

Project Update: October 2010

Wetland Conservation & Management Training: In the collaboration with Mrigakunja User Committee, Barandabhar user Committee, United Nation Development Programme / Global Environment Facility / Small Grants Programmes, wetland conservation and management training was organised. Altogether 40 local people took part and learned about the major threats to farmland and wetland biodiversity and its minimization ideas. Training specially focused on the pesticide impacts and its minimization ideas.

Experts from Institute of Agriculture and Animal Science were invited as resource persons to deliver knowledge of organic farming and key biological techniques to reduce the farmland pest and disease. During the training, farmers explored existing farming practices and using trends chemical fertilizer and pesticide to increase production. And, experts clarified "what is wrong and right?" and recommended some environment, biodiversity and health friendly methods.

Farmer Interaction Programme: Farmers use to grow different seasonal crops and vegetables in their farmland every year in Chitwan Valley and use to use different chemicals to solve the pest problem concerned with each crops. To know the crop wise pesticide details, regular farm visits and interaction activities were also made this time.

Pesticide Seller Interaction Programme: Regular meetings were conducted with pesticide sellers to take the consumption rate and demand of pesticides. According to the pesticide sellers, local farmers use to ask crop wise pesticide. Sellers described that consumption rate of Thiodine, a contact pesticide is extreme in this season. Thiodine is that pesticide which ensures death of each small organism i.e. micro-organism, frogs, snakes, birds etc within a contact.

School Teaching Programme: School visits and teaching activities were conducted to create awareness about biodiversity conservation including agro-biodiversity. Programme had highlighted both positive and negative impact of pesticides on human health, farmland birds, agro-biodiversity, environment and crop production. The programme was carried out in coordination with Lothar User Committee (community-based organization) and Hands for Conservation (local NGO).

Joint Interaction Programme: From regular interaction and field visit activities, it was found that both farmers and sellers were not aware about the chemical pesticides as per need. So in the facilitation government officials, Agriculture Service Centre, Parsa, Chitwan, an interaction programme was organised amongst local farmers and pesticide sellers to disseminate information of pesticides which are prescribed and banned from government to use in farmland. Programme has focused on locally available pesticides, their possible impact on human health / farmland bird species and procedure of making eco-friendly organic pesticides.

