

Project Update: December 2012

The activities and their progress are mentioned below:

Forest users groups converted into briquette production groups:

The two forest users groups (Srijanshil Community Forest Users Group of Ward no. 5 and Jagaran Community Forest Users Group of Ward no. 7 of Chiuridanda VDC) were converted into Srijanshil Forest Conservation & Community Briquette Production Group and Jagaran Forest Conservation & Community Briquette Production Group respectively in September 2012. Each group consists of 25 members of poor farmers selected on the basis of household survey. The farmers are more aware in the importance of community forestry. They feel that they can earn more income through the community forestry. It is conducted community forestry management training that empowers the people and develops skill to manage the community forestry. After the training they identify the species found in the forest.

Forest conservation and community briquette production groups converted into cooperative members:

The group's members from the two existing Forest Conservation & Community Briquette Production Groups (Ranku and Ahale) and two new Forest Conservation & Community Briquette Production Groups (Srijanshil and Jagaran) are converted into cooperative members.

A 2-day training of cooperative management system was conducted for cooperative members from 11th -12th September 2012. All 100 members of the four groups participated in the training.

Forest conservation awareness campaign

A forest conservation awareness campaign was conducted from 8th-13th October 2012. Under the programme, six classes were conducted in different wards of the Chiuridanda VDC. Local people as well as school students were participated in the campaign. Local school teachers were used as resource persons for the programme. The aim of the programme was to educate the participants and students on the concept of environment, the need and importance of forest conservation. Local leaders, teachers, student representatives, representatives from project team and the community mobilise of the project highlighted on the importance of environmental as well as forest conservation and sustainable livelihoods and development.

Orientation training for forest conservation to briquette production groups (new groups):

A 3-day orientation training course on forest conservation was conducted with each briquette production groups (new two groups) from 15th-17th November 2012. The orientation was conducted by Kumar Luitel (Team Leader) and Gopal Khadka (Resource Person). From the training, the participant farmers were educated about the importance of bio-briquettes in local areas. They knew that increasing demand for fuel wood in rural areas of Nepal like Chiuridanda VDC poses a serious threat to nature. The loss of biodiversity, soil fertility and degradation of watersheds are some of the visible impacts of the deforestation. In order to tackle these problems, identification and promotion of alternative low cost and sustainable energy sources

is the basic need of the community, especially in rural areas. The bio-briquette is one of such alternative energies. It does not only prevent deforestation but also provides an ample income generation opportunity for the rural communities.

Monitoring and evaluation:

The programme was monitored and evaluated once. A joint monitoring and evaluation mechanism was also applied to the project. A representative of District Forest Office, VDC Chairman, local leaders, representatives from the two existing forest conservation and briquette production groups, and project team members were involved in the joint monitoring.

Local level interaction meeting with stakeholders:

A 2-day interaction meeting with stakeholders on forest conservation and livelihood was held from 2nd -3rd September 2012. About 75 participants attended. Target farmers, political leaders, teachers, local conservationists and members of forest users group were involved in the interaction meeting. Participants understood the detail action plan of the programme of this 2nd RSG during the project period. It was very effective to encourage the local people to be involved for the biodiversity as well as forest conservation efforts.