

Goats Handed Over to Beneficiaries

Goat rearing is one of the livestock projects, which is feasible for implementation in the villages. Goat rearing is easy as the feed for the animals is readily available in the villages, management is easier and disease problems are minimal. Also, livestock farmers expressed their interest to rear goats during the participatory needs assessment conducted in many villages including Mallikaitheevu, Kumarapuram and Jinnah Nagar in the Muthur division.

Two female goats were handed over to each of the

It is envisaged to recover the initial cost of the animals from the beneficiaries in instalments either in cash or in kind after they start receiving the benefits of the project.

The CBO Leaders Meetings

The community based organisations such as Farmer organisation, Rural Development Society, Samurdhi Task Force and Religious Organisations play a vital role as implementing partners in organising beneficiaries' contribution to the various



Goats handed over to Muthur beneficiaries

25 beneficiaries selected from the above three villages during August 2000. Each beneficiary erected a shed out of jungle posts and other materials obtainable locally from his/her village and they contributed the total cost of erecting the shed. The Department of Animal Production and Health, the service provider, is responsible for purchase and issue of goats, providing training to the beneficiaries and for continuous supervision of management of goats. The veterinary surgeon, the livestock development instructor and the village livestock extension worker together advise the beneficiaries and supervise the goat rearing. The project is financed by the IFSP.

projects implemented in the villages by the IFSP. To pave the way for effective social mobilisation in the villages covered by the IFSP activities, meetings were conducted with CBO leaders initially in Kuchchaveli and Muthur divisions in July 2000. The purpose of the meeting was to share the experiences among CBOs with the IFSP activities and other activities conducted by them in the past and to plan the strategies for working together in the future. Both meetings were well attended by the CBO leaders and field officers. The team leader Dr.Dedo Geinitz

explained the IFSP principles with the help of posters, photographs and cards. The leaders of each CBO made presentations on their activities and the related experiences. This was followed by group discussions, which helped identify the possible solutions to the problems experienced by the CBOs. A significant feature of the meeting was the field visit to an IFSP project site where the participants were able to gain first hand experience through observation and by the explanations given by the CBO leaders and the social mobilisers engaged in that project. It is planned to conduct these meetings in the other divisions too in the near future.

Computer Training for Partner Staff in Progress

The IFSP contributes to human resource development of the partner institutions by organising and sponsoring various training programmes. One such training course on the use of computers commenced on 10th August 2000 at the Department of Agrarian Services, Trincomalee. The course will continue for 10 weeks with 136 hours of introduction on Microsoft Windows 98, Microsoft Word 97, Microsoft Excel 97 and Microsoft Access 97. The 20 participants are mainly from the Department of Agrarian services and include clerks, stenographers, typists, divisional officers, data operators, draughtsmen/women and social mobilisers. The course instructor is S. Lojamohan, visiting computer instructor, NAITA and the course is organised by the Assistant Commissioner of Agrarian Services, Trincomalee.

Social Mobilisation: An Important Component of IFSP

Social mobilisation is the entry point for a people centred development process. It aims to encourage selected groups of people to make better use of own resources and to improve their capacities and capabilities. By creating awareness on unused potentials and possibilities, social mobilisation supports the shift from passive recipients to active participants in development. Social mobilisation starts with mobilising the villagers and preparing the grounds for PNA (see news3). Subsequently it focuses on the strengthening of the groups identified during PNA.

The social mobilisation team presently employed by the IFSP consists of eight members with different professional backgrounds. Most of them are graduates. Special emphasis of social mobilisation within IFSP is laid on encouraging people to participate in the need analysis and planning and implementation of projects. Contribution in terms of labour and/or kind, facilitating service provision by encouraging selected groups to demand services as well as by informing service providers about villagers'

requests are other important aspects together with monitoring and training of the identified groups in self monitoring. A training programme is planned in September for the social mobilisers by the Sewa Lanka foundation to enhance their knowledge, form positive attitudes and develop the necessary skills to work effectively with the rural people as well as the action groups and community based organisations. The training activities will consist of lectures, discussions, reflective sessions, workshops, role-plays and case studies. 8-day field exposure and a monthly 1-day in-service training for a year will follow the initial 14-day training.

Project Progress Review

Project progress review of the IFSP was conducted from the 24th July to 15th August 2000 by both project partners, the Ministry of Plan Implementation and Parliamentary Affairs, and the German Agency for Technical Co-operation. A team of 7 independent consultants divided into 3 teams visited partner institutions as well as project sites in the field.

To evaluate the planning and implementation of the current project phase the PPR team conducted numerous discussions and interviews with partner institutions, service providers, community-based organisations, as well as beneficiaries. More than 30 communities and 35 project sites were visited.

Another objective of the PPR mission was to advise the IFSP with regard to planning a proposed second phase. The effectiveness of the partner institutions and organisations were analysed especially with a view to their capacities to serve the needs and requirements of the target groups. All findings had to be carefully seen in the light of the ground conditions being faced in the Trincomalee district.

The findings of the PPR mission were presented at a final workshop in Kachcheri, Trincomalee on 11th August, as well as in the Ministry of Plan Implementation and Parliamentary Affairs (MPIPA) in Colombo on 15th August. It is recommended to expand the IFSP project into a second phase until May 2004.

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INTEGRATED FOOD SECURITY PROGRAMME

