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e-Newsletter



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Forest tenure reform and investment outcomes

JFL and Hamro Ban Samapda

Photo: Justin T. Bowers

Policy Dialogue and Events

Forest tenure reform and investment outcomes: Evidence from community forest enterprises in Nepal



This research sharing workshop was held on 16 December, 2016 in Kathmandu. The participants represented various organizations such as CIFOR, ForestAction, MOFsc, Tribhuvan University, COFSON, SDC, IAAS, HANDPASS, DOF, DFRS, IUCN, NEFIN, ACOFUN, Kavre Ban Pariwar Sangh, Fenfit, forest entrepreneurs and academicians. This workshop was held with the objective of sharing the research findings pertaining to forest tenure reform, highlighting its economic domain.

The two presentations of the day were: i) Devolution of forest rights and sustainable forest management presented by Dr. Steven Lawry, CIFOR and ii) Forest tenure reform and investment outcomes: evidence from community forest enterprise in Nepal presented by Dr. Bishnu Prasad Sharma, Tribhuvan University. The presentation was followed by discussion amongst the panelist and the participants, in which they provided valuable insights on the research.

Securing Tenure Rights for Forest Dependent Communities: A Global Comparative Study of Design and Implementation of Tenure Reform

This workshop was held in Kathmandu, with the objective of sharing research findings on global tenure reforms and challenges including experiences from south East Asia. ForestAction and CIFOR have been working in partnership to identify the knowledge gap in supporting further reform in Nepal. The inception workshop was organized as part of the partnership to access the historical tenure reform process in Nepal, current status, major drivers and actors, key areas of contestation and knowledge gap for supporting further reform. Four presentations were presented by team from CIFOR and ForestAction, followed by panel discussion. Following were the presentation topics:

- Securing tenure rights for forest-dependent communities: A global comparative study (Mani Ram Banjade, CIFOR).
- Seven debates on community forest rights and management (Steven Lawry, CIFOR)
- An overview of forest reform in Indonesia (Tuti Herawati, CIFOR)
- Forest Tenure Reform in Nepal: Glorious history to confusion and stagnation (Anukram Adhikary, ForestAction Nepal)



Workshop on Policy and Measures: Validation and Progress Sharing



This workshop was held on December 23, 2016 and organized by the REDD Implementation Centre of the Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation, Government of Nepal, with the support of UN-REDD Program (FAO, UNDP and UNEP). A team from ForestAction Nepal comprising of Naya Sharma Paudel, Shambhu Dangal, Rahul Karki and Anukram Adhikary participated in the workshop to make a presentation on the UN-REDD Study entitled “Analysis of Policies and Measures in addressing drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and barriers to improved forest management”. The purpose of the presentation was to share the study’s findings and also acquire validation, feedback and comments from the participants on the study as a whole. Furthermore, the team from ForestAction Nepal will use the comments thus received to strengthen their report and eventually share it with the REDD Implementation Center, UN-REDD (Bangkok), and UNDP (Nepal) by end of December, 2016.

Reflective meeting with Prof. Dr Arun Agrawal on contemporary research issues



On 14 December, 2016 a reflective meeting on emerging research issues was organized with Prof. Dr. Arun Agrawal as the chief guest, enriching us with his vast research knowledge. He highlighted three new agendas he is currently working on. a) Forest sector interventions and international climate fund with DFID, b) How changes in land tenure effects land and vegetation, and c) In Nepal: Migration and Forest, effects of in-migration and out-migration in forests of Nepal.

He shared the drivers of policy are a) Political calculations -driven by profit and public opinion, b) beneficiary of the research, and c) research has impact in the long run.

Workshop and discussion on organic revolution - the book by Bharat Mansata



Book Launch program of Organic Revolution: on the agro-ecological transformation of Cuba since 1990 was held on 8 May, 2016. This book, by Bharat Mansata covers Cuba's transformation of its agriculture from monoculture and chemical based to mixed and organic. Keeping in mind the relevancy of the great success story of Cuba, the possibility to inform from policy level to the small farmer this book was translated into the Nepali version by Jhalak Subedi to reach out to the wider public. There were 80 participants in the program hosted by Uddhav Adhikari and chaired by Krishna P. Paudel. Nepal has a lot to learn from the struggles of Cuba, their dependency on others was a serious threat and when they faced blockade, it had serious consequences. The self-sufficiency in food can be achieved only by organic revolution as adopted by Cuba, their ministry of agriculture started cultivating fruits and vegetables in its compound, ministry of defense declared its major responsibility as food production in Cuba, these attempts were fruitful in gaining food security through self-sufficiency. These were discussed during the program and the major issue of debate was what Nepal could possibly learn from Cuba to be self-sufficient in food.

In addition, an interactive round table discussion on Organic Revolution was held in which, Bharat Mansata was the chief guest. The major stakeholders of agriculture sector as well as the representatives of Terai attended and presented the agricultural condition of Terai region in front of the panel. The objectives of the meeting were to discuss the relevancy of the book in the Nepalese context; to share knowledge of the author among major stakeholders of agriculture; and to share the agricultural condition of Terai region among the participants to pave the future path with some solutions. Bharat Mansata, author of the book expressed his views regarding the problems in agricultural sector. People should be dedicated from grass root level rather than waiting for the government to act. There was an increase in suicidal case in India, mainly due to failure in agriculture through chemical use and mono cropping. Therefore, keeping the Indian context in mind and learning from the Cuban crisis was the motivational factor in writing the book "Organic Revolution".

Annual review plan workshop-EnLiFT

As a part of its annual review planning, representatives from partner organizations of the EnLiFT (Enhancing Livelihood and Food Security from Agroforestry and Community Forestry in Nepal) project met on 9, 2016 in Kathmandu to review on the overall progress of 2016 and plan on activities for 2017. The meeting prioritized three major aspects of the project. First, review the field level activities and discuss on ways to ensure effective implementation of activities under three themes – Agroforestry, Community Forestry, and Under-utilized land – in Kavre and Lamjung. Second, identify ways in upscaling knowledge to the policy makers. Third, plan for diverse research outputs targeting different audiences. Among others, significant time was allotted to discuss on ways to ensure better outcome from the upcoming National Silvicultural Workshop, in which EnLiFT is one of the organizing partners. The meeting concluded with the agreed actionable areas planned for the next year.

Field Action

Post-disaster resilience and agro-ecological transition in Nepal

A collaborative research team from ForestAction Nepal, University of California-Berkeley and University of Bergen, completed this research. The goals of the project were to; broadly examine the impacts and implications of the 2015 earthquakes on households, communities and agro-ecological systems. The field team employed a broad set of investigatory and participatory methods including household surveys, key informant and informal interviews, focus groups and discussions, participant observation, crop calendars and participatory budgeting. Extensive time was spent in the district's commercial capital, Charikot, where the field team interviewed numerous stakeholders including members from the District Administrator Office, District Development Committee, District Disaster Relief Committee, District Forest Office, District Agriculture Development Office, District Soil Conservation Office, District Livestock Office, District Police Office, VDC, major political parties, journalists, leading farmers, NGOs and INGOs. Data was collected on agricultural production and aid development project spending and allocation. Household surveys were completed in two contrasting villages, Sundrawati and Boch, with subsistence-based livelihood and increased market-orientation and access respectively. The earthquakes had a profound effect on individual households, communities and district-wide infrastructure. Physical damage to property and landscape is visible and persistent and many of the individuals interviewed and surveyed remain without adequate housing, despite significant efforts by the government and aid organizations to deliver much needed materials and cash. Agricultural systems were most impacted by damaged water sources for irrigation and drinking as well as widespread livestock death, which hinders manure production, an essential input for subsistence-based crops like maize, millet, wheat and paddy. To meet the needs of increasing income and reduced labor availability, many farmers are turning to low labor, high value and market-oriented crops like kiwi, cardamom and vegetables. These findings were discussed extensively at a workshop in ForestAction hall and also at a Social Science Baha presentation.



Capacity Building and Exposure Visit

Study tour of Climate Resilient Ecosystems and Livelihoods project members



The study visit program was organized by ForestAction for forestry officials and CBO leaders of Bangladesh who visited different community forest, wetland and protected area co-management in Nepal from 13-19 November 2016. The program combined structured presentation, small meetings with key officials, group interaction with community leaders and field observation of specific management practices. Besides presentation and meetings in Kathmandu, the group visited i) Chitwan National Park and Buffer Zone Forest – the World Heritage Site and one of the most widely visited park in Asia; ii) Pokhara/ Rupa Lake; iii) community forests – the largest and most successful community based conservation program in Nepal. The visit enhanced the knowledge of foresters and community leaders from Bangladesh on the community based forest and wetland management in Nepal. It has provided the facts and pragmatic cases on the institutional arrangement and governance approach adopted in forest management and biodiversity conservation in Nepal.

PPA Training: Adaptation of Participatory Prospective Analysis to Forest Tenure Security

The Five-day Participatory Prospective Analysis training was jointly organized by Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and ForestAction in Pokhara. Participatory Prospective Analysis (PPA) developed by CIRAD at UNESCAP-CAPSA (2004) is a foresight scenario-based co-elaborative approach which is intended to be used locally within the framework of the project to involve local stakeholders in the identification of tenure security scenarios and related actions.

The training was facilitated by Robin Bourgeois, Senior CIRAD scientists and Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for the Study of Governance Innovation,

University of Pretoria, South Africa. There were 23 participants including forestry officials, local government officials, agriculture officials, CSOs leaders and NGO activists. The objective of the training was to raise awareness and build skills of local professionals on co-elaborative scenario building, which could be used for further implementation in the country. The desired outcome, by the end of the training workshop was that participants will be able to implement the PPA approach at field level within the framework of the GCS-Tenure project in Nepal. As an outcome of the training, the participants learned the necessary skills for implementing the PPA approach in Nepal.

Workshop series on Insurance, Subsidy, Inputs, Services and Right to food in Arghakhanchi, Kapilvastu, Darchula, Baitadi and Dadeldhura

ForestAction Nepal with the support of OXFAM has been working with its partner organizations in various districts in the project titled "Project food and economic justice: securing food" with the aim to create favorable policy environment where small holder farmers, particularly women can exercise their right to access and utilize resources and services essential to attain their food security through advocacy and campaign.

As part of the Project food and economic justice: securing food, a series of Workshops on insurance, subsidy, inputs, services and right to food were held in five districts; Arghakhanchi, Kapilvastu, Darchula, Baitadi and Dadeldhura between October to November, 2016. The participants of the workshops were members from partner organizations, National Farmers Group Federation, Cooperatives and lead farmers. The major objectives of the workshop series were to inform the concerned group about the conditions and process of the insurance, subsidies, inputs and services provided by the government of Nepal, to explore the challenges in their implementation and collect the suggestions needed for their proper implementation.



The presentations on insurance and subsidy were presented on first day and the right to food issue was discussed on second day in which representatives from District Agriculture Development Office and District Livestock Service Office presented the plans of inputs and services on agriculture and livestock services. A total of 16 methodologies of subsidy along with the insurance of agriculture and livestock were presented and the suggestions were collected through the group work among the participants. The learning of the workshop were- the possibility to get subsidies increases if approached through groups and cooperatives; the participants got to know about the insurance, subsidies, inputs and services; the right to food for food security was made aware and; if awareness is created among the farmers and, there are many possibilities to develop in agriculture through these facilities.

14th General Assembly



The general assembly, is the highest authorized body of the organization, and was held on 30 September, 2016. The general assembly highlighted the current status of the organization, its achievements, progress and strategic directions, detailed financial statement and information on the financial situation of the organization, listing of publication and; new board member appointments. The new board comprises:

Chairperson - Dr. Nirmal Kumar B.K

Vice Chairperson - Rama Ale Magar

Member Secretary - Dr. Birendra Kumar Karna

Treasurer - Bidhya Bhattarai

Member - Prof. Khem Raj Dahal, Prof. Dr. Ram Bahadur Chhetri, Dr. Bijaya Kumar Singh, Anita Shrestha and Dr. Netra Prasad Timilsina.

Our Publications

Policy Brief

नीतिगत बहस ४३ असार २०७३ विस्तारित सामुदायिक वन : तराई क्षेत्रका ठाढाका उपभोक्ताहरूको आवश्यकता र आकांक्षा सम्बोधन गर्ने उपयुक्त उपाय प्रविण भूसाल, जिसन कार्की, कमल भण्डारी, नया शर्मा पौडेल

नीतिगत बहस ४४ असार २०७३ भूमिहीनता र वन व्यवस्थापन: सामुदायिक वनको भूमिका प्रविण भूसाल, जिसन कार्की, कमल भण्डारी, नया शर्मा पौडेल

Journal

Special Issue on Livelihood and Community Forestry Governance. Vol. 13 (1). 2073. Hamro Ban Sampada. ForestAction Nepal. Kathmandu.

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Booklet

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Khatri, D.B., Pain, A., Ojha, H., Adhikari, B., Pandey, C.L., Dhungana, H. and Joshi, T. 2015. Climate change, local politics and institutional responses in Nepal: A synthesis of research findings. Kathmandu: ForestAction Nepal and Southasia Institute of Advance Studies.

Paudel, K.P., Bhattarai, T., Subedi, Y.R. Agricultural Development: An Analysis of the Agricultural Development Strategy of Nepal (ADS 2015-2035) from Civil Society Perspective. 2016. Alliance of Agriculture for food secretariat- ForestAction Nepal. Kathmandu.

Khatri, D.B., Pham.T.T., Di., G.M., Paudel, N.S., Brockhaus, M., Bhusal, R. 2016. REDD+ politics in the media: a case from Nepal.



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