e-Newsletter

IN THIS ISSUE

✓ Media interaction on Karnali drought
✓ Policy actors visit to forest management sites
✓ Scoping field study in Terai region
✓ Recent publications
Stakeholders observed forest Management sites in Kavre

The members of EnLiFT’s DLCC (district level coordination committee members) and DFSCC (district forestry sector coordination committee), representatives of major political parties in Kavre, journalists, leaders of few community forestry user groups and forest officers in Kavre, including district forest officer Prem Khanal visited site, on 22 January, 2016. The objective of the visit was to provide on-site discussion among forestry stakeholders about silvicultural demonstrations, active and equitable forest management, document observations and to gain insights and opinions of the participants. The events in the field are, on-site observation of activities in Dharapani CF- such as stem mapping while developing operation plan of Dharapani CFUG. Visit to Chaubas-Saw Mill and a brief presentation by Lok B. Kuwar, Chair of Saw Mill Management Committee. And, visit to four silvicultural demonstration plots and on-site presentation about the demonstration plot establishment, description of silvicultural treatments applied in the plots and the process adopted
Policy actors visit to forest management demonstration sites in Kavre

On 19 February, 2016 EnLiFT coordinated a multi-actor visit to Chaubas in Kavre district. Key policy actors in forestry sector such as Director General of Department of Forests, four joint-secretaries, four district forest officers; FECOFUN leaders- general secretary, central committee members, district president; president of HIMAWANTI; General Secretary of NFA; President of FenFIT; President of COFSUN; RECOFTC Program Coordinator, President of Green Foundation participated in the visit. The objective of the visit was to provide an update of EnLiFT to key policy actors and obtain on-site feedback from them. The visit accommodated three major discussions- presentations about EnLiFT project, forest management initiatives in Kavre and EnLiFT’s Active and Equitable Forest Management Initiatives. On-site discussion about Chaubas Saw Mill and issues around community forestry enterprises in general. Visit to Silviculture demonstration plots and discussions related to application of silviculture in mature forests in mid-hills.

The visit brought major forestry sector policy actors to EnLiFT demonstration sites in Chaubas. Naya Sharma, Prem Khanal and Govinda Paudel provided brief updates about EnLiFT, programs of district forest office and EnLiFT’s active and equitable forest management initiatives respectively. The participants appreciated the efforts of EnLiFT researchers in providing a policy learning forum in Kavre and Lamjung.

Stakeholders visit to forest management demonstration site in Lamjung

EnLiFT organized a field day to forest management demonstration plots established in Lampata community forests in Lamjung, on 26 January. The visit team comprised of district forest officer, FECOFUN representatives, local political party leaders, members of community forestry user groups and EnLiFT researchers. The objective of the visit was to demonstrate the application of forest management systems in the community forest. As an endeavor to communicate the forestry science to the representative from different stakeholders, researchers explained how forest management practices can contribute to sustainable management of forests and contribute to enhance livelihoods of local community.
Agriculture scoping survey in Janakpur

With the goal of initiating agriculture projects in Madhesh, a scoping study was conducted in Bheriya village in Shirha district and Jiban Kendra in Dhanusha district of Harsar village of Janakpur. Along the same line of work FA, with Alliance in agriculture, studied the agriculture system of Madhesh. Attempts were made towards sustainable relation with local organizations, to enable further collaboration.

Firstly, we conducted village visit where locals had assembled and we put forward our agenda. Secondly, we visited the local organization and explained about the Agriculture Development Strategy. The key discussion issues were future of Nepali agriculture; bringing forth agriculture in national issue and; the agriculture challenges of Madhesh. Key comments from the participants covered- lack of knowledge on agriculture cultivation as per geographic distribution. The irregularity in pattern and process of agriculture grant, and loss of small farmers because purchase price is more than selling price. Currently, the major problems are persistent degradation of soil fertility and male population migration for employment, amongst many others.

Karnali support program

We provided technical support in preparation of agriculture Newsletter of Karnali. Similarly, supported in organizing a national workshop on the draught of Karnali to address the problems there. Some of the ongoing activities include technical support in preparation of district status report of six districts of Karnali region and; technical support in preparation of Agriculture Development Plan of Bajura and Mugu district.

Research on herder's conflict in Community forestry

Research on, community forest and herders conflicts in the context of increasing climate threats, Suspa and Charnawoti CFUG, Dolakha. This study was conducted with the objective to analyse the current herding practices and CF herder’s conflict and to generate knowledge on climate threats and its impacts on herding. Also, to examine changes in vegetation availability; shifts in herding points and changes in herding practices due to increasing climate threats.

Discussion with Yak herders at their herding points, CFUG members and former herders in Suspa-Charnawoti area, Dolakha. There was discussion and sharing with DFO, FECOFUN and DLSO and HIMALI project. Similarly, we studied bio physical analysis of changes in vegetation availability, feeding behavior, shifts in herding points and other climate changes and threats in last 30 years through transect walk.

The key learning have been, that climate change threats like erratic snowfall, rain has attributed to decreasing vegetation availability. Similarly, the change in temperature has changed the grazing pattern of yaks and their stay time and herding points.
Interactive workshop on role of evidence and facts in policy advocacy and articulation

In this event held on 4 February, 2016 participants included CFUGs representatives, leaders, landless and stakeholders. The objective of the workshop was to strengthen capacity and knowledge of CBO leaders on generating evidences and articulating it to wider society and policy makers; to understand, appreciate and scale out adaptive learning in CF planning and conflict transformation; and capacitate CBOs leaders on wider dissemination of outcomes from PAR. Outputs of the workshop were deliberation on ways to resolve conflicts, loss of status-quo and explanation of possibility of conflict resolution.

Regional workshops in Feminization in agriculture (Dadeldhura, Kapilvastu, Makwanpur)
The regional workshops were held between February and March in Dadeldhura, Kapilvastu and Makwanpur. The topic of presentation and discussion was feminization in agriculture in our changing rural context; contemporary issues of agriculture and; VDC 15% budget and a video documentary of women farmer’s success stories. The objectives of the workshops were to bring forth the aforementioned discussions with stakeholders. Through these workshops we collected helpful assessment and suggestions on our research findings.

Grassroot intervention in REDD+
A regional level workshop was held in Jhapa, Nawalparasi and Kailali on 24 February, 4 March, 10 March 2016 respectively. The objective of the workshop was to document lessons learned and produce communication products from the delivery of the Grassroots capacity building for REDD+ project in Nepal. The different views of the participants regarding REDD was documented during the program.
2-days action research workshop

2-days Action Research workshop was organized in Lamjung and kavre on 1-2 February and 7-8 February, 2016 respectively by ForestAction Nepal. The workshop was part of Enhancing livelihoods and food security from agroforestry and community forestry in Nepal (EnLiFT) project and it was collaborated by FECOFUN and District forest Office in Lamjung and Kavre district. DFO, AFO, FECOFUN leaders of the district, CFUG leaders were the participant. As part of EnLiFT capacity building initiatives, the workshop was organized to help participants understand the participatory action research approach and enable them in the reviewing and planning process.

A district-level workshop on Under-Utilized Land (UUL)

The workshop on UUL was held in Lamjung and Kavre on 19 and 27 April, 2016, respectively. The objective of the workshop was to share the research findings of UUL case studies and receive feedbacks from local stakeholders. Local Development Officer, delegates from DADO, DFO, DLSO, CDO, FECOFUN, local political parties, media houses and farmer groups were present in the workshop. The workshop was completed in two sessions. Session 1: briefing workshop objective and presenting research finding and session 2: Group discussion. In the first session, Krishna P. Paudel briefly highlighted the national agricultural context and explained the objective of the workshop. Then after, Yuba Raj Subedi presented the key research finding of the case studies. In the second session, Naya S. Paudel facilitated the open group discussion and responded to the participant's inquiries and the overall program was facilitated by Madan Bashyal. The participant actively took part in group discussion; the workshop was very dynamic and productive. Likewise, ForestAction facilitated a national level workshop on UUL held in Kathmandu on 28 - 29 April.
National Interaction on contemporary issues of agriculture

With the objective of interaction on the contemporary issues of agriculture, a national level workshop was held in Babarmahal, on 18 March, 2016. The major research findings of feminization of agriculture and VDC 15% budget of agriculture were presented by FA agriculture team. Furthermore, video documentary of successful women cases were also presented and, the Book of Review and Analysis of ADS was launched. The facilitation of the program was done by FA Chairperson Khem Raj Dahal. The major national stakeholders of agriculture such as representatives from Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture, Ministry of local development, farmer representatives, partner organizations, various NGOs/INGOs, Alliance of Agriculture for Food, Media personnels participated in the program.

Interaction on ecological farming based Agriculture, a national workshop

A national level workshop for the interaction on Ecological farming based agriculture was held at ForestAction Nepal, Bagdole, on 17 March, 2016. The main objective of the program was to discuss about the ecological farming based agriculture as the major element of sustainable agriculture. The participants of the program were the farmers from different districts engaged in this type of agriculture, the representatives from National Permaculture Group (NPG) and media personnels. This program was facilitated by Dr. Krishna Poudel and Kamal Bhandari of FA.

Media interaction on Karnali drought

A media interaction program was organized by ForestAction on 26-27 February, 2016 and had a total of 23 participants. The highlight of the program was to share and discuss the pertinent issues of drought induced food shortage in Karnali. Apart from that dialogue on current agricultural and land issues was put forth the media personnels. This program enabled extensive media coverage on the agricultural issues of our nation.
Apprenticeship course fifth module

The objective of the program was to share the knowledge and experience of the earlier modules amongst the participants. Participants shared their knowledge and the positive response from the society after getting the training. There has been positive impact on the social status of participant, due to the knowledge gained from the training program. The participants visited farms in Kathmandu valley and also the Ministry of agriculture. The participants have been capable of applying all the practices learnt from these farms, to their own farm as well as share their knowledge with their local communities within their respective districts.

Exchange visit to Udaipur, India

This Workshop was on Forests within landscapes, connecting forests with farming systems was an introductory meeting to explore strategies to build a larger farmer constituency for forest conservation. It highlights the positive contribution that forests make through key ecological services and functions such as improved transfer of nutrients, longer periods of water flows and retention of moisture, better pollination, pest control, and the matching institutional and governance mechanisms. The workshop aims to promote exchange of contemporary approaches and ideas among experts and practitioners and develop a medium-term engagement strategy to advance the thinking and action to build a larger farmer constituency for forest conservation. Prabin Bhusal and Kamal Bhandari of ForestAction presented as Panelist on technical session; Institutional and Governance Mechanisms for Strengthening Forest-Farming Systems Interface. Their presentation focus was on the institutional arrangements and the administrative and planning architectures required at different levels to foster such inter-linkages and improve governance of natural resources at the landscape level.

Exchange visit of Bangladesh team to PAR site

The event was organized from 22-29 February, 2016 for the team from Bangladesh. The visit was the part of Community based Adaptive Learning in Management of Conflicts and Natural Resources in Bangladesh and Nepal (CALCNR) research project activity which is collaboration in research between ForestAction Nepal, iDE in Nepal, FHRC and Nice Foundation in Bangladesh. Altogether 13 participants representing different community based organizations and its network, participated from Bangladesh. The visit was one of the project learning and
sharing activity with the aim to enhance knowledge and leadership of CBO leaders on the co-management of natural resources and to understanding the nature of conflicts around those natural resources, initiatives taken for minimizing it and its outcomes on sustainable use and conservation of resources. The team visited different Participatory Action Research (PAR) sites in Nawalparasi, Kaski and Kavre and discussions were carried out with the community people on the issues around landlessness and forest management, issues of distant users in community forestry, multiple use water system and LAPA. Furthermore, the progress and role of participatory action and planning in minimizing those conflicts were also discussed.

Team building retreat to Sauraha

The annual retreat location was in Sauraha, Chitwan. It enabled team building and provided opportunity for knowledge sharing. During the visit of Kankali CFUG, we learnt about entrepreneurship development and innovative idea observation, the CFUG runs its own community swimming pool and picnic area, open to public with charge, enabling its self-sustenance. Similarly, the visit of Chitwan national park conservation was not only scenic, but also informative.


