

## **Project Update: February 2014**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Quarterly Progress report for the period of November 2013 to January 2014.

### **A) Training of Project Team Members and VMC Volunteers**

Training of project team members and community volunteers was conducted at cyclone shelter, Sankhapur, Rajnagar on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2013. Twenty-four participants attended the training programme. All the participants were given orientation on the project objective, activities, work plan, approach. These trained participants are assisting and serving project team during the implementation of the project activities.

### **B) Meeting with Stakeholders**

A stakeholder meet along with project team members was conducted at Gupti for the implementation of Booster Grant for this project. There were 42 numbers of community members, youth, women, fishermen, school teachers and local forest personnel etc. at the meeting and they gave their valuable suggestions to make this project successful.

### **C) Raising Mangrove Saplings**

The mangrove nursery established in Badkot village has been continuously producing quality seedlings since the start of this project. Through the continuous support from Rufford Small Grant Foundation, we have been sustained, modified and expanded the nursery to be highly productive. In total, 30,000 propagules of *Rhizophora*, *Avicinia alba*, *Avicinia officinalis*, and *Bruguiera parviflora* species collected from nearest forest have been raised in the nursery.

### **D) Cleaning of Debris**

Debris was covered the mangrove plantation at Naranpur, Basantpur and Khirkot as a result of the recent severe cyclone 'Phailin'. It was cleaned up by the respective village mangrove council (VMC) members. It was a good initiative of community members, showing their interest and love towards mangroves.

### **E) Study tour of School Students to Bhitarkanika Mangrove Forest**

The 72 eco club students and 16 teachers from 12 different schools were taken in two batches on action-packed field tour to Bhitarkanika mangrove forest on 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> December 2013. Throughout the tour the students were led by experienced ecologists to learn about the history, ecology of mangroves. The students saw the zonation of mangroves along the river creeks, the adaptations of mangroves, the wildlife with birds etc. This programme was conducted with the joint collaboration of Mangrove Forest Division, Rajnagar and Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project.



Left to Right: Training of Project Team Members and VMC Volunteers; Raising Mangrove Saplings; Mangrove Ecosystem Study Tour of School Students.