ForestAction Quarterly Updates

April 2013

REDD+ and Community Based Forest Management

After a weeklong training on forest inventory, econometric tools and social survey techniques held at ForestAction from 26 February till 2 March, 2013, around two dozen field researchers have started the forest inventory and social survey in 130 project sites in 36 districts. Diverse tools like choice experiment, behavioral experiment, household survey and focus group discussion will be conducted in all project sites. Within a period of three months (March-May), around 1300 household surveys, 60 focus group discussions, 1300 choice experiments, public good behavioral experiments in 300 households and forest inventory in 130 sites will be undertaken. Moreover, around 2000 respondents are expected to be involved during the study.

Climate Change and Rural Institution

Under the initiative of climate change and rural institution programme, a team of researchers visited Dolakha and Lamjung districts in February and March, 2013. The team conducted discussion and interactions with various stakeholders including the District Disaster management committee (DDMC), district development committee (DDC), District Agriculture Development Officer, District Forest Office among others. With an aim to have a better understanding of the causes and responses of landslides in the area, a visit was made to three VDCs – Mirge, Bhirkot and Sundrawati of Dolakha. It was found that limited compensation has been provided to affected locals and minimum effort has been shown towards addressing the problem from the concerned agencies. Likewise in Dhamilikuwa VDC of Lamjung, it was found that merely recommendation in the form application is provided to the affected party by the VDC which is then forwarded to the concerned district line agencies for further action.

Assessing Consequences and Alternatives of Ecosystem Services in Dolakha

The project entitled "Paying for ecosystem services: consequences and alternatives" attempts to achieve an integrated understanding of two principal approaches for encouraging local ecosystem managers to regulate and value Ecosystem Services (ES)-provisions.

Under this initiative, a team of researchers visited Dolakha district and held discussions/consultations with various stakeholders including

Dolakha FECOFUN officials, District Soil Conservation Office, District Forest Office, REDD Network and District Agriculture Office. Moreover, discussions with Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs) including Bolde Seti Devi, Viteri Pakha, Simpani, Sukram, Kalika and Sideshwari and few leasehold forest groups like Pipalbot, Mahankal, Setidevi and Kalinchowk was conducted. The field visit reflects that Non Timber Forest Products (NTFP) sales accounted to the major source of income for most of the CFUGs while in the case of Simpani CFUG, payments from the water services by downstream along with NTFPs sales had a major share of the groups income. In the context of REDD+ and other environmental services, the executive members of

the Community Forest (CF) that have taken part in REDD+ process were found to be relatively more conscious and had better knowledge in comparison to those who do not. Interventions in the form of improved cooking stoves, biogas, plantation of fodder species in private land/terraces and decrease in number of live stocks have reduced the dependency of communities over forest product, however the demand for timber was found to be somehow similar.

Workshop on Climate Change Adaptation

ForestAction in collaboration with CARE Nepal conducted a study on the community adaptation planning and its prospects and constraints of integrating it into local development planning in Nepal. With an aim to disseminate the findings and seek feedback from stakeholders working in this sector, a half-day roundtable discussion was organized where key government agencies, development partners, civil society organizations (CSOs) and researchers engaged in exploring the intricate links between adaptation and development; community groups and local governments, and planning and implementing climate change adaptation in Nepal were present.

Despite lapses on the overall community adaptation planning process and the gaps pertaining to its integration with the local development planning, the discussion brought forth issues highlighting the opportunities for mainstreaming community adaptation plan with the local development planning process.

IFRI activities underway

ForestAction, the IFRI collaborative research centre for Nepal, with the financial support from the World Bank through University of Michigan, USA have completed the field level assessment in ten community forests of Illam, Dhankuta, Saptari, Sirha and Udayapur districts. The primary objective of this project is to undertake research , and analysis necessary to identify the conditions under which community forestry can contribute to sustainable livelihoods and carbon sequestration in Nepal, and provide decision makers with recommendation that enhance the synergies between forest carbon storage and forest-dependent local livelihoods.

From Karnali to Kathmandu: Issues of Sustainable Agriculture

"Karnali Khadya tatha Krishi Sarokar Samuha" informed the issues on agriculture of Karnali region to the stakeholders in Kathmandu. In collaboration with Fastenoper, ForestAction has been involved in capacity building and facilitating farming communities of Karnali region. After the completion of 5 days workshop on building local capacities for civil action and 3 days preparatory workshop in Surkhet, on February 27-28, farmers and civil society leaders from the Karnali region arrived at Kathmandu to inform about the issues of food and agriculture to the concerned stakeholders, including the government. ForestAction facilitated to form a loose forum "Karnali Khadya tatha Krishi Sarokar Samuha" in each districts of that region.

National Workshop on "Food and Agriculture Right: Civic Concern"

National Workshop on “Food and Agriculture Right: Civic Concern” was held on 17th -18th of March 2013 in Jawalakhel. The workshop was jointly organized by ForestAction and the farmer's association. Participants representing the National Planning Commission, Ministry of Agriculture Development, Department of Agriculture, INGOs, NGOs, CSOs, journalists and farmers from 7 districts (Arghakhanchi, Kapilvastu, Nawalparasi, Gorkha, Udayapur, Bara and Rasuwa) were present during the program. The main objective of the workshop was to raise the issues and challenges of small holder farmers and to suggest the government to address their concern in the agriculture development strategy.

Challenges and Opportunities of Local Level Agriculture

With an aim to bring forth the issues of food and agriculture at the local level, VDC level interactions were held at Bunkot and Ghairung VDC in Gorkha district in January, 2013. Diverse group of participants were present including VDC representatives, small holder farmers, leader of political parties, cooperative members and member of farmer groups. Various issues pertaining to agricultural production was brought to the floor including decline in production, climate change, lack of access to irrigation, low market value of the products, heavy use of chemical fertilizers among others.

Likewise, a review and reflection workshop with partner organizations was organized in Gorkha on 15-18 January. This was jointly organized by ForestAction and Oxfam Hongkong. Half yearly project activities were shared by the partner organization during the programme.

District Level Stakeholders' Workshop on Agriculture

One day workshop was organized in Gorkha, Nawalparasi, Udayapur, Arghakhanchi and Kapilvastu districts separately with an aim to discuss on the issues of food and agriculture. Various pressing issues were discussed in each districts which include lack of appropriate agriculture policy, excessive use of agri-chemicals, lack of agri-technician, limited research in agriculture, growing remittance, mass youth migration, political unrest, changing food habit and climate change. Few interesting cases were observed where the representatives of the political parties expressed their commitment to raise farmers' agendas within their party.

Recent Publications

This discussion paper reviews the structure and governance of the pilot FCTF and explores the evolving dynamics in the project sites after the first payment. The review indicates that the pilot FCTF structure and payment mechanism can provide important lessons for the development of future national REDD+ payment mechanisms. The preliminary findings were shared at different national level forums.

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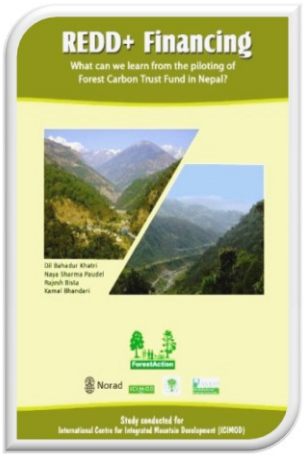
Link:http://www.forestaction.org/app/webroot/js/tinymce/editor/plugins/filemanager/files/REDD+financing.pdf



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