

Minutes on meeting of bio-briquette producers

Introduction:

Asia Network for Sustainable Agriculture and Bioresources (ANSAB) in association with Himalayan Naturals P. Ltd., a bio-briquette producing and marketing company organized a meeting of the bio-briquette producers of Nepal on August 20, 2011 at ANSAB Headquarters, Kathmandu. The meeting was organized to discuss on the issues, challenges and opportunities of the bio-briquette sector in Nepal, and to talk on the procedure to register the bio-briquette producers association for the promotion of the bio-briquette sector in Nepal. The meeting started at 11:00 am with registration of the participants. A total of 20 participants participated the meeting.

The meeting was organized in two parts. The first part included discussion on the issues and challenges, and the second part included discussion on the bio-briquette producers' association.

I. Issues and challenges of bio-briquette sector in Nepal:

The participants started discussion with the opportunities of the bio-briquette to reduce poverty at local level, and expand the marketing of the sector with considering it as an alternative energy. The participants also discussed on the potential to expand the production of bio-briquette using the raw materials that are wasted otherwise not used. The discussion then focused on the issues and challenges of the sector. Major issues raised during the discussion session are presented as below.

- The producers are facing challenges from the production phase to the marketing phase.
- For the small scale production of the bio-briquette, the raw materials found in the community forests are sufficient. However, if the briquette is produced in large scale, there are not enough raw materials available at local level. Using the materials available at local level without considering their regeneration potential leads to unsustainability of the bio-briquette production.
- The facilities to construct machines for making and grinding the charcoal for bio-briquette production are not available at local level (and sometimes at even district level).
- The current production technology emits more dust that causes health problem to the workers. Because of the health problem, enough manpower is not available for the production of bio-briquette. Especially the workers from the areas near to the market centers are less reluctant to work to prepare and grind the charcoal because they can easily get other works with less impact on health. This shows that there is a need of new technology of production that emits less dust and affects less to the health of the workers.
- The quality of the briquettes produced from different producers is different. If some producers produce low quality of the briquette, it is detrimental to the whole sector, which is itself in infant stage in Nepal.

- There is also need to monitor the bio-briquette producers if they are using the trees from the community forest, which might have negative effect to the bio-briquette sector if the news spread to the media.
- The briquettes crumble during the transportation. So, research is necessary to find the way to reduce the crumble during transportation.
- During the transportation, the traders (which are the producers themselves because the sector is in the beginning phase) have to pay informal taxes to different groups including the police.

The meeting also discussed on some of the interventions to address the issues discussed especially on the lack of the raw materials and the manpower. The producers from the Sikre, Sindhupalchok mentioned that we have to consider the health of the worker and should allow the user to maintain moisture for less emission of dust. For the raw materials, some species available at local level can be considered. As an example, amlisho (*Thysanolenia agortis*) with multipurpose use and also cultivated by the locals in their field can be a good example.

II. Formation of the Bio-briquette Producers' Association of Nepal:

The second part of the meeting included discussion on the constitution, name, structure and work of the bio-briquette producers association in Nepal. Major outcomes and decisions during the meeting are:

- The meeting finalized the draft constitution of the association.
- The association is named as the "Briquette Producers' Association of Nepal".
- The association will have seven executive committee members. The seven executive members selected from the meeting are:

Chairperson: Mr. Sushil Gyawali, Gulmi

Vice-chairperson: Ms. Dhana Maya Magar, Dhading

Secretary: Mr. Dev Bahadur Shrestha, Sindhupalchok

Treasurer: Mr. Sita Ram Tamang, Lalitpur

Member: Mr. Mitra Jirel, Dolakha

Member: Mr. Krishna Prasad Pandey, Arghakhachi

Member: Mr. Devi Bahadur Nepal, Chitwan

- Based on the issues and challenges identified during the first part of the meeting, an annual work plan was finalized. The annual work plan is included in Annex 2.

Annex 1: List of participants:

Bio-Briquette Producer's Meeting

2068 Bhadra 3 (20th August 2011)

Venue: ANSAB Headquarters, Kathmandu

S. No.	Name	Organization	Designation	Contact No.	Email	Signature
1	Kamal B. G. C.	Jaldibi, Samudayikam	office assistance	9845218843		[Signature]
2	Debi Bahadur Nepal	"	"	9845219277		[Signature]
3	अश्विनी चौधरी	from 10-3-3013/17	मै.लिन	9207092609		[Signature]
4	Devi Bahadur Shrestha	Shree River Lt.		9241715905		[Signature]
5	गणेश्वरी शर्मा	एन.ए.सी. १३३५		9807657892		[Signature]
6	गणेश्वरी शर्मा	एन.ए.सी. ३३३५		9841153338		[Signature]
7	पुष्पा ल. गुप्ता	ANSAB	Manager - P&E	9207092609		[Signature]
8	Sudarchan Khand	ANSAB	Comm. Officer	9845202859		[Signature]
9	Mitra Jivell	Greenest Gateway Habitat (P)	Chairman	970065770		[Signature]
10	Chandra Bdr. Thapa	DF office, Botabla	AFO	9741031837	cbthapa.padol@kathmandu.gov.np	[Signature]
11	Bishnu Lal Shrestha	Sailling BSKet.		9844065066		[Signature]
12	Sushil Gyawali	Himalayan Natural	MD	9851127784		[Signature]
13	Khemraj Sharma	ANSAB	Legal Advisor	9841365908		[Signature]
14	रा. सु. शर्मा	ANSAB		9741267671		[Signature]
15	Bishnu P. Luitel	Himalayan Network	Director	9241094221		[Signature]
16	Gopal P. Sharma	Himalayan Natural Habitat	Director	9851126196	gopalsharma@himalayan-natural-habitat.org.np	[Signature]
17	Ram Shrestha	Himalayan Natural	Business Office	9851126196		[Signature]
18	Bal Krishna Neupane	Himalayan Natural	Production Manager	9851126196		[Signature]
19	Raja Ram Poudel	PAATHI Corner for Charikura	for Charikura	9841132170	rajaram132170@yahoo.com	[Signature]

Annex 2: Annual work plan:

Work plan	Timeline	Responsible
Registration of the Association	One month	Executive body
Quality Control Committee	One month	Executive body
Guideline on production technology (machine, furnace)	One year	Executive body
Improve on health of the producers	One year	Executive body
Binding materials/ignition	One year	Executive body
Coordination with governmental and nongovernmental organizations	One year	Executive body
Resource mobilization	One year	Executive body
Effort for the subsidy in bio-briquette fuel	One year	Executive body
Alternative raw materials/technology	One year	Executive body
Entrepreneurship development and area diversification	One year	Executive body
Exhibition and visit	Three months	Executive body