

Project Update: March 2013

Refresher training for forest conservation to briquette production groups:

A 3-day refresher training on biodiversity as well as forest conservation and income generation was conducted from 4th - 10th January 2013 with the existing two groups: Ranku Forest conservation & Community Briquette Production Group and Aahale Forest Conservation & Community Briquette Production Group separately. The training was facilitated by Kumar Luitel (Team Leader) and Parshu Bhattarai (Team Member).

Special training on briquette production and forest conservation/management:

A 15-day (7th- 21st February 2013) special training course on briquette production as well as forest conservation/management was conducted with each new group, the Srijanshil Forest Conservation & Community Briquette Production Group and Jagaran Forest Conservation & Community Briquette Production Group. The training was conducted by Kumar Luitel (Team Leader) and Khadga Kharel (a briquette production trainer/forest management technician). Twenty-five farmers participated in each training group. From the training, the participants came to know the technology of making or producing bio-briquettes as well as cooking stoves for briquette technology. At the same time, the farmers were trained about forest conservation and management.

Monitoring and evaluation:

The programme was monitored and evaluated in February 2013. A joint monitoring and evaluation mechanism was applied to the project. A representative of District Forest Office, VDC Chairman, local leaders, representatives from the four forest conservation and briquette production groups, and project team members were involved in the joint monitoring.

Radio programme on the topic of briquette technology and forest conservation:

Such type of technology of forest conservation as well as income generation in hill districts is innovative. For the dissemination of such types of technology among the people of Khotang district, a radio programme was conducted through local radio from 11th -17th March 2013. Informative audio clips on forest conservation and briquette production were broadcast for a week. A talk programme with team leader Kumar Luitel was also conducted through the radio on 28th March 2013 on the topic of briquette technology and forest conservation.