

Women's initiative in income source of Climate Friendly Leaf Plate- A Story Chateyatal Community Forest

Basudev Ghimire, Enterprise and Livelihood Manager, GFN

Wastage Sal leaf become an income source for the Chateyatal Community Forest Users Group. 10 Members of women have started Leaf plate enterprises in a community forest in Basgadi Municipality-4 of Baridya district. *“The Women Group started Leaf plate making in the local Chateyatal Community Forest- (Mr. Dor Bahadur Kuwar, Chairperson CFUG).*



To effectively manage the women's initiative, the executive committee Chateyatal of CFUG has formed an enterprise sub-committee of ten women, with Ms. Lasmi Subadi as Chairperson. The committee decided to make a leaf plate of Sal leaves collected from the community forest for leaf plate enterprise.

All members of the group, including its president, are female. Women are indispensable in forest-based enterprises. Women attend meetings and make decisions themselves. They participate in collecting leaves, stitching, making leaf plates, and marketing all by themselves. In all these activities, men only play a supporting role. This strengthens the women's confidence and builds their capacity.

Similarly, social inclusion is being gradually addressed. Chateyatal CFUG consists mostly of members of the Brahmin caste, while members of other castes are in the minority. However, the other castes have been prioritized either in the organization of local groups or generating participation in forest-based enterprises.

“Before starting this enterprise, the leaves were used as animal feed and seen as a waste material. We have planned to make a leaf plate as an income source for housewife women. It is our traditional practice to create a leaf plate by making a hand. We have heard about the leaf plate-making machine but had no source of income to buy it. It was difficult to make a leaf plate by hand and sell it in the market. We have no idea what to do. In the year 2080(2023), the Green Foundation Nepal started the program in our community forest. We put our interest in Green Foundation Nepal and supported us for the leaf plate enterprise with business management training”- (Laxmi Subedi, Chairperson, Chateyatal Leaflet Enterprise)



After the TF support program started, as per the request of the Chateyatal community forest User group, forest-based enterprise-supported programs were provided to the Women's group in the year 2023. Through this program, they installed a leaf plate-making machine with the support of GFN. Now, the local communities and women are happy that they can produce leaf plates in their area and sell them in local areas, markets, HHs levels, hotels, panipuri shops, temples and different programs organized by government officials and the private sector. They produce five varieties of plates for different uses. This enterprise is starting to become a source of income for them and support environmental practices as an alternative to plastic plates.



“Nowadays we are starting a dialogue with the municipality to promote leaf plates against large spaces and plastic plates. Our leaf plates are gradually increasing the demand in Wedding ceremonies, various events, Mo: Mo: Panipuri shops, and hotels and our income is also gradually increasing. We have also provided 30% profit sharing in CF sustainability. We would like to thank GFN, FECOFUN, and the TF team for improving our daily livelihoods and environmentally friendly practices. (Laxmi Subedi)