

**Youth Empowerment for Green Job**  
Launched and executed by  
**TNW**  
Funded By  
**Ministry of Youth and Sports, Nepal Government**

1. Context

The country is facing problem related to youth unemployment which will become more acute in the next decade as the labor force in the region is also expected to grow by around 2.1 percent a year, warns the International Labor Organization (ILO). According to the report "Report on the Nepal Labor Force Survey" published by the Department of Statistics, Nepal in 2008, a large number of young people are semi unemployed and unemployed. In Nepal, more than 2 million youth are totally unemployed, according to studies. Nearly 49.9 percent urban youth and 32.2 percent rural youth are unemployed. In 2009, more than 2 million 52 thousand 8 hundred youth above the age of 15 are completely unemployed which is 42 percentages more than the previous year. Due to the lack of governmental policies and program to provide employment opportunities, more than 700 youth leave the country abroad in search of job. According to the statistics, at least half a million youth enter the labor market every year.

As the state fails to chalk out proper strategies to provide jobs, the problem is gaining urgency day by day. The increasing rate of unemployment has turned the youths into a frustrated lot. This may even encourage them to engage in destructive activities like terrorism. They suffer low self-esteem, exclusion from mainstream society and impoverishment.

Youth are very important from the point of view of socio-economic productivity so they should be able to get decent jobs to end the vicious cycle of discrimination and poverty. Most of the rural youth who hail from poor households enter the towns either in search of job opportunities or for further studies upon completion of school education. Some youth do not get job despite their strong effort. Some youth enters the labor force to manage fund for their study and basic livelihood, often ending up in low-paid and unproductive jobs. But the fund raised in such way becomes insufficient even for living. This ultimately leads the youth to drop out of college. When young women and young men do not have an opportunity to find a job, they are more likely to feel excluded from society and lose their individual sense of self-esteem. Youth who enter the labor market in depressed circumstances are more likely to have difficulties throughout their working life. These factors can lead to crime and unrest. Therefore, there is a need of an initiative to empower the youth for personal and social economic development.

Likewise, the country has also experienced massive environmental degradation. The youth can play important role in the development of ecologically and economically sustainable community if the unemployed youth are empowered with environmental education too at a time when they are empowered for economic development with technical education and vocational training courses. Therefore, there is a need of youth empowerment for economy and ecology both so that the youth will save environment while doing income generation activity or enterprise.

Taking these issues into serious consideration, Team for Nature and Wildlife (TNW), a youth led environmental organization launched the project titled "Youth Empowerment for Green Job" with the grant award of Ministry of Youth and Sports, Nepal Government and assistance from local stakeholders. The project was aimed at empowering 25 unemployed young people for green entrepreneurship. The project began on the 1st week of June 2010 and completed on November 2010.

## 2. Objectives and methodologies:

The basic objectives of the project are to address youth related poverty or youth unemployment in such a way that the youth will create self employment and employment for more youths being responsible towards environment.

The following are the specific objectives and methodologies:

### *Objectives*

1. To encourage the unemployed youth and build their confidence on self employment and entrepreneurship in Nepal through "Appreciative Inquiry" course
2. To enable the youth to develop the business products like bio-briquette, organic compost, organic vegetables through technical education and vocational training courses
3. To make the youth environmentally conscious and responsible through environmental education during the training session
4. To develop the entrepreneurship skill on youth through courses and workshop on Entrepreneurship and cooperative development

### *Methodologies*

1. Management of training resource persons and materials

2. Meeting with local stakeholders for further coordination and assistance
3. Endorsement from the local governmental authorities
4. Promotion and publicity at local level
5. Selection of 25 trainees (18 girls and 7 boys)
6. Orientation workshop
7. Vocational training
8. Follow up and monitoring meeting

#### 4. Results:

##### 4.1 Outcomes

- The youth/trainees became technically capable to produce bio-briquette
- The youth/trainees became technically capable to produce organic compost
- The youth/trainees became technically capable to do commercial organic vegetable farming
- The youth/trainees got knowledge on entrepreneurship, cooperative formation and governmental registration process and procedures of small scale business enterprise

##### 4.2 Outputs

- The youth/trainees have started making income by producing and selling the bio-briquette
- The youth/trainees have started vermi compost production starting from 1100 earthworms
- The youth/trainees have formed a "Green Entrepreneurs Group" consisting of all the 25 trainees and 4 sub groups to produce bio-briquette for income generation
- Mrigakunja Buffer Zone Users' Committee has made an agreement with TNW to monitor and follow up the trainees and extend loan to the four sub group

#### 5 Beneficiaries:

25 local indigenous, disadvantaged and unemployed youth (18 young girls and 7 boys) of Bachhyauli VDC, Chitwan

## 6. Problems and lessons learnt

We organized a follow up meeting after four months of the training program. We found that none implemented the training into action. Most of the trainees gave following reasons regarding their passiveness after the training. Firstly, the project implementing organization and coordinating organizations did not form the working groups during the training session. Secondly, they did not organize monitoring and follow up meeting regularly. Thirdly, they did not have financial resources to start the enterprise.

We learnt that there should be immediate formation of working groups, regular monitoring and follow up meeting and the system of interest free loan to start the enterprise.

## 7. Perspective and Impacts:

The successful implementation of the pilot project-"Youth Empowerment for Green Job" has been able to engage the unemployed youth on green entrepreneurship. All the youth/trainees have formed 1 main group titled "Green Entrepreneurs Group" and 4 sub groups. They have started working in team. The youth who were initially unaware and unconscious about the environmental issues have now started doing activities related to environmental management and protection at their own community.

## 8. Project Stakeholders:

Ministry of Youth and Sports, Nepal Government  
Indigenous Ethnic Society, Chitwan  
Indigenous Women Upliftment Society, Chitwan  
Mrigakunja Buffer Zone Users' Committee, Chitwan  
Chitwan National Park  
Nature Guide Association-Chitwan  
National Appreciative Inquiry Network, Nepal