

VDC Profile of Bhedetar Village Development Committee

In order to collect a simple, local baseline study of a small group of poor people that are expected to be in the working area of the one of the NGOs that will be trained, CRT/N has decided to carry out the baseline in Bhedetar Village Development Committee (VDC) of Dhankuta district, where one of the NGO Solve Nepal will be working. A questionnaire for baseline information has been developed by CRT/N and information collection is in progress.

General Information on Dhankuta District and Bhedetar VDC

Dhankuta is a hilly district located in the Eastern Development Region of Nepal and Dhankuta lies between latitude of $26^{\circ} 53' N - 27^{\circ} 19' N$ and longitude of $87^{\circ} 8' E - 87^{\circ} 33' E$. The total area of Dhankuta is 887.7 sq. km respectively and the altitude ranges from 120 m to 2702 m.

The climate of the district ranges from temperate to sub-temperate. Rainfall is mainly concentrated in the few months i.e. June-August monsoon rain. The average rainfall of Dhankuta is 1018 mm/yr and the average temperature is $16.5^{\circ}C$.

The main source of income in Dhankuta district is agriculture and livestock production. Though agriculture contributes more in the economy, it hardly supports the population for their daily needs, as the production is not enough. The main reason behind this low production is the low subsistence level of agriculture practiced by the majority of the farmers' in the hilly areas.

Rice, maize and wheat are the major crops of the district the production of the crops is given in table.

Bhedetar VDC

Bhedetar VDC is one of the tourist area of Dhankuta district. It lies 16 km north from Dharan and is 1420 meters above the sea level. The VDC has a total of 480 households with a total population of 3140 and an average family size of 6.54. Out of the total population, women population is 1555 and male population is 1585. The majority of the community of this VDC is from *Magar* and *Rai* ethnic background. Agriculture is the main occupation of the area accompanied by small businesses as minor occupation.

Though agriculture is mainstay of the VDC, the agriculture produce supports the family mainly for 3-6 months. Only minimum households have agriculture produce sufficient to support the family for nine months or more.

The VDC has a total of 12-community forest and a total area of 958 hectares have been handed over to the community.