

The Rufford Small Grants Foundation

Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford Small Grants 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	Ankur Patwardhan
Project title	Conservation and promotion of endangered medicinal plant species from Western Ghats of India
RSG reference	82.09.08
Reporting period	Jan 2009-Sept 2010
Amount of grant	£11,875
Your email address	ankurpatwardhan@bsnl.in , ankurpatwardhan@gmail.com
Date of this report	-

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
1) To develop mass multiplication protocols of selected 'red listed' medicinal plant species that are in high demand	-	-	Yes	Propagation / nursery techniques for 12 species have been standardised.
2) To involve and train local people in conservation	-	-	Yes	Two field level interaction meetings were done and seedlings were distributed for them.
3) To promote cultivation of selected 'red listed' species in existing farming systems	-	-	Yes	Pilot plantation plots of <i>Nothapodytes nimmoniana</i> (EN), <i>Saraca asoka</i> (EN), <i>Embelia basaal</i> (Vu), <i>Embelia ribes</i> (Vu), <i>Salacia chinensis</i> (Vu), <i>Dysoxylum malabaricum</i> (EN), <i>Garcinia gummi-gutta</i> (Low risk) have been taken with the help of farmers, individual growers.
4) To recover and reintroduce selected species in the wild	-	-	Yes	<i>Canarium strictum</i> (Black dammar) has been successfully re-introduced in the wild with the help of State Forest Department. Saplings are showing excellent growth after one year of introduction. In another site, <i>Dysoxylum malabaricum</i> and <i>Embelia basaal</i> seedlings were introduced.

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

Not applicable.

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

(a) Participation of State Forest Department (SFD). This was one of the most critical components for overall success of the project as: (i) the species that we were working upon are endangered; and (ii) the 'reintroduction' of the nursery grown seedlings we did was in the 'wild' and Forest Departments' participation is ensuring its protection.

(b) Support from farmers, individual growers, self help-groups who helped us to raise 'cultivation plots' on their farm. This activity also contributed to the empowerment of the farmers.

(c) Development of 'nursery techniques' for select 'red listed', economically important medicinal plant species. This has immensely contributed to the capacity of the Forest Department nursery workers.

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

Local people were involved in data collection. They were trained in the development of 'nursery techniques' and 'monitoring' of cultivation plots and were rewarded for the same. Thus peoples' participation ensured incentive and benefit based conservation. Field level interaction meetings were done and seedlings were distributed thus creating awareness to a larger audience.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes.

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

We intend to publicise the results as a 'Methodology Manual' (especially regarding development of nursery techniques), as a post-project activity. The inputs will be given to State Medicinal Plant Board (SMPB), SFD, academicians and farmers alike, besides contributing articles in local media, Agro-daily etc.

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

The project was planned for 18 months starting from Jan 2009. The project involved a considerable seasonality component that guided activities such as seed collection, plantation and re-introduction etc. Thus majority of the activities kick-started during and after the rainy season. To comment authoritatively about the trend, one needs systematic monitoring for at least one complete year of say plantation / re-introduction. So the final report is now being submitted for the period of 21 months.

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. (1£ = 68.5 Rs.)

Item	Budgeted Amount (£)	Actual Amount (£)	Difference (£)	Comments
(a) Token honoraria (farmers, community personnel, field assistants, students etc.)	4225	4246	-21	Few extra days were spent in the field by assistant because of rains
(b) Nursery Development, (chemicals, equipment, shade net, polybags)	3100	3001	99	-
(c) Promotion activities (workshop, field experimentation, brochures, travel and subsistence)	2700	2365	335	We intend to publish 'methodology manual'
(d) Administration (secretarial, accounting, stationary, communication)	1100	1513	-413	Experimental field sites are located far away from each other in different

				agro-climatic zones. Communication expenses exceeded than anticipated
(e) Contingency	250	225	25	Balance kept for unforeseen sundry expenses
(f) Post Project Cost (monitoring of plots)	500	400	100	Occasional site visits will be done to monitor plantation plots.
TOTAL	£ 11875	£ 11750	£ 125	

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

Eighty percent of the population in the country depend on traditional medicines for primary health care. With increasing demand, stocks in the wild are being depleted. Making available Quality Planting Material (QPM) of 'red listed' species is the big challenge. Reducing harvest pressure on wild population and promoting viable commercial cultivation with the community and government participation will form the next logical step. Linkages with the industry need to be explored so that supply of good quality raw material can be assured and possibility of buyback can be explored.

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

RSGF was given due acknowledgement in all the articles published till date and the activities conducted so far. Besides, the methodology manual that we intend to publish as a post-project activity will carry a RSGF logo.

11. Any other comments?

Present project tackles an important aspect of domestication of economically important 'red listed' medicinal plant species. This case study developed a model of successful participation of key stakeholders' in the field ranging from local people, farmers, researchers, agriculture extension officers, SFD and SMPB. This will reveal new facets of participatory conservation and commerce that could be a model for many other species.