

Project Update: June 2014

2nd training of locals for understanding the linking of conservation with livelihood concept.

Training of local community participant's especially young women and men was conducted at Maikhanda village cluster of Upper Kedar Valley District Rudraprayag, Uttarakhand on 16th February 2014. More than 50 participants attended the training programme majorly belonging to BPL families. All the participants were given orientation on the project objective, activities, work plan, approach. These trained participants are supporting and serving project team during the implementation of the project activities for developing and understanding integration of conservation with livelihood approach.

Establishing Community Livelihood Resource Centre (LRC) and resource persons in the area

While discussions with the locals of the village cluster and adjoining villages it was clear that though there is direct dependence of locals on natural forests but there are also some progressive farmers and women who understand the value of conservation and sustainable utilisation. After a long dialogue and mutual consent of locals LRC of the community for the community and by the community was established in Maikhanda village with two resource persons in the study area belonging to the local Garhwalese community.

3rd training of locals about conservation of local *Ringal* bamboo After an initial meeting that elaborated more about the need of conservation, we have organised a second training programme at Maikhanda village cluster of Upper Kedar Valley District Rudraprayag, Uttarakhand on 16th February 2014 with about 50 participants. Local *Ringal* bamboo is of three varieties *Chimnobambusa falcate*, *Thamnocalamus spathiflorus* and *Arundinaria* species and grows from 1000 m to 3000 m asl. These local bamboo species are used as minor fuel, supporting cucurbit and legume crops along with making storage articles such as "*Kandi, Swalti, Swalta, Dasiyan chauk*" etc. We also did a detailed quantification of *Ringal* bamboo extraction in five different villages along with local consultation and field observations.

As the area is a prominent pilgrimage zone too of Hindu Shrine Kedarnath at 3800 m asl. Hence, seeing the influx of national and international tourists the training programme was focussed on preparing small souvenir articles from local *ringal* bamboo such as key chains, flowerpots, pen holders, small bags etc. These articles are smaller in size, easily carry able and fetch better price in local and regional markets. Other than that, these small articles are very much in demand and have potential to reduce pressure and extent of extraction from forests. Locals were very interested in such activity and they were motivated to take the activity at next level. Women of the area were trained in regeneration support and growing these bamboo species on their cropland bunds.

