



Report on Issue based discussion of community forest with CF Executive members of Bungdal Community Forest User Group (CFUG)



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Table of Contents

ABBREVIATIONS	2
PARTICIPATION	Error! Bookmark not defined.
OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAM	3
CONCLUSION.....	4
PHOTO PLATES	4

ABBREVIATIONS

CF	Community Forest
CFUG	Community Forest User Groups
FECOFUN	Federation of Community Forest Users of Nepal
WRRN	Women Rights and Resource Network
UNDP	United Nations Development Program

1. Bungdal CFUG

On 29th of August, 2024, the team of Women Rights and Resource Network (WRRN) with financial support of United Nations Development Program (UNDP) conducted an event in Bungdal Community Forest User Group (CFUG). The major motive of gathering was to identify the issues of community forest with CF executive members.

OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAM

The team of WRRN included chairperson of organization Ms. Aarati Pathak, Program Officer Mrs. Kabita Gaire and Forestry Associate of WRRN Ms. Pratikshaya Bhandari were present in the program. The special guest of the program was the Honorable member of Bagmati Province, former Chairperson of FECOFUN and executive Advisor of WRRN Ms. Bharati Pathak.

From CFUG, there were almost 32 participants from CFUG and WRRN including Treasurer of FECOFUN Makwanpur and Advisor of Bungdal CFUG Mr. Balram Adhikari, Finance Coordinator of Bungdal CFUG Mr. Badri Prasad Adhikari, former Chairperson of Bungdal CFUG Mr. Chandra Prasad Dulal, Chairperson of Women enterprise of Bungdal CFUG Mrs. Binda Lamichhane, Vice Chairperson Mrs. Ratnamaya Syantaan, Treasurer Mrs. Sunita Ghalan and General member of enterprise group Mrs. Sharada Adhikari with other user group members of Bungdal CFUG were present.

The program officially started with the general introduction by all the participants in short. After the introduction session, all the present participants were provided with the introduction of WRRN and UNDP and about the project. Mrs. Kabita Gaire gave detailed information about the project and working headings and the major objective of conducting the project in respective CFUG.

Before coming to visit, the CFUG group were given with the information about the program and were asked to provide us with the issues that needed to be addressed regarding the proper functioning of CFUG. Hence, all the participants were asked about the issues persistent in the CFUG regarding capacity building, existing laws and policies and management of community forest after the briefing of motive of the visit. One of the interesting facts of the meeting was presence of women which was more in number in comparison to men. With the encouragement of a greater number of female participants, all the members were given chance to speak up about the issues related with CFUG and the issues discussed in the event are enlisted below:

- Lack of availability of training related to women empowerment.
- Lack of information about the changing rules and regulations by local and central level of government.
- Not getting enough recognition and market value for their generated product i.e. ginger.
- Facing discrimination among educated and uneducated groups.
- Lack of knowledge and involvement of women in record keeping activities and lack of double record system in the CFUG.
- Lack of availability of agricultural equipment to collect and store agricultural products
- Lack of coordination between CFUG and local government.
- Lack of safety equipment for the maintenance of hygiene.
- Prevalent of Forest fire
- Lack of equipment for use during the disaster.
- Provision of triple tax system.
- Administrative hurdles for proper management of forest due to unclear and changing government policies.

After the discussion about all the issues, Ms. Bharati Pathak spoke about her happiness of how Bungdal CFUG has been achieving success gradually regarding forest management techniques and women empowerment along with financial stability. The works done and achievements achieved by women led enterprise group was really appreciative. The enterprise composed by local women who were unaware about the business world has now started to compete with other working groups and has learned a lot about marketization as well. Being involved in different kinds of capacity building trainings, value chain related trainings, business plan preparation training and marketization trainings, the group has now the knowledge of running an enterprise in a sustainable manner. By seeing the gradual improvement in the CFUG, Ms. Aarati Pathak who was engaged with the Bungdal CFUG from its starting phase, was seem to be very happy and expressed her happiness towards all the members of Bungdal CFUG and women enterprise group for the continuous efforts towards their community forest for its conservation, protection and proper management.

Lesson learnt:

CONCLUSION

The program was run successfully with the active participation of all the group members and whole group were seem to be very happy to be selected for the green recovery approach by UNDP to improve their condition in administrative manner and financial manner.

2. Piple Pokhara CFUG

PHOTO PLATES

1. Bungdal CFUG



Figure 1: General Introduction Session



Figure 1: Briefing of the program



Figure 3: Issue discussion



Figure 4: Expression of happiness



Figure 5: Brief discussion about the issues



Figure 2: Happiness of a user group



Figure 7: Group picture



Figure 8: Group photo