

Project Update: December 2018

Introduction

The local communities of Dalla, Govindapur and Thakurdwara of Bardia are involving in ecotourism business, promoting their tharu culture and homestay. The homestays of Govindapur was initiated by Thakurbaba Municipality, Bardia to enhance the livelihood of local people. Govindapur is a beautiful village with large acres of agricultural land with Machhan at different places. Like in other parts of the Nepal, littering of plastic and garbage have emerged as a serious environmental issue in Govindapur. Of the total waste generation in the municipalities of Nepal, 44% is non-organic component and plastics alone accounts for 16% (ADB, 2013). Unfortunately tourism and ecotourism also contribute to produce the waste in village.

On the other hand, Govindapur is community of marginalised and economically backward people. There is not any adequate system and knowledge to manage the waste produced by livelihood and tourism. Local people often burn, bury, or throw trash in their surrounding area and polluting the environment and ceasing their ecotourism business. Therefore, to make their livelihood easier to sustain, this second Rufford project educated and empowered the local people to manage the integrated solid waste in their local area to enhance the ecotourism for conservation of lesser adjutant.



Figure 1. Homestay of Govindapur village

Pre-field activities

Adequate literature review was conducted on lesser adjutant and other storks of Bardia. Besides that, orientation was also conducted to the team members about the project including field activities on October 21st, 2018. Moreover, the Thakurbaba municipality was requested to collaborate in project activities and the letter of permission was obtained from municipality to conduct capacity building training of solid waste management in Govindapur Jaibik Homestay. Preparation for capacity building training was conducted and trained team on potential risks, threats, socio-cultural issues and ethics. Tools and equipment were arranged i.e. camera, projector, laptop, ingredients for basic vermicomposting and informative material about conservation of lesser adjutant with logo of Rufford Foundation and Resources Himalaya Foundation as well as questionnaires to record details on the project site.

Field work activities:

Consultation meeting

Consultation meeting was conducted with Mr. Ghananarayen Shrestha, Mayor of Thakurbaba Municipality and Ms. Sadhana Tharu, stakeholders of homestay on October 28th, 2018. In which, the status of solid waste management of municipality and its impacts were discussed. The venue and date were estimated to organise the capacity building training in Govindapur village.

Capacity Building Training

As per permission provided by municipality, the capacity building training was conducted on November 2nd, 2018 in Govindapur Jaibik Homestay. The training was oriented to empower the women, who are engaging homestay in their local area. The whole training was focused to solid waste management through presentation and active participation of participants.

During that session, 29 local women participated and they were educated about general composting and vermicomposting of degradable waste. So that, red earthworm (*Eisenia foetida*) were also distributed to the participants for initiation of vermicomposting in their local area. Besides that, they were trained to transform the non-degradable waste by transforming in to new form of goods for reuse. Additionally, they were aware to develop the business model form the solid waste management.



Figure 2. Describing vermi-composting in household



Figure 3. Transformed non-degradable waste to goods