

Plantation Program in Dhading, Nepal

Supported by

Stiftung Unternehman Wald, Germany



Friends of Nature (FON) Nepal

P.O. Box 23491

Kalanki, Kathmandu

Nepal

URL: www.fonnepal.org

Email: naturesfren@yahoo.com, friendsofnature2005@gmail.com

Acknowledgement

Friends of Nature (FON) Nepal is deeply grateful to Stiftung Unternehmman Wald, Germany, for providing the financial support to carry out this plantation project, and to the Sorandanda Leasehold Forest User Group for their role in implementing the initiative. We extend our thanks to the Social Welfare Council, Nilkantha Municipality Ward No. 2 Office, and the Division Forest Office, Dhading, for granting the necessary permissions. We also appreciate the Division Forest Offices of Dhading, Chitwan, and Makwanpur for supplying the required seedlings. Additionally, we are thankful for the guidance and support provided by Mr. Bishnu Prasad Acharya, Divisional Forest Officer, Dhading; Mr. Pradip Sharma, Assistant Forest Officer, Dhading; and our local resource person, Mr. Bhumiraman Nepal.



Table of Contents

Introduction.....	1
Objectives	1
Plantation Site.....	1
Activities.....	2
1. Site Selection.....	2
2. Meeting with Stakeholders.....	2
3. Collaboration with DFO and Local Government.....	2
4. Collection and Transportation of Seedlings.....	2
5. Plantation of Seedlings.....	3
6. Fencing of the Plantation Area.....	4
Conclusion	5

List of Tables

Table 1: Name and number of the planted seedlings.....	4
--	---

Introduction

Forest plays a vital role in maintaining ecological balance, supporting biodiversity, and mitigating the impacts of climate change. Nepal, a developing country abundant in natural resources, has approximately 44% of its land covered by forests. However, many areas in the mid-hills of the country remain barren, disrupting the natural landscape.

This plantation project seeks to restore greenery in these barren regions, addressing the challenges of climate change and revitalizing native biodiversity. The initiative focuses on promoting the use and preservation of native plant species while providing benefits to local communities through the consumption of plant products. Additionally, the project aims to engage locals in biodiversity conservation.

Objectives

The objectives of this plantation project are:

- To enhance greenery and natural beauty.
- To conserve native plant species.
- To engage the local community in biodiversity conservation.

Plantation Site

The designated site for this plantation project is Nilkantha Municipality Ward No. 2, Jurethum, Dhading. The plantation site is a barren area managed by Sorandanda Leasehold Forest User Group which is around 20 km distance from Dhadingbesi with latitude 27.908058° N , longitude 84.936354° E and elevation of 1500 m. The site lies in sub-tropical climatic zone of Nepal. Majority of people around the site have Gurung ethnicity while Brahmins and other ethnic groups are also present around the plantation site.



Activities

For the successful completion of this plantation project, we have adopted the following activities:

1. Site Selection

Our local resource person, Mr. Bhumiraman Nepal acted as the mediator between the organization and local committees interested in plantation activities. Based on his recommendations, we visited different committees and forest user groups to discuss the project with them. After evaluating the needs and interests of the groups, we decided to conduct the plantation program in Sorandanda Leasehold Forest, located in Jurethum, Dhading.

2. Meeting with Stakeholders

After confirming the plantation site, we conducted a meeting with the Sorandanda Leasehold Forest User Group to discuss the prospects of the program and their responsibilities. An agreement was prepared with the user group based on mutual understanding.



3. Collaboration with DFO and Local Government

As required by the laws of the Government of Nepal, we obtained the necessary permissions before initiating the project. A representative from our organization collaborated with the District Forest Office (DFO), Dhading and local government for the required approvals. The DFO team also visited the plantation site and provided technical guidance for the program.

4. Collection and Transportation of Seedlings

A total of 5500 seedlings of different species were collected from the nurseries of the Division Forest Offices in Dhading, Chitwan, and Makwanpur, as well as from local plant nurseries. This effort was coordinated by our local resource person and members of the user group. The collected seedlings were transported to the project site using local jeeps and trucks.



5. Plantation of Seedlings

The plantation of seedlings began soon after their transportation to the site. Necessary preparations such as clearing bushes and digging pits for the seedlings were made in advance as per the guidelines provided by the organization. The plantation activity started on July 3, 2024, by the local committee. Due to heavy rain, the plantation was completed in eight days. A representative from the organization was present throughout the plantation period to provide technical guidance. Mr. Bishnu Prasad Acharya, Divisional Forest Officer, Dhading, also visited the plantation site and offered further technical advice. The local community expressed

their satisfaction in promoting biodiversity and committed to protect the seedlings and enhance the area's greenery. The list of species of seedling planted is provided below in the table 1.

Table 1: Name and number of the planted seedlings

S.N.	Scientific Name	Common Nepali Name	Number
1	<i>Diploknema butyracae</i>	Chiuri	1830
2	<i>Zanthoxylum planispinum</i>	Timur	700
3	<i>Michelia champaca</i>	Chaap	950
4	<i>Cinnamomum tamala</i>	Tejpaat	360
5	<i>Callistemon citrinus</i>	Kalki Phool	500
6	<i>Cinnamomum camphora</i>	Kapur	200
7	<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	Dhupi	450
8	<i>Alstonia scholaris</i>	Chattiwan	320
9	<i>Phyllanthus emblica</i>	Amala	100
10	<i>Aegle marmelos</i>	Bel	20
11	<i>Citrus limon</i>	Lemon	20
12	<i>Nictanthis arbortristis</i>	Parijat	50
Total			5500

We initially aimed to plant 7,000 seedlings of native plant species in the designated area. However, we were able to manage only 5,500 seedlings, as the nurseries had already distributed their available stock. Additionally, since the major monsoon period had already ended for this year, we decided to postpone the planting of the remaining 1,500 seedlings until next year. This approach will help ensure the maximum success of the plantation.



6. Fencing of the Plantation Area

The plantation site is bordered by private forests and other leasehold forests on three sides, but one side faces a private farmland used for cattle grazing. To minimize potential damage to the seedlings, a 217 meter long fence was erected using barbed wire and concrete poles. The materials were purchased from a local vendor and transported to the site by the organization. Members of the user group installed the fences under the guidance of the organization.

Conclusion

Friends of Nature (FON) Nepal successfully conducted plantation program in Jurethum, Dhading in collaboration with Sorandanda Leasehold Forest User Group. We planted a total of 5500 seedlings of various native plant species and installed a total of 217 m wire fencing to protect the plantation area. We ensured the proper participation of local community in the program and the activities followed proper technical guideline. The seedlings will be taken care by the user group and occasional monitoring will be done by the organization to maximize the survival rate.

