



## Subnational Capacities Strengthened by REDD+ Himalaya Project in the Districts of Nepal

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### Abstract

The wellbeing of the forest dependent population relies upon the capacities of actors working at the ground level. It is crucial to assure that the capacity of these ground level actors is built for the effective implementation and success of any project. In this context, Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) Himalaya project has been one of the key initiatives for REDD+ capacity building in the three project districts (Gorkha, Chitwan and Dolkha) of Nepal. The paper compiles available evidence illustrating REDD+ Himalaya's role in capacitating the REDD Subnational and Local actors to support the REDD+ readiness process. Required data was collected from available project reports and interview with the sub-national and local actors working in the project districts. This study found that the REDD+ Himalaya project has strengthened local capacity to deal with REDD+, climate change and community forestry related issues. Major activities implemented in the project districts were capacity building related such as trainings, consultations, meetings, workshops, exposure visits and knowledge dissemination through mass media. The project applied three basic approaches (micro, meso and macro) for capacity building activities. Hence, it strengthened capacity of stakeholders with diverse interests, level and capacities including individuals (ranging from policy to local level), interest groups (forest officers, forest users, women, indigenous people, marginalized groups and elected members of the local governments) and related institutions (REDD IC, DFOs, CFUGs, FECOFUN and NEFIN).

**Key words:** Capacity development, REDD+, REDD+ Readiness, subnational

## INTRODUCTION

In Nepal, forest is the second most important natural resource (Gauli and Upadhyay, n.d.) covering a total area of 5.96 million hectare which is around 40.36 per cent of the total area of Nepal (DFRS 2015). However, sustainable management of forest resources has been challenging because of increasing population, poverty and livelihood dependency on forests. This has increased deforestation and forest degradation and contributed to climatic risks and socio ecological vulnerability. The idea of efforts to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, fostering conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement

of forest carbon stocks revolves around the forest's sustainability for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Globally the REDD+ initiative emerged as a medium by which developing countries could be financially rewarded for reducing emissions from deforestation, forest degradation and enhancement of carbon stock (Hiraldo and Tanner 2011). Nepal is one of those forested countries which can benefit from REDD+. Nepal submitted the Readiness Program Idea Note (RPIN) to the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) of World Bank in 2008 and was accepted (Neupane and Shrestha

2012). Later in 2010, Nepal received financial assistance to develop Readiness Preparation Proposal (RPP) (Dissanayake et al. 2015). A central level apex body was formed to support the readiness process. The structure of the apex body included REDD+ Implementation Centre (REDDIC) (former REDD Cell) and REDD Working Group (RWG). REDD+ intends to financially reward the countries involved in the mechanism but there has been a delay in obtaining those rewards. The countries are still in the process of fulfilling the criteria of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Limited capacity of the stakeholders involved in REDD+ is an issue for the delay of rewards. Each developing country has its own REDD+ process defined based on their national circumstances (The REDD desk 2016). In case of Nepal, many non-state actors are working towards REDD+ Readiness mainly by building capacity, developing methodologies to support the actors, for equitable benefit sharing mechanisms and designing institutional structures as well as developing social and environmental safeguards to protect the rights of local and indigenous communities.

## FEATURES OF CAPACITY NEEDS AT DIFFERENT LEVELS OF ACTORS



Figure 1: REDD+ Activities by Various Stakeholders (Local, Subnational, National and International).

REDD+ in Nepal is supported by various institutions. The programme needs to perform certain activities at various levels to make sure there is no gap in the process with nobody left behind before submitting the reports to UNFCCC. According to the hierarchical diagram presented above, working at the top level of authority is UNFCCC. It provides support to on-going negotiations and coordinates with the secretariats of other

relevant international bodies, notably the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and its implementing agencies (FAO, UNDP, UNEP, UN-REDD, World Bank) the Intergovernmental Panel and Climate Change (IPCC) and other relevant conventions. The least developed countries submit Biennial Update Report (BUR), Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) and Emission Reduction Payment Agreement (ERPA) information to UNFCCC.

REDD+ is governed at the national level by the Apex Body, the REDD+ Multi-sectoral, Multi-stakeholder Coordinating and Monitoring Committee, chaired by the Minister of the Ministry of Forests and Environment (MoFE). The Apex Body is responsible to coordinate the REDD+ policy and is comprised of top-level officials from government ministries including MoFE and other institutions such as National Planning Commission, the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperative, the Ministry of Land Reform and Management and the Ministry of Finance and many others. The apex body helps in coordinating with the international actors. Countries interested in accessing REDD+ payments must fulfill the four major monitoring elements as guided by UNFCCC viz. National Forest Reference Level, National REDD+ Action Plan/Strategy (NRS), National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) and Safeguards information systems (SIS). Nepal has already developed and endorsed its National REDD+ Strategy (NRS), (Ministry of Forests and Environment, 2018). The activities of REDD+ is the preparation of NFMS system as a technical activity and a National Safeguard Information System to make sure the safeguards are “addressed and “respected”.

Numerous Trainings were conducted by the REDD+ Himalaya project to develop the capacity of actors at the national level. Such as REDD+ MRV training and south learning on safeguards, emission reduction program, and Free Prior, Informed and Consent (FPIC) in REDD+. Another was the South-South Learning Workshop on Forest Reference Level (FRL) Assessment Process in Asia and the Pacific which was organized by International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) in collaboration with FAO/UNREDD (Food and Agriculture Organization/United Nation REDD). The objective of the workshop was to exchange their experience in preparing their FREL/FRL and participating in the technical assessment process. The Subnational level authorities are mainly the government led institutions supporting in decision making. District Forest Offices (DFO's) are one of the authorities which coordinate with the REDDIC. DFOs have established a REDD Forestry and Climate Change Cell (REDD Cell) with the task of carrying out readiness activities in Nepal (Bushley and Khatri 2011). One of the activities of subnational actors is to support in the preparation of Emission Reduction Program Document (ERPD) (FCPF 2018). Nepal's ERPD has been approved in the year 2018. The local level undertakes responsibility for various activities such as the preparation of Forest Management Plan, Operational Plan, Carbon Inventory and Scientific Forest Management (SFM). The Community Forestry User Group (CFUG) prepares plans for forest management. Federation of Community Forest User Group of Nepal (FECOFUN) at every district drives the work at the local level mainly with CFUG's. While the LRP's are involved in carbon inventory

and the scientific forest management work in each REDD+ district. Besides, the given responsibility of the local level actor, they must also ensure the presence of a grievance redress mechanism at their level. To look after the effective uptake of cases regarding environment protection, conservation of forest and other activities that are against the interest of local community; a benefit sharing mechanism to decide how the money flows from the district level to the local community level, and a Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) mechanism to ensure everyone's voices are heard are required. A REDD+ programme must fulfill these requirements at the local level to support the work at subnational and national level.

### **CAPACITY BUILDING AT SUBNATIONAL LEVEL IN REDD+**

According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Management Development and Governance Division, 1998 "Capacity building is the process by which individuals, groups, organizations, and communities increase their abilities to: (1) perform core functions, solve problems, define and achieve objectives; and (2) understand and deal with their development needs in a broad context and in a sustainable manner." The specific objective of the Nepal REDD Project under ICIMODs technical assistance is to strengthen the capacity of the REDD Cell to prepare itself for implementation of REDD+ activities at subnational level. An effective capacity building activities has proven a tool to make the people in communities contemplate and understand the significance of the project. The

capacity building activities for REDD+ Readiness in Nepal aim to strengthen the capacity of targeted stakeholders of the districts. However, it becomes a complex process to conduct the activities by taking every stakeholder into account given the variation of forest dependencies in the districts of Nepal. For this, collaboration at different levels is essential to make the actors ready for REDD+.

Nepal has made significant progress in REDD+ readiness and is currently continuing capacity building activities at the local level for implementing REDD+ in the project districts. The important actors in subnational REDD+ implementation are district forestry authorities, and local user groups for REDD+ implementation. As a national initiative in Nepal, the Forest Carbon Trust Fund (FCTF) was established in 2011 and implemented in the watershed of each three districts (Chitwan, Dolakha and Gorkha). REDD+ networks such as the Watershed Advisory Committees and Monitoring Committees were set up in each of the participating watersheds. The initiative received technical support from the ICIMOD, the Asia Network for Sustainable Agriculture and Bio resources (ANSAB), and FECOFUN and funded by Norwegian Agent for Development Co-operation (NORAD).

ICIMOD has been one of the major partners working for REDD+ in Nepal. Under REDD+, ICIMOD implemented designing and setting a governance and payment system for Nepal's community forests with the support of Climate and Forest Initiative of the Government of Norway. The experiences from the pilot project in Nepal led to REDD+ initiative

replication in three countries (Bhutan, Myanmar, India) in the Hindu Kush Himalayan Region. The long involvement of ICIMOD in REDD+ formed the basis for REDD+ Himalaya project in Nepal funded by the German Government through GIZ. REDD+ Himalaya works towards developing and sharing REDD+ experiences in Nepal. It intends to expand mechanisms for implementation, MRV and compensation, which were limited to individual watersheds in the pilot phase, so that they cover the entire area of the three districts (Chitwan, Dolakha and Gorkha). The REDD+ Himalayas project in Nepal is focused on strengthening the capacity in three districts of Nepal to support the REDD+ Readiness phase as envisioned by the National REDD+ Strategy (REDD IC 2015).

Nevertheless, receiving benefit from the REDD+ mechanism requires all levels to meet a set of social, environmental and technical standards so, many scholars, policy makers, practitioners and communities have raised concerns on whether the forest managing communities are capable enough to meet those standards with their locally applicable traditional knowledge (Luintel *et al.* 2013). To make the issue of REDD+ more understandable and feasible to the forest management communities, capacity building activities are conducted at the local level. The project applied three basic approaches (micro, meso and macro) for capacity building activities. Hence, strengthened the capacity of stakeholders with diverse interests, level and capacities including individuals (ranging from policy local level), interest groups (forest officers, forest users, women, indigenous people,

marginalized groups and elected members of the local governments) and related institutions (REDD IC, DFOs, CFUGs, FECOFUN and NEFIN) (MoFSC 2013).

The literature on capacity building activity of REDD+ in Nepal is very limited. So, this paper delves into the topic of effectiveness of capacity building activity in REDD+. However, this paper is not based on the overall context of Nepal. Instead, it focuses on the capacity building activities done only in the three districts (Dolakha, Gorkha, Chitwan) by the REDD+ Himalaya project.

Limited activities are done in terms of safeguards for REDD+ in the districts. A REDD+ programme requires good governance structures for successful implementation and functioning. Such governance structure ensures power sharing, equitable benefit sharing; improved coordination, social inclusion and participation of multi-stakeholders (Karki *et al.* 2017). Addressing and respecting safeguards is required for the countries participating in the REDD+. Similarly, it is also essential for the countries wishing to qualify for performance-based payments to forward a Submission of Information (SOI) every two years explaining how the Cancun safeguards are addressed and respected. The safeguards must be “addressed” and “respected” at all levels. In the context of Nepal, very few activities are done in terms of capacitating the REDD+ stakeholders about the safeguards. A proper training on the REDD+ safeguards is required for the actors at local and subnational level which will play a vital role in reporting to the national level authority and for meeting the criteria of REDD+.

Disregarding the limitations, this paper describes the capacity building activities done in the three districts of Nepal to support the REDD+ Readiness Phase. The following methodologies were used to validate those activities.

## METHODOLOGY

The methods applied to this research are both qualitative and quantitative in nature. The content has been supplied through the analysis of REDD+ Himalaya project in Nepal and its work towards capacity enhancement of its stakeholders working in the districts. A finite study based on the reports has been done regarding the number of capacity building activities conducted in the districts from 2015 - 2017. The yearly reports of the project were studied to extract information about the progress of the project. The unit of analysis in this research is not just limited to the number of capacity building activities conducted by the project. One of the variables is the feature of capacity needs for the various levels of actors working for REDD+. Another variable is the outcome from the capacity building activity conducted at the subnational and local level. The research paper lists the number of activities with the help of available project documents.

The space of the research being capacity building activities at the subnational level, the key subnational and local stakeholders

were interviewed who had participated in the capacity building trainings/workshops of the project. This included the District Forest Officials (DFOs), Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs) and LRPs who have gained out of the yearly trainings/ workshops conducted in the district for their capacity enhancement. In Dolakha, LRPs and other District Forest Office's staff was interviewed in a group. A representative from REDDIC and ICIMOD/GIZ sat with them and discussed how they have benefitted from the yearly activities. While in Gorkha due to the busy schedule of LRPs only one was interviewed. The same representative from REDDIC and ICIMOD/GIZ sat with the LRP and asked questions about the improvement in their work after the capacity enhancement activities. Afterwards the results were discussed with the DFO on the basis of progress in the annual reports. In Chitwan the representatives from ICIMOD/GIZ interviewed all of the six female LRPs working for the DFO. They conversed with the interviewer about their progress in terms of their work and capacity developed throughout the project period.

This research will give the information on the capacitated stakeholders in the district and as a whole will give a picture on the progress of REDD+ Himalaya project in Nepal.

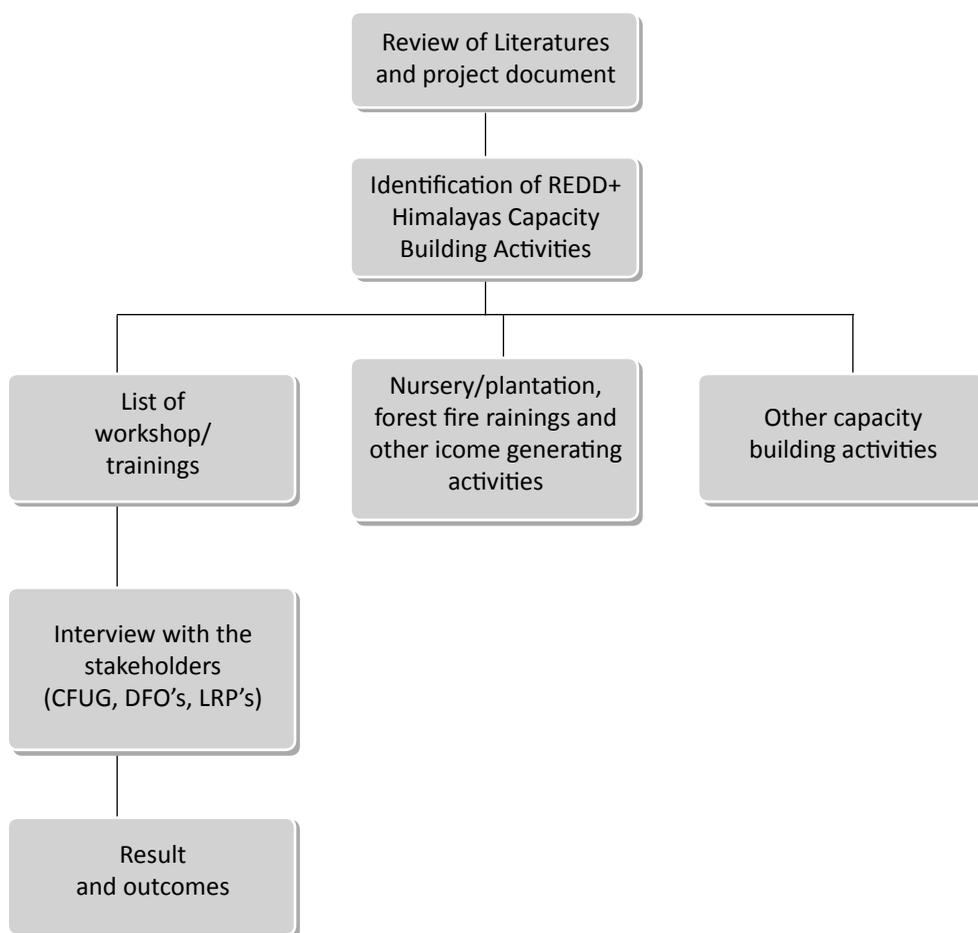


Figure 2: Methodology Used in the Research

## RESULTS

### Capacity Building at Subnational and Local Level

Capacity development activities were carried out in the Project sites of REDD+ Himalaya project to capacitate the subnational actors for REDD+ Readiness. The activities mentioned in this paper started from the initial days of the REDD+ Himalaya project in

2015 and continued till the end of 2017. The main motive of the activities is to expedite the REDD+ readiness process. Some activities fulfilled the target and stopped while some continued. The list of capacity development activities conducted throughout the project is given below.

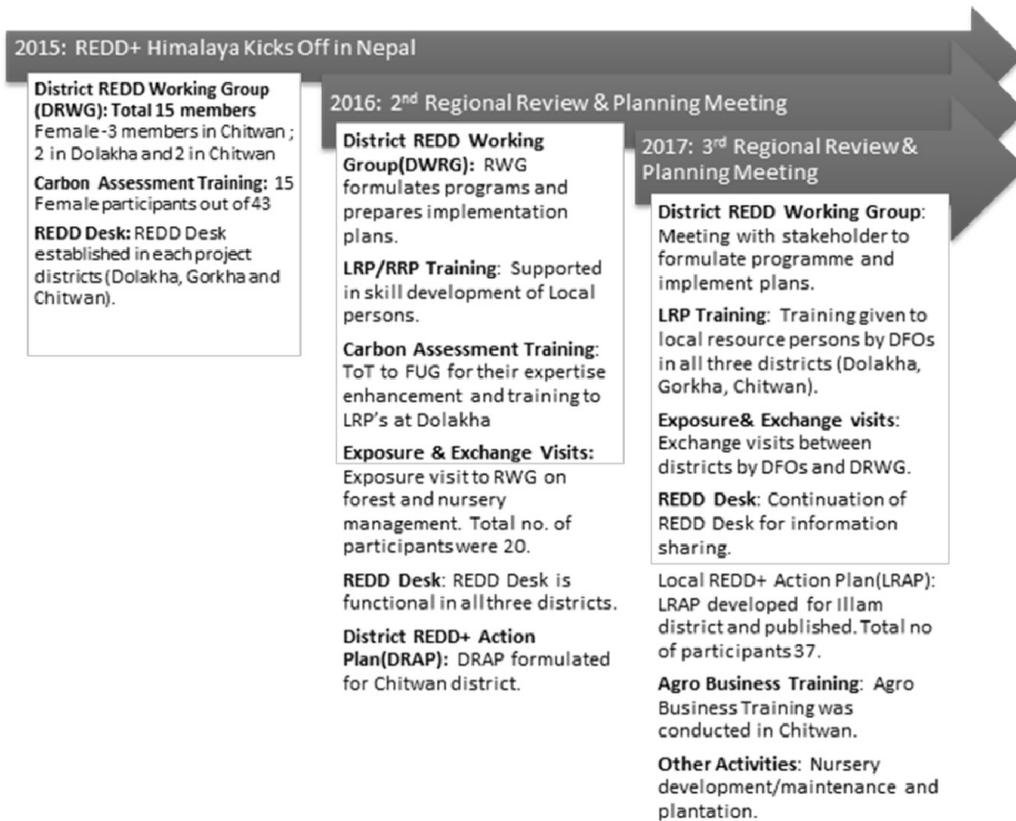


Figure 3: List of Major Capacity Building Activities and Publications of REDD+ Himalaya (2015 – 2017) Leading to REDD+ Readiness at Subnational and Local Level

The major activities conducted in the districts include carbon assessment training, gender mainstreaming, income generation activities, LRP trainings, exchange and exposure visit. These activities support in the capacity building of the stakeholders at subnational and local level.

Interviews with the subnational actors supported in comprehending the progress of the REDD+ capacity building activities in the districts. Subnational actors such as District Forest Officer's (DFOs), Local Resource Person's (LRPs), Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs) of Dolakha, Gorkha, Chitwan were interviewed.

Interview questions revolved around the capacity building activities and its benefit to the stakeholders of REDD+ at district and Illaka level. The main purpose was to analyze whether those activities succeeded in building the capacity of the stakeholders or failed. District REDD+ Working Group (DRWG) meetings are one of the capacity building activities which were organized under the chair of DFO in all three districts. "The DRWG meetings are a platform to discuss the progress of the LRPs and overall project" said Jiwan Nath Poudel, DFO of Gorkha district. Other activities included the establishment of REDD desks, Local level

RWG meetings, LRP mobilization and training. The REDD desks are established in each district to give information on REDD to people. With the same purpose a DRWG, a local level REDD+ working group is also functioning. The LRPs are oriented at the beginning of their work and trained every year. These trainings are proven to be effective for enhancing the knowledge of the LRPs on REDD+ and improve their work efficiency. “I was briefed about REDD+ during the orientation for local resource person but also through yearly LRP trainings I have learned the benefits of afforestation, Scientific Forest Management (SFM) and carbon assessment.” said Shreejan Gautam, a LRP from Chitwan District. She also added “The most interesting part about the training was that I learned to identify mother trees which helped in scientific forest management of our community forest”. These yearly trainings turned out to be useful for the LRPs in performing the REDD+ activities in their district. It increased their knowledge on REDD+ and improved their work efficiency in the field. There are all together 11 community forests under REDD+ Himalaya project in Chitwan district and six local resource persons are assigned to look after them and all of the LRPs are female. In the overall districts, the majority of LRPs are female so this has created gender balance in the REDD+ activities.

Knowledge on SFM is widespread in the district. People who were once skeptical about its significance have experienced its usefulness. The CFUG members felt the methods of SFM were not logical because in some cases the mother trees appeared less flourished than other trees. To which

one official from Bagdevi CFUG said “We first thought SFM was not necessary. In many meetings the president of our CFUG said it was not useful for Sustainable forest management. When REDD+ started SFM in our forest, we couldn’t say no but we were still skeptical. Work started and as per the scientific method we chose the mother tree. We went back to the forest at the time of harvest and saw that the tree which we chose to cut looked more flourished than the mother tree. But to our surprise when we cut that tree we saw that it was shallow from inside. This convinced our President that SFM is a best way for Sustainable forest management”.

While REDDIC conducted an assessment of the capacity of district on their REDD+ Readiness phase, the REDD+ Himalaya districts fared better than other districts. Under the REDD+ Himalaya programme, the capacity of both government and non-government actors are strengthened including the actors at the community level that share responsibility to fulfill the goals of REDD+ at district levels.

The different capacity development activities at the sub-national level i.e. district and local level are documented by the District Forest Office in their progress reports. Capacity building activities in this program were designed in a way to build upon the existing practices of community forest management. REDD+ is a new concept and so it required orientation and capacity development in introducing the concept of result-based payment system to local communities and DFO staff. The REDDIC also conducted a regular review of Nepal’s REDD+ Readiness as required by FCPF, and the report indicates the GIZ and ICIMOD pilot districts are

comparatively better prepared than other districts in terms of the capacity developed as they now have RWG and REDD Desk.

Therefore, with the support of the capacity building activities and the capacitated actors numerous outcomes were produced during the project period. These outcomes are found beneficial for the REDD+ Readiness Phase.

## **REDD+ HIMALAYAS' MAJOR OUTCOMES**

The outcomes produced from the process of capacity development activities are the basis for the visibility of the projects work. The REDD+ Himalayas effectiveness is validated by the outcomes. The major outcomes produced during the project period is formation of District REDD Working Group (DRWG) which conducts yearly meetings to discuss on projects progress and problems in the district. The districts also conducted carbon assessment trainings for the LRP's to train them to develop their technical skills for REDD+ activities. REDD Desk was established as a medium for sharing information on REDD+ to the interest groups. Agro business training in Chitwan was conducted which supported local people to develop a cooperative plan. The project gave a platform to the REDD+ actors for sharing experiences and information through exposure visits. Some of the major outcomes are described below.

### **Establishing REDD Working Group (RWG)**

The REDD Working Group (RWG) was formed in 2015 when the REDD+ Himalaya project rolled out the in districts of Nepal. The RWG was formed

with the consultation of District Forest Coordination Committee (DFCC) with a gender sensitive and socially inclusive approach (REDD IC 2015). There are 15 members in the DRWG including representation from NGOs, FECOFUN, IPs, women and governmental agencies. DRWG helps to implement REDD+ activities at district level. There are two female members in Dolakha and 3 female members in Chitwan and two in Gorkha district. Every DRWG holds a yearly meeting in the districts which are facilitated by the DFOs. In 2018, the DRWG meeting had 84 per cent male participants and 16 per cent female participants in Dolakha and Chitwan district. Among them 23 per cent were Dalit and Janajati.

The REDD+ Desk was established by the DFO with the decision of the RWG. As per the decision of the RWG, the DFOs established the REDD+ Desk to coordinate all the activities related to REDD+ Himalaya project. REDD+ desk was used to coordinate REDD+ related activities and effective implementation of REDD+ in the district. It is also useful in clarifying complex information on REDD+ to the community forest user.

### **Training on Developing Local REDD+ Action Plan (LRAP)**

ICIMOD in partnership with REDDIC and DFO Chitwan and Illam conducted series of training in 2016 and 2017 on developing a "District REDD+ Action Plan (DRAP)" for Chitwan and Ilam Districts (IC *et al.* 2016). This was later renamed Local REDD+ Action Plan and a training manual was developed and published (REDDIC *et al.* 2017). All together 37 participants from various organization attended the workshop.

A LRAP is a plan developed in collaboration with key district- and local level stakeholders with the aim of implementing the National REDD+ Strategy at the subnational levels. Having a National REDD+ Strategy is vital for many reasons, including the fact that a significant share of loss in forests is due to national level drivers. However, national strategies can also be ineffective in countries like Nepal because of large physiographic differences in landscapes that result in different forest ecoregions as well as different drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. Similarly, the opportunity cost of forest land also differs significantly due to the mountain topography, which makes addressing the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation complex.

Therefore, policies and measures must be designed at subnational level in order to take into account such regional nuances. Moreover, in Nepal, the implementation of any national forestry programme or plan has to go through District Forest Offices. Finally, district-level/sub-national planning allows local stakeholders to be involved in the planning process, which increases ownership and sustainability of the programme. In other words, LRAPs provide the most effective way of operationalizing the National REDD+ Strategy.

### **Cooperative Business Plan Training**

As a part of LRAP implementation, an agricultural cooperatives training workshop was held to develop business plans for agro forestry. The main objective of the workshop was to assist in the preparation of individual agro forestry

strategy plan for each cooperative. Various agro forestry business plans were developed with the help of the training (ICIMOD 2017). The existing agriculture cooperatives were trained for including agroforestry work so that they could mitigate the direct drivers of forest degradation. This was also one of the intervention packages in the Chitwan Local REDD+ Action Plan. Some activities included:

- A) Plantation of 700 plants annually within the 70 hectares barren land premises of the community forests, plantation of 2100 plants in 3 years.
- B) Plantation of 800 plants within 2 km distance alongside the village roads every year. These are 4000 plants within 10 km in the 5th year.
- C) Training of Afforestation and plantation; training on enrichment plantation in CF. These activities conducted through existing agriculture cooperatives helped to address the drivers of forest degradation which were mainly forest encroachment and excess fuelwood extraction.

### **Exposure Visit for District Project Partners to India**

Nepal is trying to promote private sector involvement in the forestry sector mainly by mobilising investment in sawmilling and implementing sustainable forestry activities. In June 2016, MoFSC officials together with ICIMOD REDD+ officials and members from all three working districts went on a visit to Yamuna Nagar in India. Altogether 12 participants attended the exposure (9 partners and 3 ICIMOD staff). During this trip, the officials from Nepal saw the entire value chain, from seedling production to production of ply

boards for export. Officials interacted with the stakeholders in the value chain from farmers, to officials that regulate the business to private investors that run the wood processing industry. This was a great learning experience for the visiting officials and it was a very well organized educational tour by the ICFRE. This trip also included demonstration of urban forestry in the city of Chandigarh (Bhattarai *et al.* 2016)

### **Exchange Visit between REDD Districts**

An exchange visits between the REDD+ districts was conducted. The objective was to exchange ideas and information by sharing their experiences and knowledge. In total 20 members of Districts RWG visited another district to learn how REDD+ Himalaya programme was being implemented. Govinda Dahal, Assistant DFO said, “These visits helped in addressing common issues by learning how they were addressed in other districts. It also brought common approach in the REDD+ Himalaya programme”. The exchange visit was a medium to share information and learn from it.

### **Community Carbon Assessment Training**

Carbon assessment trainings were given to the LRP’s in all three districts which enhanced their technical skills to undertake forest carbon assessment. Carbon assessment training started in 2015 and continued till 2017. In the first year, a total of 43 people participated in the training out of which 15 were female participants. This is especially relevant to Nepal where community forestry is widespread and training community

members on carbon assessment enables them to view their forest not just in terms of fuel wood and timber, but account for the carbon sequestration services also.

### **CONCLUSION**

The subnational actors had limited capacity on REDD+ prior to REDD+ Himalaya project. A decentralized REDD+ institution at sub-national level was not present which is important as the country has a new federal structure in place since 2018. Institutions have been strengthened for the implementation of REDD+ and they are now functional even at the district levels where the district REDD+ Working Groups (DRWGs) have been established. The LRPs are provided with carbon assessment trainings each year to capacitate the forestry stakeholders at local level. Good collaboration between REDD+ Implementation Centre under Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation and ICIMOD has resulted in many activities in the subnational as well as community level. The capacity development activities started in the year 2015 with the involvement of subnational and local stakeholders with increased participants each year. The REDD+ Himalaya has developed various documents on REDD+ which will be helpful for information dissemination. One of the major achievements of Nepal in 2015 was the formation of district REDD+ working group and establishment of REDD+ desk in each project district (Chitwan, Gorkha and Dolakha) of the country which is contributing in proper implementation of activities at sub-national level. Since 2016, many activities and capacity building trainings have been initiated especially in the field level or the community level by

mobilizing local resource persons in ilaka (area) level. Another achievement was the preparation of Subnational Action Plan for two districts to contributing for the National REDD+ strategy. Nepal has generated data for carbon stocks through training on MRV at the sub-national level. Nepal has prepared and submitted its FRL report to UNFCCC and its National REDD+ strategy is in place. Thus Nepal's journey from no REDD+ strategy to National REDD+ Strategy and Sub-national REDD action plans has been quite a commendable progress.

The tools and methodology developed at the central level can be used for further training to enhance the capacity of REDD+ stakeholders at sub-national levels. Overall, the REDD+ was able to coordinate the support to REDD+ Readiness phase of Nepal so that the interventions of REDD+ Himalaya were strategic and were able to leverage additional financing for many of the capacity building activities.

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