

Project Update: December 2010

Farmer Education: 15 days regular field visit programme was organised to educate commercial farmer about the pesticides and their impacts to agro-biodiversity. It is already found that intensive farming practices enhance pesticide using trends which is main threats to farmland birds. Altogether, 100 farmers were individually treated by meeting them in field. During this programme, special attention was given to those farmers who were using harmful pesticides.

According to farmers, they are unaware about negative impacts of pesticides to agricultural ecology. Farmers do not care about instruction written in pesticide packets and bottles. Though the instruction clearly shows negative impact to fish, birds and water pollution, they use to apply pesticide nearby irrigation canal and water resources i.e. river and lakes without caring instruction. Some farmers buy pesticide by showing affected plants to pesticide seller which prevails that farmers are not aware about name and composition of chemicals. Some farmers were observed smoking while spraying pesticide and some involve their young children in spraying.

Some visual clips and photos were also taken and shown to concerned farmers to make aware about their negligence towards biodiversity and their health. From this education programme, farmer knew that it is essential to read instruction before using chemicals and flow precautions in order to save biodiversity and their health.

Documentary Show: By targeting some model farmers, bird conservation and pesticide related movies were shown. From this show, farmers got chance to know "how farmers activities are responsible to bird species declination and population loss?" and what kinds of impact can be seen to human health and young children.

Radio Program: By targeting two districts (Chitwan and Nawalparasi), two types radio programmes were designed for two radio stations. In the collaboration with Beeshazar Lake Conservation Project, bird and wetland conservation quiz is being run through Radio Chitwan. RSG funded project has developed some questions which are being broadcasted in each episode. Person who gives right answer, RSG project rewards them with T-shirts having tag of Rufford Small Grant Foundation. Similarly, Project has bought 26 episodes of conservation campaign (A radio programme of Vijaya FM).

Booklet Publication: Text of booklet is almost finalised. After consultation with experts and editing, it is going to print. Booklet has covered locally available pesticide, banned pesticides, precaution before use, key idea to know harmful and harmless pesticides. It has also covered types of pesticides, their impacts and safe alternatives of them. Similarly, project has supported some organic fertiliser and pesticide related books to Rufford small grant project named "conservation library establishment project" to deliver the pesticide issue and minimization ideas.

