

Poverty reduction through forestry-related activities in Asia

Seminar on IFAD supported forestry-related programmes in collaboration with CIFOR, ICIMOD and ICRAF
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ICIMOD logo and tagline: "Building better lives people in mountainous areas."

IFAD-ICIMOD Program Goal: Securing Livelihoods in the Uplands and Mountains of the Hindu-Kush Himalaya

Enhancing the Role of Mountain Forest Resources in Improving Livelihoods in the Himalayas

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Presentation Outline

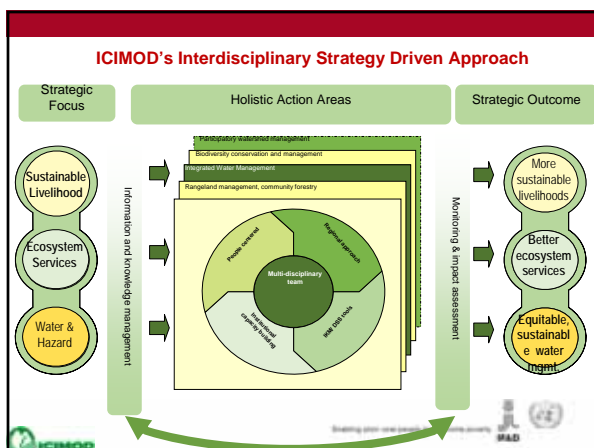
- IFAD Technical Grant Programmes with ICIMOD
- ICIMOD's strategic framework for forestry-based innovations
- Three typologies of interventions
- Linking practices to policies
- Lessons learned and conclusion

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Objectives of the IFAD Technical Grant Programmes with ICIMOD

- Assessing opportunities for poverty reduction and environmental management provided by traditional shifting cultivation and engaging in policy dialogue,
- Facilitating the development of subsistence shifting cultivation into commercially oriented integrated farming systems using participatory planning (P3DM) and modified sloping land agriculture technologies (SALT),
- Sharing useful lessons on promotion of technological innovations through field level testing with the IFAD loan projects, and
- Promoting the contribution of forest-based activities in improving livelihoods of poor.

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Framework for Developing Mountain Specific Forestry-based Innovations

Recognizing and using the comparative and complimentary advantages of mountains and uplands:

- High-value/niche products and services: A diverse range of non timber forest products and services including medicinal, aromatic and dye plants can have both comparative and competitive advantages over the produces in lowlands;
- High ecological, cultural and climate logical diversity allows the development of diverse range of agro-forestry, mixed farming, and high value forestry activities in mountain environment in an adaptive manner.

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Forestry and Non-timber Forest products-based innovations for improving livelihoods

- **Promoting forestry based income generation options:**
 - Domestication/cultivation of commercially viable Medicinal & Aromatic Plants with private sector participation
(Western Nepal Uplands Poverty Alleviation Project – WUPAP)
- **Promotion of increased production of NTFPs including fodder grasses and other high value products in leasehold forests:**
 - Diversification of agro-forestry systems through promotion of Home Gardens, silvi-horticulture and seed production (NERCORMP)
- **Transferring improved land resource management tools and practices:**
 - Piloting and disseminating improved technologies: Contour Hedgerow Technology (CHT), modified Sloping Agricultural Land Technology (SALT), and technical capacity building of Leasehold Forestry User Groups, (LFLP, NEPAL)



Forestry and Non-timber Forest Product-based Innovations for Improving Livelihoods (contd..)

- **Enhanced community participation in management of shifting cultivation:**
 - Innovative land use planning using the tool of Participatory 3 Dimensional Models,
 - Promoting rotational agro-forestry, improved fallow management and CBNRM approaches with increased land-based income generating options
(North Eastern Region Community Resource Management Project – NERCORMP)
- **Enhancing access, secured tenure and reduced vulnerability**
 - Together with local stakeholders, increased engagement with policy and decision makers using research-based evidences and innovations for pro-poor policy change; (AII)



Production and Marketing of Medicinal & Aromatic Plants in Leasehold Forests with Private Sector Participation – Nepal

- Performance testing of suitable MAP species in degraded forests and marginal farms with participation of a multi-national company – Dabur (Nepal) ;
- Green/Poly house nurseries established for raising seedlings for extension of areas;
- Capacity building of women farmers, extension agencies, forester rangers & NGO staff
- Successful cultivation of six species in 28 Leasehold Forests in 11 village councils of Humla, Jumla, Bajhang and Bajura districts – Nepal;



Production, In-situ Management, and Domestication of Medicinal & Aromatic Plants in the High Hills

- Joint selection of commercially viable species in consultation with private company – Male International (MI);
- Seed and saplings collection of the selection native species for ex-situ cultivation;
- Joint planning with private sector co. for organic production & marketing of selected MAPs;
- Quality testing of MAP samples ;
- Signing of MoU with Male International for buy-back arrangement.



Management of Shifting Cultivation through Perspective Land use Planning

- Participatory land use management planning focusing on long-term livelihood and environment needs;
- Sustained engagement of community in forest and NTFP management with benefit flow;
- Optimal use of land resources promoting semi-sedentary farming, fallow management through forest regeneration
- Land use mapping and quantification in areas lacking cadastral surveys to improve access and tenure.



Transfer of Perspective Land Use Planning Tools – An Example from NERCORMP, India

Community-based applications:

- Participatory survey and plot size optimization and consolidation through P3D Modeling;
- Minimum land clearing (e.g., from 147 to 47 ha) to avoid deforestation;
- Increase fallow cycle by 3-6 years (from 8 to 14 yrs) by introducing two-year cropping and plot consolidation;
- Suitable lands identified annually for cultivating NTFPs, cash crops , catchment protection for increased productivity.



Linking locally developed Good Practices to Forest Policy process to improve the livelihoods Shifting Cultivators

- Process documentation and sharing of farmers' innovations in shifting & other cultivation – 14 cases studies from Bhutan, India and Nepal;
- Regional Policy Dialogue and Workshop, Shillong, 2004;
- Task Force/Expert Committee set up by Government of India (MOEF, MoA) to reappraise policy approaches;
- Expert Committee set up by Supreme Court, India defines shifting cultivation as 'unique agro-forestry practice' and recommends policy and legal reforms;
- Good processes and practices from India shared with policy makers in the region (e.g. Nepal and Bhutan); &
- Govt. of India has recently changed land tenure policy.



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Consolidating the Learning to Enhance the Role of Forests in Promoting Sustainable Livelihoods

- High Value Products and Value Chain Development integrates MAPs, NTFPs, Eco-tourism and Watershed services;
- Empowering of 'Local Resource Managers' through training, retraining and capacity building sustains the community-based forest resources management;
- Changes in policies, perceptions, and practices are necessary for livelihood-focused & people-centered management of natural resources.



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Conclusion

- Forestry can be made to increasingly contribute to livelihoods improvements in the mountains;
- Need to build competitive skills on the comparative advantages of mountain environment and people;
- Improvement in traditional practices of managing changes are possible with fusion of new knowledge and practices
- Establishing long-term linkage with private sector is a must for developing high value products value-chain;
- Innovative options and research-based information & knowledge are utilized by policy makers for pro-poor policy reforms.



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Thank You for Your Kind Attention

