiastic to replicate the commendable work carried out by the MFIs. All the participants expressed their gratitude to CSD for organizing and facilitating the first study visit and looked forward to welcoming other MFIs to their region, in the near future.



Participants in front of Nerude Laghubitta Bikas Bank Ltd. office

# Member's Corner

## UNYC Nepal:



Building of UNYC Nepal

Dedicated to socio-economic development of underprivileged people of Far-western Region of the country since its inception, UNYC Nepal, an NGO was established in the year 1995 A.D. It has been committed to uplift the lives of disadvantaged and indigenous community such as Tharu, Dalit and other marginalized families residing in mid and far western region of Nepal. UNYC Nepal has been providing microfinance services to such disadvantaged community from the year 2000 A.D. It delivers microfinance services to the residents of four districts Banke, Bardiya, Kailali and Kanchanpur through its 32 branch offices. It is also associated with various national and international agencies to run awareness program on education, health and sanitation. One of the commendable jobs of UNYC Nepal is its 24

### VISION

To see the underprivileged Tharu, Dalit and the poorest people of Nepal get out of poverty and march ahead towards prosperity

### MISSION

Launch the economic and social development programs targeting the underprivileged, exploited, victimized, marginalized and the poorest people and help them achieve sustainable development by building their capacity and mobilizing own resources.

### OBJECTIVES

- To increase public awareness through formal and non-formal education projects.
- To provide knowledge about health and contagious diseases.
- To increase human right consciousness.
- To promote peace and healthy social environment.
- To conduct environment awareness programs.
- To preserve and promote Tharu culture and literature.
- To act as a financial mediator to upgrade the economic and social status of poor people by providing financial services to the needy

## SERVICES

### Savings Products

- Group Savings
- Individual Savings
- Child Savings
- Center welfare Savings
- Center Fund Savings
- Pension Savings
- Marriage Savings

### Loan Products

- General Loan
- Seasonal Loan
- Foreign Employment Loan
- Micro-enterprises Loan
- Housing Loan
- Emergency Loan

### Protection Scheme & Plus Activities

- Maternity Allowance (for two children)
- Client life and loan insurance
- Spouse Insurance
- Housing Insurance
- Accidental insurance
- Medical insurance

### OPERATIONAL STATUS (As of December 2015)

- Area Coverage : 83 VDCs and 16 municipalities in Banke, Bardiya, Kailali and Kanchanpur
- Cumulative Reserves: Rs. 99,553,907.98
- Members (Microfinance): 55,368
- Borrowers (Microfinance) : 31,843
- Outstanding Loan: Rs. 906,237,711
- Savings from Clients: Rs. 357,158,483
- Overdue Loan amount: Rs. 1,563,196
- Profit: Rs. 38,008,565.46
- OSS: 142.13%
- Repayment Rate: 99.94%



Mr. Dev Man Chaudhary  
Chairman



Mr. Kiran Tharu  
Acting Executive Director

# JBS Hosted Conference of Women Members

Jeevan Bikash Samaj (JBS) has been making a conscientious effort in changing the lives of disadvantaged community since its inception and it has been doing a marvelous job in an effective manner. In order to design effective strategies and build excellent relation with its clients and learn its own strengths and weaknesses from the target members, JBS organized the conference of women members from February 16 - 17, 2016. The conference was attended by 410 members representing different areas of its operation in seven districts namely Ilam, Jhapa, Morang, Sunsari, Dhankuta, Udayapur and Sindhuli



A view of Women Conference of JBS

Mr. Shankar Man Shrestha, Chairman of CSD was invited as the Chief Guest and the conference was chaired by Mr. Yogendra Mandal, Chairman and ED of JBS.

The Chief Guest Mr. Shrestha, while addressing the women leaders expressed his great delight in seeing the progress made by JBS in such a short period of time. He appreciated the focus of the organization uplifting the disadvantaged

and indigenous people out of poverty. He said, " JBS has set an example for all of us. If we have the determination and a clear vision then we can achieve anything. JBS's exceptional way of practicing microfinance program is an inspiration to all of us to adopt progressive methods in our work and strategies to create a poverty free and sustainable community."

Mr. Mandal shared that the essential part of this conference is to bring out the ideas of the members and give them an opportunity to express their expectations from JBS to build a better and prosperous community. This, in turn would help JBS design effective strategies that will improve and strengthen the lives of deprived families. The two day Conference was a mass aggregation of JBS's women members and was lauded as a success by the attendees.

## Solidarity in MF Fraternity : JBS Support for Rebuilding Houses for Manushi's Members

The devastating earthquake of April 25, 2015 shattered the houses of many MFIs clients in the hilly and mountain districts specifically central and western region. Among the MFIs, Manushi is one of the most affected. The earthquake took away 8,970 lives and destroyed many houses making numerous people homeless. As a result, people are having difficulties in reviving their lives, houses and enterprises. To this effect, Jeevan Bikas Samaj, Biratnagar as token of its solidarity has extended Rs 3 million to Manushi to help its clients to rebuild their houses through the solidarity fund. In this respect JBS, Manushi and CSD signed an agreement on February 16, 2016 for rebuilding the 100 houses of earthquake affected extremely poor clients in Majhitar, Nuwakot. As per the agreement, CSD will be responsible for all the coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the project, JBS will provide financial and technical support and Manushi will provide the target families with this grant



Mr. Yogendra Mandal Chairman of JBS, Mr. Shankar Man Shrestha, Chairman of CSD and Ms. Shova Bajracharya, General Manager of Manushi signing the contract of building homes in Majhitar, Nuwakot

support along with its loan support.

The project holds a motive of Self build Home with token support of JBS for materials such as cement and CGI sheets along with necessary skill-based trainings

required to build homes to the local youth of the project area. The required laborers will be managed by the MFIs on the principle of helping each other. On March 24, 2016, Manushi has laid the foundation of houses to be built.

# CSD's Chairman Shared His Experiences on "Micro, Cottage and Small Enterprises – The Nepalese Milieu" in an International Conference Held in Bangladesh

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector is the key driver of sustainable development. So, to have cross-country knowledge sharing on sustainable development of MSMEs an international conference on "Development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Bangladesh: Sharing Asian Experiences" was held on March 5, 2016 at Southeast University, Bangladesh. CSD's Chairman Mr. Shankar Man Shrestha was invited as one of the distinguished guests to share his experience in the context of Nepal and Dr. Atiur Rahman, Governor, Bangladesh Bank was the chief guest.

Mr. Shrestha did a presentation on "Micro, cottage and small enterprises – The Nepalese Milieu" which gave the attendees of conference an insight on the scenario of micro, cottage and small enterprises in context of Nepal. He also shared his ideas on ways of developing sustainable enterprises in order to achieve better economy of a country.

The chief guest, Dr. Atiur Rahman was pleased with the organization of the conference as it gave a platform to have the knowledge regarding development and scenario of MSMEs in various Asian countries.

He shared, in Bangladesh, MSME accounts for 24 percent of total credit portfolio, 25 percent of total labor force, 32 percent of GDP, 40 percent of employment, and 80 percent of industrial jobs. There is still huge young population who needs more and better jobs. He also mentioned that Bangladesh's financial system has been leveraged to support empowerment initiatives in agriculture, MSME, women entrepreneurship and green financing as these initiatives have created more jobs.

Dr. Atiur said, "Bangladesh Bank tries its best to provide regulatory and financial support to MSMEs. Bangladesh needs two growth engines- Export and Domestic Demand and we are working on both of these engines by empowering MSME." He was keen on receiving guidance on future policy design and implementation through the conference and finally, he wished the conference a grand success.

## Formation of Steering Committee for National Microfinance Members' Summit

A steering committee has been formed from among the major MFIs in Nepal to oversee the organization of the 'National Microfinance Members' Summit' on January 18, 2016. The summit will take place on May 15-16, 2016. The Organizing Committee comprises of:

Mr. Shankar Man Shrestha - Chairman

Ms. Bhagbati Chaudhary, Member

Mr. Dharma Raj Pandey, Member

Ms. Padmasana Shakya, Member

Dr. Sumitra M. Gurung, Member

Mr. Ram Chandra Joshee, Member

Mr. Naresh Man Pradhan, Member

Mr. Janardhan Dev Pant, Member

Mr. Yogendra Mandal, Member

Mr. Mahendra Kumar Giri, Member

Mr. Rajendra Bahadur Pradhan, Member

Ms. Aasmani Chaudhary, Member

Mr. Bir Bahadur Adhikari, Member

Mr. Dambar Bahadur Shah, Member

Mr. Shanker Nath Kapali - Member Secretary

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **National Microfinance Members' Summit:** The microfinance sector in Nepal has greatly progressed in the last one and a half decade both in terms of number of members and volume of business. Most MFIs have been able to attain self sufficiency in a very short period of time and money towards financial self sufficiency. As the long term success of the sector depends on the sustainability of clients; CSD in collaboration with MFIs will be organizing the "National Microfinance Members' Summit" from May 15-16, 2016. With the objective to interact with the women leaders of microfinance clients to seek their feedbacks to enhance, upgrade the quality of microfinance services and develop them as micro entrepreneurs and chalk out way forward as the national guidance for microfinance operations. Over 600 MF women members and 100 MF staff are expected to participate in the first ever such event.
- **Training on Credit Management:** CSD has planned to organize Training on Credit Management in the month of April, 2016. This training will help the participants get equipped in proper management of credit to safeguard their loan portfolio and minimize risk. This training will address the emerging operational issues and challenges faced by the loan officers of microfinance operations.
- **IDF Bangladesh visiting Nepal on study/exposure visit program :** An Eight member team from Integrated Development Foundation (IDF) is visiting Nepal on the invitation of CSD under its learning program. The team is scheduled to undertake its Exposure visit from May 22-29, 2016. 's Microfinance Setor from The main objective of the visit is to learn from the best practises and approaches as well as post-earthquake recovery taking place in the business.

## Learning from Lanka

CSD under its Microfinance Learning Program arranged a Study cum Exposure Visit Program to Sri Lanka for the Board Members and Senior Staff of its Member Institutions. The program which was a mix of theoretical and practical exposure was conducted in various places of Sri Lanka from March 27 to April 2, 2016. The main objective of the program was to provide learning opportunities to the participants on the microfinance sector of Sri Lanka: its niches, approaches and strategies, products and mechanisms and opportunities and constraints.

There were fourteen participants from six different MFIs of Nepal which was coordinated by Mr. Satish Shrestha, Deputy Director of CSD. The team visited microfinance programs of Business Development Cooperative Society, Puttlam District Isuru Development People's Company Limited, Pragathi Sewa Foundation, Rajarata Micro Credit & Service (Pvt) Ltd., SANSA Federation and Silverreen Micro Credit Company Ltd.

The participants were briefed on the organizational status of different types of MFIs in Sri Lanka and how they have been managing their Microfinance programs, how successful they have been and what were the bottlenecks of



Participants of the Study/Exposure Visit to Sri Lanka

operation in Sri Lanka during the briefing session by the Lanka Microfinance Practitioners' Association (LMFPA), the network organization of all MFIs in Sri Lanka. During the field visit to the grass-root level as well the Branch and head office the participants were also briefed on the socio-economic condition, development approaches and strategies of Government towards the microfinance sector in Sri Lanka.

Mr. Kiran Tharu – Acting Executive Director, Ms. Basanti Kumari Chaudhary – Board Member and Mr. Radheshyam Tharu – Board Member of UNYC Nepal, Mr. Anka Bahadur Gurung – Account Committee Coordinator and Mr. Sing Bahadur Gurung – Vice Chairperson of Bauddha Grameen Bahuudeshiya Sahakari Sanstha Ltd, Mr. Shiv Kumar Ram

– Officer, Mr. Kumod Kumar Mandal – Officer, Mr. Anjay Kumar Mandal – Officer and Mr. Binod Kumar Sah – Senior Officer of Jeevan Bikas Samaj, Mr. Tara Prasad Sanjel – President and Mr. Upendra Prasad Olee, Treasurer, Sahara Nepal Saccos were the 14 member team that participated in the program.

During the post visit review held at CSD the participants shared that they were overwhelmed by the hospitality and culture of Sri Lankan people. Mr. Anka Bahadur Gurung of Bauddha Grameen Cooperative said, "In Sri Lanka we found cooperatives hold a strong position and moreover, we were exposed to such cooperatives that reminded us of the actual values to be followed by a cooperative organization. The visit was a wonderful experience."

Mr. Kiran Tharu – Acting Executive Director of UNYC Nepal said, "The visit to Sri Lanka has motivated me to introduce better and appropriate services to our clients that will help them uplift their living standard."

The participants expressed their thanks to CSD for organizing such a fruitful program where they acknowledged that the progress of a country begins with the progress of the poor family or farmer and how despite being vastly unregulated, the sector itself has developed due to sheer dedication and discipline of the people engaged in the sector.



Nepali Delegates interacting with Sri Lankan Microfinance Members

# Nepalese MF Practitioners at the 18th Microcredit Summit



Nepali Delegates During 18th Microcredit Summit

The Microcredit Summit Campaign in partnership with the Arab Gulf Programme for Development (AGFUND) co-hosted the 18th Microcredit Summit from March 14 – 17, 2016 in Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. Since the launch of the first Microcredit Summit in 1997, the Campaign has been organizing subsequent Summits to congregate microfinance practitioners, funders and investors, corporations, government policymakers and regulators, advocates and support organizations, global development agencies and researchers to discuss the current state of the sector, diffuse innovations, address challenges and encourage the use of microfinance in the effort to end extreme poverty.

This year, the 18th Microcredit Summit focused on the theme Frontier Innovations in Financial Inclusion and engaged delegates on strategies to promote inclusive, sustainable economic growth and social empowerment for the most vulnerable and marginalized sections of society. The featured speakers included H.E. Sultan Bin Saeed Al Mansouri, Minister of Economy (U.A.E.); H.M. Queen Sofia (Spain); H.R.H. Prince Talal Bin Abdul Aziz, AGFUND (Saudi Arabia); H.E. Dr. Abdulrahman A. Al Hamidy, Director General Chairman, Arab Monetary Fund; Mr. Larry Reed, Director, Microcredit Summit Campaign (U.S.A.); Prof. Muhammad Yunus, Chairman, Yunus Centre (Bangladesh) and H.E. Hussain J. Al Nowais, Chairman, Khalifa Fund for Enterprise Development (U.A.E.).

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Yunus spoke about achieving the Three Zeros in the world by year 2030; Zero Poverty, Zero Unemployment and Zero Pollution. He stressed on the need to educate the clients as well as prepare a second generation of microfinance members. Moreover, he said that youths should make a list of problems faced by their respective countries and work towards finding their solutions rather than migrating to foreign countries in search of job opportunities. This attitude will not only help in poverty alleviation and development of the country, but also work towards reaching the Three Zeros goal.

Nearly 1,000 delegates from 70 countries attended the Summit in Abu Dhabi including 49 participants from Nepal. The Centre for Self-help Development (CSD) Chairman, Mr. Shankar Man Shrestha led a group of 19 participants to Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. There were participants from Sahara Nepal SACCOS Ltd., Jhapa; Jeevan Bikas Samaj, Morang; Mahuli Samudayik Laghubitta Bittiya Sanstha Ltd., Saptari; Manushi, Kathmandu; Swabalamban Laghubitta Bikas Bank Ltd., Kathmandu; Nawaprativa SACCOS Ltd., Nawalparasi; Shreejana Development Centre, Pokhara; Chartare Youth Club, Baglung; Rural Women Development Centre, Dang; Mahila Upkar Munch, Banke; UNYC Nepal, Bardiya and Kisan Bahuuddeshiya Sahakari Sanstha Ltd., Kailali.

Two of the participants represented the Nepalese microfinance sector on the global platform. Mr. Shankar Man Shrestha, Chairman of CSD was a speaker in the session 'Leveraging Remittances to Drive Development', similarly, Ms. Padmasana Shakya, Chairperson of Manushi was a speaker in the session 'Creating a Collaborative Platform for Capacity Building in Financial Inclusion'. Both sessions were widely applauded by the congregate.

The microfinance practitioners were able to take part in discussions and sessions around microfinance and financial inclusion strategies where they learnt how partnerships would help to expand their outreach and multiply their impact and how collaborating with different sectors can help develop and expand strategies for financial and social inclusion thereby reaching the most vulnerable and marginalized sections of society.



Mr. Shankar Man Shrestha, Chairman of CSD during his session



Ms. Padmasana Shakya, Chairperson of Manushi during her session

**Centre for Self-help Development (CSD)**  
- Institute of Microfinance & Cooperative Development

P.O. Box 8852, Maitighar Height, Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel.: +977-1-4265635, 4256786, Fax: +977-1-4265634, Email: [csd@mos.com.np](mailto:csd@mos.com.np), Web: [www.csdnepal.org.np](http://www.csdnepal.org.np)