



THE BANASPATI GUEETHA REPORTER

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EDITORIAL OF THE FIRST ISSUE

Quick Presentation of *The Banaspati Gueetha Reporter*

The Banaspati Gueetha Reporter is the new eNewsletter of the recently created Banaspati Gueetha Resource Center Network Nepal (BG-RCNN), a loose network of individuals and organizations of all stripes committed to the development of bio-briquettes in Nepal. The purpose of the BG-RCNN is to collaborate, transfer knowledge and disseminate relevant information among stakeholders to promote the awareness and use of bio-briquettes throughout the country.

You have been added to the distribution list of this first issue because of your demonstrated interest in the promotion of bio-briquettes as an efficient alternative energy source for Nepal. You can help us reach a wider audience by inviting your own network to subscribe at info@brcnn.net. If on the contrary you have been added to the list by mistake, please accept our apologies and unsubscribe at the same address.

This e-Newsletter is one of the two main electronic tools that will be used by the BG-RCNN to accomplish its information-sharing objectives, the other being the new BG-RCNN website (www.bgrcnn.net). At the core of the website is a resource repository, which already contains links to more than 40 articles, guides and websites related to bio-briquettes. We invite you to visit the repository regularly as more content will be added in the coming months.



Two women from the Kapilvastu producer group working together to finalize a bio-briquette

The e-Newsletter and the website have been created for all stakeholders to use: do not hesitate to send us any relevant news, events or resources you would like to promote.

Other activities of the BG-RCNN include regular meeting between members, the production of original training and information material and the development of Bishankhunarayan as a resource/exhibition center. This e-Newsletter will from now on be the best way to stay informed about all the projects of the BG-RCNN.

Briquette Business Helping Out Rural Women

By Somanath Bastola

Twenty-year old Anju Dhamala of Itahari-2, Shantinagar, is hardly ever free these days. A BBS student in Rastriya Janasahayog Higher Secondary School in Hansposa-2, she manages to attend her classes besides spending a considerable amount of time making briquettes.

Dhamala said sometimes she gets no time to have food well in the morning. Many other women have been attracted to the noble industry as their product has a good demand in the market. Many of them have also been financially independent after being involved in the job. A briquette is a block made from charcoal or coal dust and burned as fuel. It is smoke-free and conserves forest by replacing firewood.

"I go to the local community forest with my mother early in the morning to collect raw material," Dhamala said. "I have started contributing to the family budget and pay my college fees on my own." A member of Jagriti Women Entrepreneurs' Group, she earns more than Rs 100 daily.

Community forest users' group bought them a machine for the purpose. Laxmi Bhattarai (50) is equally involved in forming coal, beating it into dust

and making briquettes out of it. The Rs 150,000 machine has provided employment opportunity for more than a dozen of local women.

Women living in the buffer zone of Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve are also involved in the business. The Darwin Project has promoted the activity by forming women's groups in order to provide opportunities of income generation.

Source: <http://www.thehimalayantimes.com>
February 01, 2010

Free Distribution of Bio-Briquette to Pregnant Women

Gulmi (Nepal): With the support from different NGOs, the District Development Committee (DDC) Gulmi initiated a campaign to distribute free Bio-Briquette to pregnant women going to hospital for delivery. The objective is to protect newly born children from cold temperature. According to the programme officer Shankar Gautam, the DDC will buy stoves and briquettes for 100 000 rupees this year. "One stove and one bio-briquette per day for eleven days will be given to woman after delivery", Gautam said.

Source: *Kantipur National Daily*, February 17, 2010



The Bishanku Narayan producer group, in Lalitpur district, is another example of a group of women who benefitted from briquette business.

International Youth Seminar 2010

CECI/Uniterra Nepal is going to hold a six weeks International Youth Seminar in June and July 2010 on Sustainable Forests and Livelihood. The seminar will regroup 20 students from Canada and 20 students from Nepal in rural areas of the country and will be organized in collaboration with four local partners: Integrated Development Society (IDS) Nepal, Asian Network for Sustainable Agriculture and Biodiversity (ANSAB), Federation of Community Forestry Users (FECOFUN) and Himalayan Bio-Trade Ltd. (HBTL).

Housewives Fall in Love with Briquettes

By Khilanath Dhakal

Ilam (Nepal): Samiksha Nepal of Nayabazaar-9 in Ilam stopped cooking food in the traditional firewood stove two years ago. Now, she uses locally made briquette stove for cooking purposes. "The traditional stove produces a lot of smoke and there is also a need to constantly fetch firewood," said Nepal. "And food can be cooked faster on a briquette stove," added Nepal. The briquette stove whose production started in Sulubung-5 of Ilam two years ago has now gained popularity in the main markets of Ilam, apart from all other districts in the eastern region. Women are switching in increasing numbers to briquette stoves as they are healthier than the traditional firewood stoves. Locals also say that briquette is also useful as a source of heat for women in postpartum, the sick, the elderly and children. "Briquette does not produce smoke, dust and odor," Nepal said. "It also doesn't blacken hands and cooking utensils." Each briquette has a life-span of 90 minutes. Apart from being environmentally friendly, the briquette also does not carry the risk of setting off fire. "Liquefied Petroleum Gas is no longer necessary," said Nawal Kishore Tamang, who runs a hotel in Ilam Municipality-

2. Tamang added that cooking gas is unreliable because of frequent short supply. On the other hand, the briquette stove lasts for many years, and all that the locals needs to run it is the briquette coal that is locally made.

Source: <http://www.myrepublica.com>, November 25, 2009

Briquette Fuel for All

The Centre for Energy and Environment Nepal (CEEN) in Kathmandu is inviting Nepali to support its 'Energy for All' campaign. The campaign promotes the use of briquettes as a sustainable solution to the lack of fossil fuel in the nation. "The briquettes are eco-friendly, cheap, reliable and easily available," said CEEN in a press statement. It added that briquettes are made from agricultural residues that have the potential to fulfill Nepal's energy demands.

Source: <http://www.thehimalayantimes.com>, January 18, 2010

Briquettes Show Way for Conservation

By Rastirya Samachar Samiti

Rasuwa (Nepal): Production of briquettes has started in the Rasuwa district to help minimize the effects of climate change by preserving natural diversity. Banmara and Titepati plants, which are found in abundance in the district, are used to produce the briquettes. One briquette easily suffice to cook food for a family of 10 members and is therefore cheaper than cooking gas. A non-governmental organization named Kasitash has taken the initiative for briquette production. "In the first phase, the production has begun at Gatlang, Goljung, Safru and Bhridim VDCs," said field executive Sukra Tamang, adding that around 200 pieces of briquettes have already been produced. "On the one hand villagers are getting employment and, on the other, briquettes ensure a smoke-free environment in the kitchen," said a farmer of Sanu Bharku, Kamisitar Lama. He also said that 34 women are currently into briquette production. Meanwhile, the Langtang National Park and the World Wildlife Fund have assured that they will extend their support to this new initiative.

Source: <http://www.thehimalayantimes.com>, December 26, 2009

BG-RCNN ACTIVITIES

UNDP GEF-SGP Workshop in Pokhara

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) held a workshop for all Nepali grantees of its Global Environment Facility's Small Grant Programme (GEF-SGP) at the Hotel Dragon in Pokhara on December 26-28, 2009. Altogether fifty participants from different organizations attended the workshop, including the Team Leader and Programme Coordinator of BG-RCNN. Participants shared the progress accomplished in their respective projects during the past six months. Team Leader Mrs. Prabha Pokhrel presented BG-RCNN achievements so far. To learn more about UNDP GEF-SGP workshops:

http://sgp.undp.org/web/projects/6910/building_capacities_of_sgp_grantees.html

Bio-Briquette Refresher Training by CEEN

The Center For Energy and Environment Nepal (CEEN), with support from Hokkaido NEPA

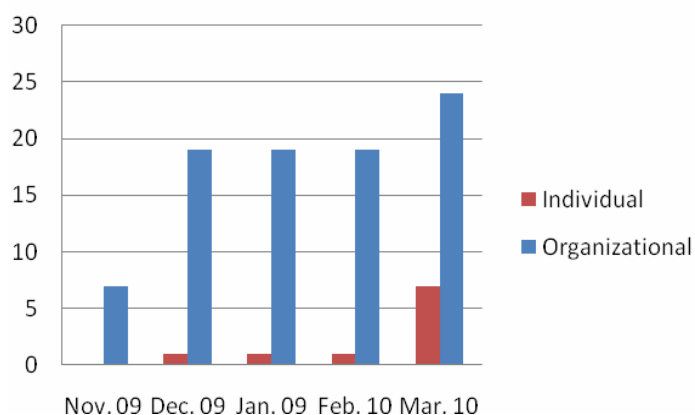
from/and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA-Nepal) successfully organized a three days Bio-Briquette Refresher Training at the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) on January 18-20, 2010. Representatives from various communities of Nepal as well as different related organizations and institutions participated. Programme Coordinator Mr. Mausam Khanal was present for the BG-RCNN. The main aim of the training was to educate bio-briquette producers and distributors about upgraded technologies, marketing systems and briquetting processes. To learn more about CEEN projects: <http://www.sajilo.com/ceen/ceenpage2.htm>

Korean Team Visit BG-RCNN Secretariat

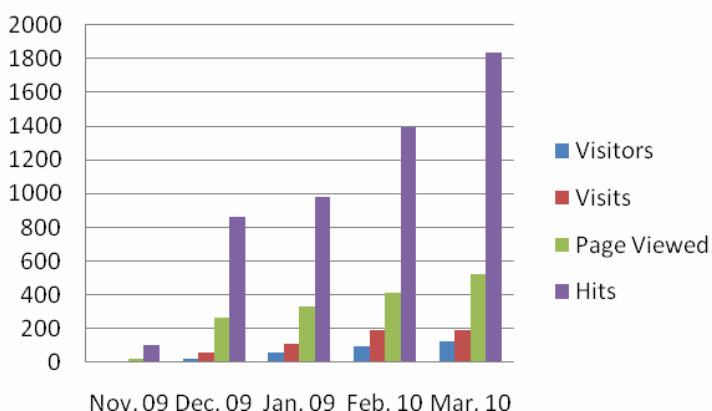
A team of four Korean students from Yonsei University visited the BG-RCNN secretariat on January 27, 2010 to investigate bio-briquettes and other technologies for sustainable development used in rural areas of Nepal.

BG-RCNN STATISTICS

Membership



Website



NEW RESOURCES

- *Scientific Articles and Success Stories* sections added to BG-RCNN website:
www.bgrcnn.net/resources.html

CONTACT US

To submit news, upcoming activities, new resources, to subscribe or unsubscribe, please write to info@bgrcnn.net. You can also reach us at:

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