

Nepal Plantation Project 2023



Stiftung Unternehmen Wald

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SUMMARY

Under the agreed 'Trees for Climate, Nature and Society' (TreeCLINS) initiative commenced in 2021, Friends of Nature, Nepal (FON) and Stiftung Unternehmen, Germany collaborated for plantation project in Nepal. Since the commencement a total of 21,250 seedlings have been planted in four districts which is 4,250 more seedlings than agreed. Jurethum from Dhading and Nishan Dadha from Sunsari were selected to be the plantation site for 2023. During the two phases of plantation in Dhading, species like Pine, Himalayan Ash, Walnut and Camphor with other native trees (7000 seedlings) were planted. Likewise, Sal, Indian date, Chinaberry, and other native species (250 seedlings) were planted in Sunsari. The planted seedlings are secured by bamboo sticks in Sunsari, while regular patrolling of the plantation site will be done by locals in Dhading. Plantation committees are very committed and regularly work on the protection of every seedling.



Figure 1: Group photo during plantation in Dhading

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PROJECT DETAILS

Preliminary Survey for site selection

Discussions with representatives of District Forest Offices, Community Forests, Leasehold Forests and other related stakeholders, local organizations and Community Based Organizations were carried out before selection for strategic plantation site for 2023. The call for plantation request was also done through the Facebook page of Friends of Nature-FON Nepal. Based on the discussion and request from different forest user groups, preliminary survey for site selection was carried out through the month of April and May. The representatives from FON visited six different locations namely Simle, Aadhamara, Siudibaar, Jurethum, Kitini and Thumki in Dhading district. Similarly, plantation requests from Dharan Sub-metropolitan ward number-14 and Nishan Dadha, Sunsari were also taken consideration. The purpose of preliminary visit was to know the status of plantation sites, possible community engagement, and urgency. Based on these criteria Jurethum and Nishan Dadha were selected to be the plantation site for this year.

Plantation Site

Jurethum lies in Nilkantha Municipality Ward number 02, 15-20 kilometers far from the district headquarter Dhadingbesi. The area can be reached within 4 hours road distance from Kathmandu. The area is a small hill station inhabited by Gurung communities, whose major occupation is agriculture and livestock husbandry. The villagers have different leaseholds and community forests which they manage and share resources. The area is at the elevation range of 1500 to 1600 meters from sea level in a temperate climatic zone. For the plantation of seedlings, we had discussions with “Shree Bhaldanda Leasehold Forest User Group”, which is managed by 15 households.

Nishan Dadha lies in Dharan Sub-metropolitan city ward number 05, about 35 kilometers far from district headquarter Inaruwa. The area can be reached within 10 hours road distance from Kathmandu. The area is at the elevation range of 610 to 630 meters from the sea level in subtropical climatic zone. The plantation was managed by the Research Association Hattisar (RAH), Dharan.



Figure 2: Plantation site, Jurethum: The top of the hill

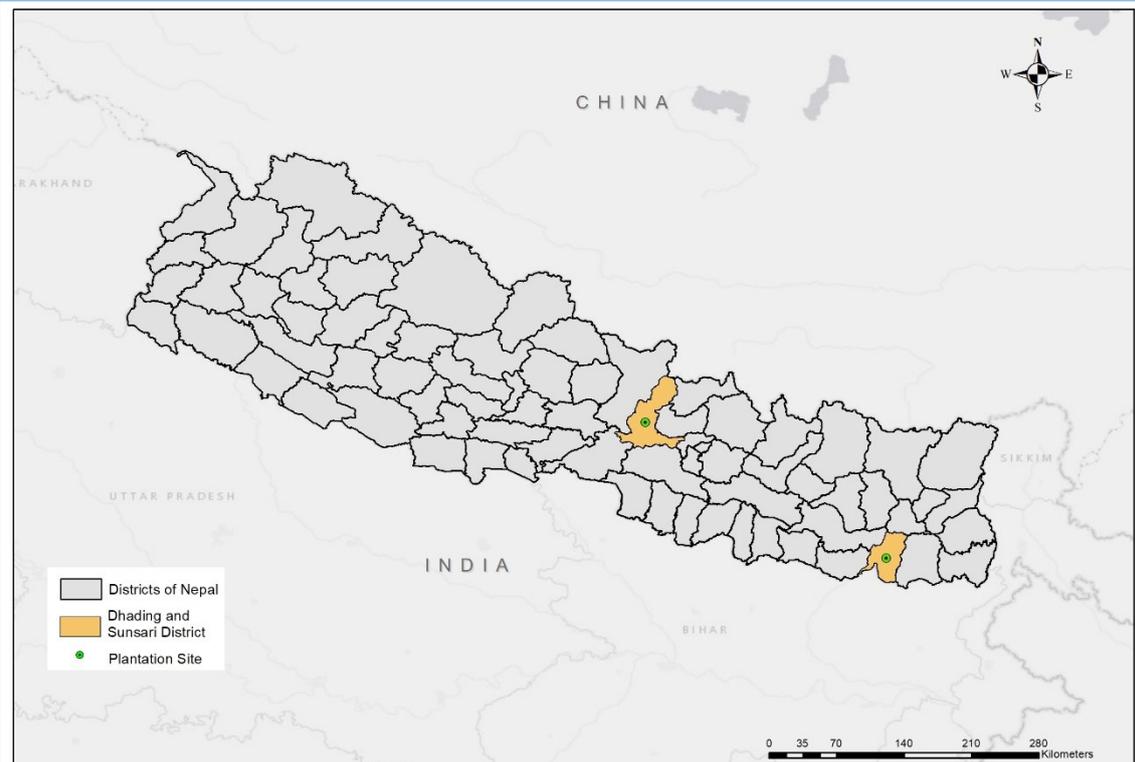


Figure 3: Map of Nepal showing two plantation sites of 2023

Community Interaction and Contract Signing

After the selection of plantation site, a detailed meeting was organized with the community to share and discuss the plantation process. Time schedule for plantation, tree species selection (native and suitable to the climate and soil type), protection measures and monitoring plans were finalized. A contract was signed between the representatives of FON, Nepal, and plantation management committees in July.



Figure 4: Meeting with the members of Forest User Group in Dhading

Preparation for Plantation

Clearing of the bushes, waste removal and digging of pits was done prior to plantation by local communities. The preparation started 1 week prior to transportation of seedlings.



Figure 5: Local people digging pits and cleaning the area

Transportation and Management of Seedlings

The 7000 seedlings to be planted were transported from Kathmandu and the local nursery of Dhading and Dharan. A total of six/six species were planted in both plantation



Figure 6: Transportation of seedlings in Dhading

sites (Table 1 and 2).

Plantation Program

The plantation in Jurethum was completed in two phases in the month of July. For the first phase, 3800 seedlings were planted over three days and the remaining 3200 seedlings were planted in the second phase for two days. While the program was completed in a single day (29 July) in Nishan Dadha. All the members from the forest user group and Research Association Hattisar participated in the program and they seem very positive on protection of the area.

Table 1: Name and number of the species planted in Jurethum, Dhading

SN	Scientific Name	English Name	Nepali Name	Number
1	<i>Zanthoxylum piperitum</i>	Japanese Pepper	टिमुर	100
2	<i>Aquilaria malaccensis</i>	Agarwood	अगरउड	150
3	<i>Cinnamomum camphora</i>	Camphor	कपुर	1850
4	<i>Fraxinus floribunda</i>	Himalayan Ash	लाकुरी	2300
5	<i>Juglans regia</i>	Walnut	ओखर	100
6	<i>Pinus roxburghii</i>	Pine tree	सल्ला	2500
			Total	7000

Table 2: Name and number of the species planted in Nishan Dadha, Sunsari

SN	Scientific Name	English Name	Nepali Name	Number
1	<i>Shorea robusta</i>	Sal	साल	80
2	<i>Neolamarckia cadamba</i>	Bur flower tree	कदम	80
3	<i>Sapindus mukorossi</i>	Indian soapberry	रिठ्ठा	10
4	<i>Bauhinia variegata</i>	Mountain ebony	टांकी	20
5	<i>Tamarindus indica</i>	Indian date	तित्री	10
6	<i>Melia azedarach</i>	Chinaberry	बकाईनो	50
			Total	250



Figure 7: Participants during plantation. Nishan Dadha, Sunsari



Figure 8: Protection of seedlings from cattle by using local resources

Monitoring and Protection

The plantation management committee is fully responsible for the protection of plants. In Jurethum, there is a stone wall running through one side of the area and the rest is inaccessible for livestock grazing. The area is not directly used by any communities for fodder collection, which ensures the seedlings are fully protected. The seedling in Nishan Dadha is protected with the help of bamboo sticks. FON Nepal gets regular updates from plantation site and visits the site every two months to see the progress. Furthermore, replantation of dead plants will be conducted following year by the community.

Figure 9: Local people during plantation site in Dhading



FOLLOW-UP AND REPLANTATION

FON Nepal is committed to protect and grow every seedling planted. The monitoring of one of our last years' plantation sites showed some interesting results. The community is taking the project seriously. The plantation area has been cleared by weeding and cleaning. The survival rate of Pine and Lankuri is seen higher than other species. The fencing has been the savior of seedlings and the concept worked well. Although about 2000 species could not survive due to drought and poorly managed seedlings in the nurseries. To cover the barren area caused by death of seedling, the local community has replanted equal number of dead seedlings. An additional 500 new seedlings were also planted in the area with the technical and financial support from FON Nepal this year.

Table 3: Replanted (2000) and new planted (500) seedlings in Chisapani, Dhading

SN	Scientific Name	English Name	Nepali Name	Number
1	<i>Michelia champaca</i>	Champak	चाँप	300
2	<i>Melia azedarach</i>	Chinaberry	बकाईनी	500
3	<i>Cinnamomum camphora</i>	Camphor	कपुर	300
4	<i>Fraxinus floribunda</i>	Himalayan Ash	लाकुरी	450
5	<i>Pinus roxburghii</i>	Pine tree	सल्ला	950
			Total	2500



Figure 10: Local people during plantation

OVERVIEW OF THREE YEARS OF PLANTATION

Friends of Nature (FON-Nepal) and Stiftung Unternehmen, Germany partnered under the 'Trees for Climate, Nature and Society' (TreeCLINS) initiative in 2021. Since then, FON has carried out plantation projects in different parts of Nepal. Over three years (2021-2023), FON has planted 21,250 new seedlings in four different locations representing three districts. Detailed information on plantation is presented in Table 3.

SN	Location	Year	Supported seedlings (SHW)	Total seedlings planted (FON)	Number of seedlings replanted (FON)	Remarks
1	Jalpa, Khotang	2021	5000	5500	---	Drought
2	Kanhu, Kaski	2022	---	1000	---	Drought and Landslide
3	Chisapani, Dhading	2022	5000	5000	---	Drought and poor quality of seedlings
4	Chisapani Dhading	2023	---	500	2000	
5	Jurethum, Dhading	2023	7000	7000	---	---
6	Nishan Dadha, Sunsari	2023	---	250	---	---
	Total		17,000	19,250	2,000	



Figure 11: A happy school kid involved in plantation

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Figure 12: Local people during plantation