

Towards Zero Waste Himalayas



Zero Waste Resource Persons Training - Ilam

8 – 10 October 2012, Chiya Bari Cottage Hotel

Pragya Seeds Nepal is a Nepali NGO created by young Nepali entrepreneur that is concerned with spreading Zero Waste over Nepal, supporting the local economy and the environment through a community-approach of the obvious and worrying waste problem of this country. PGSN has over ten Nepali members as well as occasional foreign interns and associates. It is also ranked under top10 nominee NGO of Nepal from World Bank and AEPC. It is directly supported by Thanal, an Indian NGO concerned with Zero Waste Asia.

Pragya Seeds Nepal organised the Zero Waste Resource Persons Training in Ilam to build the capacity of the municipalities and NGO's of the Eastern region of Nepal to implement a Zero Waste system. It is part of a series of four trainings to serve the regions of Nepal in promoting Zero Waste and creating resource persons. This was done by introducing municipality officials and others to the concept of Zero waste and teaching them about its practices and strategies. This way, the participants are supported to improve waste management practices in their locality in a responsible and comprehensive manner.

Background

Zero Waste is a framework for striving towards the recovery of 100% percent of the resources and material also known as waste. This includes the managing the life-cycle of products and waste management practices to avoid incineration and mixed land filling, both of which cause very serious problems to the health and environment of people. Through a careful implementation of Zero Waste practices any threat to the environment and the people will be reduced as far as possible.

Zero Waste is implemented in the Himalayan region by THANAL, with Pragya Seeds Nepal as the implementation partner for Nepal. Together, these organisations organise trainings to promote Zero Waste on the local government level throughout the five regions of Nepal, starting with the Eastern region in Ilam. Additional support was provided by the Solid Waste Management Technical Support Centre, located in Kathmandu.

Objectives

The objectives of this training can be divided into two categories; to inform and to train. In the first category the following objectives can be named:

- To increase awareness of global, national and local waste issues and perceptions.
- To increase the knowledge on current waste management practices and problems
- To inform participants about Zero waste as a framework for responsible waste management practices

In the second category, to train, the following objectives can be named:

- To equip participants as trainers for the implementation of Zero Waste in their municipality
- To equip participants with structural, tactical and political knowledge to guide them through the implementation process
- To produce resource persons for the implementation of Zero Waste in all of Nepal
- To support the relation between municipalities and Thanal and Pragya Seeds Nepal as implementation partners for Zero Waste in Nepal.



Target group

This training intended to reach and equip people working for municipalities and NGO's in the Eastern Region of Nepal. The Eastern Region includes sixteen municipalities. Other interested parties from NGO's who might benefit from additional training were also included. The target group therefore consisted of people either relatively well educated or well-informed about waste management in their own municipalities or localities. This target group would, firstly, be able to receive training about the technical implementation of Zero Waste and, secondly, have the capacities to appreciate the framework and serve as agents for the implementation of Zero Waste throughout the region.

Program

Day one; 8 October 2012

45 Participants from sixteen different municipalities, environment officers and local NGO members attended the training, along with the media reporters. Dr. Sumitra Amatya from SWMTSC inaugurated the training program and chairperson was Mr. Agni Prasad Adhikari, the mayor of the municipality of Ilam. To welcome the participants, Mr. Pranay Shrestha, Chairman of Pragya Seeds Nepal, gave a welcome speech to introduce Zero Waste in Ilam. Following, Dr. Sumitra presented a report on the work of SWMTSC. Pranay Shrestha then presented the 10 steps to achieve the Zero Waste and led a feedback session involving all of the participants. Mr. Shibu Nair, the Program Director of Thanal, started his training session with a presentation on Zero Waste Himalayas. He also discussed the general perceptions and practices related to waste, and how this has tremendous effects on the nature and the people. He ended his session with an Q&A session.



Day two; 9 October 2012

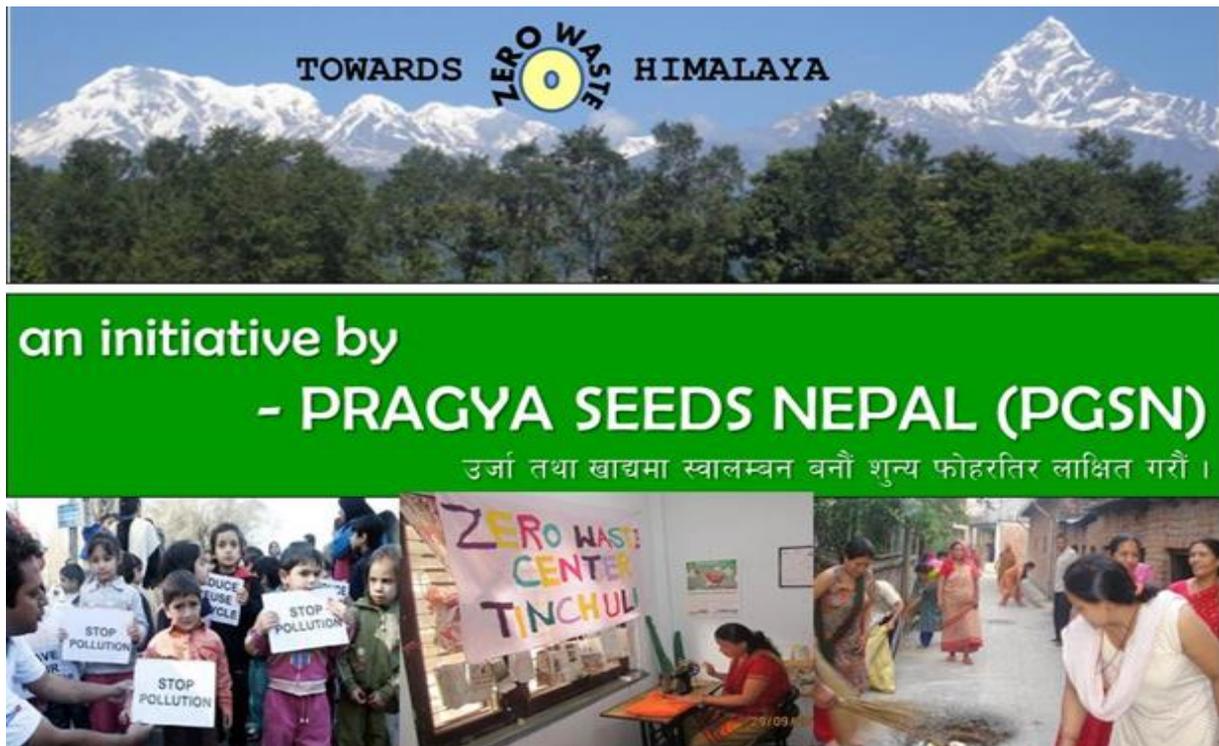
Mr. Shibu Nair presented waste issues and challenges around the world, and answered questions from the participants. Dr. Sumitra gave a presentation on the Solid Waste Management law and the waste situation in Nepal. Ms. Uden Bhutia, from Sikkim, India, shared her experiences with Zero Waste in Sikkim and presented conventional waste management trends. Pranay Shrestha presented 'Let's Clean Kathmandu and Make it a Zero Waste City', a project under Pragya Seeds Nepal, and answered questions related to this project. Shibu Nair then conducted a discussion about the goals and visions of the municipality people, and how a Zero Waste system can be used to make these goals happen. He supplied the participants with new methods to achieve change in their municipality, one of them was power analysis.

Day three; 10 October 2012

Pranay Shrestha presented various technologies that can be utilised to treat waste responsibly and recover the resources, for example through the production of biogas and composting. This technology have been implemented by many communities of India. Shibu Nair presented the way to develop an action plan for Zero Waste, along with the social aspects of this system. He then conducted a discussion on the same subject, reiterating the need to find alternatives for incineration and mixed land filling. After this session, participants were awarded a certificate to celebrate their training. The CDO, LDO and other government officers participated in this ceremony, as well as the media. A closing speech to summarise the training was given by Pranay Shrestha.

Result

As a practical result of three days Zero Waste training, the municipality people were motivated to start two-bin waste segregation in their office, and start composting at home. Even though for the last two years the Nepali government has been focussing on landfilling for solid waste management, now all of the participants wanted to make a Resource Recovery Centre to treat the waste through recycling. Many discussions with Shibu Nair and Dr. Sumitra had developed to make these efforts more efficient and appropriate to the local circumstances.



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