

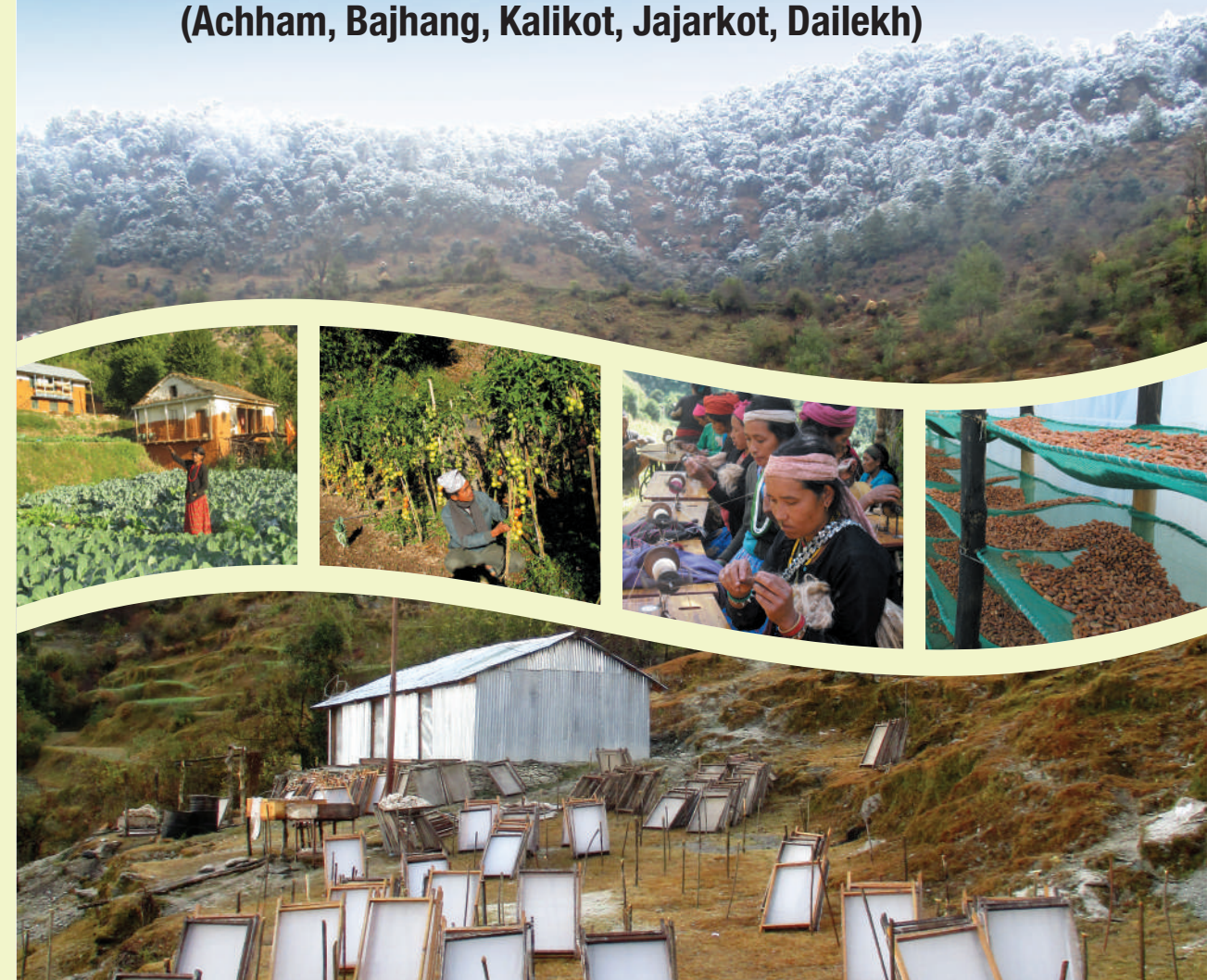
This compendium of 29 cases gathered from five districts from Far and Mid western Nepal documents a comprehensive knowledge-base on: community based forest resources management, climate change adaptation and resilience building, forest based enterprise development, and income generating activities for poor and disadvantage forest users under the MSFP interventions being implemented through IDS-Nepal led consortium. This synthesized knowledge is aimed to be shared with and utilized by other MSFP implementing agencies in other regions of Nepal.

The focus of the case study is on long term forest resources development and management mainstreaming climate change, employment generation, social and gender inclusion, and institutional and technical capacity building elements in the processes and practices adopted by the forest user groups that are often found to operate largely in knowledge vacuum, lack of technical knowhow and in an isolated and uncoordinated manner.



# Compendium of Selected Case Studies in the MSFP Lot VI

(Achham, Bajhang, Kalikot, Jajarkot, Dailekh)



Integrated  
Development  
Society Nepal

IDS-Nepal

Baluwatar, Kathmandu  
Phone: +977 1 4427329, 4421739  
Fax: +977 1 4430225  
Web: [www.idsnepal.org.np](http://www.idsnepal.org.np)  
Email: [idsnepal@wlink.com.np](mailto:idsnepal@wlink.com.np)



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Multi Stakeholder Forestry Programme, Kathmandu  
2015



Multi Stakeholder Forestry Programme  
बहुसरोकारवाला वन कार्यक्रम



Integrated  
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Society Nepal

IDS-Nepal

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March 2015



Published by **Integrated Development Society (IDS)-Nepal**  
**Multi Stakeholder Forestry Programme (MSFP)**  
PO Box 6413, Tudaldevi, Baluwatar, Kathmandu, Nepal  
Tel: 977-1-4427329, 4445565, 4421739, Fax: 977-1-4430225  
Website: [www.idsnepal.org](http://www.idsnepal.org), Email: [ids@wlink.com.np](mailto:ids@wlink.com.np)

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Cases Collection **Bhola Nath Dhakal**  
**Krishna Prasad Timsina**

Editors **Mr. Dinesh Chandra Devkota, Ph.D.**  
**Mr. Madhav Bahadur Karki, Ph.D.**

Coordination **Mr. Prakash Koirala**  
**Mr. Suman Ghimire**  
**Mr. Gopal Kafle**

Citation **IDS Nepal/MSFP (2015): Compendium of Selected Case Studies**  
**in the MSFP Lot VI Districts Kathmandu, Nepal.**

Printed at **Ganga Jamuna Press (P.) Ltd**  
**Nayabazar, Kathmandu**  
**Tel: 4386934**

First Edition **100 Copies, 2015**

Consortium Partners **Centre for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI)**  
**Himalayan Grassroots Women's Natural Resource Management**  
**Association (HIMAWANTI)**  
**ASHMITA-Nepal.**

Local Implementing  
Partner Organizations **Hilly Region Development Campaign (HRDC) Jajarkot; Everest**  
**Club Dailekh; Sustainable Agriculture, Environment and Water**  
**Resource Conservation Centre (SAEWRCC) Dailekh; Social**  
**Awareness and Development Academy (SAADA) Kalikot;**  
**Rura Development Center (RUDEC)-Nepal, Achham; Malika**  
**Development Organization (MDO) Achham; and Society**  
**Development Center (SDC) Nepal, Bajhang**



# ABBREVIATION

BS	Bikram Sambat
CAPA	Community Adaptation Plan
CBO	Community Based Organization
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CECI	Centre for International Studies and Cooperation
CF	Community Forest
CFOP	Community Forest Operational Plan
CFUG	Community Forest User Group
DADO	District Agriculture Development Office
DAG	Disadvantaged Group
DDC	District Development Committee
DFID	UK Department for International Development
DFO	District Forest Office
DLSO	District Livestock Service Office
DSM	District Support Mechanism
EbA	Ecosystem Based Adaptation
FECOFUN	Federation of Community Forestry Users, Nepal
FGD	Focused Group Discussion
FORWARD	Forum for Rural Welfare and Agriculture Reform for Development
GoN	Government of Nepal
HBTL	Himalayan Bio Trade Private Limited
HH	Household
HIMAWANTI	Himalayan Grassroots Women's Natural Resource Management Association
HRDC	Hilly Region Development Campaign
ICS	Improved Cooking Stoves
IDS-Nepal	Integrated Development Society Nepal
IGA	Income Generation Activity

INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
kg	Kilogram
KGSSL	Kushe Gharelu Sahakari Sashta Limited
LFG	Local Forestry Group
LHF	Leasehold Forest
LHFUG	Leasehold Forest User Group
LIPO	Local Implementing Partner Organization
LRP	Local Resource Person
MAP	Medicinal and Aromatic Plant
MDO	Malika Development Organization
MEDEP	Micro-Enterprise Development Programme
MoFSC	Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation
MSFP	Multi-Stakeholder Forestry Programme
NARC	Nepal Agricultural Research Council
NARMSAP	Natural Resource Management Sector Assistance Programme
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NPR	Nepalese Rupees
NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Product
OP	Operational Plan
PAF	Poverty alleviation Fund
PWBR	Participatory Well Being Ranking
PYSM	Panchtara Youth Sarchhan Manch
RUDEC	Rural Development Centre
SAADA	Social Awareness and Development Academy
SAEWCC	Sustainable Agriculture, Environment and Water Resource Conservation Centre
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SDC-Nepal	Social Development Centre Nepal
SFM	Sustainable/Scientific Forest Management
VDC	Village Development Committee

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Integrated Development Society-Nepal (IDS-N) along with its consortium partners (Centre for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI), Himalayan Grassroots Women's Natural Resource Management Association (HIMAWANTI) and ASHMITA-Nepal has been implementing the Multi Stakeholder Forestry Programme (MSFP) through Local Implementing Partner Organizations (LIPOs) in five districts of Midwestern (Bajhang and Achham) and farwestern (Kalikot, Jajarkot and Dailekh) regions – the lot VI districts since March 2013. The MSFP aims to: a) bring an estimated 1.7 million people out of poverty by working with existing and new forestry user groups in various ways and creating an additional 80,000 jobs; and b) improve livelihoods and resilience of poor and disadvantaged people in Nepal by promoting, developing, strengthening and improving the contribution of Nepal's community managed forestry sector to inclusive economic growth, poverty reduction and climate change adaptation. The growing climate change induced vulnerabilities and impacts are to be tackled through forest-based livelihoods programmes and activities. The programme is implemented by selected NGOs in full coordination and collaboration with the government of Nepal line agencies. The main targeted beneficiaries of the MSFP are rural communities of Nepal, especially women, poor and disadvantaged households who form dominant groups in the Lot VI districts.

This compendium of case studies includes 29 cases selected based on the following criteria: a) existence of minimum baseline information, b) preliminary results from the IDS-N led interventions are available, c) cases represent the four outcome areas of the MSFP; cover all five programme districts; and d) generally report success stories for sharing good practices. The selected cases covered four major intervention areas: a) Climate change adaptation through LAPA/CAPA planning and implementation (8 case examples); b) Sustainable forest management supporting good governance and community-based management of forests (seven case examples); c) Forest based enterprise development supporting livelihoods improvement through gainful employment creation (seven case examples); and d) income generating activities (IGA) targeting poor and ultra-poor households (seven case examples). The study follows a commonly



used case study methodology and approaches especially in selecting cases, collecting and analyzing data, and reporting results. Customized checklists and questionnaires, were developed and administered to carry out focus group discussions (FGD), key informant interview (KII) and participatory observations.

The main objective of the study is to identify, document, and analyze good practices, experienced learning and document synthesize and transferable knowledge as well as good practices relevant to the four outcomes of the MSFP especially in the Lot VI project districts. The aim is to use the good practices cases as evidence to influence forestry programs and policies at national levels leading to resilient communities and ecosystems. The four themes covered by the case study viz. community based forest resources management, climate change adaptation and resilience building, enterprise promotion and development, and income generating activities as defined under the MSFP intervention are interrelated and interdependent. They are also common in all the 37 districts covered by the MSFP. Therefore the lessons learned in one region can be easily shared with other implementing partners and cross-district learning is possible. Therefore, the knowledge and good practices reported under this case study compendium can be utilized by the MSFP implementing agencies in other regions of Nepal. The good practices reported could be referred for improving good governance, climate change resilience building, poverty reduction and enhanced contribution of forestry sector to the local and national economies. The focus of the case study is therefore to contribute to long term forest resources development and management, mainstreaming climate change adaptation and mitigation in forest management, employment generation, social and gender inclusion, and institutional and technical capacity building elements in the processes and practices adopted by the forest user groups that are often found to operate largely in knowledge vacuum, lack of technical knowhow in an isolated and uncoordinated environment.

The overall target groups of beneficiaries belongs to 7.4% under rich class, 34.2% under medium class, 51.4% under poor and 6.9 % under ultra poor class families. The findings clearly indicate that activities under all the four themes have succeeded only because the cross cutting themes such as social mobilization and awareness building, gender empowerment and social inclusion (GESI), livelihood improvement and good governance related activities were first conducted to prepare the CFUG communities to define the agenda in an inclusive manner and manage the interventions in an effective manner. Bee Keeping, Improved Cook stoves, Broom Grass plantations, Goat Poultry and Pig Farming related cases

are found to be running successfully and generating multiple objectives and creating synergy. The case study results also indicate that user groups that have larger forest areas with proper implementation of operation plans tend to achieve multiple objectives and contribute to all 4 outcomes of the MSFP. Regarding the climate change adaptation and mitigation, bottom-up and participatory planning and integrated implementation approaches seem to play crucial roles. For example, in Bajhang districts, all the four case study themes e.g. Enterprise development (Handmade paper), CCA, SFM and IGA are showing comparatively better success. All the case studies also highlight the importance of technical and institutional capacity building of LIPOs in achieving better quality results. This is important since the MSFP is not a traditional types of community or livelihood forestry but a more holistic and multi-dimensional forestry that also covers the new theme of climate change.

Regarding the key messages and recommendations coming out of the case study results, it is premised that the strategies and approaches used by the MSFP in general and IDS-N led consortium in particular especially in Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and sustainable forest management (SFM) themes are giving desired results. Timely revision and updating of community forestry operational plans (CFOP) although is a good starting point should ensure that new drivers of change such as growing number of hazards and risks to forests such as forest fires and droughts due to temperature rise and uncertain monsoon weather are considered properly. Similarly, increasing vulnerability of women due to male migration and increasing number of women's group activities need to be given prime attention to ensure that interventions are gender sensitive. A robust, adaptive, and inclusive CFOP seems to achieve good governance, social inclusion, transparency, and eventually good forest conditions generating multiple livelihood benefits to the poor and disadvantaged forest users through either IGA or forest/NTFP based enterprise development. However, forest based enterprise development activities need to be planned with well trained and skilled entrepreneurs and more importantly with sustainable backward (to raw material supply) and forward (to local, regional and international markets) linkages and managed on business models. Ensuring sustainable supply of raw materials from both the community and national forests to local forest based enterprises is critical to the success of private sector involvement in forestry. Creation of economic, social, institutional and policy impacts from multi-stakeholder forestry is possible if individual cases of interventions can generate multiple benefits, high synergy, and outcome level changes which some of cases under this compendium seem to be generating. The key to scale up and scale out these success requires

careful balance between bottom-up and top-down (climate change knowledge has to be downscaled from regional and national scenarios and models) planning, knowledge management, capacity development, awareness building and above all multi-disciplinary thinking and interdisciplinary action. The key messages from these 29 case studies can be summarized as follow:

1. Developing good socio-economic and ecological baseline data is important for revising and updating local resources management and livelihood improvement plans such as CFOP, CAPA and LAPA;
2. Awareness building, social mobilization, technical training, institutional capacity building (especially of LIPOs) and vulnerability assessment should be the starting point of activities to implement the MSFP activities;
3. There are number of ripe opportunities or 'low hanging fruits' such as unrevised CRF of a very active , CFUG; non-functional forest based enterprises; and non-functional water structures due to technical gaps that the MSFP should give priority to fund;
4. There is close synergy and complementarities between SFM and CCA which means the CFOP and CAPA should be developed by the same team that save time and money;
5. The successful good practices should be used not only as evidence for policy influence but also as learning ground for other CFUG and districts such as the EbA case in Manma, Kalikot.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Nepal's rural populations are heavily dependent on forest resources for their daily subsistence needs. Rural livelihoods and forest, both are impacted by their high dependency, lack of alternative energy, poor economy and inadequate income generation sources further aggravated by climate change. The most vulnerable groups including poor and most disadvantaged are most affected from deforestation and climate change impacts, so Multistakeholder Forestry Programme (MSFP) has been initiated to address these issues involving all stakeholders for sustainable forest management in six clusters comprising 23 districts. MSFP, designed building on over 20 years of forestry work of development partners and Nepal government is funded by Government of Finland, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, UK Department for International Development. It targets to improve forest management and provide forest-based benefits to vulnerable communities with more emphasis on enhancing their resilience while improving their livelihoods.

Integrated Development Society Nepal (IDS-N) lead consortium including partner CECI, associated with Himawati and Asmita has been implementing the MSFP in cluster VI covering Bajhang, Accham, Dailekh, Kalikot and Jajarkot districts of Mid- and Far Development regions where these case studies flourished. The Publication of these Case studies has been made possible through the financial support from the MSFP and IDS-Nepal cluster six programme.

In this regard, the critical and valuable inputs and support of Mr. Ramu Subedi, Team Leader, Dr. Dharma Uprety, Outcome Manager Forestry and Climate Change and Focal person and Mr. Shrikanta Adhikari, Cluster Coordinator, Surkhet of MSFP, SSU were helpful for finalizing the report. The valuable contribution in terms of data and information collections by IDS-Nepal professional team consisting of Mr. Bhola Nath Dhakal and Mr. Krishna Prasad Timsina is highly acknowledged.

The development of conceptual framework, extensive reviewing, editing and rewriting work of the case study compendium have been carried out by Dr. Madhav Bahadur Karki, and Dr. Dinesh Chandra Devkota. Mr. Suman Ghimire has edited and organized the document. I sincerely thank all three for their critical and valuable inputs for bringing the report to the present quality.

Finally, I am indebted to all of the families, and CFUGs whom we interviewed for this research.

Mrs. Prabha Pokhrel  
Chair Person  
Integrated Development Society Nepal





## CHAPTER 1

---

# CASE STUDY BACKGROUND, OBJECTIVE AND METHODOLOGY

### 1.1 Background and Context

The Multi Stakeholder Forestry Programme (MSFP) aims to improve livelihoods and resilience of poor and disadvantaged people in Nepal by promoting, developing, strengthening and improving the contribution of Nepal's community forestry sector to inclusive economic growth, poverty reduction, and tackling climate change induced vulnerabilities and impacts. The MSFP is the first programme of its kind being implemented in Nepal as the product of a multi-stakeholder design process undertaken jointly by Govt. of Nepal agencies and the consortium of three development partners. It builds on the achievements of over 20 years of forestry work of the Government and people of Nepal (GoN, CBOs, and NGOs) (e.g. LFP, NSCFP, NRMSAP). MSFP is funded jointly by the Government of Finland (GoF), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC, and UK Department for International Development (DFID).

MSFP aims to further enhance the contribution of Nepal's forestry sector to inclusive economic growth, poverty reduction, and tackling climate change through programmes and activities implemented by nationally based selected NGOs in full coordination and collaboration with the government of Nepal agencies principally the MoFSC and its line agencies in the region and districts. The main targeted beneficiaries of the MSFP are rural communities of Nepal, especially women, poor and disadvantaged households who are also the members of one or other forestry related user groups.

The Integrated Development Society Nepal (IDS-Nepal) is lead implementing

agency for Lot-VI ( or cluster 6) comprising five districts of MSFP: Achham, Bajhang, Kalikot, Dailekh and Jajarkot along with its consortium partners; Centre for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI), Himalayan Grassroots Women's Natural Resource Management Association (HIMAWANTI), and ASHMITA-Nepal. Among five districts in IDS-MSFP Lot-VI, two districts (Achham and Bajhang) are situated in Far-Western Region and three districts (Dailekh, Kalikot and Jajarkot) in the Mid-Western Region.

The major programmes and activities implemented through IDS-Nepal-MSFP are:

1. Enterprise development supporting income generation and employment creation at local level
2. Sustainable forest management supporting good governance and quality management of forests
3. Climate change adaptation through LAPA/CAPA planning and implementation
4. Income generation activities (IGA) targeting poor and ultra poor HHs.

The 29 Case study examples covered in this report under 4 themes are selected from those activities that were implemented from March 1, 2013 to February 28, 2015 i.e. during 2 year period in the above mentioned five districts.

## 1.2 Case Study Objectives

The general objective of the case study is to identify, document and analyze good practices for learning, synthesized transferable knowledge and practices of different CFUGs and LHFUGs in the project district relevant to the four outcomes of the MSFP.

### **The study's specific objectives are as follow**

- Analyze climate change, forest management, forest based enterprise development issues, highlighting forest management and climate change adaptation priorities from the perspective of diverse social, economic and gender groups, particularly of the DAG people.
- Identify, analyze, and document good practices based on the strategies and approaches followed by the IDS-MSFP team together with the LIPOs for sharing and possible transfer to other MSFP clusters.
- Recommend how based on the good practices and success stories of individuals, groups, and partners, the IDS-MSFP cluster in particular and

MSFP management in general can learn from the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and limitations demonstrated by these 29 case examples in improving the impacts of the CCA, SFM, IGA and forest based enterprise programmes and activities under the MSFP as a whole.

The compendium of case study therefore aims to develop a comprehensive knowledge-base of community based forest resources management practices in Far-western and Mid-western regions of Nepal that can be utilized by the MSFP implementing agencies in other regions of Nepal. The knowledge will improve good governance, climate change resilience building, poverty reduction and enhanced contribution of forestry sector to local and national economies. The focus of the case study is on long term forest resources development and management mainstreaming climate change, employment generation, social and gender inclusion, and institutional and technical capacity building elements in the processes and practices adopted by the forest user groups that are often found to operate largely in knowledge vacuum, lack of technical knowhow and in an isolated and uncoordinated manner.

### 1.3 Case Study Methods and Approach

Considering the above study objective, the study was designed by first developing a general conceptual framework and structure under which it was assumed that out of 545 CFUGs of IDS-MSFP cluster, many CFUGs have utilized the MSFP support to excel in their work performance.

The activities executed under the MSFP goals and outcomes can be classified into four major themes:

- (a) Sustainable Forest Management
- (b) Forest based Enterprise
- (c) Income Generating Activities
- (d) Climate Change Adaptation

The framework helped define the social, economic, cultural, and technical domains of local forest and leasehold groups and their forest management practices. This guided the study team to plan both the qualitative and quantitative data collection tools such as focused group discussion (FGD), community perception analysis, and key informant interview (KII). Quantitative data were collected using mostly secondary information at the district level tapping the knowledge and data base gathered by the IDS-MSFP and the LIPOs. The FGD

and KII were conducted mostly to obtain information from the CFUGs, LHFUGs, and other CBOs operating at the village level. The qualitative information was complemented by case discussion with the practitioners, observations through transact walk, and shared learning from the practices of the concerned CFUGs and CFUG committee members. Further, to capture gendered dimensions of a practice, the researchers used gender-sensitive checklists and questions and conducted gender and social study techniques capturing the views of men, women, dalit and janjati members. Climate change vulnerability related issues, impacts and adaptation options were obtained by going through the CAPA/LAPA processes managed by the LIPOs and also by interacting with the CFUG members engaged in CAPA preparation.

## CHAPTER 2

---

# CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

The objective of the climate change adaptation (CCA) and mitigation outcome (# 4) is to enhance the resiliency of both the forest ecosystem and socio-ecological system and reduce the vulnerability caused by climate change by sustainably managing and monitoring forests, trees, non-timber forest product (NTFP) species by employing multi stakeholder approach (government agencies, CBOs, and private sector). In the IDS-MSFP managed Far western cluster, a large number of VDCs, CFUGs, LFGs, and other community groups together with supporting local implementing partner organizations have made collective efforts in implementing CCA activities to meet the above objectives. Water sources protection and rehabilitation, landslide and erosion control, micro-irrigation construction and rehabilitation, water harvesting ponds construction and renovation are major themes implemented under CCA. The Project team has supported the preparation of 131 CAPAs and 50 LAPAs. All the CAPAs have been endorsed through the general assembly of the respective forestry groups. Out of the total 50 LAPAs, 4 have been endorsed by the respective VDC councils. Additionally, every new and revised operational plan (OP) has incorporated climate adaptation elements. While preparing CAPAs and LAPAs, climate vulnerable communities have been identified and their awareness about climate change and its impact on individual lives and livelihoods enhanced. Awareness building activities were carried out by involving school and college students and promoting their initiatives such as green clubs in each working districts. Seven green clubs have been formed and provided basic stationery supports to facilitate their activities such as newspaper production, celebration of environment day, essay competition etc. Each student is expected to have influenced his/her family's knowledge and interest in CCA. Weekly information sharing sessions on climate change are also carried out by



each green club as extra-curriculum activity. These activities combined with training of the CFUG members on what climate change vulnerability is how it's impact is assessed and the role of improved forest management in adaptation and resilience building have helped the CFUG in developing CCA plans at the CFUG, LFG, and VDC levels. The CAPAs being lower level plan help prepare better LAPAs that are integrated ecosystem and community based adaptation plans (EbA and CBA). One case study example that has been included is the 'Green Kalikot' concept that has been initiated as a LAPA through the joint efforts of all stakeholders. Under this EbA oriented LAPA, plantation campaign has been initiated both in private and public forest and other lands. The early impacts are improved community level awareness, capacity and willingness to make their OPs and agriculture practices more environment friendly and climate resilient.

## CASE 1

# LAPA Implementation through Climate Smart Rice Farming<sup>1</sup> in Dandakhet, Dailekh

### Case Description and Key Issues

Bayaldhunga CF in Sihasen VDC, Ward No 7 in Dailekh district has a total forest area of 140 ha and 377 households (see figures 1 and 2 for wealth ranking and social structure). There was an irrigation canal constructed by tapping the water from Adherigad River to support approximately 1000 ropani of rice field. Due to the seepage problem, the irrigation canal could not sufficiently meet the water demand for paddy cultivation. Moreover, a landslide – most probably due to

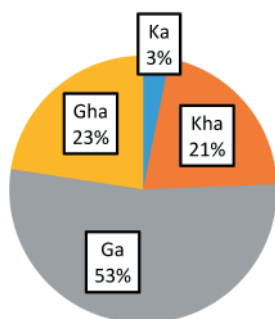


Figure 1: Well Being Ranking of CFUG members

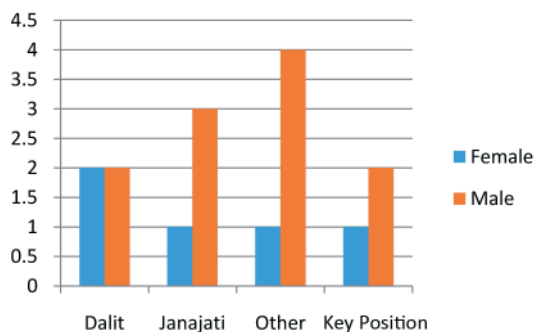


Figure 2: Inclusiveness of CFUG Committee

1 According to the Global Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) Alliance (GCSAA), 2014 the CSA “..aims for a form of agriculture that is highly productive and adequately considers social, ecological, and local” contexts including terrestrial, cultural, and agro biodiversity considerations; it is also called ‘people (local) smart agriculture; for more info: see. <https://www.cordaid.org/en/news/Climate-Smart-Agriculture-What-is-it>.

extreme rainfall - in 2069 BS (2009 AD) destroyed around 600 meters of canal section that forced farmers to depend on monsoon rain for rice cultivation (Figure 3) resulting in all season irrigated rice farm became rain-fed agriculture land. The CFUG put forth this problem to the IDS-MSFP team for consideration to support.

## MSFP Intervention

IDS-MSFP selected Sihasen VDC for the preparation and implementation of Local Adaptation Plan of Action (LAPA) with aim of converting rice farming system of the village both 'climate smart' and 'local people smart'. The District Support Mechanism (DSM) approved this decision. IDS-MSFP then commenced to support the preparation in Sihasen VDC-based LAPA with a clear focus on making the local agriculture climate smart or resilient. First of all, ward level climate change (CC) sensitization work was performed in all wards of the VDC. The CC affected areas and vulnerable communities were identified through VDC level interactions that had good participation of the representatives from all the wards. The participants identified the rice growing agriculture land as the most



Figure 3: Section of the landslide damaged canal and adjusted polythene pipe solution

affected area. They identified this area against different criteria such as frequency of hazards, coverage of the households, total number of people affected, cost effectiveness, sustainability, vulnerable area and included irrigation canal rehabilitation maintenance as the most prioritized adaptation work and sought support of the MSFP for its implementation (Figure 4).



Figure 4(A): Seepage is controlled by building concrete irrigation canal that also has cement lining (Center)



Figure 4(B): Paddy field after canal maintenance

## Case Findings

With the support from MSFP, the farmers rehabilitated the irrigation canal making it climate change smart in what they considered changing local climatic, socio-economic and ecological conditions for deciding in favour of cement lining their irrigation canal and concrete structure which will be able to tolerate increasing land slide hazards as well as take advantage of higher temperature to bring more farms under rice cultivation. The repaired canal is now able to withstand weather uncertainty and minimize risks due to climate change and this is what makes the local agriculture climate smart. According to Mr. Kalam Bahadur Sahi - one of the beneficiaries of the LAPA activity and the chairperson of Bayaldhunga CFUG, they received a sum of NPR 418,504 for the implementation of LAPA activity. Mr, Sahi adds, “We repaired the canal and managed to control the seepage by laying the polythene pipe in the landslide area and planted broom grass in the erosion affected area so that the canal can withstand the future landslide in the long run.”

Kamal further said, “We could also leverage the budget received from the VDC along with the MSFP contribution for completing this work. Out of the total amount spent for the work, we received NPR 56,003 from the VDC.” He also said that they contributed in kind which is worth more than NPR 10,000.

The rehabilitation of the irrigation canal was completed in May and the CFUG members planted paddy in Dandakhet again using irrigation water again. It was thus, how they solved their long standing problem of seepage in the irrigation canal. They constructed a bypass water passage line using polythene pipes in the landslide area and also used bio-engineering means to prevent landslide from further extending and damaging the canal alignment. Now the beneficiaries feel that they solved their climate induced problem and helped improve their vital food production. The forest users are now much happier since they have succeeded in building resilience in their rice farming system; and now have moved on to more permanent and lucrative irrigation-based farming as opposed to rain-fed farming which always made them vulnerable to erratic weather.

### **Learning from the Case and Conclusion**

Participatory and systematic preparation of LAPA can generate high synergy and multiple benefits as demonstrated by this case study. Although the problem was related to agriculture, threat to the forest land was reduced by intervening the existing water management issue. Above all, the livelihood of the local population has improved through increased rice production. Also, since the farmers managed the irrigation system collectively, it has also helped build good resource governance that can benefit the CFUG management.



## CASE 2

# Adapting to Climate Change through Water Ponds in Kalika CFUG, Achham

### Case Background

The Kalika CF covering 193 hectares of forest area in Kuntibhandali VDC (now Mangalsen Municipality-1) was registered and handed over to 73 households in 2069 BS (2012 A.D)(see Figure 1 and 2 for social-ethnic composition).

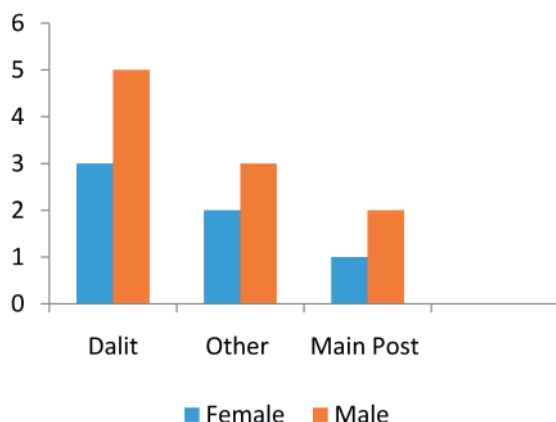


Figure 1: Socio-ethnic composition of CFUG Committee

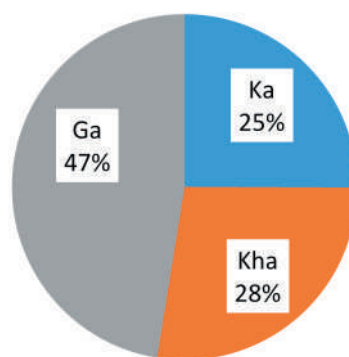


Figure 1: Well-being ranking of the group members

Most of residents of this village earn their livelihood from agricultural activities largely depending on rain-fed irrigation. During winter season most male youths move to India as seasonal migrant workers due to lack of localemployment

opportunity. Traditional agriculture farming is economically less productive and lack of technical skill and knowledge obstacles to engage these youths in other economically viable livelihood activities.

The low agriculture production is mainly due to limited water availability, which has forced the farmers to be highly monsoon rain dependent for sowing crop and planting. They have not been able to cultivate any winter vegetables, legumes, green vegetables, and other seasonal crops even to meet their household consumption needs due to depleted water storage pond and poor and leaky water distribution system of their traditional irrigation canal (Kulo). Moreover, the discharge/volume of water in springs and stream is decreasing gradually due to climate change.

### MSFP Intervention

With support from IDS-Nepal-MSFP, through the local implementing partner - MDO Nepal, the project team decided to assist the CFUG to plan and carry out an equivalent of community adaptation plan of action (CAPA). The community members discussed using participatory approach water scarcity issues, identified hazardous and vulnerable sites that are believed to be created by climate change related causes, and prioritized them for taking actions. During the CAPA preparation, they identified the decreasing natural water yield from the traditional natural sources as the major problem. Shortage of water is getting critical and becoming major factor causing climate vulnerability. To adapt to this situation, the community with the help of technical staff of the MSFP project decided to build water storage ponds which can collect the excess and used water from the drinking water tap and spring.



Figure 3(A): Irrigation pond



Figure 3(B): Kunti Dhara and irrigation pond

Moreover, the project team also decided to arrange and install some polythene pipes for better water distribution. MSFP provided NPR 100,000 for improving the water resources of the community based on the CAPA, whereas CFUG generated matching fund of NPR 150,000 from the Kuntibhandali VDC and also provided contribution in kind through voluntary labour worth around NPR 250,000. After implementing these measures, they have been able to access more water, which has been utilized to meet their small irrigation need such as watering vegetables and cash crops. The source of water tapped is from Kunti Dhara (water spout named after the legend Kunti).

## Case Results

More than 68 households, some beyond the CFUG members are benefiting from the implementation of the adaptation plan. The water storage system (Figure 3) provides irrigation for winter crops, vegetable crops including green vegetable, and legumes providing local people not only more nutritive diet but also opportunity for earning additional income.

However, this single storage system is not sufficient to meet the huge demand of the community. Besides, the water distribution system also needs further improved. Forest users alone cannot afford purchasing additional distribution pipes. The major need is to provide permanent irrigation system for major agricultural crops as rice and wheat that the small pond storage cannot meet. So far, the water users have been managing to meet their water needs by adopting rotational system of irrigation even for vegetables and other cash crops.

## Lessons Learned and Conclusion

Climate change is impacting water resources significantly in Achham. Agriculture production is affected thus putting more pressure on forests. To conserve forests, including community forest, MSFP has to invest in water resources protection and development schemes as illustrated by this case. Once critical water security of local community is met, ecological security and sustainable forest management will improve subsequently.

### CASE 3

## Climate Change Adaptation and Increased Income through Plastic Pond Construction in Saldanda CFUG, Achham

### Case Description

Saldanda CF was registered and handed over to the community in 2053 BS (1996 AD) and its OP was renewed in 2067 BS (2010 AD). The CFUG is located in Binayak VDC ward number 4 comprising 96 memberhouseholds, managing the forest for improving their forest based livelihoods. Figure 1 shows the ethnic composition of the executive committee and figure 2 shows the status of the forest users according to the well-being ranking.

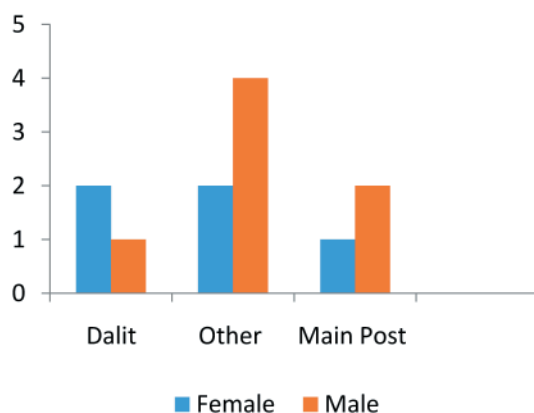


Figure 1: Socio-ethnic composition of Executive Committee

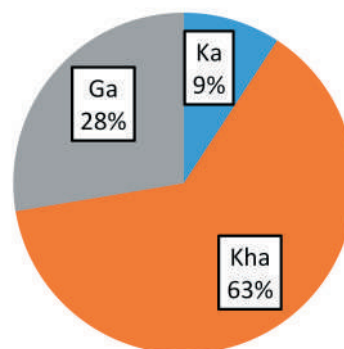


Figure 2: Wellbeing ranking of the CFUG members

The village youths - mostly male - migrate to India to work as seasonal migrant labourers, where they mostly engage in agricultural work of very low wages under very harsh conditions. The villagers experience chronic food shortages which has resulted in malnutrition conditions for majority of population. Therefore, the people in the district and the community as a whole suffer from low adaptive capacity to tackle with stress arising due to both the poverty and the climate change. The goal most of the forest users have set for themselves is strengthening their livelihoods by raising their income.

## MSFP Intervention

With the support of the MSFP, a plastic-lined pond was constructed for improving the water supply situation in the village. The aim of the initiative was to supply water for at least off-season vegetables and some cash crops cultivation. This was expected to help improve both the livelihoods of the user households and enhance their adaptive capacity. A financial assistance of NPR 18,000 was provided as part of the quick support activities (QIA) of the MSFP. Required labor work was contributed by the beneficiaries. The main costs were: plastic sheet NPR 8000, Pole and barbed wire NPR 6,000 and the wage of carpenter of NPR 4,000, totaling Rs. 20,000.



Figure 3: Farmers observing the plastic pond



Figure 4: One of the farmers in his vegetable farm

## Case Result

All together 12 households have benefited through the project intervention. The plastic pond has significantly decreased water seepage as compared to the traditional type of pond thus retaining the water for HHs use over a longer period. Most of the farmers are utilizing the pond water for irrigation of their winter crops especially off-season vegetables, legumes, and other cash crops. All the farmers are now increasing the size of their vegetable farm and some farmers have



constructed polythene tunnels to enhance their vegetable production.

## Case Learning

Mr. Jaga Bahadur Shahi (46) has been involved in vegetable farming for a considerable time. “This pond makes it easier for winter and dry season vegetable farming. He expresses, “I have earned around NPR 28,000 from vegetable farming in autumn which would not have been possible without the construction of the plastic pond”. He further added, “I have planned to cultivate vegetables over a larger area in coming winter.”

Ms. Santidevi Shahi, a women farmer is happy with the MSFP supported irrigation facility which is providing water both during winter and dry seasons. Similarly, Mr. Chatra Bahadur Shahi and Mr. Dabal Bahadur Shahi have been planting green vegetables such as cauliflower, potato, tomato, legumes in their newly constructed plastic tunnels. They however are not able to manage sufficient water for irrigating crops due to inadequate pipes for channeling water to their farms. The farmers are facing problems because of limited market access and low for selling price for their production. However, they are hopeful that during dry season with irrigation facility provided by the plastic pond, they will be able to increase the overall yield from their vegetable farms and crops fields.

## Conclusion

One of the best strategies and approaches of CCA is to improve water supply in the villages. This helps improve the HH income of the farming community, and will also help diversify livelihood means, reducing climate vulnerability and enhancing adaptive capacity.

## CASE 4

# CAPA Implementation in Rileti CFUG, Bajhang

Rileti CF covers 10.25 ha of forest area and is located in Banjh VDC ward no. 7 and 8 of Bajhang district that lies in about 50 km away from the DHQ Chainpur. It was registered and handed over in 2053 BS (1996 A.D). The OP was not revised before MSFP started in the district. Figure 1 and 2 below illustrate the ethnic composition of the executive committee and well-being ranking of the forest user group.

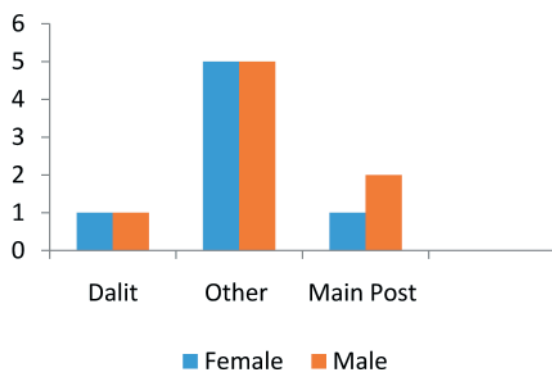


Figure 1: Socio-ethnic composition of Executive Committee

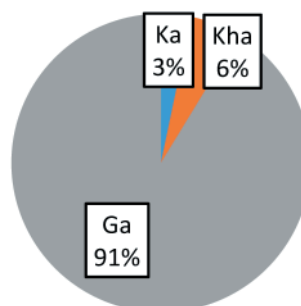


Figure 2: Wellbeing ranking of the CFUG members

The climate of the region is temperate. Most people of this VDC are farmers. The youths are involved in agricultural activities in their land for 6 months and for remaining six months of lean agriculture season monthsmigrate as seasonal workers to India.

The villagers have been experiencing increased in irregular rainfall pattern, increase incidence of pest and disease in agriculture crops along with decrease in overall agricultural production.

To cope with growing weather related problems, CFUG members and community leaders decided to prepare Community based Adaptation Plans (CAPA), putting it in high priority in the lastvillage general assembly meeting (Figure The villagers identified lack of drinking water as a major problem increasing communities vulnerability. As illustrated by Kaushila Malla, an active women CFUG member: “This is because local people had to drink water from open source which is both unsafe and unreliable. The same water is being used by people, animals, including pets. The same water is also used for toilets making it totally unhealthy.”

### MSFP Intervention

The CFUG approached the IDS-MSFP team for support. Therefore the project facilitated the process technically and financially with assistance of NPR 443,876. The project first helped in revising the OP of the CFUG through mobilizing the LRP team. Additionally DDC Bajhang co-funded OP revision and CAPA preparation with financial assistance of NPR 75,000 in addition community contributed NPR 75,134 in kind.

The fund was used mainly to implement CAPA identified priority activities such as rehabilitating community drinking water facility including following cost iteams; construction of a storage tank, laying down of water supply pipes and construction of 7 taps.



Figure 3: Meeting for Prioritizing the CAP in Banjh



Figure 4: Farmers managing yard and vegetable farm in their farmyard

## Case Results

Altogether, 21 households (HHs), students, teachers of a high school and adjoining residents have been benefiting through clean tap water supply at convenient places.

Ms. Kaushila, a beneficiary illustrated, “Now water flows 24 hours from the taps. This has saved time and drudgery of women so that women like me can have time to spend in other activities, like starting vegetable farming using waste water from the taps (Figure 4). Most importantly though, my family and neighborhood have increased access to healthy drinking water.”

## Case Learning and Conclusion

The most universally and critically affected basic needs by climate change is water and intervening in providing first assured drinking water improves environment for sustainable forest management. Moreover utilizing saved time women can devote more time to protect and manage their community forest that contributes to climate change adaptation, for spending on alternate means of livelihood helpful to build HH and community resilience to climate change.

## CASE 5

# Local Adaptation and Resilience Through Safe Drinking Water, Bannatoli VDC, Achham

### Case Description

Ghogeran CF covers 125 hectare of forest located in consisting 15 member households, located 15 kms further from Bannatoli VDC ward nos. 8 and 9 from Mangalsen with a motorable road link. The CFUG was registered and handed over in 2053 BS and the OP was renewed in 2065 BS. The committee composition and the well-being ranking of the group are shown in Figure 1 and 2 respectively.

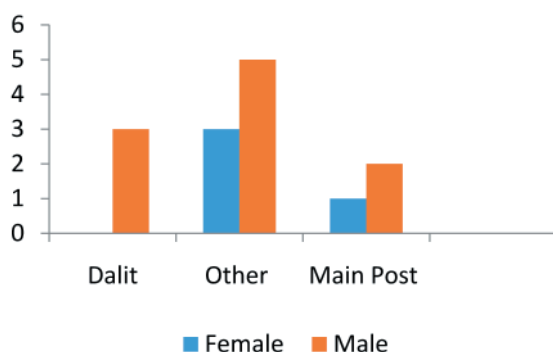


Figure 1: Socio-ethnic composition of Executive Committee

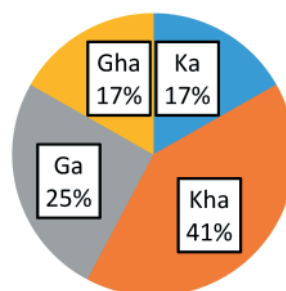


Figure 2: Wellbeing ranking of the CFUG members

Most of the people are involved in agricultural activities and most of them do not have access to economically gainful activities. Around 42% of the HH who are classified as ultra poor cannot pay any attention to any interventions that are

not related to meet their basic needs i.e. sanitation, safety, hygiene are not their priority. Furthermore, the women have daily drudgery of traveling long distance to fetch drinking water. Although sanitation might be the cause of economic deprivation, poor family health status, and low capacity to access available services, the villagers feel most deprived and disadvantage due to inaccessibility to safe and adequate drinking water. Climate change has negatively impacted on both the amount of duration of water from the natural springs. Therefore, the villagers have further difficulties to maintain whatever the supply of water they used to have in the past. As a result both humans and livestock are facing water shortages. Local people narrate how the volume of spring water has been decreasing during dry season in recent years causing severe water shortage.

### MSFP Intervention

Bhawarathi Drinking Water Project was selected as climate adaptation plan activity (CAPA) by the IDS-MSFP team and was implemented through the local partner RUDEC Nepal. The project supported construction and installation of 3 intakes and 8 taps to constitute a drinking water scheme. Out of the total cost of installation, the MSFP provided NPR 9,866,540 and an equivalent of NPR 409,321 was contributed in the form of voluntary labour and expertise by local beneficiaries.



Figure 3: CFUG meeting for preparing climate adaptation plan



Figure 4: Ms. Jamara Shahi and villagers in the newly constructed tap

**Case Benefit:** Altogether 78 households have been benefited by this safe and reliable drinking water supply that has helped improve health, livelihoods and vegetable and some food production in the village.

Ms. Indrasara Shahi (40) is happy with this scheme, otherwise she must pay 10 to 15 minute for water collection. They have felt the numbers of incidence of disease have been reduced. Moreover, water from taps can utilized for off

season vegetable farming. Ms. Jamara Shahi (55) expressed her happiness to project because it provides multiple benefits i.e. safe drinking water, less time to collect drinking water and off-season vegetable farming. Ms. Dhanasara Shahi (18) read in secondary level has more time for reading due to less attention to water collection.

Another farmer Mr. Lal Bahadur Shahi cultivated cauliflower, onion, legumes and other winter vegetables using tap water. Thus this safe drinking water scheme is not only for the purpose of safe drinking water, it also provides the irrigation for off-season vegetable farming for winter and dry season.

### **Lesson Learned and Conclusion**

Addressing the most urgent need and linking it to climate change adaptation plan is one of the ideal approaches of getting multiple benefits from single activity. This project has created synergy benefiting to both climate change adaptation and environment conservation.



## CASE 6

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# Pollution Free Houses with Improved Cook Stove (ICS) in Marku VDC, Achham

### Case Description

Marku VDC lies in western part of Achham along the Lamki-Safebagar road that originates in the Tarai plains. Most of the households are involved in agricultural activities. Most of the farmers have small landholdings and they do not have other employment opportunities locally. Hence seasonally migrating to India during off season of their agricultural activity is a routine practice. Almost all HHs use traditional cooking stoves (Figure 1) which consume more fuelwood and cause indoor pollution adding another health hazard.

### MSFP Intervention

In order to improve energy efficiency and reduce both indoor air pollution and more carbon emission, a joint project was launched with the support of the MSFP/IDS-Nepal and Agriculture, Forest and Environment Committee (AFEC), Marku VDC to implement improved cook stove (ICS) in the VDC to make it pollution free. The ICS is designed to improve the combustion efficiency of biomass by consuming less fuelwood and generating less smoke. It saves time, is convenient for cooking with a smoke-free environment in the kitchen.

The MSFP provided a financial assistance of NPR 647,000 for the project implementation managed by the AFEC Marku. The money was spent to conduct training of skilled technicians to install the ICS units which involved doing both



Figure 1: Traditional cooks stoves



Figure 2: Demonstrated ICS in Marku VDC office

masonry and mechanical work such as fitting of the burner (Figure 2). The role of IDS/MSFP team was that of coordinating and supervising.

A VDC level committee was formed to supervise the program implementation. The committee comprises representative members from all the wards of the VDC representing all socio-economic groups. A ward level coordination and monitoring committee was also formed for successful implementation of the program.



Figure 3: Ms. Bishna Bhul with newly constructed ICS

## Results

Initially 22 people were trained for construction of prototype ICS units. Then the project mobilized people in each ward for construction of ICS for all the households. About 45 ICS units were installed during the training out of the total target figure of 400 install ICS in the village (Figure 3). However due to the high popularity of the ICS among women, 500 ICSs were installed. The VDC was then formally declared as the Indoor Smoke free Marku VDC on 2071/11/04.

One of the beneficiaries is a HIV positive Dalit person who lives with his other 4 family members in Marku-4 Duwadi hamlet. Before the project, his family used to travel 1 to 2 hours daily for fuel wood collection. The ICS has reduced the fuel wood consumption and hence collection frequency of fuel wood thus providing much needed relief to the vulnerable family. Ms. Bishna Bhul's family is another marginalized beneficiary who has got the ICS installed in her house. She says ICS makes it easy to cook and also smoke free so that she can stay in the kitchen during cooking.

## Lessons Learned

The community's spirit of collective action has played a very positive role and motivated each and every HH to implement the program. Now people of Marku are happy with the MSFP project as it has addressed their basic need. The women of Marku are particularly happy since they can now cook in smoke free kitchen, children can read in the kitchen and they do not have to spend as much time to collect fuel wood. Moreover the ICS consuming less fuelwood save trees and promote forest conservation.

It would be interesting to study the efficacy and efficiency of ICS on a long term basis particularly its long-term use by the village women since maintenance is a key issue. Some of the families consider their traditional cook stoves better as they radiate more heat when family members sit around during winter season. Another additional burden is the need to regularly clear carbon shoot from the inner sides of chimney for the best run of ICS. Therefore, it is felt that the ICS users need to be further made aware of the fact advantages and disadvantages of traditional cook stoves as well as ICS in which case the ICS certainly with technology adaptation will sustain Marku as the indoor smoke free VDC for a long time.

## Conclusion

Introducing new technology is always a difficult task. In Marku, due to the overwhelming interest of the villagers, the 500 ICS units were installed to make the VDC smoke free. It was an ambitious venture that will need sustained awareness raising and support since the eventual goal is to achieve improved quality of forests benefitting both the Marku community and the environment of the region.

## CASE 7

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# Multiple Benefits of Rehabilitating A Local Irrigation Canal in Jannalibhandali, Achham

### Case Description

Janalibhandali VDC (now Mangalsen Municipality ward 7 and 8) have 5 CFUGs and 10 LHFUGs. Most of residents of these villages are involved in agricultural activities. Similarly, most of male youths go to India as seasonal workers during lean agriculture season mainly during winter. Most of farmers depend on rain for growing crops in uplands (Pakho lands). However, the downstream communities have permanent irrigation facility from the stream flowing in their farm areas.

However, in recent years, monsoon rainfall events are becoming more erratic and severe. The farmers of Janalibhandali village (of about 43 households) have lost their irrigation facility (Latejhar irrigation canal) during the monsoon floods of 2062 BS that had caused a heavy landslide. The villagers could not rehabilitate it because of higher financial and technical capacity which they did not have. Then they were forced to depend on monsoon rains to irrigate their rice field (Khet) specially had to wait for peak monsoonal rain for rice planting. Due to unreliability of rains, most of the rice fields were converted to rainfed (Bari) land where the farmers cultivated finger millet, legumes and other drought resistant crops. One monsoon event affected the food security situation of the village worse than before.

## MSFP Intervention

The MSFP/IDS-Nepal and its local partner (LIPO) MDO, Nepal selected Janalibhandali VDC for LAPA preparation and implementation. The MSFP supported the technical and financial needs of the LAPA preparation work and the MDO did the awareness building and social mobilization work in the VDC starting with ward level sensitization in all wards of the VDC. The areas and vulnerable communities were selected through VDC level interaction with the participation of representation from all wards. The participants identified the afore-mentioned irrigated agriculture land as the most affected and climate vulnerable area as most of peoples' livelihoodswas supported by the irrigated agriculture. Based on the participatory vulnerability assessment and prioritization process, Latejhar Irrigation canal got most prioritized based on the criteria such as the high number of HHs affected, cost effectiveness, sustainability.



Figure 1(A): Rice field after the maintenance of the irrigation system



Figure 1(B): Ghatta house which will be operated from the discharge water from the irrigation canal

Latejhar LHFUG played coordinating and implementing role of the project. Polythene pipes were installed over the landslide affected section of the canal alignment for which financial assistances came from MSFP (NPR 100,000), Hub-Dadeldhura (NPR 50,000) and Janalibhandali VDC (NPR 30,000). Required labor inputs and work mobilization came from the beneficiary households. The rehabilitation work was successfully completed and now the villagers can cultivate wetland rice on their traditional schedule. They have already harvested one season of good rice crop using the water from the rehabilitated irrigation canal (Figure 1). Additionally, now they have also started winter vegetable farming giving them additional income.

In addition to the irrigation support, the MDO-Nepal also facilitated to install a water mill (paniGhatta (with support from the DFO, Achham). They have installed the Ghatta, utilizing the water flow (discharge) from the irrigation canal. This has provided the much needed support service for grinding and milling of food grains at low cost with thin the village. Prior to this the villagers had to take their grains to other mills run on diesel which is not an environmental friendly technology. Moreover, the water mill has provided additional employment opportunity to the local people who have taken over the operation responsibility of Ghatta under the management of the LHFUG committee. The Ghatta operation guidelines is under discussion among LHFUG.

### **Case Learning and Conclusion**

Increasingly erratic and intense rainfall events are creating more physical hazards inducing disasters that are threatening local infrastructure in the villages in Achham as elsewhere in the Far west Nepal. The sudden destruction of canal affected the whole agricultural system. The farmers of this area do not have technological skills and modern resources such as polythene pipes. They also have poor access to market, and technical knowledge for practicing improved and climate resilient agriculture. The case of rehabilitating and improving irrigation canal provides multiple benefits to enhance their farming system as well as run Ghatta for their food grain processing. Thus these types of adaptation activities enhance both livelihood and adaptive capacity of local people.



## CASE 8

# Participatory Capa Implementation in Rilu VDC, Bajhang

### Case Description

Rikhali CF in Rilu VDC - located in eastern part of Bajhang district covers 22.43 ha of forest area. The total number user HHs are 87 and most of them belong to very poor category (66%) (The CF was registered and handed over in 2060 BS. The OP was not renewed before MSFP intervention. Most of residences of this VDC are farmers engaged in subsistence agriculture producing mainly cereals that barely provides food sufficient for not more than 6 months forcing them to do seasonal migration for work in India and in recent years seek overseas employment.

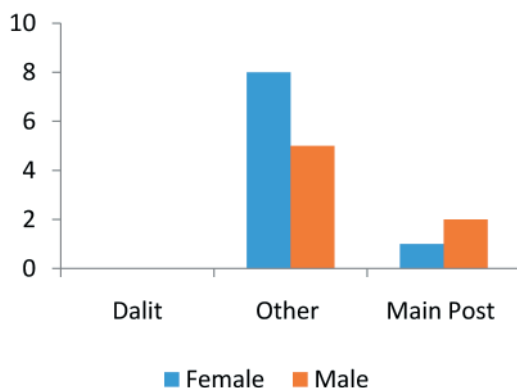


Figure 1: Socio-ethnic composition of Executive Committee

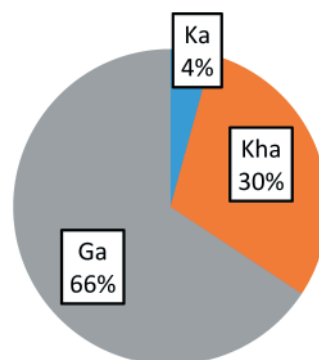


Figure 2: Wellbeing ranking of the CFUG members

Most of the people of this village are aware of the changes in weather, especially rainfall pattern, increase in the incidences of pests and diseases in agricultural crops and decrease in overall agricultural production. Most of the agricultural activities are dependent on monsoon rainwater that is not only getting more uncertain but also scarce. The farmers are dependent on peak monsoon season for rice cultivation that in recent years either comes too early or too late. The existing irrigational canal does not supply adequate water to meet farmers' irrigation need in their rice farms. The old irrigation system suffers from leakages at several places. The Panyalo/Padalo section where a wooden log with linear cavity has been used to transport water over the gully has been leaking due to decaying and damages suffered due to both natural and human induced causes (Figure 3a). This has caused irregularity in amount and duration of water supply affecting their small farm agriculture. Therefore, system failure and water shortage to maintain their subsistence farming is identified as their most urgent and immediate priority work.

### MSFP Intervention

The village leaders therefore approached MSFP and sought help. The MSFP-IDS team suggested preparation of Community based Adaptation Plan (CAPA) which can address the water shortage as well as other issues faced by the village. The villagers were assisted in doing vulnerability analysis of the village resources and people and prioritization was done in the general assembly meeting of the CFUG users and community leaders. The upgrading of irrigation canal got prioritized in the implementation of CAPA. The MSFP provided a support of NPR 345,772 and the villagers provided free labour on a volunteer basis whose value is estimated around NPR 94,450. The MSFP finance was utilized for procurement



Figure 3(A): Decayed Panyalo, before intervention



Figure 3(B): Pipe armored with iron wire and RCC structure, after intervention

and laying down of 30 meter long 300 mm of polythene pipe in a dug up channel. The polythene pipe was supported by reinforced concrete cement (RCC) pillar and armored by iron rope (Figure 3b).

## Case Results

About 70 HHs from 3 wards of Riluv VDC benefited from this CAPA implementation project. The major work of which was the installation of polythene pipe to transport water from the landslide affected area, assuring supply in all seasons. The immediate benefit the farmers enjoyed was that unlike before, this year they did not have to wait for peak monsoon rain for rice planting. Moreover, farmers have started cultivating vegetables in their upland fields and homesteads. “We had been facing difficulties due to changing weather since long. MSFP helped us to meet our critical need, we are happy.” said Mr. Nandalal Bohora, a member of Rikhal CFUG. “Now I am planning to start vegetable farming” said another farmer Mr. Dev Bahadur Bohora.

## CHAPTER 3

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# SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

The aim of MSFP is to promote community-based forest management by providing improved livelihoods and income generating opportunities as socio-economic incentives to ultimately achieve sustainable forest management or SFM. As a part of the SFM, increase the area of forest managed by community groups as well as improved quality of forests are aimed.

The major problem in moving toward achieving SFM in MSFP Lot VI areas was the existence of large number of unrevised and re-registered community forests (CFs). Furthermore, there was comparatively low implementation of major provisions of the Community Forestry Guidelines in CFUGs including recent guidelines of considering the impacts of climate and environmental change while revising the OPs.

After the implementation of the MSFP by IDS-Nepal team, 68 social local resource persons (LRPs) were trained and mobilized to provide hands-on support to LFGs and CFUGs on good governance, social inclusion and forest management activities. Around 500 LFGs from the MSFP covered VDCs were provided intensive awareness raising, social mobilization, and training supports in order to help them better plan, manage and govern their CFs. The awareness building and social mobilization support also covered LFG training them on their OP revision and public auditing processes. Most of the LFGs carried out public audits in programme focused VDCs. Gender, Poverty and Social Inclusion (GPSI) approach was also introduced to the LFGs to increase women and DAG representation in forest management committees and to make SFM practices more equitable ensuring fair distribution of forest products harvested from the CFs.

The preliminary results show that women's representation in CFUG management committee has increased from 9 % to 19 %. The LRPs have been working with LFGs and technically supporting them to plan and implement sustainable forest management and climate change adaptation activities together. Altogether, 400 LFGs have carried out SFM activities (mainly silviculture and timber stand improvement operations) that has increased availability and use of forest products (timber, firewood, fodder and leaf litter) to the forest users. 9 LFGs have also initiated preparatory works on Payment for Ecosystem Services. So far, 84 CFUGs have revised their operational plan incorporating climate adaption activities. The CFOP revision and formation of new CFUGs being one of the major interventions of the program, necessary changes as per the Community Forestry Guidelines have been ensured. The case studies described below provide detail of some of the successful examples of SFM.

## CASE 9

# *Amriso and Alainchi* Plantation in Leasehold Forest, Dailekh

### Case Description

Goganpani Leasehold Forest (LHF) (5.2 ha) was handed over to 15 ultra-poor household (HH) of Narayan municipality-2, Dailekh in 2003 where 67% households are Dalits (Damai). The average annual income of each household in 2003 was less than NPR 12,000 and had no or negligible land ownership.

The LHF households were selected with the help of the DFO, Dailekh who had identified the poor, disadvantaged and marginalized HH from lowest economic strata of the community. *Uttis, Rittha, Lapsi, Bamboo, Kaulo, Malayagiri* have been planted and the natural species like *Mayal, Tooni, Jamun, Camun, Gurans* and *Teju* have been considerably reduced.

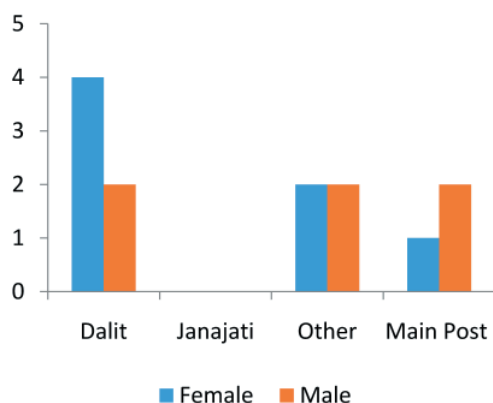


Figure 1: Socio-ethnic composition of Executive Committee

The LHF group has been getting technical advice and support from different organizations since its establishment in 2003. Based on the technical assistance from DAO and DFO, users grafted the pear branches in Mayal trees. Though around 10 quintal of pear and 50 kg of Rittha are produced every year, there is market problem to get good benefits from these non-timber products.

## The Key Issues

Looking for better options, the farmers considered the cultivation of Rough Orange in private land that seemed attractive as some of the members from LHFG (such as Suresh Kumar Thapa) have been making good earnings from its cultivation. One single tree produces around 500 pieces of Rough Orange that can easily be sold at the rate of 10 per piece. However, its cultivation in LHF area seems controversial decision among the users since it might not be as per the conditions of the lease. This forced the LHFG to look for other options. Malayagiri is an economically valuable tree that has been planted in some area of the forest. Its extension to the remaining area of the forest seems technically difficult because some of the LHF area is more appropriate for commercially more potential species such as Cardamom (*Alainchi*) and broom grass (*Amriso*).

Also, the LHF area is the nearest place of bamboo forest from Narayan municipality – the district HQ. Therefore, bamboo was agreed to be the high value NTFP for the local market as building construction is increasing day by day in the municipality. The group felt that the bamboo plantation in some of the area of LHF for generating money in short period is feasible. However, proper alignment with other species to improve forest biodiversity should also be considered to minimize the shading problem on undergrowths.

## MSFP Interventions

The LHF group approached the IDS-Nepal and requested the support under the MSFP. IDS-Nepal in partnership with Everest Club, Dailekh supported the group for cultivation of broom grass (*Amriso*) and Cardamom (*Alainchi*) plantation in the LHF area under the MSFP. A total of 6500 *Amriso* and 5000 *Alainchi* saplings were planted in 2014. Though the plantation was initially supported for income generation purpose only, users took it as a venture to generate multiple benefits. They found out that in the area where the success of plantation of other species was proving difficult can be brought under greenery within two to three years by planting broom grass and *Alainchi*. The users can generate additional benefits by selling brooms made from *Amriso* (present rate in local market is NPR 50 per



broom) and *Alainchi* (*Cardamom*) (present rate in local market is NPR 350 per kg). The mortality percentage of the broom grass and alainchi plantation is hardly around two percent. The success of the plantation has been associated not only to the technical appropriateness of the site but also to the social unity of the group. The group members banned the free grazing and collectively carried out post-plantation care. Today each member of the LHF group is benefitting from the Broom grass and Alainchi plantation and their family's livelihoods are much improved.



Figure 2(A): Alainchi in Goganpani LHF planted in 2014



Figure 2(B): Amriso in Goganpani LHF planted in 2014

## Conclusion and Learning

Extensive plantation of appropriately selected NTFPs in other LHF and CF groups focusing on ultra-poor and poor households could not only enhance the use of under-utilized crops but also rehabilitate degraded forest land management by local forestry groups. Furthermore, collection of the non-timber forest products at local level involving local cooperative can promote export of these undervalued products to outside markets. This could help generate additional benefits to local people and improved livelihoods of poor forest users. This case study shows how right kind of forestry-based livelihood strategy and approaches can generate synergy and multiple outcomes.

## CASE 10

# Packaging and Bundling Approach of Resources for Targeting Household Clusters in Kuntakhola CFUG, Dailekh

### Case Description and Key Issues

Kuntakhola CFUG is located in Narayan Municipality Ward no. 9 in Dailekh district. The CF was handed over in 2052 BS to 57 household members organized into the CFUG. According to well-being ranking (see in figure 2) of the user group, 44% households are from 'Ga' category. 10%, 43% and 47% households are from Dalit, Janajati and Kchetri-Brahmin communities respectively. The major issues affecting the CFUG members and their forest are: high unemployment forcing youth to migrate to India and overseas countries, increasing threats of flash flood and landslide to the forest, and growing impacts of climate change on both.

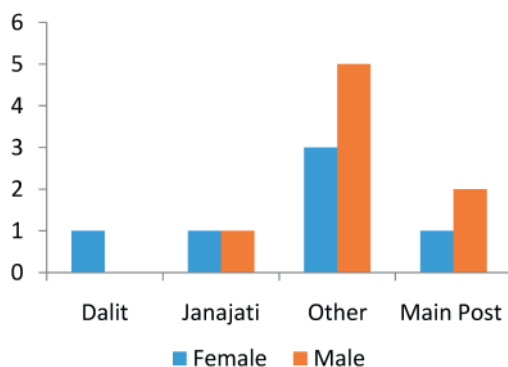


Figure 1: Socio-ethnic composition of Executive Committee

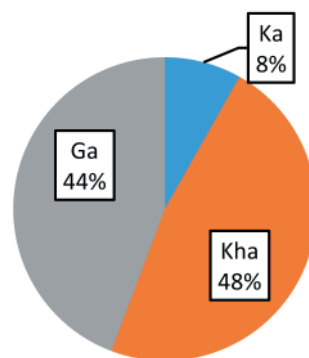


Figure 1: Wellbeing ranking of the CFUG members

The CFUG was running on a 'business-as-usual' model before the support provided by the MSFP and implementation and coordination facilitated by IDS-Nepal. The forest was conserved before the MSFP intervention but the community was not aware about the sustainable utilization approaches of the forest resources partly created by the CFUG members, forest-based livelihood activities for pro-poor CFUG members, enterprise development, forest management, institutional development, follow up of OP and constitution revision, and plantation in degraded area CF areas.

## Key Interventions

### (a) Goat and Pig Farming

After the initiation of the MSFP programme and IDS coordinated implementation work in 2013, the CFUG established the IGA revolving fund of NPR 105,000 wherein the contribution of MSFP, CFUG and users was NPR 90,000, NPR 10,000 and NPR 5,000 respectively. The fund was established to support pro-poor members of the CFUG identified through the well-being ranking of CFUG members. Accordingly, 10 poor members were given low-interest (6%) loan to start small business enterprises such as pig and goat farming as livelihood improvement activities. They earned good income from the IGA activities and were able to return the loan amount with the interest to the CFUG after an year only and the CFUG again distributed the amount to next 10 pro-poor households.



Figure 3(A): Goat farming in Kuntakhola



Figure 3(A): Pig farming in Kuntakhola

### (b) Amriso (Broom Grass) Plantation

The degraded area of the forest affected by the river flood was selected for biological rehabilitation since it was posing threat of flash flood and landslide to the CF. CFUG therefore approached and requested for the MSFP/IDS-Nepal support in

planting Amriso (broom grass) plantation in the area. More than 3000 Amriso plants were acquired and planted by the CFUG through the MSFP supported activity. The community has been actively participating both in the plantation and protection activities since 2012. The total cost of the activity was NPR 24,000 out of which NPR 16,000 was supported by the program and NPR 8,000 was contributed by the CFUG in terms of in-kind contribution. After 2 years, the degraded area has become green, the threat of soil erosion has been reduced and the plantation has matured producing brooms that are supporting the livelihoods of the community. In 2014 along, 400 kg of brooms were produced by the CFUG. Each broom weighing half a kg was sold at the rate of NPR 60. The net profit earned by the CFUG is NPR 6,000 after deducting the cost of NPR 6,000.



Figure 4: Broom Grass Plantation in Kuntakhola



Figure 5: Furniture enterprise in Kuntakhola

### (c) Furniture Enterprise Development

Being a Sal dominant forest, the condition of forest is considered good with ample opportunity for furniture enterprise development. The CFUG had traditional carpentry skills but the interested members were not able to design and manufacture furniture to be able to compete in the local market. Therefore the CFUG requested MSFP for necessary support for the establishment and operation of the furniture enterprise and skill development training. The IDS-Nepal agreed to support their request and skill development training was provided in 2014.

### Case Result

The registration of the enterprise, procurement of necessary materials, machineries and equipment required for the enterprise establishment was arranged by the MSFP/IDS-Nepal team. The total cost of the program was NPR 210,050; out of the MSFP/IDS-Nepal provided NPR 186,050 through Everest Club. The CFUG's

support was NPR 17,000 and entrepreneurs' contribution was NPR 7,000. One of the CFUG members Om prakash Gautam also got an opportunity to get bee hives making training organized by MSFP/IDS-Nepal at Surkhet that helped him to start off another vocation.

The Furniture Enterprise group feels that the enterprise has helped develop self-esteem and confidence in them to improve their own livelihood as well as conserve their forest. In the words of Dharma Raj Thapa, one of the entrepreneurs among the seven: "Now due to availability of employment opportunities in our own village itself, all the seven members including myself are free of the forced burden of seasonally migrating to India for supplementary income". He also says that "since the MSFP is the program aimed to improve the condition of forest and forest users, we have learned not only the utilization of forest product for the enterprise development but also the conservation of the forest". He further adds, "We do not exceed the limit fixed in our OP in the form of Annual Allowable Cut" while harvesting the timber. The furniture enterprise registered in the name of "Hamro Furniture Udhog", also produced and supplied 25 bee hives worth NPR 75, 000.

Now the forest user group is planning for the establishment of multipurpose pig farming and poultry farming with support of MSFP/IDS-Nepal through the help of a local Everest Club. The estimated budget of the activity is NPR 800,000 out of which the support from the program will be NPR 650,000 and CFUG members' contribution NPR 150,000. Also 4 farmers are starting off-season vegetable farming by raising polythene houses - also with the joint support of MSFP and CFUGs' own investment.

## Learning and Conclusion

Through these package form livelihood approaches, the CFUG has become more active, responsible and multi-functional. The CFUG has been getting increasing support from the DFO. Recently, the DFO Dailekh conducted scientific method of thinning and pruning in the CFUG. Mr. Dhal Bahadur Thapa, Chairperson of the CFUG says: "my dream of conservation of forest, sustainable utilization of forest products, livelihood improvement and overall social and economic development of the society may come true through our joint work". It can be concluded that focused and bundled approach of conservation and development can generate multiple benefits which perhaps contributes to multiple outcomes desired by the MSFP.

## CASE 11

# Institutionalized Social Auditing in Liti-Salleri CFUG, Achham

### Case Background Description

Liti-Salleri CFUG in Binayak VDC Ward no. 1 covers 19 ha of forest with 134 HHs members. The CFUG was registered and handed over in 2052 BS and renewed in 2065 BS. The CFUG committee used to manage the finance and forest in a non-transparent manner and the general users were in the dark about the affairs of their committee affairs. The composition of the executive committee and the information of the latest well-being ranking is as shown in figure 1 and 2 respectively.

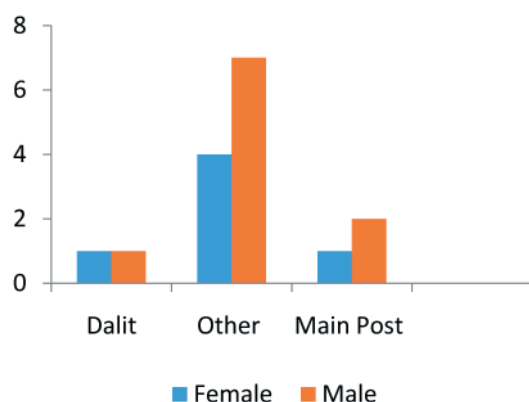


Figure 1: Socio-ethnic composition of Executive Committee

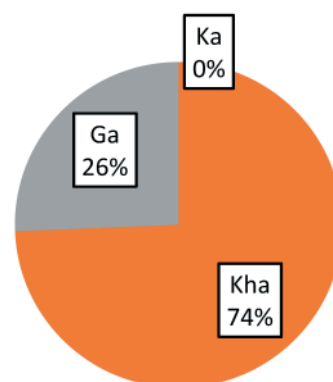


Figure 2: Wellbeing ranking of the CFUG members



## MSFP/IDS Intervention

After the IDS team started its work, the CFUG is now becoming more transparent in their financial and management activities. In the influence of the MSFP good governance related activities is spreading in other forest user groups also i.e. 11 CFUGs and 6 LFGs that lie in Binayak VDC. After MSFP's social mobilization, the CFUG has started realizing that the community or lease hold forests are for the betterment of the members and general public. The forest users are happy and motivated in participating in different social mobilization activities that have been extensively promoted as an approach for pursuing improved forest conservation and livelihood oriented management.

## Case Results

The participation of general users has particularly increased in community reflection and self-evaluation. The knowledge about CF area categorization and participatory well-being ranking indicating the level of good-governance, transparency, self-governance and accountability has been enhanced. The effect is better understanding and articulation of the concept and practice of sustainable forest management (SFM).



Figure 3: Users sit together for the social auditing in Liti-Salleri CFUG



The CFUG members have now started social auditing of each and every transaction and expenditure of CFUG. Liti-Salleri CFUG, Binayak, has established social auditing as a compulsory task for each and every activity. Chandra Devi Dhami, one of the users who have received MSFP support for IGA, said that this is due to the social mobilization training provided by RUDEC, a local implementing partner. She has particularly appreciated the knowledge and skill transferred by one social mobilizer: Prem Prasad Khanal which has helped her improve her role in the CFUG management. Prior to the MSFP/IDS-Nepal program, the community had never been exposed with such activities although a number of NGOs and INGOs work in the district. But they did not initiate such activities which MMs. Dhami feels is a must to achieve SFM. The forest The CFUG members of not only the Liti Salleri but also other neighbouring CFUGs are now better aware and skilled in assessing the good governance quality of their forest committees and due to the MSFP/IDS intervention, they are now better able to account and monitor the financial transaction that are carried out by their respective CFUG executive committees that are assigned to manage the CFUGs in an equitable, transparent, and sustainable manner.

### **Key Learning**

Sustainable forest management of the CF is possible only if good forest governance activities are first carried out in a qualitative manner as was done in Liti Salleri CFUG by the MSFP. In fact good social mobilization, targeting of poor and marginalized groups and poor forest areas for improvement can give both livelihoods and SFM benefits.

## CASE 12

# Achieving Good Governance through Increased Women's Participation in CFUG Management, Achham

### Case Description

Thulagairah community forest (CF) with an area of 125.43 ha and 147 household members is located in Malatikot VDC ward no. 9. The CFUG has been managing the CF since 2053 BS. Though the CFOP expired in 2058, it was not revised due to lack of funds before the MSFP intervention. The composition of the executive committee and the information of well-being ranking of the CFUG members is shown in Figures 1 and 2 respectively. The figures show that almost 3/4th of the members belong poor and ultra-poor groups.

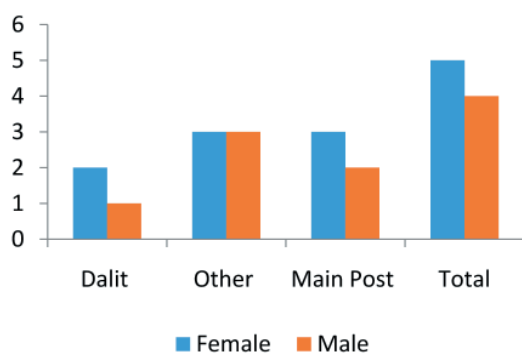


Figure 1: Socio-ethnic composition of Executive Committee

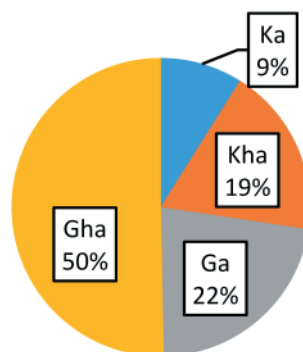


Figure 2: Wellbeing ranking of the CFUG members

## Poor Governance Problem in the CFUG

The CFUG members came to know that some of the former executive members misused the CFUG fund of NPR 45,000 for personal benefits. They were reluctant to accept their wrong doing and return the mis-used amount. This was one of the main issues CFUG members wanted to address. In the meantime, the CFOP expired but he concerned DFO expressed his inability to provide any support. The old constitution of the CFUG had no provision of women's compulsory participation in the executive committee of the CFUG. The existing committee was dysfunctional.

## MSFP Intervention

The CFUG approach the MSFP-IDS team for help. The Project decided to include this CFUG for OP revision and social mobilization. The social mobilizers hired conducted series of meetings of the general assembly and discussed with the major issues the users were facing. It was then decided that the LRPs were needed to mobilize all the users' participation and carry out the revision of the CFOP.

## Case Result

The OP was prepared in a participatory manner and has been approved by the DFO. The forest users modified the old constitution and made it mandatory to have women's inclusion in the Executive Committee as per the CF guidelines that stipulate that in the CFUG management committee, either the post of the president or secretary must be occupied by women member.

After the approval of OP and the constitution amendment, the newly elected committee members, especially women raised their voice for reclaiming the money that was misused by ex-members. After a series of discussions and interactions with the ex-committee members, they were successful in getting the misused amount recovered to the CFUG account. The reclaimed amount is being used as the revolving fund and distributed to the four poorest households for carrying out income generation activities.

Moreover, the CFUG has become more functional in all areas of SFM as the result of integrated social mobilization covering different aspects such as participatory governance, self-evaluation, sustainable forest management techniques, transparency, self-discipline and accountability. Additionally, the CFUG has started saving and credit scheme on its own and has started to provide the low-



Figure 3: Women participation in newly elected committee meeting

interest rate loan to the poor and needy households within the community. The main theme of the community is “Save Today for Prestigious Tomorrow”.

The good governance example demonstrated by the newly elected Thulgaira user committee has some positive effects to neighboring CFUGs also. The Hariyali Laligurans CFUG in Dhakari VDC ward no. 2 was also able to reclaim the misused amount of NPR 30,000 along with the interest (24%) after 11 years. This was made possible through the quality social mobilization and facilitation work conducted by the local partner MDO-Nepal engaged by the MSFP-IDS team.

## Learning and Conclusion

Empowerment through right kind of social mobilization, knowledge and skills is critical to make forest users ware of her/his rights and responsibility. Awareness about the CF guidelines helped the users use democratic processes and procedures to raise their voice, participate in decision making process, and carry out the responsibility assigned to the women User Committee members by their constituency. This further proves that Nepal’s CF rules and regulations are based on principles of good governance which is a must to promote SFM.

## CASE 13

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# From Concept to Practice: Implementation of Community Forestry Guidelines in Listgard CFUG, Achham

### Case Background

Listigard CFUG is located in Kuntibhandali VDC (presently, Mangalsen municipality ward no 1). The CFUG was registered in 2062 BS and the OP was revised in 2068 BS. Since its establishment, the participation of women in the executive committee was poor, there being no women in the first committee formed in 2062 BS. In 2068 BS, the CFUG made the provision to include 3 women in the executive committee - all as members. They however were not aware of the provisions in the Community Forestry Guidelines.

### MSFP Intervention

The MSFP decided to include this CFUG under its coverage and the local LIPO partner Malika Development Organization (MDO) was assigned the job. The MDO while conducting social mobilization described the provisions regarding women's representation in the community forestry users committee. The members then realized that they were not promoting women's leadership as per the provision of the CF guidelines. In 2070, the CFUG general assembly. Meeting took up this agenda and decided to include at least 50% women in the executive committee which has been realized now (Table 1). Now the Users Committee has 6 women in the 11 member committee and the post of vice-chairperson is also occupied by women. Now onwards, the CFUG has decided to follow the guidelines in total. They are now sensitive towards the need of the poor

HHs within the user group. They have started allocating at least 35% of the total revenue of the CFUG for the poor members. All the support received from the MSFP for doing IGA activities have been allocated to the poor households identified from well-being ranking.

**Table 1:** Executive committee and socio-economic composition of Listigard, Malika and Bhandari CFUGs

SN	CFUG/LHF Name (Area ha)	VDC		Executive Committee (EC)					Households				Well-being Ranking			
				Da	Ja	Ot	MP	To	Da	Ja	Ot	To	Ka	Kha	Ka/Kha	To
3	Listigard (184.3)	Kuntibhandali	Male	3	0	3	1	6	26	0	42	68	0	0	68	68
			Female	1		4	2	5								
8	Malika (76.11)	Janalibhandali	Male	1	0	4	2	5	18		285	303	9	161	133	303
			Female	0		6	3	6								
9	Bhandari (194.67)	Janalibhandali	Male	0	0	3	1	3	3		214	217			217	217
			Female	0		8	4	8								

Da: Dalit, Ja: Janajati, Ot: Other, MP: Main position, To: Total

## Case Result

The outcome of the MSFP intervention has been positive. Dambara Thapa, one of the woman users of the CFUG said, “Women members have no concerns on the decision of the committee”. The male members are also happy as it is no more necessary to inform the committee decisions to the women. All users now agree that the condition of forest has improved due to the active management and leadership of new committee as women are in the decision making platform.

The influence of the good work done by the Listigard CFUG has been replicated outside their boundary. The neighbouring Kalika and Bhandari CFUGs in Janalibhandali VDC have followed their examples and have also improved their respective committees. Most of the users share membership in both the CFUGs thus promoting cross learning. The users of the CFUGs are now implementing most of the provisions in the Community Forestry Guidelines. Prior to the MSFP intervention, users such as Kamala BK and Ramesh Damai, had no financial support from the CFUGs for improving their livelihoods as they were unaware of the provisions of allocating at least 35% of the CFUG’s income for poor and disadvantaged groups. “We are now aware, we are regularly approaching to the committee members for the implementation of these provisions”, they said. “All the support from MSFP went to poor and marginalized groups”, they added. “We keep our user group free from benefiting only certain elites, we keep our group as equitable as possible.” promised Kamala and Ramesh, the executive members of the new committee.



Figure 1: Women participation in decision making

## Conclusion

Sustainable forest management (SFM) is possible only if the CFUG members are trained in participatory good governance provisions that the CF Guidelines provide. However, implementing these guidelines require professional inputs and in the above case example its positive impact is clearly visible. Transparency, accountability, responsiveness, and social and gender inclusion are the bedrock of CF of Nepal which also are the principles of SFM.



## CASE 14

# Coordinated Revision of CFOP in Jajarkot

### Case Background & Key Issues

Janaki CF is located very close to Khalanga which is densely populated town in Jajarkot. The forest area is 163.75 ha and the number of user households is 93. The socio-ethnic composition of executive committee is as shown in figure 1 and 2. It was handed over to the community users for the management of forest in 2061 BS. The Community forest operational plan (CFOP) has to be renewed every five years. This CF faced illegal felling of trees during Maoist insurgency period which led to massive forest degradation. Jajarkot-Dolpa road was constructed through this forest resulting in silt deposition along the down slope that also degraded the forest cover and increased the landslide problem. Because of backlog in approving the CFOP by the District Forest Office (DFO), Janaki CF

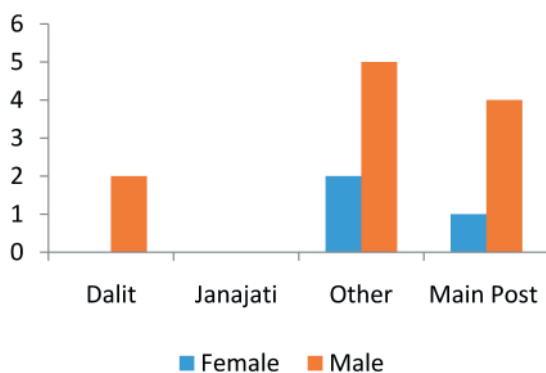


Figure 1: Socio-ethnic composition of Executive Committee

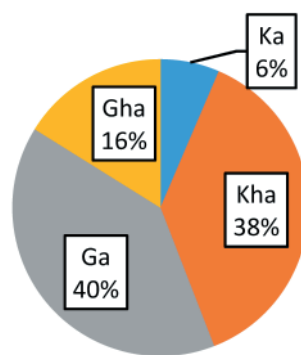


Figure 2: Wellbeing ranking of the CFUG members

was legally unable to harvest firewood, timber and other forest products from their forest. Community users were thus facing problems in sustainably utilizing forest products from the forest they were helping to protect.

The community forest user group (CFUG) interacted with district forest office for the revision of the operation plan (OP) in time but DFO could not support them in revising and approving the plan due to lack adequate forest technicians. That delayed the OP revision.

The DFO and the CFUG worked with the MSFP/IDS-Nepal staffs and managed the revision of forest through the support of HRDC and Panchtara Youth Sarchhan Manch (PYSM) a local NGO. The PYSM helped the CFUG in the revision of OP as per the current guidelines of the DFO. The DFO Jajarkot supported them in the technical aspect during the revision process. The DFO Jajarkot appreciated the help of the IDS team in especially in the mobilization of LRPs since it reduced the work load of the limited human resources with the DFO. Similarly, the CFUG received the quality and timely service from the local resource persons (LRPs). The LRPs were trained by the MSFP/IDS-Nepal team specifically on increasing vulnerability of forest due to climate and non-climate induced hazards such as landslides, floods and forest fires as well as inherent socio-economic vulnerability of the forest users. The revised had to reduce the vulnerability of both the forest users and the CFUG managed forest. The revision process has to also be participatory and include provision of gender empowerment and social inclusion (GESI) and good governance.

## Learning from the Case

According to Dharma Bahadur Shahi, the chairperson of the CFUG, the revised plan is much improved and suitable to meet the users' needs as there are provisions in the new OP and rules that are needed to address the forest degradation and landslide problems faced by the CFUG. However, he felt that the new provisions will be difficult to implement without the support from the MSFP. Similarly, Bishnu Kumar Bhadel, vice-chairperson, said that the users can now utilize, manage and protect the forest better than before and more importantly, the CFUG is more focused on the needs of poor, women and other marginalized groups of the community.

"The revision process has helped to include the encroached area in the forest that increased the forest area from 135.5 hectares (ha) to 163.75 ha. The users have started managing revolving fund of NPR 100,000 provided by the MSFP

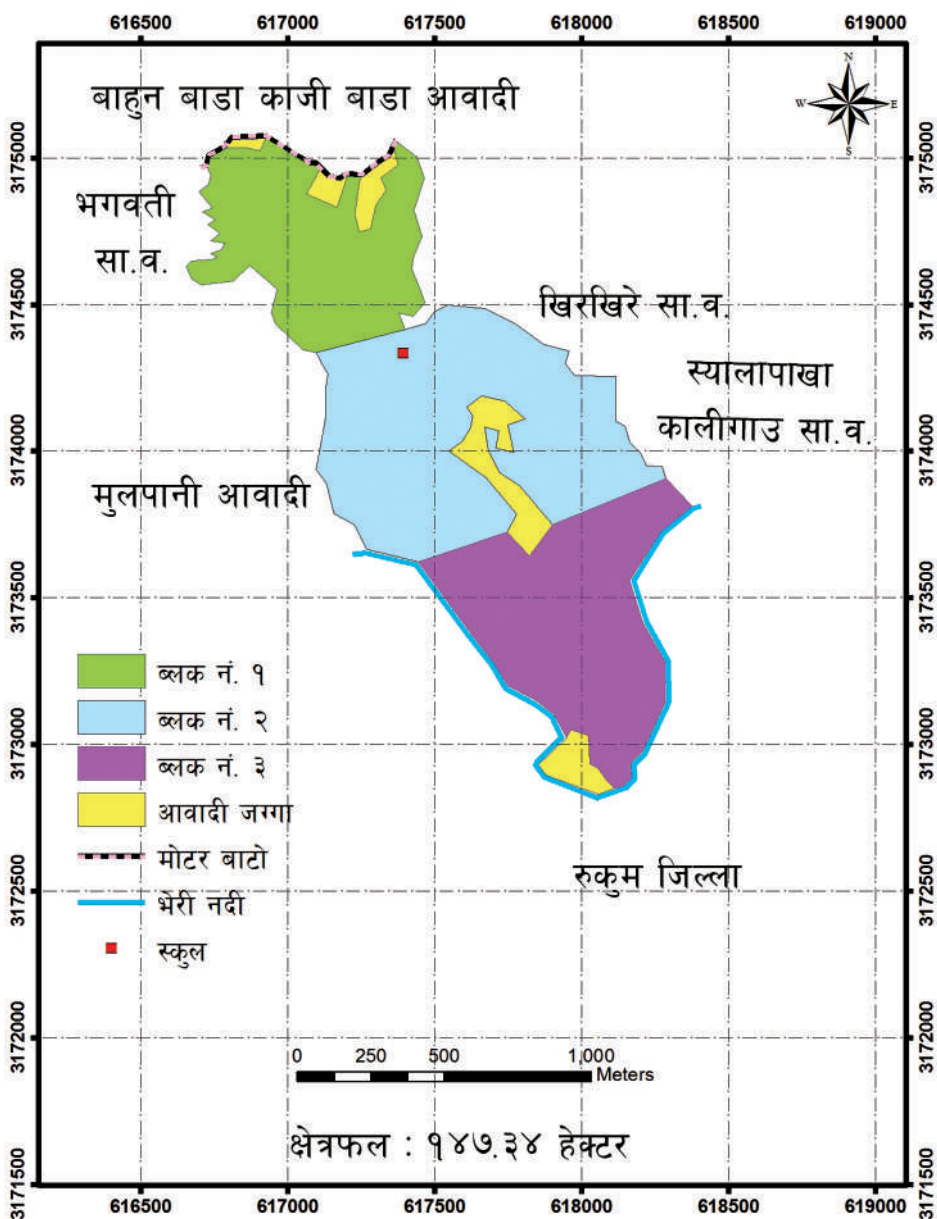


Figure 3: Janaki Forest Map developed after GPS survey and GIS application during OP preparation by LRP in Janaki CF

and the users' awareness and knowledge on sustainable forest management have increased", said the Chairperson.

## CASE 15

# Awareness Building of Chautara Sayule CFUG, Dailekh

### Case Description

Chautara Syaule Community Forest Users Group (CFUG) forest is located in ward no 7 of the Chamunda VDC in the western part from the Dailekh Bazaar. The CF has mainly the Sal (*Shorea robusta*) and Salla (*Pinus roxburghii*) species. The total area of this forest is 96.43 ha and was handed over by the DFO to the CFUG – comprising of 202 households (for composition of their committee and wealth ranking see figure 1 and 2) - in 2057 BS. The CFOP was revised again in 2065 BS and the 5 year revision was due in 2070 but was pending.

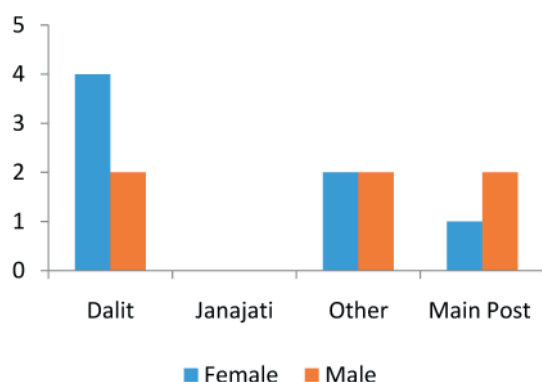


Figure 1: Socio-ethnic composition of Executive Committee

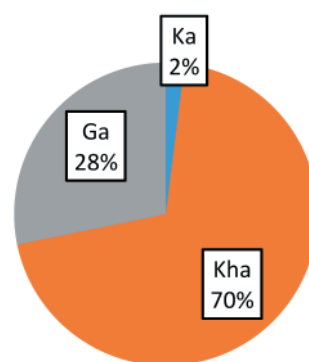


Figure 2: Wellbeing ranking of the CFUG members

## Key Issues

The community forest (CF) suffered from the open grazing and illicit felling even after the forest was handed over to the CFUG. The Forest condition became poor, degraded and less productive. One of the main reasons was lack of proper awareness about and skills in managing the forest among the forest users group members especially the forest users committee. Due to its remote location, the CF had received less attention of the DFO resulting in poor management. The lack of right kind of behavioral, technical, and environmental awareness and skill in sustainable forest management activities including proper CF monitoring were the key issues identified. The CFUG also paid little attention to the sustainable forest management rules such as grazing management, and development of the forest-based income generating activities (IGA) for addressing and the conservation and livelihood development needs simultaneously.

## Case Activities

The MSFP/IDS-Nepal team was approached by the CFUG which supported them by arranging the service of a NGO - SAEWCC in 2070 BS. SAEWCC assigned its field based social mobilisers to first carry out the task of suitable awareness building among the CFUG members, especially the CF Users Committee (CFUC). The mobilisers worked with the CFUG and prepared a need based awareness building classes that helped the CFUG to gain information, knowledge, and ideas on managing different aspects of forest such as forest management, community



Figure 3: CF monitoring and awareness visit

development, forest-based enterprises, livelihood improvements, governance and capacity building.

### **Learning from the Case**

According to Dirgha Bahadur Shahi, chairperson, and Mr. Deep Bahadur Shahi, treasurer of the CFUG, after the awareness sessions, the CFUG was able to conduct regular meeting of the CFUC as well as CFUG assembly, control the open grazing and plant more than 5000 broom grass plants in their CF area. They also requested the SAEWCC to revise their community forest OP (CFOP). The CFUG also started managing the forest watcher better especially in protecting plantation area from the animals. The forest users also regularly carried out the weeding and cleaning work in the plantation based on the suggestion they received from the members of a monitoring team from MSFP/IDS-Nepal. The services of the Government of Nepal line agencies (GLA) such as the DFO, DAO, and DLSO were also arranged. Now, after a year of the awareness building work, the forest users have become more aware about the importance of sustainable forest management and its benefits to meet the forest users' basic needs.

## CHAPTER 4

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# FORESTBASEDENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Two of the objectives of the MSFP are to: a) create jobs and income in forestry through partnership with private sector, and b) support rural livelihoods by raising income of poor, women and disadvantaged groups. The forest based enterprise development activities are expected to support these aims. In the MSFP-IDS areas, increased coordination and collaboration among private sector, community based organizations such as CFUGs and development partners has helped initiate a number of jointventure enterprise development enterprises and initiatives. In this pursuit, IDS-Nepal and its LIPO have carried out awareness building and skill development training besides providing financial support for specialized training and establishment of enterprises managed by the community stakeholders.

Through the MSFP support a number of household level micro-enterprises development activities primarily using NTFPs were initiated involving the LFGs and private sectors. Honey production, Bee-hivemaking, Alloyarnprocessing, beekeeping; nettlespowder production, charcoal production, herbaltea (drinks) production, Chiuri (Buttertree) ghee processing and Loktapaper process ingareprominent forest based enterprises in the IDS/MSFP working districts. Many of these enterprises have reached a stage where sustained supply/availability of raw materials and further scaling-up opportunities have been created. A total of 885 households have been engaged in the enterprises supported by the programme. Almost all enterprises are at the initial stage of production with varying degree of market access and profit making.



## CASE 16

# Mahuri Gaun (Honeybees Village), Kalpat VDC, Jajarkot

### Case Description

Balchhe Salghari Community forest with a size of 88 ha was handed over to the 269 households (HH) of Kalpat-2 Dandagaun, Jajarkot in 2054 BS. The composition of executive committee and latest well-being ranking is as shown in figure 1 and 2.

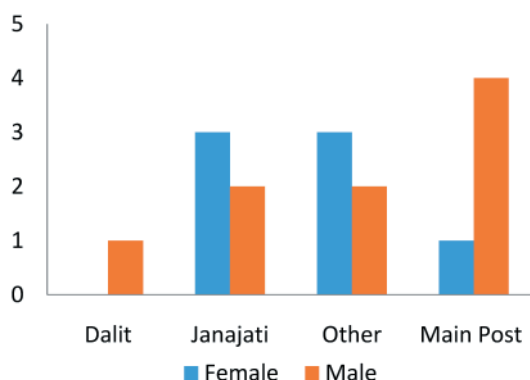


Figure 1: Socio-ethnic composition of Executive Committee

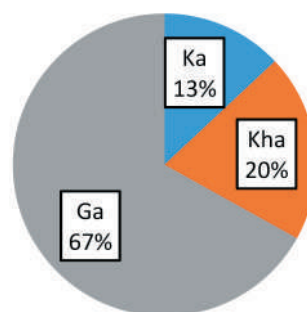


Figure 2: Wellbeing ranking of the CFUG members

The Community forest (CF) has two blocks with equal area wherein one block is dominated by Sal (*Shorea robusta*) forest and another block is dominated by *Chiara* (Indian butter). Operational plan of this CF was revised in 2065 for 10 years. The MSFP covers this CF for planning interventions to improve its management and initiate climate change adaptation. Observing the potential for increasing income of the poor households through Bee keeping and thereby improving their

livelihoods, the implementing agency - IDS-Nepal, through its local implementing partner organization -Hilly Region Development Campaign (HRDC) - intervened through this CFUG for developing a large scale bee keeping enterprise.

## Case Background

There is a long history of bee keeping in the area. Traditionally, the people from Dandagaun used to have log-hives for bee keeping. They could harvest 3-4 kg of honey twice in a year from such log-hives. Different organizations such as Grista Ashram, DAO, Jajarkot, FORWARD Nepal, and PAF supported the local people for small scale bee keeping at household level. Most of these organizations first provided bee keeping training and then distributed modern bee keeping hives to some of the selected households (maximum two hives per households). This approach did not support the large scale demand and possibility of commercial honey production.

## MSFP Intervention

In the above circumstances, MSFP/IDS-Nepal through its partner NGO HRDC discussed with the User Committee of the Balchhe Salghari CFUG in Kalpat. Initially, beehive making training was provided to 8 persons to produce the modern beehives at local level. Additionally, 197 members (more than 73% of the total CFUG members) were trained on beekeeping with modern hives in 2071 BS.

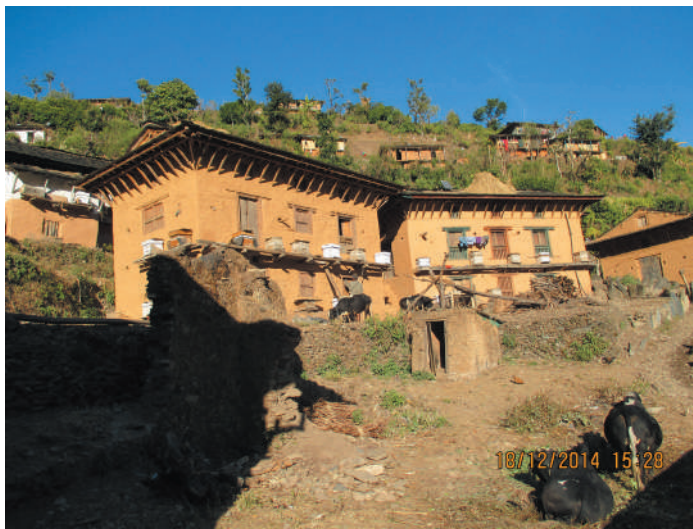


Figure 3: Beehives are in most of the household in Kalpat, Dandagaun in Jajarkot

The trainees received a total of 800 modern beehives (around 4 hives per trainee). The beneficiaries transferred bees (*Apis cerena*) from traditional log-hives to modern hives using their trained knowledge.

37 beekeepers of Kalpat got together and started a Beekeeping Co-operative in the village. They have collected NPR 1,000 per HH member and have opened a Bank Account that has a starting balance of NPR 37,000. The cooperative aims to facilitate commercial growing of honey by focusing on marketing of honey in national and international markets. Additionally, the cooperative is eager to provide support to other CFUG members who are also showing interest in commercial beekeeping. The cooperative has also drawn up a plan to collect NPR 250 per hive from its members for providing marketing and other services. The cooperative plans to provide a more technically sound marketing support to the bee keepers in future.

### Learning from the Case Study

Beekeepers are interested to grow bees on their indigenous *Chiuri* trees that grow abundantly both in the Balchhe Salghari CF and private land belonging to the forest users after observing the good income from the beekeeping using modern hives.



Figure 4: Beekeeping cooperative in Kalpat

Similarly, Beekeepers are transferring their bees growing in modern hives to lower altitude areas from their high altitude locations according to flowering

seasons so as to provide more food for the bees. This is indirectly contributing to cross pollination and increased agriculture production. The farmers are using indigenous Himalayan bees (*Apis cerena*) in this village which are considered most suitable for cross pollination. Thus the beekeepers of Kalpat are reaping multiple benefits from modern bee keeping and reducing poverty and building community resilience to both social and climate change phenomena.



**Sete Budha**, a bee keeper in Kalpat village proudly explains that before the MSFP/IDS intervention, he could harvest honey from log-hives only twice a year and get a production of about 3.5 kg honey. Now his family can harvest honey up to seven times a year from the modern hives with the similar production amount. Thus his production of a single year increased by nearly 4 times. The Beekeepers' Co-operative has already collected more than 15,000 kg of honey from the Kalpat village.

Mr Budha says: "I have kept 50 improved and 25 log hives. On an average 10-15 hives has been kept by each household. We can sell the honey at the rate of 400 per kg in the village itself. Our community has already earned NPR 1.6 million by selling 4000 kg of honey. Since we still have 11,000 kg honey in stock, we can earn additional NPR 44 million this year. People from Musikot, Rukum and Dolpa come here to purchase honey. Since, they do not buy all the produced honey; we are in need of reliable market to sell all of our production. Most of the household in the village are now equipped with solar energy. Our village is now known as Mahuri Gaun (Bee Village)" says proud Sete Budha.

Since we have Chiyuri production in a large scale, we can start another business in the community - Chiyuri Ghee Production.

## Conclusion

This case study shows how a right strategy and approaches results in better synergy and multiple benefits through a single activity in forestry and climate change oriented programme. Although immediate impacts might not be observed but in long term enhanced capacity of CFUG and improved livelihoods will have positive impact in forest biodiversity and climate change resilience.

## CASE 17

# Women Led *Allo* Enterprise in Dawari, Dailekh

## Case Description

Dailekh district produces around 1855 kg of refined *Allo* (fiber crop) thread every year. The thread can be sold to Kathmandu at the rate of 800 per kg. Sihsina, Kalika and Dawari VDCs are well known for the *Allo* production in the district. Before 2011, MEDEP/UNDP supported the local entrepreneurs in producing Allothread by providing thread-making-machines to small case cottage enterprise. There were no norms established of sustainable harvesting of *Allo* as people used to collect *Allo* before its maturity (immediately after flowering).

Majority of households in Dawari VDC are from Magar community - one of the Indigenous Nationalities of Nepal (see in table 1 below), and most of the households here are involved in *Allo* thread making. They involve in the *Allo* thread making process for eight months in a year.

Table 1: Socio-economic overview of FUGs

SN	FUG (VDC)	Executive Committee (EC)						Households				Well-being Ranking					
			Da	Ja	Ot	MP	To	Da	Ja	Ot	To	Ka	Kha	Ga	Gha	To	
1	Jharna (Dawari)	Male	0	5	1	2	6	0	46	5	51	0	0	46	5	51	
		Female	0	4	1	1	5										
2	Batase (Kalika)	Male	4	0	2	1	6	9	1	4	14	0	0	14		14	
		Female	2	0	2	2	4										
3	Bayaldhunga (Sihasen)	Male	2	1	1	1	4	173	41	163	377	12	80	200	85	377	
		Female	2	3	4	2	9										

## MSFP Intervention

Observing the potentiality of *Allo* for improved livelihood of indigenous and local people through increased income, MSFP/IDS-Nepal through its local partner Sustainable Agriculture, Environment and Water Resource Conservation Center (SAEWCC) supported the Jharna, Batase and Bayaldhunga CFUGs in Dawari, Kalika and Sihsina VDCs. Three training courses were organized for 205 women on sustainable harvesting of *Allo*, thread weaving and Drum making. After the completion of the training course, 205 machines for thread weaving and 35 machines for drum making were distributed to all the trainees.

## Results

After the provision of training and equipment support, the trainees produced on an average 35 kg of *Allo* thread per individual. Two local entrepreneurs have established two *Allo* thread marketing outlets in Naumule, a local market. The producers bring their thread to these outlets and sell their product in a hassle free manner at the rate of Rs. 600-800/kg. The cost varies depending on the quality of the thread there from.

## Spin-off Benefits

The MSFP supported activities have produced some local level trainers also. For example, Ms. Bhabi Sapkota and Ms. Khagisara Roka Magar do not only produce *Allo* thread but also provide training to others on sustainable harvesting techniques for *Allo* as well as thread weaving. They have been mobilized to provide *Allo* thread weaving training courses organized by the district DFO and the FECOFUN.



Figure 1(A): Allo produced from Bhabi Sapkota



Figure 1(B): Allo produced from Khagisara Roka Magar

MSFP/IDS-Nepal through its partner: LIPO Sustainable Agriculture, Environment and Water Resource Conservation Centre (SAEWCC) have been launching intensive social mobilization programme for the sustainable harvesting of Allo. Local people have now started harvesting. Allo only after it ripens in December/January. Also, local people have started Allo cultivation in private lands as well.

## **Learning and Conclusion**

Women of Nepal, especially in Mid and Far-West Western development regions are not weaker gender since they do almost all the farm, farming and domestic work. Therefore economic empowerment of women through forest based enterprises is a must to ensure sustainable management of forest resources and community based biodiversity conservation.



## CASE 18

# Dalit Women Headed Internationally Certified Ghee Production Cooperative in Jajarkot

### Case Description

Ms. Shila Nepali, one of the members of the Syalepakha community forest (CF) user group, heads Kushe Gharelu Sahakari Sastha Limited (KGSSL). The committee composition and result of the latest well-being ranking is as shown in figure 1 and 2 respectively. However, her CF does not have any *Chyuri* trees and therefore there was not any *chyuri* ghee production based enterprise in her village. Ms. Nepali realized the importance of *Chyuri* ghee and its value in national and international markets from the interactions she had with different government and non-government agencies such as DAO, DFO and FECOFUN. She got interested in this enterprise and obtained information on the possibility of Chyuri seed collection from neighboring VDCs.

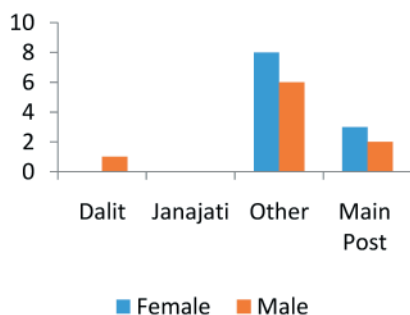


Figure 1: Socio-ethnic composition of Executive Committee

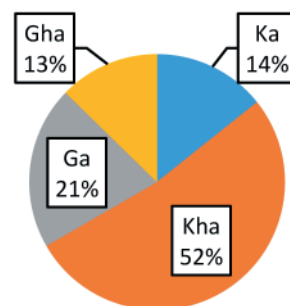


Figure 2: Wellbeing ranking

Shila took initiative to start a Chiyuri Ghee production cooperative and established it in 2010. Traditionally, people used to make Chyuri ghee from the seed after the flesh was eaten by human. Most of the seeds used to be affected with fungus as people had no knowledge of preserving it from the moisture. The cooperative started to collect fresh and quality seeds and started preparing the ghee at household level. The ghee used to be wrapped with leaf-plates. HBTL Nepal, a marketing NGO bought the produced ghee at the rate of NPR 120 per kg and exported to France for marketing as well as quality testing for obtaining certification. Unfortunately, the ghee could not be certified and sold in good price because of fungus identification.

### MSFP Supported Intervention

MSFP/IDS-Nepal, in partnership with Himalayan Bio Trade Private Limited (HBTL), through a Local Implementing Partner Organization (LIPO):Hilly Region Development Campaign (HRDC) intervened in the cooperative's work for quality improvement in chyuri ghee production. With financial support from IDS-Nepal, HBTL provided training on quality Chyuri seed collection,processing and ghee production to the local people and cooperative members in two batches. Similarly, with financial support from MSFP/IDS-Nepal,NARC supported to install 13 green houses for seed collection and storage to prevent it to be attacked with fungus. Further to this, the cooperative received the seed crushing machine from MSFP/IDS-Nepal project.

Instead of collecting leaf-plates wrapped ghee different household level producers, the cooperative now produces the ghee itself ensuing uniform quality. The local people collect the seed and bring it to the locally installed green houses. The cooperative pays NPR 25 for a kg of Chyuri seed. Last year, the lowest household



Figure 3: Chyuri ghee processing in domestic level in Pali



Figure 4: Seed drying



Figure 5: Seed storage



Figure 6: Ghee production

level income from the Chyuri seed collection and selling to the cooperative was NPR 500 and the highest was NPR 12,000.

HBTL again took the sample of the improved quality ghee produced by the cooperative to France. Fortunately, the ghee got international certification and the HBTL got the order of 1,500 kg of ghee from France. The cooperative has signed an agreement with HBTL to provide 5000 kg of ghee to them in 2015 at the rate of 250 per kg (more than 50% higher than previous year).

## Result and Learning

Due to the success of the Chyuri ghee production business, the total members in the cooperative has increased from 163 in 2013 to 204 in 2014. Out of total members, 65 belong to indigenous nationalities, 65 are Dalits and 73 belong to others. The cooperative has provided part time employment to local people from 17 CFUGs of Khalanga and Dandagaun VDCs as they involve in seed collection. More than, 22 persons get employment in the cooperative in summer and earn 450 per day. Around 250 kg of ghee is produced in a day in the season of Chyuri production.

## Conclusion

Firm determination and right kind of support of outside agencies and donor funded projects can empower the disadvantage community especially women and dalit group and uplift their livelihoods.

## CASE 19

# Buying Garneted Sisnoo Powder Enterprise, Kalikot

### Case Description and Key Issues

Rupsa VDC is located in Kalikot district in Humla Karnali catchment area where stinging nettle plant (*Sisnoo*) is found in most of the public, private and government lands including community forests. According to the DFO, Kalikot, *Sisnoo* is found in abundance in this part of Kalikot.

Madan Bahadur Sahakari, one of the residents of Rupsa VDC ward No. 9, said that the local people use *Sisnoo* for making soup during its growing season. But they do not have access to any preservation and marketing technology or practices available locally.

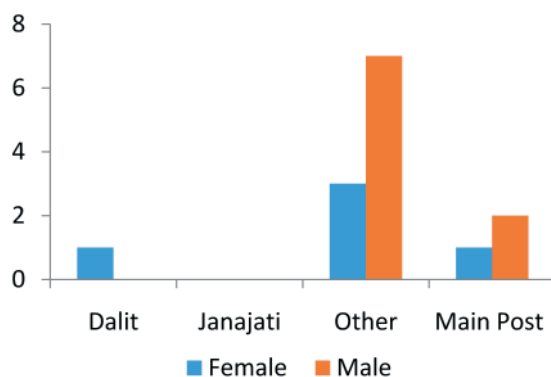


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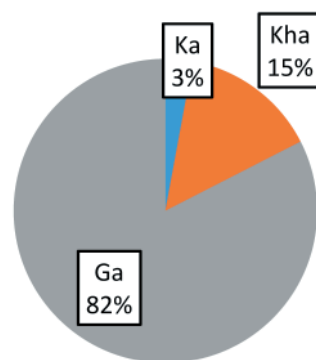


Figure 2: Wellbeing ranking of the CFUG members

Having known the importance and value of *Sisnoo* powder in the national and international markets from the MSFP social mobilizers, Mahadev CFUG requested IDS-Nepal for the support from the MSFP to establish a *Sisnoo* powder production enterprise.

Based on the demand from the CFUG and advice from the DFO, MSFP/IDS-Nepal decided for intervention in this enterprise. A seven day long training on *Sisnoo* powder was provided to a group ten users from the community selected by the CFUG. The trainees belonged to the pro-poor category as defined by the well-being ranking of the CFUG members. All of them are from Dalit community. The training was provided by a local entrepreneur who has been involved in NTFPs production and marketing activities.



Figure 3: Stinging nettle powder selling in Manma VDC from the entrepreneurs of Rupsa VDC

As a part of the training, some material support from MSFP/IDS-Nepal was provided. Each trainee received leaf grinding machine, gloves, sicketure (pruning scissors), balance, tent, knives, mask, white clothes and sieving net to carry our harvesting and processing work. After the completion of training and material support given by the MSFP/IDS-Nepal, the CFUG and Karnali Jadibuti Cooperative signed an agreement with a provision that the cooperative buys all the *Sisnoo* powder produced by the trained group of the CFUG at the rate of NPR 300 per kg. This provided an assured market through a buy-back agreement between producer and user.

*Sisnoo* leaves are collected two times in a year - November/December and March/



Figure 4(A): Banner of the Sisnoo powder making training



Figure 4(A): Practice during the same training

April. The cooperative discards some of the production because of low quality. This problem required two immediate required interventions: a) sustainable harvesting and quality control of *Sisnoo* leaf collection and power production; b) exposure of the trainees to other forest based enterprises in the area that work in the *Sisnoo* powder. The other need was to plan the enterprise during off- season so that the pro-poor can earn their off-farm livelihood sustainably.

## Case Findings and Learning

Bhani Sunar is one of the woman trainees who has succeeded in improving her livelihoods. She earned NPR 7,500 by preparing 25 kg of *Sisnoo* powder last year. Other trainees have also started earning similar amount from this year. Ms. Sunar and her colleagues spend around half a day to work in the *Sisnoo* enterprise. “We did it as a part time job”, said Ms. Sunar.

## Conclusion

Proper targeting and planning forest based enterprises can bring about quality change in the livelihoods of poor women and thus creative economic incentives for forest conservation.



## CASE 20

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# Hamro Furniture Udyog (HFU), Narayan Municipality, Dailekh

### Case Description

Hamro Furniture Udyog (enterprise) is located in the vicinity of the Kuntakhola Community Forest in Narayan Municipality Ward no 9 which is purely Sal (*Shorea robusta*) forest. The CF area is about 42.8 ha. The HFUs are run by a group of seven entrepreneurs led by Dharma Raj Thapa. The group members were selected by the forest user groups as per the latest guidelines of CF. Forest users from lowest socio-economic class such as Damai, Saarki were also included as per the CF constitution and operational plan of Kuntakhola CFUG.

### MSFP Intervention

Since there was easy availability of timber from the CF, market was also accessible, and the CFUG had included forest based income raising and employment creation objective in the revised CFOP, poverty reduction of poor and marginalized people was necessary, Hamro Furniture Udyog was established by the CFUG with the NRs 186050 support in training and equipments from the MSFP.

MSFP/IDS-Nepal in 2071 organized a month long local level skill development training on furniture manufacturing as well as bee hive production targeting the furniture based entrepreneurs in the district.

Kuntakhola CF made provision to provide timber for this particular enterprise as it was included in their CF operational plan. A timber harvesting plan of the CF mentions using Sal (*Shorea robusta*) timber for furniture making. Timber is



actually provided to the users and they either ask the HFU to make furniture for them or sell their share of timber to the HFU who process it into furniture or other wood products as per the needs (Figure 2). Most of the furniture and other related items are consumed locally. The surplus is marketed by the HFU in nearby Dailekh Bazaar.



Figure 1: Hamro Furniture Udhog, Kuntakhola Dailekh



Figure 2: Furniture and bee hive making in furniture Udhog

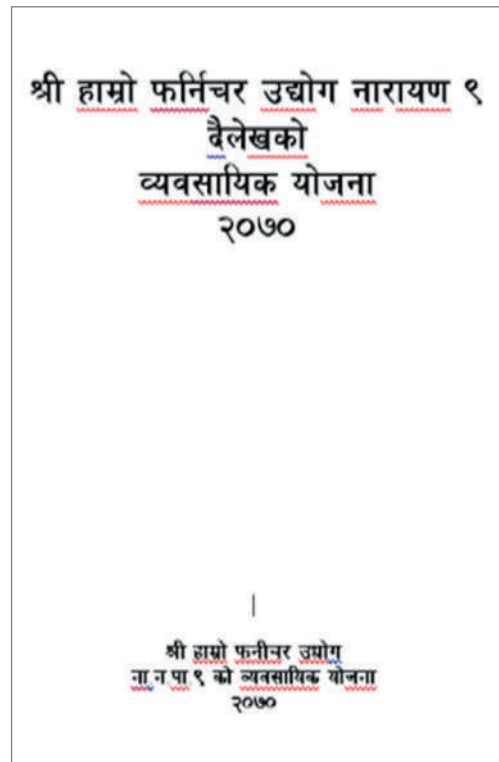


Figure 3: Front page of the business plan

## Case Result

According to the HFU manager Mr Dharma Raj Thapa, since his agriculture based livelihood supports him hardly for six months in a year, he has to find supplementary income source. Previously, either he used to go to India to find job or when in the village he used to do wage labor as building construction and agriculture worker. Similar was the trend among other colleagues who have joined to form the HFU now. Now he and his team are satisfied with the income earned from the HFU. Besides, they can live with their family and do not have to worry about finding jobs either locally or in India.

Today, the Hamro Furniture Udhog is able to make most of the furniture products

including bee hives locally. The HFUs are selling the products either at local level and in the Dailekh district headquarter. It was reported that each entrepreneur is earning around Rs. 7,000 per month. Since they are growing they have started facing shortage of raw materials. They have requested other nearby CFs to supply wood but some of the CFs do not have any provision made in their Ops. The concerned district level authority such as DFO also do not have mechanism to support such forest based enterprises yet.

## **Lesson Learned and Conclusion**

The case of HFU demonstrates how right kind skill based training can promote local entrepreneurship and forest based enterprise creating local employment and preventing youth to migrate abroad. However, there is need for clear policy provision to supply raw materials to enterprises that create local jobs, are environmental friendly and produce products that replace imports. The HFU clearly meets these criteria.

## CASE 21

# Revival of Handmade Paper Production Enterprise through MSFP Support in Bajhang

### Case Description

Chaukidanda CF covering 195.5 ha forest area is located in Datola VDC ward 8 and 9. The VDC is located at one day's walking distance from district headquarter Chainpur. The CF was registered and handed over to the 126 household members CFUG in 2055 BS. The CFUG had not revised their OP due to lack of funds and expertise.

The common tree species found in the CF are: Sallo, Banjh, Pine Loth Sallo, Okhar and Lokta. The major medicinal plants are Satuwa, Kutuki, Banlasun (Handebish), Chiraito, Titepati, Pakhanbed (pasanbed) and Jatamasi. The Chaukidanda CFUG

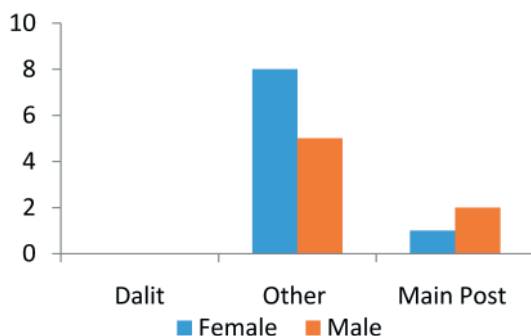


Figure 1: Socio-ethnic composition of Executive Committee

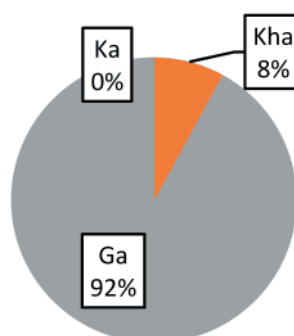


Figure 2: Wellbeing ranking of the CFUG members

started NTFP based enterprises using Lokta to produce handmade paper. However, the enterprise was facing number of problems mainly related to market access and quality of the paper.

Handmade paper enterprise was already established on individual scale by one Pyarulalal Jethara - a lead farmer- in nearby Badhigaun village who had started to produce handmade paper. However, he could not succeed to get access to outside market as he had not registered his enterprise with Small and Cottage Industries Development Office. Therefore Mr. Jethara discontinued to produce paper. In 2067 BS, the Federation of Community Forestry Users, Nepal (FECOFUN) and Centre for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI) helped the CFUGs to obtain forest certification of their community forests. The certification helped and facilitated to upgrade and register the hand-made paper enterprise.

In spite of the supports from FECOFUN and CECI, the handmade paper industry could not run well. The pulp making system was manual and of low capacity. There was no separate building for machinery and drying, paper storage system was poor hence quality production and high volume production could not be attained.

## **MSFP Intervention**

Once the MSFP started its support to the CFUG, the IDS team through their local partner helped in revising their OP with the support of the LRP. The meeting of CF executive committee that is held once a month prepared the revised plan and got it approved by the CF general assembly held once a year.

Since the CFUG still had not lost their hope of producing handmade paper of high quality, they sought support of the MSFP in reviving the Lokta paper enterprise which was facing closure. The MSFP local partner, SDC-Nepal and MSFP-IDS team in Bajhang decided to support them in their plan. The MSFP team first helped the CFUG to procure necessary equipment that included an electro-mechanical beater for pulp making, frames, drums, cemented water tanks and other structures. Since Mr. Pyarulalal Jethara had the experience of paper making, the CFUG gave the management responsibility to him. The financial support provided by the MSFP, DFO Bajhang, Datola VDC was respectively NPR 955,103, NPR 250,000 and NPR 200,000 totaling Rs. 1.405 million. The CFUG itself contributed NPR 100,000 cash to revive the forest based enterprise and also mobilized in-kind-labor contribution equivalent to an estimated around NPR 350,000.

## Case Result

There are seven full time and 15 seasonal workers currently working in the enterprise (Figure 3). Their monthly remuneration ranges from NPR 6,000 to NPR 10,000 according to their skill. Similarly, the CFUG member get an extra income through raw material (Lokta) collection and selling. The enterprise buys Lokta bark at the rate of NPR 60 per kg. from the raw material (of Lokta) collectors. An individual can collect between 4 to 7 kg of lokta bark in a day providing a good income to poor households.

Now, the industry can produce 1000 pieces of paper per day. The price of 200 pieces' (20 gram) bundle is NPR 2,000. The price of the 200 pieces of 40 gram paper is NPR 3,500.



Figure 3: Handmade paper being marketed



Figure 4: Handmade paper being marketed

## Challenges

Using proper techniques in raw material collection is crucial for producing quality paper as well as sustainability of the forest. Therefore every collector has been made aware about the sustainable collection of Lokta bark, best method of threading and pilling the bark and overall sustainable harvesting of NTFPs. The CFUG have fixed the regulation and issued guidelines for proper collection of Lokta bark that include the following: use mature shrub only to harvest bark, cut on both sides, leave at least 1 foot stem above ground, reduce extra stress or pressure to main (mother) stem, use sharp cutting instrument.

Another problem the CFUG is facing is that they still do not have any nursery for seedling production of Lokta. They also lack ex-situ conservation knowledge so that they could produce Lokta in their private farms. The MSFP/IDS team need to provide such training for ensuring sustainability of the business on a long-term

basis. Another most important requirement is the market assurance and value addition. Rolling paper gets 4 times more market price than one without rolling. Capacity enhancement in these aspects should be considered in the future.

## **Conclusion and Lesson Learned**

Initiating and sustaining NTFP based enterprise is not an easy job, especially if the aim is to access international market. Lokta paper has good international market but the product has to be of high quality. If the Lokta raw materials can come from certified CFUGs, then the market access becomes even easier. This case example indicates all the possibility which the MSFP support is helping the CFUGs of Bajhang to achieve.

## CASE 22

# Prem Budha Became a Beehive Making Entrepreneur, Achham

### Case Description

Tripura CF with 138.9 ha of forest in Hichma VDC ward no 8, Achham was registered and handed to 95 household members in 2065 BS. Its operational plan (OP) was not revised when it was due since the CFUG neither had funds nor skills to do it in a required manner. Most of the users are involved in farming that is not very productive. The VDC is experiencing heavy male youth migration especially seasonally to Indian cities. The composition of the committee and the information of the well-being ranking of the group is given in figure 1 and 2 respectively. Mr. Prem Bhudha is one of the users Tripura CFUG. He along with his 9 family members have been involved in farming for generations. Mr. Budha also worked as carpenter at local level. But still he could not fully support the family

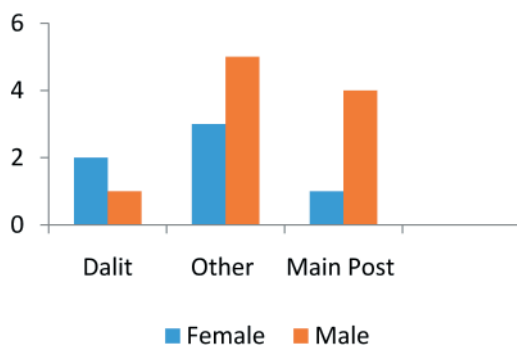


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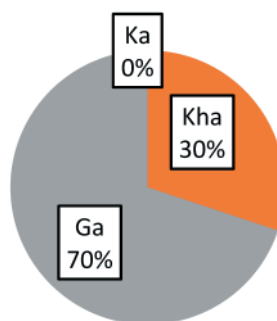


Figure 2: Wellbeing ranking of the CFUG members



expenditures that are growing every year. The farm production is just sufficient to fulfill the food demand of the family. However, other family necessities such as education, medicines, and clothing remained under fulfilled.

## MSFP Intervention

In the year 2070 BS, Mr. Prem Bhuda got an opportunity to participate in construction of frame hives training in Surkhet organized by MSFP. Being already a carpenter Mr. Budha enjoyed extra advantage in bee hive construction training. He got opportunity to know more through the MSFP training. Moreover, he got some machines and tools that are essential for modern bee keeping and scientific bee hive management that facilitates his business greatly.

## Case Result

The training opportunity provided by the MSFP became a turning point that has changed Mr. Budha's life. He proudly says, "I have started my own business, thanks to the training". He felt so empowered and confident through the training which has helped him to increase his family income through bee keeping that he decided to establish an enterprise: Gauri Pabitra Mahuri Ghaar Udhyog and registered it in the Cottage and Small Industries Office, Achham on 2071/08/24. The industry has been growing which currently has five workers to work full time in running the bee enterprise according to Mr. Prem Budha.



Figure 3: Prem Bhuda with prepared frame hives

A single training has transformed the life and livelihood of Mr. Prem Budha who naturally is very happy and proud. He has already sold 60 bee hives at the rate of NPR 2600/hive and earned NPR 156,000. He is pleased with the assistance from MSFP/IDS program for which he feels gratified. He is getting regular encouragement and support from MDO-Nepal – the local implementing partner organization (LIPO). His family is now meeting its financial needs and he has no more stress in meeting the food and finance needs of his family. Besides he has also been inspiring and helping his fellow villager's employment opportunity in his enterprise.

## **Conclusion**

A single training if done in a targeted manner by selecting the right trainee and imparting the right skills can provide multiple benefits and synergy. And a well trained person can become not only a good trainer but also a good entrepreneur. This is the key message of this case study in Achham.

## CHAPTER 5

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# INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES (IGA)

Two of the 4 outcomes envisaged by the MSFP are related to creating jobs at the local level and creating income generating opportunities to benefit poor, disadvantaged and climate vulnerable people in the MSFP districts. In the MSFP-IDS cluster, these objectives are being met by launching a number livelihood improvement and income generating activities (IGA). The main approach has been to target poor and ultra-poor households and also ensure that the households selected are benefitted from the IGA. Efforts are also made to make these forest dependent people contribute to their community forest management by linking IGA investment to forest protection and development.

The IDS/MSFP started IGA interventions by providing revolving funds to 341 LFGs to run pro-poor based IGA targeting both poor and DAG households. The IGA fund was managed by through the concerned community forestry committee. In order to receive the IGA related fund, the group (both LHFUG and CFUG) must have conducted the participatory well-being ranking (PWBR). The poorest HHs in the community group classified through the PWBR process receive the MSFP IGA support first. The recipient groups must manage the fund on revolving basis within its members organizing repayment schedules. The soft interest rate varies from 0.5%-6% depending on the wealth ranking. So far, the IGA interventions seem to have good impact on forest management and local livelihood improvement. Out of the total IGA receivers, 48% are female. Poor and DAG households have received skill development training that has enhanced their capacity. Popular IGAs are: goat and poultry farming, seasonal or off-season vegetable cultivation, bee keeping and pig farming. Some of the key lessons learned from the IGA activities are the following: proper targeting and activity selection (need-based

and culturally sensitive) is a must, proper skill development prior to investment is critical, strict monitoring ensures success, technical backstopping and peer learning I helpful especially to ultra-poor HHs, and market access and market information flow is crucial to ensure sustainability and continuity. A number of successful cases are described and analyzed under this section:

## CASE 23

# Benefitting Poor Users through Allocation of CF Area For Pro-Poor IGA Activities in Achham

### Case Description

The Ghogeran CFUG with 157 household members and 125 ha forest area lies in Bannatoli VDC, ward 8 and 9. The CFUG was registered in 2053 BS and the OP was revised in 2065 BS for a period of five years. Under the forest management plan (OP) there was the practice of distributing the forest products to all group members equally irrespective of their wealth status. This means poor and rich HHs were treated equally and received same amount of forest produce and other benefits. The issue is that the CFUG management is dominated by richer households (Ka and Kha class) (Figure 1) although as shown in Figure 2, poor and ultra-poor HHs (Ga and Gha groups) constitute 42% of the total users.

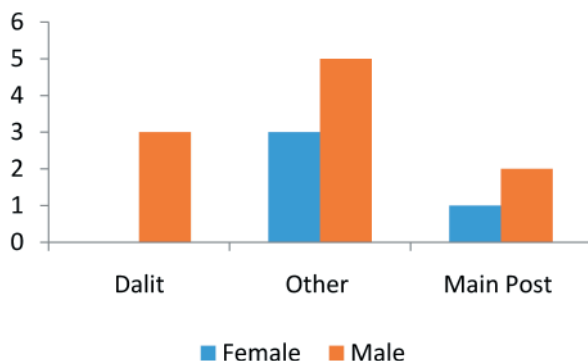


Figure 1: Socio-ethnic composition of Executive Committee

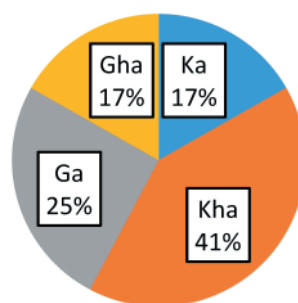


Figure 2: Wellbeing ranking of the CFUG members

## MSFP Intervention

The MSFP-IDS team included this CFUG under its fold and started interventions through its LIPO: Rural Development Center, Nepal (RUDEC). RUDEC's responsibility was to implement all the activities in Bannatoli VDC. RUDEC selected Ghogeran CFUG as one of the target CFUGs for IGA intervention. They mobilized its social mobilizers to build awareness and share latest CF guidelines of the CF management to the CFUG members especially the provisions of targeting poor HHs first while running CF management activities.

## Case Result

Once the CFUG members became informed and aware of the provisions of Community Forestry Guidelines, the groups carried out a participatory well-being ranking of all the user households. Accordingly, the ranking of 17%, 41%, 25% and 17 households belong under 'Ka', 'Kha', 'Ga' and 'Gha' categories respectively was established (Figure 2). The groups then decided to focus the income generation activities to the poorest sections (starting from the 'Gha' category first).



Figure 3: Selected pro-poor actively involving in common income generation activity in the allocated CF area

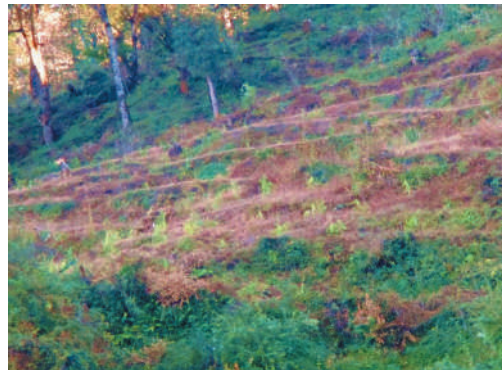


Figure 4: Amriso planted site

Since the identified HH group belonging to 'Gha' category had no or little farm land, the CFUG decided to allocate 5 ha of CF area exclusively to them to carry out some income generation activities (IGA) that matched their skills and interest. A series of discussions were performed with these households by the CFUG committee and the social mobilizers. Ultimately, the ultra-poor group of 18 households formed a sub-group to manage the allocated land in a collective

manner to run income generating activities. As per the Group's decision, 20,000 Amriso (Broom grass) plants were planted in 5 ha of the land leased to them involving all 18 households. The MSFP team provided NPR 100,000 to the Group through the Ghogeran CFUG to run as a revolving fund. Amriso plantation was selected as the best alternative as Amriso could give consumable products faster than other species in the area. The users could benefit from Amriso grass for feeding their livestock and also generate income by selling Amriso brooms (present rate at local market is NPR 60 per broom). The mortality of the plantation is also negligible because the plantation was done just before the start of rainy season.

## **Lessons Learned and Conclusion**

This IGA is expected to achieve economic empowerment of DAG HHs quickly since brooms are locally consumed and also have well outside market in district and regional towns such as Sanfe Bagar and Dhangarhi. Plantation of such short growing NTFPs in marginalized and under-used forest area also benefit forest by reducing climatic hazards such as landslides and soil erosion. This type of IGA is also beneficial to richer households since the forest condition is improving as Amriso cultivation has improved under-utilized land of the CFUG. Furthermore, collection and processing of the broom grass and brooms are done at local level by a local cooperative and brooms are exported to outside market thus benefiting all the stakeholders involved in the chain generating additional benefits to local people and improving their livelihoods. Selecting right type of IGA is key to its success.



## CASE 24

# Role of Local Resource Person (LRP) in Promoting Allo Based Enterprise, Kalikot

### Case Description and Key Issues

Ms. Pansara Roka Magar is one of the forest users of Bauredhunga CFUG located in Bharta VDC ward no 2, Kalikot district. Various MAPs and NTFPs such as *Stinging nettle* plant, *Sunakhari*, Himalayan nettle plant, *Sitake* mushroom, *Panchaule*, *Chiraito*, *Majhitho*, *Pakhanbed* and timber species like *Banjh*, *Saur* and *Phalant* are found in the CF, government forests and private lands. The MEDEP/UNDP trained Pansara for *Allo* (Himalayan nettle; *Girardinia diversifolia*) thread weaving. However she was unable to use her skills gained through the training as she did not have access to new machines and forced to depend on

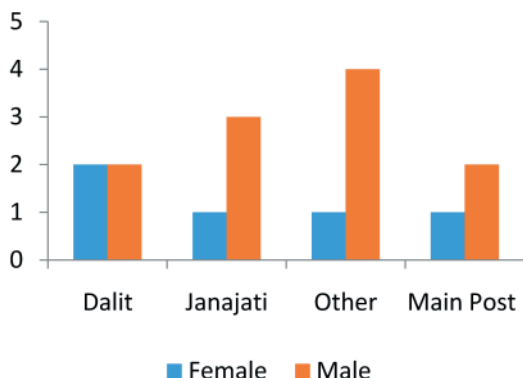


Figure 1: Socio-ethnic composition of Executive Committee

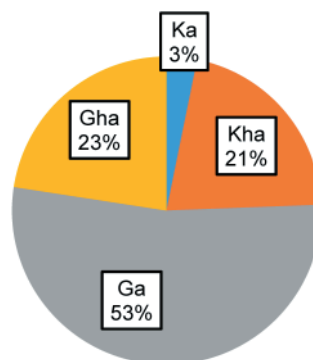


Figure 2: Wellbeing ranking of the CFUG members

traditional technologies for the thread weaving work. Furthermore, there are also the possibilities of joining an existing enterprise in Bharta VDC which is known as an *Allo* Gaun in which a small number of local people participate and run the business. So the key issue is non-utilization of available natural and human capital due to lack of financial and technical capital.

## MSFP Intervention

The Bauredhunga CFUG approached the local NGO: Social Awareness and Development Academy (SAADA), the local implementing partner organization of MSFP/IDS-Nepal in Kalikot, requesting the support for Allo processing training to its selected members. The Group wanted to refresh the knowledge of Ms. Magar and some other women members of the CFUG trained by the MEDEP.

SAADA provided training on Allo harvesting and thread weaving to eight women members selected by CFUG. The trainee received some material support such as foot wheel based spinning machine, caustic soda, drum from the MSFP. Ms. Pansara Magar with enhanced skill and knowledge is now capable of organizing the Allo harvesting and thread weaving training to others in the district. She has already trained women for doing the weaving of fibers who are making local clothes in the village itself. This has motivated other women who are enthusiastically doing more fiber extraction and thread making in the village.



Figure 1: Benefited women harvesting Allo with her husband



**Pansara Roka**, one of the entrepreneurs, said, “We now do not only depend on the Allo resource from the forest, but also explore the potentiality of growing it in the rain fed private land”. “Before the training we used to depend on local technologies such as using white sticky mud (Kamero) and ash for fiber processing whereas now-a-days we use modern technologies that

we received during the training organized by MSFP; we are optimistic that we can continue using these technologies”, adds Ms. Roka.”Though I was trained from MEDEP, the training from MSFP revived my skill. I can and will continue my enterprise”, said Pansara Roka.

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An Allo extraction and thread making enterprise has been set up by 21 women members of Bandredhunga and Mehelthuni CFUGs including those trained through the MSFP who are now involved in sustainable livelihoods for them and their families. Pansara is a leading member of the Group as she provides both the training throughout the district but also leads the women entrepreneurs of her community.

## Learning

Pansara has become a good local resource person (LRP) for Allo based enterprises promotion in Kalikot. She can facilitate all activities related to the Allo fiber preparation and Allo cloth weaving. After the production of fiber and cloth, the final product can be prepared to support local use as well as for export to distant markets. Hence, the role of LRP such as Pansara is high as finding a trained resource person in a remote district is difficult.

## Conclusion

The training of LRPs by the MSFP in future for Allo based income and employment creation and livelihoods improvement covering entire district will help motivate the forest users in conserving and sustainably managing forest resources.

## CASE 25

# A Model IGA - Poultry Slaughter House and Meat Shop, Jajarkot

### Case Description

Chharekhola Jaluke CFUG is located in Sima VDC ward no 9, at the western part of Jajarkot district. The CFUG has the forest area of 378 ha and number of forest user households is 126. Nirmala Pun is a member of the CFUG and belongs to ultra-poor economic strata as identified through participatory well-being ranking (PWDR) of the CFUG (see in figure below).

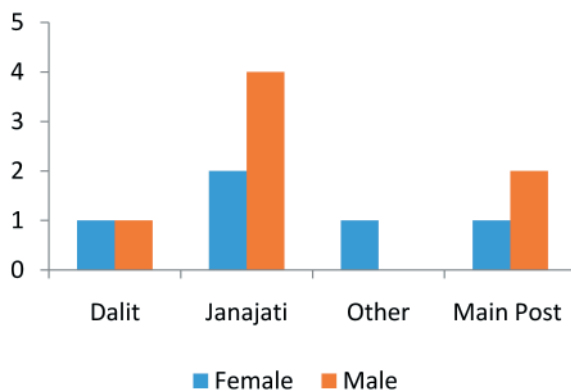


Figure 1: Socio-ethnic composition of Executive Committee

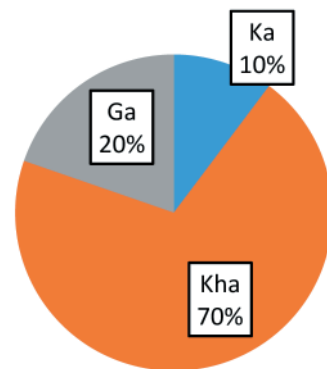


Figure 2: Wellbeing ranking of the CFUG members

### Key Issues

The major problem faced by the CFUG members especially ultra-poor and poor groups, was over dependence on the forest for their livelihoods. The community forest user committee (CFUC) approached to HRDC for the support to provide

livelihood related support to the identified poor group in the form of seed money to run a scheme of revolving fund. The HRDC and the CFUG entered into an agreement to support the poor group under a scheme of revolving fund for funding the income generation activities (IGA) for poor families, especially women headed HH in the CFUG. Nirmala Pun is one of the recipients of the no-interest credit from the revolving fund.

### Case Result and Learning

Nirmala narrates her story by mentioning that her family has been drawing its livelihoods from the small size agriculture for a long time. However, the annual production hardly meets the food needs of the family even for six months. When she learnt about the opportunity of getting IGA support from the CFUG revolving fund, she applied to be involved in the scheme. She got the free loan and started the poultry meat shop in the Morkbazar bus station where from the buses departs for various destination. The bus stop is a very good marketing place since there is high scope of selling cooked food and snacks for the passengers as well as visitors. Morkbazar had other eating places and grocery shops. However, there was no meat shop and she felt that the opportunity to get fund from the MSFP/IDS supported program was worth utilizing.



Figure 3: Poultry store of Nirmala Pun in Morkbazar

## Conclusion

Nirmal seized the opportunity and started the chicken meat shop in the busy market (Bazaar) place. The support from the CFUG's revolving fund of NPR 9,000 was the minimum she needed. She buys the live chickens from the Rakum bazaar in Surkhet district at the rate of NPR 290 per kg and sells the meat at the rate of NPR 400 per kg. thus earning a profit of around 11 Rs. per kg. On an average, her gross income per day is NPR 4,400. From the earning, she has already saved NPR 15,000 and deposited in the Sangam cooperative. She is happy with the success since she is managing her family well with the earning she is making.

Her husband also supports her in the business. Besides being involved in daily agricultural activities, he goes to market and buys chickens for his wife's business. She has planned to establish a poultry farm near the meat shop in future. She expects to receive the low-interest loan from the CFUG Revolving Fund again that will help Nirmala to upgrade her business through expansion and better management of her poultry farm.

## CASE 26

# Frame Hives are the Potential for Additional Income Generation, Bajhang

Bhumdeuli CF covers 63.56 ha of forest area in Banjh VDC ward no. 7. The CF was handed over to 80 households in 2058 BS. All the activities were stagnant before MSFP intervention. They had renewed the CFUG during LRP mobilization. Figure 1 below shows the ethnic composition of the executive committee and figure 2 shows the well-being ranking of the group.

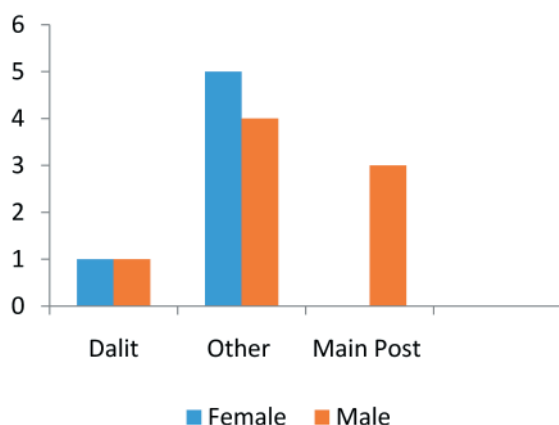


Figure 1: Socio-ethnic composition of Executive Committee

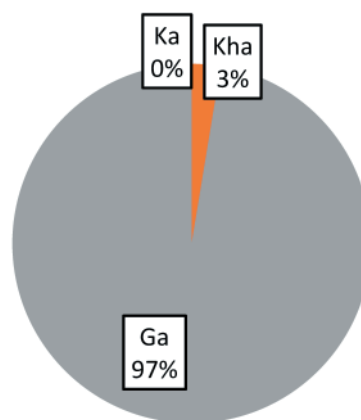


Figure 2: Wellbeing ranking of the CFUG members

The common tree species in the forest are Sallo, Chiuri, Sajh, Tuni, Satisal, Banjh and Pine. The major medicinal plants are Amala, Ritha, Chiraito, Titepati, Pakhanbed (pasanbed) and Dalchini. The honey produced in Bajhang from forest





Figure 3: CFUG users with their respective frame hives

species, mustard flower, buckwheat, Chiuri and other plants has high medicinal value. Beekeeping has wide range of benefits in relation to health, the economy, employment, horticulture pollination and holistic environment.

CFUG in Banjh have mobilized their revolving fund provided by MSFP to various enterprises and income generation activities (IGA) for improve livelihood of poor and disadvantaged household. Vegetable farming, poultry, small piggeries and beekeeping are the major IGA activities that the poor and disadvantaged groups are caring out from the revolving fund at the annual interest rate of 6%.

Most of the farmers used to practice traditional beekeeping in log-hives and wall-hives. MSFP distributed modern hives to the users at free. However, the users contributed themselves for bee colony

The users are now harvesting honey and beekeeping become the new income generation activity. This is comparatively easier enterprise with low investment and no regular labor input. In a simple supervision a best nutritive and medicinal product is possible. The average price of the honey at local market is 550 per kg.

Mr. Katak Khati, a member of Bhumdeuli CFUG, already had traditional hives. He got the opportunity to take 7 days beekeeping training. Now, he is known in his societies as colonies breaker, colonies transferor, and honey extractor. This training made him confidence to expand his business. He has now 3 frame-hives, 3 log-hives. He is going to expand some more frame-hives. He experienced

harvesting up to 7 kg honey from a hive in a season. Generally, they can harvest honey 3 times a year. Mr. Khati have planned for establishing small industry to meet the demand of frame-hives at local level.

Selection of best alternative could support in livelihood improvement program (LIP). If usefulness of frame-hives and their safety and convenient can be understood in local level, they will easily accept the technology. There is always risk to choose alternatives business but the farmer of these CFUGs overcome and make succeed.

## CASE 27

# Economic and Social Empowerment through IGA in Achham

### Case Description

Jalpadevi CF with 196.75 ha of forest area 183 households (HH) members is located in Dhakari VDC ward no 6. It was registered and handed over to the CFUG in 2056 BS. The socio-ethnic composition of the executive committee and the well-being ranks of the CFUG HH is given in Figures 1 and 2 respectively which indicate that although poor and dalit households form 42% of the user HH, their participation in the management positions is minimal.

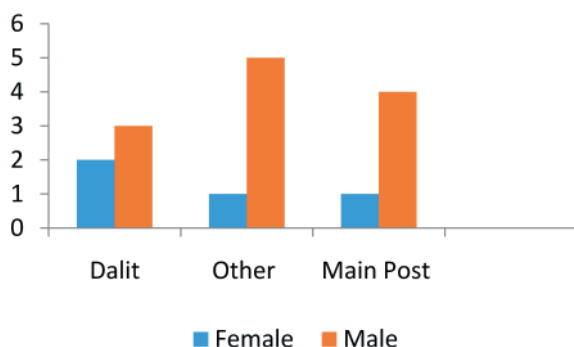


Figure 1: Socio-ethnic composition of Executive Committee

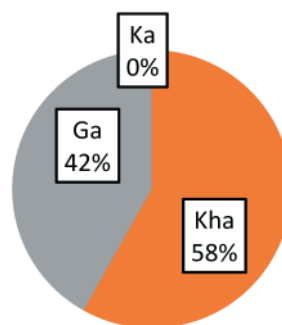


Figure 2: Wellbeing ranking of the CFUG members

### Problem Faced by the CFUG Members

Ms Juna Nepali is a dalit member of the CFUG. She, along with her 9 family members were living in a damaged house covered by plastic sheet. Her house was damaged during the Maoist insurgency and was left without any supervision



Juna received 5,000 each for doing poultry farming and turmeric cultivation. She bought chickens and maintained shed for rearing them out of the money she received. She earned NPR 7,000 by selling chicken within a year and invested the amount in pig farming and earned NPR 14,000 from it. She sold them after keeping and growing them and got NPR 7000 profit and bought again a pig and sold the mature one for Rs. 14,000. After a round of investment she collected NPR 40,000 from the initial business of chicken which is a very good income considering her situation. She has been repaying the loan regularly.

She invested part of this money to purchase some cloths (Than Kapada). She with support from her husband did sewing and tailoring work and sold the readymade clothes to the villagers. Together they have earned NPR 120,000 since the MSFP provided her the IGA support. She has upgraded her house - adding two rooms and putting permanent roof. They have now four-room house in Dhakneta Bazar.

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and maintenance. They are internally displaced people (IDP) based on political reasons. They lost all of their HH assets and were made homeless.

Due to lack of economic activity and employment opportunity in the village her son and daughter-in-law migrated to India. She had to maintain her livelihood by doing low-wage-labor work in the village to support her family.

## **MSFP Intervention**

The MSFP supported the CFUG by initiating income generating activities (IGA) through its revolving fund programme. Juna and similar poor HH received soft loan from the IGA fund managed by the CFUG. Out of the NPR 10,000 revolving fund amount given to the CFUG,

The MSFP-IDS IGA fund has created a number of success stories: One shining example is the transformation of a dalit and displaced family's life (see Box 2). Other DAG HH have benefitted from the IGA by improving their food security, assured gainful employment and improved livelihood. Most important of all, the MSFP supported IGA has contributed to social and economic empowerment to women such as Juna who has now become the treasure of the Jalpa CFUG.

## Conclusion and Lesson Learned

IGA and similar livelihood activities are critical to empower disadvantaged and poor HH within the CFUG. Once economic empowerment happens, they gain confidence in raising their voice and claim their rightful space in the management and decision making position within the CFUG structure and process.

## CASE 28

# Constraints and Opportunities for Starting Small Businesses Under the MSFP/IGA Grant Fund in Bajhang

### Case Description

Bhumdeuli CF covers 63.56 ha of forest area in Banjh VDC ward no. 7 of Bajhang district. The community forest (CF) was registered and handed over to the CFUG comprising 80 households in 2058 BS by the DFO. Majority of the CFUG members are poor small farmers, landless and dalits. Almost all the activities of the CFUG were stagnant due to lack of fund and ideas before MSFP intervention. They renewed the CF OP during LRP mobilization activity supported by the MSFP and the local DFO.

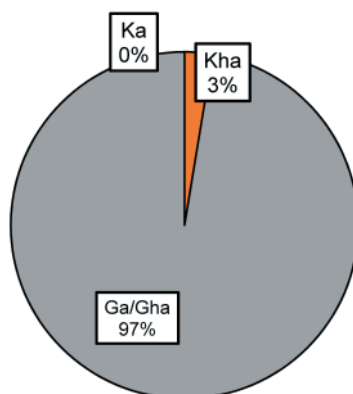


Figure 1: Composition of CF well-being ranking

Mr. Pyaru Doude is a typical member of Bhumdeuli CF belonging to the Dalit community. He and his 5 member family draw their livelihoods from their traditional occupation of sewing clothes in Bali system (service in exchange of monthly or annual with grain contributions) and some cash wages depending upon his client HH's situation. But all the dalit HHs did not have full time work and all looked for additional work which took some of them to India. His son and daughter-in-law work in India as migrant worker.

## MSFP/IDS Intervention

With an aim of providing some employment to poor and dalit families in the village itself, the CFUG made a decision to flow its IGA fund to poor and excluded dalit community households. Pyaru got the opportunity to take a loan of NPR 12,000 at 6% annual rate of interest 3-4 times lower than the local money lenders charge. He bought a pregnant pig investing NPR 20,000 (putting NPR 8,000 from his own source). He has sold 12 piglets at a price of NPR 3,000 each earning NPR 36,000 which allowed him to have good saving. He still has 3 left to sell.

Pyaru invested the money in buying a horse paying NPR 40,000 with additional loan. The horse is mostly used in marriage ceremony for riding by bridegroom and carrying loads for short distance as well as long distance where motor vehicle is not available. The daily rent varies from NPR 3,000 to 5,000 day according to distance travelled.



Figure 2: Mr. Pyaru Doude with his pig and horse



## Constraints for Small Business Ventures

Pyaru does not own any agriculture land except his homestead on which he plans to build a pig shed and also practices some vegetable farming. His son wants to promote the some small business such horse farming and renting. But there are number of problems in transaction through local banks whose hefty charge create extra economic burden besides being time consuming activities to submit for loan and regular payment of the interests on loan. Paying back loan itself is challenging as the business might not be profitable.

## Learning

From these case examples, one can draw several lessons. Uplifting the living standards of poor and dalit community requires multi-pronged strategy according to culture, tradition, and individual capability and capacity. Success is possible if the investment is made in the right venture and could be targeted to reach needy people.

## CASE 29

# Livelihood Strengthening through IGA in Kuntibhandali, Achham

### Case Description and Key Issues

The Kalika CF registered and handed over in 2069 BS covers 193 hector of forest area with 73 plus household members. It is located in Kuntibhandali VDC (now Mangalsen Municipality) at a distance of about 10 km from the district headquarter Mangalsen. The composition of the CF management committee and well-being ranking of the group is shown in figure 1 and 2 respectively. Most of the CFUG member belong to poor category (Figure 2) and about 30 % of members are from Dalit community only. However, dalit members do not have much say in the management of the CF since they are not well represented (Figure 1). Most of users are involved in agricultural activities including animal husbandry. Most

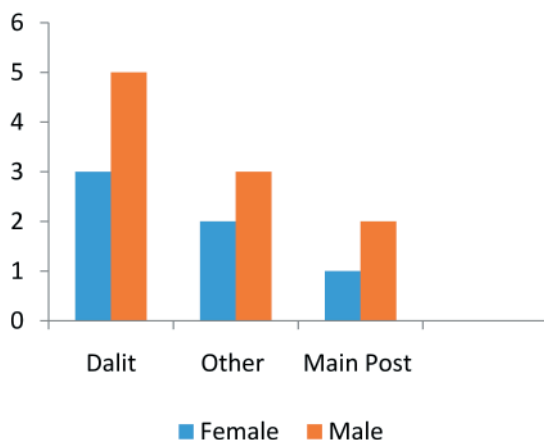


Figure 1: Socio-ethnic composition of Executive Committee

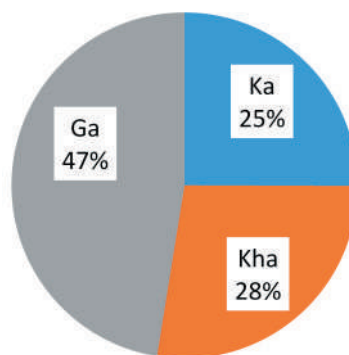


Figure 2: Wellbeing ranking of the CFUG members

male youth migrate to India as seasonal worker during off-season in agriculture field. The major issues affecting the CFUG members and their forest are: high unemployment forcing youth to migrate to India and overseas countries, increasing threats of flash flood and landslide to the forest, and growing impacts of climate change on both.

The CFUG was running on a 'business-as-usual' model before the support provided by the MSFP and implementation and coordination facilitated by IDs-Nepal. The forest was conserved before the MSFP intervention but the community was not aware about the sustainable utilization approaches of the forest resources partly created by the CFUG members, forest-based livelihood activities for pro-poor CFUG members, enterprise development, forest management, institutional development, follow up of OP and constitution revision, and plantation in degraded area CF areas.

## Key Interventions

The IGA fund of NPR 100,000 and addition NPR 50,000 from CFUG is now utilizing in CFUG to promote and enhance the livelihood system. Fifteen families have been selected from very poor and excluded family for the investment. Mainly promotion of vegetable farming, promotion and enhancement of goat farming was selected as key sector for investments. Community has invested their money in Potato seeds for promotion of vegetable farming and goat kid for goat farming.



Figure 3(A): Ms. Bhatti Thapa (single women) in her vegetable yard



Figure 3(B): Farmer in vegetable farm

Ms. Bhatti Thapa (55) a single woman is one of lead farmer in this society involving in vegetable farming since long time. She has planted varieties of vegetable, green vegetable in her farmyards. Cauliflower, Chilies, potato, onion, bitter gourd, Palungo and other green vegetable are common product for her garden. She must to travel 2 hour or more walking distances to sell her products



Figure 4: Women with goat from IGA fund

and sometime consumed in local level but got low prices. The values of products varies as per season, but she generally target for off-season products. The prices range for different vegetable is as Cauliflower NPR 50-60, bitter guard NPR 50-60, potato NPR 40-60, dry chilies NPR 300, fresh chills NPR 80-100 per kg and onion NPR 20 per month.

She had got output of NPR 5000 from chilies, NPR 8000 from cauliflowers in a single season. She already got the output of her investments and sustaining her family along with extra saving. She returned a debt of NPR 60,000 during the medical operation of her daughter in law. She said that she need not wait for money from her migrant son for treatments. She also wants to includes her son (is in India), to promote this business. She added that 'This is all possible due to this program and thanks to MDO Nepal.

Mr. Bal Jayagadi (30), Mr. Dhoje Nath is another user involving in vegetable farming. They have planted potato, cauliflower in their farmyard and waiting for harvesting. These are also involving in goat farming, Similarly, Mr. Shivalal Giri, Mr. Chandra Nath are other farmer who have involves in goat farming. Mr. Sivalal has already utilized as meat product in local level. The farmers involves in goat farming is waiting for output.

## Challenges

There is still low access to availability of fertilizer and improved seed. They do not have idea and technical knowledge to improve their agricultural system, hence

higher the risk to invest in new farming option.

The access of market and product valuation is another key issue for tackle or managing the risks of cash crop, vegetable farming and new agricultural system. There is shortage of irrigation water and decreasing the volume of water in springs and streams.

## **Learning and Conclusion**

Through these package form livelihood approaches, the CFUG has become more active, responsible and multi-functional. These activities help to diversify the livelihood system that reduce the threat pose by climate change. Program investment on existing user is just beginning stage of any program intervention and but targeted group are those who don't know the idea and generally stay silence in backwards. Thus need more motivation and enhancement of their knowledge and that will be key tools for achieving the goals and targets.

Program support for such poor and excluded families improves the livelihood system and increased the adaptive capacity. From above Ms. Bhatti Thapa is ideal person for diffusion of knowledge.

It can be concluded that focused and bundled approach of conservation and development can generate multiple benefits which perhaps contributes to multiple outcomes desired by the MSFP.

## CHAPTER 6

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# CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### Conclusions

The above described compendium of 29 case studies categorized under 4 themes: a) Climate change adaptation, b) Sustainable Forest Management, c) Forest based enterprise development, and d) Income generating activities provide successful examples of good practices and working approaches implemented in the MSFP/IDS cluster districts in Midwestern and Far western regions. The case examples clearly indicate that activities under all the four main themes have succeeded only because the cross cutting themes such as Social mobilization and awareness building, gender empowerment and social inclusion (GESI), livelihood improvement and good governance related activities were first conducted to prepare the CFUG communities to manage the interventions. The case studies indicate some of the successful activities that are generating multiple objectives and creating synergy. They are:

1. **Bee Keeping:** Since the far and mid-western districts have very high poverty incidence and the main cause for the same is lack of farm holding with disadvantaged and poor farmers, Bee Keeping using the indigenous honey bee (*apis cerana*) seems to have high acceptance. Since domestic market is existing and growing, and there are plenty pollination crops on which the bees feed (e.g., Chiyuri), bee keeping helps raise income, conserves biodiversity and promotes local enterprises.
2. **Improved Cook Stoves (ICS)** is popular and has high potential to succeed as it helps poor users especially in lower altitude areas to reduce pressure on forests and biodiversity resources preventing both carbon and biodiversity loss besides decreasing the use of fuel wood. They also

provide health and livelihood benefits especially to women.

3. **Broom Grass Plantations** are rehabilitating degraded forest areas, restoring ecosystems and enhancing income of the poor HH within the user groupsthus reduce natural resource degradation, and improve livelihoods of poor and marginalized people who were relying on wage labour locally or in India.
4. **Goat, Poultry and Ppig Farming:** depending on the cultural preference all these IGA are showing success as the activities mature very quickly generating extra income that help poor families meet their food security, and also help buy clothes, medicines and books for their children thus generating other social benefits besides helping forest management.

Specifically, following strategies and approaches seem to generate multiple benefits, high synergy, and outcome level changes and these are also the recommendations that can be forwarded to the MSFP:

## Recommendations

1. **Climate Change Adaptation (CCA):** The preparation of CAPAs is a good starting point provided the planned activities addressed the specific vulnerabilities – physical, social, and economic - identified by the CFUGs through a truly participatory process. The second point is that the CAPA should remain climate change focused and have minimum overlap with CFOP. If this is not possible then it is difficult to separate between SFM and CCA activities. Also, CAPAs should be used as a 'building block' or tools to prepare a robust LAPA at the VDC or municipality level by linking the LAPA to the GoN VDC planning processes and plans including (Annual VDC plan, EFLGP and LDRMP);
2. **Sustainable Forest Management (SFM):** The case examples clearly indicate that SFM requires a timely updated and adaptive CF operation plan that follows the latest CF management guidelines issued by the MoFSC. If the Ops are robust, then the SFM activities seem to achieve good governance, social inclusion, transparency, and eventually good forest conditions generating livelihood benefits to the poor and disadvantaged users through either IGA or forest/NTFP based IGA. Therefore, SFM progress seems to be on course in the MSFP-IDS districts wherein the CFUG shave address de the issues related to equity, transparency, accountability, and technical and institutional capacity building have been effectively addressed by the MSFP-IDS team and the concerned LIPO.



- 3. Forest Based Enterprise (FBE) Development:** The MSFP-IDS districts of Dailekh, Jajarkot, Achham, Bajhang and Kalikot are rich in both timber and non-timber resources. While high quality Sal (*Shorea robusta*) forests are found in lower altitudes, high quality NTFPs such as Lokta, Sugandhwal, and Chiraito are found in high altitudes. However, the enterprises that seem to be doing well are those which are planned with well trained and skilled entrepreneurs and more importantly with sustainable backward (to raw material supply) and forward (to local, regional and international markets) linkages. The success of Lokta hand-paper, furniture industry and bee keeping are good case examples. Therefore training for enterprise development should be transferring skills needed including marketing and enterprises should be managed on business models. Not all CFUG members can do enterprise and marketing as this requires entrepreneurship, management and networking skills.
- 4. Income Generating Activities (IGA):** One of the principles of community based natural resources management (CBNRM) is that success of the SFM is possible provided one can create enough incentives to grow and protect forests. The CBNRM and SFM is not possible if the CFUG management through its actions and inactions create disincentives to those users who have invested their precious time, knowledge, and efforts to protect and develop forests and the benefits are captured by elites within the CFUG (e.g. Thulgaira CFUG, Achham) and the revenues are not shared in an equitable manner addressing the needs of the poorest HH among the users. The IGAs carried out under the MSFP-IDS cluster have created economic incentives that are reflected in better and quality participation of poor HHs in protecting and managing their forests. So the recommendation is create economic, social, institutional and policy (e.g. ensuring supplying of raw materials even from the national forests to local forest based enterprises if the concerned CFs is not able to do so as shown by a case study in Dailekh) incentives and initiatives.

