



Nirdhan Newsletter

A Newsletter of Nirdhan Utthan Bank Limited (NUBL)—September 2017

Nirdhan Utthan Bank Limited

An MFI Providing Service to the poor

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CEO's Message:

In Nepal, 79.9% of working age women were employed in 2015-16. According to labour migration for employment status report of 2014/15 prepared by Ministry of Labour and Employment, men accounted for bulk of the labour permits issued over seven years standing at 95.7 per cent. A total of 2,723,587 labour permits were issued by the Department of Labour and Employment from 2008/09 through 2014/15. The same report suggests that the share percentage of women obtaining labour permit is in decreasing trend since 2012/13 accounting to only 4.28 percent in 2014/15.

Growing number of male workforce prefer to work outside the country due to several reasons. Lack of employment opportunities inside the country, political instability, and peer pressure among many other factors are forcing huge number of workforce including the skilled ones to go in overseas countries. The irony is also that the many young people are losing interest to work in the field of agriculture.

Asian Development Bank has projected that Nepal's Economic Growth will likely be 4.7 percent in Fiscal Year 2017/18. The government successfully completed local level elections and is going forward with federal and provincial elections to be held by the end of 2017. After these elections, some level of political stability is anticipated in the country and the current momentum in the development of infrastructures including hydro-power is expected to grow further. Availability of skilled workforce is essential for the overall development of the country. The contribution of agriculture sector in the country's GDP has been in the declining trend and during FY 2016/17 it accounted to 28.9%. Agriculture mechanization, adaptation of new technologies including micro irrigation and developing market linkage to promote commercial farming will be some of the new avenues to increase agriculture productivity and motivate the new generation to work for the agriculture sector. Being the pioneer microfinance institution of the country with largest branch network of 178 covering all 75 districts, Nirdhan Utthan Bank is ever committed in providing access to finance and capacity development trainings to the deprived sector or low income groups of people for generating sustainable self-employment in the agriculture sector including animal husbandry.

- Janardan Dev Pant



Women members of Pokhabinda Kha Group of Lahan Branch, Siraha District.

NUBL at a Glance

NUBL at a Glance as of September 16, 2017	
Indicators	Figure
No. of Districts Covered	75 of 75
VDC Coverage	1,827
No. of Branch Office	178
No. of Staffs	851
No. of Centers/SRGs	14,845
No. of Active Clients	297,518
No. of Loan Client	205,736
Loan Disbursed (NPR)	73.13 Billion
Loan Outstanding (NPR)	12.70 Billion
Savings & Deposits (NPR)	6.45 Billion

Nirdhan Utthan Bank's main objective is to create progressive, better socio-economic status of the poor people through awareness, access to finance and entrepreneurship development. Microfinance program of the Bank was started since March 14, 1993 when it was working as NGO, later transferred to Microfinance Bank in 1998. At present, NUBL is the only one MFI in Nepal that has outreach in all 75 districts of Nepal through the network of 178 Branch Offices, 10 Regional Offices and a Central Office serving 297,518 clients as of September 16, 2017.

News

Program Organized on Dr Harihar Dev Pant's Second Death Anniversary

A Program to commemorate the second anniversary death of Dr Harihar Dev Pant was organized at Naxal, Kathmandu on September 5, 2017. The event was jointly organized by Nirdhan Utthan Bank Limited, Nirdhan NGO, and Dr Harihar Dev Pant Foundation. The chief guest of the program was Dr Chiranjibi Nepal,

the governor of Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB). Other guests present in the program were Dr Mohanman Saiju, former vice chairperson of National Planning Commission and former governors Mr Himalaya Shumsher J.B. Rana, Mr Bijaya Nath Bhattarai, Mr Deependra Purush Dhakal. The program was chaired by the Chairman of NUBL Board and former governor of NRB, Mr Ganesh Bahadur Thapa.



Distinguished Guests at the Book Launch Event.

Dr Harihar Dev Pant was the Founder, former Chairman and Executive Director of Nirdhan Utthan Bank Ltd and a former deputy governor of NRB. He laid the foundation of microfinance in Nepal and devoted his life to the campaign of poverty reduction and is accepted as the pioneer in the development of microfinance program in the country. A commemorative book on Late Dr Harihar Dev Pant was formally launched at the program.

Speaking at the event, Dr Chiranjibi Nepal said that microfinance institutions should prioritize working in remote areas with the aim of reducing poverty. Mr Himalaya Shumsher J B Rana and Dr Mohanman Saiju also gave their remarks in the program.

Success Story: Ms Kausalimaya Sunuwar

Ms Kausalimaya Sunuwar was born as the eldest daughter of her family. Her family struggled to meet ends as they didn't have sufficient area for agriculture and could feed their 8 member family only for 4 months in a year. As their family struggled, her father went to India in search of work. She recalls she looked after her kids and most her childhood went looking after her siblings. She recalls that her family could not afford slippers for her until she was 10 years old. She always had desire to attend school however due to family circumstances never got the chance. She later got married at the age of 13. Her husband's extended family was even more financially disadvantaged and there were frequent family disputes on financial matters.



Ms Kausalimaya Sunuwar Herding her Goats

She and her husband decided to migrate to Siraha in 1986 hoping of better earning. Her husband started work as a labour and she also took some jobs. She and her husband decided to lease 1300 sq. meter land in Ghurmighat, Siraha for agriculture. She gave birth to 2 sons and 2 daughters. As their family started to grow, the financial woes started. Her husband decided to go to India in

search of better paying jobs. She raised her kids on the limited income sent by her husband from India. One day, while working she saw a group of women listening to NUBL representatives who were explaining about loan, savings, micro insurance and remittance. She got curious about microfinance program and later decided to join in a women's group. She obtained 9 day long Compulsory Group Training (CGT) and joined as a member of Ghurmighat Women's Community- 10.

She obtained her first loan amounting Rs. 40,000 to buy 12 goats and built a simple goat shed. As her goat farming began to grow, her husband left his Rs. 3000 job in India to help her grow their new business. As time progressed, the number of goats started to grow and started to generate some income for them to cover banks repayment, household expenses and education expenses of her kids. As the number of female goats started to increase, her son too joined to help their family goat farming. She says that she has over 80 goats and on average a baby goat is added every day. She earned Rs. 80,000 selling goats during last year's Dashain Festival, which is peak demand period in the market. She states that she earns between 20 to 22 thousand each month. She has also bought the land she once had leased. She says that her persistent hard work, continuous attempts to succeed and Nirdhan's support helped her succeed on her venture and her family's has better livelihood as a result.

(Ms Kausalimaya Sunuwar is a recipient of Harihar Dev Pant Micro-Entrepreneurship Award 2017)



NRB Governor Dr Chiranjibi Nepal handing Harihar Dev Pant Micro-Entrepreneurship Award 2017 to Ms Kausalimaya Sunuwar

Three Borrowers of NUBL awarded Harihar Dev Pant Memorial Micro Entrepreneurship Award

Harihar Dev Pant Foundation awarded 3 borrowers of NUBL who have been successfully operating their micro enterprises. The foundation was established to recognise the efforts made by late Dr Harihar Dev Pant who is regarded to be the pioneer of microcredit program in Nepal. Ms Gita Pariyar from Parsa, Ms Kaushilamaya Sunuwar from Siraha and Ms Chandra Lamichhane from Kohalpur received the micro entrepreneurship awards.

Likewise, the foundation also awarded Academic Excellence Award to Mr Dharmendra Timsina, who topped Monetary Economics in post graduate level from Tribhuvan University in 2013 and Mr Milan Bagale, who topped Rural Development in post graduate level from Tribhuvan University in 2011.

The foundation also honoured the Society of Economic Journalists-Nepal (SEJON) for its contribution to promote economic journalism in the country. NRB Governor Nepal handed over the accolades to those awarded.

Relief Items Distributed

2 Branch offices of NUBL distributed relief materials to member clients who were affected by flash floods. 5 member clients of Daunne Devi Branch and 21 member clients of Dakhdai Branch were distributed relief materials. Every year monsoon rain floods hundreds of villages in the Terai region of Nepal.

Staff Training News:

Trainings of Trainers on Financial Literacy

Four regional offices of NUBL organized 14 training events on "Training of Trainers on Financial Literacy" during the month of September. Total 142 staff members of NUBL participated in the trainings.



Participants of Trainings of Trainers on Financial Literacy organized in Banstari by NUBL Bhairahawa Regional Office

The training events was organized in Khalanga, Chaujahari, Sallibazar, Dailekh and Dullu Branches of Birendranagar Regional office along with Bhringibazar, Nepalgunj and Bhurigaun Branches of Kohalpur Regional office. Similarly, Saphebagar, Silugadhi, Amargadhi, Gokuleshwor, Dasharathachand and Chainpur branches of Atariya Regional office along with Parasi and Banstari Branches of Bhairahawa Regional office organized the events.

Training programs were organized to capacitate staff members to deliver financial literacy trainings given to member clients. The training events emphasized on the major contents of financial literacy and delivery methods for training personnel. The major financial literacy topics included in the training were concept of savings, formulating business plan, planning on household income, management of loans, investment and small to medium enterprises.

Similarly, other key financial literacy topics including risk management and insurance, maintaining financial discipline, selecting financial services.

Financial negotiation, utilization of remittance were also comprehensively discussed. After the training, the participants will be providing financial literacy trainings to member clients across the country.



Participants of Trainings of Trainers on Financial Literacy organized by NUBL Atariya Regional Office