Opportunities and Challenges of Promoting Forest Based Enterprise in Koshi Hill, Nepal

Two days (2-3 July, 2013) interaction workshop on “Opportunities and Challenges of Promoting Forest Based Enterprise in Koshi Hill, Nepal” was jointly organized by ForestAction Nepal and Rural Reconstruct Nepal (RRN) in Dhankuta district. Individuals representing enterprise, civil society organizations, and financial institutions participated in the program. The interaction was conducted to understand the challenges and opportunities of promoting forest based enterprise in Koshi Hill districts (Dhankuta, Terathum, Sankhuwasabha and Bhojpur). It was learnt that the number of forest based enterprises- in different forms and types (such as private enterprises, community led but supported by private partner and private led but supported by communities) were established and many of them are in operation.

Empowering Communities through Apprenticeship Course

Fourth module of the apprenticeship course on “Transformational Activism for Sustainable Development” was conducted based on three themes - agriculture, public health and education. As part of the course, seven days training was organized on sustainable agriculture techniques for the participants at HASERA farm of Kavre district. Likewise, five days (6-10 May, 2013) basic health orientation program was organized by ForestAction in collaboration with Phect Nepal at Kathmandu Model hospital. Also, ForestAction in collaboration with Centre for Educational Policies and Practices (CEPP) organized five days (9-13 Aug, 2013) basic course for education motivators/mobilizers. Further, aiming for the effectiveness of the program and assess the level of achievement of the participants, follow-up visits were also conducted in six mid and far-western districts namely Kailali, Kanchanpur, Bardiya, Surkhet, Salyan and Rolpa.
Facilitating Sustainable Agriculture in Nepal

In collaboration with ActionAid International (Nepal), ForestAction is facilitating sustainable agriculture in five districts of Nepal with the aim: to support lead-farmers to prepare demonstrative farms-applying the basic principles of conservation agriculture, strengthen existing networks and facilitate formation of new network/alliances, carry out evidence based policy research and advocate and engage in policy at all levels (micro, meso and macro). In relation to this, following activities were conducted:

- Program inception, updates and sharing on sustainable agriculture in participatory review and reflection program (PRRP) in Nepalgunj.
- Site selection for demonstrative farms
- Participants selection for apprenticeship course
- Community level discussions in Banke and Bardiya

Climate Change and Rural Institutions: Case Studies from Field Work

ForestAction team visited Rupandehi and Dolakha in June and August, 2013 respectively. In Rupandehi, agriculture innovation practice of fish farming was selected as case study from Chapiya village (Dayanagar VDC). The study shows that the villagers are now attracted towards fish farming, since it provides good income to them. Sufficient water availability due to Bhairawa-Lumbini ground water project, good water retaining capacity of soil as well as district government's policy to promote fish farming encouraged the practice in the area.

In Dolakha, Bhirkot VDC's landslide case was diagnosed. The study shows that the Dalit people were more affected by landslides due to marginalization, poverty, lack of education and lack of representation/ excess in village politics or resources, made them more vulnerable towards such disaster. Moreover, the poorly constructed rural road above the village (and above Dalit area) was also identified as an enhancer of flash flood-landslide in the streams of the village, which caused destruction of households and schools of the area. The VDC and related district line agencies provide very limited relief/fund to the affected households and people.

Advocacy Training to Partner Organizations and Meeting with District Stakeholders

Three days advocacy training was given to members of partner organizations and lead members of farming communities of five working districts on various dates from 5 to 29 May, 2013. Furthermore, consultations with related stakeholders (District Agriculture Development Officer, District Livestock Service Office, Civil Society Organizations etc.) from these districts were also conducted. The aim of the training was to create awareness among the stakeholders on the existing problems of agriculture and food security and to develop an environment to strengthen the relationship between partner organizations and stakeholders to tackle the existing agricultural problems.
Press Meeting: Demand to Make the Agriculture Development Strategy (ADS) Public

A press meeting was held jointly by ForestAction Nepal and Farmers’ Network at Union House, Anamnagar on 24 July, 2013. More than 40 journalists, representing different national level media (newspaper, television and FM radio) participated in the program. The major agenda of this meeting was to draw public attention towards ADS formation process, which was handed to the government by the Asian Development Bank’s Technical Assistance team. Demand to make the document public was made during the meeting.

REDD+ and Community: Project Output in Near Future

A team of 24 enumerators conducted a three months long field work to finish all field level activities on the project ‘REDD+ and community based forest management’. The team completed 1300 households survey, 1300 choice experiment survey, 342 public good behavioral experiment information and forest inventory in 130 CFUGs in 42 districts. The project aims to prepare a rich database, on REDD+ from 42 districts will illustrate the biomass and carbon sequestration rate in community and government managed forest. Similarly, the choice experiment result will show the preference of community people for various options in relation to REDD+.

Multi Stakeholder Interaction on "Forest Based Enterprise in Nepal"

A multi-stakeholder interaction on "Forest Based Enterprise in Nepal" was organized by ForestAction Nepal on 30 July, 2013 in Kathmandu. The aim of the program was to provide a common platform to share diverse experiences on forest based enterprises in Nepal.

It was observed that the participants have polarized views on three aspects: relevance of promoting forest based private enterprises; forest based community enterprises and collaboration of both in Nepal. It was commonly agreed that enabling policy environment is most essential for the effective and smooth running of forest based enterprises and also for its optimum contribution on livelihood improvement of rural forest dependant population. Further discussions would be helpful for developing common understanding for way forward.
Drivers of Deforestation and REDD+ Financing

ForestAction and District Forest Office (DFO) Sunsari and Baglung have jointly organized multi-stakeholder discussion workshop on drivers of deforestation and REDD+ financing in Dharan (25 Aug, 2013) and Baglung (27 Aug, 2013). The general objective of the discussion was to inform the stakeholders about the REDD+ policy process and its financing options in Nepal. Particularly, the discussion was focused in identifying key drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, examining policy gaps in addressing deforestation and identifying potential REDD+ financing mechanism for utilizing REDD+ money. Government and non-government key actors in forestry and environment such as District Forest Office, FECOFUN, District Soil Conservation Office, women networks and (I)NGOs/CBOs participated in the event.

Enhancing Livelihoods and Food Security from Agro-forestry and Community Forestry in Nepal

The research project “Enhancing Livelihoods and Food Security from Agroforestry and Community Forestry in Nepal” is started from May 2013. The major objectives of the program are: to improve the capacity of household based agroforestry systems and enhance livelihoods and food security, to improve the functioning of community forestry to enhance the livelihoods and food security of CFUG members and to improve the productivity of, and equitable access to, underutilized and abandoned agricultural land. The project partners are University of Adelaide, University of New South Wales, ICRAF, IUCN, Forest Action Nepal, Nepal Agroforestry Foundation, Search-Nepal, FECOFUN, IoF and CF division of the Department of Forests (DoF). ForestAction is taking the role of field coordination and site selection process for the project. For the site selection (during May-July, 2013), ForestAction had conducted stakeholder’s consultation both at national and district level (Lamjung and Kavre) and potential areas (VDCs/CFUGs) for research were identified; which is followed by site visits.

Forests, People and Climate: Changing Paradigm

Institute of Forestry, collaborating with Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation and University of Copenhagen, organized an international conference on 'Forests, People and Climate: Changing Paradigm' at Fulbari Hotel, Pokhara (28-30 Aug, 2013). The aim of this conference was to disseminate up-to-date information and practical experiences towards natural resource management. Three key note papers and other papers were presented in three parallel sessions on governance, biodiversity and forests/livelihoods themes. On behalf of ForestAction, five papers were presented, namely: 1. Climate Forestry and Marginalization of Forest Managers by Naya Sharma Paudel, 2. REDD+ readiness in Nepal: Divided stakeholders and deviated agenda by Dil B. Khatri 3. Optimizing Contribution of Timber in Community Forestry by Govinda Paudel 4. Communities, Governance and Commercialization by Prakash Jha and 5. Internal Good Governance of CF for REDD+ Outcomes by Bishnu Hari Poudyal.
Recent Publications

**Journal of Forest and Livelihood (JFL)- Special Issue on REDD+**
This issue of JFL brings forth diverse issues, lessons and insights gained from the field experience and therefore contributes to ongoing debate on REDD+ in Nepal and beyond by informing academicians, policy makers and practitioners.

**Editor:** Rahul Karki
**Guest Editor:** Harisharan Luintel
**Link:** [http://www.forestaction.org/publications/view/139](http://www.forestaction.org/publications/view/139)

This discussion paper critically examines Nepal’s REDD+ readiness process with particular focus on the government-led Readiness Preparation Proposal (RPP) implementation and other diverse activities and initiatives taken beyond the RPP framework.

**Authors:** Dil Bahadur Khatri and Naya Sharma Paudel
**Link:** [http://www.forestaction.org/publications/view/140](http://www.forestaction.org/publications/view/140)

**Enhancing Ecosystem Services and Pro-poor Livelihoods from Nepal’s Community Forestry**
The policy brief assesses the changes in distribution of benefits and ecosystem services generated from community managed forests of Nepal. It attempts to collate dispersed existing evidence to examine the effects of community management and networking of community based organizations on a) livelihoods of poor people dependent on these systems, and b) key indicators of ecosystems sustainability.

**Authors:** Naya Sharma Paudel and Hemant Ojha
**Link:** [http://www.forestaction.org/publications/view/143](http://www.forestaction.org/publications/view/143)

**Agriculture Development Strategy Draft: Present Condition and Way-forward**
The aim of this discussion note is to provide critical comment on proposed Agriculture Development Strategy (ADS) and to provide alternative sustainable framework for discussion.

**Authors:** Krishna P. Paudel, Tika Bhattarai and Sujata Tamang

**Challenges of Community Based Adaptation Initiatives in Nepal**
This policy brief critically examines the community based adaptation planning and identifies the gaps, based on ForestAction’s research and development engagement in a number of adaptation initiatives.

**Authors:** Dil Bahadur Khatri, Naya Sharma Paudel, Rahul Karki
**Link:** [http://forestaction.org/publications/view/141](http://forestaction.org/publications/view/141)

**Journal Article**

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