

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	Deepa Paudel
Project title	Participatory Exploration of Chemical Pesticide Impaction and boosting Farmers for Farmland Bird Conservation
RSG reference	10912-2
Reporting period	January 2012 - December 2012
Amount of grant	£6000.00
Your email address	skt_deepa1@yahoo.com
Date of this report	January 19, 2013

1. Please indicate the level of achievement of the project's original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.

Objective	Achievement			Comments
	Not	Partially	Fully	
Review cum Learning Workshop				Participation was in high number with enthusiastic people
Farmer to Farmer Education				Campaign with a local motivator was mobilised to create awareness.
Farm Visit				Member used to visit at 10 days per month
Pesticide Shop Visit				Regular visits and re-visits were conducted with some time interval.
Participatory Exploration				Filled visit with interaction farmers and direct observation
Expert Consultation				Consultation with an interaction programme also
Seller Buyer Interaction				Participation was average
Organic Farming Campaign				We celebrated rice day, environment day and organised households visit with distribution of pamphlets/poster
Bird Conservation Education				We launched education program to farmer groups and students
Radio Programme				Proposed 28 episodes and conducted more than 30
Documentary Show				Proposed two but conducted one. One was replaced with environment day celebration programme
Extension Material Production/Distribution				Proposed one (book or poster) material production but pamphlets and posters were published and wall painting was also done.
Reporting / Dissemination				Timely reporting, media coverage was maximum

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

Besides mentioned issues in application, such strong unforeseen difficulties did not arise during the project period. Some difficulties as well as interesting issues are;

Farmers became habitual in using chemical fertiliser / pesticide because they have been conducting chemical farming practices from the past. They were feeling hesitation to adopt new fertiliser and pesticide at first. They did not believe that organic pesticide and fertiliser perform well in enhancing the land productivity thereby quantity of production. After organising interaction with expert and making consultation with concerned farmers also, farmers were convinced.

People are in favour of chemical fertiliser / pesticide because of quick results but they are not paying attention towards the consequences of chemical in long run. After educating farmer about the

negative impact of chemical pesticide to environment, biodiversity, birds and human health, farmers realised the importance of organic farming.

Similar to past project, farmers are uneducated and they could not read name of pesticide and its toxic level so they feel comfortable to borrow those pesticides which were referred by seller. So, it became difficult to teach farmers about chemical composition of pesticide that they have been using in their field. After the educating about meaning of label (Red, Yellow, Blue, and Green) tagged in bottle, they feel comfortable.

Sometimes local people have their own conservation programme and they used to request for supporting their programme. It is also essential to motivate them in conservation programme when we are expecting their support for our project implementation. We have to support them by adjusting our programme with their programme and organise jointly. In this project, we supported local people to celebrate the world environment day.

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

Within short period, it is hard to find measurable outcomes. Visible impacts will be seen slowly. But it can be confidently said that project was able to make some difference at local level in favour of agro-biodiversity, farmland bird species, environment, human health etc. Awareness level on farmers, sellers, students, teachers, youth, anti-poaching groups, clubs, has been increased. With implementation of learning in coming days by the stakeholders, the using trend of chemical will be reduced which assures the sound environment, safe habitat and healthy community.

To find out the project performance and effectiveness, feedbacks were collected from local/partner institutions, participants, referees, co-workers, conservationists, professionals, individual, well wishers and team member throughout working period and after completion of project. On the basis of feedbacks of concerned parties, following outcomes were considered as the three most important outcomes.

- A. **Community Mobilization:** During the project period, ecological farmer groups, environment conservation teachers' forum, clubs, anti-poaching units, advanced farmers, motivators were mobilised intensively in each activity. These groups were encouraged to help the farmer whenever they need suggestions and ideas.

Possible Outcome: These mobilised groups are local stakeholders and they always with farmers at local level so they are responsible for the continuity in one hand and local farmers can meet them regularly if some difficulties arise in the locality. So, there will be maximum chance of continuity after the completion of project. It can put contribution for long term.

- B. **Farm Visit / Pesticide Shop Visit:** We had conducted direct farm and shop visit programme for several times and found that farmer and seller were dealing toxic pesticide which could impact farmland birds, farmer / seller health and whole environment.

We suggested seller not to sell the toxic pesticide and focus on the organic pesticide because chemical might cause serious problem in environment and health of poor farmers and sellers as well. We kept semi structured questionnaire in shop and urge to list out the name of pesticide buyer and purpose of buying. During the farm visit, farmers were taught about the meaning of labels; red, yellow, blue and green which tagged in pesticide bottles.

Outcome: With the regular visits, seller and buyer are also paying attention in dealing toxic pesticide. Because of questionnaire, farmers feel hard to buy toxic chemical so dealing of toxic pesticide is being reduced as compare to past.

With the exploration of negative impact of chemical pesticide to agro-biodiversity, human health, positive impact of organic farming and biological treatment, farmers have started to reduce using patterns of chemical. Some farmers have started to prepare organic pesticides and adopt organic farming.

- C. **Door to Door / Farmer to Farmer Education:** Uneducated and poor farmers heisted to participate in group programme and they could not place their views in the forum and with new face. So, we conducted door to door visit programme for awareness creation and mobilised local advanced farmers as motivator in the prominent sites. Motivator met farmers individually and share about importance of organic farming and impact of chemical pesticides. Motivators also taught about making organic pesticide and compost. Similarly, farmers place their views and queries clearly with our motivators.

Possible Outcome: Our motivator is inhabitant in one hand and we are organising this activity in personal touch manner on the other. Two way conversations were made with the representative of each household. Trusting environment was created with local farmers and our motivators. So there is high chance of implementation of learning. With the implementation of learning and admiring the suggestion, using trend of chemical pesticide / fertiliser will be reduced.

In addition, radio programme has disseminated information in large scale. Many medias highlighted our programme frequently so conservation message could be delivered widely in regular basis. Extension based material became fruitful to disseminate information for long term. Participatory exploration and interaction with experts was productive to make realisation of organic farming. Bird education programme was prolific to educate students and farmers "How the chemical based farming is impacting globally threatened birds?" Campaign for organic farming could able to sensitise a large number of people.

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

This project is directly concerned with local farmer and conservation stakeholders so it emphasised participatory approach in implementation. Community based organisations, local NGOs, farmer groups, clubs, government officials, students, conservationists, pesticide seller, anti-poaching unit, teachers and local media etc. were involved during the project period.

Some activities were conducted jointly with local institutions. Sometimes local groups were encouraged to take initiator role because their leadership can play effective role to convince local farmers and it also encourages farmer to take responsibility for continuity. Though the project activities were finished, local institutions are conducting simple activities in their leadership in these days also.

Empowerment and mobilization of member of ecological farmer groups, environmental teachers' forum and anti-poaching unit are crucial because they can put role to create awareness and educate new students regularly in coming days in the project site.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Though it was a small project, it was able to accomplish many good results. We should not limit such results within that are it should be scaled up as much as possible. Therefore I want to implement learning of this project to other vulnerable sites. Impact of chemical fertiliser / pesticide is extreme

in wetland i.e. rivers and lake so I have planed want to conduct study and some awareness activities by focusing those wetland which are more vulnerable due to chemical and important from biological diversity.

Due to chemical farming (agricultural) practices in the catchment/watershed, many lakes of Nepal are in critical condition. Being a worker of natural resource management, biodiversity conservation and teacher of agro-forestry, I want to utilise my expertise and learning of this project to conserve wetland biodiversity.

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

Conducting some activities in some pockets could address only problem of specific area where as dissemination of success stories could influence larger area having same problem. Conservation issue is not only local issue it is issue of national, regional and global that is why I have always given priority on this regards. So, each and every activity reports were broadcasted through radio programme, local papers, meetings, discussion etc. Regular progress reports were submitted to Rufford Small Grant Foundation to keep in official website.

In future, project based article will be published in local language and dispatched to notice boards and local paper to share at local level. Success stories will be shared in seminar, workshop and other group discussion. The report on pesticide issue will be prepared and disseminated through email and internet so that global community also get chance to learn. Similarly, post project results will be updated in RSGF and the local paper as outcomes of the projects.

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

In this project, RSGF was the major funding partner and local institution Hands for Conservation - Nepal was co-funding partner. Grant was used as per mentioned in application. The detail is;

Time frame	Activity	Support
January 2012 -- December 2012	Review cum Learning Workshop, Farmer to Farmer Education, Farm Visit, Pesticide Shop Visit, Participatory Exploration, Expert Consultation, Seller Buyer Interaction, Organic Farming Campaign, Bird Conservation Education, Radio Program, Documentary Show, Poster Production/Distribution, Pamphlet Production, Wall painting, Reporting: Communication, Stationery, LCD Projector (hiring), Transportation & Fuel for motorbike, Team Members Accommodation	RSGF (Major Funding) & Hands for Conservation (Co-funding)
Continuity From January 2013	Field visit, Monitoring Project Impact, Reporting, Progress Updating	Project Member and Hands for Conservation (Voluntarily)

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
Review cum Learning Workshop	480.00	480	0.00	Organised through contract (limit)
Farmer to Farmer Education	500.00	530	-30	Number of days increased
Farm Visit	150.00	175	-25	Number of days increased
Pesticide Shop Visit	150.00	175	-25	Number of days increased
Participatory Exploration	400.00	350	50	One site decreased
Experts Consultation	200.00	250	-50	Participant's number / time increased
Seller Buyer Interaction	300.00	300	0	Organised through contract (limit)
Organic Farming Campaign	300.00	300	0	Organised through contract (limit)
Bird Conservation Education	300.00	320	-20	Number of participants increased (limit)
Radio Programme	840.00	840	0	Fix and contract
Documentary Show	300.00	200	100	Shifted to other activities
Poster, Pamphlet, Wall painting	250.00	350	-100	More than proposed activities
Allowance (200 days)	1250.00	1275	-25	Days increased
Communication	240.00	210	30	Economise in budget
Travel (Fuel and bus fare)	240.00	250	-10	Days increased
Banking	80.00	80	0	fix
Stationery	200.00	225	-25	participant's number increased
Equipment Hire, Hall & others	240.00	220	20	Used of personal equipments also
Reporting / Dissemination	100.00	50	50	Shifted budget to other activity
Total	6520	6580.00	-60.00	

RSGF = £ 6000.00

Hands for Conservation - Nepal = £ 520.00

Remaining = £ 60.00 was adjusted by local partners.

Justification: Budget became insufficient due to exchange rate fluctuation and increased in number of participants.

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

Effectiveness and continuity are the fundamental elements of project. Only organising some activities in some pockets cannot address conservation issue of all areas. If we could not scale up the achievement of project largely, that keeps less meaning. So, good results / achievements should be shared intensively to other prominent sites. Implementation of learning of one area can put significant role to address similar types of issues. Sharing of success stories and utilising gained knowledge will be economic and effective for the other sites.

Problem of chemical fertilisers/pesticides is also more critical in wetlands so it is indeed to replicate such effective activities on those sites. Thus, I am planning to develop project by targeting wetlands based on the learning of these completed projects.

Similarly, this project has formed and reformed many farmer groups and clubs. It will not be rationale to leave these groups in this situation. They should be sensitised time to time. Therefore, to keep these groups in touch, our team member are still continuing field visit, monitoring project impact, reporting, progress updating, etc. after project completion also.

I am also coordinating our local partner institutions to update their actions for the evaluation of farmer activities and look progress of these projects. Local partners should encourage and mentor farmers regularly for gaining much more benefits from the organic farming.

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?

We are very much sincere on providing credits to contributors because it is ethical issue. Logo of Rufford Small Grant Foundation (RSGF) was used in most of the activities and publication that were produced in relation to this project. Local partners were also encouraged to point out RSGF contribution when we carried out activities jointly.

Logo was used in banner, certificate, poster, pamphlets, wall painting etc. Somewhere Rufford Small Grant Foundation was also written as supporting organisation when there was not chance of printing and painting. In all activities, grantee shared about RSGF; What does it do? How can people/institution win grant from this foundation? What is its official website?

Even Medias (audio-visual / paper) had also highlighted the RSGF contribution for the project while reporting the project news and delivering the conservation messages. We can see the name and contribution of RSGF in their papers (See Detail Report).

11. Any other comments?

I would like to express special gratitude to Rufford Small Grant Foundation for its contribution because its financial assistance had made possible of this project implementation. I am very much thankful to RSGF personally because I have got chance to build my career in conservation field.

I appreciate to Prof. CP Upadhyaya, RC Larson and B. Ghimire for their incredible backing during the project period. Local partners i.e. Hands for Conservation, Schools, Farmer groups, Pesticide sellers, Bufferzone User Committees, Forest User Committees, Co-workers (RSG-Grantees), NGOs, CBOs, Clubs, Media (Vijaya FM, Radio Chitwan, The Chitwan Post, The Kayakairan Daily, The Pardarsi Daily, The Arpan, Cristal Television, Beso Television), Teachers, Students etc also deserve thanks for their support during the project activities. I also like to remember all who have played role in/directly to make success this project.

From 2 years projects, we have gained meaningful outputs and positive outcomes can be expected in future. In my opinion, it is essential to share success stories and achievements as much / far as possible in order to maintain biodiversity and conserve globally threatened species.