

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	Prashant Pant
Project title	Rural Community Livelihood Incentives for Nature Conservation (RuCLIN)
RSG reference	04.01.08
Reporting period	May 2008 to June 2009
Amount of grant	£4817
Your email address	crpnepal@gmail.com
Date of this report	15 th August 2009

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
Community awareness			Fully achieved	
Skill development training programmes		Partially achieved		Training on utilization of bamboo for manufacturing different products could not be conducted. It was due to the lack of availability of the trainer at the time of the training. Other training programmes substituted this training programme.
Food and nutrition		Partially achieved		A number of vegetable seeds were distributed, and plantation of mango has been done to provide food supplements. Due to the lack of proper irrigation facilities and scanty rainfall, the production of food grains has been severely affected. The objective of this project was to support food and nutrition by way of income generation activities and not direct support to agriculture support.
Alternative energy promotion		Partially achieved		Use of solar energy and bio briquettes could not be promoted due to lack of viability. However, orientation programme on these has been carried out. These have been substituted with installation of improved cooking stoves and bio-gas plants -done in consultation with local communities and as per the local demand.
Community mobilization			Fully achieved	
Institutionalization		Partially achieved		Communities have learnt to work in groups and coordinate with local institutions including the Village development committee and other government offices. One of the groups in particular has not been as active. These members need further training and motivation.
Nature conservation		Partially achieved		Though tree plantation for promoting public forestry was conducted, activities related to private agro forestry could not be carried out due to lack of technical manpower

Promotion of livelihoods		Partially achieved		NTFPs (bamboo) and commercial cultivation of mango and establishment of micro enterprises have been conducted. Training on utilization of NTFP could not be conducted. The revolving fund has been utilized by the communities for procuring seeds, manufacturing wax for candles and raw materials for producing incense sticks. The fund has not been used for cattle rearing and the communities plan to use the fund for this purpose in the near future.
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2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

There were a number of challenges that we faced during the project implementation.

- The small scale of the project and the nature and scope of project mainly focusing on nature conservation was not sufficient to effectively address all the problems pertaining to the communities. With the project participants mostly consisting of indigenous community members and those from backward classes having complex problems and diverse needs, there was a need to start things from a very basic level. It was thus difficult to maintain a high level of motivation amongst the participants. We modified some activities of the project to suit the needs of the local communities and to motivate them for getting the best results from the project.
- With almost all the project participants being farmers and labourers, the remoteness of the area and lack of technical experts/trainers in and around the area, arranging a suitable time for conduction of different activities was a difficult task. In view of this some of the project activities were rescheduled.
- Due to the low status of women in households and their involvement in daily household chores, effectively mobilizing women in different project activities was difficult. In view of this, women were compulsorily involved in groups. They were motivated to actively participate in group activities and trainings. Suitable timings were arranged for them to participate.

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

Improvement in education and awareness/contribution to better livelihoods

All the project participants (household representatives) have been able to develop basic reading and writing skills as a result of the adult literacy education. The awareness workshops, skill development training programmes and different activities conducted have significantly improved the awareness levels of the local communities. The skill development training programmes have enabled some of the households to indulge in alternative income generation activities. Some households have started producing incense sticks and candles. This has led to the increase in household income.

Improved health, hygiene and sanitation

Toilets have been installed in each and every participating household. This has helped in improving the sanitation in and around the project area. Similarly, improved cooking stoves have been

installed. It has had important benefits. Due to less emission from improved cooking stoves, households have lesser indoor air pollution.

Better environmental condition

The improved cooking stoves are energy efficient and consume lesser amount of fuel wood. Installation of 10 bio-gas plants has contributed to household waste management and has been able to reduce dependence on fuel wood from forests. Besides these, tree plantation has been carried out at a number of places. The trees that did not survive have been replaced by planting new ones. The varieties that have been planted are *Shorea robusta* (sal- local name), *Ficus bengalensis* (bar – local name), epil, and *Ficus lacor* (kabro- local name). Similarly, plantation of bamboo as an NTFP and mango has been conducted to aid commercial farming activities. Training and awareness programmes on biodiversity conservation have also been conducted. These awareness and afforestation programmes have promoted nature conservation around the project area as well as in the surrounding areas.

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

Since no project had so far been launched in the Balakhu VDC prior to the Rural Community Livelihood Incentives for Nature Conservation Project, the enthusiasm and expectations amongst the local communities was high. The project got good support from the local communities. The encouraging sign was the involvement of women members of indigenous communities who bear a low status in their societies and who are usually busy with their household chores. The good turnout of women for literacy education, skill development training activities, health and environmental awareness workshops and in tree plantation was indeed commendable. Since it is the mothers who keep the household surroundings clean as well as take care of children, the children inherit a number of traits from their mothers. Though these are not tangible in the short term, awareness amongst the mothers is certainly important in the long term. The local communities have learned to work in groups; we believe it is an important achievement. The local communities rendered their contribution to build a local school, which is an illustration of this. The sanitation in and around the households has significantly improved with the inception of the project. With the construction of toilets, household surroundings are clean. Similarly with the installation of improved cooking stoves, there has been reduction in the indoor pollution and energy consumption has decreased. The status of personal hygiene has also improved. The training programmes have helped some of the households to indulge in income generating activities. This has led to the increase in household income.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, there are plans to continue this project. In order to sustain the project, the groups have been formulated, educated and trained. The groups mobilize savings and the revolving fund for meetings their own ends. Though mobilization of revolving funds has not been effective enough, we plan to lay emphasis for making it successful in our future projects. The communities are interested in carrying out other income generating activities including cattle rising for which they need training and support programmes (training on cattle raising, vaccination, insurance and other support activities). The groups have been collecting compulsory savings for this purpose. Besides this, the groups will be mobilized for activities like tree plantation in and around the area. The trained members will be used as extension workers in future for training, educating and motivating other members of the community. Local facilitator will be used for supervising and monitoring of these activities.

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

The report will be posted on CRP Nepal's website along with relevant photographs. A full report about the project will be submitted to the social welfare council which is the regulatory authority for Non-governmental organizations in Nepal. Discussions will be held with the local communities, officials from the Village Development Committee and with representatives from other NGOs about the achievements of the project. An appreciative enquiry will be carried out for this purpose. The results will also be shared with other donors of CRP Nepal.

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

The RSG was used for a period of 14 months (May 2008 to June 2009). The anticipated length of the project was one year. The project was supposed to end by April 2008. The main reason for the project exceeding the anticipated period was due to some activities of the project that could not be completed on time. It was mainly due to the strikes in the terai region of Nepal. The field team could not go to the project site for a couple of months. As a result, some of the activities had to be rescheduled.

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
1 Community development				
1.1 Orientation workshop and group formation	109	120	-11	
1.2 Skill development training (candle making, incense and soap production, pickle training)	328	200	+128	Training on manufacturing different products from bamboo could not be conducted
1.3 Awareness workshop (health and hygiene, family planning, nutrition, drinking water and sanitation, water resource management, environmental pollution)	292	305	-13	
1.4 Adult literacy education	219	198	+21	
Sub total	948	823	+125	
2. Livelihood				
2.1 NTFP cultivation	219	100	+119	Plantation of bamboo carried out, other NTFPs not cultivated
2.2 Orientation on Revolving Fund mobilization and fund distribution	66	240	-174	The amount of revolving fund given to groups increased to promote micro credit within groups
2.3 Enterprise development (candle mould distribution and seeds of fruits for promoting commercial farming and	292	240	+52	

vegetable seeds for improving nutrition)				
2.4 Capacity development orientation for NTFP, support for enterprise development, commercial farming and micro saving	73	115	-42	
2.5 Micro saving (matching grant given in ration to savings collected in groups)	44	48	-4	
Sub Total	694	743	-49	
3.Sustainable resource management				
3.1 Awareness programme (biodiversity day, environmental day, discussion programme on environmental pollution)	292	200	+92	
3.2 Conservation education programme (environment conservation, biodiversity conservation training environmental education/awareness classes)	292	100	+192	
3.3 Private agro-forestry (orientation also done on leasehold forestry)	219	50	+169	Orientation programme only
3.4 Public forest plantation	109	200	-91	Plantation of different species of trees conducted in different phases
3.5 Orientation on bio briquette/installation of improved cooking stoves	219	540	-321	Orientation on the use of bio briquettes/ Installation of improved cooking stoves in each of the households
3.6 Solar dryer, cooker, water heater workshop	657	55	+602	Orientation programme only. These programmes substituted by installation of improved cooking stoves
3.7 Installation of biogas plants	0	480	-480	Bio briquettes and solar powered technologies substituted by biogas plants
3.8 Support for installation of toilets in each households	0	450	-450	Done in view of the local need and absence of toilets in the project area
3.9 Preparation of organic fertilizer from household wastes	0	40	-40	For management of household wastes and to promote organic farming
Sub Total	1788	2115	-327	
4. Monitoring and information dissemination				
4.1 Monitoring and evaluation	219	150	+69	
4.2 Collection of success stories	219	100	+119	
4.3 Website updating	73	70	+3	
4.4 Annual sharing workshop	146	80	+66	

Sub Total	657	400	+257	
5. Facilitator's salary	438	478	-40	
Sub Total	438	478	-40	
6. Administrative expenses				
6.1 Field office rent	45	50	-5	
6.2 Central office management	247	320	-73	
6.3 Bank fund transfer charges	0	20	-20	
6.4 Initial field survey	0	80	-80	
Sub Total	292	470	-178	
Grand Total	4817	5029	-212	Total requested amount NRs. 660,000 i.e. £ 4817 @1 £ = NRs. 137. Amount received from RSGF £ 4797 @ 125.74. Total amount received in Nepalese currency 603,177.66 * £ 450 lost due to currency fluctuation and £ 20 incurred as fund transfer charges

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

The scale of the Rural Community Livelihood Incentives for Nature Conservation Project was small as compared to the activities and objectives set out. We believe it is essential to narrow down the objectives of future projects for making it more effective. It is essential to design projects, which are specific like development of alternative energy, promotion of forestry for sustainable livelihoods for successfully accomplishing nature conservation endeavours. A major learning from the project was while working in a remote rural area like the Balakhu VDC, it is difficult to complete all the stipulated activities due to the lack of technical and skilled resource persons at the right time. Due to the limited capacity of local level institution and limitation of manpower and budget in the local bodies and government offices, their distance from the project site, we were not able to conduct all the activities. Objectives like the level of awareness cannot be objectively measured, and the impact of awareness programmes on the communities may always not be visible in the short term. However, we feel, it is essential to develop certain parameters for comparing the pre and the post project scenario. Developing a log frame matrix before the initiation of the project will help the project to be more objective and specific.

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?

The RSGF logo was used in the banner. The banner was used in each activity related to the project. The activities within the project like the environmental day and biodiversity day celebration had mass gatherings with project participants, other members of the community, teachers and students of different schools participating in it. Similarly, The Student Support Programme conducted with support from Rural Health and Education Service Trust (RHEST) an NGO helped was conducted under the project and the project banner was used. CRP Nepal rendered support for installing toilet in a local school. The RuCLIN project was first of its kind in the Balakhu VDC. The different activities that were conducted by CRP Nepal in the Balakhu VDC even those beyond the scope of the project were



conceived as a part of the project by the local communities. The local communities appreciated the support rendered by the RSGF through CRP Nepal.