Project Update: July 2012

Following activities had been conducted.

Farmer to Farmer Education: Our motivator Saraswati Sedhain Dhakal is still involving for awareness creation in key areas. She visits each household as door to door activities and discusses with household representatives about the benefits of organic farming and the consequences of Chemical pesticide on environment, water, soil and wetland biodiversity including farmland bird species.

So far, she has met representative of 119 households in Khairani VDC and educate with personal touch manner. The Khairani VDC is prominent habitat of farmland bird and agricultural site of Chitwan Valley (See List of Farmers). In response, farmers said that it is first activity in their village with close discussion and interaction. They had also added that they knew that chemical pesticides have so many consequences which is directly affecting not only to biodiversity but also their own health.

Rice Day Celebration: In the joint venture of Bird Education Society, Ecological Farmers' Forum, Mrigakunja User Committee (MUC), Village Development Committee and RSGF, Rice Day was celebrated on Ashad 15, 2069 (June 29, 2012) by organizing organic farming of rice in the active participation of local farmers.

Local Media, Crystal Television, had captured the movie and broadcasted through station by providing high priority on that day. From this, thousands of farmers also got chance to know about the importance of organic farming through television.

Poster Distribution: Produced posters, having alerting message of chemical pesticide use and awareness creation message of farmland bird conservation, are being distributed at local level. These posters are hanged in key areas i.e. conservation institution, farmers group, pesticide shop etc.

Pamphlet Production and Distribution: Pamphlets, having requesting message for reducing use of chemical pesticide use and awareness creation, were published. These pamphlets were distributed to chemical pesticide sellers and farmers in interaction, agro-vet (pesticide shop) visit, farmers' door visits, organic farming campaign etc. This activity was done in the coordination with Youth Anti-poaching group of MUC.

Interaction and Youth Mobilization: Before organizing agro-vet (agro/pesticide shop) / farm visits, seller / buyer interaction and organic farming campaign, youths were trained about the positive and negative consequences of chemical and organic pesticides. And they were mobilized to deliver gained knowledge to pesticide sellers and farmers by visiting their shops and farmland directly. Pamphlets having message "not to promote chemical pesticide by highlighting the importance of organic pesticide" were widely distributed.

In the joint venture of RSGF, anti-poaching unit and MUC, more than 10 youths are being mobilized for 1 week in the Chitwan valley as organic farming campaign.

Expert Consultation: A consultation / interaction meeting was also organized to educate the members of Anti-poaching Group and the advanced farmers. Crop conservation officer of District Agriculture Development Office (DADO), Chitwan, Teachers of Institute of Forestry, Bird Education Society, Wildlife Conservation Society, Ecological Farmers' forum and other conservation based renowned people discussed about the impact of the pesticide to farmland birds, wetland biodiversity, water, environment and human health etc. They concluded that without the reduction in use of chemical pesticides farmland birds, wetland biodiversity and environment cannot be conserved. So, they decided to join hand to work together in coming days.

Radio Program: Altogether 28 episodes of our radio program "Conservation Campaign" have been broadcasted. According to our plan, we completed the radio programme of this running project. But Radio station is still continuing this program.

Farm Visit: Our regular field visit programs are ongoing. As in past months, our members regularly visit previous sites and encourage farmers for organic farming and alert them to pay attention on toxic level i.e. red, yellow, blue & green while buying.

Media Coverage: Use of pesticide is causing harm not only to farmland bird species but also other wetland biodiversity, environment and human health. So, we use to highlight issue of pesticide by relating to other wetland dependant endangered species, environment, human health etc in order to attract lots of people concerned with wetland biodiversity conservation, environment conservation, health & hygiene, sanitation, water supply etc. We sometimes come through media and media also frequently covers our project activities and help to disseminate message broadly.

Recently, we had also highlighted the impact of chemical pesticide to wetland biodiversity including farmland birds. These messages were covered by many audio, visual and paper based media. Some of them were Pardarsi Daily, Chitwan Post, Kayakairan Daily, Arpan Daily etc. Beso Television Channel, "BESO TV" had also highlighted such printed news through their special programme. Similarly, Our Rice Day celebration programme was broadcasted through the local Television "Crystal Television" also (See PDF files).

Similarly, Radio Chitwan, Radio Arpan, Radio Bijaya FM etc had also broadcasted our news of Pesticide Shops Visit, Farmers' Households Visit, Organic farming campaign and Door to Door Visit Programme in regular basis.



Pamphlets: Produced for the distribution to pesticide sellers and farmers during pesticide shops and farmers households visits



Impact of Pesticide on Wetland Biodiversity News Published on "The Kayakairan –National Daily" Project of Rufford Small Grant Foundation



Impact of Pesticide on Wetland Biodiversity News Published on "The Pardarsi -National Daily" (July 4, 2012), Sentence highlighted (green box) help of Rufford Small Grant Foundation



Impact of Pesticide on Wetland Biodiversity, News Published on "The Chitwan Post - Daily" (July 4, 2012), Sentence highlighted (green box) the help of Rufford Small Grant Foundation



Door to Door Visit (Farmers' Households & Pesticide Shops) Programme: Highlighted by "The Arpan -Daily" (July 9, 2012), Sentence highlighted (green box) help of Rufford Small Grant Foundation

List of Farmers

Farmer to Farmer Education

To make awareness activity more effective, we use to visit farmers' households and farmland directly and discuss with personal touch approach. Firstly, we hear their views "Why are they using chemical instead of organic?" then only we explain them about pesticide issue and possible alternative ideas. Most of farmers are convinced to reduce the chemical pesticide and they have also demanded compost making, organic farming and organic pesticide preparation training in more pockets so most of farmers could get chance to learn.

Khairani VDC is prominent habitat of farmland bird and agricultural site of Chitwan Valley so we have targeted this site. Similarly, the site is belonged to Tharu Community (Ethnic / indigenous groups) whose profession is agriculture and fishing. Sometimes, people misuse agriculture pesticide for fishing in river, irrigation canal, waterway etc.

So far, we met members of 119 households whose names are listed below. We had assumed that people whom we discussed will again discuss to their neighbours which help to share the conservation message in wide range.

SN	Farmer	Site	Remarks
1	Sulochan Choudhary	Khairani VDC	
2	Dikhur Choudhary	Khairani VDC	
3	Chhalai Choudhary	Khairani VDC	
4	Dina Choudhary	Khairani VDC	
5	Sonia Choudhary	Khairani VDC	
6	Nirmala Chhetri	Khairani VDC	
7	Ram Choudhary	Khairani VDC	
8	Kisuni Choudhary	Khairani VDC	
9	Sumari Choudhary	Khairani VDC	
10	Baun Bir Choudhary	Khairani VDC	
11	Sanu Prabha Choudhary	Khairani VDC	
12	Jhagaru Choudhary	Khairani VDC	
13	Ram Sarani Choudhary	Khairani VDC	
14	Debilal Choudhary	Khairani VDC	
15	Kaman Singh Choudhary	Khairani VDC	
16	Shanti Choudhary	Khairani VDC	
17	Majhiya Choudhary	Khairani VDC	
18	Prajina Choudhary	Khairani VDC	
19	Ranju Choudhary	Khairani VDC	
20	Budha Ram Choudhary	Khairani VDC	
21	Bai Raja Choudhary	Khairani VDC	
22	Birendra Choudhary	Khairani VDC	
23	Lalita Choudhary	Khairani VDC	
24	Ratan Shrestha	Khairani VDC	
25	Keshav Wagle	Khairani VDC	
26	Alekas Barnad	Khairani VDC	
27	Bhola & Nanu Choudhary	Khairani VDC	
28	Laxmi Gurung	Khairani VDC	
29	Shandhya Choudhary	Khairani VDC	