

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 | Surendra Wagle |
| Project title | Achhami Cattle Conservation Awareness Project (ACCAP) ,Nepal |
| RSG reference | 13-12-07 |
| Reporting period | 1 year |
| Amount of grant | £4876 |
| Your email address | surendrawagle@hotmail.com |
| Date of this report | 07-02-2008 |

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 |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|--|---|
| Oratory contest | | | 15 competitors from different schools participated. | On this occasion, the President of NGO Federation, a reporter from local FM radio and local weekly newspaper (<i>Ramaroshan Weekly</i>), representatives of different political parties and reporters from different television stations were present. The contest was conducted at Shodasha Higher Secondary School located at Mangalsen, headquarters of Achham district. There were more than 1000 students in the audience including teachers. They committed to rear the cattle buying from pocket VDCs. President of NGO Federation had been committed to submit the issues of conservation of the cattle on the meeting of the NGO Federation. Reporters from the different newspapers and television stations committed to publish the news related to conservation project frequently. |
| Classroom teaching | | | 38 local farmers from different pocket V.D. C's were participated on classroom teaching. | A total 38 local farmers of 20 Achhami cattle rearing committee of 8 pockets VDCs participated. This part of the project was very exciting for all local farmers. They knew that the cattle they have are unique in the world and they were proud of having the cow. They were very happy to have such programme in their locality. |
| Workshop with local people | | | Very successful | They were very happy and excited about the importance of the cattle they have. They asked to DLSO to allocate the budget to improve their cowsheds. They asked DLSO to provide seed and seedlings of different types of grass in time. They requested the ACCAP unit to launch such a programme from time to time. They were fully aware about the importance of the cattle and committed not to sell or exchange the cow with woollen |

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|--|--|--|-----------------|---|
| | | | | blanket with Tibetan people. This awareness programme related to nature conservation was organized successfully. Local farmer's response was very good. |
| Book publication | | | Very successful | 1000 books were published including details of information on cattle as well as outcomes obtained after completing the project and was distributed to local farmers of pocket VDCs, Animal Breeding Division (ABD), Nepal Animal Science, Research Institute (NASRI) and Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC) and concerned District Livestock Service Offices (DLSOs). |
| Workshop with representative of NARC, and NASRI | | | Very successful | The workshop was conducted in national level with the officers of NARC and NASRI. The information obtained from the field research was shared with the national level scholars. After the completion of workshop, very important outcomes were extracted. Outcomes are mentioned in |
| Information centre | | | Very successful | Two information centres were established in Achham district. One is in at library of the Shodasha Higher Secondary School, Mangalsen, Achham and other is at branch office of the DLSO at Sanphebagar. |
| Website preparation | | | Fully achieved | A website was developed entitled of www.achhamcattle.com where a lot of related information has been included. Photo obtained from fieldwork also included in the website. The website is dynamic in nature and has one GB space. |

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

While conducting the workshop with local farmers, people provided facts that were not available to other people previously. The officer of DLSO claimed that local farmers refused to participate in the illegal trading of cattle to Tibet. On the contrary, the local people agreed to the illegal trading of cattle towards Tibet. The empirical cause of illegal trading to Tibet is that they have to donate at least one cow to the Brahmin (Priest) to purify the house made impure by the death of the family member. The number of the priests in the local area is very less. Due to this phenomenon a large number of cattle will be gathered in priest's cowshed. The priest cannot rear all the cattle obtained through the donation from the local people. The conventional culture is that other people should not buy donated cattle. So, the Brahmin is compelled to sell the cattle to Tibet. Even the old cattle are imported by the Tibetan as

per the local people. After the programme launched, local farmers committed not to sell cattle to Tibetan people and people other than pocket VDCs interested to buy the donated cattle from the priest.

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

Involvement of local farmers from pocket VDC means that they know the cattle is the smallest breed of the world and in the state of the becoming extinct due to the ignorance about the importance of the cattle and are committed to conserve it. Local people excluded in cattle rearing community expressed a strong desire to enter in the cattle rearing community and the representative of the DLSO agreed to include them.

Journalists of different media committed to highlights the importance of the cattle through local FM Radio and local newspapers. School and college level students who participated in the oratory contest knew the cattle were the smallest indigenous cattle breed in the world. Some of the teachers committed to rear the cattle immediately to motivate the other people.

President of NGO Federation committed to request the priest not to sell the cattle to Jumli and Humli who involved in illegal trading to Tibet and also committed to raise the issue of conservation of the cattle in the meeting of NGO Federation. They are going to open Achhami Cattle Conservation Committee collaborating with DLSO Achham.

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

The local communities from cattle rearing villages were involved in workshop and classroom teaching. They explained the causes of illegal trading of the cattle. They realized that they are the important persons to conserve the cattle. Locals started to consult JTA for seed and seedlings to promote the feeding system to increase the number of cattle. Local community committed to conduct the conservation programme themselves with the collaboration of local NGO.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, I am very keen and serious to continue the work for at least a few more years. This project helps to accumulate reliable information related to the actual status of the cattle which helps to make strategies for the conservation of the cattle.

I want to conduct the project involving the students and local people and I want to increase the number of cattle rearing community which could not increase by DLSO due to lack of resources. The same programme should be launched outside pocket VDCs. The numbers of the cattle found in pocket VDCs are 863. Beside the pocket VDCs the cattle are also available in other villages. Furthermore, I want the locals of the northern belt of the district to be aware from where illegal trading of cattle prevails. I would like to follow up the 8 villages where the project covered in the year 2007-2008. The 8 villages covered are Jalpadevi, Baijanath, Ghungurkot, Devasthan, Budhakot, Babla, Khaptad and Mastamandu.

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

I published an article in weekly newspapers *Nawa Vyasvani*, *Ramaroshan Weekly* (local newspaper) and *Bhanushree* (Annual souvenir of the Aadikabi Bhanubhakta Campus Damauli Tanahun). The numbers of copies were 2000. Furthermore, I published 1000 booklets in local language and disseminated to local NGOs, interested people, cattle rearing groups of pocket village and schools of the local area, NARC, NASRI and 75 DLSOs.

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

The project was planned for one year; I had successfully completed our aims and objectives in the given time frame.

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 (£ Sterling) | Actual Amount (£ Sterling) | Difference (£ Sterling) | Comments |
|---|------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Oratory contest | 271.3 | 290.8 | -19.5 | Prize, certificate and paid to evaluator |
| Classroom teaching and workshop with local people | 341.1 | 360.4 | -19.3 | Paid to participants |
| Book publication | 503.9 | 535.9 | -32 | Paid to press for designing and printing for 1000 books |
| Workshop with DLSO, NARC and NASRI | 302.4 | 335.2 | -32.8 | Launch and allowance for presenter |
| Website | 232.6 | 251.2 | -18.6 | Paid for designer and hosting cost |
| Travel costs | 232.6 | 255.8 | -23.2 | Traveling cost of team leader, assistant and participants of workshop |
| Stationery and communication | 232.6 | 250.6 | -18 | |
| Information centre | 542.6 | 552.6 | -10 | Furniture (desk, bench and cupboard) |
| DSA for Team Leader | 976.7 | 976.7 | 0 | Food and accommodation |
| DSA for Assistant | 814 | 814 | 0 | Paid to field assistant |

| | | | | |
|--------------------|--------|--------|------|---|
| Report preparation | 193.8 | 203.5 | -9.7 | Literature printing, photocopy and paid to reviewer |
| Bank charge | | 35 | | Bank commission to transfer £ Sterling pound into NRS |
| Contingency | 232.2 | | | |
| Total | 4875.8 | 4861.7 | 14.1 | |

Cost of the bank charge was not mentioned during budget planning, but it was covered by contingency. The expense over than budgeted amount was also covered by contingency

Planned exchange rate: 1 £ Sterling =129 Actual exchange rate: 124

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

The next steps are to conduct the awareness project including local NGOs on different villages beside pocket villages. I plan to perform the following activities to increase the cattle collaborating with DLSO and NARC.

Proper population estimation

When the number of females is less than 500 and the number of males is less than 20 the species is categorized as an endangered species. The present number of the female cattle is 378. So, it is categorized as rare animal. In this regard, I want to find out the actual number of populations with the help of Animal Breeding Division (ABD) and DLSO Achham.

In situ conservation through group (focusing on few VDCs in the natural habitat) through the following way.

1. Awareness workshop including local farmers.
2. Conservation pocket (Khaptad buffer zone in Achham district)
3. The pocket area lies near to the Khaptad National Park. NARC decided to consult with buffer zone of Khaptad National Park, NGO Federation Achham so I concluded to consult them.
4. Achhami cattle rearing group formation in pocket area.
5. Incentive for conservation. Incentive will be provided to the Achhami cattle rearing groups.
6. To make strategy for Achhami cattle improvement and 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, RSG Logo was used in booklets, oratory contest certificate and workshop with NARC and NASRI. Booklets were in 1000 number were disseminated in the schools, local farmers, NASRI, NARC and concerned DLSOs.

11. Any other comments?

Information obtained from the workshop with local people was shared with national level officers of NARC and NASRI. After the completion of workshop, the following outcomes were extracted.

1. Population declining rapidly due to following empirical facts:

a. Cross breeding with other species of cattle.

b. Out-migration/export.

Illegal trading to Tibet for slaughtering from Brahmin's house.

c. Socio religious

The empirical cause of illegal trading to Tibet is due to conventional culture. Local have to donate at least one cattle to Brahmin (Priest) to purify the house impure by the death of the family member. The number of the priest in the local area is very less. Due to this phenomenon a large number of cattle will be gathered in priest cowshed. Priest can not rear the whole cattle obtained through the donation from the local people. The conventional culture is that other people should not buy that donated cattle. So the Brahmin compels to sell the cattle towards Tibet. Even the old cattle are imported by the Tibetan as per the local people. Urine is used to purify the person impure during menstruation cycle.

d. Economic return

Due to very low output obtained from the cattle, local farmer does not like to rear a large number of cattle.

2. Variation in milk production performance.

3. Positive attributes- resistance to diseases (HS, BQ).

4. Registered as world smallest breed through FAO.

5. Can thrive on diverse environment (5-40°C).

Issues

1. Population status is not properly known (pure breed). According to the report of DLSO Achham, the total number of cattle is only 863
2. Lack of breeding strategies. There are no proper strategies for breeding. Due to this reason the cross breeding with another bullock is prevails.
3. Neglected breed in its own habitat. The cattle are neglected in its own habitat due to low output with compare to other milk breed.

Way Forward

1. Proper population estimation

When the number of females is less than 500 and the number of males is less than 20 in any species, the species is categorized as endangered. The present number of the female cattle is

378. So, it is categorized as rare animal. In this regard, Animal Breeding Division (ABD) convinced to survey the cattle through the help of DLSO Achham.

2. In situ conservation through group (focusing on few VDCs in the natural habitat) from the following way.
 - a. Awareness workshop including local farmers of pocket VDCs.
 - b. To identify the local and national level project partners.
 - c. Conservation pocket (Khaptad buffer zone in Achham district). The pocket area lies near to the Khaptad national Park. NARC decided to consult with buffer zone of Khaptad National Park.
 - d. Achhami cattle rearing group formation in pocket areas.
 - e. Incentive for conservation
Incentive will be provided the cattle rearing group.
 - f. To make strategy for Achhami cattle improvement and conservation
3. Priority will be given to Achham district for Achhami cattle.
4. Exploration of resources (external except NARC, DLS).
5. Stakeholder interaction for further programme formulation (HIEFER, IUCN, LI_BIRD, NARC, DLS, WWF, NAST, Department of Wild Life Conservation – Buffer Zone, Biodiversity Focal Point, NGO Federation Achham).
6. Explore possibility of ex-situ conservation.
7. Support (technical and materials from DLS/NARC/NGOs- coordinated programme).
8. Conservation tied up with improvement - selective breeding, feeding improvement.
9. Evaluation for (positive attributes):
 - Disease resistance
 - Quality parameters (milk, urine, dung, hair, skin)
 - Breed valuation study (social, economic)
10. Breed to be taken as national heritage from the national perspective.

The above-mentioned agenda will be included in the meeting of the NARC and NASRI for the shake of the conservation.