

Project Narrative

Long Project Title –

Scaling-up of Indoor Smoke Alleviating Technologies in High Hills of Nepal

Suggested Short Project Title –

Financing Smoke hood Project

Background/Why we're there –

A number of alternatives to solid fuels exist but their high transportation costs, poor reliability of supply and generally poor purchasing power of households makes them unfeasible. Therefore, most cost effective means of reducing Indoor Air Pollution (IAP) could be better quality of solid fuel use, better insulated and ventilated homes, changing behavior to reduce exposure of children to IAP. But due to lack of awareness on the problem poor capacity to pay for alternative available technologies and lack of accessibility to appropriate technologies are the main hindering factors in the wide-scale mitigation of IAP in the high hills of Nepal. The proposed project aims to address the problem and establish sustainable market for smoke alleviating products mainly the smoke hoods in the high hill areas of Dhading and Gorkha districts in Nepal. The experience of Practical Action Nepal in last 5 years in Rashuwa district has proved that the smoke hood is a viable and socially acceptable technology that contributed in reducing the indoor smoke in high hill areas. The users liked the technology very much. One of the positive aspects of the technology is that it can be manufactured locally, and operation and maintenance cost is very negligible.

This proposed project aims to scale-up this concept and technology to other two nearby districts (Dhading and Gorkha). The culture, climate and economy of the high hill areas in the two districts are almost similar to that of Rashuwa where scaling-up model has been successfully running.

During the pilot project implementation in Rasuwa district the Practical Action has provided a lump sum amount (around the 75% of total cost of Chimney hood) as a grant directly to the end users and it couldn't revolved to other households so now in this project we have managed to create a revolving fund to the local micro finance institutions so that they can provide loan to potential household for smoke hood installation and income generation activities even after the project period.

Objectives –

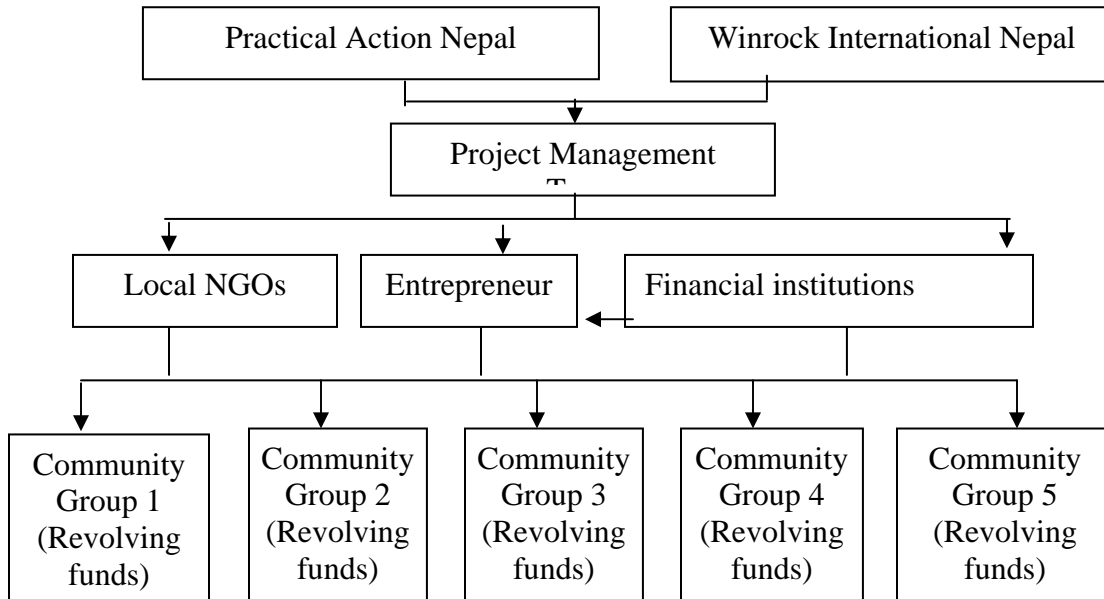
- Awareness creation on the adverse health impact of indoor air pollution among rural poor and empower them to adopt appropriate interventions to bring the pollution at safer level and thereby reduce the adverse health impact.
- Ensuring mechanisms to increase access to quality and smooth supply of the smoke hoods through sustainable market promotion, including facilitation to create a market-based institutional delivery system through promotion of reliable manufacturers and suppliers. Facilitate to develop linkages of customers with appropriate credit facilities through revolving fund mechanisms, local micro finance institutions and other financial intermediaries.
- Dissemination of learning of scaling-up to wider communities.

Activities/Components

Project Period: March 2008 – February 2010

Country/Region of operations: Nepal/ Two districts of country Dhading & Gorkha

Project Management Structure



Summary of Project Activities:

- Baseline information and market survey
- Awareness Creation
- Establishment of Revolving Funds (RF)
- Study on value chain & Quality Control
- Scaling-up of the smoke hoods
- Promote local entrepreneurs for smoke hood manufacturing and supply

Accomplishments

- Local level partners & micro finance institutions have been selected and contracted.
- Study on “ value chain & quality control mechanism have been completed
- Training on “ Manufacturing of smoke hood” have been completed in both districts
- Training on “ Revolving fund management & cooperative education “ have been completed
- Revolving fund have been created in 6 micro finance institutions

Publications

Poster & smoke hood operation manual published