

Project Update: February 2006

Section I

Activity 1: Mushroom Training

Two days Mushroom production training was conducted on 19th and 20th January 2007 at Kholabensi, Lekhnath-10. The objective of this training was to strengthen community groups and enhance their livelihood through alternative income generating options so that their dependency on agricultural land at steep slopes in watershed area decreases. The training schedule is given in Annex I. Altogether 27 participants both male (7) and female (20) from 5 community groups at watershed area of Rupa lake participated in the training.

The female participation was encouraging. They were very interested also, since most of them do not knew about mushroom production. They have heard a lot about it but never seen doing it. It was surprising that only 3 participants in the training, who were Indian ex-army, have a taste of mushroom and others have not tasted yet! While querying about this, it revealed that people do not knew about commercial mushroom marketing place in the city. They do not consume wild mushroom from forest since they have heard in media that these may be poisonous and in some parts of the country whole family members have died.



Mushroom Practical

Annex I

1st Day

| SN | Program Schedule |
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| 1 | Welcome and introduction by all |
| 2 | Interest collection from participants |
| 3 | Theory class on Introduction to Mushroom, Types of mushroom, its importance and market opportunities |
| 4 | Theory class on necessary equipments and materials for mushroom production, and major things to be taken into consideration (Temperature, Humidity, Sanitation) |
| 5 | Theory class on detail process for mushroom (<i>Pleurotus oestratus</i>) cultivation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Straw selection and alternatives of straw• Chopping straw in specified size• Straw washing and drainage of excess water• Sterilization of straw through steaming |
| 6 | Practical class on straw selection, cutting, washing and drainage of excess water content |

2nd Day

| SN | Program Schedule |
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| 1 | Practical class on steaming straw for sterilization |
| 2 | Theory class on detail process for mushroom cultivation (continue..) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sanitation (individual and mushroom storeroom)• Cooling of steamed straw• Tying plastic bags• Steps for mushroom ball preparation• Making holes in mushroom ball and its importance• Storage of mushroom ball |
| 3 | Theory class on insect, diseases attack and its control measures |
| 4 | Practical class on mushroom ball making |
| 5 | Practical class on room selection and its sanitation for mushroom ball storage |
| 6 | Practical class on bamboo stack making for mushroom balls storage for commercial purpose |

Section II

Activity 1: Celebrated World's Wetland Day 2007

On the occasion of World Wetland Day 2nd February 2007, an awareness program for school children and teachers was organized in NARC fisheries Office, Begnas. Five government school students from class 6-9 and respective teachers were invited in the program, but only 3 representative schools participated. Basically, topics related to wetland management, causes for its deterioration and conservation measures were dealt along with highlights on the World

Wetland Day 2007 slogan "**Fish for Tomorrow**". The students were also briefed on Bird diversity and Bird watching. The program was a grand success lead by Wetland friends of Nepal and collaborators RUFFORD, CONFORM, LI-BIRD and BICORF. The project team assisted in making play cards related to wetlands and wetland conservation. The students displayed the play card in a rally to aware vicinity local communities and stakeholders on wetland conservation. A leaflet was also published in both Nepali and English version to distribute it at grass-root and top level respectively.

Activity 2: Conservation boards placed to aware local people

Three conservation boards had been placed at three different places at watershed areas currently to aware people on conservation of spawning area of *Sahar* fish and warn not to use electric current and poisons in water body. It is assumed that these boards will help in conserving *Sahar* fish that migrate upstream for breeding and spawning.

Section III

Activity 1: Finalized "White Lotus" Brochure

A community friendly brochure on "Introduction and importance of White Lotus" has been finalized and sent to press for designing and printing. The brochure will be available till the end of February. It has been developed in Nepali version so that local people can easily understand and read it. Basically it provides a quick insight and introduction about White lotus in Rupa Lake; and importance of lotus parts as medicinal value perceived by local communities and as described in literatures related to Ayurveda.

Activity 2: Radio Program

A series of meetings were conducted with Annapurna FM, a famous local FM station in Pokhara Valley to conduct radio program on wetlands and wetland management. The project team came across many problems related to time and resources to carry out radio program as per planned before in the annual schedule. Lastly, it is verbally agreed that a 15 minutes program will be broadcasted every week for 3 months only. This is because of resource constraints and internal timing arrangements in FM station. An official agreement will be signed after confirmation on final timing arrangements on particular day to broadcast the program, probably February last week.