

Project Update: March 2012

Coordination: Coordination meetings were organised with representatives of ecological farmer group and environment conservation teachers' forum to develop project implementation strategies. Similarly, local farmer and pesticide seller were also met to share project objective and implementation details.

Review cum Learning Workshop: A review cum learning workshop was also carried out in the joint venture of ecological farmer groups, Bird Education Society, Mrigakunja User Committee to collect farmers' views. Project member highlighted objective and expected output of new project. The members of previously formed farmer groups took part in the workshop and share their experiences. According to them, farmers are showing interest in organic farming slowly. They also shared that farmers will be convinced to adopt organic farming but it takes time and needs more awareness activities.

Organic Pesticide Preparation Training: Altogether 25 advanced farmers were trained to treat seed through vermin-compost and prepare organic pesticide through locally available products i.e. plants (Neem, Pati) having curative power, sugar, ginger, chillies, urine of animals etc. The training was facilitated by ecological farmers' group and the bird education society.

Farm Visit: Some of previous project sites were visited to evaluate effectiveness of previous project. During this visit, we found that some farmers are still using chemical pesticide but they are using less harmful chemical with compare to past. According to farmers, they use to pay attention on the label of toxicity (Red, Yellow, Blue and Green) while buying. We also monitored that people prefers less harmful pesticide if they are available in market.

Similarly, we are planning to visit new sites to collect information of chemical pesticide and using trend and awareness level of farmer about the impact of pesticide on the environment, soil, farmland birds and human health.

Radio Programme: Previously, We had launched radio programme in the coordination of Community Radio " Vijaya FM' and previous grantees so we are continuing that programme with the message of farmland bird conservation, pesticide impaction and farmers views towards organic farming.

So far, we are highlighting the issues of pesticides. In coming episodes, to make programme more effective, we are planning to collect farmer's views and broadcast.

Bird Conservation Education: Based on learning of previous project and interaction with environment conservation teachers' forum and farmer group, 12 schools from different sites were selected for farmland bird education programme. Selected schools are belonging to important habitat of bird and highly impacted zone from chemical pesticide. For education

program, teachers will be trained and mobilised for this programme in coming days. A memorandum of understanding was also made between teachers' forum and grantee to work jointly.

