

waterpoints

Fog water collection in Nepal

Water is essential to life. Recently a new technology has been developed by Dr. Robert Schemenauer and a Chilean group led by Pilar Cereceda, to collect water from fog or ground level cloud. Water is collected when wind blows fog through the fibres of a plastic mesh. Water droplets collect on the fibres and drip into a trough, which drains into a storage container. There are two basic requirements for a fog collection scheme:

- Fog with a minimum of wind
- A community in need of water for either drinking or irrigation

The largest fog project collecting water for domestic use has been running in the village of Chungungo, Chile since 1992. Based on the project's success there is now interest in applying the technology in other developing countries. One such country is Nepal. Despite the fact that Nepal is rich in natural fresh water resources, access to clean and safe drinking water is still a problem. Nepal is a hilly and mountainous country where communities are settled on ridges making accessibility to water sources a problem. Habitants of communities in Nepal often have to walk many hours to fetch water.

Nepal is able to draw on fog water collection as the ridge settlements are able to meet the above conditions. Fog collection in Nepal will introduce an innovative alternative for water gathering in the Himalayan region (especially in

high hill settlements), while contributing to the development of communities; by improving their water supply and alleviating the burden of labour that largely falls on women and children.

The Nepali non-Governmental Organization (NGO), Nepal Water for Health (NEWAH) is responsible for the Nepal Water from Fog Project (NWFP). NEWAH works on water supply and sanitation in Nepal and has a mandate to develop new alternatives for rural water supply. NEWAH has to date assisted almost 500,000 people in Nepal to improve their lives through access to clean water, sanitation and health education. The goal of the project is to improve access to potable water for remote villages in Nepal using fog water collection technology.

Keith Mac Quarrie, a volunteer from the Canadian Centre for International Studies and Co-operation (CECI), and Anil Pokhrel, a NEWAH engineer, are directly responsible for the fog water project at NEWAH. CECI and the Nepal Water from Fog committee in Canada provide financial support and encouragement for the project. There are three current research sites in operation and a database of eight research sites in Nepal. One full-scale water-harvesting scheme has been built, but has been discontinued due to land disputes. There are plans for a full-scale water supply and sanitation scheme for 75 people in Dhankuta, Eastern Nepal before October 2000.

Keith Mac Quarrie, the Canadian Centre for International Studies and Co-operation (CECI)

MPA: A Method for Participatory Assessments

The Method for Participatory Assessments, or MPA was developed by a team from the Water and Sanitation Program to assess the sustainability of water and sanitation projects at the community, institutional and policy levels. It has now been successfully used to assess the sustainability of 88 projects in 15 countries. It has also been adapted to assess the socio-economic and environmental impact of a single watershed project in India.

The MPA generates qualitative information on a particular set of issues (for example, sustainability) and converts this information into numbers using a rigorously-developed ordinal scoring system; thus enhancing the analysis of

The team celebrate their success in Nepal



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vast amounts of qualitative information, using spreadsheets and statistical tools. It consists of a specially-developed analytical framework; a set of commonly-used participatory tools; an ordinal scoring system with descriptive ordinal categories and ordinal rating scales from 0 to 100; a template for easy data entry into an EXCEL spreadsheet; community folders to note qualitative issues which explain the scores given, and basic ordinal statistical analysis. These individual elements are not new, but their combination into a single methodology is the real strength of the MPA.

Advantages of the MPA over other assessment systems include:

- A more holistic approach to sustainability (linking it to gender, poverty, participation and demand-responsiveness at community, institutional and policy levels)
- Supporting documentation of

- qualitative information
- Multiple-use information (for communities, NGOs and project management)
- Descriptive ordinal scoring tables
- Flexibility and adaptability to suit different contexts

Potential applications of the MPA include: decision support (project design, policy performance reviews and community decision-making), and continuous and participatory community-level M&E of project performance (including use with benchmarking, and project GIS and MIS) – producing comparable baseline to endline assessment.

For more information on water and sanitation project applications in Asia, please contact Nila Mukherjee at: nmukherjee@worldbank.org or Param Iyer at: piyer@worldbank.org. For applications to watershed or poverty alleviation projects in India, please contact Christine van Wijk at: wijk@tref.nl or Dr. A. J. James at: ajjames@ndf.vsnl.net.in.

Dr. A. J. James

Environmental & Natural Resource Economist

Obituary David Collett, 1934-2000

David Collett, who died on 26 April 2000, was the founder and first Director of WaterAid, a charity dedicated to the provision of safe water and hygiene to the world's poorest people. It was the fledgling charity's luck that a man who, until shortly before his arrival, had been chief executive of the then much larger and well known Voluntary Service Overseas, and wanted the challenge of something new and untested.

For the first couple of years before it began to grow, David, almost single-handedly, was WaterAid. His wealth of international experience and contacts, and unshakeable belief in the potential of poor communities to take charge of their own progress, charted and drove WaterAid's rapid early advancement. His natural but unassuming authority and ability to communicate were equally vital in convincing the British water industry that WaterAid was to be taken seriously and deserved respect and continuing support. In so doing he helped broaden the industry's own horizons and skillfully ensured that privatization did not interrupt this commitment.

When David arrived at WaterAid in 1981 as its first employee, its first year's income was £25,000. When he retired in 1994 the income had grown to £5.8 million with substantial country programmes in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.

Always a good listener, David's liking for innovation was instrumental in recognizing that not just safe water, but also effective sanitation and hygiene promotion, formed in combination a virtuous trio which has greatly increased the impact of WaterAid's work and its consequent global reputation for good development practice.

After his retirement David continued to be much in demand for his wisdom and advice all over the world. Despite cancer and a series of major operations two years ago, he fought his way back and continued to help the voluntary sector until the very end. He will be greatly missed as a man of stature, courage and vision.

SOLAR - IRRIGATION - EDUCATION

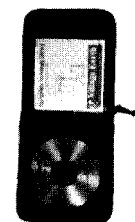
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