

The Rufford Small Grants Foundation Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford Small Grants Foundation.

We ask all grant recipients to complete a Final Report Form that helps us to gauge the success of our grant giving. The Final Report must be sent in **word format** and not PDF format or any other format. We understand that projects often do not follow the predicted course but knowledge of your experiences is valuable to us and others who may be undertaking similar work. Please be as honest as you can in answering the questions – remember that negative experiences are just as valuable as positive ones if they help others to learn from them.

Please complete the form in English and be as clear and concise as you can. Please note that the information may be edited for clarity. We will ask for further information if required. If you have any other materials produced by the project, particularly a few relevant photographs, please send these to us separately.

Please submit your final report to jane@rufford.org.

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Deepa Paudel
Project title	Study on Impact of Locally Used Pesticide on Farmland Bird Species and Conservation Initiative
RSG reference	39.02.10
Reporting period	June 2010 - July 2011
Amount of grant	£5990
Your email address	skt_deepa1@yahoo.com
Date of this report	July 25, 2011

1. Please indicate the level of achievement of the project's original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.

Objective	Not achieved	Partially achieved	Fully achieved	Comments
Exploratory Study			√	Farmers were met not only in their house but also in their farmland while using pesticide for crosschecking
Farmer Targeted Programme			√	All proposed activities were organised. In addition, dormant stage farmer groups were reformed by mobilising eco-farmer group.
Pesticide Targeted Programme		√		Targeted activities were done but some sellers did not pay attention. As per our information dissemination, sellers' participation was average.
School Teaching / Teacher Consultation			√	Target activities were carried out. In addition, eco-clubs were formed in three schools in coordination with other grantee and local conservation groups.
Publication / Media			√	All activities were done successfully. In addition, local grantees were coordinated to launch the radio programme in joint venture and increase number of episodes. Awards were provided to winner of conservation based radio quiz.
Reporting		√		Updated according to describe in application. But not each activity wise

2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

Most of farmers were not aware about the name of pesticide. Farmers also hesitated to read name of pesticide because names of pesticides are unfamiliar and hard. They feel comfortable to borrow those pesticides which were referred by seller. They used to ask medicine by describing case of disease and showing plants. So, it became difficult to find out pesticide name and their chemical composition.

To overcome this difficulty, regular farm visits were made and name and composition of pesticides were collected directly while farmers were using in the farmland.

Similarly, it became quite hard to convince farmer to use compost and organic pesticides because they had to spend more times and need more manpower to prepare the organic pesticide and carry compost in farm. Most of local youth are in other country for income generation so availability of labours is nominal at local level.

After educating farmer about the negative impact of chemical pesticide to environment, biodiversity including farmland birds and human health, farmers realised the importance of organic farming, compost and organic pesticide.

Most of farmers are working own way or individual basis so it became hard to gather farmers in common place. To solve this problem, farmer groups were formed and encouraged to work participatory basis. And, it was concluded that these groups should be empowered and mobilised in future days which can put strong role in farmland bird conservation.

3. Briefly describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

Within short period, it is hard to find measurable outcomes. Visible impacts will be seen slowly. But it is confidently said that project was able to make some difference at local level in favour of farmland bird species.

To find out the project performance and effectiveness, feedbacks were collected from local/partner institutions, participants, referees, co-workers, conservationists, professionals, individual, well wishers and team member throughout working period and after completion of project. On the basis of these feedbacks of concerned parties, following outcomes were considered as the three most important outcomes.

- a. **Exploratory Study:** Study has collected different types of chemical pesticides which were used in local level and their possible impact to agricultural biodiversity including farmland bird species. Through direct farm and pesticide shop visit, it was found that farmer and seller are dealing toxic pesticide which is impacting not only to farmland birds but also farmer health.

Farmers were taught about the meaning of labels; red, yellow, blue, pink and green which tagged in pesticide bottles. This teaching has uplifted farmer knowledge to know which pesticide is more toxic and which is less. Sellers are also aware about impact of their negligence in selling toxic pesticide and its possible impact in long run.

Outcome: With the exploration of negative impact of chemical pesticide to agro-biodiversity, human health, positive impact of organic farming and biological treatment, farmers have started to reduce using patterns of chemical. Some farmers have started to prepare organic pesticides. Nowadays some farmers can be observed with organic pesticide in their vegetable farmland.

Farmers have started to search the labels while buying the pesticide from markets. Some farmers had disposed some chemicals which they had brought in past. Buffer zone office is also taking pesticide using trends in their locality seriously.

- b. **Organic Farming Promotion:** Chitwan National Park is one of most popular tourist destination where demand of organic product is high in one hand and price is also satisfactory on the other. By showing these opportunities, farmers had realised the importance of organic farming which is key way to reduce environment pollution, wetland pollution and health hazard. And this ultimately provides the secure habitat to farmland.

Possible Outcome: Some farmers have started organic farming nearby Sauraha because Sauraha is the main market of Chitwan National Park and lies in Bufferzone. Adoption of organic farming practices will secure farmer health, income, sound environment and sound habitat to farmland bird species. So, there is maximum chance of farmland bird species population restoration.

- c. **Group Re/formation and Mobilisation:** Project has empowered eco-farmer groups through different kinds of support to strengthen their activities. Farmer groups were mobilised to create awareness to their neighbours or other farmers of their locality. Similarly, eco-clubs were formed in school of buffer zone and taught about the impact of chemical fertiliser and pesticides to farmland bird species, ecology and human health and their control measures.

Outcome: These groups have launched campaign programme for organic farming by exploring opportunities. To date, they have formed new eco-farmer groups and reactivated some groups which are in dormant stages. Similarly, eco-clubs are conducting environment friendly activities to disseminate their learning in their surroundings.

In addition, radio programme has disseminated information in large scale. Agriculture Collage students were also mobilised from which young students have got chance to learn ground reality. So it can be said that project could play long term role to conserve farmland bird species in project area. Support to conservation library with organic farming and biological treatment related books has played crucial role to instruct farmer regularly.

Project was able to show project activity to Josh Cole, Grant Director of Rufford Small Grant Foundation. Josh Cole has also got chance to participate and monitor a small interaction programme which was organised at local level.

4. Briefly describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefitted from the project (if relevant).

This project is directly concerned with local farmer and conservation stakeholders so it emphasised participatory approach in implementation. Community based organisations, local NGOs, farmer groups, clubs, park staffs, students, conservationists, pesticide seller etc. were involved during the project period. Some activities were conducted jointly with local institutions. Sometimes local groups were encouraged to take initiator role because their leadership can play effective role to convince local farmers and it also encourages farmer to take responsibility for continuity. Though the project activities were finished, local institutions are conducting simple activities in their leadership in these days also.

Mobilisation of agriculture college students has got chance to learn about problem and prospect of using toxic pesticide. This has helped to produce young conservationists in the sector of conservation.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

This single year small project was able to accomplish good result in some areas but it has to be extended other sites also because there are many areas having same problems. Then only, contribution of this project can be seen.

This time, project has formed and reformed many farmer groups and clubs. It will not be rationale to leave these groups in this situation. They should be knocked and sensitised regularly until they will not be in condition to launch their activities effectively in their own initiation. So, these groups should be strengthened and mobilised to educate other farmers. Then only we can expect project continuity and effective implementation of learning in future. Awareness creation through farmer groups put gigantic role. "Farmer to farmer" based project by extending its areas should be launched as project continuity.

6. How do you plan to share the results of your work with others?

Launching of some activities in some pocket could address only problem of specific area where as dissemination of success stories could influence larger area having same problem. Conservation issue is not only local issue it is issue of national, regional and global that is why my team has given priority on this regards. So, each and every activity reports were broadcasted through radio programme, local papers, public notice boards etc. Regular progress reports were submitted to Rufford Small Grant Foundation to keep in official website. Being a person of conservation politics, I have regularly updated project progress in personal Facebook so that concerned people have got chance to learn directly.

In future, project based article will be published in local language and dispatched to notice boards and local paper to share at local level. Success stories will be shared in seminar, workshop and other group discussion. The report on pesticide issue will be prepared and disseminated through email and internet so that global community also get chance to learn.

7. Timescale: Over what period was the RSG used? How does this compare to the anticipated or actual length of the project?

In this project, RSGF was the major funding partner and Hands for Conservation (HC/Nepal) was co-funding partner. Grant was used as per mentioned in application. The detail is;

Time frame	Activity	Support
July 2011 ----- June 2010	Farm visit, Local Pesticide Shop visit, Questionnaire survey / Analysis, Expert Consultation, Group Discussion, Organic Farming, Documentary Show, Training "Integrated Pest Management", Workshop; (Discussion on harmful, low harmful, alternative options), Conservation Education (Ecology/Bird), Seller / buyer Interaction, Publication/Media, School teaching / Teacher consultation, Brochure, Booklet, Radio / Conservation Board, Communication, Stationery, LCD Projector (hiring), Transportation & Fuel for motorbike, Team Members Accommodation	RSGF (Major Funding) & HC/Nepal (Co-funding)
Continuity After July 2011	Field visit, Monitoring Project Impact, Reporting, Progress Updating	Grantee: Voluntarily, Fuel: HC/Nepal

8. Budget: Please provide a breakdown of budgeted versus actual expenditure and the reasons for any differences. All figures should be in £ sterling, indicating the local exchange rate used.

The detail of project expenditure was as follows;

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Farm / Pesticide shop visit	120.00	140.00	- 20.00	Also visit farmer house
Questionnaire Survey	240.00	250.00	- 10.00	Also visit farmer house
Expert Consultation	200.00	150.00	+ 50.00	Experts waved personal charge
Group Discussion	200.00	205.00	-5.00	Participation increased
Farmer Education	200.00	220.00	- 20.00	Days increased
Organic Farming Campaign	200.00	200.00	± 00.00	Organise as package programme
Training "Integrated Pest Management"	200.00	230.00	-30.00	Participation increased
Documentary Show	200.00	190.00	+10.00	Hall charge waved
Workshop (2 times)	400.00	360.00	+ 40.00	Volunteer resource person
Conservation Education	300.00	300.00	± 00.00	Organise as package programme
Seller/buyer Interaction programme	400.00	400.00	± 00.00	Organise as package programme
School teaching	200.00	195.00	+ 5.00	School room used
Teacher Consultation	200.00	195.00	+ 5.00	School room used
Booklet/Brochure	200.00	205.00	- 5.00	Increased in paper charge
Poster	200.00	200.00	± 00.00	Package programme
Community Radio Programme	780.00	850.00	- 70.00	Addition of quiz award

Information Flex Board	130.00	145.00	- 15.00	Increased in number
Team Members (Accommodation and food)	1000.00	1150.00	-150.00	Days & member increased
Transportation & Fuel for motorbike	240.00	210.00	+ 30.00	Field visits increased
LCD Projector (hiring)	150.00	120.00	+ 30.00	Reduce charge for conservation programme
Stationery	200.00	200.00	± 00.00	Package
Communication	180.00	180.00	± 00.00	Package
Refreshment	250.00	275.00	- 25.00	Participation increased
Reporting	100.00	112.00	-12.00	Extra radio advertisement
Total	6490.00	6682.00	-192	

RSGF = 5990.00 £

Hands for Conservation (HC/Nepal) =500.00 £

Note: Remaining 192.00 £ was adjusted by local farmer groups.

Justification: Budget became insufficient due to fluctuation in exchange rate. In some cases, item wise expenses were strictly economized that is why I became able to reduce difference.

Exchange rate: - 1. 00 £ =115.00 Nepalese Rupees (Time of Project Approval)

1.0 £ =125.00 Nepalese Rupees (Time of Application Submission)

9. Looking ahead, what do you feel are the important next steps?

Effectiveness and continuity are the fundamental elements of Project. Only organising some activities cannot address conservation issue totally. Continuity and long term impact with proper extension programme is essential after the project completion. So I have planned to continue some effective activities to strengthen project outputs and scaling up.

This single year small project was able to accomplish good result in some areas but it has to be extended other sites also because there are many areas having same problems. Then only, contribution of this project can be seen.

This time, project has formed and reformed many farmer groups and clubs. It will not be rationale to leave these groups in this situation. They should be knocked and sensitised regularly until they will not be able to launch activities effectively in their leadership. So, these groups should be strengthened and mobilised to educate other farmers. Awareness creation through local farmer groups put gigantic role in farmland bird conservation rather than outsider. "Farmer to farmer" based project by extending its areas should be launched as project continuity.

Therefore, to keep these groups in touch, I am still continuing Field visit, Monitoring Project Impact, Reporting, Progress Updating, Radio Program, School teaching program etc. after project completion also.

10. Did you use the RSGF logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the RSGF receive any publicity during the course of your work?

We are very much sincere on providing credits to contributors because it is ethical issue. Logo of Rufford Small Grant Foundation (RSGF) was used in most of the activities and publication that were produced in relation to this project. Local partners were also encouraged to point out RSGF contribution when we carried out activities jointly.

Logo was used in Banner, Certificate, Poster, Prize, Booklet, Boards, supported books, stationeries etc. Somewhere Rufford Small Grant Foundation was also written as supporting organisation when there was

not chance of printing and painting. RSGF stickers were also produced and dispatched in those books which were supported to conservation libraries.

In all activities, grantee shared about RSGF; what it is? What does it do? How can people/institution win grant from this foundation? What are the criteria? What is the official website of RSGF?

Sometimes, we had to place other organisation and their funding partners' logos. So, different organization logos were also seen in banner, certificate and so on.

11. Any other comments?

I would like to express special gratitude to Rufford Small Grant Foundation for its contribution because its financial assistance had made possible of this project implementation. I am very much thankful to RSGF personally because I have got chance to build my career in conservation field.

I appreciate to my referees, R. Larson, H. B. Tamang, R.K. Bhatta, C.P. Upadhyaya, K.D. Awasthi for their incredible backing during the project period.

Local partners i.e. HC/Nepal, PARC/Nepal, Schools, Farmer groups, Pesticide sellers, Buffer zone User Committees, Forest User Committees, Co-workers (RSG-Grantees), NGOs, CBOs, Clubs, FM stations (Vijaya FM & Radio Chitwan), Teachers, Students etc also deserve thanks for their support during the project activities. I also like to remember all who have played role in/directly to make success this project.

One year programme will not be enough to restore population of globally threatened farmland bird species. There are still lots of things to do. If we want to gain measurable and visible outcomes, newly formed farmer groups and eco-clubs should be strengthened and mobilized to create awareness their neighborhoods in coming days. So, farmer to farmer based conservation project is indeed for next step that is why I am expecting same kind of support from all in future.