

O 62 : Municipality level PF owners' association established and functioning

We recognized the importance of private forests and the challenges faced by private forest owners. To address these challenges, we came up with the idea of creating a private forest association. We arranged a meeting with the majority of the private forest owners from Bhumlu Rural Municipality wards 4 and 5 in Chaubas and from Chautara Sagachowkgadi Municipality ward 13. Through our research and outreach efforts, we were able to bring together a group of private forest owners who shared our vision. Following that, we also completed the draft constitution in preparation for the registration procedure.

- Creating a private forest association can be an effective way to provide support and resources to private forest owners. This association can serve as a platform for private forest owners to share their experiences and challenges, and to access information and resources on best practices for forest management. By joining together, private forest owners can also have a stronger voice in policy discussions and advocate for policies that benefit private forest owners.
- In future, the association can also work to build partnerships with other organizations, such as universities, conservation groups, and government agencies, to expand access to resources and expertise. Overall, creating a private forest association can be a valuable step for private forest owners who want to collaborate and advocate for the sustainable management of their forests. By sharing knowledge and resources, private forest owners can work together to preserve and enhance the ecological and economic benefits of their forests.



Figure 1:PF association meeting (Chaubas and Chautara)

Outcomes

Biochar production business plan was discussed in both associations and participants are excited and enthusiastic about producing biochar. However, concerns were raised regarding the availability of a market, and project support is requested to establish market linkage. The Municipality Heads of Chautara Sagachowkgadi and Bhumlu Rural municipalities are fully supportive of the biochar production plan and are enthusiastic about its implementation. They have expressed their eagerness for the PF associations to receive training as soon as possible. Their proactive involvement and commitment to the project further strengthen the prospects of successful biochar production in the respective municipalities.