

---

## Irrigation Development Experience of Rural Based NGOs from Argali

D.D. Regmi<sup>1</sup>

### Brief Description of Argali Royal Canal (Raj Kulo)

King Mani Mukunda had ruled Palpa from B.S. 1604 to 1630. During his reign, he established a Trust (Guthi) at Argali with some land to worship daily the Lord Rishikesh whose temple was built in Ridi. He constructed the royal canal to irrigate the land of trust. Since the canal was constructed by a king the name remained as royal canal (raj kulo).

A 5 member working committee was formed to manage the irrigation. The committee consist of a chairman, a secretary and two Duty Officers and one Water Inspector.

At present, to help, suggest, recommend and to provide direction to the working committee for the physical development a five member advisory board was formed representing each one from 5 irrigation sector.

To distribute water at the beginning and end with equal volume, wooden keys were constructed and development of irrigation sector was made in the terraces of Khutilam, Charsaya, Tinsaya, Uppalosaya, Tallosaya and Rabidash. With an objective to avoid exploitation and partiality in the distribution of water every farmer has his own key to get his share of water from the distribution point constructed by calculating in terms of fingers. Thus there is no partiality for less or more water.

Every year on 1st Jestha (May/June) a general body meeting of the farmers will decide the rules and regulation, selection of board members of the working committee, presentation of annual income and expenditure statement, repair maintenance and selection of new construction to mobilise the internal and external resources.

Repair maintenance and cleaning is done with equal labour from the land owners which gets right to use water traditionally. It has a system to repair after calling for a general body meeting in case of natural disaster.

To regulate the water, duty is assigned from Srawan 1st to Kartick 15 (July - October). There is a system of every day duty by 2 farmers according to the duty management. If it is a simple problem then these two people will repair the damage and keeps water running and if it is beyond their capacity then Water Inspector will be informed. The Water Inspector then inform to the Chairman and Secretary.

Mr. Bob Yoder and Ed Martin of U.S.A. had done research on the construction and management of this Argali Royal Canal and helped in introducing and publicise in the national and international field. Many farmers and officials related irrigation and agriculture programme from many districts visited this canal and learned in different aspects.

---

<sup>1</sup> Member, Argali.

The workshop seminar on "Irrigation Management in Nepal", organised by International Irrigation Management Institute and Institute of Agriculture and Animal Science at Bharatpur, Chitwan in 2043 was participated by the Chairman and a user.

This canal committee from the legacy has already developed the technology, management, water distribution policy, water distribution system, rules and regulations, problem solving method, mobilising local resources and training skill. Institutional development can be made to this committee if external direction and cooperation can be provided. For the institutional development a flexible rules and regulation with possibility to develop independently is essential.