



Poverty reduction through forestry-related activities in Asia

**Seminar on IFAD supported forestry-related programmes
in collaboration with CIFOR, ICIMOD and ICRAF**

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IFAD-ICIMOD Program Goal: Securing Livelihoods in the Uplands and Mountains of the Hindu-Kush Himalaya

Enhancing the Role of Mountain Forest Resources in Improving Livelihoods in the Himalayas

**Prepared by ICIMOD Team
presented by:
Madhav Karki, DDG-Programmes**

**International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
ICIMOD, Kathmandu, Nepal**



Enabling poor rural people to overcome poverty



Objectives of the IFAD Technical Grant Programmes with ICIMOD

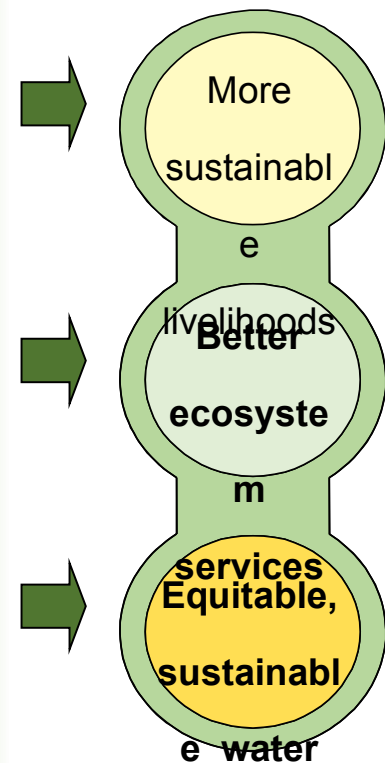
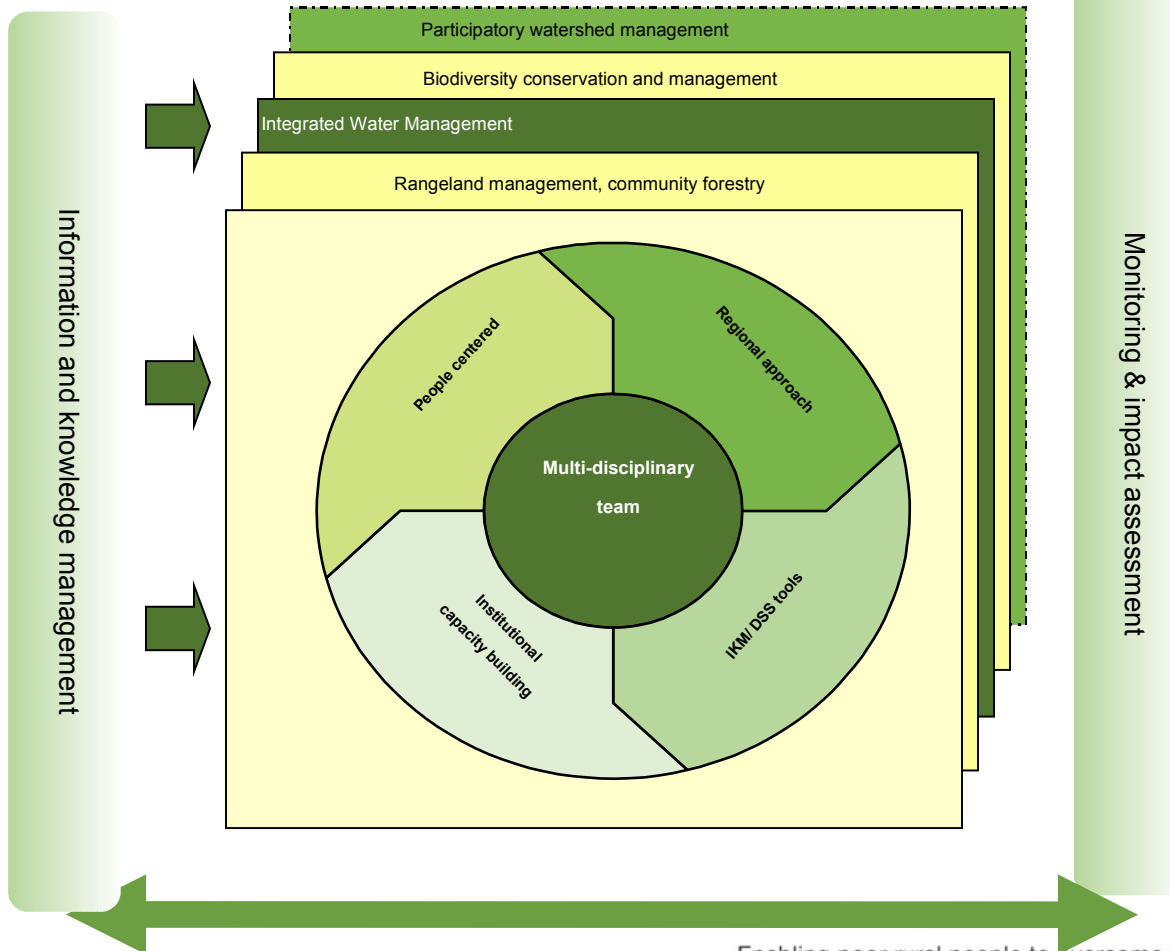
- Assessing opportunities for poverty reduction and environmental management provided by traditional shifting cultivation and engaging in policy dialogue,
- Facilitating the development of subsistence shifting cultivation into commercially oriented integrated farming systems using participatory planning (P3DM) and modified sloping land agriculture technologies (SALT),
- Sharing useful lessons on promotion of technological innovations through field level testing with the IFAD loan projects, and
- Promoting the contribution of forest-based activities in improving livelihoods of poor.

ICIMOD's Interdisciplinary Strategy Driven Approach

Strategic Focus

Holistic Action Areas

Strategic Outcome



Enabling poor rural people to overcome poverty

Framework for Developing Mountain Specific Forestry-based Innovations

Recognizing and using the comparative and complimentary advantages of mountains and uplands:

- High-value/niche products and services: A diverse range of non timber forest products and services including medicinal, aromatic and dye plants can have both comparative and competitive advantages over the produces in lowlands;
- High ecological, cultural and climatological diversity allows the development of diverse range of agro-forestry, mixed farming, and high value forestry activities in mountain environment in an adaptive manner.

Forestry and Non-timber Forest products-based innovations for improving livelihoods

- **Promoting forestry based income generation options:**
 - Domestication/cultivation of commercially viable Medicinal & Aromatic Plants with private sector participation
(Western Nepal Uplands Poverty Alleviation Project – WUPAP)
- **Promotion of increased production of NTFPs including fodder grasses and other high value products in leasehold forests:**
 - Diversification of agro-forestry systems through promotion of Home Gardens, silvi-horticulture and seed production
(NERCORMP)
- **Transferring improved land resource management tools and practices:**
 - Piloting and disseminating improved technologies: Contour Hedgerow Technology (CHT), modified Sloping Agricultural Land Technology (SALT), and technical capacity building of Leasehold Forestry User Groups, (**LFLP, NEPAL**)

Forestry and Non-timber Forest Product-based Innovations for Improving Livelihoods (contd..)

- **Enhanced community participation in management of shifting cultivation:**
 - Innovative land use planning using the tool of Participatory 3 Dimensional Models,
 - Promoting rotational agro-forestry, improved fallow management and CBNRM approaches with increased land-based income generating options

(North Eastern Region Community Resource Management Project – NERCORMP)
- **Enhancing access, secured tenure and reduced vulnerability**
 - Together with local stakeholders, increased engagement with policy and decision makers using research-based evidences and innovations for pro-poor policy change; **(All)**

Production and Marketing of Medicinal & Aromatic Plants in

- Performance testing of suitable MAP species in degraded forests and marginal farms with participation of a multi-national company – Dabur (Nepal) ;
- Green/Poly house nurseries established for raising seedlings for extension of areas;
- Capacity building of women farmers, extension agencies, forester rangers & NGO staff
- Successful cultivation of six species in 28 Leasehold Forests in 11 village councils of Humla, Jumla, Bajhang and Bajura districts – Nepal;



Production, In-situ Management, and Domestication of Medicinal & Aromatic Plants in the High Hills

- Joint selection of commercially viable species in consultation with private company – Male International (MI);
- Seed and saplings collection of the selection native species for ex-situ cultivation;
- Joint planning with private sector co. for organic production & marketing of selected MAPs;
- Quality testing of MAP samples ;
- Signing of MoU with Male International for buy-back arrangement.



Management of Shifting Cultivation through Perspective Land use Planning

- Participatory land use management planning focusing on long-term livelihood and environment needs;
- Sustained engagement of community in forest and NTFP management with benefit flow;
- Optimal use of land resources promoting semi-sedentary farming, fallow management through forest regeneration
- Land use mapping and quantification in areas lacking cadastral surveys to improve access and tenure.



Transfer of Perspective Land Use Planning Tools – An Example from NERCORMP, India

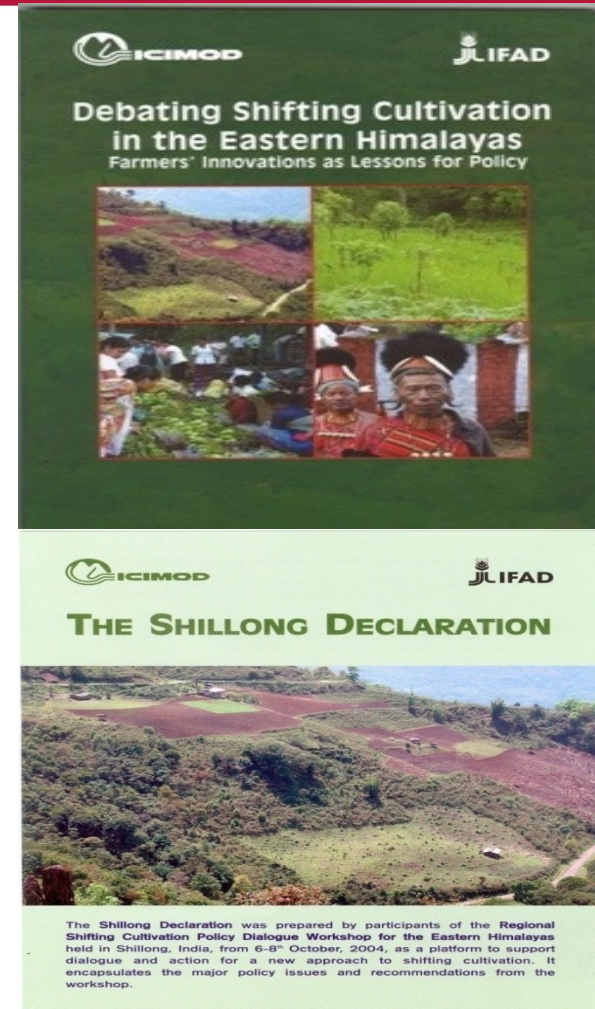
Community-based applications:

- Participatory survey and plot size optimization and consolidation through P3D Modeling:
- Minimum land clearing (e.g., from 147 to 47 ha) to avoid deforestation;
- Increase fallow cycle by 3-6 years (from 8 to 14 yrs) by introducing two-year cropping and plot consolidation;
- Suitable lands identified annually for cultivating NTFPs, cash crops , catchment protection for increased productivity.



Linking locally developed Good Practices to Forest Policy process to improve the livelihoods Shifting Cultivators

- Process documentation and sharing of farmers' innovations in shifting & other cultivation – 14 cases studies from Bhutan, India and Nepal;
- Regional Policy Dialogue and Workshop, Shillong, 2004;
- Task Force/Expert Committee set up by Government of India (MOEF, MoA) to reappraise policy approaches;
- Expert Committee set up by Supreme Court, India defines shifting cultivation as 'unique agro-forestry practice' and recommends policy and legal reforms;
- Good processes and practices from India shared with policy makers in the region (e.g. Nepal and Bhutan); &
- Govt. of India has recently changed land tenure policy.



Consolidating the Learning to Enhance the Role of Forests in Promoting Sustainable Livelihoods

- Introduction of High Value Products and Value Chain Development program integrating MAPs, NTFPs, Eco-tourism and Watershed services;
- Empowering of 'Local Resource Managers' through training, retraining and capacity building for sustaining the community-based forest land management;
- Changes in both perceptions and practices in Shifting Cultivation for improved and livelihood-focused & people-centered management of natural resources.

Key Lessons Learnt for setting future directions and managing forests in the context of climate and global changes

- Forestry can be made to increasingly contribute to livelihoods improvements in the mountains;
- Need to build competitive skills on the comparative advantages of mountain environment and people;
- Improvement in traditional practices of managing changes are possible with fusion of new knowledge and practices
- Establishing long-term linkage with private sector is a must for developing high value products value-chain;
- Innovative options and research-based information & knowledge are utilized by policy makers for pro-poor policy reforms.

Thank You for Your Kind Attention

