

- Project:** Promotion of Commercially Important Species of Non-timber Forest Products (NTFPs) for Enhancing Income of Chepang Communities in Chitwan District
- Project area:** Chitwan District
- Project Period:** January 2006 - December 2008
- Target group:** *Immediate target group:* 14 NTFP producer groups
Ultimate target group: Resource poor families and women of deprived ethnic group-Chepang
- Partners:** Praja Cooperative Limited - Shaktikhor, Chitwan; District Forest Office Chitwan and District Agriculture Development Office, Chitwan
- Project goal:** To promote NTFPs as high value commodities as the major source of income generation for resource poor families and women of Chepang community.

Key activities and Implementation modalities

Strengthening farmers' technical capabilities and organizational set-up for sustainable production and marketing of commercially viable NTFPs and applying adaptive research on cultivation package of practices of NTFPs in participation of farmers were the implementing approaches of the project.

The main activities were training on NTFPs cultivation practices and sustainable harvest, strengthening market system, adaptive research on cultivation package of practices of NTFPs (Kurilo and Sarpagandha), and nurseries establishment.

Major Achievements

- Trained 124 group members on NTFPs cultivation, conservational harvesting and marketing through trained 26 Local Resource Persons (LRPs) representing 14 producer groups
- 124 farmers belonging to 13 NTFP producing groups planted 25,830 NTFP saplings of seven species in private marginal land and Khoriya, and maintained using appropriate intercultural operations like weeding
- Two NTFPs nurseries maintained
- NTFP products marketing explored through interaction workshop involving Praja Cooperative, local traders and other stakeholders
- Periodic observations made and data recorded on plant height, growth vigor and root development under Adaptive research on cultivation package of practices of NTFPs (Kurilo and Sarpagandha)

Outcome/Impact

The commercial cultivation of NTFPs not only increased the sources of income of the people, but also contributed to combat over-exploitation in the community land and to build entrepreneurship capabilities of the cooperatives for streamlining marketing system to assure higher benefits to the communities.
