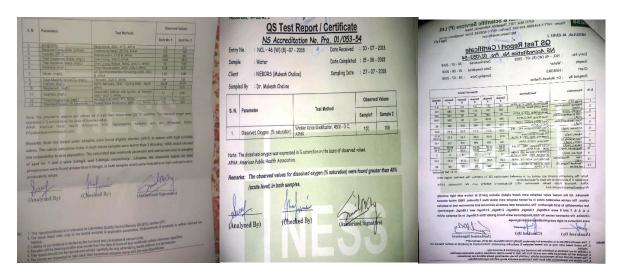
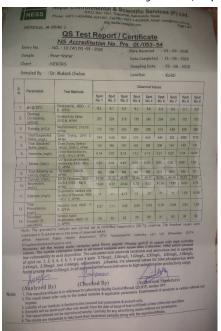
## Project Update: September 2018

A. Water Quality test-sampled in July, 2018 (Pre-monsoon season)



B. Water Quality Test (September, 2018- monsoon season)



Second study phase dealt with water sampling and quality test of different parameters to assess habitat quality and prepare baseline data on water quality in the river segments. Water sampling was done twice as stated above (in NESS lab, assisted by Mr. Sunil Babu Khatri). However, we could not continue second population census due to ongoing of newly developed community programme to highlight the dolphin habitat area in national level " DOLPHIN FESTIVAL" which was conducted in presence of national level and state level ministers (Note: There was no assistance in this programme from this Rufford Foundation). Nevertheless, one of the field assistant Shailendra Sharma, surveyed the area with local partner to record the presence/absence of dolphin in various habitat segment. Also, Dr. Mukesh Kumar Chalise (as this study is also with assistance from NEBORS of which he is president) gave talk and speeches in the program with community and Forest

Department and parliamentarians to make awareness on dolphin conservation and our activities (Note: There is no field assistance wages or finances provided to Dr. Chalise from Rufford budget).

Due to community business in rainy season agriculture activities such as paddy seedling planting and maize corn wedding, we could not conduct large scale census like in first phase but counting of individual in short segment on different habitat structure was frequently observed with help from citizen scientist (Bhojhraj Dhunghana). Furthermore, they were busy to prepare dolphin festival in their free time. So, we did collect water samples but could not manage census again. It is also due to water level fluctuated and went lower due to occasional rain and drought in the area.



Field assistant (Shailendra Sharma) collecting water sample from various site with help from local community.



Dolphin awareness and sight showing by local partner (Citizen Scientist- Mr. Bhojh Raj Dhungana) in monsoon period. (©Bhojhrajh)

Video documentation of Dolphin and its related activities can be found in this link (Prepared by NEFEJ) <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fJpsMkM6t10&t=1133s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fJpsMkM6t10&t=1133s</a>