

WHAT'S UP

NEWSLETTER, OXFAM IN NEPAL



OXFAM



Photo: RDC Nepal/Oxfam

A mural painted on school walls to depict the importance of trees

SPECIAL EDITION

INSIDE



Image Credit: rawpixel.com

CLIMATE ACTION

2	THERE IS NO PLANET B
3	TREE PLANTATION CAMPAIGN
3	LOCAL EXPERTISE FOR LOCAL NEEDS
4	NATURE BASED ENGINEERING SOLUTION
4	FOREST AND LAKE CONSERVATION
5	TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS
6	FROM RIVERBANK TO FARM
7	CLIMATE AWARENESS
7	ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

THERE IS NO PLANET B

Climate change has become more real than ever as we have started witnessing its impact in many forms. Erratic rainfall, rising temperatures, flooding, forest fires, and heatwaves across the globe are some of its impacts that are becoming common every year. Besides, scientists are also seeing link between infectious diseases and pandemics.

As greenhouse gases continue to rise in the atmosphere, the global temperature is on track to rise by 2.5 to 4.5 degrees Celsius by 2100 (NASA).

According to NASA the long-term impact of climate change will be more frequent wildfires, longer periods of drought in some regions, and an increase in the number, duration, and intensity of tropical storms. But to prevent these damages, the world has a short deadline beyond which the impact of climate change will be permanent.

In March of 2019, the United Nations High-Level Meeting on Climate and Sustainable Development concluded that only 11 years are left to prevent the Irreversible damage from Climate Change.

To address climate change, Oxfam works to build capacities of the community to address environmental management and climate emergencies. Oxfam addresses climate change through its Resilience and Climate justice programme with interventions in climate change adaptations, disaster risk reduction, policy influence, humanitarian preparedness, and response.



Photo by Wesley Tingey on [Unsplash](#)

**"WE ARE THE LAST GENERATION
THAT CAN PREVENT IRREPARABLE
DAMAGE TO OUR PLANET"**

María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés
UN General Assembly President (Ecuador)



Photo: KVS Nepal/Oxfam

Community Members participating in Tree plantation Campaign

TREE PLANTATION CAMPAIGN

More than 500 people from Rautahat and Sarlahi districts of Nepal participated in a tree plantation campaign that was jointly organized by Oxfam, Rural Development Center, Koshi Victim Society, the local governments, and local NGOs.

The campaign was initiated under the European Union funded Enhancing CSOs Roles as Key Development Partners for Climate Resilient Policies and Practices in Province-2 (ECCSO) project.

The campaign saw active participation from local youths and women as 40% of the total participants were youths and more than 60% were women.

The participants planted more than 20,000 trees of 20 different native tree species such as Mangoes, Litchi, Neem, Amla, Guava, etc.

The campaign helped spread awareness among the community to conserve the environment and has also reaffirmed the commitments of local governments and Community Based Organizations to protect the environment.

PROVIDING EMPLOYMENT TO MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES

The people of Dom community in Nepal have historically been skilled craftspeople who use bamboos to create traditional household items. Belonging to a marginalized community, many people from the Dom community depend on bamboo for their livelihoods.

Leveraging on the local expertise of the Dom community, Oxfam mobilized a group of craftspeople to produce tree guards made up of bamboo stripes.

The tree guards were used during the tree plantation campaigns to protect the saplings. Besides, it helped the people of Dom community earn a total of NRS 96500 in a time when pandemic was affecting their livelihoods.



Photo: KVS Nepal/Oxfam

A member of Dom community making Tree Guard

ALMOST 40%
OF THE BUDGET FOR
THE CAMPAIGN
WAS MOBILIZED BY
THE LOCAL
GOVERNMENTS

NATURE BASED ENGINEERING SOLUTION

Oxfam has been promoting nature-based bioengineering solutions to climate change and disaster risk resilience in the four working municipalities in Rautahat and Saptari districts. With the financial support from European Union, Oxfam and its partner organization in collaboration with local governments, community and private sectors have identified locations to construct gabion walls in Chandrapur Municipality of Rautahat district in Nepal.

The gabion walls are a steel cage structure filled with stones, which are placed along the riversides. These walls prevent rivers from running over the riverbanks and protect them from erosion.

Oxfam has also planned grass plantation, construction of live check dams, sandbag filling, and siltation ponds, which will help restore degraded lands, reduce disaster risk, improve wetland restoration, and encourage climate change adaptation strategies in the community.

FOREST AND LAKE CONSERVATION

The Thakurbaba Community forest, spread in 1.29 kilometers in Saptari district hosts homogeneous Sal trees and a picturesque lake on its southern part known as Lokhraj lake. The community forest has been an example of forest conservation by local people for a long time. However, these days, the forest is facing threats from natural causes of canopy loss and tree deaths due to various plant diseases, soil erosion, and riverbank cutting from Mahuli river which flows on the northern side of the forest.



A google map image of planned gabion wall construction

Oxfam and partners are collaborating with community forestry user groups and local government to repair degraded forest areas, minimize sedimentation to Lohajara Lake, promote plant species regeneration, and reduce soil erosion.

Besides, Oxfam has planted 6950 stem cutting plants, which act as a hedge and prevent the water sediments to enter the lake.

OXFAM HAS INFLUENCED THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO :



CONSTRUCT 600 CHECK DAMS



CONSTRUCT A SILTATION POND TO CONTROL SILT DEPOSIT IN LOKHRAJA LAKE



APPOINT 2 FOREST GUARDS TO CONTROL ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES IN THE FOREST



A google map image of planned intervention in Thakurbaba community forest



Photo: KVS Nepal/Oxfam

Check dams prepared to reduce the runoff and control sedimentation into the lake

TOWARDS A GREEN FUTURE

The Nunthar area located at the banks of Bagmati river in Chandrapur municipality is a popular picnic spot among locals in Rautahat and other neighbouring districts. However, with the increasing number of tourists, plastic pollution is also increasing parallelly as people are littering plastic plates in the surroundings.

The members of Pragatisheel Women Community Forest User Group (WCFUG), which manages the Nunthar tourist areas were concerned about its sustainability which provides a source of income for many local women.

Therefore, the members of the forest group decided to collaborate with Oxfam and partners to produce biodegradable plates made with Saal tree leaf, locally known as 'Duna Tapari'. The Duna Tapari Enterprise included 17 women participants belonging from a poor economic background, whose major source of income came from selling firewood.

Oxfam and its partner organization provided a machine capable of producing biodegradable leaf plates in three different sizes. Along with the manufacturing machine, the selected women were provided with technical training on the collection, drying, stitching, production of leaf plates, and operation of the ma-

chine. The abundance of Saal trees in the community forest ensures the availability of raw materials (saal leaves) required to manufacture the leaf plates.

The plates made of Saal leaf offer several benefits such as lowering forest pressure, providing alternative livelihood options to forest-dependent populations, and promoting biodegradable plates, which decreases pollution produced by plastics.

As the manufacturing of Saal leaf plates is expected to start within few weeks, the members of the enterprise are usually seen collecting leaves from the forest and storing them. They are excited about starting the new venture which along with providing an additional source of income will also benefit the environment.



Participants from Duna tapari enterprise learning to operate the machine



**THE MACHINE HAS
THE CAPACITY TO
PRODUCE 3000
SAAL LEAF PLATES PER
DAY**



**THE TOTAL PRODUCTION
VALUE PER DAY
IS NRS 5000**



**EACH MEMBERS WILL
HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY
TO EARN
NRS.
9-10 THOUSAND
FROM THE ENTERPRISE**

FROM RIVERBANK TO FARM

Farmers living in the riverbanks face frequent floods and land degradation that affects their farm produce and subsequently their livelihoods. Many farmers living on the banks of Banderadhaar and Chandi Rivers were not able to farm on their lands for years as floods degraded their agricultural lands.

Oxfam and its partners provided training to farmers on riverbed farming in Saptari and Rautahat districts of Nepal.

The farmers were trained to plant soil-holding crops that can be grown on lands degraded by the flood. In the last five months, the farmers have grown vegetables and fruits such as watermelon, bottle gourd, pumpkin, and bitter gourd in lands that were not being used.

To date, 1700kgs of Watermelon, 855 kgs Bottle Gourd, 500kgs of Pumpkin 75 kgs of Bitter Gourd, 85kgs of Okra, 235 kgs of Beans, and 87 kgs of Sponge Gourd have already been harvested.

Oxfam's intervention has not only increased the productivity of agricultural lands but has also helped many farmers to revive their livelihood.

**SOME FARMERS HAVE
EARNED NRS 1-2
LAKHS FROM RIVERBED
FARMING IN
JUST A SINGLE SEASON**



Photo: RDC /Oxfam

A farmer practicing riverbed farming showing his farm produce



Photo: RDC /Oxfam

A barren land destroyed by the floods being used for farming

CLIMATE AWARENESS



Participants attending workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation

Climate-related disasters such as floods, landslides, forest fires, and droughts are becoming more common in the Tarai areas of Nepal. Although communities are being affected by these disasters, very few are aware of the causes.

Oxfam and its partners have organized 92 different awareness-raising events on climate change and disaster risk management in Saptari and Rautahat districts of Nepal. The different events organized included workshop/Orientation, Training on coping with disasters, International days celebration, media mobilization, Murals (School Wall Painting), and a cross-learning visit.

Besides, the project has also organized workshops for government officers, local leaders, and Community Based Organizations to make them aware of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA). These workshops have provided a platform for CBOs to discuss DRR and CCA policies and make local and provincial governments accountable towards climate change.



ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

As the earth continues to heat up, the weather patterns are directly affecting agriculture. The changing weather pattern has forced many farmers to adopt diverse crop varieties to ac-

climatize with the evolving climate. However, there is a limit to local adaptation because of insufficient locally available seeds. To continue the adaptation of new varieties of seeds, the farmers need access to breeding institutions, formal gene banks, and seeds from distant farming communities. Oxfam's Sowing Diversity = Harvesting Security (SDHS) project helps farmers adapt to the new climatic conditions by developing crop diversity and improving food and nutrition security. With the financial support from SIDA, the SD=HS project has established Farmer Field School (FFS) where farmers learn by planting and studying new crop varieties in their farms. Through FFS, the project has been able to help farmers access and choose novel crops and varieties with diverse traits better suited for the changing climate. Besides, the FFS emphasizes the participation of women and youth to strengthen their voices on the use of new seed varieties.

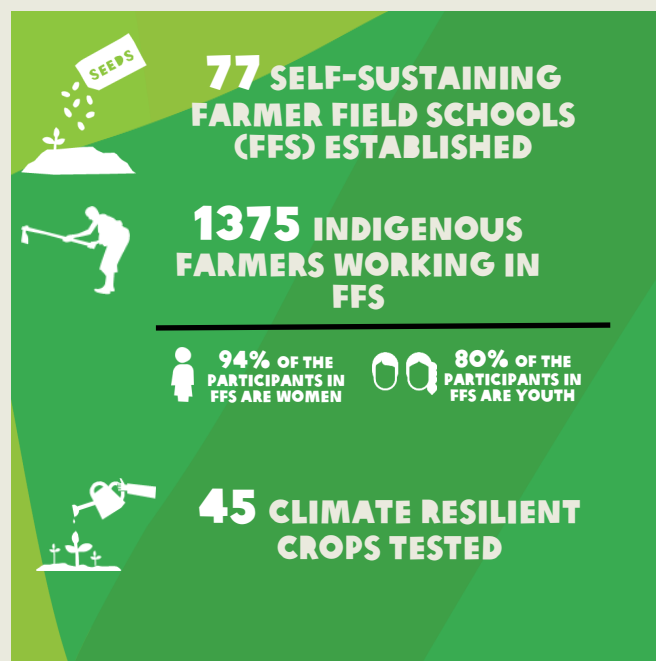


Photo: Achyut Gaire /Oxfam

FFS participants measuring plant height