

The Agriculture, Marketing and Enterprise Promotion Program (AMEPP) with implementation support from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) organised a 3-day training from 5-7 April 2012 at Samdrup Jongkhar. The enumerators were trained on the annual outcome survey (AOS) and result and impact management system (RIMS) and will help undertake the surveys for AMEPP and MAGIP. Dr. Shaheel Rafique, the resource person for the training, facilitated and moderated the training.



Picture 1: The participants of the training

Since AMEPP had no baseline for the AOS, 900 households (HH) which got normal inputs and 450 HH that received more inputs such as micro initiative fund (MIF) & business opportunity fund (BOF) from the project would be included in the AOS while on the RIMS, 900 HH would be taken in the study and compared to the baseline information collected at the start of the project.

The participants were also introduced to the concepts of focus group discussion (FGD) and key informant interview (KII). FGD basically makes a group discuss on a focused issue or problem – it answers the ‘why’, ‘what’ and ‘how’ of issues and therefore answers and supports the quantitative data collected from the survey questionnaires. It includes a group of farmers usually 8-10. Questions are raised by a facilitator on issues and problems related to the project while

another one records the discussions. On the other hand, KII involves participation of one individual only who is interviewed on at least one project activity. Both FGD and KII are narrative documentation of ‘why’ and ‘how’ to support the indicators of the quantitative data generated by RIMS and AOS. Related to these studies, examples of H assessment were also given on its usefulness in natural resource management (NRM) studies. Having completed the guides and theories of the AOS, RIMS, FGD and KII, a pre-test was done in Gayzor village in Deothang, 18 kilometers (km) from Samdrup Jongkhar. Participants were divided in to five groups with two supervisors per group. Allocation of HH per group was done on a random basis with the numbers written on papers, wrapped and picked up by a woman of the village.



Picture 2: A pre-test focus group discussion (FGD) in progress

Participants had a hands-on experience on how to interview, take measurements of children, and get the body weights of mother and children among others. On average, each group took 50 minutes in interviewing one HH. The resource person went around observing and guiding the groups in the conduct of the survey. The day concluded with the groups testing their skills on FGD and KII (Picture 2).



Picture 3: Theory to practice - Participants trying their hands at measuring a children's height

Towards the last day of the training, the participants' feedback on the field pre-test of the earlier day was done. Corrections on the methodology of the studies such as posture while taking measurements and approach to interview were highlighted by the resource person through presentation of pictures taken (Pictures 2 & 3) based on which 'Dos' and 'Don'ts' were synthesised for the participants to rectify in the surveys they would be undertaking.

Unlike AMEPP, as clarified by Dr. Shaheel Rafique, MAGIP is exempt from doing RIM survey but will have to report the annual RIMS Report comprising of first and second level RIMS indicators as well as conduct the AOS. As suggested by the resource person, a separate workshop training will be planned to train and equip the project coordination unit (PCU) staff and component managers (CMs) on the design and methodology of AOS for MAGIP. Since MAGIP is more focused than AMEPP, the design of AOS to capture the subsistence (11gewogs) and commercial components (37 gewogs) would also be different according to the resource person. To cut down on the resources, PCU, MAGIP intends to use the same RNR staff trained for AMEPP RIMS and AOS.

The resource person assisted and guided the PCU-MAGIP on how to fill up the first and second level RIMS indicators in the IFAD RIMS template. The RIMS first level indicator report will be submitted to IFAD shortly. MAGIP will conduct the AOS post June 2012 the dates for which will be discussed and finalized during the AOS workshop planned in July-August 2012.

A total of 40 participants led by the Program Director, AMEPP and project staff and representatives the 6 project Dzongkhags attended the training. The undersigned and Ms. Shanti Devi, Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation (PM&E) Officer attended the training.

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