

Second Plenary Session

Country Group Strategies and Plans
The final plenary session began with presentations from the country groups.

Chairperson: Dr. Mahesh Banskota,
Deputy Director, ICIMOD
Co-chairpersons: Raija Chaudhari,
Apsara Chapagain and Zohra
Khanum

INDIA

Himachal Pradesh

Individual Commitments

Kulbhushan Upamanyu

“I will work to organize people who are dependent on natural resources in H.P. In order to make people aware of community ownership of natural resources, rapid contact will be made with different communities in the villages. I will try to bring women and youths to the forefront as leaders and will encourage them to become involved in social work. I will move to

create consistency among self inspired communities.

I will fight for direct democracy in the villages, so that we can move in the direction of appropriate policy changes. I will try to inspire *Panchayat* organizations to work directly with village-level democracy so that consistency will exist among various organizations. I will work to add sustainable agricultural development programmes to our agricultural work so that village communities can become self-sufficient and implement sustainable mountain agriculture.”

Jassu Devi

“I will share whatever knowledge I have gained during this workshop related to forests and governance with other people in my area. I will invite all the *Mahila Mandal(s)* in my area and share with them my knowledge related to tree plantation and conservation of forests, grass, fuel, and timber. I will meet with forest department officials and sensitise

them. I will raise my voice in *Panchayat* meetings about suppressed women and will inspire men and women to work together.”

Rattan Chand

“I will give priority to inspiring people to work towards sustainable mountain development in relation to water, forests, and soil. I will try to inform people about employment based planning in the context of water, forests, and soil. I will persuade people to raise their voices against government and other organizations encroaching on their lands and causing deforestation in the name of modernisation. I will work to convince representatives at every level to have a positive attitude towards natural resources when planning development programmes for the villages.

In order to reform the *Panchayat(s)*, having organized a *Gram Sabha*, I will convince the government to accept them as legal bodies. To carry this out, I will organize all individuals and all organizations, including *Mahila Mandals*, youth clubs, intellectuals, and government employees. We will work towards electing people directly involved at the local level, so that they cannot ignore the problems of villages.

In addition to organizing literacy programmes, I will make people aware of political and economic activities. To get rid of agents and brokers, I will work towards strengthening cooperative societies, so that people can get proper prices for their products. I will also convince people to develop cooperative forests in which trees will be planted that provide fodder for cattle, fruit, and other income-generating products. Simple articles, drama, and other literary works based on forestry will be made available to the people.”

Amit Mitra

“I will carry out documentation and research’

‘I will write, especially in the popular press’

‘I will train people at micro- and macro- levels’

‘I will lobby and campaign’

I will devise and advocate strategies to ensure community control and management of natural resources in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas. The advocacy process will be committed to ensuring equity, sustainability, active participation, and gender perspectives.”

Subhash Medhupurkar

“As an individual

- I will work to increase understanding and approaches in the relationship between human society and natural resources”

“As an institution

- I will work to encourage and spread awareness among members of the *Panchayat* and the village *Sabha(s)* about proper use of natural resources,
- to understand the causes of land degradation and to harness and use land to the maximum potential for the betterment of society, and
- to sensitise *Gram Panchayat(s)*, and the Forest Department through micro-planning to the needs of the poor, especially women, in order to ensure that their needs are addressed by planning.”

Raman Devi

“As an individual

As the *Pradhan* of the *Panchayat*, I will recommend the plantation of trees to all the people of the *Panchayat* as well as the community.

As an institution

I will go back and discuss preservation of forests through community forestry and also women's participation with the *Panchayat* members. I will spread awareness amongst women and inform them about HIMAWANTI and its positive impact."

Sukhdev Bishwapremi

"In the process of development and spreading awareness, it is important to involve the *Gram Sabha* in every village of the *Gram Panchayat*. The *Gram Sabha* must include active participation of a woman and a man from each family in the village and it must meet once a month.

I will try to empower people in order to:

- develop programmes for management of natural resources based on priority and needs of users through participatory processes;
- develop integrated, people-based programmes, based on the priority of the communities to address other important issues; and
- make programmes people oriented for effective implementation.

In the event that such people-based plans do not receive approval from the authorities concerned, I will mobilise people to unite and demand their rights."

Satya Prasanna***As an individual***

- Undertake research to increase understanding of the situation to improve the inter-relationship between local communities and different departments
- Encourage local group action in order to ensure that the entire local community comes together as one large community

- Advocate for changes and amendments in laws and policies to ensure that village communities are able to work as independent and empowered units and take steps to remove barriers to this process
- Analyse and develop an understanding of the situation to determine what kind of structure and systems are necessary for community development at the local level
- Collect and disseminate necessary and important information to the community organizations so that they become fully aware and can take proper action.
- Carry out research on and analyse policies and organizational structures appropriate for developing and sustaining local inter-relationships and share these with the community'

Adarsh Bala***As an individual***

- I will assist the UG groups to spread awareness among all men and women in the village and also of the *Gram Panchayat*, telling them about the importance of water, forest, and land for the survival of all human beings.
- I will try to promote the concept of bringing forests under the supervision of the village."

As an institution

- As the *Uppradhan* of the village women's committee of my village, I plan to encourage the villagers to plant trees and also to go to neighbouring villages and spread awareness and encourage them to plant trees as well.
- I will tell people about this workshop and what I have achieved from it. I plan to practise what I have learned and hopefully bring about some change in the thinking of the people.
- I plan to organize programmes to

promote women's development and through my committee to encourage more participation of women in my village."

Ramki Devi

"As an individual

I will go back to my village and tell the people what I have learned from this workshop about protection of forests and their resources. I will help make people aware of the problems that are facing us so that they realise the importance of forests and their resources and how to use them properly."

"As an institution

When I return to my village, I plan to tell people about the workshop and what we achieved and what we decided about helping to preserve the forests. I want to encourage people to plant as many trees as possible."

I would also like to tell people about HIMAWANTI's encouraging work for the upliftment of village women. I hope that this will help women in the villages understand that they too are capable.

State Level

by Navrachna presented by Subhash Mendhupurkar

- Policy Advocacy in the areas of natural resource management of issues related to the *Panchayati Raj* and forestry laws for pro-poor practices in sharing the benefits of forest produce.
- Training of workers in order to build a collective vision
- Strengthening *Gram Sabha(s)* and committees to be able to handle activities related to natural resource management
- Research, documentation, infor-

mation dissemination in natural resource management, related laws or processes, and village-level problems

- Encouraging the use of available space for community interventions in existing laws in natural resource management-related issues, i.e., PRIs, JFM, Indian Forest Act, Forest cooperatives, etc
- Publication of *Navrachna Samachar* with improved content and circulation
- Helping community-based organizations working on NRM issues maintain a perspective on equity issues
- Encouraging grassland production and fodder production initiatives.'

The H.P. participants included: Subash Mendhupurkar, Kulbhushan Upmanyu, Amit Mitra, G.S. Guleria, Satya Prasanna, Ratan Chand, Sukhdev Bishwapremi, Ms. Jasu Devi Par, Ms. Ramki Devi, Ms. Adarsa Bala, Ms. Raman Devi.

Uttar Pradesh

Individual comments

Basanti Ben

"I will work for the upliftment of women in Uttarakhand and will try to strengthen FUGs and encourage disadvantaged and oppressed women to develop through HIMAWANTI."

Radha Bhatt

"I will try to increase the number of grass roots' level women to 50 per cent in FUGs and *Van Panchayat(s)* so that they can put on pressure about issues related to forestry. For that we will try to create awareness among women."

Chandi Prasad Bhatt

“I will try to play an important role in planning and implementation of policies related to the conservation of natural resources and improvement of people’s lives.”

Ramesh Pahari

“As a journalist and coordinator of the People’s Communication and Help Centre of *Dashauli Gram Swaraj Mandal*, I will work on the following:

- creating awareness among people,
- making community people aware of legal issues,
- creating *Mahila Mangal Dal(s)* in every village in order to organize women, and
- starting a movement so that every village can have its own forest.

I will try to make elected representatives aware of the legal acts of the *Panchayat* and the development plans. These days I am working to mobilise government agencies and also I am aware of the quality of development-related plans. In future I will try to expand these projects throughout the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region.”

Rakesh Sharma

- Creating people’s awareness about the formation of *Van Panchayat(s)* in Uttarakhand
- Inspiring all those administrative officers who work in Uttarakhand to work according to participatory processes
- Actively trying to encourage women in Uttarakhand to take part in development work
- Sharing the experiences I have gained through this workshop

- Undertaking research to bring about consistency between locally elected institutions and community forestry organizations.’

Shaila Rana Rawat

“I will organize *Mahila Mangal Dal(s)* and will also try to be present regularly in the group meetings. Through FUG organizations I will raise my voice against those, whether individuals, institutions or government departments, who are destroying forest property. In Uttarakhand, I will give priority to programmes related to forestry. I will invite the chairperson of the *Van Panchayat* to VDC meetings. With the help of women’s groups I will initiate the planning of programmes based on tree plantation on unused land.”

Savitri Devi Bisht

“I will share with others whatever I have learned at this workshop, and I will try to bring coordination between *Mahila Mangal Dal(s)* and *Van Panchayat(s)*. As a leader of the *Van Panchayat*, I will take action against those who try to encroach upon forest areas.”

Rajja Chaudhari

“Through magazines and *Mahila Mangal Dal(s)*, I will try to spread my views about having 50 per cent women’s participation in elected bodies and FUGs. I will advocate for the legal rights of *Van Panchayat(s)* in Uttarakhand, so that they can pressurise the administration.”

Pushkin Phartiyal

“I will try to apply the experiences that I have gained during this workshop in the following practical ways.

- As a project officer in the formation of new *Van Panchayat(s)*, I will try to secure women's participation in them.
- During the future workshops of the UP Academy of Administration, I will discuss conservation of forest resources with the *Van Panchayat* leaders.
- I am interested in writing and in the future will concentrate on issues related to natural resources.
- I will try to raise people's awareness about their rights and will also make as much economic support as possible available for the management of natural resources."

Hem Gairola

"I will actively participate, with others, in research work related to the subject of strengthening the capacity of people who depend on the forest and of forest management, and I will continue to advocate for people's rights. In order to reconcile conflicts related to forest use, I will try to form mediator groups with assistance from others."

Hema Rana

"I will try to bring about consistency between the *Gram Panchayat* and the *Van Panchayat*. I will try to encourage women's participation in the *Van Panchayat* and will invite suppressed and backward women to the meetings. I will try to find employment for people through the *Gram Panchayat*."

Kalawati Devi

- "I will convince all the women in my village to attend meetings of the *Mahila Mangal Dal(s)* and I will try to form *Mahila Mangal Dal(s)* in other villages as well.
- I will try to keep the forest-related

movement strong and will also work for forest conservation.

- I will try to organize people to raise their voices about rights related to natural resources.
- I will convince the women of Uttarakhand to participate in representative elected institutions."

Bauni Devi

"Along with other women I will move from village to village and form women's organizations. Educated men will also be welcome to help if they are interested. I will try to make women's organizations so strong that they will not be overlooked or ignored by related departments. Since women are troubled due to men being addicted to alcohol, I will organize women and start a movement against this social evil."

Institutional Level

Dasholi Gram Swarajya Mandal

"The *Dasholi Gram Swaraj Mandal* has been working to create a just and equitable social order and realise the dream of total *gram swarajya* and conservation of natural resources for the last four decades. To this effect, it has been :

- organizing camps and workshops to promote afforestation and environmental conservation;
- raising awareness and organizing women and *dalit groups* and enabling them to develop leaderships skills;
- trying to develop village forests in every village; and
- conducting training camps to acquaint the common people with their rights and duties, enabling them to play a lead role in natural resource conservation and management building up their skills, and empowering them.

The DGSM will continue these activities, incorporating ideas generated from this workshop. Information, especially on science and technological aspects, will be exchanged with those interested. Better coordination will be established between village-level organizations to link development and environmental conservation more effectively. To this end, local, regional, state, and national-level efforts will be studied and analysed, and simple, yet reliable, people-friendly techniques will be developed and disseminated.'

DGSM Participants included: Raja Chaudhari, Kalawati Devi, Bauni Devi, Savitri Devi, Chandi Prasad Bhatt, Shaila Rani Rawat, and Ramesh Pahari

Uttarakhand

presented by Saila Rawat

"In order to share the knowledge and experience gained by different participants at this workshop, workshops will be organized in Nainital and Agastyamuni, Garhwal, under the supervision of the Centre for Development Studies (CDS) and Uttar Pradesh Academy of Administration (UPAA).

In Uttarakhand, *Van Panchayat*, *Mahila Mandal Dal*, and other independent organizations and representatives of *Panchayat(s)* will be taken for on-site training to learn from ICIMOD's demonstration plot and about the working process of community forest user groups. The CDS and UPAA will take the initiative in this."

Institutional Level

Regional Panchayat

At the level of the regional *panchayat*, having established coordination between *Panchayati Raj* institutions and forest management institutions, to proceed towards strengthening these institutions within five years. (Hem Goirala, Panchayat Sewa Samiti, Paudi, Garhwal)

Inter-Country Level

Encourage experience sharing
Collaborate to build the capacity of natural resource management groups and grass roots' level democratically-elected bodies.

Certain Strategies that can be tried out in both H.P. & U.P.

Elected/Political Representatives	Campaign for the right to recall/referendum, especially at the PRI level and as a campaign strategy, inform the representative(s) that they will be forced to resign if they perform poorly.
Gender Equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campaign for greater participation of women at all levels • Compulsory education for the girl child-ensure that this happens at least in those areas where like-minded elected representatives work and NGOs are present. • Equal property rights • Educate men
Participatory Forest Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campaign against monolithic, passive programmes like JFM • Document good examples of active participatory community forest management and disseminate such information

NEPAL**Presentation by Bijay Raj Poudyal**

All the participants in the Nepal country group were requested to write up their personal plans and commitments. The participants were then divided into three groups: government agency, locally elected representatives, FUGs, and NGOs. Each of these groups discussed how to prepare their institutional strategies and plans. When these were completed, the participants met together again as a large group to discuss the institutional plans and to prepare national and international plans and strategies.

Individual Commitments**Apsara Chapagain**

“My personal plans are the following.

- I will disseminate the ideas learned in this workshop in my village, and will be involved in empowering and creating awareness among women.
- I will try to search for problems and solutions in the forest laws and rules.
- I will try to coordinate the maintenance of relations between locally elected bodies and community forest user groups.
- I will try to maintain transparency.”

Kumar Yonjon

“I will assist FUGs to:

- ensure that income generated by an FUG goes to the group itself,
- enhance coordination between locally elected bodies and CFUGs, and
- evaluate their programmes.”

Maya Devi Khanal

“I will continue to fight against injustice and will inform women about their legal rights to natural resources, as well as about their rights to property, education, and health care. I will try to work with other institutions and make their views better known. If training is required, I will always be ready to provide it.”

Sanu Kumar Shrestha

“In order to bring about sustainable development of community forestry, the remaining gap between FUGs and elected institutions should be closed. To bring this about, I will assist with and promote the following.

- Identify genuine forest users
- Form forest users’ committees on the basis of the approval of the general users. Make FUGs legally strong so that the users will not be afraid of the government’s intention to take back forests after they have been handed over.
- In order to develop community forestry, part of the budget which HMG provides to VDCs should also go to FUGs.
- Income of FUGs should be publicly announced quarterly or half-yearly, with auditing done yearly by the VDC.”

Bhumi Raman Nepal

“I will assist with the formation of a coordination committee that includes members of locally elected institutions and FUGs. I will help FUGs improve their relationships with the forest department and I will publicise the work of FUGs.”

Chhongba Lama

“I will do the following:

- work with FUGs to try and de-

- develop community forests,
- provide help to FUGs of my VDC,
- inform people about community forestry, since most are not aware of it,
- give more time for work related to community forestry, and
- raise income from community forestry which can then be used for village development.”

Bhim Lal Subedi

“I believe practical work is more important than mere slogans to ensure the rights of FUGs. There should be coordination among VDCs, DDCs, and other institutions for institutional development to occur. I will personally try my best to facilitate the development of the village and my country, and I will work to bring unity within the village.”

Barna Thapa

“I will work to bring coordination between local community institutions and local representatives, creating understanding among government-level and local representatives and institutions. Personally and on behalf of my institution, I will also be ready to provide help in this regard.”

Gyan Bahadur Tamang

“I will always try to work for the development of community forestry, giving special attention to gender equity. I will try to give disadvantaged classes and poor people an opportunity to work in community offices. I will also try to make FUGs more aware of the laws related to community forestry.”

Murari Khanal

I will do the following:

- provide one hour to FUGs every day,

- identify the real homeless people (*sukumvasis*),
- move towards deriving alternative resources from forests for income generation,
- work on problems of soil erosion, and
- discover ways to provide technical assistance for forest development.”

Juneli Shrestha

“I will share the knowledge that I have gained during the workshop. I will continue encouraging women to become involved in social work and to work for general women’s empowerment. I will also try to make more people aware of community forestry.”

Prakash Mathema

“I intend to :

- develop interaction programmes with my colleagues and professional friends about the role of locally elected institutions in the development of community forestry,
- raise the level of discussion about abolishing duplication in the different acts related to community forestry,
- arrange interaction programmes between local institutions and CFUGs during my field visits,
- sensitise field-level staff about the related issues, and
- try my utmost to assure the rights of the CFUGs.”

Arati Shrestha

“I will:

- provide information to people who do not know about community forestry,
- give opportunities to individuals who want to become members of CFUGs or other groups,
- provide income-generating training in villages, and

- provide equal opportunity to all for participation in CFUGs.”

Kishor Chandra Dulal

- “I firmly agree that there should be women’s participation in every field, and I will strive for transparency at all times.
- I will initiate solutions to the problems related to duplication and contradictions in the laws related to decentralization and community forestry.
- I will always try to bring coordination between locally elected institutions and CFUGs.
- I will provide help to FUGs and will try to convince the District Council to approve of those plans.
- I will always try to make community forestry users engage in every development programme.”

Savitra Kumari Bhattarai

“I promise to take the initiative to bring about coordination between locally elected institutions and CFUGs. I will always try to protect the environment and will spread awareness about forest conservation among women and poor people. During meetings with other institutions and related people, I will try to exchange knowledge related to forestry with them.”

Surya Prasad Adhikari

“I will take action to solve problems related to the legal acts:

- try to provide absolute rights related to forest conservation, management, and use to CFUGs;
- try to ensure that elected, local institutions provide positive assistance to CFUGs;
- try to provide opportunities for women and oppressed people to become community representa-

tives; and

- provide comprehensive knowledge about the 2049 Forest Act and 2051 Forest Regulations to CFUGs and local institutions.”

Bindu Mishra

“I will try to discover various methods to empower women. I will also get into contact with different institutions in order to bring about progress in development work related to community forestry and will try to implement such development work myself. Also, after identifying various issues, I will arrange interaction programmes.”

Bahadur Rokaya

“The community forest has not been handed over in my district of Kanchanpur. Timber smuggling is very common in this district. Poor people cut the trees, and, if this continues, the area will become a desert soon. In order to stop timber smuggling we must make poor people aware of forestry issues. We will have to encourage them to plant trees, from which of course they should be able to earn and find employment.”

Mahesh Hari Acharya

“I will discuss the acts, policies, and regulations related to community forestry on an individual level and provide related knowledge to individuals, groups, and organizations:

- give direct instructions to staff to bring more coordination between FUGs and local institutions,
- arrange workshops and training in order to empower women, and
- also request NGOs, INGOs, and community-based organizations to make arrangements to assist in improving women’s capabilities.”

B.R. Poudyal

“I will work to provide knowledge to elected bodies about community forestry and will work towards implementation of the policies and directives of the forest departments. I will also provide feedback from field visits to the Forest Department.”

Laksmi Bhandari

“I will avoid politics while working for forest development and will always be helpful about establishing women’s rights.”

Shyam Ghimire

“It is important to keep good relations between community forestry and local institutions and to remove all practical distrust and legal hindrances. VDCs should assist community forestry. I will try to help by:

- providing advice about using forest income for village development, poverty alleviation, and income improvement,
- providing help to those FUGs that are economically weak, and
- arranging workshops related to forest management.”

Krishna Prasad Sapkota

“I promise to :

- encourage people to plant trees on community and private land,
- invite one man and one woman from each household to join a CFUG,
- plan programmes that will improve the environment with the help of the VDC and CFUG, and
- emphasise employment-based and income-generating forestry.”

Bal Krishna Yani

- “I will try to make women aware of CFUGs and will encourage illiterate women to join CFUGs.
- I will try to bring about consistency in policy and practise between CFUGs and local institutions with the help of local institutions.
- During this workshop, I have gained knowledge related to legal and practical aspects, and I will share this knowledge with my FUG.”

Guman Dhoj Kunwar

“The following work will be important:

- organizing the FUG and providing knowledge and advice related to forest conservation and playing the role of mediator between the Forest Department and the FUG,
- persuading the FUGs to do development work according to peoples’ decisions,
- prioritising education, health, agriculture, markets, and drinking water in order to improve our village life,
- making sure advice given by women is included in decision-making, and
- informing family members of decisions that are taken in the FUG meetings.

I will try to initiate work related to forest management, development, and sanitation. If I initiate such work myself, I will be an example for others.”

Devi Adhikari

“Politicisation should not be permitted in the work of community devel-

opment. Likewise, class, caste, and poverty should not hinder one's application for membership in a CFUG, and so I will try to create awareness among those who are excluded and will support women as much as I can. I will try to benefit from the advice of the VDC, DDC, and people's representatives."

Ishwara Pokhrel

"As an individual I will do the following.

- I will raise my voice in favour of 50 per cent women's membership in FUGs.
- I will encourage economically and disadvantaged groups to participate in social work.
- I will not permit politicisation in forest related work.
- I will work to keep the feeling of unity."

Ghanta Prasad Aryal

"I will:

- develop income-generating work for CFUGs and use the income for village development,
- convince women to participate in FUGs,
- undertake development work with the advice of the Forest Department, DDC, and VDC,
- see that FUGs make decisions about development work, and
- work to keep the environment clean and green."

Ram Sharan Ghimire

"In my FUG I will try to increase the number of women participants and will raise my voice for the rights of women. I will also discuss how the FUG can establish good relations with local institutions in order to use the forests properly. I will also prepare a comparative analysis of mu-

tually contradictory acts regarding forest use by FUGs. I will tell my friends about the workshop discussions and results."

Dil Raj Khanal

"I will undertake the following initiatives:

- work to amend ambiguous acts relating to natural resource management,
- provide knowledge to people living in remote areas about their rights to natural resources and also lobby for more rights of the people to natural resources,
- look for alternative solutions to resolve conflicts related to natural resource use and work to apply these in a practical way, and
- volunteer my support to fight legal cases against FUGs which have been filed in court."

Kamala Sharma

"My work will involve women and will include:

- making both men and women aware of discrimination in order to free women from household restrictions,
- bringing women ahead in the policy-making process, and
- making sure that 50 per cent of the representatives on user committees are women."

Mohan Thapa Pyakural

"As an individual, I will

- develop and maintain community forest user groups' relationships with different institutions and provide assistance to my own group,
- arrange interaction programmes related to forest management,

- give opportunities to various classes of people to participate in forest management and policy-making processes,
- share information about decentralization and users' rights with different classes of people,
- increase women's participation, and
- arrange meetings about forest management with FUGs."

Hari Prasad Neupane

"I will always be helpful in protecting the rights of UGs and will always inspire the process of general agreement in decision-making processes."

Ganesh Timilsina

- "I will encourage people to develop community forestry where it has not yet been introduced.
- I will try to provide opportunities for the equal participation of women in CFUGs.
- I will inspire locally elected institutions and CFUGs to work in cooperation."

Kul Bahadur K.C.

"I will give priority to cultivating herbal plants for development."

Ganesh Shrestha

"I will play the role of a mediator and coordinator between locally elected institutions and CFUGs and will create awareness among people about the conflicts and ambiguous laws related to decentralization and forestry. I will share the knowledge I have gained in the workshop with those institutions in which I am a representative. I would also like to organize a one-day workshop among the community forestry user groups in my district."

Institutional Level

Government Agencies

- Initiate solutions to the problems and constraints that have come up during implementation of the Forest Act 2049 and the Forest Regulations 2052 and which were raised in workshops and seminars and through field experience.
- Initiate organization of interaction programmes between locally elected representatives and FUGs on all aspects of community forestry management.
- Initiate maintenance of transparency regarding FUG activities, encouraging them to maintain their records properly.
- Organize and impart capacity building training and ensure that FUGs send their programme reports regularly.
- Organize training and workshops at local levels for women, in order to impart forest management techniques and skills and to initiate the nomination and selection of women from each village and *tole* (neighbourhood) to participate in study tours, organized at intra- and inter-district levels.

Forest Users' Groups and NGOs

- Relationships of FUGs with Locally Elected Institutions
 - ♦ Implement the following activities of FUGs, in coordination with LEIs: community forest development, social development, and conflict resolution between users and user groups.
 - ♦ Assist LEIs in forest product related work.
- Introduce and execute community forestry-based income-generating activities
- FUGs should conduct social development activities: literacy classes,

- public health programmes, drinking water schemes, and foot trail construction/improvement in coordination with LEIs.
- Ask related line agencies for technical assistance in thinning, pruning, cleaning, and plantation activities in community forestry.
 - Involve women, poor, marginalised, and disadvantaged users to group meetings and have FUGs make decisions on the basis of mass consensus. Produce and disseminate extension materials related to literacy programmes, women's literacy, and empowerment.
 - Organize and conduct self-help programmes among FUGs through networking mechanisms.
 - Identify problems related to FUGs through study tours and begin solving these problems.
 - Orient FUG programmes towards social and community development through the means of community forestry.
 - Suggestions and advice shall be provided to relevant agencies so that they can amend forest and other related regulations so that they are more people oriented and progressive than at present. Seminars, workshops, and interaction programmes will be organized, and pressure will be applied to relevant agencies for improvement.
 - Forest Areas will be resurveyed in coordination with all relevant agencies: viz., land reform, maintenance surveyors, land revenue collection officers, etc.
 - The following programmes will be conducted for the institutional development and strengthening of FUGs:
 - ♦ proper record keeping;
 - ♦ maintenance of proper accounts; and
 - ♦ regular audits;
 - regularisation of registration dis-patches;
 - provision of soft loans to poor groups, if FUGs have sufficient money;
 - organization of regular meetings and general assemblies;
 - communication of the decisions of meetings, posting them on public notice boards every month; and
 - encouragement of women's participation in FUGs, implementing the concept of equal participation and aiming for a 50 per cent representation of women.
- Locally Elected Institutions***
- Involve FUGs at policy level.
 - Include periodic plans of FUGs in LEI's periodic plans. Form coordination committees between different FUGs.
 - Organize joint forest management training and workshops by District Level FUG Federations (perhaps district level FECOFUN), DFO, and DDC.
 - Encourage local people to reforest barren and non-agricultural lands, whether public or private, through formation of a policy for the same.
 - Provide for the collection of land revenue from private land that is barren or not irrigated, in order to encourage people to use their land in a productive way or for income generation.
 - Form an appropriate policy to promote and encourage a 50 per cent participation of women in all public institutions, organizations, committees, etc.
 - Motivate all FUGs to establish forest-based industries using their own collected funds.
 - Regularise the monitoring process of LEIs in an effective way.
 - Have commitments by locally elected representatives to make the technical aspects functional.
 - Have village-level forest manage-

ment training and workshops organized jointly by VDC, FUG, and range posts.

- Involve women equally in all training and workshops.
- Try to restructure the DOF organization according to the need for human resources, on behalf of LEIs as a way of dealing with inadequate technical human resources in the existing organizational structure of the DOF.

National Level

- Make suggestions and advocate and organize workshops at the national and regional levels among relevant agencies to bring coordination, complementarity, and necessary amendments in decentralization and forestry-related rules, regulations, acts, and policies. The chairpersons of ADDCN, FECOFUN, and HIMAWANTI will initiate the organization of workshops with the assistance of ICIMOD.
- Organize national-level workshops in order to share experiences and formulate appropriate policies about forest-based income-generating activities (herbal medicine, wildlife, environment, biodiversity, etc). ICIMOD will again be contacted about this.
- Organize a national-level workshop of women involved in FUGs, elected representatives of local institutions, and women forest technicians with GOs, NGOs, CBOs, FUGs, etc.

Inter-Country Level

- Organize workshops and seminars on a regular basis in order to prepare and revise integrated programmes to cover the whole of the Hindu Kush-Himalayas.
- Build a regional-level organization to fulfil the above objectives.

BANGLADESH

Individual Level

Dr. M.M. Khan

- Continue to gather more information about successful models in community forestry and local governance in other countries, specifically those in South Asia.
- Undertake action research, if funding is available, to understand, analyse, and evaluate community forestry and local governance systems in Chittagong Hill Tracts, especially focusing on weaknesses in the community forestry programme and the weakness of the system.
- Try to encourage and motivate colleagues and students to study community forestry and local governance in Chittagong Hill Tracts.
- Write popular features in newspapers and magazines and give lectures and seminars advocating the critical role of community forestry and local governance in Chittagong Hill Tracts in local and national development, especially concentrating on the need for the increasing participation of women and the poor in the management of these institutions.

Institutional Level

- Use the department of public administration, University of Dhaka, as a forum for dissemination of knowledge in the areas of community forestry management and in strengthening local governance bodies in Chittagong Hill Tracts.
- Open a new course in natural resource management to include community forestry and integrate such a course with existing local governance and rural development courses.

National Level

Convince policy-makers of the need for a viable and strengthened local governance system with a revitalised community forestry programme based on increasing and meaningful participation in all bodies of women and poor through lobbying and organizing seminars and workshops with the assistance of stakeholders, NGOs, donors, and members of the academic community.

Inter-Country Level

More interaction with scholars and practitioners in other South Asian countries in the areas of local governance and community forestry to facilitate adoption of ideas and successful models for use in Bangladesh with suitable modifications can be initiated.

PAKISTAN***Individual / Institutional Level*****Ali Gohar and Zohra Khanum (AKRSP)**

- Linkage and Advocacy
- Capacity Building
- Planning
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Technology Development
- Social Organization
- Institution Building

Haider Khan

- Policy Framing
- Lobbying for Financial Resources
- Advocacy
- Mediation

Shafa Ali

- Social Mobilisation
- Linkages

- Identification of Needs
- Village-level Planning

Muhammad Iqbal

- Facilitate shift from bureaucratic to technocratic attitude
- Devise rules and policies conducive to community empowerment
- Build capacity among staff
- Undertake education, extension, and training activities

Overall Conceptual Design - Bottom-Up Approach

Presented by Ali Gohar

Village Level

At this level, a variety of village-level organizations should be identified, including elected union councils, different voluntary or women's organizations, NGOs, and INGOs. Village-level government, administrative, and other public institutions such as the Forest Department's regional office, the *Tawsildaar*, and health and educational institutions should also be included.

The capacity building of these institutions should be strengthened, their needs identified and assessed, and these needs should be translated into concrete plans and projects that can be implemented. A method of networking and maintaining linkages should be established. Such a network could be used in first level attempts to manage conflict. In addition, through such a system of linkages, local technologies could be developed through shared experience.

District Level

District-level institutions include the District Council, District Forest Office, representatives of voluntary and women's organizations, and other district-level agencies.

Their functions should be the following.

- Policy Recommendations
- Coordination
- Developing Strategy
- Monitoring
- Financing
- Resolving and Managing Conflicts

Northern Areas' Level

Institutions at this level include the Northern Areas' Council, NGOs/INGOs, Conservators of Forests and Chief Conservator of Forests, Forest Associations, and others.

Functions

- Policy formulation at this broader level
- Financing: approval of plans and projects
- Monitoring and feedback to district-level implementing agencies
- Resolving and managing conflicts
- Pressing for needed legislative reforms
- Initiating and strengthening gender participation at all levels

National and International Levels

These institutions include research institutes, academic institutions, and NGOs/INGOs.

Functions

- Information sharing, cooperation, and development and transfer of technologies through workshops, training programmes, study tours,

and other regional or international conferences

- Technical advice based on various types of research and development, including pilot projects, comparative studies, etc
- Investigation into and approval or modification of proposed policies
- Promotion of major policy shifts such as privatisation, decentralization, etc
- Pooling of financial resources

Concluding Remarks By Dr Mahesh Banskota

Dr. Mahesh Banskota, in his concluding remarks, said that he was extremely impressed with the individual and institutional commitments made by the participants. This was indicative of their interest in bringing convergence between locally elected institutions and community forestry management groups. Dr. Banskota said that these follow-up plans were a matter of satisfaction to ICIMOD, as they indicated that this workshop had achieved its objective of initiating a series of processes in the different countries of the Hindu Kush-Himalayas. He said that ICIMOD would remain interested in learning from the participants' experiences and in exploring ways and means of collaborating with different institutions.

On behalf of ICIMOD, Dr. Banskota thanked all the participants for their active participation in the workshop and wished them a safe journey home.