

## Project Update: October 2010

A workshop with local people and DLSO was conducted at VDC office in Devasthan 5 which is one of the pocket VDC of Achhami cattle that lies far from district headquarters Mangalsen Achham on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2010. The participants were the representatives of the different pocket VDC of the Achhami Cattle groups, local clubs, teachers, NGO federation, college/high school students and news reporter of different TVs and local FM radios. They are motivated to form cattle rearing group and committee and committed to help research assistant Amar Shahi (JTA of DLSO Achham) for the formation of the cattle rearing groups. Amar Shahi has been appointed as research assistant for the sustainable function of the cattle rearing groups.

Prior to this workshop interaction with local people and workshop with DLSO and were also conducted separately and inference obtained from interaction and workshop were shared with local people held on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2010 at Devasthan VDC 5. The place is the 2 days walking distance from the district headquarters Mangalsen Achham so workshops were done separately to share the information with more local people.

On this occasion, inferences obtained from workshop with national level officers of NARC and NASRI from the RSG first project (ACCAP) were printed in books entitled of **the smallest cattle breed of the world Achhami cattle** as well as **wall calendar** containing information of the RSG First project (ACCAP) were shared with local people in workshop with local people and DLSO in local level. After the completion of workshop, the following important outcomes were extracted.

### Current status of the cattle

1. Population declining rapidly due to:
  - a. Cross breeding with other species of cattle especially with hariana bullocks  
Due to grazing on the same pastureland with other local and exotic bullocks there is the chance of cross breeding.
  - b. Illegal trading to Tibet for slaughtering  
Due to lack of knowledge about positive attributes of the cattle, local people exchange the cattle for woollen blankets.
  - c. Socio religious aspect  
Locals have to donate at least one cattle to Brahmin (Priest) to purify the house impured by the death of the family member. Priest cannot rear the whole cattle obtained through the donation from the local people. The conventional culture is that other people should not buy that donated cattle. So the Brahmin are compelled to sell the cattle to Tibet.

- d.      Economic return  
Due to very low output obtained from the cattle, local farmers do not like to rear a large number of cattle.
  - e.      Neglected by local people due to small size
2. The cattle produce 2 to 3 litres of milk per day in lactation period.
  3. Price of the cattle has increased since they know the importance of it. Before conducting the RSG first project (ACCAP), the price of the cattle was NRs 3000/-cattle but now the price of the same category of cattle is up to NRs 5000/-.
  4. They have high resistance on foot mouth disease (FMD) .
  5. Registered as world smallest breed by Food and Agriculture Organization.
  6. Can thrive in diverse environments (5-40°C).
  7. After the completion of ACCAP a national level workshop was conducted at local level including local people, DLSO Achham and neighbouring DLSO.

## **Issues**

1. Proper population estimation  
According to previous published data, the total number of the cattle was 863. Among them adult female number was 378. When the number of females is less than 500 and the number of males is less than 20 in any species they are categorised as endangered.
2. Grazing on the same pastureland with other bullocks is the causes of hybridization.
3. Neglected breed in its own habitat due to dwarf ness and low output with compare to other milk breeds.
4. Rearing of cow, buffalo and goat at the same place at night period.

## **Way Forward**

1. Help to estimate the proper population of the pure breed  
In these regards, the local people are excited to help the census process conducted by research assistant (JTA of the DLSO Achham) to estimate the pure breed population.
2. Formation of the cattle rearing committee in pocket VDCs to contribute institutional strengthening and awareness raising for sustainable conservation.

3. Cowshed should be improved, and cow, buffalo and goat should not be placed at the same place at night period and separate place should be managed for goat and buffalo.
4. Local people should be aware of causes of illegal trading of the cattle towards the Tibet and positive attributes of them.
5. Village development committee should allocate budget for the promotion of Achhami Cattle from village development fund.
6. Incentive should be given to the cattle rearing local people for the conservation.
7. Providing pure Achhami bullock for the natural breeding to cattle rearing groups.
8. Selling of cow towards the neighbouring VDCs to control illegal trading to Tibet.
9. Castration of the other bullocks to avoid impact of current practices of cross breeding that threatens the genetic purity of cattle by DLSO Achham.
10. Insurance of the cattle through cattle rearing committee
11. Awareness programme should be conducted through local FM Radio.
12. Scholarship should be given to the students whose parents reared Achhami cattle.
13. Local people committed not to exchange the cattle for woollen blankets.
14. Achhami cattle conference programme should be conducted in VDC as well as in district level and best one should be rewarded.
15. Breed to be taken as national heritage.
16. To make strategy for Achhami cattle improvement and conservation.
17. Priority will be given to pocket VDCs of Achham district for Achhami cattle.
18. Exchange of bullock between to village should be done to control inbreeding.

### **Wall Calendar**

Wall calendar has been published on the occasion of Nepalese New Year 2067 B.S., including information obtained from Achhami Cattle Conservation Awareness Project ACCAP Nepal. In this calendar activities done by DLSO, ways of conservation, population of the Achhami cattle and characteristics of Achhami cattle have been included. Beside this information, different photos of first RSG have been included. Local farmers hang the calendar for at least 1 year with

great interest and it has been found as an effective tool for information dissemination/sharing. In this context 1,000 copies of wall calendars were published and these are being distributed free to the local people, students, teachers and different relevant governmental and non-governmental organizations including Central Cattle & Buffalo Promotion Office, Department of Livestock Services, Harihar Bhavan Pulchok, Nepal.

The calendar has four pages and each page contains 3 months. The half of each page has been occupied by the pictures and message of conservation and the remaining area is occupied by national/local festivals, holidays, national and international days. The green days (different conservation days) are highlighted. Some of the photographs of activities during the first RSG project are also printed to increase awareness and motivate the people to participate in Achhami Cattle conservation. The RSGF logo along with the contact details of the team leader has also been published.