

Project Update: February 2011

Regular briquette production groups' meeting

A regular meeting of each briquette production group has been conducted on a fixed date each month. For the first group, the date is 25th of the month and for the second, the 28th. At the same time, they have collected the saving amount. Altogether 11 meetings were held of each group.

Exposure Visit (20th - 29th October 2010)

A group of seven members (three from each briquette production group and a team leader of the project) were involved in the exposure visit to Lamatar VDC of Lalitpur district of Kathmandu valley for sharing the ideas of briquette production and forest conservation. There was already a briquette production enterprise at Lamatar VDC.

Brochure Publication and Distribution (7th - 13th November 2010)

About 2000 brochures were published and distributed among the villagers as well as students of Saraswati Higher Secondary School (Chiuridanda VDC), Bidhyodaya Higher Secondary School and Pancha High School of district headquarter, Diktel Bazar about the briquette technology of *Eupatorium adenophorum* (Banmara) for forest conservation.

District level Workshop with stakeholders for forest conservation (Jan.13th -14th, 2011)

A 2-day workshop on forest conservation and livelihood was held in the district headquarters, Diktel Bazar of Khotang district. About 40 participants attended. Representatives from both forest conservation and community briquette production Groups (Ranku and Aahale), District Forest Officer (DFO), District Agricultural development officer (DADO), political leaders, teachers, conservationists, journalists and members of forest users group were involved in the workshop. It was very effective to introduce the local practices / trends and innovations for the biodiversity as well as forest conservation.