

# **A Comprehensive Report of Trainings**

**May 2013**

**Demonstration of Sustainable Forest Management with  
Community Participation in Nepal**

**Federation of Community Forestry Users, Nepal (FECOFUN)**



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## **Executive summary**

The project “**Demonstration of Sustainable Forest Management with Community Participation in Nepal**” has been implemented since 1st September 2010, with official launch through an inception workshop on 1st October 2010. Under this project, FECOFUN intended to take the CFUGs and their community based enterprises in vertical and horizontal integration through the supply of information and responsible resources and business practices of Nepal. The project developed and strengthen the capacity of facilitating organizations (the organizations involved in project implementation particularly in districts and local level), service providers and CFUGs in the project areas to commercially manage their forest resources, facilitated for establishment of enterprises, and mobilization of community fund and other resources through community development activities while not compromising on sustainable supply of forest products for subsistence use.

Human resources development to support the sustainable forest management, livelihood improvement, community based forest enterprises and green jobs was the key element of the projects. During the project design period objectives and activities were identified to achieve the project goal. The project focused its effort to enhance the capacity of the local resources person (LRPs) to help the CFUGs to carry out the project activities smoothly. CFUGs were main actor of this project. All most all of the activities were confined to enhance the capacity of CFUGS in local level to promote sustainable community forestry management. As a result of these type of capacity enhancement activities, following changes were seen within the forest user groups.

The trainings conducted during the project period helped to enhance the capacity of the forest users, local resource persons, which ultimately supported to achieve the overall goal and objectives of the project. The training need assessment is prior to formulation of trainings. It is highly recommended that the trainings should be conducted with the clear format, content and clearly defined objectives.

## **Abbreviation**

APFNet	Asia Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation
CBFEs	Community Based Forest Enterprises
CF	Community Forestry
CFUGs	Community forestry users groups
CPMU	Central Level Project Management Unit
DDC	District Development Committee
DFO	District Forest Office
DoF	Department of Forest
FECOFUN	Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal
FOP	Forest Operational Plan
GG	Good Governance
GoN	Government of Nepal
LRP	Local Resource Person
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NTFPs	Non-Timber Forest Products
PGA	Participatory Governance Assessment
PHPA	Public Hearing and Public Auditing
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
VDC	Village Development committee

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Nepal is one of the richest economies in terms of biological diversity despite covering only 0.01 percent of the earth's land area. It has recognized 75 different vegetation types so far, ranging from dense tropical forest to alpine scrub. The diverse ecosystem of Nepal provides a rich resource base of Non-timber forest products and is home to 2.6 percent of all flowering plants, 9.3 percent of birds and 4.5 percent of mammals inhabiting in our planet. With this incredible richness of different flora and fauna, we have high opportunity to conserve and maintain different types of biological diversity and its components in comparison to other countries of the globe. Significant area of national forest is currently managed by community under the concept of community forestry.

In recent years, Nepal has become renowned through the community forest management. Community forestry model is remarkably successful in terms of resource conservation, management and utilization. It has established itself as a successful model to regenerate and restore natural resource base that could be replicated effectively. There are more than 18000 CFUGs in the country reaching out to over 40% of the population of the country. The emergence of Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal (FECOFUN) in 1995 led the foundation in networking these community forest user groups and brought them together under one umbrella to secure their rights towards forest resources and sustainable forest management and guiding them towards better livelihood by facilitating to help themselves. By now, it has established itself as the largest civil society organization working on natural resource management. This network has been conducting various user friendly programs and activities particularly targeted to support the rural poor and forest dependent people. However, CF development has yet to be scale up and build on lessons learned in many areas such as enterprise promotion, sustainable forest management and forest governance in CF process and poverty reduction.

Nepal has lots of renewable forest resources in the forests that can be used to generate rural employment, create green jobs, and develop community enterprises along with bio-diversity conservation and governance improvement. Sustainable forest management can help to manage the forest resources in a sustainable way and link good national and international markets of the high values forest products. The project proposal aimed at combating these alarming situations of rural poverty in Nepal through the sustainable management of forest and developing community forest based enterprises which contributes to the vision of Nepal government's three-year interim plan of poverty reduction as well.

The project “**Demonstration of Sustainable Forest Management with Community Participation in Nepal**” has been implemented since 1st September 2010, with official launch through an inception workshop on 1st October 2010. Under this project, FECOFUN intended to take the CFUGs and their community based enterprises in vertical and horizontal integration through the supply of information and responsible resources and business practices of Nepal. The project developed and strengthen the capacity of facilitating organizations (the organizations involved in project implementation particularly in districts and local level), service providers and CFUGs in the project areas to commercially manage

their forest resources, facilitated for establishment of enterprises, and mobilization of community fund and other resources through community development activities while not compromising on sustainable supply of forest products for subsistence use. The project gave special consideration to the marginalized people and women in the project area so that the issue of equity and social justice is properly considered.

The project has successfully built a common understanding among different stakeholders on sustainable forest management through various workshops at regional and district levels. It has promoted good governance practices through participatory governance assessment (PGA) and public hearing and public auditing (PHPA) at community level. Coupled with this, project is moved ahead with establishment of forest based enterprises. The project has strengthened the coordination among the different stakeholders at national and local level, NGOs and local level organizations by promoting the working through consultation with relevant stakeholders. It has spread awareness among the local communities about the potentialities of livelihood improvement through sustainable forest management. It however has realized some challenges in terms technical support in SFM, sustainability of community enterprises, marketing and quality assurance of the products.

## **2. PROJECT GOAL AND OBJECTIVES**

### ***Project Goal***

The overall goal of the project was to promote participatory sustainable forest management to improve the livelihood of forest dependent people.

### **Project Objectives**

The specific objectives of the project are:

- To enhance the capacity of the local users groups to strengthen internal governance and sustainable forest management with biodiversity conservation.
- To develop the human resources to support the sustainable forest management, livelihood improvement, community based forest enterprises and green jobs.
- To improve the livelihood of the forest dependent poor people through the community based forest enterprises and green jobs.
- To document and disseminate the best practices from the piloting and influence the policy to support the sustainable forest management and promotion of community based forest enterprises.

## **3. DESIGN OF TRAINING**

Human resources development to support the sustainable forest management, livelihood improvement, community based forest enterprises and green jobs was the key element of the projects. During the project design period objectives and activities were identified to achieve the project goal. The project

focused its effort to enhance the capacity of the local resources person (LRPs) to help the CFUGs to carry out the project activities smoothly.

### **Objectives of trainings**

The main objectives to conduct the training are as follows:

**Capacity Enhancement of CFUGs:** CFUGs were main actor of this project. All most all of the activities were confined to enhance the capacity of CFUGS in local level to promote sustainable community forestry management. As a result of these type of capacity enhancement activities, following changes were seen within the forest user groups.

- Increased awareness (**concepts and practices**) on sustainable forest management issues at community level
- Increased efficiency on forest management activities at community level
- Able to prepare community level forest management plans in line with SFM
- Increased level of transparency and accountability in CF process

**Mobilization of Local Resource Persons:** The project gave priority to mobilize the local resource persons as the key project implementers in local level. During the period more than 37 LRPs were trained on the issues like (forest inventory, biodiversity monitoring, governance assessment, business plan preparation and concept and good practice of sustainable forest management.

## **4. SUMMARY OF TRAININGS CONDUCTED BY PROJECT**

### ***Training of Local Resource Persons (LRPs) on communications and facilitation for revision of Constitution and FOP***

This training was organized for newly selected 21 LRPs of 21 districts. The main objectives of the training was to enhanced the capacity of the LRPs on the facilitation and communication skills, revision process of constitution and forest operational plans of the CFUGs. They were educated on the concept of the sustainable forest management, good governance and enterprise development. During the training LRPs were practically engaged in the process of the forest governance analysis including public hearing and public auditing. They were orientated on revised Community Forest Guidelines of endorsed by ministry of forest and soil conservation, which governs the overall functioning of the community forestry in Nepal.

Participation status	Major contents	Outcomes
Local level LRPs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Orientation of project objectives, expected outcomes, activities and its implementation strategies</li> <li>• Communication and facilitation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitation to CFUGs in project activities implementation in local level.</li> </ul>

	<p>skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Process of CF operational plan revision</li> <li>• Orientated on Community Forest Guidelines 2008 which governs the overall functioning of the community forestry</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased level of communication and facilitation skills</li> <li>• Enhanced capacity on forest management activities to support CF development process</li> </ul>
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***Forest Inventory and biodiversity monitoring training to LRPs***

The training was conducted for community facilitators to effectively support in conducting the forest inventory as well as biodiversity monitoring at the community forests. The local facilitators were provided 7-day training including a field practices conducted to better use the technical skills gained from this training.

Participation status	Major contents	Outcomes
Local level LRPs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forest boundary survey</li> <li>• Forestry resources survey ( growing stock mapping )</li> <li>• Sustainable forest management Forest condition analysis</li> <li>• Social survey of CFUGs and demand and objectives of forest management analysis</li> <li>• Interpretation of forest condition</li> <li>• Preparation of community forestry operational plan according to forest condition and CFUGs demand analysis results</li> <li>• Forest management and harvesting tools and techniques</li> <li>• Biodiversity monitoring and registration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhanced the capacity to Support CFUG in operational plan development and</li> <li>• Enhanced capacity operation of silvicultural activities with in CF</li> </ul>



***Training the local villagers and CFUGs on the multiple functional utilization of forest and developing alternative energy to relieve pressure on forest.***

Five trainings to demonstration site CFUGs on multiple functional utilization of forest were conducted. Similarly, the alternative energy option available to the forest users depending on their surrounding were also realized during this training.

Participation status	Major contents	Outcomes
CFUGs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessment of forest condition</li> <li>• Assessment of energy use status</li> <li>• Types of forest management in Nepal</li> <li>• Multiple utilization of forest resources</li> <li>• Importance of forest management</li> <li>• Forest degradation and deforestation</li> <li>• Sustainable forest management</li> <li>• Climate change</li> <li>• Alternative energy and their association in forest management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The energy use status and dependence on forest resource for energy was assessed.</li> <li>• The participants were well known about the forest resource management, and its multiple utilization.</li> <li>• The participants gained the knowledge about the alternative energy, selection of the alternative energy and process of establishment.</li> </ul>

***Entrepreneurship development training***

Two events of enterprise development training/workshop were conducted in which the national stakeholders as well as community representatives involved in establishing the community enterprises participated to discuss intensively on the present status of forestry enterprises as well as understand the business plan concept in the respective community enterprises.

Participation status	Major contents	Outcomes
Enterprises management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable forest management and green job creation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhanced knowledge on technical and legal</li> </ul>

<p>committee members and leader of CFUG</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• enterprises and its modalities and Micro enterprise</li> <li>• technical and legal procedure of enterprises establishment</li> <li>• Factors necessary to be considered before enterprise establishment</li> <li>• Selection process of the potential enterprise</li> <li>• Value chain analysis and business plan, its importance</li> <li>• Policy, laws and regulations regarding enterprises</li> <li>• Models of enterprises management</li> <li>• Community based forest enterprises in Nepal</li> <li>• Challenges and opportunities of forest based enterprises</li> <li>• Analytical perspective of cooperative, company and private enterprises</li> <li>• Documents necessary to register the enterprises</li> <li>• Ownership of the enterprise and benefit distribution</li> <li>• Participation of the poor users in the community based forest enterprises</li> </ul>	<p>procedure of enterprise development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gained knowledge about selection of potential forest based enterprises</li> <li>• Increased level of skill and knowledge on value chain analysis, business plan preparation, enterprise management, and legal procedure of forest enterprise development.</li> </ul>
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***Training on establishing forestry enterprise and cooperatives and deal with legal registration, sustainable management and establishing the stable market***

Five trainings were provided to CFUGs to deal with the matters related with legal registration of forestry enterprise and cooperatives as well as provide them the knowledge on sustainable

agement of it. Market approach to enterprise for sustainability was also discussed during this training.

Participation status	Major contents	Outcomes
Enterprises management committee members and leader of CFUG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable forest management and green job creation</li> <li>• Community forestry act ,rules and guideline related to enterprises establishment</li> <li>• Technical and legal procedure of enterprises establishment</li> <li>• Factors necessary to be considered before enterprise establishment</li> <li>• Policy, laws and regulations regarding enterprises management</li> <li>• Community based forest enterprises in Nepal and its legal status</li> <li>• Analytical perspective of cooperative, company and private enterprises</li> <li>• Documents necessary to register the enterprises</li> <li>• Participation of the poor users in the community based forest enterprises</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhanced knowledge about the enterprises, types and its importance</li> <li>• Increased level of awareness regarding laws, policies and regulations related to enterprises</li> <li>• Participants gained knowledge about selection , steps of establishment and operating modality of forest enterprises</li> </ul>

### ***Skill-based Training***

A skill-based training on establishing community nursery was conducted in coordination with District Forest Office of Dolakha and a community nursery. During this training, the participants were taken to the nursery and provided hands-on training with direct observation. Similarly, training on handmade paper was provided to participants from Baitadi (Far Western Region) in coordination with Himalayan Bio-Trade Ltd. and a local handmade paper enterprise. In this training also, the participants were provided direct participation opportunity to practice the skills and guarantee the quality of the output. Training on making the furniture and other products from bamboo was conducted in Morang in

coordination with Micro-enterprise development program supported by United Nations Development Programme.

## **5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION**

All the trainings were conducted smoothly with active participation of concern target groups. Local resources persons (LRPs) and community forestry users groups (CFUGs) were the main target group of the training. Trainings were designed to enhance the practical knowledge and skills with considering sustainable forest management. The trainings conducted during the project period helped to enhance the capacity of the forest users, local resource persons, which ultimately supported to achieve the overall goal and objectives of the project.

It is felt that the trainings should be delivered according to the need of the target groups. The training need assessment is prior to formulation of trainings. It is highly recommended that the trainings should be conducted with the clear format, content and clearly defined objectives. Technical expert should take the specific session while dealing with technical issues.