

Training and Visitors

Two of the major pathways for disseminating the information and knowledge derived from the various trials and activities at the Godavari site are study visits and training courses. The site is designed as a demonstration facility; the major findings are presented in such a way that a visitor can easily grasp the impact and potential of the various technologies and crops and decide whether to consider applying them in their own situation or recommending them to others. Training events provide participants with the expertise to actually undertake the activities in their own villages, or to train others to do so.



Training Events

The courses and other training events are focused mainly on providing training or subject-based study tours to groups of lead farmers, NGO staff, government officers, and others who can have a multiplier effect in disseminating the technologies, although some courses are designed specifically for groups of 'ordinary' farmers too. More than 135 training events and study tours have taken place since 1994 on subjects ranging from sloping agricultural land technology to income generating practices and the use of GIS in the preparation of forest inventories. Nearly 5500 farmers from ICIMOD's member countries; more than 2200 field staff from Nepalese government and non-government organisations; and more than 7700 students from Nepal, Germany, Switzerland, France, Netherlands, the USA, and other countries participated in training events or study tours in the fourteen years after the site was opened.

The impact of these events extends far beyond the border of the demonstration and training centre. In a recent example, a participant in the hands-on 'Training in Rural Water Harvesting, Income Generation, Compost Making and Energy Technologies for Community Leaders' started a small bio-briquette production business in Namche Bazar in the Everest region of Nepal, adapting the technology to suit local conditions. The briquettes have been welcomed by local hotels and the maternity hospital as a potential means of heating rooms as well as being useful for cooking.

Visitors

In a typical year, some 300 to 400 people visit the Godavari Centre simply to look at the methodologies displayed and learn about the range of interventions that are possible to support integrate mountain farming, income generation, and livelihood improvement approaches – and a further 800-1000 farmers and organisational staff and 1500 students take part in specific training or study tours. The visitors include government ministers, senior staff from GOs, INGOs, NGOs, and UN organisations, community leaders, scientists, academics, representatives of women's and farmers' groups – over the years, more than 4000 people from 61 different countries and 30 major international organisations. The comments in the Visitor's Book include such accolades as "A real introduction to the life and potential of these forests. I will look differently at them now. A beautiful and stimulating work that certainly inspires hope," and "I wish to introduce the example of SALT demonstration here to many poor mountain areas so as to help the mass there raise their living standards because the work here is successful and encouraging. It's excellent indeed!".

The trainees and students take with them knowledge and skills that are used directly in village communities across the region. The many other visitors take with them images and ideas that are passed on many times, building a potential for change and raising awareness of the possibilities across the Hindu Kush-Himalayas and beyond.

Total Number of Visitors, Trainees and Study Tour Participants from 1994-2007

Year	No. of visitors	No. of trainees and study tour participants			Total visitors and trainees	Total training events
		Farmers	GO & NGO staff	Students		
1994	112	103	17	8	240	1
1995	85	193	48	84	412	3
1996	152	86	29	-	267	2
1997	107	165	37	-	309	1
1998	153	350	123	250	876	2
1999	512	384	90	200	1186	1
2000	484	613	134	373	1604	2
2001	406	441	254	579	1680	10
2002	551	403	440	457	1851	20
2003	412	408	210	642	1672	11
2004	245	566	304	1289	2404	8
2005	205	596	258	1118	2177	25
2006	290	561	83	1515	2449	26
2007	388	838	301	2168	3695	24
Total	4102	5707	2328	8683	20,822	136

