



Newsletter

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Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development

Ashwin-Poush 2066 (August 16- December 15, 2009) Volume 05 Issue 02

ISSN 1998-6025

EDITORIAL

We are happy to introduce new issue of 'LI-BIRD Newsletter'. This issue highlights information on some promising rice landraces for community-based climate change adaptation and mainstreaming of successful home gardening approach in agricultural systems of Bardia, Kailali and Kanchanpur districts of Nepal's Terai – coupled with news update and success story. Three rice landraces - Chhengda in Nawalparasi, Kalo Marshi in Humla and Samundrafan in Kaski have been reported with desirable traits for adaptation to flood, drought and water-logging respectively. Integration of home gardening in Terai districts of WTLCP (Western Terai Landscape Complex Project) of LI-BIRD has been successful in engaging farmers on conservation of landraces while improving access of resource-poor farmers and women towards nutritious foods. However, scaling up of these stress tolerant rice landraces and home gardening approach is essential for ensuring adoption at all levels – from grass-root to policy.

NEWS AND EVENTS

FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING OF FOSRIN PROJECT

The fourth annual meeting of the project 'Food Security through Ricebean Research in India and Nepal (FOSRIN)' was held at Hotel Ananda Palace, Bhagsu Nag, India from 13 to 15 September 2009. The meeting was organised by the coordination of CAZS-NR (Centre for Arid Zone Studies-Natural Resources) and hosted by Chaudhary Shrawan Kumar Himanchal Pradesh Krishi Vidhyalaya (CSKHPKV). Project progress was reviewed and various related issues discussed.

All FOSRIN project partners presented their achievements during the past one year in the scientific session of the meeting. Initiation of population improvement in ricebean, new agronomic interventions like post rainy season trials and winter adaption trials; analysis of factors associated with market promotion and analysis of value of ricebean from nutrition perspective were some of the key achievements of the project. Dissemination of knowledge on ricebean through awareness campaigns, documentaries and different publications was emphasized in the past one year. The plans for extension of the project after the project completion from March 2010 was discussed thoroughly during the meeting and all the partners agreed to work on this line by supporting in the preparation of a proposal based on the achievements made by the FOSRIN project in the past four years. Representatives of the eight partner organizations from across the EU and South Asia along with other key scientists from each organizations participated in the meeting.



Participants from the Fourth Annual Meeting of FOSRIN Project.

Photo: LI-BIRD Photo Bank

FIELD VISITS OF VARIETY RELEASE AND REGISTRATION COORDINATION COMMITTEE

Variety Release and Registration Coordination Committee (VRRCC) field visits were conducted in Bara and Kaski on 18 September and 28 October 2009, respectively. The objective of the field visits were to monitor on-farm condition of Participatory Plant Breeding (PPB) bred varieties of rice for release and registration. VRRCC team observed the performance of PPB bred varieties: Kachorwa-4 and Kachorwa-5 in Kachorwa, Bara District, and Mansara-5 and Biramphool-3 in Begnas, Kaski District. Altogether 49 participants that included members of Seed Quality Control Committee (SQCC)/National Seed Board; scientists from Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC), National Rice Research Programme (NRRP) and Regional Agricultural Research Station (RARS); Biodiversity International; LI-BIRD professionals; journalists and farmers observed field performance of these varieties.



VRRCC team visiting the field in Begnas.

The VRRCC team suggested testing of the varieties in wider domains and recommended development of a release proposal for Kachorwa-4. Similarly, some varieties like Kachorwa-5, Mansara-5, Biramphol-3 and Jhinuwa-7 were recommended for further registration process.

REGIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING PROGRAMME ON PPB

LI-BIRD organised a six-day South Asian regional level training programme on PPB from 29 October to 3 November 2009 in Pokhara to build the

country programme capacity for management of agrobiodiversity through breeding approach. This programme aimed to exchange experiences and to enhance understanding of effective breeding approach for conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources. The programme will also help to develop a detailed country specific activity plan for PPB that will integrate on-going Community-based Biodiversity Management (CBM) country programmes.



Dr. Bhurwon Ratna Sthapit from Bioversity India facilitating the PPB training

The training, which was designed for CBM South Asia country partners' staff, provided in-depth learning opportunities on contemporary framework, step-wise methodologies, processes and tools on PPB approach. Altogether 30 participants representing the CBM South Asia country project staff and its stakeholders from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Tibet Autonomous Region participated in the training. Nine international and national professionals representing LI-BIRD, Bioversity International and The Development Fund Norway were key resource persons for the programme. The training concluded with the development of a country-wise action plan/proposal to mainstream PPB in each CBM country programme. The action plan integrates key course topics and experiences gained in the process and relates them to the reality of participants' working environment.

ANNUAL REVIEW AND PLANNING WORKSHOP OF CBM SOUTH ASIA PROGRAMME

Annual review and planning workshop was organised on 4 to 5 November 2009 in Pokhara. The objectives of the workshop were to share the annual progress made by each country project, receive experts' feedback on the programme and discuss and finalise project annual plan and project institution modality. Each CBM country programme representative from Bangladesh,

Photo: Mahesh Shrestha, LI-BIRD

Photo: Mahesh Shrestha, LI-BIRD

India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Tibet Autonomous Region, as well as Regional Programme Coordination Unit for CBM South Asia Programme from LI-BIRD and Central Coordinator from Development Fund Norway participated in the workshop. Each country presented their annual progress for 2009 and action plan for 2010. The workshop provided important feedback to further improve the annual plan and their working modality. Finalisation of outcomes and indicators for long term CBM South Asia Programme proposal was one of the major outcomes of the workshop.

TRAINING ON ACCESS AND BENEFIT SHARING AND FARMER'S RIGHTS

One hundred seventy farmers including 65 women farmers from five districts of Nepal were trained on the concept and issues of Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) of genetic resources and Farmer's Rights (FR). As part of capacity building of Biodiversity Conservation and Development Committees (BCDCs), these training programmes were organised in Lekhnath Municipality and Rupakot VDC of Kaski District, Jogimara of Dhading District, Bachhauli of Chitwan District, Tamaphok VDC of Shankhuwasabha District, and Kachorwa of Bara District. Major provisions of international treaties and conventions such as CBD and ITPGRFA, as well as related national policies, strategies, acts and drafts that affect the use and exchange of genetic resources were discussed during the three-day training workshop in each VDC.

The training made people realise the importance of Community Based Mechanisms of biodiversity management and the need for collective effort in protecting rights of the community as custodians of genetic resources and to ensure rights of farmers in the context of global IPR. These training workshops were organised by ABS project with support from IDRC-Canada.



Participants of ABS and Farmer's Rights training

Photo: LI-BIRD Photo Bank

WORKSHOP ON TENURE AND INSTITUTION IN SHIFTING CULTIVATION

LI-BIRD is a partner of 'Regional Project on Shifting Cultivation (RPSC); which launched in 2009 in Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh with financial support from International Development Research Centre (IDRC) through ICIMOD. Under this project, ICIMOD organised a research workshop on 'Tenure and Institution' from 28 November to 2 December 2009 in Paro, Bhutan. The workshop aimed at refining and finalising the research protocol in shifting cultivation tenure and institution. Representatives from LI-BIRD, Pokhara, and Nepal Chepang Association, Kathmandu, participated as a country team in the workshop. Key issues on tenure and institutions of shifting cultivation farming systems in Nepal were highlighted in line with the main research questions during the workshop. Eighteen participants from partner countries participated in the workshop. The workshop successfully refined and finalised shifting cultivation tenure and institution research protocol.

LOCAL CROP DIVERSITY FAIR AT RUPANDEHI HOME GARDEN SITE

Traditional crop varieties have better adaptive traits than modern varieties. Therefore, traditional crop diversity has been promoted as one of the means to adapt to consequences of climate change. LI-BIRD is taking an initiative to explore and promote such crops for minimisation of possible future risks in food security. In this context, a local crop diversity fair was organised at Makrahar-9, Rupandehi District, on 12 December 2009. It was jointly organised by the local farmer community and two LI-BIRD projects: Home Garden III (funded by SDC) and EMIS (funded by Development Fund). The fair focused primarily on home garden agricultural species. The event's main objective was to explore local, wild and domesticated crop, vegetable, fruit and herb species which play a crucial role in meeting family nutrition even during harsh climatic conditions.

Six farmer groups took part in the diversity fair from neighbouring villages. The winning farmer group was 'Pragatinagar Kha'. Farmers collected a large number of local crop diversity. About 3,500 people, including representatives from different GOs, I/NGOs, and CBOs, farmers, teachers, students, and media

persons observed the diversity fair. Based on the fair's information, further steps will be taken for promotion of some promising species.



Photo: LI-BIRD Photo Bank

Participants of the fair in group photo session.

PARTICIPATION IN FAR-WESTERN REGIONAL FESTIVAL

Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) of Kailali District organised *Sudur Paschimanchal Mahotsav-2066* in Dhangadi, from 10 to 19 December 2009 with the slogan 'DIGO SHANTI KA LAGI ARTHIK SAMBRIDI' (economic development for sustainable peace). People from nine districts (Achham, Bajhang, Bajura, Baitadi, Dadheldura, Darchula, Doti, Kanchanpur and Kailali) of the region directly benefited by observing and receiving information, and by selling and buying products (agro-products: honey, oranges, groundnuts, ginger, value added or processed food, and bamboo products) during the festival. Three lakh and fifty thousand people attended the festival according to FNCCI, and BCDCs were able to earn Rs 22,895 by selling their products.

Among 300 stalls, LI-BIRD Dhangadi displayed local innovations with an aim to raise awareness among farmers, development workers, and business organisations of the region that ultimately would help in identifying documenting and promoting innovations in the region. Innovator farmers Roman Neupane from Chitwan and Madhav Rana from Tanahun displayed their own innovations: the former displayed a Rice Thresher while the later a Hanging Nursery. These innovations conveyed first-hand information to festival participants. Their innovations were novel for most farmers who were highly interested in knowing about their performance and price. The innovators themselves were excited

to demonstrate and advertise their innovations as farmers will be able to benefit from them. In addition, other innovations such as zero-till garlic cultivation and single-bull plough, were graphically displayed.

FEATURE ARTICLE

INTEGRATION OF HOME GARDENING APPROACH IN WTLCP: SHARING PROJECT LEARNINGS

Western Terai Landscape Complex Project (WTLCP) is implemented for landscape level biodiversity conservation, livelihood enhancement, institutional strengthening and community empowerment in Bardia, Kailali and Kanchanpur Districts of Nepal. Agrobiodiversity is a major component of the project. Hence, the project integrates forest and agriculture components by empowering communities and enhancing livelihoods options for the rural poor in the landscape.

Resource-poor and small land holding farmers of WTLCP are primary beneficiaries. The project has realised the value of home gardening approach as a complementary programme for inclusion of such communities. Based on learnings from the Home Garden (HG) project implemented by LI-BIRD with financial support from SDC Nepal, WTLCP is integrating home garden improvement activities as an entry point to reach resource-poor and marginalised communities in the landscape. Good practices of HG project are being scaled up in Belwa, Patharaiya, Masuriya, Gadariya, Shankarpur and Beldandi VDCs of WTLCP in order to contribute to family nutrition. Altogether, 239 households directly benefited from home garden improvement activities in 2009, among which majority of farmers were female (Table1).



Photo: S.K. Maharjan

A home garden in Terai.

Table 1. Beneficiaries from home garden improvement activities in WTLCP (2009)

Sites (VDC)	Number of Groups	Terai Janajati		Hill Dalit		Hill B/C		Total	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Belawa	9	12	9	1	8	7	10	20	27
Beldadi	3	-	-	1	2	6	13	7	15
Gadariya	10	8	40	-	-	1	-	9	40
Masuriya	3	1	57	-	-	-	3	1	60
Pathraiya	1	-	30	-	-	-	-	-	30
Shankarpur	9	11	18	-	-	-	1	11	19
Total	36	32	154	2	8	14	27	48	191

Note: M=Male, F=Female, B/C=Brahman/Chhetri

Series of meetings and group discussions were conducted to identify resource-poor farmers for home gardening within Biodiversity Conservation and Development Committee (BCDC) in the VDCs. Orientations were focused on importance of family nutrition; nutritional requirements for children, women and adults; and value of home garden for nutrition, income and conservation. Village and district level nutritionists were invited as resource persons for these orientations. In addition, identified farmers were involved in home garden improvement trainings such as nursery bed preparation techniques, space management technologies, soil and water management, inclusion of diversity of agricultural practices for crop diversification, and jhol jaibik mal (liquid organic manure) preparation technique.

In addition to orientation and training, frequent monitoring and exposure visits to home garden resource sites were also provided to farmers involved in home garden improvement activities. Diversity kits that included both local and improved vegetable and fruit species, fish in some cases, and watering cans, were provided to farmers a material support. A documentary film on home garden improvement programme was an effective tool in informing farmers about home garden and its benefits. Some farmers collected local vegetables and also wild species from surrounding forests to plant in their home gardens.

Participatory seed exchange is one of the good practices initiated in WTLCP among farmers, especially women. In this programme, farmers brought different seed that were grown in their home gardens in their regular BCDC meetings and exchanged them with other participants. Forty-seven farmers from Belawa VDC of Bardia District and Gadariya VDC of Kailali District brought 174 accessions of 75 varieties of 34 different home garden

species in 2008, while 62 members from Gadariya, Masuriya and Pathraiya VDCs of Kailali Districts exchanged 609 accessions of 112 varieties of 53 home garden species in 2009. Among these accessions, cucurbits and legumes dominated. Thus, participatory seed exchange programme is a simple but promising practice among farmers for easy access to available genetic resources. In addition, participatory planning and interaction/exposure visit among farmers is highly effective in WTLCP areas for sharing and preparing year round activities.

Box 1. Home garden is a reliable source of household income

Tulasi Prasad Upadhyay, a farmer from Belwa VDC of Bardia District, earned a total of Rs 15,000 in 2009 by selling vegetable seeds, seedlings and fresh vegetables that he grew in his two *katthas* of land. He is an innovative farmer of the area. He cultivated more than 60 varieties of seasonal crops (6 species of sponge gourd, 2 species of bottle gourd, 5 varieties of beans, 4 varieties of cowpea, 6-7 varieties of cole crops and cucurbits, and 10-12 varieties of medicinal plants) in his home garden. He is also using cow urine as treatment for insects/pests, that is pioneering work in the locality. He is happy with his family and managed home garden. He said he learnt many new techniques by involving home gardening and agrobiodiversity management activities, and he is disseminating this learning to his neighbours. He concludes that an effectively managed home garden can be a reliable source of household income.



Tulasi in his farmland.

Photo: S.K. Maharjan

Lessons from WTLCP

Integration of home garden improvement activity was successful in encouraging farmers to get involved in conservation of landraces and other important plant genetic resources in WTLCP. It is also highly effective in that resource-poor farmers and women are benefiting from this programme. Kalyankari Women Farmers Group in Masuriya VDC cultivated vegetables (tomato, cauliflower, chilli, cabbage, egg-plant, spinach, and beans including local varieties) by renting land. Thus, a group approach to home garden improvement can also be a significant source of income and nutrition. Moreover, group effort is highly recommended for conservation and development activities. In addition, participatory seed exchange is a good initiative for WTLCP to get access and benefit over available home garden resources within the locality, which is gaining popularity across the landscape.

Home gardens have converted homesteads of farmers who used to traditionally cultivate a few species of vegetables into multispecies and well-managed home gardens. However, the project needs to focus this activity among other farming communities in the landscape with a particular focus on integrating local landraces, Neglected and Underutilized Species (NUS) and wild medicinal plant species, and perennial crops having multiple uses, while also increasing awareness among farming communities on food security, on-farm conservation and income generation through increased diversity and sustainable on-farm management of plant genetic resources.

Home garden improvement activities are of high demand in the landscape. Thus, they were extended to reach greater number of households by adding two groups consisting of 30 farmers each. Initially, the project distributed vegetable seed, fruit saplings and fish (in Masuriya VDC) to farmers involved in home garden programme. Some innovative farmers started to collect wild and under-utilised species that they now grow in their home gardens. However, they are still dependent on the project for seasonal vegetable seed and saplings. To minimise this dependency, the project will focus on integration of local landraces in home gardens, and also acquire cash for vegetables and saplings distributed by the project which will be accumulated in the BCDC account so that it can be used to acquire vegetable seed in the future. Meanwhile, BCDCs are also collecting some cash from distribution of diversity kits to farmers.

In some areas, market access is a major problem; hence, the project will focus on market linkages for

farmers. In 2010, the project will also focus on under-utilised species, stress-tolerant crop species to specific conditions including diseases and pests, drought, flood, marginal soil fertility, and changing climatic conditions. Home garden improvement programme will promote and integrate such species in addition to including bees, fishes, vegetables, spices, fruits and mushrooms. Group monitoring is important for farmers involved in home garden improvement programme. Rewarding of farmers and farmer groups who conserve more landraces and effectively manage their home gardens will be done in upcoming years in order to motivate them.

SUCCESS STORY

RAM KRISHNA CHAUDHARY: AN INNOVATIVE FARMER

Ram Krishna Chaudhary is an inhabitant of Rampur-2, Balapur of Dang District. By nature and practice, he can be identified as an innovative farmer. He had been growing hybrid rice varieties for three years: rice production was bumper in the first and second years, but production decreased in the third year with severe false smut. The agro-vet had warned Ram Krishna that hybrid seed can be grown once but cannot be reproduced. However, people do not know the reasons for hybrid seed not being used to reproduce. So, Ram Krishna grew second and third generations from hybrid seed to demonstrate this. These generations indicated numerous segregating lines, late and early growth, and tall and dwarf heights. Thus, neighbouring farmers were convinced that hybrid seed created dependency on external companies.

Ram Krishna, meanwhile, had an opportunity to compare 11 new rice varieties in his field. He conducted mother trials and found a few promising varieties that produced yields comparable to hybrid varieties. He was also able to acquire 3 kg of rice source seed of *Sunaulo Sugandha* for seed production. *Sunaulo Sugandha* was newly introduced in Dang through Shiva Shakti CBSP, but farmers were not ready to grow this variety since it had not before been tested there. Ram Krishna took a risk and grew *Sunaulo Sugandha*, which performed excellently in his fields. Two quintals of rice was harvested in one kattha area of land with excellent aroma and straw – this was very good news for local farmers. *Sunaulo Sugandha* also performed well in the second year. As a result of the performance of *Sunaulo Sugandha* and other lines in Ram Krishna's fields, local farmers decided to forbid hybrid seed from the next year onwards. Ram Krishna has produced 14 quintals of *Sunaulo Sugandha* seed from 8 *katthas* of land – a



Photo: Pitambar Shrestha, LI-BIRD

Ram Krishna Chaudhary weighing garlic in his farm land.

bumper harvest despite adverse climatic conditions during rice transplanting time.

Ram Krishna's innovation cannot be described enough with the above story. Last year, he heard about zero tillage garlic production technology. He tested this technology in his field and found that garlic yield was double that compared to conventional practice. He used rice husk for mulching (we also assume this is the reason for his higher yield). This year, he is practicing zero tillage garlic production technology for demonstration.

Ram Krishna is also a leader of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) farmer's school for the last seven years in his village. He uses IPM in his vegetable and cereal fields. For the last three years, Ram Krishna has also conducted different mother trials of rice and ricebean, and he has established diversity blocks of rice. Being research minded, he has a keen interest in testing new technology and varieties without expecting 'pump priming'.

Besides testing and adopting various innovations, he is earning more than a hundred thousand rupees each year from the sale of fresh vegetables and legume/cereal seed. Neighbouring farmers are highly impressed with his exemplary work. He also works as a local resource person in the community. Anyone wanting to know about his work and demonstrations can reach him at 082-691723.

"If we do not cite his experience and innovation, then our news will not be innovative and will remain incomplete," Durgalal KC, Journalist, Kantipur. Jaya Narayan Sagar, Respondent – Radio Nepal and Local FM, also states similar sentiments. Journalists have published Ram Krishna Chaudhary's story twice on Kantipur Daily, and his innovative practices have been broadcasted twice from local FM and once from Radio Nepal.

INFORMATION HIGHLIGHT

PROMISING RICE LANDRACES FOR COMMUNITY-BASED ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Farmers in traditional farming systems have maintained crop landraces to secure their livelihood since time immemorial. Studies have shown that crop landraces and traditional varieties, which are being managed by farmers' selection process, are better adapted to climate stress than modern varieties because they are more dynamic crop populations that build up adaptation to new habitat conditions. However, most crop landraces are rare and endangered locally from their niche production domain due to introduction of short-duration, high-yielding modern varieties and changes in socio-economic demand. The loss of crop landraces not only reduces genetic diversity, but it also increases small farmers' vulnerability to changing climatic conditions. In this scenario, Community-based Biodiversity Management (CBM) project implemented by LI-BIRD in partnership with Department of Agriculture (DoA), local community groups and farmers explored and identified some rice landraces that have special adaptive traits suitable for harsh climatic conditions including drought, cold or floods. Among these, *Chhengda* in Nawalparasi, *Kalo Marshi* in Humla and *Samundrafan* in Kaski reported traits that need to be highlighted for immediate and future use values.

Chhengda is a rare rice landrace reported in lowland parts of Western Terai close to the Narayani River. It was relocated in diversity fair at Aghyoubi VDC of Nawalparasi (250-300m). This landrace requires long duration (157 days) for its maturity. It exhibits a peculiar



Photo: Puspita Sharma, LI-BIRD

Local farmers showing the roots on node of Chhengda.

growth habit that enables it to adapt to flood. During flooding, when the water level rises in rice fields, the plant grows faster than normal and prevents the panicle submerging in water. When the water level decreases, it creeps on the field with the roots on its nodes. Due to this peculiar growth habit, it shows immense potential for promotion in flood-prone areas. This peculiar characteristic of *Chhengda* can also be useful for breeders to develop climate-resilient new varieties.

Kalo Marshi, also known as *Jumli Marshi*, is the only rice being grown in Syanda VDC of Humla District. This landrace tolerates cold and performs better under low moisture conditions, one of the essential traits to develop climate resilient varieties. Indeed, it is suitable for areas with low rainfall and high altitude like Syanda (2,000-2,500m) where other rice varieties do not perform well. However, its area under cultivation has been decreasing due to infestation with rice blast disease which is possibly due to increase in temperature and humidity. Farmers have reported that crop duration in rice has shortened by one month during ten years period which coincides with time of precipitation in Syanda. It indicates the urgent need to utilise these adaptive traits of *Kalo Marshi* for developing rice varieties suitable to low rainfall but high altitude areas.

Samundrafan is a common rice landrace grown in swampy and flood prone areas of Pokhara Valley (800-850m). It grows well in water-logged conditions and tolerates submergence for a few days. It is aromatic

with good edible quality (sweet when cooked) as compared to other varieties. It also tolerates some major insects and diseases. In recent times, it is disappearing locally and has only been reported to grow in the farm of Mr Narnarayan Paudel at Lekhnath-7. It was displaced when Jethobudho was promoted in the area. Farmers might have been uninterested in growing this landrace because of its long awn which causes problem for manual threshing and milling. Nevertheless, it possesses significant traits to adapt to water-logging conditions and is, therefore, noteworthy to conserve and utilise for its trait to adapt to such climatic conditions.

Ways Forward

In recent times, climate hazards such as drought, flood and associated pest attacks have negatively affected rice production. Meanwhile, there are many landraces like *Chhengda*, *Kalo Marshi* and *Samundrafan* that need to be studied and utilised for their traits to adapt to such climatic stresses. Finally, there is a need to sensitise local communities, researchers and policy makers in developing favourable agricultural policies which encourage growing landraces and enhance economically important traits by engaging farmers in participatory research such as Participatory Plant Breeding (PPB). Such practices help to conserve agrobiodiversity and promote community-based adaptation strategies for developing climate resilient crop varieties in farming systems .

STAFF CORNER

INCOMING STAFF

LI-BIRD family hearty welcomes the following new staff members.

- Mr. Bharat Bhandari	23 August 2009
- Ms. Muna Udas	26 August 2009
- Mr. Puspa Raj Tiwari	1 September 2009
- Mr. Shree Prasad Neupane	1 September 2009
- Mr. Uttam Khanal	25 November 2009
- Ms. Khima Thapa	1 December 2009
- Mr. Keshav Thapa	1 December 2009
- Mr. Prakash Limbu	8 December 2009

OUTGOING STAFF

LI-BIRD family extends its best wishes to the following staff members who have left organization after their successful tenure.

- Ms. Sudha Khadka	23 August 2009
- Mr. Arjun Babu Dhital	15 November 2009
- Ms. Fulmaya Sherpa	17 November 2009
- Ms. Sita Bantha Magar	1 December 2009
- Mr. Tara Lal Lama	5 December 2009



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