

**Asia Regional Inception Workshop on
Strengthening Forest Tenure for Sustaining Livelihoods and Generating Income
Kathmandu, Nepal (TCP/RAS/3506)
11-12 February 2015**

Background

Most of the countries in Asia and the Pacific are struggling to address issues related to forest tenure. Inadequate regulatory frameworks and lack of institutional capacity are the major issues in the forestry sector in Asia, including in Cambodia, Nepal and Viet Nam. These are the three pilot countries for this Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). In the last ten years, however, the economic role of forests, particularly in contributing to the improvement of livelihoods and the income of rural communities, has received greater attention. Recognition of the importance of strengthening community forest tenure, both from policy and institutional capacity perspectives, to ensure livelihoods and increase the income of forest dependent people is well-reflected in the development priorities of pilot countries.

The main purpose of the TCP is to strengthen regulatory and policy frameworks on forest tenure as well as the institutional capacity in the pilot countries to address tenure issues. The ultimate beneficiaries are forest-dependent communities whose livelihoods and income depend on their access and use of forest resources. In the long run those communities are expected to have more secured and stronger forest tenure rights as a key prerequisite for ensuring the contribution of forests to their livelihoods and income. Activities of this TCP will be built on previous and existing work of FAO related to this topic including, for example, various awareness raising programmes conducted in the past, training on the tenure and governance based the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGT), training on conflict management, etc.

Improving livelihoods of forest dependent communities is important in the context of poverty reduction efforts, enhancing food security and sustainable management of forest resources. In order to achieve improved livelihoods for those people, one of the main barriers is lack of clear, strong, and secure tenure. The policy and legal framework to ensure access to forest resources and land is often inadequate and/or poorly implemented.

Recognizing this challenge, FAO together with the governments of pilot countries in collaboration with CSOs, development partners, research and capacity building institutions, and other relevant actors is implementing this TCP to help formulate future actions to address the issues associated with tenure policies and institutional capacity at the national level.

Objective

The regional inception workshop brings together stakeholders from relevant actors from sectors such as land, environment, to discuss and exchange information and share experiences on the following topics, among others:

- Status, trends, challenges and future outlook of forest tenure in Asia in particular and how they relate to livelihoods of forest dependent communities
- Programmes to enhance livelihoods of forest dependent communities
- Future actions that need to be designed and implemented to strengthen forest tenure so as to improve livelihoods of those communities

Date and venue

The inception workshop is co-hosted by the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, Nepal and FAO and will be held in Kathmandu on 11-12 February 2015 at Himalaya Hotel, Kupondole Height, Lalitpur, Kathmandu.

Participants

Around 25-30 participants will attend the workshop. Participants include representative from government agencies of pilot countries mainly from land, forestry and environmental sectors, key experts, development partners, consultants (national and international), FAO RAP staff, and representatives from some of the selected NGOs.

Workshop Programme

Day 1, 11 February 2015, Field visit		
08.30 – 16.00	<p>The objective of the field visit is to learn how community user groups manage forest resources and observe issues related to forest tenure, livelihoods and enterprises. There should be an opportunity to observe forest resources and have discussion with members of forest user groups (FUGs), Illaka Forest Office.</p> <p>Site: Dhaneshore Baijuwa CF Kavre (Banepa)</p> <p>*Detailed programme of the field trip is provided in the next section</p>	Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation Nepal, FAO
Day 2, 12 February, Workshop		
08.00 – 08.30	Registration	
08.30 – 09.00	Opening ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome address by Mr. B.N Oli, Joint-secretary, Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation Nepal• Welcome remarks by the ADG/RR delivered by Mr. Somsak Pipoppinyo, FAOR Nepal• Introduction to the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) “Strengthening Forest Tenure for Sustaining Livelihoods and Generating Income by Mr. Patrick Durst, FAO-RAP• Chief guest remarks by the Secretary, MoFSC- Nepal• Chairperson remarks by Director General, Department of Forest Nepal• Group photo	Master of ceremony: FAO Nepal
09.00 – 09.10	Self-introduction	Master of ceremony: FAO Nepal
09.10 – 09.45	Session I: Country Presentation Panel presentation: forest tenure, livelihoods and	Session Chair: Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation Nepal

	income of forest dependent community: status, challenge and outlook: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cambodia - Nepal 	Forest Administration Department of forests
09.45 – 10.15	Coffee break	
10.15 – 10.40	Session I: Country Presentation (cont'd) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Viet Nam - Indonesia 	VN Forests Mr. Erpan Faryadi
10.40 – 11.30	Session II: International experience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International and regional context of forest tenure: status, trends, issues and outlook • International tenure and livelihoods – a research perspective from CIFOR 	Session Chair: MoFSC-Nepal Mr. Ganga Dahal, FAO consultant Mr. Mani Ram Banjade, CIFOR
11.30 – 12.00	Q&A and general discussion from Session I and II	
12.00 – 13.30	Lunch	
13.30 – 14.30	Session III: Experience from selected programmes Panel presentation: Experience sharing on forest tenure, livelihoods and income of forest dependent community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FECOFUN - NTFP-EP - IUCN- Nepal - Multi-stakeholder Forestry Programme (MSFP-SSU) 	Session Chair: Mr. Yurdi Yasmi, FAO-RAP Ms. Bharati Pathak Mr. Sony Oum Mr. Yam Malla Mr. Ramu Subedi
14.30 – 15.30	Session IV Group work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What key actions and priorities are needed for improving forest policies and regulation to ensure secured tenure for forest dependent communities? - What capacity development programmes needs to be developed to strengthen forest tenure? 	Session Chair: Mr. Yurdi Yasmi, FAO-RAP
15.30 – 15.45	Coffee break	
15.45 – 16.00	Report back from group work	
16.00 – 16.30	Session V: Moving forward and work plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy aspect • Capacity building aspect Q&A	Mr. Ganga Dahal, FAO consultant
16.30 – 16.45	Closing remarks	Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation FAO
18.00	Group Dinner at Hotel Himalaya Hotel	

***Field visit**

11 February 2015

08.30 – 9.30	Travel to Ryale (Manedovan) Site:	MoFSC, FAO, District Forest Office, Kavre
9.30-11.30	Observe Leasehold Forest Group activities; forest nursery, Fulchoki Bio-briquette, discussion with leasehold forest group cooperative and observe leasehold forest sites	DFO Ganesh Roy and AFO Sivaram Thapa, Ilaka Forest Office, Khopasi, Leasehold Forest Users Group representatives
11.30-12.10	Travel to Dhaneshore Baijuwa CF Kavre (Banepa)	AFO Sivaram Thapa, Ilaka Forest Office, Khopasi
12.10-14.00	Observe Dhaneshore Baijuwa Community Forest, discussion with Community Forest Users Group members	DFO Ganesh Roy and AFO Bachchuram Pudasainia, Ilaka Forest Office, Janagal, Dhaneshore Baijuwa Community Forest Users Group representatives
14.00-14.10	Travel to Dhulikhel	AFO Bachchuram Pudasainia, Ilaka Forest Office, Janagal,
14.10-15.10	Lunch at Hotel	
15.10-16.00	Travel to Kathmandu	MoFSC, FAO

List of participant

	Government agencies	
1.	Mr. Khin Mengkheag	Env. Sector, Cambodia
2.	Mr. Phadindra Prasad Pokharel (TCP Focal point)	Department of Forests, Nepal
3.	Mr. Rajendra Adhikari	Joint secretary PICCD, Nepal
4.	Mr. Rama Nanda Mishra	Director, Fisheries of Directorate, Ministry of Agricultural Development, Nepal
5.	Mr. Krishna Raj BC	Executive Director, Land Management Training Centre, Ministry of Land Reform and Management(MoLRM)
6.	Mr. Vu Tan Phuong	Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences (VAFS)
7.	Mr. Nguyen Hoang Tiep	Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences (VAFS)
8.	Mr. Hoang Lien Son	Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences (VAFS)
9.	Mr. Uy Kamal	Ministry of Environment, Cambodia
	NGOs, development partners, international organizations, etc.	
10.	Mr. Yam Malla	IUCN
11.	Ms. Bharati Pathak	FECOFUN
12.	Mr. Ramu Subedi	Multi-Stakeholder Forestry Programme (MSFP-SSU), Nepal
13.	Mr. Bharat Pokharel	Helvetas- Swiss Intercooperation Nepal
14.	Mr. Ghanshyam Pandey	Global Alliance of Community Forestry
15.	Mr. Erpan Faryadi	Asia Regional Facilitator (ARF) of ILC
16.	Mr. Mani Ram Banjade	CIFOR
17.	Mr. Bishnu Paudyal	RECOFTC Nepal
	FAO	
18.	Mr. Somsak Pipoppinyo	FAOR Nepal
19.	Mr. Shrawan Adhikary	Programme Officer
20.	Mr. Binod Saha	Assistant FAOR Nepal
21.	Mr. Patrick Durst	Senior Forestry Officer
22.	Mr. Yurdi Yasmi	Forest Policy Officer
	FAO consultants	
23.	Mr. Ganga Dahal	International Consultant (Policy)
24.	Mr. Sony Oum, NTFP-EP	National consultant Cambodia (Policy and CB)
25.	Mr. Dilraj Khanal	National consultant Nepal (Policy)
26.	Mr. Kapil Neupane	National consultant Nepal (Capacity building)
27.	Ms. Tran Ha	National consultant Viet Nam (Policy)
28.	Mr. Do Anh Tuan	National consultant Viet Nam (Capacity building)