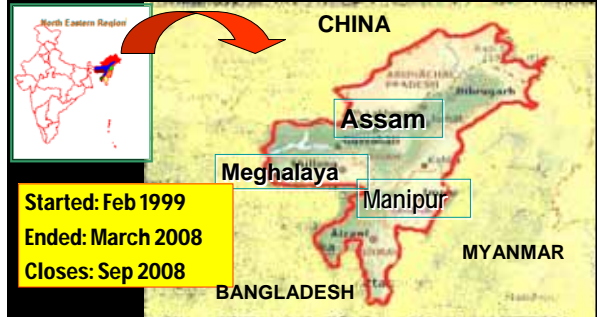


Poverty Reduction through Forestry-related Activities: NERCORMP-IFAD's experience from NE India

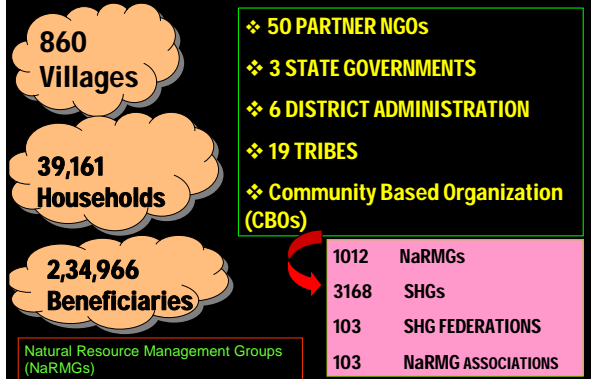
K. Moses Chalai
NERCORMP-IFAD
Shillong, India

Asia-Pacific Forestry Week: Forestry in a Changing World, Hanoi, Vietnam, April 21-26, 2008

North Eastern Region Community Resource Management Project for Upland Areas (NERCORMP), North East INDIA



IMPORTANT FEATURES



Overall Objective is

“To improve the livelihoods of vulnerable groups in a sustainable manner through improved management of their resource base in a way that contributes to preservation and restoration of the environment”

Key Components of Interventions

SECTOR	ACTIVITIES
A. Institutional development	Formation & Capacity Building of NaRMGs, SHGs, NaRMG Associations, SHG Federations & partner NGOs.
B. Social	Drinking water, Community health care
C. Village infrastructure	Inter-village roads, culverts, bridges, rural electrification
D. NRM & IGAs	(a) Land & Water management (eg. Terrace development, Minor irrigation, jhum modification) (b) IGAs/Economic Livelihoods (Land & farm based & non-farm based) (c) Conservation (eg. Community Biodiversity, Community Forestry).
E. Cross-cuttings	Market, Credit linkage, Gender mainstreaming, Documentation, etc.

Project Program on Forest-based interventions

Forest-based livelihoods	Project interventions
<i>Collected from the wild</i> Fuelwood and charcoal, bamboo, thatch grass, medicinal plants	<input type="checkbox"/> Improvement in forest management by NaRMGs; <input type="checkbox"/> Rules & regulations for forest management; <input type="checkbox"/> Sensitization & awareness on forest protection, etc. <input type="checkbox"/> P3DM <input type="checkbox"/> Registration with District Council & linkage with JFM
<i>Domesticated</i> Bamboo, Thatch grass, broom grass, bay leaf	<input type="checkbox"/> Securing land tenure <input type="checkbox"/> Technical trainings <input type="checkbox"/> Micro credit
<i>Processed</i> Handicrafts, incense sticks	<input type="checkbox"/> Training for skill enhancement <input type="checkbox"/> Storage centres & market linkages <input type="checkbox"/> Micro credits

Project Program on Forest-based interventions & Outputs

Community Biodiversity Conservation

- ❖ Bamboo & Cane Reserves
- ❖ Water Catchments Reserves
- ❖ Wild Gooseberry Reserves
- ❖ NTFP Reserves
- ❖ Elephant Corridor Reserves
- ❖ Python Reserves
- ❖ Bird Sanctuary Reserves
- ❖ Riverine Fish Pool Reserves

Project interventions

- ❑ Sensitization & social mobilization of traditional village institutions & CBOs (NaRMGs & SHGs)
- ❑ Area demarcation & community based management rules & regulations implemented by NaRMGs.
- ❑ 1835 sq km of biodiversity conservation areas.
- ❑ Regulated extraction of NTFPs.

Impacts on Poverty Reduction

- Sustainable availability of forest resources for livelihoods including construction materials, firewood, NTFPs, raw materials for artisans, etc.
- Household income & food security increased from forest-based livelihoods particularly from collection & sales of NTFPs including edible plants, wild honey, bamboo, broom grass, thatch grass, etc.
- Adoption of cluster based collection and marketing of broom grass and bamboo in particular facilitated in higher assured income.

Future Challenges & Way Forward

- Effective convergence with existing government programmes such as National Bamboo Mission, Joint Forest Management, Medicinal Plants Board, Spices Board, etc.
- Securing sustainable income for the communities from the community based biodiversity and forest conservation through linkages with PES, carbon trading, etc.
- Value chain development in forest based livelihoods particularly for artisans like wood crafts, bamboo crafts, medicinal plants, and other NTFPs.

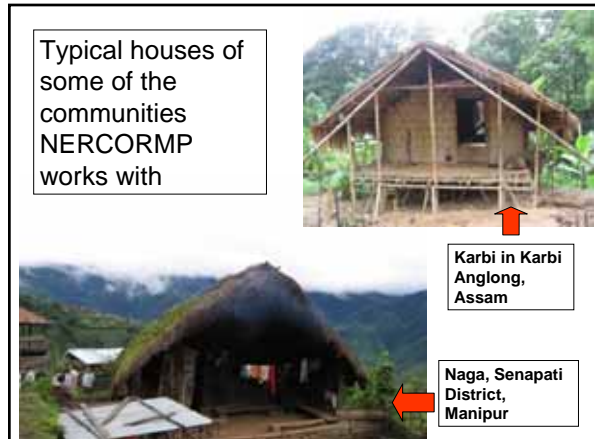
Future Challenges & Way Forward (Contd)

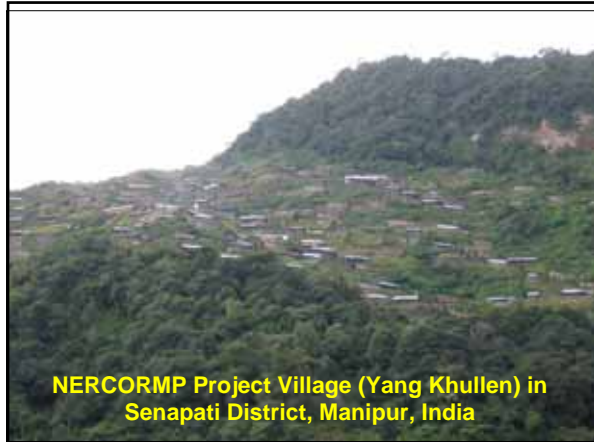
- Sensitizing and capacitating the CBOs & indigenous community institutions to address the challenges of adverse climate change impacts at local level through strengthening of community forest management systems.
- Exploring ways of awarding the communities for forest conservation through policy convergence of the government.

Glimpses of the People NERCORMP-IFAD is working with



Typical houses of some of the communities NERCORMP works with





NERCORMP Project Village (Yang Khullen) in Senapati District, Manipur, India



The people (Zeme Nagas) of Yang Khullen, Senapati District, Manipur, India In their best traditional attire



Women empowerment

SHG meeting in Karbi Anglong District, Assam, India



Forest Conservation



Jhuming in West Garo Hills, Meghalaya, India



Conservation Jhuming in Ukhrul District, Manipur, India



Agro-Forestry in Senapati District, Manipur, India



Forest reserve initiated by NaRMG in West Garo Hills, Meghalaya, India



Fresh water fish pool reserve at Rombagre (Simsang River) in West Garo Hills



Community Forest Reserve in West Garo Hills, Meghalaya, India



Elephant Corridor Reserves in West Garo Hills, Meghalaya, India



NTFPs for Livelihoods

Thatch Grass, bamboo & firewood collection in Karbi Anglong, Assam & Garo Hills, Meghalaya, India



Bamboo CFC in NC Hills District, Assam, India



Making of Morah's in West Khasi Hills, Meghalaya, India



Bamboocrafts in West Khasi Hills, Meghalaya, India



Participatory 3 Dimensional Model in Ukhrul district, Manipur



THANK YOU