

## **Project Update: November 2016**

We have organised these activities and found following information.

**Field Visit:** we made 6-day field visit programme in all three sites; Jagdishpur, Lumbini and Chitwan as preliminary visit. During this visit, we observed pesticide shops, farmlands, reservoir and other wetlands. Similarly, we made discussion with pesticide sellers, farmers, students, youth and conservationists.

**Interaction:** While visiting field, we interacted with students, local conservationists, farmers and pesticide sellers.

**Students:** While visiting the Jagdishpur reservoir, we met some local students in group and discussed about their understanding about the threats to farmland/wetland birds. In the discussion, they shared that people use to kill birds for food and sometimes entertainment. Some students said without any hesitation they also involve in bird hunting as entertainment. They have known that bird killing is illegal but they are unaware about legal punishment for involving in bird hunting. Regarding the use of pesticide in their locality and its impact to birds, environment and health, most of them told pesticides are being used by farmer in the area but they are less aware how the use of pesticide introduces the hazardous consequences to birds, human and environment. By feeling the student's understanding, we have planned to organize education by targeting students.

**Conservation Stakeholders:** We held interaction meetings with conservation officers, local youth, and representatives of local conservation institution/NGOs and share project objective and future strategies of project implementation. In this interaction, we built consensus to organise the project activities in the coordination of local institution as far as possible. In the interaction with local youth working in conservation and environment, we came to know that most of the farmers used to use the pesticides and majority of the farmers use to bring the pesticide from India as well. They also highlighted that pesticide shops are in very few numbers in Lumbini area however this site is main agricultural area of the districts. It is due to easy access to Indian market.

**Farmers:** We met more than 60 farmers of three sites during this period. Most of the farmers of Chitwan told they use to buy pesticide from local market in the most of time and they rarely visit big market; Narayangarh. In case of Jagdishpur, farmers use both local and Indian market for buying pesticide. Whereas in Lumbini, farmers frequent uses the Indian markets. Regarding understanding about the pesticides' impact to health, environment, birds and other friendly living organism, very few farmers were found aware about consequences of pesticide use. But they frankly responded that using the toxic pesticide is their obligation because they have to use cheap, quick effective and whatever available in the market.

**Pesticides Shop visit:** We visited five pesticide shops in this visit. We found yellow labelled pesticides, comes under the second category of hazardousness, are the most demanded in the local areas. Majority of pesticide seller said that they focus the buyers' (farmers') preferences so they sell quick working pesticides. Sellers of Lumbini area highlighted they have to keep more hazardous pesticide in the shop because farmers go India if they do not find quickly reactive pesticides in the area. Similarly, sellers of the Chitwan also responded inline with Lumbini if they do not find the quickly reactive pesticide in one shop they use to visit another shop. We questioned sellers; do you explain the meaning of label (red/yellow/blue/green) while selling pesticide? In rare case, they use to share if customers ask but mostly not in practices? We found red labelled pesticides in very low number.

Most of the red labelled pesticides available in the area are used for killing rodent (rats). The rodent died from such pesticides are more serious to birds because most of the birds feed on those rats or its carcass. The residual persistence on the carcass of rat might have huge chance in affecting birds. The interesting things that we observed, pesticide are available in other shop besides agro-vet. And, people keep pesticide in same shop from which they sell food, vegetables and children dolls/toys. This means sellers are not conscious with their health, children and ecological environment. In rural areas of Nepal also, people sell pesticide within daily needed things, like food, vegetable and others. Such cases are found within project sites and other areas.

