

Project Update: August 2010

One of the main activities of the project consists in plantation of new saplings raised at community nursery. With full and active participation from community members, school teachers and students, about 15,000 saplings of Rai (*Rhizophora mucronata*), Sinduka (*Kandelia candel*), and Bandari (*Bruguiera sexangula*) were planted in the first phase at Badakot village of Rajnagar block and the seeds being collected from the nearby mangrove areas. Women moved from the sidelines to become active participants in mangrove conservation initiative. The increased level of women's participation is a real mark of success for this project, in a culture and society where women are often not allowed to participate in community decision-making basically in rural areas. This ongoing process seems to be very encouraging. The local community appreciated the idea and in high spirits of working together with a conservation team.

As part of the strengthening of the community development, training and learning process started, dealing mostly on the community management of mangroves. The first phase of training program started with 46 participants from Village Mangrove Councils (VMC) at Narasinghpur village. The members of the Village Mangrove Councils (VMC) are highly aggravated and showing their much interest to conserve the mangroves.