Newsletter

RAHAMA

Recovery and Humanitarian Action Management

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2014 Women day celebration by Mullaitivu Women Development Cooperative Society

Mullaitivu Women's Development Cooperative Society was created in early 2013 with 115 Muslim and Tamil women as its membership base. Through the Women's cooperative there were 101 organized women who are working with RAHAMA livelihood economic recovery programs. Empowerment is the theme for the cooperative members and made their own business plans for their own cooperative movement.

As per their business plan women started to produce their items and were seeking business linkages. As a result they received a women's cooperative building where they collect the products as well as conduct sales .

They celebrated the 2014 women's day on held on 14th March 2014 at Mullaitivu.

It was interesting on that day because Tamils, Muslims and Sinhalese women jointly participated to protect violence against women. There were 72 participants altogether, who walked from the women's cooperative to GA office in silence with banners and invited GA Mullaitivu to inaugurate the activity. GA pasted their messages on public transport (buses, three wheelers) following which the women participants did the same and distributed the pledge which came from a global campaign against violence on women and girls. While this was happening, two participants from each ethnic group met the GA and discussed the current trend of women's status with the representation of the RAHAMA Secretary General.

Increase milk base products through LIBCO – Palai

There are 600 families that have cattle with 300 dairy cows that are making 1,000 liters of milk production per day. However they are unable to provide milk to the whole division of people including school milk feeding program.

The animal producer's cooperative was reorganized and to have a center to market their product. RAHAMA , DS & LIBCO made joint proposal and built a milk collection center and a milk product sales center in order to improve the income by increase milk base products. of.

FORUT Secretary General, former FORUT Secretary General, Divisional Secretary Palai and other key officials handed over the building to the Milk producers cooperative.

SERVANT LEADERSHIP

Servant Leadership workshop held on 22nd Feb at Puttalam WODEPT training hall by Norway FORUT Secretary General Mr. Morten Lønstad. 10 staff from RAHAMA took part in the workshop.

From the workshop summary a servant leader can be identified as follows:

- Identifies and meets the needs of others in the organization.
- Focus is on two results
  1) Obtaining the resources needed to do the work,
  2) Making a positive contribution by serving their community.

Every person has motivational needs which are explained by use of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs theory as psychical, security, social, respect and self-actualization needs.

Mr. Robert K. Greenleaf said that "Caring for persons, the more abled and the less abled serving each other, is the rock upon which a good society is built." However the outcome of the workshop was that every leader will henceforth start to chair the staff meeting every week.

VERMI-CULTURE MODEL AT DEVIPURAM FIELD OFFICE

Devipuram is an area with high potential for agricultural production with high standards thus the farmers who live in here use inorganic fertilizers for most for their cultivation threatening the land fertility and environment imbalance. The prevailing situation is cause for the major issues in the near future, though the organization prefers to implement some organic farming projects in future it is better to have a model uniting our site office to create awareness to the farmers with a real world illustration. The project is more targeted to improve the use of organic farming while reducing inorganic farming.

Vermi-compost technology has promising potential to meet the organic manure requirement in both irrigated and rain fed areas, which lead to the success of organic farming. It has tremendous prospects in converting agro-wastes and city garbage into valuable agricultural input. Thus various economic uses can be obtained from organic wastes and garbage and prevent pollution. From vermi-culture, we get well decomposed worm casts, which can be used as manure for crops, vegetables, flowers, gardens, etc. In this process, earthworms also get multiplied and the excess worms can be converted into vermin-protein which can be utilized as feed for poultry, fish, etc. Vermi-wash can also be used as spray on crops.

There are number of advantages of vermin – compost system. This is a pilot program and a model for the Mullaitivu district and this will triplicate to the farmers in the district to improve the natural way of farming.

PLANNING PROCESS OF DEVELOPMENT AT JEYAPURAM NORTH & SOUTH

PRA IN JEYAPURAM

RAHAMA will be implementing the livelihood program in Jeyapuram North & South to improve the socio, economic conditions of the families. It is crucial to assess the status of the needs before implementing the project. Thus there are several ways to analyze it as a result of which, RAHAMA initiated a Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) in Jeyapuram North and Jeyapuram South GN divisions with the participation of Poonakary Divisional secretariat staff and other community stakeholders on 6th & 7th Feb 2014. There are 150 community members of different ages and male and females participated during the two days, and shared their information and knowledge in the exercise.

Through the PRA exercise in Jayapuram the following objectives were achieved

- Acquire knowledge regarding Jayapuram in order to address the felt needs of the people
- Identified and prioritized needs of target group
- Motivation and mobilization of local development workers
- Formed better linkages between communities and development institutions
- Use of local resources
- Mobilizations of community resources
- Planned more sustainable development activities
- Developed workable action plans.

The village of Jeyapuram is backward in the scenario of economic development due to the low income of people, that is below Rs 3000, livelihood Enhancement and educational development is also lacking. Most of the people of the villages are depending upon the agriculture and mostly daily wages. About 225 families received the Indian and NEARP housing schemes while 50% houses are completed at the moment. Others constructed a shed for their residence; the walls are made of mud or cloths with a number of wooden pillars supporting the roof, which is thatched with cadjan. Certain houses have loosely layered stone walls for boundary, fewer are made up of mud and stone. Out of the total population about 80% are under the below poverty line (income below 3000 Rs). Animal husbandry and petty business are one of the sources of livelihood for these people and the current challenge is collecting water.

Also pointing out of their social issues, the semi structure interviews gave an idea of the social problems in the communities.

- Increased alcohol usages.
- If men earned first take money to his purposes.
- Domestic violence increased
- Lack of work opportunities
- Irregular attendance to schools

are the main sources of the social issues.

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Common hall to improve agriculture activities and early childhood development at Manthuvil

The resettled families from Manthuvil – in Puthukudiyiruppu division have received a 20' x 30' hall with water and sanitation facilities. It was officially opened on 18th Feb with the presence of Secretary General of RAHAMA and the chief guest of the occasion Mrs. Vilvarajah, Project Director of Mullaitivu kachcheri. They opened and handed over the building to the Rural Development Society of Manthuvil. The main purpose of the building is to use it for agriculture development and other common Development activities of the village.

Will Power for Leading Happy and Content Life

"We feel happy and proud to own and live in this new environment. The cooperation and collaboration of the closely knit twelve families proved the worth. The end result is that our social support system has proved its value beyond any doubt" says one of the family members of the Neethavan Resettlement village at Mallakam in Tellipalai Divisional Secretariat Division.

The post war recovery program has given 78 families that got displaced from Myliddy and Palaly areas the opportunity to commence their temporary living at Neethavan Welfare Centre at Mallakam. "The camp life was disgusting with no discipline. Especially it was horrible for young girls and women with men in the habit of drinking sitting around. The fighting environment and the use of disgusting language made many peace loving and ambitious families to seek alternate options" was the honest feeling of one member of the new village group. "The feeling of going back to own homes at Myliddy and Palaly started to die slowly with the pace at which the clearance to the High Security Zone was taking place. Thus, the 12 families who had been together throughout the years at various locations decided to buy our land near where we lived for so long in a displaced state" was the feedback of a woman from the group.

"When we approached the Divisional Secretary of Tellipalai for support to complete our own homes with water and sanitation facilities at the new land, it has been a memorable event when we were introduced to CORE and RAHAMA afterwards. The financial input and the technical guidance and facilitation of CORE with RAHAMA enabled us to successfully complete the permanent houses with basic minimum water and sanitation facilities" was the opinion of the leader of the group with gratitude.

The inputs provided by CORE / RAHAMA supported in the construction of 12 houses, 6 permanent toilets and a tube well while the DS Office provided a tube well and the people for their part completed a tube well and a toilet.

The joint initiative of the 12 families should prove as an example to all the others on how the cooperation and mutual understanding could take families a long way for sustainable and peaceful development. Although most of the families were traditional fishermen prior to displacement they have gone in to masonry, carpentry and other jobs with the change of environment and resources. The parents are eager to educate the children under all circumstances. One student is studying at the university while another one is working as a teacher. Youngsters from among the families have shown exceptional skills at National and Regional educational competitions which proves that the new village would emerge as a very successful one in the near future.

It proves the saying that if there is a will there would be a way always. This process is example for participatory project. Not only the people of this colony but also we too proud of this people's lifestyle

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Insurance for stakeholders

As a step forwarded in introducing an insurance scheme to RAHAMA's stake holders at ground level, to secure their continuous livelihood, the following factors took place in consideration. Those are size and needs of population, type of coverage, payment feasibility, quality of service, accepting RAHAMA's role as an intermediary to assure providing service to stake holders continuously.

After several analysis's took place at different organizational levels from the quotations obtained from 08 insurance companies, two companies called for presentation namely Janashakthi Insurance and Amana Takaful.

Finally Amana Takaful was selected as an insurance service provider by the board of RAHAMA on 27th March 2014. As an initial proceeding, the introduction part was going to be held in April 2014 and policy applications will be finalized during the 4th week of May 2014 for 80 clients.

Safety and secure life of the vulnerable families in Mullaitivu

Housing is one of the major basic needs and it is looked after by Government authorities and the process is very slow. However the processes of repair of houses are challenged. Based on the DS / GN request and the special category / vulnerable status RAHAMA implemented the house repair activities in Mullaitivu district especially at Maritimepattu and Welioya. Still there are 10 repairs of houses in Welioya, 55 repairs of house in Maritimepattu which was completed with the community participation.

On 05th of March there were 18 houses altogether handed over to the end-users in both locations and Mullaitivu Government Agent and the relevant stakeholders participated in the event including FORUT secretary general and the team from Norway and RAHAMA. From those end-users few special category families are going to receive sanitation facilities too as per the recommendation by authorities.

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