

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	Kumar Luitel
Project title	Bio-Briquette on Community for Forest Conservation and sustainable livelihood in Chiuridanda VDC in Khotang District.
RSG reference	40.10.09
Reporting period	March 2010 – July 2011
Amount of grant	£5750
Your email address	naturecsn@gmail.com
Date of this report	September 2011

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
Forest users groups converted into briquette production groups.			✓	The two forest users groups were converted into respective Forest Conservation & Community Briquette Production Group. Each group consists of 25 members of poor farmers selected on the basis of household survey (households).
Saving and credit for the production groups and revolving fund establishment			✓	For the saving and credit system of each group, 2-days training were conducted in each groups. A revolving fund of NPR 20,000 for each group is also established at the same time of training period.
Materials support for saving and credit			✓	Different materials were supported as saving and credit materials in each groups. It helps to operate the groups in systematic way.
Regular briquette production groups' meeting		✓		Most of the meeting but not all of each group has been conducting in the fixed date of each month.
Exposure Visit			✓	A group of seven members were involved in the exposure visit for sharing the ideas of briquette production and forest conservation.
Forest conservation awareness campaign			✓	Forest conservation awareness campaign was conducted conducted at 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 person for the programme.
Orientation training for forest conservation to briquette production groups			✓	Orientation training was conducted in each briquette production group for forest conservation. From the training, the participant farmers were came to know the importance of bio-briquette in local areas.

Special training on briquette production and forest Conservation/management			✓	A special training on Briquette production as well as forest conservation/management was conducted in each briquette production groups shift wise. From the training, the participants were come to know the technology of making or producing bio-briquette as well as cooking stoves for briquette technology.
Materials support for briquette production		✓		Briquette making machine, machine (frame) for making cooking stoves and other required materials for making briquette and cooking stoves were supported in each groups. But these are not the sufficient materials for briquette production.
Workshop with local level stakeholders for forest conservation			✓	A 2-day workshop on forest conservation and livelihood was held. Target farmers, political leaders, teachers, local conservationist, members of forest users group, were involved in the workshop.
Brochure publication/distribution			✓	About 2000 brochures were published and distributed among the villagers as well as students about the briquette technology of <i>Eupatorium adenophorum</i> (Banmara) for forest conservation.
District level workshop for forest conservation			✓	2-day workshop on forest conservation and livelihood was held in the district headquarter, Diktel Bazar of Khotang district.

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

A strong political commitment is essential for the successful completion of a project in the context of Nepal. There is no elected local body since 2002 in Nepal. Due to the political condition or political instability of the country, there were many challenges and difficulties to conduct the program. On the other hand, remoteness, illiteracy of the local people of the project area was also the challenges. It was difficult to make active participation of farmers in the project activities due to their poverty. They had to work as daily wages labour for their two time meal.

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

- Formation of Forest Conservation & Community Briquette Production Group for the sustainability of the project is a major outcome of the project.
- Orientation training for forest conservation to briquette production groups: A 3-day orientation training was conducted in each briquette production group for forest conservation. From the training, the participant farmers were came to know the importance of bio-briquette in local areas. They knew that increasing demand for fuel wood in rural areas of Nepal like Chiuridanda VDC poses a serious threat to the 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.
- 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 briquette production groups shift wise. From the training, the participants were come 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.

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

The project was community based project and all activities were carried out by local people's participation. The target groups were also the local community forest users groups. They were involved in different activities of the project such as saving and credit for the production groups and revolving fund establishment, 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, 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 year. This project is a piloting project in hill district of Nepal focussed on forest conservation and sustainable livelihood through bio-briquette production. Only two groups are focussed as the target groups for the project. I have a plan to continue the project. By the registration of briquette production small scale enterprise 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 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?

Sharing of the results and project experience is key for sustainability of the conservation efforts through successors. The results of this project will be shared and disseminated through radio programme, newspapers, relevant journal, website, presentations in appropriate seminar/conference/workshops and brochure.

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, we were unable to implement the project as our timeline. We have used 4 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.	300	300	0	
Saving and credit for the production groups and revolving fund establishment	400	400	0	
Materials support for saving and credit	150	150	0	
Regular briquette production groups' meeting	600	600	0	
Exposure Visit	400	480	-80	Two days over stay of the team in Kathmandu due to strike.
Forest conservation awareness campaign	400	390	10	
Orientation training for forest conservation to briquette production groups	400	370	30	
Special training on Briquette production and Forest Conservation/ management	500	500	0	
Materials support for briquette production	600	650	-50	The price of the different materials increased.
Monitoring and Evaluation	400	350	50	
Workshop with local level stakeholders for forest conservation	250	245	5	
Brochure publication/distribution	250	200	0	
District level workshop for forest conservation	300	300	0	
Reporting	300	250	50	
Stationary	200	200	0	
Travel expenses	300	355	-80	Due to the additional travel of project members.
Total	5750	5815	-65	(1£ Sterling@110NPR)

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* (Banmara) and sustainable livelihood of the poor farmers of hill district like Khotang. In next steps, for the sustainability of the project, bio-briquette production small-scale enterprise will be developed to enhance their livelihood, which gives alternative source of income.

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 Nepal in the future.