



Proceedings of National Workshop on Validation of the Baseline Study and Discussion on Implementation of the Forest and Farm Facility in Nepal

Himalaya Hotel, Lalitpur, Nepal
2 - 3 July 2013



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Acronyms

ADS	Agriculture Development Strategy
COFO	Committee on Forestry
CoLARP	Consortium for Land Research and Policy Dialogue
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DADO	District Agriculture Development Office
DFCC	District Forest Coordination Committee
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FECOFUN	Federation of Community Forestry Users, Nepal
FFF	Forest and Farm Facility
FHAN	Federation of Handicraft Association, Nepal
GACF	Global Alliance for Community Forestry
GDP	Gross Development Product
GFP	Growing Forest Partnerships
HIMAWANTI	The Himalayan Grassroots Women’s Natural Resource Management Association
IIED	International Institute for Environment and Development
INGO	International Non -Governmental Organization
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
MoFSC	Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation
NCS	National Conservation Strategy
NFP	National Forest Programme
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NPC	National Planning Commission
RDN	Rastriya Dalit Network
REED	Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
SDC	Swiss Development Cooperation
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
ToR	Terms of Reference

1. Introduction

A two day national workshop on “**Validation of the Baseline Study and Discussion on Implementation of The Forest and Farm Facility in Nepal**” was jointly organized by IUCN Nepal, FAO Rome, and IIED, London on July 2 and 3, at the Himalaya Hotel, Lalitpur, Nepal. This was the second national workshop organized here in Nepal, under the Forest and Farm Facility (FFF). Prior to this workshop, an introductory workshop was organized on 16 February 2013, where the need of a baseline study was put forth by the participants. Hence, a baseline study has been conducted which was shared among the participants of this workshop for its validation.

Around 60 participants comprising high level representatives from different government agencies (including concerned Ministries, Departments, District Forest Office, District Agriculture Office, DADO, DLSO, Community Forest Division etc.), national and international non-governmental organizations, academicians, private sectors, consultants and different concerned stakeholders passionately participated in the workshop. A detail schedule of the workshop can be found in Annex 1. Likewise a list of all participants can be found in Annex 2.

FFF was officially launched on 28 September 2012 during the 21st Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO). Drawing on the lessons learned from both the NFP Facility in 80 partner countries and the closely related Growing Forest Partnerships (GFP) Programme, the new Facility will address the remaining challenges in NFP implementation. In addition, it will support brand new initiatives to help countries improve their governance structures at different levels (local, national and regional) to achieve sustainable forest landscape management, whilst boosting food security and promoting climate-smart agriculture.

Funded through multiple agencies and planned to be executed in some three dozen countries across the world, the FFF will initially be implemented in six pilot countries of Africa (The Gambia & Liberia), Asia (Myanmar & Nepal), and Latin America (Guatemala & Nicaragua). Its mission is “**support for smallholder producer organization to provide business incentives and policy voice for sustainable forest landscapes**”. Its work will focus on two interrelated pillars: *a) organize producer groups for business development and policy engagement; (b) facilitate cross-sector dialogue on how to improve the enabling environment for producer group business at government level.* FFF will support countries to facilitate strong and equitable organizations and networks amongst smallholders, women groups, communities and Indigenous Peoples, enabling them to:

- Make their voices heard in policy making processes at local, regional, national and global levels on forest and farm related issues, like food security, SFM, climate change, bioenergy and water.
- Have increased capacity and opportunity to access financing and investments for forest and farm development.

It will support national and sub-national governments to:

- Establish multi -sectoral platforms (through dialogues, information and capacity building) to better-coordinate the various ministries, private sector and civil society stakeholders involved in, or affected by, policies and activities related to forest and farm management like food security, SFM, climate change, bio energy and water.

2. Objective of the workshop

The major objective of this workshop was to validate the baseline study and develop and agree on a modality for implementation of FFF in Nepal, which is acceptable to all the concerned stakeholders. Specific objectives were to:

- Discuss and validate the Baseline Study conducted by IUCN Nepal,
- Discuss and agree on the next steps (incl. work plan 2013) for implementation of the FFF in Nepal based on the two pillars (i) organization of producers for policy dialogue and business development (ii) cross-sectoral government coordination, and
- Discuss and agree on pilot area selection criteria (and possibly suggest some sites).

DAY 1

3. Opening Session

The workshop began with the formal inaugural session chaired by **Dr. Ganesh Raj Joshi**, Secretary, Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation (MoFSC). While **Mr. Bhaba Krishna Bhattarai**, Joint Secretary, National Planning Commission (NPC), was the chief guest, **Mr. Somsak Pipoppinyo**, FAO Representative to Nepal, **Ms. Grazia Piras**, IIED Representative, and **Dr. Yam Malla**, Country Representative, IUCN Nepal, were the dignitaries for the inaugural session. Each member of the panel provided a short opening remark as follows:



Panelist of the inauguration session of the workshop

Dr. Yam Malla, Country Representative, Nepal, formally welcomed the participants on behalf of the organizers by delivering his welcome remarks. He expressed his happiness on getting an opportunity to welcome such diverse participants representing various government ministries, division, departments, producer groups, NGOs, CSOs, INGOs, and development partners. He also gave a brief background about the FFF and informed the participants that FFF is an initiative which builds on the experiences of the FAO National Forest Programme Facility and the World Bank, IIED and IUCN work on the Growing Forest Partnership. Being a global initiative, he added that it is indeed very pleasing to learn that Nepal is one of the six pilot countries (or one of the two Asian pilot countries) to be chosen for FFF programme over the next 4 years or so. Then after he shared the overall and specific objectives of the workshop and mentioned that the FFF initiative is indeed very timely mainly because of two reasons: i) Nepal's socio, economic and environmental situations undergoing rapid processes of change (e.g. rapid urbanization and rural outmigration) is providing new challenges and opportunities for us, including the need to look into ways for managing the country's natural resources, and ii) Nepal has completed the task of developing a National Agriculture Development Strategy (ADS) and is in the process of getting it endorsed by the government. Similarly, Nepal has started the process to develop a new Forestry Sector Strategy. Both of these documents are expected to help address the rapidly changing socio-economic and environment conditions of Nepal. Having said this, he highlighted the linkages of FFF to Nepal's development efforts, especially to fulfill the objectives of these national documents and indicated that all these opportunities provides FFF an unique opportunity to add value to Nepal's agricultural and forestry activities and make them most relevant and rewarding to the people of Nepal. At the end he thanked all the participants for

accepting the invitation to participate in this event, and expressed his sincere gratitude to the chair Dr. Ganesh Raj Joshi, Secretary, MoFSC, for chairing the inaugural session.



Dr. Yam Malla, Country Representative of IUCN Nepal delivering the welcome remarks



Mr. Somsak Pipoppinyo, FAO Representative to Nepal delivering his remarks

Following the welcome remarks by Dr. Malla, a short introduction session for the participants was held where all the participants introduced themselves by giving information on their name, organization, designation etc.

Then after, **Mr. Somsak Pipoppinyo**, FAO Representative, provided his opening remark. Addressing the chair, chief guest and all the other participants, he first expressed his happiness in attending this workshop and expressed his sincere and special thanks to the chair Dr. Ganesh Raj Joshi, Secretary MoFSC, for joining the opening session. He informed that FFF is a follow up activity of the GFP, which has been jointly launched by FAO, IUCN, IIED and World Bank. He then shared some of the outcome of the FFF introductory workshop held in Nepal on 16 February 2013. He said that chaired by Dr. Krishna Chandra Paudel, former Secretary, MoFSC, and the introductory workshop was attended by number of senior officials, representatives of government, NGOs, civil society, FFF, IUCN, FAO, GACF, and IIED and has made few critical recommendations which needs to be addressed. He highlighted the following outcomes of the introductory workshop and said that he is hopeful that this workshop would address the recommendation made in the previous workshop.

- Need to provide clearer information and exactly what activities are eligible for funding under FFF and process through which any call for proposal will take place,
- Need for higher level policy dialogue across different ministries notably forestry and agriculture to discuss the current constrains to planning cash crop on forest land and vice versa and also to discuss on the barriers to trade from both so that harmonized and enabling environment for small forest business would take place
- Need to undertake the baseline study which could be helpful in clarifying and prioritizing activities to be funded such that they represent widespread consensus rather than the interest of particular actors.
- Need to have a balance of FFF funding between capacity building and community forest enterprise development and dialogues leading to policy reform

Among other recommendations, one that captured his particular attention was that several participants had critical concerns regarding the lack of FAO national office's interest and action in forestry sector. He clarified that however, the participants have noted that FAO had been instrumental in the early days of community forestry, is currently quite active in agricultural sector, and could quickly turn these perceptions of invisibility around by engaging strongly with the FFF. He further clarified that it is not an intention of FAO Nepal to be inactive or invisible in forestry sector cooperation and shared that the FAO including FAO Nepal has made 4 commitments to address issue in forestry areas including sustainable forest

management, community based forestry, REDD, and value chain. These areas are captured in country programme framework which has been done in cooperation with the government. He further added that however this is a serious concern and needs to be addressed for which he has already discussed this in his team. He emphasized the need to discuss the roles and responsibility of stakeholders in the project and hoped that the workshop will come up with the clear coordination mechanism and clear process of funding and proposal to be considered. He concluded his remarks assuring FAO's full support for the process of facilitation in FFF implementation.

Ms. Grazia Piras, IIED Representative made a very short and specific opening remark where she, on behalf of IIED thanked all the participants of the workshop and said that she was glad to be back in Nepal. Prior to this she was here in Nepal in 2011, mainly to develop some communication and monitoring strategies for the GFP. She said that GFP was a successful initiative in Nepal which was able to create series of discussion and interaction platforms and alliance such as Ban Chautari. FFF is a continuation of the work done for GFP and follows the similar management setting where IIED will be mainly responsible for research, policy and advocacy in collaboration with FAO and IUCN in its implementation. She was hopeful that he workshop would be successful in establishing some implementation mechanism and discover some priority areas to be carried forward from the GFP.



Ms. Grazia Piras, IIED Representative addressing the inaugural session of workshop

Addressing the Secretary of MoFSC, the chairperson, FAO representative from ROME and Nepal, IIED representative, IUCN Country Representative and representatives from development partners, government officials, NGOs and INGOs, **Mr. Bhaba Krishna Bhattarai**, Joint Secretary, NPC began his opening remarks by expressing his honor to participate in this workshop and reflected the importance of the programme with the natural resource management and rural livelihood enhancement of Nepal. He said “as already mentioned the objective of the programme is how the natural resources can be utilized sustainably and how it can be used to improve the livelihood of the rural people living in the remote villages and contribute to the policy advocacy”. In this regard, he highlighted some of the ongoing initiatives of the NPC and said that “NPC is now in the process of finalizing the 1st policy document- interim 3 year plan, which is an important document for the GEF. Likewise MoFSC is preparing the Forestry Sector Strategy and NPC is partnering with development cooperation such as SDC and through the technical partnership from IUCN, NPC is developing the NCS framework that will guide all the sectoral policies relate to the nature conservation”. He further added that “talking about 3 year interim plan related to the forestry sector, the policies emphasized on the three year plan are very much focused on the livelihood improvement to the rural people by using the natural resources in the sustainable manner. If mostly the forest resources can be used sustainably to improve the livelihood of the people it has great potential in contributing to the GDP”. Reflecting the importance of cross sectoral coordination he said that that “while implementing the programme, either form the forestry sector, or agriculture sector or local development sector, all



Joint Secretary of National Planning Commission Mr. Bhaba Krishna Bhattarai giving his remarks

these programs should be implemented in the close coordinated and integrated manner so that we can contribute to the goal of poverty alleviation. NPC has envisioned a long term vision for Nepal to graduate from least development county to developing country by 2022. For this NPC is preparing a long term strategy on how Nepal can graduate from least developed country to developing country. All the development policies should be support by the specific programmes and project and should be implemented effectively”. In this regard, he said FFF will certainly contribute to achieve our policy goals, although single programme is not able to achieve all, it certainly helps to achieve some of them.

Dr. Ganesh Raj Joshi, Secretary, MoFSC, gave the concluding remarks of inaugural session and said that he was very pleased to see FAO, IIED and IUCN joining hands to implement the FFF. He also mentioned that he was pleased to know that FFF is a continuation of the NFP and GPF, and said that it is indeed a matter of great pleasure that Nepal is part of the six pilot countries globally and among the two in Asia. He also expressed his happiness about the fact that FFF takes into account both the forest and farm, as Nepalese people are dependent on forest and farm and these sectors cannot be isolated which also forms an integral part of the Nepalese farming



Secretary of MoFSC Dr. Ganesh Raj Joshi addressing the inaugural session of the workshop

system. He also informed the participants that the initiation of FFF work is very timely, at least from Nepal’s perspective as the government of Nepal released the national Agriculture Development Strategy yesterday and is in the process of formulating the national forest strategy. He was affirmative that FFF will contribute towards fulfilling some of the objectives of these national strategies. He was also hopeful that the implementation will be carried out in close collaboration and partnership with concerned authorities and organizations in Nepal. At the end, he reflected the objectives of the workshop and said that although implementation challenges may arise, mainly due to involvement of many stakeholders, it is not impossible to overcome the challenges, especially regular dialogue and discussions and openness and transparency among all will certainly contribute to achieve the goal of FFF initiative in Nepal. He concluded the remarks requesting all participants for their active participation so that a workable modality and mechanism for field level implementation including clear roles and responsibility of all the partners would be discussed and identified in this workshop.



Participants of the workshop

4. Presentations and Discussions

i) Key Aspects of the FFF Initiative and Progress of Work in Nepal

Ms. Sophie Grouwels, Forestry Officer FAO/FFF based in HQ Rome made a presentation highlighting the key aspects of the FFF initiative and progress of work in Nepal. She gave a brief background about the FFF preparatory work and informed the participants about the introductory meeting held on 16 February 2013 which discussed about the FFF programmes, mainly its initiatives, programme approach and its two important pillars : i) Organizing producer Organizations in forest landscape (including forest and farm) for policy dialogue and business development and ii) supporting forestry sector government to improve cross sector coordination so that forestry issues are taken down at the higher level and mainstreamed in the main policies of the country In this regards, she also emphasized on the need of the concerns of the local people to be addressed at the policy level and the need for the government to support more enabling environment for forest and farm producer Organizations in forest landscape. Besides, she pointed out Communications and Information to be one of the other important components, where FFF would facilitate improved communications from the local producer groups towards national and international level discussion and ensure that that this communication also goes back to the local producer groups. Hence communication and information is also a key aspect in Nepal.



She also shared some of the key outcomes of the introductory workshop such as: need for high level policy dialogue, need to have high level focal point at the concerned ministry, need of a baseline study, and need to have a balance between FFF support in capacity building activities and policy reform. She also reflected back the remark made by the Member Secretary of the NPC, representative of the introductory meeting, who had said that forest and farm is not a new concept in Nepal, as it has been the main practice in Nepal since ages and that NPC is now working on this integrated policy on agriculture, farm, forest etc and it is therefore a good opportunity for the Forest and Farm Facility to support this integrated policy. She reflected back the main

consensus of the introductory meeting where it was agreed that the next step would be to share the project document between partners and carry out a baseline study through IUCN, which needs to be validated through general consensus. Hence, in this workshop one of the objectives is to validate the baseline study. One of the tasks of this workshop would be to identify the gaps and challenges relating to the main pillars and prioritize it, so that it will be the basis for the planning of the implementation. At the end, she clarified that FFF is a facilitative programme which focuses in strong partnerships for collaboration within the country and provides fund only for technical and soft support and not for hardware support such as vehicles, equipment etc.

ii) Presentation of Baseline Survey Report

Dr. Pralad Thapa, the lead consultant for the baseline study presented the findings of the baseline report. He first gave a brief background on how the process of the baseline took place. Initially a team of three including Dr. Pralad Thapa, Mr. Kiran Timalsina and Ms. Sony Baral was formulated to conduct a baseline. Based on the ToR given by FFF, the team first prepared an inception report which was sent to FFF for the review. After receiving the feedback, the team developed the methodology and then started information collection and compilation.

Beginning the presentation, he first shared the major objective of the baseline study as: to prepare baseline information on the status of forest and farm producer Organizations and government structures for developing performance monitoring mechanism for FFF. The study has tried to identify and map the producer Organizations involved in business development and/or are involved in policy advocacy and the Government Organizations involved in supporting the producer Organizations, identifying their major roles and how producer organizations are placed to access the support provided by the government.



Broad headings of the presentation by Dr. Thapa includes: Purpose of the study; Methodology; Typology of forest and farm producer group; Organizations related with forest and farm producers; Information collection; List of government organizations - central level , local level, and cross sectoral; Flow of public goods and services; Business Firms – Private and Cooperative Models; Producer Organizations; Organization of Farmers vis-a vis policy dialogue and business development; Farmers in the Country; Mobilisation in Producers Organization; Findings of the review of the legal framework governing forest/farm producers; Issues , Challenges and Recommendations – Forestry sub sector and agriculture sub sector; Enhancing Delivery of Public Goods and Services to the Farmers, Proposed RBMIS Framework, and Conclusions.

iii) Discussion including, comments, suggestions and questions

Following the presentation on the findings of the baseline study, the floor was open for queries, concerns, questions, suggestions and additional inputs from the participants, if any. Following were the key discussion points:

- Current analysis is based on producer Organizations and government sector but it would be more effective in increasing income of these producers, if an analysis could be made between the value chain actors, for example, who are the main value chain actors, who are the business service providers, how are they functioning, what are the contributing factors etc. (Laxmi Dutta, ICIMOD)
- Instead of sectoral coordination approach (district forestry sector coordination committee and district agriculture coordination committee), it would be better to focus on landscape management approach. (Laxmi Dutta, ICIMOD)
- The presentation gives the comprehensive list of actors/institutional setup/issues of both forest and agriculture sector in enhancing livelihood of local people, but the major gap lies in the difference of subs sectoral value and the consequences it has brought in terms of the effective delivery or effectively addressing the need of the people, especially those who do not differentiate different sectors but depend on all sectors for their livelihood. Thus, it would be better to figure out the issues of sectoral division and how these gaps can be minimized so that we can better address the issues of people. (Dil Bd. Karki, Forest Action)
- Lots of efforts have been done to address the issues of different sectors but more effort should be put to understand the challenges in bringing different sectors together and also pilot some institutional setup so that we can minimize sectoral gap and enhance synergy for service delivery at the local level. (Dil Bd.Karki, Forest Action)

- In regards to organizational landscape mapping, focus has been given on physical mapping, meaning surficial mapping indicating mere number and its activities, however there is a need to analyse the actual problem and challenges, for example, why are the producer Organizations not so effective, what are the major challenges they are facing, or what are their strengths. Hence, it is important to analyse these aspect to complete the Organizational landscape mapping. (Ghana Shyam Pandey, Forestry Right Holder Group)
- One of the biggest challenges in the forestry, agriculture and natural resource management sector in Nepal is corruption, but nowhere in the document can we find the problem of correction. This is the weakest part of this analysis. (Ghana Shyam Pandey, Forestry Right Holder Group)
- The FFF framework and mechanism looks good but since Nepal including other pilot country like Myanmar, is in transitional phase, the working modality might have to be altered and we might need to opt a different management modality from that of a full fledge management modality. Hence, analysis should also be done from this perspective. (Ghana Shyam Pandey, Forestry Right Holder Group)
- Besides strengthening advocacy capacity, there is a need to strengthen Organizational capacity of the producer Organizations as most of the people's organization in Nepal lack this capacity and hence are not very successful. Likewise, given the time frame and the resources, FFF may not be able to strengthen the service providers; hence we might have to focus on strengthening the participatory strategy and policy reformulation process. (Ghana Shyam Pandey, Forestry Right Holder Group)
- There is a need to have clarity on selecting the local partners, for example, DADO and DFCC are not institutions. They are platforms. Hence, we need to be clear on whether to have partnership with institutions or platforms, my personal suggestion being the former. Likewise efforts have to be put in developing and clarifying the implementation modality as well. (Ghanashyam Pandey, Forestry Right Holder Group)
- Apart from the suggested need of cross sectoral integration, the major challenge also lies in transforming farmers into entrepreneurs .Hence if we can include the District Business Associations at the district level, it will help in developing entrepreneurship and at the same time use local resources and reduce depend dependency on donor based project for its sustainability. (Dilip Khanal, FHAN)
- Few Federations have been established through some great public movements. Involvement of such federations in initiatives like FFF can add value to their existence. On the other hand, there is a need to take forward a segregated approach and consider inclusiveness and social inclusion as well. (Ganesh B.K, RDN)
- As opposed to the presentation, which says FECOFUN is not functional at the local level, officially there is 1100 functional Organizational structure at the local level including VDC/Range post. (Bal Bd. Rai, FECOFUN)
- It would have been better if at least a percentage wise inclusiveness status had been included in baseline study and presented in workshop. (Ghanashyam Pandey, Forestry Right Holder Group)
- There is a need to consider the supply side of a value chain, for example we need to seek answer to the basic question that why should a farmer produce more than what he/she needs. In other words, what are the incentive structures to motivate farmers to produce more? (Dr. Purna Bd. Chettri, World Bank)
- In regard to the clarity of vision and target groups in agriculture sector, with the formulation of the Agriculture Development Strategy, we should now be clearer. (Dr. Purna Bd. Chettri, World Bank)

- In the review process, it is clearly mentioned that inequitable distribution of land to the small holder farmers, however, its reflection cannot be seen in the log frame. We need to focus on the resource poor people and also we need to decide on the farm size, for the small holder farmers. Target groups are being repeated which actually needs to be identified and clarified (Purna Bd. Nepali, CoLARP)
- As per the census of 2011 (2068 BS) female population is reported to be 51%, which is contradictory to the findings of the baseline study, which indicates the farmer's percentage to be less than that. In fact, it is the female who are mostly involved in agriculture, but in practice it seems like these facts are not included or somehow is being mis- interpreted. (Nirmala Shrestha, HIMAWANTI)
- It would be better to group /categorise the issues, challenges and recommendations under different headings such as policy, sectoral issues, implementation, monitoring etc. (Harihar Sigdel, MoFSC)
- One of the slides mentions that the National Level Federations are helping the grass root organizations, however, it would be better to elaborate it, as it is not always true that such federations are helping the grass root people, so need to figure out the actual status and show a way out. (Harihar Sigdel, MoFSC)
- Since this baseline is more of a situation analysis of the producer groups, it would be better to include the governance status for each organization or institutions that have been included in the study. This will value add report and would be easier to readers as well. (Harihar Sigdel, MoFSC)
- One of the issues presented reflects the ban on forest products on crude form, while another issue says lack of processing facility in the country, which is quite contradictory to each other. The first one is a government policy to promote entrepreneurship and value addition in the country itself so that local resources are utilized and income generation is done, while the second one should supplement the first one, but here it seems contradictory. So we need to be clear on what exactly do we want to do, whether to value add to the raw materials and then export or export in the crude form (Harihar Sigdel, MoFSC)



Response from Dr. Pralad Thapa

Dr. Thapa thanked all the participants for so many valuable suggestions and said most of the concerns put forth are suggestions than critical comments to be clarified. Hence the given suggestions are noted down and will be included in the report, while the answers to the critical questions were given to the respective participants. He also said that lot of suggestions were related to the management of the programme and therefore needs to be incorporated during the preparation of the FFF implementation strategy by the FFF management team. Answers to the critical questions are as follows:

- Regarding the question covering Business Service Providers, the study team had also thought of this and in the report, information on private business firms has been mentioned, more specifically on their operation modality and functions. These private business firms also include the business service providers.
- In regard to the inclusiveness, had there been enough time, a more detail analysis could have been done. In most of the cases, information on women's participation was easily available. However, not much of information was available in regard to the participation of dalit and janajatis; it was more of a membership issue rather than household issue. Moreover, none of the cooperation and producer group's annual report had information related to participation of janajati and dalits, hence inclusiveness was limited to women's participation only.
- Regarding the question on corruption, the study was guided by the given ToR, and it was not in the interest of the management team to see such information. Moreover, information on corruption had to be based on the local newspaper, the quality of which in itself is questionable.
- In regard to the different working modality for the transitional countries like Nepal, indeed, information on risk and assumption should have been added. However, this can be considered in the next phase during the planning of project implementation strategy.
- In regard to the suggestion on partnership between platform vs institutions, this is an oversight from the study team while writing, actually the study team meant to say that these are great platform which includes cross sectoral representative and hence can be effective for this programme.
- In regard to percentage and number of women as farmers, yes indeed, from statistic there is more women population, more women are involved in production but when we talk about farmers, number is less. Therefore the study team has said that even in data women represents 50 -80 percent in participation, but the number is not enough and should be increased.

5. Group Work: Identification of Key Challenges and Gaps and Prioritization of Key Issues

The participants were divided into two groups to discuss and identify the key challenges and gaps and based on the discussion, prioritize the identified issues. Each group had a discussion session to discuss the key issues and challenges related to the topic of the group, after which a presentation was made by a member of each group showing the key issues, challenges and gaps and their preferences for prioritization. Presentation made by the two groups is as follows:



Group discussion of Government Institutions and Service Providers

i) Government Institutions and Service Providers

Major Gaps/Issues and challenges	Opportunities
Forestry and Agriculture – Working sectorial	Exchange of knowledge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People starting new business • People returning from foreign employment are starting new business But this is happening at ad hoc basis not documented systematically for policy/institutional change
Taxation	Simplification of procedures for non-forest species from private land e.g. provisions of forest rangers at VDC level to cater private trees
Environmental Regulations (Threshold revised for IEE and EIA) and its associated costs – development partners should be willing to bear the cost	
Entrepreneurship Development – middle groups and mediator have important role, so should not be missed in the study, hence needs to be included in the baseline	
Most of the current forestry based enterprises are peripheral (nettles, eupatorium etc), need to develop enterprise based on core forest products such as timber, NTFPs etc.	
Abandoned land – 36% of agriculture land are abandoned – how can abandoned land can be regenerated with value added crops and give employment Large level of nursery program for replantation of abandoned land	
Prioritized Recommendation	
Piloting at one district – covering farm forestry interface including enterprise development/renewable energy and link that with policy.	

ii) Producer Organizations for policy dialogue and business development

Policy Dialogue /Advocacy	Business Development
Major Gaps/Issues and challenges	
Insurance of rights (resource, Skills); Barriers to enjoy rights of CFUGs/APGs in terms of realization, understanding and strengthening	Inadequate resources (human resources, overburdening of activities to women)
Rights to information to actual beneficiaries and interest group (resource poor+ landless+ marginalized)	Lack of intervention relevant to smallholder, landless and their livelihood
Inactive Agriculture, Forest and Environment Committee (VDCs)	In access to information market + financial resources
Inadequate recognition of freedom for association, strengthening of association of right holders	Forest enterprises and corruption
Lack of inclusion of women, dalits + marginalized	Licensing, enterprise establishment, taxation in forest product
Need for capacity building of producers groups	Safeguard mechanism to small producers and facilitating interaction with established market actors
	Creating national entrepreneurship mood Duplication of efforts of multi-stakeholder platform
Prioritized Recommendation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource to resource poor people • Real engagement of target group (right holder groups) • Group enterprise + capacity development/alternative business model 	



Group discussion of Producer Organizations for policy dialogue and business development

6. Endorsement of the Baseline Study

One of the objectives of this workshop was to validate the baseline study and get it endorsed/agreed by the participants. The purpose of this task was to get a consensus on the baseline report and move forward for the preparation of the FFF implementation strategy. Based on the presentation on the findings of the baseline, the following points came out for further actions. It was decided that the following points would be considered, after which the baseline would be endorsed as agreed by all participants.

- Dr. Thapa would incorporate the comments and suggestions received in this workshop, in the baseline report and then share the final report with all the participants by 12 July for their review and agreement.
- Participants shall review and send their feedback/comments on the baseline report to Dr. Thapa by 19 July.
- After incorporating the comments and feedback received from the participants, Dr. Thapa would circulate the final and endorsed (as agreed by all participants) version to all participants on 26 July.
- The final endorsed baseline report will be posted in the FFF website by the FFF management.

DAY 2

7. Discussion On and Way Forward for the FFF Implementation

Ms. Sophie Grouwels, Forestry Officer FAO/FFF based in HQ Rome began the second day with her presentation on review of the first day and discussion and way forward for the FFF implementation. Through her presentation, she first highlighted the major action points of day one, especially the group work presentation and the action points in regard to the endorsement of the baseline study. She also shared the objective of the second day.

The major objective of this day was to plan for the implementation of FFF in Nepal and discuss the process to be used for its implementation. Some of the major points highlighted in her presentation are as follows:

Discuss and agree in next steps for implementation, including work plan for 2013~**WHAT?** This most important question can be answered based on the outcome of the working group discussions of Day 1.

Discuss and agree on pilot area and selection criteria ~**WHERE?**

Some suggested criteria to discuss:

- accessibility
- low hanging fruits
- existing efforts towards support to producer organizations and business development
- possibility to leverage funds from other sources
- different ecosystems
- possibility to easily transfer lessons learned

Discuss and agree on implementation options ~**HOW?**

- Grant to one facilitating organization for coordination of all FFF activities in Nepal (during certain period);
- Grant to different facilitating organizations along the 2 pillars (advocacy, business + government)
- Phased approach: grant to one facilitating organization for starting up FFF with task to identify and strengthen the FFF pillars as to hand over in 1 year the facilitating process to the advocacy and

business organizations, including identifying a responsible cross-sectoral government platform/focal point/...

- Call for proposals with purpose to support the improved organization of producers for advocacy and business development and for facilitating cross-sectoral government platform.
- Other modalities can be proposed

Discuss and agree on who will be responsible for implementation ~**WHO?**

- Suggestions of names of organization(s) to take the lead for the selected implementation mechanism(s)

Discuss and agree on timeframe for action ~**WHEN?**

- Which concrete activities can be achieved/advanced in the remainder of 2013
- Guidance for longer term achievements (2014 – 2015)

Ms. Grouwels also provided information on the FFF resources earmarked for Nepal which she considered key information for the working groups:

- +- 500,000 USD for 3 years to the focus groups
- facilitated/ technical support from the implementing partners
- identifying leverage/synergetic funds with development partners active in Nepal
- Twinning support for forest/farm producer organizations from Agro-Agencies

8. Group work for discussing the FFF implementation modality

Participants were divided randomly into two groups to discuss on the FFF implementation modality, including the points and criteria presented by Ms. Grouwels. Following were the key points presented by each group.

i) Group 1 Presentation

WHAT	WHERE	HOW	WHO	WHEN
<p>Agro-based Farm (cash crops) and Forest based Products (Timber & Non-timber)</p> <p>Capacity building (Skill enhancement, entrepreneurship, Business plan/development)</p> <p>Enabling Environment</p>	<p>Sindhupalchok /Kavre</p> <p>Nawalparasi/ Salyan</p> <p>Makwanpur</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steering Committee at apex and hosted by IUCN secretariat • Consortium of policy & advocacy based, business development and cross sectorial organizations at national level (FECOFUN, FNNCSI, Bankers etc) • District/local level stakeholders (DDC, DADO, DFO, DLSD, FECOFUNN, CSIDB, ADB, FNCCI, Bankers etc. • Producers Group (Actual Implementing) • Tapping the successful entrepreneurs • Resource allocation and flow <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -20% management, -20% policy advocacy, 	<p>At national level:</p> <p>Forest Action, ANSAB, COLARP, FECOFUN, FNCSI, RDN, DANAR, FNCCI, HIMAWANTI</p> <p>Policy level: Forest Action, ANSAB, COLARP</p> <p>Business Development: FNCSI</p> <p>Producers/Advocacy:</p>	<p>By 2013: Feasibility study of selected project sites</p> <p>Desk study (policy studies, identification of producers)</p>

(Policy dialogue/ Processing and Post- harvest losses		-60% for producers/business plan • Inclusiveness - Market, Advocacy and policy influencing - Right holders and their agency	FECOFUN, DANAR, RDN, NFGF At local level: DDC, FNCSI, FNCCI, CFUGs....	
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ii) Group 2 Presentation

WHAT	WHERE	HOW	WHO	WHEN
Select subsectors such as Organic Agriculture, NTFPs and Pole Treatment	Organic Agriculture: - Periurban areas - Areas close to CFs - CFUG members are farmers Bishankhunarayan, Godamchaur, Lalitpur NTFPs: High Hills and Mountains Pole Treatment: Kavrepalanchowk district	IUCN as a facilitating organization Grant to implementation partners (open bidding process – selected on the basis of criteria developed) District level planning and monitoring – PMC on leadership with DDC Sectoral line agencies contribute	Organic Agriculture: Field level project implementation – NGOs/CBOs (ANSAB, FECOFUN ...) NTFPs: Field level project implementation – NGOs/CBOs (ANSAB, FECOFUN, FNCSI, Sathi Nepal) Pole Treatment: Field level project implementation – NGOs/CBOs (FECOFUN, ANSAB ...)	2 months of inception phase for detailed project planning



Participants presenting the outcomes of Group Discussions

9. Next Steps

The workshop participants agreed on a need to formulate a reduced task force, including a writing team to develop a FFF implementation strategy and plan. Hence, a 16 member taskforce (of which a 4 member writing team will be selected) has been formed, through voluntary nomination, to agree upon an FFF implementation strategy and plan. It has been decided that the writing team would first draft the FFF implementation strategy and plan and share the document with the steering committee (to be proposed by

the writing team) and then after to all the workshop participants in a small meeting. Hence as an output following will be developed:

- A steering committee for FFF implementation in Nepal
- A draft FFF implementation strategy and plan
- A refined FFF implementation strategy and plan through participation and consensus of all the workshop participants

The deadline for the completion of the FFF implementation plan is 31 July 2013. Ms. Sony Baral from IUCN will coordinate the writing team. A list of the task force team members can be found at Annex 3.

10. Closing Remarks

Ms. Sophie Grouwels delivered the closing remarks by thanking all the participants for their active participation and meaningful contribution. She said that though the workshop is not able to produce a concrete way forward or final conclusion, she is hopeful that the writing team would take forward the discussions of this workshop and be successful in developing the FFF implementation strategy and plan. She also thanked IUCN for organizing the workshop and providing the needed technical as well as logistic support and facilitation.

Ms. Grazia Piras also thanked the participants for their contribution and passion shown for the activities of the workshop. She said she was hopeful that the FFF implementation strategy would include the discussion of the workshop and the findings of the baseline study. She also assured her support for the writing team if needed and thanked IUCN and all team members for organizing and facilitating workshop.

Mr. Ghanashyam Pandey thanked IUCN, IIED and FAO for organizing this fantastic workshop and bringing together different stakeholders at one platform. He also thanked all the producer groups, government representatives, business development service provider Organizations, private organizations, representative from dalit, women, and farmers group and said that the workshop indeed had a very good and productive discussion. He said that he actually had not thought that the workshop would be this beneficial, as this kind of work had not been done previously. However he said that the people from different sector and their experiences and active participation was the main strength of this workshop. He expressed his happiness on being a part of this workshop and said that it is indeed his privilege to be a member of the FFF steering committee and be able to see and analyse the situation and context of different countries. He has committed to share the findings and the conclusion of this workshop with the policymaking body of the steering committee and wished for the success of the FFF programme.

Dr. Yam Malla also thanked the baseline study team for their effort and role in preparing the baseline report, which actually will serve as a basis for the preparation of the FFF implementation plan. Likewise, he also thanked all the participants for their active participation and meaningful contribution.

Mr. Somsack Pipoppinyo closed the workshop with the final concluding remark. He said that this workshop was indeed an eye-opener for him and that he was very happy to see such lively and participatory discussions. He further said that no executive conclusions are good hence participatory conclusions are better where everyone have their own role and participation, however he hoped that everyone has a good intention and that everyone will contribute to the betterment of the programme. He also mentioned that though many problems have also been identified, he was hopeful that there will be a way out as all problems comes with their potentials and solutions. Hence, he said, he believed that there is lot of potentials to be unleashed and he sees a bright future here in Nepal for the FFF programme. At the end, he thanked all the participants for their role and said that all need to work to the threshold, however need to go step by step in addressing the issues.

11. Annexes

Annex 1: Workshop Schedule

Date	Time	Activity	R/ Person(s)
Day 1 (Tuesday, 2 July 2013)	08:30 – 09:00	Registration	R. Joshi/ S. Tamrakar
	09:00 – 10:00	Opening Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome by Organizers' Representative Introduction of participants Brief information about the FFF Programme Remarks by Guest Speakers and Session Chair <p>[Senior officials/ reps of the concerned government ministries, departments NGOs/CSOs, FAO, IIED and IUCN]</p>	Y. Malla / S. Baral
	10:00 – 10:30	Coffee/ Tea Break	
	10:30 – 11:00	Key Aspects of the FFF Initiative and Progress of Work in Nepal	S. Grouwels/ Y. Malla
	11:00 – 13:00	Presentations of Baseline Survey Report	P. Thapa / S. Baral
	13:00 – 14:15	Lunch Break	
	14:15 – 16:00	Discussions on Baseline Study analysis (recommendations) and review gap analysis (Small Group Sessions) Divide participants along: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Producer organizations for policy advocacy (CFUG, FECOFUN, ACOFUN, LFG, etc.) 2) Producer organizations for business development (FUG, APG, LPF, WUG, commodity cooperative societies, etc.) 3) Cross sectoral government dialogue (DADC, DFSCC, DDC, NPC) 	Facilitators/ presenters
	16:00 – 16:15	Coffee/ Tea Break	
	16:00 – 17:00	Presentation - Small Group Sessions' Outputs (Plenary)	S. Grouwels/ G. Piras
	17:00 – 17:45	Endorsement of the Baseline Study	S. Grouwels/ Y. Malla
Day 2 (Wednesday, 3 July 2013)	17:45 – 19:00	Hi Tea	
	08:30 – 09:00	Registration and Tea/Coffee	
	09:00 – 10:00	Objective of the Day 2 Workshop – Planning for Implementation of the FFF Initiative in Nepal and Process to be used	S. Grouwels/ G. Piras
	10:00 – 11:30	Prioritization of activities FFF could support and identify strategy to achieve this (facilitated process and/or call for proposals), for each group of attention. Identify pilot areas of intervention.	Facilitators/ presenters
	11:30 – 12:30	Presentations of Small Group Sessions' Outputs (Plenary)	S. Grouwels/ G. Piras
	12:30 – 13:15	Wrap up and potential next steps	S. Grouwels/Y. Malla
	13:15 – 14:15	Lunch Break	

Annex 2: List of Participants

S.N	Name	Designation	Organization	Mobile	Email	2 July	3 July
1.	Dr. Ganesh Raj Joshi	Secretary	MoFSC			✓	
2.	Somsak Pipoppinyo	Country Representative	FAO Nepal			✓	✓
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Annex 3: List of Task Force Team Members

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