



**REFORESTING TWO HECTARES OF FOREST IN JALAPA IN
KHOTANG DISTRICT, NEPAL**

**SUBMITTED TO
STIFTUNG UNTERNEHMEN
GERMANY**

**SUBMITTED BY
FRIENDS OF NATURE
NEPAL (September, 2021)**

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PROGRESS

SIGNING OF CONTRACT

A contract was signed between Friends of Nature, Nepal (FON) and Stiftung Unternehmen, effective from 21st March 2021 to August 2022. FON was responsible for organising and coordinating the reforestation in and around Jalapa village of Khotang District, Nepal on July/August 2020, depending on weather conditions. Stiftung Unternehmen, Germany was responsible to provide the financial support of Euro 1.2/seedling which totaled Euro 6000 in two installments.

Both of the parties agreed to plant seedlings of native species by mobilizing people from indigenous local community and local students of Jyoti Higher Secondary School, Jalapa.



Local houses in the project site



Students from the Jyoti school are also committed to protect both culture and nature

INFORMATION SHARING WITH LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS

After the project was granted, FON team communicated with local stakeholders mainly local leaders, head of community and school authorities via telephone. Physical meeting was not possible because of imposed travel restrictions due to the COVID 19. Locals happily identified degraded and deforested land for plantation in and around village. School Management Committee of Jyoti Secondary School helped by permitting students to participate in plantation program. FON team provided technical support on a regular basis. Locals, in active participation of Jyoti Secondary school, accomplished targeted plantation, and are now committed to protect the area.

SIGNING OF SUB-CONTRACT WITH LOCAL AUTHORITY

A sub-contract was established based on responsibilities of both the parties, and signed between FON Nepal and Local authority. Due to travel restrictions, signed contract was exchanged between the parties via email.

DISCUSSION WITH LOCAL PEOPLE

Before finalizing plantation area and species, rigorous discussions took place to select suitable sites/ species and for planning. A major challenge, in addition to the travel restrictions imposed by COVID-19, was the poor road conditions, as the stakeholders needed to transport the saplings from 18 km away in rainy season.

FINALIZATION OF SITE

The abandoned and degraded lands in and around the village were selected for the afforestation program. The area in and around school was also used for plantation.



Plantation site



Plantation site

COLLECTION OF SEEDLING

A total of 5500 seedlings/saplings of 11 tree species were collected from Divisional Forest Office and local forest. Vigorous wildings of the species of interest from local forests were also collected. A List of species planted is shown in a Table below. Mortality of at least 500 saplings is anticipated.

Table: List of species and numbers of trees planted for each species

SN	Local name	Scientific name	Number of seedlings	Uses
1	Bakaino	<i>Melia azedarach</i>	700	Firewood , medicinal value
2	Tanki	<i>Bauhinia purpurea</i>	150	Fodder, firewood
3	Okhar (Walnut)	<i>Juglens regia</i>	50	Fruit, medicinal value
4	Tej patta	<i>Cinnamomum tamala</i>	800	Spice, firewood
5	Chilaune	<i>Schima wallichii</i>	100	Firewood and timber
6	Mallato		200	firewood
7	Salla	<i>Pinus spp.</i>	200	Firewood, roofing materials for house
8	Salla	<i>Pinus spp.</i>	100	Firewood, pole
9	Paiyu (Cherry)	<i>Prunus cerasoides</i>	20	firewood
10	Gagun		20	fodder
11	Utis (Alnus)	<i>Alnus nepalensis</i>	3160	Firewood, timber
	Total		5500	



Collecting seedling from a forest nursery



Transporation of seedling tractor



Planting of seedling

PREPARATION OF AREA FOR PLANTATION

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the school was closed and social distancing rules were imposed. However, amidst of the difficulties, local youths, teachers and students prepared plantation area by clearing the land and digging pits. Altogether there were only 20 people involved in the entire plantation program. The participation is highly appreciated during such an existential threat of the pandemic.



Local youth pitting for plantation



Involvement in plantation program

WEEDING

The first weeding is already accomplished in the plantation area. The locals will carry out second weeding for this year and thereafter in regular intervals after the COVID 19 situation gets settled and when school resumes. They are committed to protect the plantation, and have established necessary arrangements (see below).

CONSERVATION OF PLANTATION SITE

Local people do not graze their cattle in rainy season, so the seedlings/ saplings will be protected without much effort in this period. In winter, however, due to scarcity of fodder, cattles are taken for grazing. However, locals are committed to follow safety measures for the protection of plantation area against grazing/ browsing. Also, the area will be protected from forest fire. Local people will mobilize volunteers and students for regular monitoring of the area. Enrichment plantation will be carried out when conducting second weeding.



Seedling are growing well however few seedlings are already died

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

A few seedlings received from Division Forest Office were small in size. While they were transported to the plantation area, it needed a long hauling (18 km hilly road) in a tractor along the very rough road. Most of the soil of seedling pots was disturbed and spilled out. Hence, a high mortality rate was anticipated. To cope with the high mortality of the seedlings, locals used a traditional idea that were employed by their ancestors i.e. bare root sapling. They hired the local youth and collected bare root and vigorous wildings from local forests. It might help in various ways, it is more easy to get the sapling, and the survival rate of the wildings would be higher due to higher adaptive capacity of the wildings in local environment compared to the seedlings grown in a nursery 18 km away and after the exhausting transportation effect.



Seedling from bare root have comparatively much higher survival rate that seedling from forest department



Seedling from forest department

OUTLOOK

FON Nepal highly appreciates Stiftung Unternehmen, Germany for its interest of degraded landscape restoration in rural areas. The support is vital in the context of rural areas with low income elsewhere. The commitments shown and efforts paid by the local communities, students and local youths to accomplish the plantations during the existential threats imposed by the COVID-19 is incomparable. This is example to what extent locals are interested to restore and maintain their environment.

FON Nepal is expecting a huge success of this pilot event. FON Nepal is looking forward to join the landscape restoration endeavor of Stiftung Unternehmen, Germany in the future.