



Field Report

Chitwan, Sarlahi and Sindhuli

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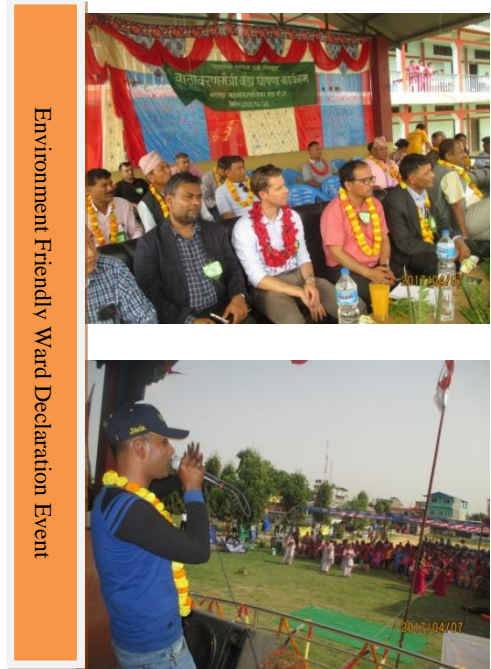
PERIOD and LOCATION:	April 7 to 9, 2017 (inclusive of travel time), Narayani, Parwanipur of Sarlahi, Tin Patan of Sindhuli
PROJECT:	Environment Friendly Local Governance Program (EFLGP)
MAIN PERSON (S) CONTACTED:	Executive Officers, Social Mobilisers, Municipality officials, Local Communities, Ward Citizen Forum, Buffer Zone User Committees
OBJECTIVES:	Monitor EFLGP field activities Accompany DFID team to the field monitoring of EFLGP activities

During the three days field visit, the team interacted with field stakeholders and observed various EFLGP supported activities. The following sections highlight the interaction and field observation outcomes.

Environment Friendly Ward Declared

Amidst a function, MoFALD Secretary Mr. Kedar Bahadur Adhikari declared Ward no 21 of Bharatpur Metropolitan City as Environment Friendly on 7th April 2017. Over 1000 people including journalists, political parties, women groups and children clubs attended the Ceremony. The Ceremony witnessed participation of more than 50% women.

Now onwards, the Ward will be recognized as cleaner and greenery town. Moreover, they will have well managed solid waste management system and each household will have at least two perennial tree species, among others. The Ward comprises of 36 Tole Lane Organizations (TLOs) and 14,000 people. Ward no 7 of the municipality was already declared Environment Friendly a few months back.



Panchakanya Greenery Park

With, EFLGP support local communities at Ward no 12 of Ratnanagar Municipality have maintained Panchakanya Greenery Park. The Park covers about 10 Katthas (0.3 Hectare) public land. The Green Park includes small foot ball ground, resting places and ponds. The public land that had been encroached by land mafia for agricultural land expansion was reclaimed and developed as the Park by local communities together with Municipality Officials.

The key activities carried out under EFLGP support include boundary fencing, tree sapling plantation; pond maintenance and development of children play ground, purchasing play equipments and park maintenance. As an impact of the integrated activities, greenery in the Park

has been maintained, water being recharged in the adjacent agricultural land and fish farming has been practiced at the pond. Moreover, increasing number of children visit the Park for enjoying greenery and playing games.

To sustain these activities, the park management committee is planning promote domestic tourism and introduce park entry fee system, managing boating and rearing fish among others. About 900 people including 400 women and children will be benefitted from the program, said local. Ms. Namrata Khatiwoda, Chairperson of the Children Club in Ward No 12 said, "We do often visit the park for enjoying greenery and playing games".



Panchakanya Park, Ratnanagar

Ashok Ghol Taal

Mrighakunja Buffer Zone User Committee of Chitwan National Park has converted underutilized bushy land into multiple use ponds at Ward no 7 of Ratnanagar Municipality. The pond has been developed towards south-eastern part of Tikauli Jungle, a protected forest and adjacent to Bishazari Lake, a Ramsar Site in Nepal. The pond was constructed owing to deal with the issue of ever decreasing water table and difficulties in getting drinking and irrigation water in nearby settlements and agricultural lands.



The pond covers an area of about one hectare land. Mrighakunja Buffer Zone User Committee together with Ratnanagar Municipality, WWF, Chitwan District Agriculture Office has maintained inlet and outlet of the pond, fenced boundary wall, removed water hyacinth and excavated land.

Ashok Ghol Taal, Ratnanagar

Within two years of concerted efforts of the various organizations, environmental and livelihood value of the pond has increased to a large extent. Water table nearby settlements has increased considerably and consequently helped increasing production of about 200 bigaha agricultural lands. Moreover, the pond has become a sustainable source of drinking and wallowing water for wild animals mainly rhinoceros, crocodiles, wild elephants and deer. Further, due to large sized pond in between forest and agricultural land, wild animals cannot trespass easily the pond and reach to agricultural land. This helped a lot in reducing possibilities of losing agricultural production to wild animals by local communities and thereby minimized wildlife people conflicts.

Similarly, the user committee has maintained a tree nursery adjacent to the pond. The User Committee has agreed to provide upto four tree seedlings to local communities upon receiving recommendation of Ratnanagar Municipality for plantation at their home garden that ultimately contributes to declaring environment friendly household.



Improved Cooking Stoves, Sindhuli

Therefore, the pond rehabilitated through multi stakeholder engagement has provided multitude of benefits including conserving biodiversity, increasing income to local communities and maintaining water table.

Improved Cooking Stoves and Cattleshed Improvement

With EFLGP support, Tinpatan Rural

Municipality Ward No. 2 & 3 (Previously known as Bhimsthan VDC) has adopted a total of 150 Improved Cooking Stoves (ICS) and a few biogas plants, underwent environmental awareness training and implemented improved cattle sheds. Priority of the support was given to poorest of the poor sections of the society.



Improved Livestock Shet, Sindhuli

According to local people, ICS together with biogas has helped efficient use of firewood and supported reducing respiratory disease, diarrhea and cholera especially for females and children. One person in each ward was provided with Stove Master MTOT on constructing cooking stoves. If once constructed mud ICS is damaged stove masters are available within their wards to repair or to construct new one.

Having main occupation as agriculture, HH of these wards had necessity to herd cattle not only for milk products but also for fertilizers. Due to the traditional type of cattle sheds urine used to be absorbed on the floor while dung was exposed to sunlight and rainwater, thereby reducing the productivity. Therefore locals were using chemical fertilizers in addition to dung.

After undertaking orientation training on importance of health and hygienic value of improved cattle sheds, high demand was obtained from VDC residents for cattle shed improvement. Accordingly, EFLGP approved the project for 200 HH on F/Y 2016/17 for providing Rs. 5000.00 as subsidy to each beneficiary. Under EFLGP support, there was not subsidy policy on hand while supporting cattle shed management. This has to be in line with Department of Livestock programme- eg- they support NRs 25,000 and provide composite package for cattle shed improvement.

With the completion the collected urine on constructed tank is now being used as fertilizer and pesticides in fields and kitchen gardens. Similarly shed on the dung has protected it from sunlight and rainwater thereby conserving its productivity. Beneficiaries are expecting more production from the protected dung and urine in the days to come.

In this way organic farming is being promoted in Tinpatan Village Municipality. Hygiene and cleanliness status of the shed area has been improved. According to the local beneficiaries the subsidy amount was very less compared to project cost but they are happy seeing their now improved cattle shed. Bishnu Kafle, Secretary at Ward Service Center said ICS and cattle shed program of EFLGP helped improving health and sanitation situation of local people. Moreover, level of environmental awareness increased considerably, said Mr. Kafle.

Community Based Solid Waste Management

With EFLGP support, the then Narayani Municipality has become an example of community based solid waste management site in Chitwan. Due to environment friendly development campaigns, awareness level of local communities has been raised. Ward level annual development plan of the Municipality includes environment friendly development activities. Community cooperatives are implementing environment friendly training from their own income sources, said Municipality Officials.

Solid wastes are being segregated at household level. Non bio-degradable solid goes into segregation center. Plastic and recyclable wastes go to the market and the hazardous they dump nearby settlement.

Community based solid waste management program was found very successful in Narayani Municipality. In total three locals are employed for segregation with RS.12500 per months' salary. Hard plastic wastes sell in Rs.40/kg and soft in rs.20/kg and polythene bag in rs.6/kg. This could be a successful initiative and hence deserve replication and upscaling. Moreover, it was suggested to prepare business plan of the activities and adopt strategies accordingly so as to maintain at least equal cost benefit ratio.



Waste collection and segregation center at Narayani

In summary, community based solid waste management system in the then Narayani Municipality was found very effective in managing solid wastes. This initiative deserves replication and upscaling all across the country.

Children Park at Narayani Municipality

In coordination with District Forest Office, local user committee has constructed Ratan Children Park at Ward no 21 of Bharatpur Metropolitan City. This is the first of this kind of Children Park in this locality, said Krishna Man Gurung, Chairperson of the Management Committee. The once encroached land for road construction and agricultural expansion has been recovered and converted into Children Park.

With EFLGP support, local communities planted tree saplings, constructed trails here and there, and erected fencing around one bigaha land. Moreover, with their own saving, water tank and

toilets have been built at the middle of the Park. The park has contributed to promote greenery as well as helped reducing the chance of further encroachment of the public land. Also, it serves maintaining open space in the municipality.

The park will be a model site for playing children and enjoying scenery in the days to come. Moreover, the plantation in the Park will help absorbing carbon and thereby reducing green house effect, though could be negligible. The management committee will levy entrance fee to sustain the park soon. Therefore, the park will provide environmental benefits.

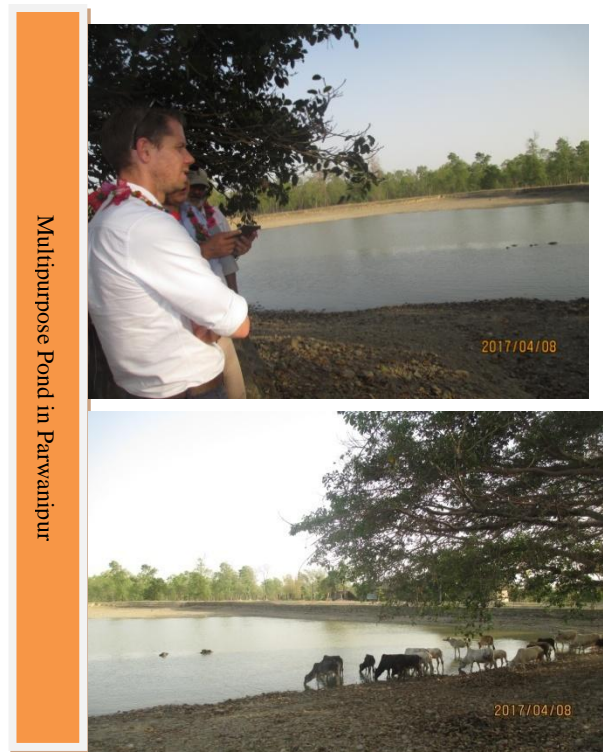
Pond at Parwanipur

There are a total of 305 household in ward no 4 of Parwanipur Village Development Committee (VDC) of Sarlahi District. The settlement was established in 1972 since when malaria was eradicated from the lowland, Terai. With an objective of accessing drinking water and creating wallowing facilities for livestock, local communities constructed a 20m*20m sized pond in public land in 1979 when the settlement was in crisis of water.

To uphold multiple use value of the pond, the local communities got Environment Friendly Local Governance Program (EFLGP) support to increase volume, heighten boundary wall, and maintain inlet & outlet and plant fruit tree species all along the peripheral wall of the pond. With this livelihood, environmental and climate change addressing value of the pond has increased greatly.

The pond has multiple use value. It is a source of drinking and wallowing water for livestock mainly stall feeding buffalo and free grazing cows. Having regular source of water in the village, people are opting improved milking buffalos these days. Every day they sell about 600 liter buffalo milk in local market. Similarly, the pond has been contracted annually with Rs.100000 for fish. According to local people, due to the pond, water has been recharged below at the southern part of the pond and it has resulted in greenery and more biomass production. Moreover, the pond is providing habitat for wildlife species like duck, deer, wild boar, blue bull, etc.

EFLGP support was instrumental to address the real demand of local people, said Mr. Bharat Dahal a local resident. Based on the interaction with local people and observing the pond, it was concluded that this kind of activities should be replicated all along the foot hills of chure area.



Best Practices

- Maintenance of ponds at lowland terai and foot hills of Chure area contributes to maintaining water table and thereby supports recharging adjoining agricultural land.
- Substantial encroached public lands are reclaimed and transformed into children parks. The parks are contributing to climate change adaptation and mitigation through growing plant species and rehabilitating ponds
- Community based solid waste management in Narayani has been appeared as model that can be replicated elsewhere in Nepal. Moreover, it needs to prepare a business plan to make sure that investment in community based solid waste management will benefits to local government.
- Integrated approach to environment awareness such as ODF, post ODF, biogas, ICS and cattle shed improvement program helped a lot in raising environment awareness linking with health issues in Tinpatan of Sindhuli
- Successful management of Ashok Ghol through multi partnership approach in Ratnanaagr Municipality has yielded very encouraging results in terms of generating livelihood benefits, storing water, recharging agricultural land and availing drinking water.

Issues

- Though all the activities are contributing to climate change either adaptation or mitigations, no systematic planning had been done to integrate climate resilient elements in the aforementioned activities.
- Due to lack of Account Officer since long ago, smooth implementation of EFLGP activities in Dudhauri Municipality has been obstructed
- Though aforementioned activities are yielding positive results towards contributing livelihood of local communities, they are yet to be linked closely with the livelihood of poorest of the poor sections of the society and climate change adaptation activities
- Under EFLGP support, there was not subsidy policy on hand while supporting cattle shed management. This has to be in line with Department of Livestock programme- eg- they support NRs 25,000 and provide composite package for cattle shed improvement.

Recommendations

- Carryout documentation and dissemination of successful initiatives through case study as well as producing short documentaries
- To ensure, timely implementation of all planned activities for FY 2016/17, immediate efforts need to be made from central level for availing Account Officer in Dudhauri Municipality
- The second phase design of EFLG should focus on targeting climate change and livelihood linked activities

- EFLGP should develop subsidy policy for supporting cattle shed management
- Narayani Municipality should prepare business plan of the community based solid waste management practices
- As the EFLG component is going to end by 15th July 2017, it is suggested EFLGP-PMU to document learning and best practices and share widely.