

## Minutes of Meeting

### *“Consultative Discussion on Extension of Lifeline Services: Interactive Voice Response System based Information Services Delivery to Farmers in Nepal”*

**Venue:** Hotel Summit, Lalitpur, Nepal

**Date:** March 1, 2007

The consultative meeting was jointly organized by Ministry of Local Development (MLD) and One World South Asia (OWSA) with the support of Rural Urban Partnership Programme (RUPP) and FIT Nepal. The meeting was chaired by the Joint Secretary Mr. Som Lal Subedi of the MLD. The representatives from MLD, Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), National Agricultural Research Council (NARC), Agriculture Information and Communication Center, Agro Enterprise Center (AEC)/FNCCI, Nepal Telecom Authority (NTA), Kathmandu Metropolitan City, One World South Asia, FIT Nepal, Executive Officers from Dhulikhel, Banepa, Lekhnath, Ratnanagar and Mdhyaपुर Thimi, and RUPP participated in the meeting and held an interaction on the Lifeline Systems.

Mr. Ramesh Adhikari, National Programme Manager of RUPP briefed about the Programme and Mr. Narayan Bahadur Thapa, National Programme Director of RUPP welcomed all the participants, which followed the presentation on Lifeline Services of Mr. Naimur Rahman, Director of OWSA. He briefed about the OWSA and presented in detail about the Lifeline Services. He also demonstrated how the Lifeline System works using his Mobile Phone and



**A glimpse of consultative meeting on extension of Lifeline Services**

Internet. A vigorous discussion was held and several queries on technological as well as cost factors were raised. Ms. Geeta Jee from OWSA explained all the queries satisfactorily. All the participants realized that the technology is feasible and the Lifeline

Services need to be implemented in the country for the betterment and economic enhancement of Farmers.

During the meeting, all the participants unanimously agreed as follows:

1. Understanding between all the participants is built for the implementation of Lifeline Services
2. The technology on Lifeline Services is feasible in Nepal
3. It was also realized that the 11,00 Agricultural Service Centers could not meet the demand of existing 4,000 Village Development Committees, so the extension of agricultural services through phone based Lifeline Services could be a key tool in filling the gap
4. It was realized by all the participants that the role Lifeline Services could play in the economic enhancement of the farmers
5. It was decided to form a committee in the leadership of MLD having members from MoA, NARC, AEC/FNCCI, RUPP, FIT Nepal and NTA to pilot the Lifeline Services in Nepal
6. The committee will identify the pilot areas for project implementation before April
7. NTA will support in the connectivity related issues
8. The Lifeline Service will be owned by the Local Bodies in the support of private sectors and civil societies
9. OWSA will support technically and financially for the implementation of the Lifeline Services
10. OWSA will visit Nepal on 3<sup>rd</sup> week of April and held a meeting to finalize the project.