

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. The Final Report must be sent in **word format** and not PDF format or any other format. 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. Please note that the information may be edited for clarity. 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	Bhim Bahadur Koirala
Project title	Improving Ergonomics of Blacksmiths for Conserving Environment and Promoting Sustainable Livelihoods
RSG reference	26.07.08
Reporting period	January 2009 – June 2010
Amount of grant	£4830
Your email address	nelac@mail.org
Date of this report	27 June 2010

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
Introduce and promote energy efficient technologies in blacksmiths' traditional occupation to maximize energy efficiency and conserve environment and biodiversity.			√	At the start, selections of beneficiaries / household survey using PRA/RRA tools were carried out in the project area in order to find out the actual needs assessment and implications of the project. As per the needs assessment survey, we have started to work for blacksmiths who have been residing in Bhalayakhara VDC that had not been focused in the proposal. Nevertheless, we covered the both of clusters named Bhandikharka (Chakratirtha VDC) and Kamidanda (Bhalayakharka VDC) in order to provide the opportunity for such marginalized and disadvantaged blacksmith communities. Improved charcoal making by pit kiln (20 in Dhandakharka and Kamigaun forests). Improved anvil smithy working place (20).
Improve quality life of women and disadvantaged groups of blacksmith families by controlling indoor air pollution and improving, health, sanitation and hygiene and reduce work drudgeries.			√	Constructed 200 Improved Cooking Stoves (ICS) for kitchen management: in ICS, we provided the technical and material support whereas local people contributed their labor support in both of the VDCs. 200 blacksmiths households directly benefited through this programme.
Enhance better livelihood opportunities for 100 household beneficiaries by capacity and skill enhancement and income and employment generation activities such as charcoal making, entrepreneurial skill			√	Created income generation activities for employment and livelihood opportunities (organic seed distribution for 200 families, one day orientation program on NTFP management for knowing basic health services using their nearby plant resources, home garden management of 200 numbers and promoted multipurpose tree species for sustainable livelihoods including soil and water conservation).

development, vegetable farming, kitchen waste and refuse management, rural agro-based enterprises, livestock farming, fruit and fodder farming, NTFP and medicinal plants management and micro credit schemes.				Along with these, we provided the organic seeds of vegetables for the home gardens of blacksmiths. Moreover, we provided the technical support to prepare the compost manure from the degradable wastage products. Organized and conducted community plantation programme (5030 plants on the banks of Regmi Khola Banks, open land of Kansipairo, private land of Badambari, and government managed forest of Dhandakharka and public land of Kamigaun).
To disseminate the effectiveness of our results at grassroots, national and international level.		√		We disseminated our activities in grassroots as well as national level very widely. Local people and organizations have thanked us for successfully accomplishing the conducted project. Local people were also sensitised through the book, poster, leaflet, video clips, etc. In the next step, we will disseminate our activities world wide through online network. Therefore, we will be coordinating with some international organisations in the coming year.

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

At that time when we were starting our activities in the project area, we faced many difficulties due to the political instability made by different political parties named Maoist, UML and Congress. However, we conducted our activities more or less the proposed time because of the fact that we were local people in the project area.

Obviously, we have not seen any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project. At the same time, we have imposed to extend our activities rather than proposed time frame.

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

Major three outputs

1. 100 households of blacksmiths beneficiaries and other stakeholders sensitised and informed energy efficient technologies on charcoal making and introduced energy efficient technologies in their indigenous occupation of making iron equipment.
2. 200 Improved Cooking Stoves (ICS) installed and kitchen management activities enhanced and improved indoor working environment.
3. Capacity building and skills development of women and disadvantaged groups of 100 beneficiaries enhanced and improved service delivery mechanisms.

Other outputs

- Production capacity of blacksmiths on iron equipment increased and developed.
- Capacity and skills of blacksmiths population increased and energy efficiency technology promoted.
- Energy demand mitigating measures promoted and adopted by users of fruit, fodder, NTFP and medicinal plants planted in beneficiaries' household fields.
- Livelihoods opportunities for 100 households developed.
- Agricultural productivity increased through improved farming system.
- Collaborative approach through sharing information and experience developed among all development partners to create synergy in development initiatives.

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

One of the important aspects of the project was to involve the local people in the development consequences. Therefore, local people were involved especially in ICS instillation, home garden and kitchen management, plantation programme, briquette production and others capacity building training programmes. At the start, selections of beneficiaries / household survey using PRA/RRA tools were carried out in the project area in order to find out the actual needs assessment and implications of the project. As per the needs assessment survey, we worked with blacksmiths who have been residing in Bhalayakhara VDC that had not been focused in the proposal. Nevertheless, we covered the both of clusters named Bhandikharka (Chakratirtha VDC) and Kamidanda (Bhalayakharka VDC) in order to provide the opportunity for such marginalised and disadvantaged blacksmith communities.

After selecting the beneficiaries, various training (bio briquette production, charcoal making using pit kiln, Improved Cooking Stoves (ICS)) were organized and conducted in both of the VDCs. The main aim of such training was to build the capacity of the blacksmiths so that they could improve their ergonomics and promote their sustainable livelihoods. Up to now, we were able to get the following achievements:

1. Constructed 200 Improved Cooking Stoves (ICS) for kitchen management: in ICS, we provided the technical and material support whereas local people contributed their labour support in both of the VDCs;
2. Improved charcoal making by pit kiln (20 in Dhandakharka and Kamigaun forests);
3. Improved anvil smithy working place (20);
4. Conducted participatory resource mapping (two VDCs);
5. Conducted awareness raising programme especially on environmental conservation (4 times in both of the VDCs);
6. Organised and conducted community plantation programme (5030 plants on the banks of Regmi Khola Banks, open land of Kansipairo, private land of Badambari, government managed forest of Dhandakharka and public land of Kamigaun);
7. Created income generation activities for employment and livelihood opportunities (organic seed distribution for 200 families, one day orientation programme on NTFP management for knowing basic health services using their nearby plant resources, home garden management of 200 people and promoted multipurpose tree species for sustainable livelihoods including soil and water conservation).

To sum up, blacksmiths benefitted through this programme with the active participation in different activities organized by us for integrating the blacksmiths community in every energy-based technology for reducing climate change impacts as well.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, we plan to continue this work with slight modification. The main aim of the accomplished project was to improve the ergonomics of blacksmith for environment conservation and livelihood improvements. We achieved the targeted goal in very short time.

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

During project period, we have coordinated with different organisations named REDP, MEDEP, and DDC/VDC. We have also prepared the materials for dissemination (e.g. poster, leaflets, brochures, and book). The programme which we conducted was innovative; we proclaimed the village as a model village. Our programme has been focused across the country. We will share the results of projects in the future as well.

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

We have initiated the proposed programme effective from January 2009. As per the designed programme schedule, we should have finished by Feb/March 2010. But we were able to accomplish the total activities within 18 months or by June 2010. The following activities were carried out with respect to estimated or actual months:

Activities with appropriate methodology	Proposed months	Actual months/ Duration
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation with VDC, DDC district line agencies, DLGSP, MEDEP, REDP, Community Forestry Users Groups and sharing of project. • Initiation and orientation programme at district level. 	First month	2 months
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formation of VDC and district level team for monitoring and coordination and follow-up. • Orientation and information dissemination on energy efficiency technology for charcoal making and improvement of blacksmiths' traditional occupation of iron equipment making at community, VDC and district level. • Mobilisation of community organisation on promotion of improvement of energy efficiency charcoal making, AETS/RETs and natural resource management activities such as community forestry, NTFP management, agroforestry, etc. 	Second to third months	3 months
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training on charcoal making through pit kiln method and anvil smithy working place improvement. • Training on AETs like improved cook stove, bio-briquette to communities. • Training on institutional management, social mobilisation and gender mainstreaming. • Training on income generating activities such as vegetable 	Fourth to seventh months	3 months

farming, agro-based enterprise development, NTFP and medicinal plants.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of pit kiln for making charcoal at community level. • Improvement of anvil smithy working place for better production capacity and work efficiency. • Construction of bio-briquette (training), ICS in beneficiaries' households. • Income generating activities. 	Eight to ten months	4 months
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plantation of NTFP, fruit, medicinal and fodder plants. • Community forestry, agroforestry, and watershed management activities. 	Ten to twelve months	3 months
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening follow-up and monitoring mechanism. • Establishment and management of service development mechanisms on AETs and other income generating activities. 	Twelve to thirteen months	2 months
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentation, final evaluation and report submission. 	Fourteen or final month	2 months

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
Household survey, selection of beneficiaries using PRA/RRA tools, etc	£300	£300	0	£ 100/VDC for 3 VDC
Training for bio-briquette production for blacksmiths	£560	£644	£84	£ 2.3/day/person to 40 participants for 1 week
Improvement of charcoal making by pit kiln	£460	£460	0	20 @ £ 23
Improvement of anvil smithy working place	£300	£300	0	20 places @ £15/place
Training for Improved Cooking Stoves (ICS)	£420	£462	£42	£2.2/day/person to 30 participants for 1 week
Partial support for the construction of 200 ICS and kitchen management	£300	£300	0	200 @ £1.5
Income generating activities for creating employment and livelihoods opportunities (capacity building training programme)	£700	£650	£50	Vegetable seed distribution, NTFP cultivation in shifting cultivation plots, organic manure/compost
Awareness raising programme (environmental conservation), participatory resource mapping	£150	£100	£50	Awareness raising programme on environment conservation including PRM.
Community plantation programme	£150	£150	0	5000 plants @ £0.03/plant

Dissemination of results	£1490	£1440	£50	Final report preparation (£50), leaflet preparation (£200), brochures (£300), books (with photographs) (£ 340), short documentary film (£400), posters (£150
Total	£4904	£4830	£74	

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

In the first RSG, we just conducted activities in favour of blacksmith community for the socio-economic upliftment by using energy based technology for conserving environment and promoting sustainable livelihoods. We focused activities in the grassroots level and as a result capacity building of the local people has been significantly increased through this programme. In the next step, we will focus on the programme regarding blacksmiths' children for initiating biodiversity related programme in the future along with strengthening people towards resource centre on biodiversity and environment.

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, we use the RSGF logo in any materials produces in relation to project. School students, blacksmith community and even marginalised blacksmith are familiar with RSG. Therefore, the RSGF received much more publicity during the course of our work.

11. Any other comments?

At the national level, we have got the award from the institutions working in marginalised peoples' rights and their socio-economic upliftment programmes. And we have also declared the programme village as a model village (blacksmith village). Therefore; we would like to thank RSG for giving us an opportunity to work in the remote locations regarding blacksmiths' issues. People from the many countries ask our working model, and we have also given them some suggestions and comments regarding their queries. I f you have any queries and suggestion towards this project, you can just view the project URL http://www.ruffordsmallgrants.org/rsg/projects/bhim_bahadur_koirala and write some feedback.