

The Rufford Foundation

Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford 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	Nilesh Heda
Project title	Conservation of Riverine Resources through People's Participation
RSG reference	1081-P
Reporting period	1 st Jun 2014 – 31 st December 2015
Amount of grant	25000 GBP
Your email address	nilheda@gmail.com
Date of this report	1 st January 2017

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
To strengthen all the activities started during previous RSGs.				All the activities of previous Rufford Grant has been scaled up.
Creation of the DPR of 5 villages for eco-restoration.				Detailed village planning of eco-restoration has been completed.
Sensitizing local people and government departments to initiate eco-restoration work through various schemes and local contribution (At 10 villages including 3 streams).				In entire Bembla River basin this movement has been extended.
Plantation of 20000 plants in the basin.				The 20,000 target has not been achieved through project. However, as a part of policy intervention and subsequent government initiative in entire state, the objective has been fulfilled.
River march				Many frequent river march with local people has been arranged during project period.
Awareness creation and capacity building. (Workshops, village meetings, popular lectures etc.).				
Exposure visits				Many frequent exposure visits with local people has been arranged during project period.
Generation of popular resource material about eco-restoration, acts policies, local fishes.				Small booklet, book, flyers, pamphlets has been prepared during the project period.
Supporting low input organic agriculture and				Organic agriculture has been demonstrated at the farm of 30

soil and water conservation in the agriculture farm. (Application of LISA technique and model creation at 10 farmer's farm).				farmers.
Setting up of small agribusinesses at 10 places (Poultry, sericulture, floriculture, fisheries, mushroom culture etc.)				Small agribusiness at five places has been established.
Participatory culture of local fishes.				Participatory fish culture activity at Dhamani village fishermen has been initiated and people are getting good returns out of it.
River study syllabus development				The development of river study syllabus has been delayed because of more engagement in field activities.
Choosing students for River Study Course (RSC).				This objective has been delayed because of more engagement in field activities.
Coaching and field assignments to students.				This objective has been delayed because of more engagement in field activities.
Setting up "River Conservation Societies" or similar structures in 10 new villages.				
Registration of Producer Company of local people and creation of business endeavor and eco-restoration through it.				The Greenza Producer Company of local people has been registered and reached to 550 shareholders.
Registration of fishermen's cooperative society.				The fishermen cooperative has been registered at Dhamani village.
Advocacy for the effective implementation of various acts and policies				
Book writing on the lesson learnt during previous 5 RSGs.				The book writing is going on.

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

1. Failure by government department to provide timely wages to labourer and its impact on eco-restoration work. On the project implementation level there was important difficulty arises by the problem in the government system, in the wage disbursement mechanism of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guaranty Act 2005 (MGNREGA) implementation. We are using potential of MGNREGA for the eco-restoration. The act stipulated guaranteed wage employment to rural poor through eco-restoration activities. For 5 years, we are facilitating eco-restoration work in Bembla River basins, however, in spite of good quality work people has not received their wage payment even after 3 months.
2. One of the objectives of the given project was to set up a producer company of the local people for the livelihood development. We have registered the same however due to delay in the loan sanctioning from the NABARD, the growth of company stunted. However, we are making continuous follow up and we will ensure loan soon.

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

- 1) **Team of the committed youths:** Team of committed grassroots youths is ready to take environmental challenge in the area.
- 2) **Institutional structures:** Institutional structure in the form of a producer company, Self-help groups are hope for the sustainability of the project in future.
- 3) **Eco-restoration:** Eco-restoration of degraded tanks, lakes, streams are assets created by the project.

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

This is in fact community involvement in nature conservation and livelihood generation project. At every step community participation has been ensured in the project. As a short term benefit the community members received livelihood and in long run the producer company will provide sustainable benefit to local people. The eco-restoration of lakes, streams has provide them the access to water for domestic use and irrigation.

Emphasis of project was to build capacity of people and institutions and to help local leadership to immerge. Knowledge about acts and policies has empowered

people. Local systems have been strengthened so that beyond project period, local people will take care of output and system is becoming self-sustaining.

The local people benefited by three important interventions. One was generation of the livelihood through the implementation of MGNREGA, through making linkages with the various government programs like NABARD, various banks and improvement in the agriculture and rural infra-structure.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes. The river restoration work is long term process and needs working on various levels. So far we have created satisfactory impact but considering vast area of river basins and involvement of millions of stakeholders it is essential to work further. In this regard, I am exploring various funding sources and in next round applying for the Whitley Award for nature conservation.

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

i. Study Groups

There are many mechanisms created over the period for information dissemination in the project area. Our area has grand traditions of Study Groups (*Abhyas Gat*). The study groups are the informal structures comprises interested individuals working in various NGOs. There are regular study group meetings carried out in various part of the country. I am regular participant of these meetings and sharing information in the same.

ii. Articles in News Paper

I am writing creative articles in local language in newspapers. Through these articles the results will be spread among broader audience. The articles can be found at <http://nheda.blogspot.com/>.

iii. Web

We have set up website where we post all the project related information time to time. The URL of the website is www.samvardhan.org.in. We have also created website of the producer company and can be accessed at www.greenza.co.in There are some face book pages created by me where the information about the project is regularly posted. The URL of these pages are as follows:

- a) <https://www.facebook.com/Samvardhan2008>
- b) <https://www.facebook.com/greenzaagro>

iv. Collaboration with National JAL BIRADARI:

National Jal Biradari is joint association of various NGO, nature lover dedicatedly working for the water conservation. The group has been established by Mr Rajendra Singh, Megesese winner. I am closely associated with the group and time to time share results of RSG project with them.

v. Collaboration with UNDP-SGP program

Recently UNDP-SGP (<http://www.sgpindia.org/>) provided grant to SAMVARDHAN to extend its activities. The results will be shared with this network.

vi. Collaboration with Paul Hymen Foundation (PHF), UK and CORO, India

Recently SAMVARDHAN becomes partner with the PHF-CORO capacity building program (<http://www.phf.org.uk>). The results will be shared with this network.

vii. Collaboration National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development(NABARD)

Recently SAMVARDHAN becomes partner with the NABARD'S farmer's club program (<https://www.nabard.org>). The results will be shared with this network.

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

Grant amount utilized for the period of 1st June 2014 – 31st December 2015. The actual length of the project was 1st June 2014 to 1st June 2015. However, the work is continuing since first RSG in 2008.

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.

Items	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Book Writing	569.99	520.0208	49.974	
Consultancy charges	749.99	566.82	183.17	
Consumables	600	948.39	-348.3	
Distribution of organic pesticides and fertilizers.	500	569.10	-69.10	
Establishment of aquarium	500	526.26	-26.26	
Exposure Visit	1020	1129.55	-109.55	
Field Station establishment	1000	1344.86	-344.86	
Honorarium	1000	894.43	105.56	
Library	500	517.42	-17.42	

Office Rent	360	361.93	-1.934	
Plantation	1000	893.00	106.99	
Printing	1149.99	825.05	324.94	
Rent field station	1440	1285.63	154.36	
Salary Project assistant	1200	1000.52	199.48	
Salary Project director	2400	2416.01	-16.01	
Sustainable Agriculture Model	1000	1326.00	-326.05	
Travel	2640	3096	-456.23	
Village meetings	1669.99	1176.56	493.42	
Workshop	3229.99	4339.31	-1109.32	
Audit	149.99	212.16	-62.17	
River March	400	676.02	-276.02	
Accountant	600	201.76	398.23	
Research Fellow	240	0	240	
Field assistant	1080	641.70	438.29	
Bank charges	0	4.36	-4.36	
	25000	25473.25		

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

The project is in the form of scaling up on larger geographical area. The lesson learnt from the Rufford Foundation Grant project will be presented in the form of books and so on.

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

Yes. At all capacity building programs on main banner RSG logo has been printed. On every popular material RSG logo printed. On SAMVARDHAN website, RSGF logo under support category mentioned.

During the project time, I have presented the work at FAO, Rome, Wageningen University, Netherlands and Rockefeller Foundation, USA.

11. Please provide a full list of all the members of your team and briefly what was their role in the project.

Sr. No.	Team Member	Role
1	Dr Nilesh Heda	Team leader
2	Arvind Kankirad	Project Assistant
3	Dnyaneshwar Dhekade	Project Assistant
4	Miss. Punam Darvekar	Field Assistant

5	Pawan Mishra	Management of field station
6	Pradip Yeotikar	People's mobilization
7	Sanjay Dhawak	Producer Company management
8	Sumant Bandale	Producer Company management
9	Vijay Doiphode	Watershed management supervision
10	Vilas Malte	Fishermen's cooperative management
11	Sandeep Bansod	Village level watershed work management
12	Suraj Tilawat	Book keeping and finance

12. Any other comments?

When we apply ecosystem approach to the conservation work it needs consistency in the work. Such consistency maintained by the continuous supply of the resources for some time until and unless system becomes self-sustaining. Thus, to maintain the tempo of our work I am applying for the Whitley Award for nature conservation in next round.