



IMPORTANT:

Please summarize your project using the guide questions below. The Summary Sheet will be used in publications to describe the project, and in any information material to be provided to the Jury, Reviewers, and other potential donors.

In describing your proposal, answer the questions clearly and directly. Please answer in English. The number of pages should not go beyond 30, including attachments. Long proposals run the risk of not being read thoroughly.

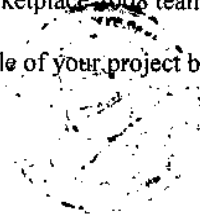
Nepal Development Marketplace 2008

SECTION I: YOUR PROJECT PROFILE

Project Details	
Proposal Number (provided by Nepal Development Marketplace 2008): 343	
Title of your project proposal: Agricultural Cooperative Implementing Gravity Ropeway as Alternative Transportation	
Proposed title for your project banner at the Nepal Development Marketplace 2008 (50 Characters or less. Please use CAPITAL letters) ² "TECHNOLOGY FOR ACCESS, ACCESS FOR LIVELIHOOD"	
Region of Implementation in Nepal: Chitawan District, Narayani Zone, Central Region	
Total Project Cost: Rs. 4,610,458	
Amount requested from Nepal Development Marketplace 2008 (note: you cannot exceed the amount you have previously indicated in the concept paper):	In Words: Rupees One million five hundred thousands only.
	In Numbers: Rs. 1,500,000
Primary Sector of your Proposed Project (please select only one):	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture, Irrigation and Food Security	<input type="checkbox"/> Education
<input type="checkbox"/> Energy	<input type="checkbox"/> Health
<input type="checkbox"/> Information and Communication Technologies	<input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure (Roads and Transportation)
<input type="checkbox"/> Small Business and Micro Enterprise Support	<input type="checkbox"/> Water and Sanitation
<input type="checkbox"/> Employment Creation	

¹ Your summary will be presented as you present to Nepal Development Marketplace 2008 team, hence any errors that would appear on the summary will be solely your responsibility.

² Nepal Development Marketplace 2008 team reserves the right to edit the title of your project banner to meet our space and design requirements.



SECTION II: YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

Applicant's Details

Name Of Your Organization/Institution: Group for Rural Infrastructure Development Nepal
Classification Of Your Organization/Institution: Non Government Organization
Describe your Organization (Minimum 50 words): GRID Nepal is an organization setup to promote sustainable rural infrastructure development with ideas of river crossing technology, ropeway technology, decentralized renewable energy, etc. The long term goal of GRID Nepal is to assist the nation to maximize the use of sustainable, renewable, environment friendly energy technologies and promote alternative transportation.
Contact Person: Mr. Guna Raj Dhakal
Title: Chairperson
Address: Wise-use House, Jwagal, Kupondole, Lalitpur, Nepal GPO Box 9957, Kathmandu, Nepal
Office Phone #: +977-1-5011013, 5550452, 5553870 Mobile #: 9851001008
E-Mail: gridnepal@wiseuse.org.np

Name Of Your Primary Partner Organization/Institution: GRID Nepal Chitawan Branch
Classification Of Your Partner Organization/Institution: NGO
Describe your Partner Organization's Role (Minimum 50 words): GRID Nepal Chitawan branch is an organisation dedicated to social works in the fields of awareness and reformation. Some of the activities it has conducted till date are - <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Community cleaning campaign in coordination with Dovan Tole Sudhar Samiti.2. Providing education for 25nos. of street children in coordination with Dovan Pustakalaya and Jilla Sikshya Karyalaya.3. Conducted eye camp for cataract disease in Jagatpur VDC, Chitawan
Contact Person: Manju Nepal
Title: Chairperson
Address: Anandamarg, Ward No.10, Bharatpur, Chitawan
Office Phone #: 056-527973 Mobile #: 9745014079
E-Mail: gridnepal@wiseuse.org.np

SECTION III: YOUR PROJECT DETAILS

Project Details

A. YOUR PROJECT SUMMARY

Please summarize your project. (Word limits 250). You may include any applicable drawing in separate sheet if applicable.

The proposed project consisting of setting up an agricultural cooperative implementing gravity ropeway as an alternative transportation. Primary data indicates that 243 different households including 85 households belonging to Chepangs in Chandibhanjyang VDC of Chitawan district will benefit directly from the project. The project is primarily targeted for improvement of living standard of Chepangs.

The proposed project consists of two parts. The first is the technical part – the gravity ropeway and the second is the functional part – the agricultural cooperative. The project intends to set up a gravity ropeway as a means of transporting agro-products in the rugged terrains where there is no access road to the farms and the only option till date was the time-consuming process of hiring a porter at an expensive rate or to carry the goods by self along a rugged, arduous and narrow, sometimes perilous trails.

The technical part of this project will be controlled and maintained by a cooperative run by a board elected from the community people on the basis of one-person, one-vote. The cooperative will be responsible for finding suitable market for agro-products, fixing minimum price for agro-products, information flow to farmers, procurement of seeds and arrangement of trainings on farming technologies whenever possible. For sustainability, the cooperative will levy a small amount for transportation of goods which will be much cheaper than the current price of hiring a porter and use the generated income for conducting official works, on repair and maintenance, buying seeds and conducting trainings, and development of infrastructures.

SECTION IV: PROJECT QUESTIONS

Project Question 1

What is the problem(s)/issue(s) your project is addressing? What are the causes of the problem? (maximum 500 words)

Nepal is an agricultural country. Agriculture accounts for about 40% of Nepal's GDP and employs 76% of the workforce. However, rate of unemployment and underemployment approaches half of the working-age population. A large portion of cultivated lands lie in the hilly region of the country which is facing a stout challenge in the form of lack of easy access to marketplace. Movement and transportation across a wide river is one of the biggest challenges in hills, especially so in the monsoon. Lack of marketplace, isolation from the outside and continuity of traditional farming technologies are the greatest obstacles in development of agricultural economy. This gives rise to a lack of prospects for the youths in the rural community, inviting unemployment, underemployment, and an overall expulsion of youth workforce from the community and in most cases – from the country itself. The effects are that the community and ultimately the nation itself is facing serious deficit of unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled manpower and brain drain. Even those who are forced to remain behind represent the citizen population below the poverty line. Due to lack of opportunities, impoverished economic conditions, escalation, etc, a sort of unrest was seeded into the people inviting political instability and conflict for the past decade.

In our specific case, the proposed project location is Chandibhanjyang-6 of Chitawan district. The people of this community live high on top of hills. Though their nearest settlement is only about 3km from the highway, the elevation difference is nearly 1200 meters and is 4 hours of arduous climb for even the locals. What this means is that ironically, even though the community is physically near from the highway, the rugged geography of the location makes it isolated from other communities. Hence, in their own words, bringing their agroproducts down to the highway to sell is a loss as the wage of the porter is more than what they earn from selling their product. Therefore, they don't grow any more that they consume and it can be seen that majority of the land holdings are barren and the standard of living is really poor. Even though the place has got a lot of agropotential, the people there have no interest in farming as a commercial venture.

Coming back to the point the project is trying to address, the aforementioned lack of prompt

Project Question 2

How does your idea address the problem(s)/issue(s) described above in terms of securing peace through development, delivery of basic services and expanding livelihood opportunities to rural population? (maximum 500 words)

Even when, with great drudgery, the farmers reach marketplace to sell their agro products, they are disadvantaged by the fact that most times they have no idea of the current demand and the price in the market. In the market they are also competing with each other to sell their products. Thus, they have to contain themselves with selling their product to the retailers at whatever price they offer and hence, they earn very little profit. At times, they even have to sell their products bearing losses. As a step towards alleviating these issues, we propose setting up of an Agricultural Cooperative. The cooperative will be formed from the pool of farmers within the community and besides finding a suitable market, it will also work towards winning a fair price for the agro products, supplying the farmers with seeds and fertilizers, updating them with new developments in farming technologies, even conducting workshops and seminars on improved farming technologies when possible. The estimated most significant and direct impact of such a cooperative will be improved economic status of the farmers which in turn will work towards socio-economic stability of the community. The creation of profitable financial aspect within the community is also expected to retain much of its youth population and attract back the emigrants thus filling in the deficit of manpower and checking brain drain. The prospect of employment and profit within the community is expected to lower any existing unrest and divert the community's attention towards development. Though the cooperative will not be profit oriented, the savings from a small levy it will deduct in exchange of its service can be invested in basic infrastructures like irrigation systems, education, health posts, etc. Peace and stability are expected to be achieved through development.

Project Question 3

How will you implement your idea? Describe in detail each of the activities/steps that your project will undertake to meet its objective(s). (maximum 600 words). Please provide a corresponding timeline in a separate sheet.

Delivery of alternative transport services through gravity ropeway is the key component of this project. This output requires clear planning processes involving the inclusion of local beneficiaries in participatory activities carried out through the following processes:

- A. Inception meeting with CBOs and stakeholders
- B. Local meetings with communities to orient them on agricultural cooperative, alternative transport systems and their benefits
- C. Conduct baseline surveys of target households
- D. Identify strategic sites/locations feasible for gravity ropeway
- E. Formation of Agricultural Cooperative
- F. Detailed Feasibility study for gravity ropeway in strategic site
- G. Conducting training and seminar for members of the Cooperative on the purpose and successful management of the cooperative.
- H. Gravity Ropeway installation.
- I. Handover to the cooperative

The key technological component of the project is the gravity ropeway and the key managerial component of the project is the Agricultural Cooperative. It will be set up as a one-man, one-vote organization. The cooperative will be a non share, non-profit organization. The cooperative will conduct market study to pre-determine demand and prices forecast and provide counseling to farmers. Market study will include –

- A. Organising of local farmers
- B. Technical and capacity needs assessment
- C. Sub-sectoral market study
- D. Participatory Market Chain Analysis

Other activities include -

- A. Institutional capacity building
- B. Skill development training in value addition of agro products, storage and packaging
- C. Interactive meetings between producers and major market chain actors on annual basis
- D. Introducing appropriate irrigation systems and improved seeds for increased agricultural productivity and diversification

Initial training for cooperative include -

- A. Provide training on institution development, project planning, implementation and co-ordination with external organizations
- B. Provide technical training on operation and management of gravity ropeway
- C. Capacity building of cooperative on financial management - (user fees collection, book keeping)

Project Question 4

How is your idea innovative or different from existing approaches that are addressing the problem(s)/issue(s) you have described in question one? Why did you choose this particular approach? To your knowledge, what on-going efforts exist in this area that addresses this problem? Has your idea been implemented elsewhere or in a different context? If so, where? What specific characteristics of your project idea demonstrate that you are applying a novel/pioneering approach? (maximum 700 word)

The idea of agricultural cooperative has been successfully implemented in developed countries like the US and Canada. However, this is an emerging idea for our country and is rarely implemented anywhere. For our agricultural market where price is fixed by agro-retailers and competition among the farmers, this is a new concept which will benefit not only the farmers but also influence to stabilize the agro-market providing the consumers with an almost constant pricing. Some of the highlights of the project are –

- A. Formation of cooperative owned by farmers, to undertake transformation, packaging, distribution and marketing of agro products.
- B. Use of gravity ropeway for easy and quick access to marketplace, with effective and reliable communication system.
- C. Minimum price of agro products will be fixed.
- D. One person, one vote concept for formation and functioning of managerial board.
- E. Utilization of funds generated from levy on development of irrigation, education and health systems.

A new idea that this project incorporates is market stabilization and fixing minimum price of agro products. By conducting market study and demand forecast, the cooperative will be able to determine the probable demand and likely price for the supplies. It would be able to counsel farmers on vegetables and crops to grow on the next season and since it would be pooling agro-products from the community, it will have a controlling influence on the market price. It will use this influence to fix a minimum price for each agro-product for the producers' benefit and it will also control the undue enhance of price by preplanning.

It is expected that gravity ropeway equipped with effective and reliable communication system will be the key component in handling transportation and communication for success of this project.

Project Question 5

What is your/your organization's role in implementing the project idea? Provide a brief description of your/your organization's activities and experience in the area/sector of the project. What is the particular capacity of your organization in implementing the project idea? (Maximum 300 words)

GRID Nepal has the necessary technical expertise and manpower to implement the project. Hence, the gravity ropeway will be built by GRID Nepal itself. GRID Nepal will coordinate with Nepal Government, Nepal Development Marketplace 2008 and other central line agencies for the success of the project. After the necessary physical prerequisite has been constructed, GRID will also help in formation of the cooperative, and provide training to the cooperative on various technical, functional and financial aspects of the project as discussed on question no. 3 above before handing over the project to the community elected cooperative.

GRID Nepal has a lot of experience in the field of cableway transportations like gravity ropeway, modified tuins, mechanized bridges, etc. GRID Nepal has the necessary technical expertise and manpower to conduct survey, design, fabricate necessary components and installation of a cableway structure. Some of the projects by GRID Nepal are -

1. Consulting services to design 5 tuins and 4 gravity ropeways in Gorkha, Tanahun, Achham and Kalikot districts and services for modifying the design and supervising tuin construction in Fishling, Dhading for Practical Action in Nepal
2. Multi-span Tuin awarded by YDP 2008
3. Socio-economic survey conducted for Mechanized Bridge awarded to ITD Nepal by NDM 2005
4. Survey and Design of Mechanized Bridge in Sindhuli district.

GRID Nepal is also very familiar with the rural socio-economics as delegates from rural area visit the office of GRID Nepal often with request to build various infrastructures whose need had been felt from the grass-root level in their community. For such requests, GRID Nepal conducts preliminary studies free of cost and if identified as necessary, practical and feasible GRID Nepal searches for funding for implementing the project from various sources.

Project Question 6

Who will be proposed project team leader? This person will be the key contact person between Nepal Development Marketplace 2008 team and your project team. Describe the experience/background of the project team leader with regard to implementing the above mentioned project idea. Please enclose curriculum vitae of the proposed project team leader. (Maximum 200 words).

Team Leader - Dr. Narendra Lal Joshi

Dr. Narendra Lal Joshi is a highly respected academic and engineer. He has carried out studies on mechanized mini ropeways for improvement of ghirlings and tuins with the support of mechanized systems. He has also done feasibility studies of several sites of mini ropeway and has more than 20 years of experience in cable supported trail bridge. In the past he has worked for 8 years under Helvetas (then SATA) in Suspension Bridge Division.

A brief resume of Dr. Joshi has been attached.

ATTACHMENT: Yes No

Project Question 7

What is the role of your primary partner organization in implementing the project idea? Please provide a brief description of your primary partner organization's activities in the area/sector of the project. What is the history of collaboration between your organization and your partner(s)? Is there a formal agreement for partnership on this project? Please enclose a copy of your agreement. (Maximum 200 words)

GRID Nepal Chitawan Branch will be responsible for social and environmental impact assessment of the project on the local level. It will coordinate with Local Users' Committee, VDCs, DDC and other related local agencies for the success of the project.

GRID Nepal Chitawan branch is a sort of area center for GRID Nepal and besides conveying relevant informations, it also works independently on local level in the fields of social awareness and reformations. GRID Nepal has collaborated in the past with the Chitawan branch to conduct pre-feasibility study for ropeway structures like tuins and gravity ropeways. The Chitawan branch has also conducted socio-economic survey for Mechanized bridge project at Kotre-Punditar, Sag-controlled Tuin at Fishling, and Gravity Ropeway at Darechowk.

A formal agreement for partnership on this project has been reached. Relevant documents are attached.

Project Question 8

Who are the principal beneficiaries of the project activity? Please describe the degree of acceptance that the project has among beneficiaries and the level of participation, if any, of the beneficiaries in the project. (Maximum 300 words)

The proposed project location is in Chandibhanjyang-6 of Chitawan district. The targeted community consists mostly of Chepangs and Gurungs. Needless to say, Chepangs are one of the most backwards and marginalized communities in all Nepal. GRID Nepal had previously communicated with the community leaders and held an informal discussion with the leaders of the community on ways to better the community's standard of living. The proposal is the direct outcome of that meeting. Once the proposal was preliminarily selected, we dispatched a team to inform the community of the selection and the need for their active participation for ultimate selection and hence successful implementation of the project. Our team discovered that not only the community members were enthusiastic about the project, but that they were also aware of the project's necessity and benefits that could be reaped from successful implementation and execution of the project. We are very happy to inform that the team found the idea was liked by the males and the females, the young and the old equally well. This can be seen reflected on the interim committee that has been set up for the time being before an executive committee is elected on the basis of one-person one-vote.

Project Question 9

What are the expected outcomes/results of your project? How are they measurable? How do these results/outcomes help your targeted beneficiaries? If possible, indicate how many beneficiaries your project expects to reach. How should Nepal Development Marketplace 2008 measure project success after implementation is complete? (Maximum 300 words)

- A. Result - Improved community access to markets and services through gravity ropeway. Benefit to – agro producers. Measurability – increased penetration of the community agro products in the market, to be verified physically.
- B. Result – decrease in time taken for access to market. Benefit to – agro producers. Measurability – access to a more direct route via gravity ropeway, to be verified physically.
- C. Result – elimination of transporting the agro-products to market personally. Benefit to – especially to school going children and women. Measurability – increased enrollment and attendance of children in schools, increase in personnel sanitation and cleaning, to be verified statistically and through social interaction.
- D. Result - increased and sustainable incomes from market based agro-product diversification, value-addition activities (processing) and sales. Benefit to – agro produces and their dependants. Measurability – increased economic status of agro producing families, to be verified by studying the increase in living standards.
- E. Result – fairly stabilized agro market. Benefit to – agro producers as well as consumers of agro products. Measurability – not much variation in pricing of agro products, verifiable by study of market price for a duration of time.
- F. Result – development of infrastructures pertaining to basic services like irrigation, education and health. Benefit to – community. Measurability – construction of such infrastructures, to be verified physically.
- G. Result – stabilized social conditions and reduction of unrest and conflict to nil. Benefit to – community, to country from replication. Measurability – prevalence of peace in the community, to be verified physically and psychologically through interaction and identification of decreased cases of violence.

Another mentionable result of this project is direct benefit to the Chepangs, who are a marginalized community. Our primary project site lies in Chandibhanjyang VDC of Chitawan, consisting of 85 HH of Chepangs among others.

Project Question 10

What characteristics of your project would you highlight to suggest that it is sustainable beyond the phase funded by Nepal Development Marketplace 2008? Please describe both organizational sustainability and financial sustainability, and indicate specific details (agreements from other donors, projected revenue flows) that can be verified to suggest that your project is sustainable and can leverage Nepal Development Marketplace 2008 funding. (Maximum 400 words)

The cooperative established by the project will be a non-profit organization but will collect a small levy for operation and maintenance of the gravity ropeway and functioning of the organization. This is aimed at sustainability of the project. Also, since the project is aimed at economic promotion of the agro producing community, their enthusiasm and interest on the project is expected to be high making its sustainability highly likely. The preliminary study conducted at ChandiBhanjyang VDC-6 of Chitawan district indicate that the community there is highly enthusiastic and fully committed for the project. (This is our primary project site located 3km south from MuglingBazar and expected beneficiaries include 85HH Chepangs, 98HH Gurungs, 60HH Magars) The cooperative will be handled and managed by representatives from the community itself, elected on the basis of voting system and answerable directly to the community, greatly reducing the chances of embezzlement leading to bankruptcy of the project. Training on relevant topics and management skills will be provided to create a competent management system initially and later on request of the cooperative whenever needed.

At the community level, promotion of household level business and business development services through value addition is expected to contribute to project sustainability. This is based on the hypothesis that beneficiaries will have an incentive to continue implementing activities under this action, as long as they realise tangible benefits such as increased incomes, greater local job opportunities, improved standards of living, etc. and see progress in infrastructural development.

Project Question 11

What is the possibility of implementing your idea/project elsewhere (in different parts of the county)? (Maximum 200 words)

The project is expected to have a multiplier effect.

- A. Replication by other communities in the same and other districts– The primary function of the project is to improve the economic status of the agro-processing communities for social stabilization and promotion of peace. Its success will create a flow of information between people in different parts of the districts and encourage replication within communities. The mobilization of cooperative savings will also be encouraged. The project will also work towards creating an enabling policy and regulatory framework at the local level, in partnership with local authorities and grass-roots network, to ensure possible replication. All of these actions will contribute towards replication of similar approaches by other development agencies and other communities elsewhere.
- B. District, National and International Awareness and uptake of approach – The project aims to raise awareness of the benefits of a more holistic and coordinated approach which puts the needs and livelihoods of poor people to the forefront of all planning. Other districts will be reached through the program of other donors and agencies. Experiences will be shared with stakeholders for possible replication. Additionally technological innovations will be made available to stakeholders through GRID Nepal's technical enquiry services.

SECTION V: PROJECT COST QUESTIONS

Project Cost Question 1

Briefly describe expenses in each of the categories that you have submitted in your proposal (total maximum- 500 words)

Personnel: 461,000

Materials and Equipment: 3,567,321

Training: 97,500

Travel: 56,000

Others: n/a

Evaluation/Information dissemination: 209,091

General Administration/Overhead: 219,546

Other Funding Sources: 3,110,458

Total Nepal Development Marketplace 2008 funding requested: 1,500,000

Estimated Project Revenue (if applicable) : Rs.2 per kg of load

Project Cost Question 2

Please explain clearly any non-Nepal Development Marketplace 2008 funding that your project is receiving or will receive and indicate their contributions. To the extent possible, please indicate the names of the other donors and the amount they will be contributing to your project and what the funds would be used for. Please mention all fund sources that are anticipated but NOT confirmed as yet too. (maximum 250 words)

Track and hauling cables worth Rs.2,735,165 will be provided by the Suspension Bridge Division on request of District Development Committee, Chitawan. The remaining Rs. 375,293 will be generated from GRID Nepal internal sources.

Project Cost Question 3

If your project is generating any revenue from its activities, please describe. (maximum 150 words)

The project is expected to run and find sustainability by virtue of the small amounts it levies for carrying agro-products. As of yet, the concrete amount of revenue to be generated has not been worked out yet. The practical amount to be levied will be calculated after formation of cooperative under participation of GRID Nepal, cooperative board members, community members and other stakeholders. Preliminarily, a levy amount of Rs. 2 per kg load has been suggested and agreed upon.

Project Cost Question 4

Please enclose your organization's audited current and a one-year projected income statement and balance sheet.

SECTION VII: REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS

Attachments to be included:

1. Applicable drawing.
2. Corresponding timeline.
3. Curriculum vitae of proposed project team available.
4. List of Project Management Team/Staff.
5. List of Board of Members of your organization.
6. Copy of formal partnership agreement
7. Audited current and a one-year projected income statement and balance sheet. -
8. Your organization's and your partner's registration certificates.
9. Original version of your proposal (if written in Nepali).

N.B. – The following are some other relevant documents that could not be attached with this document for technical reasons but can be provided if asked for by NDM 2008 –

- 1. Copy of minute of community meeting during preliminary survey*
- 2. Commitment letters from District Development Committee, Chitwan*
- 3. Experience letters from Practical Action Nepal, SAPPROS Nepal, and AEPC*

I certify that the information provided is true and correct. By signing this document, I confirm our organization's participation to the Nepal Development Marketplace on June 23, 2008.

Signature  

Date 17 June 2008