

'TAAN Forest' History

'TAAN Forest' is a concept conceived by Trekking Agencies' Association of Nepal (TAAN). It was started in early 1990s by organizing a plantation program in Kavrebhanjyang (on the way to Namobuddha) on the occasion of World Environment Day which is celebrated all over the world on June 5 by organizing various programs. TAAN has been celebrating the event ever since. It has organized plantation in different venues so far. But in the absence of proper care after plantation, the plantation has already been destroyed.

Plantations done so far:

- a. Kavrebhanjyang in Kavre district (on the way to Namobuddha)
- b. Tarkeshwar (Nagarjun-Shivapuri National Park)
- c. Dhulikhel Bazaar (Kavre)
- d. Kashi Bhanjyang in Nala VDC of Kavre (Along trekking trail between Nagarkot and Dhulikhel)
- e. Kakani, Nuwakot
- f. Kavresthali, Kathmandu
- g. Chobhar, Kathmandu

Situation of plantation sites:

Of these seven plantation sites, TAAN has put a lot of effort and investment in the development of 'TAAN Forest' in Kashibhanjyang of Kavre. As the place lies on the Nagarkot-Dhulikhel trekking trail, TAAN had hoped that the place could be developed as a resting point for trekkers. Long-term plan was to develop the place as a camping site. But the project was dropped. TAAN also provided guide training to two youth from the area. It also implemented a drinking water project there so that locals could benefit from TAAN Forest. TAAN had hoped that by doing these things it would be able to encourage local people to protect the plantation area. Unfortunately, it didn't happen. As a result, the project was dropped.

The latest plantation site in Chobhar lies on the banks of Bagmati River near Chobhar. The plantation was done in partnership with Jalbinayak Community Forest Users Group. TAAN had planned to develop it as an amusement park. But it also didn't materialize.

Problems:

The concept of 'TAAN Forest' couldn't be successful because of various reasons. Some of them are related to internal issues. Some of the problems have been stated below:

1. Lack of focus in one area
2. Lack of policy consistency on the part of TAAN
3. Lack of investment
4. Problem due to lack of ownership of plantation area
5. Failure to take local people/stakeholders into confidence

Suggestions:

1. If we really want to develop 'TAAN Forest', it would be better to sign long-term lease agreement with land owners. Only then it would be good to invest money. It won't be wise to invest money on land plots owned by others as we cannot develop it as per our plan.
2. Before investing money on 'TAAN Forest', we should be clear about the purpose. If we want to develop it as a tourism product, we need to prepare a master plan and work accordingly.
3. Similarly, we need to forge partnership with local community/stakeholders for the protection of plantations in 'TAAN Forest'.
4. If we can develop 'TAAN Forest', we can organize our regular programs like World Environment Day and TAAN Day celebration as well as other activities like mountain-bike race and running events as well as residential workshops and seminars. It can also be promoted as source of income generation by promoting it as a venue for picnics and outings.
5. 'TAAN Forest' should have to be developed along trekking and hiking trails so that TAAN member agencies can benefit from it accordingly.
6. We can also seek suggestions from member agencies to select areas to be developed as 'TAAN Forest'.

टान वन तथा वृक्ष रोपन कहा कहा के हो

१) काभ्रे को कालिका मन्दिर (धुलिखेल)

२) टान वन काभ्रे कासिभाडजेन

३) धुलिखेल बजार

४) वावलिस्थीत बालाजु

५) ककनी

६) चोवार

टान वन तथा वृक्ष रोपन गरेको ठाउ हो । तर कुनै पनि उन्नति भएन ।