Nepal’s experiences in community based forest management: reflections and learning

NETRA PRASAD TIMSINA

P O Box: 12207, Kathmandu, Nepal
Tel: 977-01-5 550 631
E-mail: forestaction@wlink.com.np
Website: www.forestaction.org
Presentation Outline

• Evolution of community forestry policy
• Community forestry in Nepal: Present status
• Some innovations
• Achievements
• Challenges
• Opportunities
Evolution of CF policies in Nepal

• Prior to 1743 – Several small states with simple social structure
• 1743 - 1846 – Unification period- Rulers had extended their control resources over the resources
• 1846-1950- Family ruling making the king mere figurehead, Family control over the resources
• 1950-1960, Nationalisation of forests
• 1960-1990, Era of community forestry experimentations in Nepal
Evolution contd.

1960-1990, Master Plan for the Forestry Sector - Community Forestry Policy, Recognition of User Groups Forestry

- 1990 to date, Forest Act, Community Forestry Guidelines, Second generation issues (Equity, Justice, Governance, livelihoods, sustainability,
# Present status of CF

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1. Community forestry national profile</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total area of the Community Forests handed over</td>
<td>10,10,740 ha.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average size of the community forest</td>
<td>79.43 ha.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of CFUGs</td>
<td>12,725</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of households involved</td>
<td>14,22,301</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of total population benefited</td>
<td>31.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average size of executive committee</td>
<td>11.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average size of CFUG</td>
<td>111.77 HH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average number of women in committee</td>
<td>2.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of women in the committee</td>
<td>23.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of CFUGs with only women members in committee</td>
<td>617</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: CFD (as of 10th October 2003)
CFUG Formation Trend

Number of CFUGs over the years from 1990 to 2003.
Community Forestry: Areas of Innovations

- Strengthening community institutions (More than 13000 CFUGs)
- Effective communication & reaching beyond the committee members
- Generation and mobilization of funds & IGAs
- Integrating community development initiatives
- Innovative forest management
- Equitable forest product distribution
Innovations contd... 

- Different methods, tools and techniques to address the issues of governance, equity, and justice

- Positive discrimination (poor, dalit, women)

- Adaptations (learning from CF are being adapted to other areas of development such as VDC planning, irrigation, watershed, and rangeland management etc.)
Innovations contd..

- Role of NGOs and local level facilitators are well recognised
- District forest coordination committee - Forest Sector Coordination Committee
- Well established civil society FECOFUN (Federation of Community Forest Users - Nepal)
- NGOs innovations: Action Learning, Participatory Action Research, Policy advocacy,
- Collaborative Management to improve the governance at different level
Best practices

- FUG self monitoring
- Hamlet (Tole) level meetings for effective communication and interest negotiation
- Division of forest area and IGAs at household and small groups level
- Wealth ranking and prioritized fund mobilization
- NTFP domestication management and marketing
• School, community halls, drinking water support by FUGs
• FUGs are integrating community development initiatives-
• User friendly forest protection system
Challenges in CF

- Governance
- Transparency
- Benefit Distribution
- Inclusiveness (social inclusion and exclusion)
- Responsiveness
- Livelihood and Social Justice
Opportunities

• Promotion of public sphere and deliberations (democratic practices)
• Local level broad based institution that accommodates multiple interests: can be a institutions from where local level peace building process can be initiated
• Learning of CF can be equally useful to other countries in many respects
**ForestAction's Areas of Work**

**Training**
- NTFP Management
- Forest Resource Assessment
- Planning, Management
- Gender Analysis
- Conscious Learning/Self-Monitoring
- Participatory Action and Learning
- Right-based Forest and Livelihoods
- Deliberation and Public Sphere in NRM
- Linking Democracy and Human Rights in NRM
- Writing Skills
- International Course on Community Based Forest Management

**Publications**
- Journal of Forest and Livelihood
- Hamro Ban Sampada (Nepali Journal)
- Research Reports and Articles
- Manuals and Guidebooks
- Video Documentary
- Policy Briefs
- Case Studies
- Annual Reports
- Proceedings

**Field Support and Action**
- Forest User Groups
- Federation of Community Forest Users
- Nepal
- Village Development Committee, DDC
- NGO Support at districts Level
- Women and Dalit organization

**Advocacy and Networking**
- Cross Institutional Alliances (Informal)
- Lobbying for national and Local issue on NRM
- National Workshop and Conference
- International Workshop and Conference
- Policy Discussion Note
- Media Interface: Radio, Press
- Release and Conferences
Thank you