

## Electricity as a way to build an improved ecosystem

**Bakachol** is an isolated 600 household village in Eastern Nepal at the foot of the Himalaya. Remote, with no access to the public road network, lacking electricity or water distribution. Eventually the people of Bakachol realised that development would not come to them unless they took the initiative. In 2008 Bakachol decided to build a local electricity generation and distribution infrastructure. The project called for exploiting domestic resources - manpower and hydraulic potential of local rivers. However, the initiative required external support.



A generator and a turbine were donated by a Norwegian supporter, further investment funds were obtained from a local authority, on top of it, the village took a bank loan. All civil engineering work was carried out by the inhabitants of Bakachol. School children now had the light to do their homework and agricultural production started investing in equipment such as electrical pumps and mills. The inhabitants of Bakachol even took initiative to build a dirt road. The effort to bring electricity to the community was a rough learning curve. In 2015, the big earthquake seriously damaged the power house and electricity production came to a stand-still. Germany's official technical agency for development aid (GIZ) then agreed to cover the cost of repair and the village committed to placing a fee for electricity.



Because nearly all development projects depend on the availability of electricity, Bakachol decided to link the network to the national network grid, thereby enabling Bakachol to sell a surplus of electricity and enhancing the stability of the electricity provision. The bottleneck to all these projects is the deteriorating condition of the present generator. Its technology is outdated allowing only 50% of its nominal capacity, i.e. 70 kW. The aging generator is increasingly a risk factor and frequent repairs are costly and time consuming, putting at risk all the progress the village has been making.

***Luckily new technology does offer a solution – but the cost of a new generator is estimated at 10.000 euros and is well beyond local budget.*** If, however, we can grant the requested financial support, it would allow the community to overcome the bottleneck to improving the ecosystem and livelihoods, especially related to new opportunities to the younger generation.

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