

# Caritas Nepal Meeting Minutes

**Date: 5<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

**Mode of Meeting: Online Meeting**

**Time: 3:30 Pm to 5:00 Pm**

**Agenda: Sharing about Celebration of World Environment Day**

***Present staffs: 69***

***Absent staffs: 33***

Caritas Nepal has conducted sharing meeting with the purpose on celebration of world environment day on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2020 with the presence of 69 staffs out of 102. Among all the present staffs, 8 of the staffs representing Head office, Regional office and field office shared about today's undertaken activities in the field along with the partners and community groups and own office premises with the major focus of celebration on World Environment Day.

## **Opening ceremony**

**Ms. Arpana Karki** started the program as she was given the responsibility of MC for today's virtual meeting. She shared about today's agenda which was about sharing on celebration of World Environment Day. This virtual meeting has helped us to come together and felt the closeness among each other and will obviously help us to build our capacity. This has been really a good opportunity for all the participants to be in a common ground. She invited Caritas Nepal Executive Director Father Lalit Tudu for welcome speech and prayers and accordingly invited the presenters one by one.

## **Fr. Lalit Tudu (Executive Director)**

Father started his sharing with the beautiful song related to Laudato Si which is directly connected with the Nature and the environment. He shared one realistic story, where an Oldman realized the importance of oxygen for life saving. So, if we want good thing from nature, we need to perform activities that our nature accepts easily. If we take all the environment related issues very seriously, not blaming and judging others but initiating from our own, we can protect our nature. He even clarified all the participants about the major reason of gathering which is more like awareness to all the staffs. He believes that this sharing will motivate us to take basic initiatives to perform differently following the slogan for this year "**Time for Nature**". Acting for the nature and treating with love and care is the best way to pray for better environment. We should be thankful towards our mother earth for all the natural resources she has provided without any discrimination and

fulfil our daily needs which we still are taking it for granted. He officially welcomed all the staffs and announced the official opening of the program.

**Ms. Madanika Mukhia (Administrative Manager)**

She shared about the objective of today's program. As in the earlier days we used to celebrate this day in our own offices. But this is the first time we are celebrating together virtually and this is really a good opportunity to share our togetherness. Relating with Laudato Si, now Caritas Nepal should act differently to protect our environment. In this period of pandemic, God has given us time to think deeply and observe our nature closely. This is the time to realize within and act accordingly not going against the nature. This year the theme of world environment day is **Celebrate Biodiversity**. We are inter connected to each other, so we need to support our ecosystem, if we join our hands together for this common goal, we will surely be able to care our mother earth and justice our environment.

**Mr. Manindra Malla (Head of Program)**

Environment has been considered the most vulnerable issues, for which in the whole world people has created concern towards the environment as it is getting deteriorating day by day by the human acts only. God has not only created humans, besides that there are birds, bees, trees created by god. To balance the ecosystem all the creatures has its own role to play and everyone is equally important. But humans are only the one who are acting wise and misbalancing the biodiversity of nature and damaging the Agroecology.

In terms of area Nepal is .1% in the world, but Nepal is very rich in biodiversity. 30-40 years back, it was assumed that, by 1990 there will be desertification. Social forestry campaign supported following the environment issues in the whole world. In the Middle hills of Nepal, the campaign was started which was quite successful and still going on. In context of Nepal, we have now new structure of government which is still a challenges to carry the environmental issues properly. Environmental screening is must to have in-depth knowledge and information about the concerned issues. There should be development, but that development should not affect the environment. Nepal has no good governance. Policy is there, but no proper implementation. We need to lobby and advocate in civil society. If we do not think for the environment we cannot justice the environment. Nature has given us more than we contribute. So we should respect our nature. Let's commit for build back better environment. Sustainable recovery relief activities are part of build back better campaign. We all are very caution about the biodiversity as we have many program related to environment.

With the same thought, Caritas Nepal has mentioned in its strategic plan where 1<sup>st</sup> objective is sustainable development through sustainable agriculture and sustainable enterprises promotion. As Caritas Nepal has finalized Draft in environmental DRR Policy, Caritas Nepal has committed to update needful guidelines. In all project at least 7% to 10%, the program should try to invest in environment DRR and that will reflect our join commitment.

Plantation, reducing pesticide, reducing carbon footprint, there are many options we can take to improve our environment and that is obviously in relation to the biodiversity.

**“Working with nature is not a sprint, 100 mtr dash that try to win”. It is a marathon and we are committed to win it as a family.**

**Mr. Tej Bahadur Basnet (NLRP Program Manager)**

Environment day is known as eco day. More than 100 countries celebrate this day on 5<sup>th</sup> June. The theme of Time for nature can be related with our 2030 SDG .Connecting the environment issues with sustainable development goal, Caritas Nepal is adopting 12 no. points of SDG which reflects on Consumption and production. Many livelihood projects of Caritas Nepal are supporting in this regards. For the security of Human life and development SDG is very much related and connected to biodiversity. One million species facing extinction and it is all related to climate action, water, sanitation and more over human acts. If we are not able to contribute our time for nature, it's worthless being a human and having a human life.

Caritas Nepal initiatives towards WED is plantation, declaration of plastic free zone, declaration of pesticide free zone, declaration of IPM Village, Sanitation rally, cultural events, poem, dance competition, debate, street drama. Because of this pandemic, it was not possible to do many events, but however in short time, Caritas Nepal Team and partners were able to celebrate the day doing plantation and sanitation. In 19 districts the WED was celebrated with the presence of 1864 participants from 20 cooperatives and 12 organizations, planting 4993 different varieties of plants. Rainfall was the biggest challenge of today's plantation and celebration but however the celebration was done in more enthusiastic manner.

**Mr. Chintan Manandhar (Program Manager SAFBIN)**

He mainly shared the Data related to environment. UN conference held on 1972 declared environment day to be celebrated on 5<sup>th</sup> June. World Environment day was celebrated since 1974 with the theme **“Only one Earth”**. Since 1974 different theme and slogan were carried out every year and by 2020 the theme today is **Celebrate Biodiversity** with the slogan **Time for Nature**.

143 countries who celebrate this day annually. Nepal is ranked 25<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> position in biodiversity richness in the world and Asia respectively. Nepal covers 3.2% flora and 1.1% fauna around the globe. More than 284 flowering plants available in Nepal only, 160 different species of animals can be found in Nepal. 10 national parks, 6 conservation area, 3 wild life reserve and 1 hunting resources. 23.23% area of Nepal is covered by above mentioned natural conservation.

In the field area of SAFBIN, WED was celebrated through plantation.

Mother earth do not belong to one individual, it belongs to us. So, it's our duty to protect our mother earth who is nourishing us every second without expecting anything from us but just love and care.

**Mr.Devendra Pokhrel (Regional Manager Damak)**

He shared about the celebration they did in NLRP program area with the participation of 45 people (25 IPM kitchen gardening farmer and remaining 20 were from Caritas Nepal Damak team and ward chairperson and other government personnel of same ward office). In coordination with ward

chairperson, 40 Fruits saplings of mango, litchi and grapes were planted in 160 square meter inside the office premises of Damak Municipality wards no.3. Reason behind promoting fruit sapling is that Damak Municipality has made it mandatory and schemed one home one fruit campaign. In Dhanusa, 18 farmers celebrated WED planting wood trees, fruits and fodder at 320 Square Meter.

As we all the Damak team were busy with the HDC call and collecting information, though the time was limited, we were able to celebrate the program successfully.

Damak Municipality is very much cautious about the environment and is focusing on plantation. Last year, 40,000 fruit plants were planted in the area of Bhutanese Refugees camp in coordination with UNHCR and Municipality. In ward no. 3 of Damak Municipality, there is a community forest. With the scheme of Cash for work, during this lockdown, few daily wages workers and returnees were mobilized to prepare the plantation area where 30,000 fruit Saplings were going to be planted. The reason behind mobilizing them were to have some earnings for their daily needs. From today onwards, plantation has been started in that community forest planting more than 20 varieties of saplings. Migration project is approaching for support and responding donors to support this plantation program

**Mr. Shankar Kumar Poudyal (Regional Manager Nawalparasi)**

In every project we should mainstream the environment related issues. Program being implemented from SDI focus on agroecology. All our four projects are directly supporting our environment. All 4 partners have planted 431 different varieties of plants with the participation of 284 women members and Child members. We will focus on this issues more in the coming days. He shared about organic farming and natural farming which will surely inclined towards the betterment of nature. In natural farming, it talks about zero budget farming. Nature is the one to take care of the plant. None of the human presence is required for the conservation.

In this occasion of world environment day, nearby staffs of CN Nawalparasi celebrated the program planting in office premises.

**Mr. Janak Sharma (Regional Manager Kohalpur)**

Though our partners were informed late, in short notice they were able to celebrate the WED. 1954 plants were planted with the participation of 280 people which includes child clubs, youth clubs and IPM ffs groups. Due to heavy rainfall still few partners have postponed their planning.

**Ms. Shobha Acharya (District Coordinator, Kaski)**

She shared about the celebration of WED in different districts. In Palpa with the presence of 10 farmers they have planted lemon and asparagus. In Dhading, farmers have planted fodder trees and did some sharing about environment day and awareness on COVID 19 too. In Lamjung farmers have planted banana and camphor. In Kaski farmers have planted lemon and grapes. And they also did sanitation program collecting plastic and other residue and cleaning the environment. Due to heavy rainfall we couldn't plant sapling of tea and black cardamom. We have postponed it for another day.

**Mr. Khamb Singh Basnet (District Coordinator, Bardiya)**

Bardiya is very prone to disaster. In 1995, Caritas Nepal had supported for plantation to river bank in different areas of Bardiya District. Now, 3 of the places where plantation were done have been developed as community forest. This positive change reflects the high concern of Caritas Nepal towards Environment. Every year Field office Bardiya is celebrating WED with the cooperatives. Just a day before the Bardiya team and 25 cooperatives had meeting about WED celebration and they prepared a plan accordingly. All 20 cooperatives celebrated WED planting 1680 plants of wood tress, fodder trees, herbal plants, fruits and flowers with the participation of 890 cooperative members.

After sharing done by all the presenters, our program host Ms. Arpana karki announced the end of the program and requested our executive director Father Lalit Tudu to give his closing remarks.

He thanked the host for hosting the program beautifully and thanked all the presenters for sharing very important issues related to environment. He concluded the virtual meeting with very important points. On earth every creatures, including ourselves are interrelated to each other. One creature is serving another. If we misbalance one of them, we will get affected. Recently, Locusts is seen in various places of India. It's all because of imbalance in our ecosystem. Every creature is created for particular thing, particular place and for particular purpose. When they didn't get their right place to act their purpose, they get into another. In our earlier days we used to see different kinds of birds, but due to modern development, technology everything is getting extinct. Norway is considered first country for high HDI. Though they have Maximum fuel available, the fuel is very expensive. The reason behind high price is to discourage people to use private vehicle which will surely minimize the pollution and crowd and saves economy too. They have adopted so many such strategy which has marked them for high HDI among the Globe.

WED is not a single day celebration. It is ongoing celebration. Let us make every day celebration, we will be in a better position in a coming days. We are familiar with all the changes that are being introduced to our environment and that is only we who have made things happened. We are the reasons and we are the solutions too. It's our mother earth, it is our home. It's our responsibility and duty to take care of our own home. If we respect our mother earth, it we will be like a heaven we have dreamt of. We should not depend on others for any help. We should do it together because, it's our common home, common destiny. Let's join our hands together build back better again.

He thanked all the staffs for active participations.