

Project Update: June 2010

A site of the Badakot village, Rajnagar was selected for the mangroves nursery establishment, which is close to a tidal creek. The square shaped nursery has 16 sunken nursery beds with a shadow of coconut thatches to prevent mortality and desertification by the sun. This mangrove nursery is used as a mangrove demonstration and education site. The community members manage the nursery and they have been provided with the necessary knowledge and skills on the establishment of mangrove nursery at this demonstration site. More than 10,000 seedlings are grown there now with small fencing by fishing nets supported by bamboo poles were arranged for protection. Seeds were collected from nearby mangrove forests through local communities were planted in the nursery.

The project team and volunteers were involved to carry out a socio-economic survey at each project villages. This was studied and data recorded for population, male-female ratio, availability for basic living facilities, education status of adults and children, climate change or natural disaster impacts, and essential needs. The report was sent to other non-governmental organizations and government rural development departments to focus their problems.

In all the targeted communities, people have come forward to form Village Mangrove Council, who provides a lead for the protection and restoration and other development activities on mangroves in their villages on a sustainable basis. The Village Mangrove Council has been formed in four project villages i.e. Badakot, Pentha, Kaitala and Narasinghpur. Each village developed a plan of action for implementation of the programmes. Based on this, the role and responsibilities of the members of the council are defined. The village mangrove council has been represented from diverse sector of the community including teacher, women, CBOs, Youth, PRI members, fishermen community etc. In this connection, orientation meetings were organized on the concept of this project to each group.

The educational materials have been developed and carry out the programmes in the community, equipped with posters, stickers, on conservation of these unique natural resources.