

SUGGESTION FOR REORGANISATION OF THE EXISTING PROJECT IN OLD WORKING SITES

The Project has been working in Lhundrup County since the beginning of 2001 and since mid of 2002 in Medrugonkar County, both in Lhasa Prefecture. As it has achieved quite some positive results, and our constant presence is not needed anymore, we suggest to reorganize our work, which would enable us to start working on the Northern Plateau (Chang Tang) in Naqchu Prefecture with minimal number of new co-workers and significantly lower costs.

Following is the suggestion per working sites.

LHUNDRUP COUNTY

Gya Tchu Dren (administrative unit, bigger than township)

Jok Po villages

The villagers are, after problems that we had at the beginning, now extremely interested and co-operation, the village leader as well, the greenhouse keeper is excellent, very responsible, the village doctor has been well trained by our Dr. So Nam Tse Ring, everybody loves and trusts him, the villagers earn some income with the tractor, that we donated.

In Jok Po we significantly reduced common diseases, built a two rooms house attached to the school, 3 greenhouses, one for vegetables and two for medicinal plants, that have been planted in and outside the greenhouses. Under the supervision of the greenhouse keeper, there were 2 big and several small private greenhouses built. The young villagers, trained in weaving, sewing and Tibetan style painting have had a good small business training and are now ready to start producing in their native village.

We suggest:

- to hand over to the village doctor our common diseases patients program with all data and medical history books that we have for each family. To give him a small salary of 200.-RMB per month (he earns now 50.-RMB = 6.-\$) per month, to give him Tibetan medicine for treatments and to build a small house, attached either to the school, which would lower the costs of building, as the back wall of the school will be the back wall of the clinic, where he could check the patients, store the medicine and data. We would pay for the material, the villagers would give their work. We have spoken with the village leader and villagers, they were very happy with the suggestion, will do everything needed.
- To donate the house we built attached to the school for the future co-operative where villagers, especially those trained by our project would produce typical Tibetan products (blankets, yak collars, etc.) with their own wool and with

natural colors. The products will be then sold with the help of Tibet Poverty Alleviation's Artisan Center in Lhasa, Peu La, Switzerland and to Slovenia. Again the village leader and villagers assured us, that they can produce good quality, some of the trainees, that have been trained at Dulung vocational training school (Sponsor Misereor) have paid themselves some more trainings.

- to organize in Jok Po one of two (the other one in Pun Do) training centers for future greenhouse keepers from Chang Tang instead of sending them to Agricultural College in Bayi. Reason: excellent greenhouse keeper, that can teach well, more practical work than in Bayi and local population would earn. We would pay a salary to the greenhouse keeper, food for the trainees would be prepared at Jok Po's school, vegetables for meals bought from our greenhouse.

Budget: no extra budget needed, the costs have been either foreseen in the 2004/2005 budget or can be taken from the one planned for trainings in Bayi

Pun Do Township

In this township we have been working since the beginning in the villages Ne Tchun, Ser Tsa, in 2002 we started in Nying Bu and Tsu Lung, end of last year in Tcha Ge and just recently in Ri Mu and Ra Rum. All villages have Kashin-Beck disease patients.

In each of the above villages, except Ri Mu and Ra Rum, where we have just started, we have reduced common diseases for nearly 50%, there are no new Kashin-Beck disease patients, quite some were cured, so there are now only a few Kashin-Beck disease patients per village: Ne Tchun 2, Tcha Ge 24 (we started last year to work there), Ser Tsa 10, Nying Bu none, Tsu Lung none, Tak Na 2, Ri Mu 3, Ra Rum 8. We have built at least one greenhouse for vegetables, in Nying Bu 2, as one is combined for vegetables and medicinal plants and trees and medicinal plants outside the greenhouse, in each village there are several small private greenhouses, that were built under the supervision of their respective greenhouse keepers, to the villages Ne Tchun, Tcha Ge and Ser Tsa we donated a tractor that is well maintained and brings the villagers income, we have donated each family a solar panel.

In the township itself we repaired the building, that the authorities gave us free of charge, it houses now our workshop: smiths, carpenters, sewers, weavers, they work well, produce now everything needed for our TTM training center for village doctors; the training center for medicinal plants and making Tibetan medicine will be moved to TTM Training center, the TTM Training Center for village doctors, the part sponsored by Misereor will be completed in a few days, the opening ceremony will be on September 22, after that we will start repairing the other part, sponsored by Peu La/Canton de Geneve, both parts will share a training center for drying of medicinal plants and making Tibetan medicine, a lum (Tibetan medical bath, that is very efficient in treating various chronic diseases) and 2 greenhouses, one for vegetables and one for medicinal plants, both will be built, maintained and vegetables/medicinal plants planted by the students themselves and under the supervision of our greenhouse keepers. The Training center will have 3 teachers/doctors of TTM, supported by Dr. Ton Drup Lo Se, the TTM doctor from

Pun Do that we work with, and of course our doctors will supervise and teach themselves.

We suggest:

- that our Dr. So Nam Tse Ring and his Kashin-Beck disease program stays as it is. as his patients have to be thoroughly checked each 3 months and get their medicine on time, now he is visiting them once a month, but next year he could do it once in 1,5 month or even once in 2 months, which would allow him to help more the Training Center
- that the TTM Training Center takes over all common disease patients. Reason: the villages are not so far from the township, so from the Training Center, the tractors (one for the villages Ne Tchun, Tcha Ge, Ser Tsa and one for the village Tak Na) we donated can be used for transport, 2 villages together can get one afternoon for check-ups at the Training center, so students can practice pulse reading, question/answers, moxabustion, massage, treatments in lum etc. from the very beginning and under the guidance of experienced doctors. They would treat only villagers from our working sites, we will give them all medical histories, so they will learn how to properly keep data as well, and the Tibetan medicine that we now carry with us will be then in the center.
- To organize in Pun Do the 2nd training center for new greenhouse keepers from our new working sites (Ri Mu. Ra Rum, Chang Tang) and for the students of the TTM Training center, as two greenhouses, that will be part of the training center will not be enough for all students (30 from Lhundrup and Medrugonkar Counties + 30 from Chang Tang) to get a proper training and work habits. The trainers will of course be greenhouse keepers of existing greenhouses.
- As the vegetable market, that we built in Pun Do is doing well and as the restaurant in Pun Do that will provide meals for students will have to buy all vegetables from our greenhouses only, to encourage villagers to build more communal greenhouses and cover the salaries of greenhouse keepers
- To adopt a bit the big room in the workshop, that houses now the training center for medicinal plants and medicine into a training center for various purposes, especially for better quality of weaving, design and using natural colors. As much of the knowledge got lost, the quality of weaving got lower and the villagers use only artificial colors. We were able to identify several older villagers who still remember how to make natural colors, they want to try first at their homes, then they would be willing to teach younger villagers.
- To concentrate, with the help of Tibet Poverty Alleviation's Artisans Center, more on income generating (workshop and production at home) as it has already started, it is necessary in order to prevent the migrations to Lhasa and it is possible, because it doesn't require more field trips.
- To concentrate more on income generating with medicinal plants. It has started this year, we got for our villagers contracts with TTM Pharmaceutical factories, it is a start, actually we were testing the ground or the villagers' seriousness and responsibility, and now we are positive that our villagers could earn even more. The TTM Training Center can take part of the job as it will organize medicinal plants collecting for students.

Remark: although we have just started working in villages Ri Mu and Ra Rum, we can use the same new system for them too as they have very good village leaders, all villagers are really interested and willing to do whatever we suggest and they are not far from the township. so the Training Center can take over common disease patients, greenhouse keepers, especially our greenhouse 'inspector' can take over the training, their weavers, carpenters and others can go for trainings to township, teaching about medicinal plants and their collecting can be also partly done by the Training Center

Budget: no extra budget needed, it has been either foreseen or it can be taken from the Bayi/VBNK expenses

Na Nang Township

As the villagers, village leaders as well as previous township leaders were only begging and were not interested in any work, although we invested a lot of our energy, we decided to stop working in Kar Lep. After that they were of course asking us to come back, but we do not trust them. So in Karlep is now only our Dr. So Nam Tse Ring working with his Kashin-Beck disease patients, and as many have been cured, he has only 11 left. We still work in the village Tak Na, they are very interested to work with us, the greenhouse keeper is really good, she is also the tractor operator (the tractor that we donated), gets for herself/family and the village good income with it, the village leader is good and there are some good weavers that would like to get side jobs. They have done a good job in collecting medicinal plants this year. Their medicinal plants were of good quality and properly dried.

As Tak Na is only about ½ hour of drive from Pun Do Township, TTM Training Center can take over common disease patients (transport with the donated tractor), most of Kashin-Beck disease patients there have been cured, there are only 2 left, so only Dr. So Nam Tse Ring will have to visit them on a regular basis, that can be reduced from once a month to once in 1,5 month or once in 2 months. For trainings they can join our workshop in Pun Do Township.

MEDRUGONKAR COUNTY

Nyima Tchan Ra Township

Tchi Ma Kha/U Ru Rong system of 5 villages

We started working here in mid off 2002. Medrugonkar has same as Lhundrup very good County and Township leaders, that help and support us. But the village leaders in Tchi Ma Kha are only now starting to get interested in our work, when they can see. that we have had some success (reduced for nearly 50% common disease patients, success with Kashin-Beck disease patients – Tchi Ma Kha 37, U Ru Ron 24, no new cases), but we had to fire a whole row of greenhouse keepers till we got good ones, that do their work properly. Due to difficult situation there, the income generating with medicinal plants and artisans will start next year. So our presence there is still needed more often then in our working sites in Lhundrup County.

Nevertheless we suggest:

- to reduce our field trips to one in two months
- to organize our field trips in a way that would permit one member of Tibet Poverty Alleviation's Artisan Center to come with us and encourage the villagers
- to repair a bit the compound of the village committee, that has been given to us free of charge a few days ago. The government is building a new one, decided to sell the old one, but we requested the township leaders to give it to us and they agreed. In the compound there is the greenhouse that we have built, there is enough space for planting medicinal plants, we are now working on the water system. The house will be used for workshop (weaving, Tibetan boots making, thanka painting, basket weaving and trainings, later as a clinic, when the candidate from Tchi Ma Kha will finish her training at our training center. In the mean time we would continue checking and treating all common disease patients and of course Kashin-Beck disease patients.
- to give side jobs to two teachers from Tchi Ma Kha and U Ru Rong primary schools and pay them to do some supervision work for us and to organize the villagers to start producing for sell at least blankets and some very interesting baskets for tsampa, that are typical for their villages.
- Dr. So Nam Tse Ring could start working in 2-3 other villages with Kashin-Beck disease patients as he was requested several times by Medugonkar county authorities, the last time on the big official meeting, that followed his Kashin-Beck disease program external evaluation, and with leaders from TAR Red Cross, Lhasa City, TAR Foreign Affairs etc. present.

Budget: no extra budget needed, it has been foreseen or can be taken from Bayi/VBNK position

SUMMARY:

All project members' presence in our working sites in Lhundrup County will be with such a reorganization needed only 4 to maximum 5 times a year. Dr. So Nam Tse Ring will be there regularly for his Kashin-Beck disease patients as well as to help with teaching at the TTM Training Center. Please note, that Dr. So Nam Tse Ring will not join our project's extension to the Northern Plateau, as there are no Kashin-Beck disease patients or if, than only to replace someone. As doctors Kel Sang Nor Bu and Ton Drup will be also needed at the Training Center their presence can be organized between two field trips to Chang Tang.

We can organize our field trips to Medrugonkar, where we will be more often needed, between two field trips to Chang Tang and delegate some tasks to the two primary school teachers, that have already expressed their willingness to work with us. And again Dr. So Nam Tse Ring will go on regular field trips and will be able to start with his programm in 2 more villages, that would be very important for his research and will benefit the patients.

With help of Tibet Poverty Alleviation's Artisan Center, that can take over some trainings and quality control, our presence can be also minimized.