
Irrigation Development Experience of Rural Based NGOs from Chherlung II

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A Brief Introduction to Chherlung Thulo Kulo

The 7 kms Chherlung Thulo Kulo canal was constructed with local resources in the 1985 through the leadership of two social workers of Chherlung village. At the time of canal construction the famous technicians were called Agris from Dhamukhani village, Parbat district. Agris had taken the contract for Rs 5,000 for the construction of canal and after 4 years the canal was completed.

After receiving the flow of water in the village, the water allocation was made on the basis of investment during the canal construction. The total investment of Rs. 5000 was divided into 50 shares, those farmers who had invested Rs. 100 had received one share of water or equivalent to one inch of water in the canal. Wooden sanchos was cut in vertically on the measurement of Thumb which was equivalent to one inch total discharge of water in the canal and was divided into 50 inches for allocation of water through the wooden sanchos. In 2043, thirteen inches of water was sold in the canal with Rs. 1300 which was spent on repair of the canal. The share of water in the canal was increased from Rs.5000 to Rs.6300 and 50 inches 63 inches of water in the canal. At present, the share of the water in the canal has been increased of Rs.6400.

In 2022, ten members of the committee formed the irrigation management. The committee consists 7 thari (members) from each day of the week, mukhiya, jimmwal and secretary. The remuneration of mukhiya is Rs.125 per month including excuse for one physical labor jimmwal is excused for 3 physical labor, and secretary and members are excused 1/4 labor for the work.

Every year in January the committee holds a general assembly meeting. The tenure of the committee members is one year.

In the monsoon (from middle of July to middle of November) 2 "guards" are hired in the canal each day for proper delivery of water and patrolling the canal. During the winter only one guard is hired for the canal. The main function of the guards is to patrol the canal, repair the canal's bund and plaster the leakage of the water and increase the water from the intake. If the are guards unable to repair sufficiently, they have to report to the mukhiya and the laborers mukhiya will send 10-12 as Khetala. If more than khetala are needed then jhara is called for completing the work in the canal. For jhara each share holder contributes one labor and if he/she is absent from work a fine is levied. Auditing is done for winter in May and monsoon in November.

The function of the chairman includes mobilizing labor for repairing the landslides, allocating and distributing water, calling meetings, resolving conflicts and problems related to water. Annual income and expenditure, record keeping, presentation of the account in the meeting, meeting minutes

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record keeping and dispatching notices according to the chairman's instructions is done by the secretary.

Passing messages to all farmers, collecting fines and fees, sending the labor rotation and repairing and maintaining the canal is main function of the committee.

Bob Yoder and Ed Martin from Cornell University, in the year of 2039/040 did research on this system, and during this time they brought farmers and officials from the Rasuwa, Nuwakot and Galayang Irrigation Project for educational tours to the Chherlung Thulo Kulo. Similarly, Ujjwal Pradhan has also done research in the system from Cornell University; he also brought the farmers from the Phalebas Irrigation System to discuss and exchange the ideas.

The members in the committee and farmers from the Chherlung Thulo Kulo visited the Sindhu-palchowk Irrigation Project jointly implemented by Water and Energy Commission and IIMI/Nepal for the purpose of training about construction and installation of sanchos in the canal to allocate the water.

To mobilize the local and external resources for construction, repair and maintenance of the canal, extension of irrigable land, development of leadership, and other related irrigation issues NGOs officials, farmers, International students and even the government have proved that the committee of this system has potential to form a local NGO in irrigation management.

Formulation and implementation of rules and regulations, autonomous, independent, creative and financial support from the HMG is essential to develop local NGOs in irrigation management.