

Nepal Development Marketplace 2008

SECTION I: YOUR PROJECT PROFILE

Project Details

Proposal Number (provided by Nepal Development Marketplace 2008): 492

Title of your project proposal: Low-Cost Organic Farming- A New Way of Life

Proposed title for your project banner at the Nepal Development Marketplace 2008 (50 Characters or less. Please use CAPITAL letters)

LOW-COST ORGANIC FARMING: A NEW WAY OF LIFE

Region of Implementation in Nepal: Central Region

Total Project Cost: NRs.58,90,000

Amount requested from Nepal Development Marketplace 2008 (note: you cannot exceed the amount you have previously indicated in the concept paper):	In Words: Nepali Rupees One Million Five Hundred Thousand.
	In Numbers: NRs. 15,00,000

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	

SECTION II: YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of Your Organization/Institution: Converge Design Consultancy

Classification of Your Organization/Institution: Private Firm

Describe your Organization (Minimum 50 words):

Converge Design Consultancy has been registered in December 16, 2005; is engaged in all areas of the Architectural Consultancy, Civil Engineering Landscape Architecture, Urban Design, Planning and community consultation. Mix of highly experienced staffs in CDC ensures the assurance of quality and up to date with latest methodologies and technology.

Contact Person: Rajani Shakya

Title: Senior Architect

Address: Naxal, Bhagawatimarga 1051, Kathmandu

Office Phone #: 5543499

Mobile #: 9841250343

E-Mail: rrajjko@hotmail.com

Name of Your Primary Partner Organization/Institution: Help for Children Beilngries

Classification of Your Partner Organization/Institution: NGO

Describe your Partner Organization's Role (Minimum 50 words):

Help for Children Beilngries (HFCB), the primary partner organization will serve as the nucleus of this LCOFP as it provides the land necessary to execute the project work and the overall finance necessary to accomplish the project apart from the funding receive from Nepal Development Market (NDM).

Contact Person: Sunil Krishna Shrestha

Title: Secretary

Address: Help for Children Beilngries, Lubhu, Lalitpur

Office Phone #: 5580492

Mobile #: 9851075488

E-Mail: sukrish@hotmail.com

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 sustainable Low-Cost Organic Farming Project (LCOFP) is intended to promote the economic viability of organic farming, wind mill and solar powered irrigation; and renewable energy bio-gas; as an appropriate method and technology for increasing participation by the communities of Lubhu, Tikathali, Siddhipur and surroundings; and small farmers in the farming sector. LCOFP will also provide a model for promoting environmental management and improved nutrition both in rural and urban communities.

The LCOFP is a bold attempt to save the small farmers and to promote improved economic, nutritional, environmental and agricultural practices. The situation is conducive to launch a comprehensive environmental and health paradigm in disproportionately impacted small farm communities of Lubhu and surrounding area. A growing awareness of environmental injustices and health sacrificing exploitation has spawned an embryonic environmental justice movement all over the country. The movement needs to solve the technical problems related to environmental degradation. This LCOFP could serve as a foundation for widespread economic, environmental and health problem solving.

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)

The development of low cost organic farming project in the rural area of Tikathali V.D.C., Lalitpur of Kathmandu valley will fulfill a major need for the new and innovative approaches to farm production. In addition, to minimizing ecological impacts, this project will feed a new movement in Tikathali, Lubhu and surrounding area for the development of small-scale, integrated, low-cost organic farming system.

New models of agricultural production with the implementation of renewable energy that combine conservation and production needed to provide alternatives for the modern farming method and; protect and conserve agricultural lands. The production from the low-cost organic farming project do not rely on public subsidy and produce a variety of products that serve local markets in local as well as urban markets (e.g. restaurants, food stores etc.).

The major cause of the problems in the modern farming method is the use of chemicals as a fertilizer. To overcome this, the traditional organic farming method is adopted as a new way of life for the people of Tikathali, Lubhu, Siddhipur and the surrounding areas. Urban sprawl, loss of cultivated land, disappearance of traditional farming skills, degradation of soil quality,

pollution (ill managed garbage), unsafe food, human health problem, no concern to animal welfare etc. are the other causes of the problem.

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)

Our project has an objective to build capacity and provide information both to private sector and to the governments. There is a possibility to develop regional standards which could be improved. The project aims to foster co-operation between countries which leads to better understanding led conflicts and a better business climate too.

As organic production had the potential to produce sufficient food of high quality this low-cost organic agriculture contributes poverty alleviation and food security for the local rural population. Not to mention, the poverty reduction will largely contribute to secure the peace which eventually led to the development of the entire society and nation as a whole.

Organic farming is an answer to our problems of environment degradation, unsafe food, polluted water, degraded land and wide range of illness due to unsustainable agriculture. Organic farming has in its fold all agriculture systems that promote environmentally, socially and economically sound production. Bearing in mind that peace, security and development are inseparable as there can be no lasting development without peace.

Rural development is of utmost importance to achieve a continuous long-term improvement in the quality of life through the creation of sustainable communities, able to manage and use resources efficiently, to tap the ecological and social innovation potential of the economy and in the end ensure prosperity, environmental protection and social cohesion. Organic farming is thus closely related to the issues of agriculture and rural development, namely for: conservation and management of natural resources, social inclusion, demography and migration and poverty and sustainable development challenges.

Organic farming is not just a philosophy, but is also a means to stabilize our food production through maintenance of soil health and avoiding use of hazardous chemicals, fertilizers, and pesticides which have been disturbing our ecosystem on large scale. All in all, it enhances and expands the livelihood opportunities to rural population.

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.

The Low-Cost Organic Farming Project (LCOFP) will be implemented in three phases:

1. Design and Pilot Project Initiation

Converge Design Consultancy act as a Design Team who will have responsibility for formulating goals and timetables for project performance milestones will deliver the design phase of this project. The team draft plan will provide for effective operation, communication and accountability during the life cycle of the project. This plan will specify the operational components of the LCOFP Project, Pilot Project Expansion and Commercialization. The design phase will have three main components:

- Draft Plan
- Design Review, Master Plan and Validation
- Initiate Research for Pilot Project/Expansion

Once the design plan outline has been completed, a research team will begin assembling methodology, technical specifications, staffing descriptions, materials list, and regulatory policy considerations necessary for the project.

2. Pilot Project Expansion and Commercialization Design

Converge Design Consultancy (CDC) will work together with Help for Children Beilngries (HFCB) using the Low-Cost Organic Farming Model design and research and information gathered from various local and international (existing) organic farming models and renewable energy such as solar energy, wind mill (to draw water from river) and biogas plant (for cooking and extracting manure for the organic farm)) technology utilization by operating about 3 ropanis of organic farm site at ward no. 6, Tikathali V.D.C., Lalitpur

HFCB will serve as the nucleus of this LCOFP as it contributes the overall finance necessary to accomplish the project apart from the funding receive from Nepal Development Market (NDM),. HFCB will form alliances to examine econometric models for the organic farming project and future local, central, regional, national and international organic farming commercialization.

Similarly, CDC will examine the environmental implications of organic farming using the appropriate methods and technologies. Both CDC and HFCB will coordinate the organic farming information transfer to community groups for dissemination into inner city neighborhoods. These organizations will work with community groups to provide outreach services to established food banks, open-air and sheltered food markets. CDC will design a plan for expanding this effort into other urban and rural areas.

3. Commercialization

The results from the Organic Farming Pilot Project and Pilot Project Expansion will be used for expanding to the commercial stage. The basic goals of the commercialization stage are to promote organic farming as a viable business and life style alternative and to provide open markets and jobs to the local people of Tikathali, Lubhu, Siddhipur and the surrounding areas; and small farm enterprises. A secondary result of achieving these goals will be providing an avenue for improving inner city nutrition.

The commercial stage will comprise two steps:

- Establishing Markets
- Establishing Incentives for Organic Farmers

The HFCB may provide incentives to organic farmers who implement agricultural methods that have less negative environmental impacts. The ultimate goal is to promote an expansion in the role of both the traditional and modern farmers in addressing the future environmental constraints on agriculture.

HFCB will contact the businesses, and grocery retailers, health food stores to establish markets. HFCB will arrange media campaigns to promote this project. HFCB will work with inner city organizations, civil societies and other individuals to make organic food acceptable as a nutritional alternative to processed foods. Excess produce if any will be provided to food distribution centers to feed the homeless and hungry.

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 basic approach is to develop sustainable low-cost organic farming including animal husbandry, vermiculture, pisciculture, floriculture. The innovative approach in this low-cost organic farming project is; it is a mix package that includes renewable energy namely biogas, solar energy and wind mill, and farm-shop building. Bio-gas plant produces the manure to use in the farm; water pump will be run using solar energy, wind mill. The farm land incorporates the farm building with organic kitchen, cold store, seminar hall, restaurant etc.

The project encompasses the poor farmer contributing to the poverty alleviation to great extent. If agriculture is to survive as a viable economic activity in the rural areas, there is a great need for local producers to develop innovative strategies for increasing income earning opportunities on the farm. In addition to considering criteria for maintaining rural ecosystem, this project will provide producers in the area with several viable models for integrating agricultural systems into a diversified farm production plan.

We plan of making maximum use of the agricultural land for the benefit of the larger farm operation. To our best knowledge, small scaling mushroom farming, organic farming are being implemented in the Lubhu (Surrounding V.D.C. of Tikathali). This led to the development of domestic organic food markets; which is essential for the sustainable growth of organic agriculture and sustainable rural development. The innovative approach of LCOFP mixed with renewable energies has not been implemented elsewhere. The specific characteristics that demonstrate the low-cost organic farming project is pioneering approach may be stated as:

- The sustainability of the project
- Securing peace through development
- Low-cost
- Hybrid Project that fuse Organic Farming with various renewable energies viz. bio gas, solar energy, wind mill.

The Sustainable Low-Cost Organic Farming Project's synthesized with renewable energies can be replicated in other rural and urban area to provide a source of state-of-the-art organic farming methods and information to environmentally conscious and entrepreneurial segments of the agricultural sector.

The Sustainable LCOFP team will promote organic farming as a way to reduce overall production costs and increase the incomes of local people and small farmers in conjunction with emerging sustainable agriculture objectives. The foremost objectives of Sustainable LCOFP research and development are economic sustainability, pollution prevention, farmer health, resource conservation, consumer food safety and continuing quality food production.

The Low-Cost Organic Farming Project will provide a technology-based means of promoting the efficient use of natural resources, provide an opportunity for environmentally sound economic self-sufficiency, and ensure the preservation of traditional farming technique and expansion of small farmers.

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)

The main role of Converge Design Consultancy (CDC) is to work together with Help for Children Beilngries (HFCB) to successfully execute and implement the project idea.

The study of site is fundamental approach before implementing any project idea. Site analysis will be carried out with the series of discussion with urban planner, horticulturalist, wind mill specialist, solar energy specialist and bio-gas engineer to allocate the appropriate space in the farming land. Based on the appropriate method and technology, CDC will examine the environmental impacts of organic farming both in the project area and surrounding precinct.

As a design team, CDC will prepare detail master plan and allocate the financial budget for this project work. Further, CDC will look after the management both technical and administrative and supervise throughout the lifecycle of project for the quality control. CDC will spare no pains to complete the project in allocated time frame to achieve the expected outcome.

CDC has not gained any experience in this type of innovative project so far. Hence, this project will create a new dimension in the field of technical design and planning for our organization. Despite, CDC has full capacity to implement the project and complete it in a designated time frame with allocated resources. Our organization is fully equipped with the senior expertise viz. horticulturalist, bio-gas engineer, urban planner, landscape architect, architect etc.etc.

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).

Rajani Shakya, an experienced architect and final year student of M.Sc. Urban Planning will be proposed team leader for this low-cost organic farming project. As an architect, she is well-experienced building design. One of the ingredients of this Low-Cost Organic Farming Project (LCOFP), there will not be any problem concerning the design and construction supervision of farm – shop building for the functionality and ornamental beauty.

As a final year student of M. Sc. Urban Planning, Rajani Shakya is doing master thesis and the title of her thesis is *Community Renewal: Revitalization of Traditional Town 'Siddhipur'*. The Low-Cost Organic Farming Project encompasses Siddhipur area and also includes the community approach. This theoretical exercise will help the project team leader during the project implementation phase. Further, being a planning student, who will be urban planner in three months time, she has vast knowledge regarding both the urban and rural planning, project formulation and management, design and conservation etc.

With the sharing of information and knowledge during the implementation process, there will be mutual exchange of knowledge between the involved expertise and participants in this project.

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)

Help for Children Beilngries (HFCB), the primary partner organization will serve as the nucleus of this LCOFP as it provides the land necessary to execute the project work and overall finance necessary to accomplish the project apart from funding receive from Nepal Development Market (NDM).

HFCB will coordinate the organic farming information transfer to community groups for dissemination into inner city neighborhoods. HFCB will contact the businesses, and grocery retailers, health food stores to establish markets. HFCB will work with inner city organizations, civil societies and other individuals to make organic food acceptable as a nutritional alternative to processed foods.

HFCB is recently running the small scale organic farmland at Lubhu. Though it is not the formal organic farming, still it provides the basic knowledge required to implement the new Low-Cost Organic Farming Project. Also the HFCB is running animal husbandry in the same organic farmland and bio-gas plant and solar energy at Shaligram Kinder House. Hence, valuable information both technical and managerial can be extracted from these model projects.

The collaboration between CDC and HFCB was established in 2005 and since then CDC is working as a consultant for HFCB. The formal agreement is attached with this project proposal.

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 main purpose of this low-cost organic farming is to make Shaligram Bal Griha, Lubhu, Lalitpur managed by Help For Children Beilngries – Kathmandu; sustainable (from the income that would be generated from this farm land). Hence, major beneficiary would be Shaligram Bal Griha in receiving and practicing farming technologies that enable the student of Shaligram Bal Griha running their own organic farming business in future.

Further, the successful implementation of this Low-Cost Organic Farming Project will uplift social, environmental and economic condition of Lubhu, Tikathali, Siddhipur and neighboring areas. This will ultimately enhance the life style of local people of these areas. The Other groups benefiting from this project are: Vegetable farmers around Tikathali V.D.C., Lubhu V.D.C., Siddhipur V.D.C., local community, urban people, small and medium scale farmer and most importantly poor farmer and low income people.

Similarly, Government agencies such as District Agriculture Development Offices, Researchers, students and Government Agriculture Farms will also benefit from this project. Organic Fresh vegetable sellers, consumer and organic input sellers and users benefit from this project. In addition as the low cost organic farming is replicable, whole nation will be benefitted. All in all, this project will bear the fruitful results for local, central, regional, national and international organic farming.

This project is measurable in terms of social (e.g. more cohesive and productive rural communities), economic (e.g. farming productivity) and environmental (e.g. use of natural resources) aspects.

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) **

The main purpose of this low-cost organic farming is to make Shaligram Bal Griha, Lubhu, Lalitpur managed by Help For Children Beilngries – Kathmandu; sustainable (from the income that would be generated from this farm land)

Other expected results are: Improving income and livelihood of rural communities' Foster cooperation between different societies which leads to better understanding, less conflicts and better business opportunities and this will fulfill the notion securing peace through development.

Enhancement of social, cultural, economic and environmental condition of the local residents and setting up new information center regarding low cost organic agriculture in Lubhu is also the expected outcome of this project.

This project is measurable in terms of social (e.g. more cohesive and productive rural communities), economic (e.g. farming productivity) and environmental (e.g. use of natural resources) aspects.

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 project would be sustainable beyond the phase funded by Nepal development market Place 2008 due to the following characteristics:

- The project is backed up by the NGO; Help for Children Beilngries (HFCB)
- HFCB will be providing the land to implement the designated project.
- HFCB will be providing the insufficient fund required to implement the project successfully.
- HFCB has good track record of its organizational sustainability.
- Converge Design Consultancy (CDC) has a mix of highly experienced staffs who not only offer a tried and tested assurance of quality but also are always up to date with the latest methodologies and technology.
- The project will be generating the revenue to make itself self-sustainable.

Project Question 11

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

There is a high possibility of replicating and implementing our idea/project in most of the rural areas of the country due to the traditional knowledge that local farmers have about organic farming.

Low-cost organic farming has great potential to replicate as the farm uses all the natural resources such as manure from bio-gas plant, vermiculture and solar energy (to run the machinery appliances e.g. water pump), etc.

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:	58,8000
Materials and Equipments:	46,00,000
Training:	50,000
Travel:	30,000
Others:	2,57,000
Evaluation/Information dissemination:	1,85,000
General Administrative Overhead:	1,80,000
Other Funding Sources:	45,00,000
Total Nepal Development Market Place funding requested:	15,00,000
Estimated project Revenue (if applicable)	10,20,000 per year (approx.)

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)

Apart from Nepal development Marketplace 2008, Low-Cost Organic Farming: A New Way of Life will be receiving fund from **Help For Children Beilngries, Lubhu , Lalitpur** who will be contributing the funding of NRs.45,00,000 (in words : Nepali Rupees Four Million and Five Hundred Thousand). This fund will be used for the successful implementation of the project as financial grant available from Nepal Development Market Place 2008 will not be sufficient to accommodate the entire cost of the project.

Project Cost Question 3

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

Revenue will be generated from:

- The sales of the production from organic farming, horticulture, live stock, pisciculture, vermiculture 5,40,000
- Training and seminar 1,20,000
- Organic Kitchen (Restaurant) 3,60,000

Total NRs.10,20,000 (approx.)

Project Cost Question 4

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

SECTION VI: ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Administrative Information Question 1

NEPAL DEVELOPMENT MARKETPLACE 2008 will only accept applications in English for review. If your proposal is in Nepali, please enclose the original version for reference. The Nepal Development Marketplace 2008 team will only review this to clarify any potential ambiguities in the English version.

ATTACHMENT: Yes No

Administrative Information Question 2

Have you ever received a grant from any Word Bank grant program?

Yes No

If Yes, indicate which one? The Word Bank has a number of grant funding programs that work with small organizations (Small Grants Programs, Post Conflict Fund, InfoDev, Development Marketplace Global Competition, Country Innovation Days, etc.). If you have previously received funding from any of these programs for a different project, it will not prevent you from competing in the Nepal Development Marketplace 2008.

Administrative Information Question 3

How did you find out about the Nepal Development Marketplace 2008? (maximum 50 words)

A family friend informed us about the Nepal Development market Place 2008.

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).

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 May 05, 2005.



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Signature

June 18, 2008

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Date