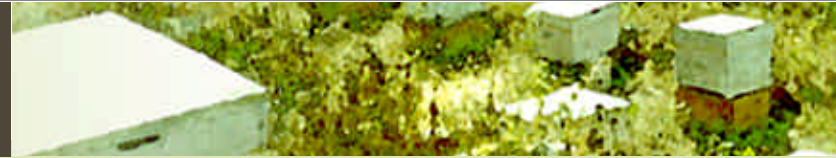


VOLUNTEER CREATES A BUZZ IN NEPAL



Funding: U.S. Agency for International Development

Visit a store in Kathmandu or other towns in Nepal and you'll find brightly labeled jars of honey. It's not just any honey, but the product of healthy bees and hardworking beekeepers in the Chitwan region. The Shree Surya Mukhi Beekeeping and Honey Production Cooperative has grown and prospered with the advice of Ed Levi, a Worldwide Farmer-to-Farmer Program volunteer who helped local farmers realize their beekeeping potential.

Levi, an apiaary expert, introduced farmers to modern hive construction, bee management, honey harvesting, and processing techniques. In addition, he helped farmers develop marketing strategies and systems to transport their honey to market.

Due to Levi's work, Chitwan beekeepers got a rare opportunity to visit their counterparts in neighboring India. They exchanged information, formed alliances, and found suppliers who could provide needed equipment. Farmers pooled resources when they returned home to purchase apiary equipment.

The average Nepali lives on \$210 a year, but for the Shree Surya Mukhi beekeepers training and equipment investments are paying off. Honey production and sales are up and so are household incomes. Cooperative Secretary Jit Bahadur Bhattarai has earned enough income from honey sales he was able to purchase a motorcycle, the first motorized vehicle in his family's history.

"I had the privilege of working with these people before," Levi said. "Coming back to Chitwan was not only invigorating because of the beauty of their culture and the warmth of their spirits, but it was also like coming home to close friends and family. In an area where many work hard to just maintain day-to-day life, the beekeepers of the Shree Surya Mukhi Beekeeping and Honey Production Cooperative have a keen desire to get ahead."

Winrock's volunteers bring new ideas and expertise to countries around the world. With improved knowledge and skills, low-income farmers and entrepreneurs are improving resource management and earning higher incomes, which definitely create a buzz.

