

REPORT FOR HELVETAS AND SCHULVEREIN LELUNG: SOLARENERGY FOR COOKING HELPS TO SAVE PRECIOUS FORESTS.

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1999 the first **Scheffler Solar Community Kitchen (SSCK)** for Nepal got installed after a 10-week training in Itahari (Terai). It was constructed for a boarding school. We trained ca. 10 local people



how to produce and how to maintain the solar installation. Alex Zahnd (azahnd@wlink.com.np), a Swiss who lived four years in Jumla (remote area in the west of Nepal) found out about our work and contacted us (www.globosol.ch). He wanted to install such kitchens in Jumla, as the distances from forests to the villages are increasing year by year!

Alex wrote a proposal (you can order it from him), which shows that we should not wait any longer with this plan. Thanks to the sponsorship of the NGO¹ Helvetas (www.helvetas.ch), I was able to give an other training in Nepal /Kathmandu.

Now two workshops are able to produce SSCK's. Different people have already ordered further installations (→*income generation*): Customers save money by reducing the harmful consumption of e.g. sacred forests (→*caring for environment*).

The Training on Sustainable Development:

Mid April 2001 I arrived in Kathmandu after 8 years of separation from this royal valley.



Many things have changed, similar to other cities in Asia. The pollution in the city made me decide, not to buy a bicycle (usually my first step). I stayed in a hotel, which I know since 1993: The same solar hot water system (locally produced) on the roof is still working nicely - fantastic.



- Theory (ca. 10 %)
- Learning by doing



My first step was, to find entrepreneurs who want to "make money" by producing something meaningful. After visiting several private workshops, I decided to go to the famous Balaju Technical Training Centre (B TTC), which was supported 40 years by Helvetas and SDC². As the management of B TTC was interested in the Scheffler technology **and its marketing**, a contract was formulated (contractB TTC.doc) and signed by both parties.

¹ Non Governmental Organisation

² Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation



April 25. was the first day of the training. 14 students agreed, to pay a fee of NRs. 1200.- (ca. sFr. 30.-) for the 10-week seminar. Most of the students were highly motivated and so we were able to work in an efficient way. Strikes organized by the Maoists and killings of around 10 members belonging to the royal family



stopped our work for more than 15 days. Together with the students, different forms of violence got analysed and we tried to discuss about the causes of these clashes. It became clear, that most of the violence in Nepal arises due to poverty, injustice, discrimination etc. Many students emphasized, that the problems are not all "homemade".

Following aims were formulated for the training:

- Students shall become as independent as possible in production, installation, use and maintenance of SSSC's.
- Marketing concepts for Solar Installations shall be developed.
- As the Scheffler technology is not known yet in Nepal, the first two Scheffler reflectors shall be installed near the workshop(s). The "demonstration kitchen" shall be used daily and show (future) customers its advantages and limitations.
- Sustainable Development shall be lived during the seminar in a interdisciplinary, practical way.
- Injustice of the global economical system shall be analysed. Alternatives shall be developed and experienced.



During the training two of the students cooked daily with an ULOG-Solar Oven. We enjoyed from the beginning on sun-food prepared by different students.

A cheaper Solar Hot Water System -as an alternative to the Systems used in many private houses and most of the hotels- was produced for people who have little money.

As we had to buy different materials from the market, waste management was integrated into the training: e.g. plastic bags were prohibited as carrying unit. It was interesting for all of us, to experience how strong (unconscious) habits are.

Every day we purified water with the Sodis method (see: www.sodis.ch). During a power cut, we produced our own charcoal, which is highly effective as a medicine against diarrhoea, infections of the skin etc.

Two persons from Jumla joined the training. So, if we can find sponsors for the Jumla-project, proper use and maintenance of the installation will be possible.

AIDS and population growth are **alarming** (according to UNAIDS) challenges for Nepal. Reproductive Health is a Human Right since 1968! Different “machines”, which can help to improve prevention and give BTC an additional income (see: **bttcmarketingBookstand.doc**) got produced, tested and installed. BTC signed point 1 and 2 of a declaration, which shall give access to means and information for all people visiting BTC (see: **declarationPrevention2001.doc**).



At the end of the training, two SSK's were partly installed in BTC. The functions of the Scheffler reflectors were demonstrated to different potential customers. Prof. Jagan Nath Shrestha (Director of Energy Studies) from Tribuvan University became the first SSK- customer of BTC. He will get the two first Scheffler reflectors from BTC- production for one of

the three canteens of the Engineering Campus in Pulchok (Patan). This place is very good, as the campus receives a “Zero Energy House” and other renewable installations soon.

The last day of the training a “picnic” got organized. We visited an organic farm near Bhaktapur (Appropriate Agricultural Alternatives aaa@wlink.com.np). From the AAA-staff we learned, that organic farming is a method, which respects the conditions of Sustainable Development. Too many fields are contaminated with poison from fertilizers and pesticides- not only in Nepal!

Actions after the Training:

The Swiss NGO **Schulverein Lelung** ordered 2 Scheffler reflectors for a small village in the west of Tibet. The BTC staff was able to produce three 9m²-units within two months with correct quality standards. During this time one of the non-BTC-student (Sanjaya) produced the jigs and his first 9m² reflector in his own workshop. How



wonderful! From July until September I mainly supervised the Tibet-work of the “ex-students” and developed a Solar Dryer together with young BTC-trainees (see: **bttcmarketingSolardryer.doc**).

It was planned, to install two Scheffler reflectors in Lelung and one reflector in Xigaze (Marketing for Tibet). Unfortunately due to visa problems, we had to postpone the installations in Tibet. We will try to realize our aims next summer.



Bivushan, Baikuntha, Iswor Lal are preparing the Tibet work.

Further Thoughts:

- Helvetas- sponsorship accelerated this (social, ecological) work. Thank you for your confidence.
- The order of Schulverein Lelung helped to consolidate the know-how of BTTT-staff. Thank you.
- The support of the program director of Helvetas Nepal enhanced the access of preventive actions in favour to reduce AIDS and unwanted pregnancies. Thank you.
- The management of BTTT was very open to integrate unpopular elements into the infrastructure of the institute. Thank you. Lets hope, that others will be **inspired by it as soon as possible!**

Next Steps:

We need sponsors for the Jumla installation. The remote areas cannot organize all the money (ca. 26'000 sFr.) for 4 Scheffler Reflectors. If you know anyone who wants to support this project, please contact directly azahnd@wlink.com.np (Alex Zahnd) or alecgagneux@hotmail.com.

Thank you for studying this report. If you have questions or remarks – please contact me.

Thank you for caring.

Alec Gagneux.

Attachments:

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| • Contract BTTT.doc | Contract which was developed before the training |
| • SSCKOrderTibet2001.doc | Ordering form for Scheffler Reflectors in Tibet |
| • btttmarketingSSCK.doc | Marketing for Scheffler Solar Community Kitchens (SSCK) |
| • btttmarketingSolardryer.doc | Marketing for Solardryers |
| • btttmarketingBookstand.doc | Marketing for the Bookstands which enhances dignified access to health-information |
| • declarationPrevention2001.doc | Declaration for all, who want to integrate Reproductive Health into their program: URGENT & IMPORTANT! |
- (•) Validation for Helvetas /for Schulverein Lelung

Links:

- www.transaction.net/press/interviews/lietaer0497.html informs about the fundamental injustice in the monetary system of today.
- www.sodis.ch informs about water purification.
- www.helvetas.ch informs about this Swiss NGO.
- www.globoSol.ch and its links shows, how solar cooking is benefiting people from different countries.
- www.tarshi.org gives information about reproductive health for all people.