

NAMASTE – February 8 2018

- 1- Where to find water
- 2- Reconstruction
- 3- Adapting to change
- 4- In the kitchen
- 5- Lossar Tamang festival

Here are some news from our team presently in Nepal. This year, Jean Gosselin and Michèle Legault are there to monitor our projects in the wards of Khahare Pangu and Sikhar Ambote.

1- Where to find water

We began by visiting ICIMOD, an international NGO specializing in problems faced by countries located near the Himalayan mountains. We are particularly interested in work done near the ward of Khahare pangu, on rain harvesting ponds. We also visited the village of Dapcha where systems to pump water to higher altitudes are installed. These are particularly useful when gravity-fed systems can't be built.

We also learned that sharing water between two villages or two groups of people is doable, but not frequent. When there is a shortage of water, it is mission impossible to get permission to use water sources located near one's neighbours. Even agreements reached a few years ago are being challenged. We will deal with this "hot" subject in greater detail in our next Newsletter.

2- Reconstruction

Two and a half years after the earthquakes, everywhere you look you see houses being constructed. All this to say that people are still living in temporary shelters. The government is financing reconstruction in three phases: first, they provide money for the foundations. Then, following verification, a second tranche of funding is provided for the house itself, built according to anti-seismic building codes. The government will finally provide the third tranche of funding for the roof. The total sum, about 5,000\$, comes from international funds and is managed by a department that only deals with the consequences of the earthquakes.

3- Adapting to change

CQN works with local governments, which were changed when the new constitution came into effect and elections were held. This year we met three VDC presidents, each with his own personal style. In principle, these people represent the whole population, but partisanship is very visible. Those who

voted in a particular person come first ...

In 2018, we will continue to work on the following projects: construction of toilets and potable water systems, reconstruction of the community centre, helping schools, giving training sessions ... We will however try a more scientific approach to building water projects. Changing population, climate change, construction of new roads, these are all factors that contribute to the scarcity of water. We need to use a global approach and transmit this knowledge to the local population. They can see that water is scarce but don't understand the reasons behind it.

4- In the kitchen

Janak Kumary, our host, cooks two big meals a day. She uses 20 hot peppers per day for four people! These little peppers go into a sauce that accompanies the meals, as well as in vegetable dishes. Several other spices are used, such as cumin, garlic and ginger. I must certainly adapt – it's pretty spicy, thank you!!!

5- Lossar Tamang festival

This year the Lossar Tamang festival was celebrated on January 27th and 28th. We were lucky - being in Nepal, we were able to participate. One day was dedicated to the puja (with prayers) and the second day to dancing and singing, without forgetting the numerous speeches. Many young women wore traditional costumes and jewellery. This custom, neglected over the last years, has now become trendy with the younger generation. It is again "in" to wear Tibetan style Tamang clothing during this festival.