

## **Project Update: December 2017**

The golden mahasheer fish's protection from illegal activities was the primary activity of the last 3 months. October and November is the breeding season of golden mahasheer fish, therefore a large population does the upward migration in the river to complete their breeding cycle. It is easy to catch the fish in this season therefore maximum illegal fishing takes place in the Ramganga River from October to January every year. Local people make a specific bamboo trap to catch the fish; the trap is locally known 'Goda'. As per our estimate, 4 to 5 quintals of fish are caught per year by the one trap. Up to last year about nine traps were made in 20 km range (our project area) on the river. This year not a single trap was made in our project range. We could save a large population of the fishes. It would not have done without local volunteer's supports and social mobilization. It was an outcome of 3 years of hard work and dedication of our local team!



Picture 1: Fingerlings after seed ranching



Left: Volunteers after successful full execution of a seed ranching drive. Right: One of the Mahasheer fish's conservation site

Secondly, a seed ranching drive was done in the seven identified locations in the river. On the banks of the river, small ponds are made in rainy season where the fish are trapped and die - the process of transferring the fish from these ponds to the main river is called seed ranching. About 8000 fingerlings were transferred from small ponds to the river. The Fishery Department of the Uttarakhand Government gave technical and financial support to do the activities.

Furthermore, we are working on a mahasheer fish monograph. The document will be completed by the end of January 2018. We are using secondary literature, including scientific journals popular articles etc., and primary data from the local community to develop the document.

Apart from our regular programme activities six village biodiversity conservation plans are being made by our trained local volunteers.

A local newspaper published our seed ranching drive in the front page

