

## Project Update: September 2011

**Highlights:** According to the most popular national daily paper, *The Kantipur* Sunday, September 4th, 2011, the Nepal government is going to amend its laws, rule and regulation in order to reduce import and use of chemical pesticides. So the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperative of Nepal has been organising several consultation meetings with top level stakeholders. By coding government data, daily has added that Nepal had imported 356, 000 kg of chemical pesticides in 2010, compared to 77,800 kg in 1998 – there has been a 278,000 kg increase in 12 years. From this evidence, it can be said that RSGF had invested for genuine issue in appropriate time.

**Change:** After completion of the project, fields are regularly being visited to monitor project impact and change in farmers' behaviour. In August 2011, the following improvements were found in the project sites.

1. Farmer Ishwari Prasad Dhakal has been leading a compost making research by using *Mikania micrantha* species. This species is the most notorious alien invasive plant which has been encroaching on forest land and grassland and replacing local plant species of Chitwan National Park and other forest lands.

To reduce encroachment of this species, Green Governance Nepal (GGN) has initiated compost making research in the support of National Trust for Nature Conservation. Ishwari Prasad Dhakal has acted as local resource person on this research. The RSGF project had empowered Mr Dhakal and his group in past. Similarly, He has been also conducting another vermin-compost making research by utilizing *Mikania micrantha* in the joint venture of GGN. Besides Mr Dhakal, other farmers have also taken part in compost making research. This research will be helpful to reduce the encroachment of invasion species and promote organic farming which ultimately supports forestland and farmland bird species.



2. More farmers have heard about negative impacts of chemical pesticides from participants of conservation education programme. After knowing negative impacts, new farmers are also showing interest for chemical free agricultural practices. Through knowledge and information extension, numbers of organic farmer are being increased.

From this, it can be said that RSGF project was effective.

**Continuity:** Other activities i.e. radio programme, field visits, farmer interaction in farmlands are also going on.

