

The Rufford Small Grants Foundation

Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford Small Grants Foundation.

We ask all grant recipients to complete a Final Report Form that helps us to gauge the success of our grant giving. We understand that projects often do not follow the predicted course but knowledge of your experiences is valuable to us and others who may be undertaking similar work. Please be as honest as you can in answering the questions – remember that negative experiences are just as valuable as positive ones if they help others to learn from them.

Please complete the form in English and be as clear and concise as you can. We will ask for further information if required. If you have any other materials produced by the project, particularly a few relevant photographs, please send these to us separately.

Please submit your final report to jane@rufford.org.

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details

Your name	Kumar Luitel
Project title	Promotion of briquette technology for forest conservation and sustainable livelihood in Khotang district.
RSG reference	11138-2
Reporting period	August 2012- September 2013
Amount of grant	£5950
Your email address	naturecsn@gmail.com
Date of this report	20th October 2013

1. Please indicate the level of achievement of the project's original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.

Objective	Not achieved	Partially achieved	Fully achieved	Comments
Mobilize and make farmers' active participation in forest conservation/biodiversity conservation.			✓	The project was community based project and all activities were carried out by local people's participation. They were involved actively in different activities of the project.
Aware and empower farmers about the cooperative/small scale enterprise as an income generating institution and its operation in the project area.			✓	Forest conservation awareness campaign and empowerment programme was conducted at different wards of the Chiuridanda VDC. They also were trained about cooperative and its operation and development.
Increase production and marketing of briquette in the project area.		✓		Production and marketing of briquette in the project area were increased but it is not in expected level due to the burden of traditional livelihood practices of target farmers.
Develop linkages with stakeholders/development organisations in the project area.			✓	Linkages with stakeholders and development organisations were developed in the project area.

2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

We did not face any major difficulties in implementing the project activities. But on the one hand, time management of local farmers for involving in project activities, coordinating with different stakeholders for effective implementation and the remoteness of site were tough work in the field level. On the other hand, due to the heavy rain, we needed additional 2 months of time for successfully implementation of the project.

3. Briefly describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

- Special training on briquette production and forest conservation/management: A 15-day special training on briquette production as well as forest conservation/management was conducted in each new groups Srijanshil Forest Conservation & Community Briquette Production Group and Jagaran Forest Conservation & Community Briquette Production Group shift wise. 25 farmers participated in each training group. From the training, the

participants came to know the technology of making or producing bio-briquette as well as cooking stoves for briquette technology. At the same time, the farmers were trained about forest conservation and management.

- Cooperative registration and development: A bio-briquette production farmers' cooperative was registered in Chiuridanda VDC and the development of the cooperative will help to enhance their livelihood, which will give alternative source of income.
- Briquette demonstration and selling in the district headquarter for market promotion by cooperative: The outcome will disseminate knowledge, techniques and importance of Briquette among the people of Khotang district for forest conservation.

4. Briefly describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefitted from the project (if relevant).

The project was community based and all activities were carried out by local people's participation. The target groups were also the local community forest user groups. They were involved in different activities of the project such as forest conservation awareness campaign, orientation training for forest conservation to briquette production groups, special training on briquette production and forest conservation/management, workshop with local level and district level stakeholders for forest conservation, cooperative development programme, exposure visits, etc. Local communities benefitted through the series of such activities of the programme.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Conservation as well as sustainable livelihood issues can't be addressed in 1 or 2 years. This project is a piloting project in hill district of Nepal focussed on promotion of briquette technology for forest conservation and sustainable livelihood. Only four groups are focussed as the target groups for the project. I have a plan to continue the project. We believe that raising awareness has resulted in changed behaviour of local people towards forest conservation but this outcome is often vague and difficult to prove. Registration of a cooperative for briquette production and income generation in the involvement of several groups of the Chiuridanda VDC will help the forest conservation as well as sustainable livelihood of the poor farmers. I have planned to promote such kind of technology of forest conservation as well as livelihood improvement of poor farmers to the neighbouring hill districts like Okhaldhunga, Sindhuli, Ramechhap, Bhojpur, and so on. I hope this work will be helpful to make forest conservation action plan for whole hill district of Nepal.

6. How do you plan to share the results of your work with others?

During the implementation of the project, we have always emphasised involvement of different stakeholders in all activities. Sharing and dissemination of project output and learning will be helpful for better coordination of allied agencies and local people to make responsible in forest conservation. The result of this work will be shared and disseminated through radio programme, workshops, seminars, interactions, papers, local newspapers and demonstration. I have always used discussion forums as appropriate places to share my work among the conservation workers.

7. Timescale: Over what period was the RSG used? How does this compare to the anticipated or actual length of the project?

Actually the proposed time scale was not sufficient for the project. Because of unforeseen difficulties such as heavy rain, we were unable to implement the project as our timeline. We have used 2 months more time than we proposed.

8. Budget: Please provide a breakdown of budgeted versus actual expenditure and the reasons for any differences. All figures should be in £ sterling, indicating the local exchange rate used.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Forest users groups converted into briquette production groups (additional two new groups)	300	300	0	
Forest conservation and community briquette production group converted into cooperative/small scale enterprise members	600	600	0	
Cooperative/small scale enterprise registration/development	300	300	0	
Materials support for briquette production to the cooperative/small scale enterprise	600	600	0	
Exposure Visit	500	550	-50	
Forest conservation awareness campaign (new groups)	400	400	0	
Orientation training for forest conservation to briquette production groups (new groups)	400	400	0	
Refresher training for forest conservation to briquette production groups (existing groups)	200	200	0	
Special training on briquette production and forest conservation/management (new groups)	500	500	0	
Monitoring and evaluation	350	350	0	
Local level interaction meetings with stakeholders	200	200	0	
Radio programme on the topic of <i>Briquette technology and forest conservation</i>	200	200	0	
Briquette demonstration and selling in the district headquarters for market promotion by cooperative	400	460	-60	
District level workshop on development of cooperative/small scale enterprise-means of income generation	250	250	0	
Reporting	225	200	25	
Stationary	200	200	0	
Travel expenses	325	375	-50	
TOTAL	5950	6085	-135	(1£ Sterling@139NPR)

9. Looking ahead, what do you feel are the important next steps?

I am looking forward to keep the project's existence for forest conservation through briquette technology of *Eupatorium adenophorum* and *E. chromolaena* (Both are known as Banmara in Nepali) and sustainable livelihood of the poor farmers of hill district like Khotang. It is observed that this type of project for forest conservation is the innovative project in the hill districts of Nepal. So the extension of such concept of forest conservation in the neighbouring districts will play the crucial role for the livelihood improvement of the poor farmers. In next steps, I have been planning to promote such kind of technology of forest conservation as well as livelihood improvement of poor farmers to the neighbouring hill districts like Okhaldhunga, Sindhuli, Ramechhap, Bhojpur, and so on. After the Booster Grant, it is hoped that the project will create a tangible technology for forest conservation and livelihood improvement of poor farmers in all hill districts of Nepal which will be a milestone for nature conservation.

10. Did you use the RSGF logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the RSGF receive any publicity during the course of your work?

Yes, I used the RSGF logo in each and every activity and publications such as training materials, brochure, report, etc. Logo was also kept in banner of each and every activity while conducting in the field.

11. Any other comments?

I would like to thank to all stakeholders of the project and Rufford Small Grants Foundation. I am looking forward to get such kind of support for forest conservation through briquette technology as well as sustainable livelihood programmes in the neighbouring hill districts in Nepal in the future.