

# Lamjura Water Supply Project

9. May 2005



HCDO-Project Committee Serial Number 002  
Kathmandu November 2004

## PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS

### Project Site

Solu-Khumbu District, Sagar-Bakanje V.D.C., Ward no 3, Lamjura

### Preface

The first application from Lamjura Water Supply Committee came for HCDO around 29. November 2003.

Himalayan Project formulated project Proposal in November 2004.

The 9. January 2005 the villagers formulated some kind of duplicate of a project proposal, which were send for Himalayan Project on 22. March 2005, but no essential new informations were included.

The 8. May 2005 the original Project Proposal were returned back for HP, filled in with the economic key figures, which is the result of half year of negotiation in the village.

### Discussion

There are several keynotes, which are mentioned in the Project Proposal of 24/11-04, which hasn't been fulfilled in the returned Project Proposal of 08/05-05.

- 1) The **freeze blowing** problematic. It was recommended that *District Water Supply Office*, Solu-Khumbu, Salleri is consulted for logistic support. This hasn't been carried out, and no other actions to obtain expert information seem to have been carried out. It is very risky to spend a substantial amount of money on a water supply in high altitude. If freeze blowing occurs the whole investment can be completely lost during just one winter. There need to be a reliable expert opinion on this issue.
- 2) It is mentioned that the local lodge owners on Lamjura are **saving** a lot of **money** and **time** on having direct running water instead of carrying water up from the stream below. Therefore the villagers should themselves invest in the project an amount, which is proportional to their saving and personal gain.
- 3) The **economic responsibility** in view of the high rate of risk from freeze blowing shall at least be taken in a much higher extend by the villagers. A personal investment of 3.000 Rs is not including any investment on risk. And furthermore if the expert (for instance District Water Supply Office) will invest in the project, it will be a further recommendation on its viability.
- 4) The villagers are even asking for donation for labor on digging down the water pipe. Less than half of labor expenses are offered as **volunteer labor**.
- 5) On 3. December 2003 a **microloan** were given for Sonam Sherpa for establishing a personal water supply. This is already working in own household. With the new project, this project of Sonam's will be unnecessary and his water pipe will be out of use. But still the investors are waiting for the first installment of the loan, which is now ½ year delayed, and the full fulfillment shall be after further ½ year. It will not seem fair that HP should do further investments in the project before the prior investments is fulfilled.
- 6) In a message, in the mail following the Project Proposal, it is mentioned that the existing 10 years old pipeline can't be sold. Of course it can be sold – everything has a price

## **Recommendation**

The recommendations from the Project Proposal shall still be in value as mentioned here as a copy from Project Proposal:

*“District Drinking Water Office in Salleri should be consulted for **logistic advice** and possible **financial support**.*

*Per 28. November 2004 this Project Proposal will be send for Lamjura Water Supply Committee for further discussion. Most important is to find the income for the project. The more income can be found locally by the Committee the more possible it will be for HCDO and Himalayan Project to find the rest of sources. It shall be emphasized that the **support from the beneficiaries shall be substantial**.*

*After decision by the villagers the **Project Proposal shall be sent back** for Himalayan Community Development Organization for further discussion or final decision.*

*After HCDO decision the final Project Application will again be sent for Lamjura for approval and signature.”*

It must be emphasized that Himalayan Project doesn't support projects, which doesn't have a local support, which is in proportion to the purpose and personal benefit. And in this case until now, there has been far too less local support. The water supply isn't needy for life and future, as the water supply can continue as it has been working until now. The project is rather concerned about comfort ability, and in this respect it has to be seen.

It is mentioned in attached mail, that working with District Drinking Water Supply Office is a lengthy process, and therefore this step hasn't been taken. It is difficult to understand, as far as the very project until now has taken 1½ year and still no steps of impact has been taken on any issue. It looks like the project has an extensive time limit. So spending some time on catching informations on the physical conditions at high altitude is a must, however long time it will take.

Unfortunately it looks like the beneficiaries on Lamjura expect to have a water supply almost for free and without investing in their own risk. Under those conditions Himalayan Project can't support the project.

Himalayan Project still find the Lamjura Water Supply Project a worthy project, which we want to support, but we need to see a completely different involvement from Nepalese side.

On behalf of Himalayan Project Board Committee  
At Board meeting on 9. May 2005.

Kurt Lomborg  
Chairman of Himalayan Project