

Report on Asia Regional Inception Workshop

Strengthening Forest Tenure for Sustaining Livelihood and Generating Income TCP/RAS/3506



**11-12 February 2015
Kathmandu, Nepal**



**Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations**

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Executive Summary

Forest tenure is one of the key factors that influence the achievement of forest management objectives (improved forest condition, economic development, improved livelihoods, and increased rights of local communities and indigenous groups). The interaction among governance, tenure and regulatory framework determines the quality and extent of outcomes of forest management. Good forest governance, secured and clear tenure arrangement, and enabling regulation are prerequisites for achieving economic, environmental and social functions of forests. Forest tenure reform is unfolding in Asia by balancing forest ownership between public and private owners. Such reform aims to achieve sustainable forest management with increased economic benefits which help in addressing poverty in general, and improving livelihood of forest communities in particular.

Within this context, Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) of FAO recently initiated Asia regional project on- "Strengthening Forest Tenure for Sustaining Livelihoods and Generating Income" taking Cambodia, Nepal and Vietnam as pilot countries. The TCP mainly aims to review the current status, trends and challenges of forest tenure in Asia, look at consistency between current policies and principles of FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries, and Forests (VGGT) in the Context of National Food Security. It also aims to find out policy and capacity gap that hinders the process of forest tenure reform. The regional inception workshop for the TCP was held on 11-12 February 2015 in Nepal. The workshop was co-hosted by the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation of Nepal.

The first day of the workshop was allocated for the field visit in Kavre district near Kathmandu and the second day was for the workshop. The field visit on the first day provided an opportunity for the participants to observe forest area under Leasehold and Community Forest regimes, and obtained primary information about different forest tenure arrangements, their level of security, and contribution on livelihood of the local people and improvement on forest condition. All these information helped to enrich the discussion at the workshop on 12 February 2015. In addition to formal opening ceremony, the workshop consisted of four technical sessions:

- 1. Country presentations from Cambodia, Nepal, Indonesia and Viet Nam,*
- 2. International experiences (International/regional trends, and global research of CIFOR),*
- 3. Lessons learned from selected programmes (FECOFUN, NTFP-EP, IUCN and Multi-stakeholder Forestry Programme Nepal), and*
- 4. Identification of key activities of the TCP.*

During the workshop, country presentations provided specific information and lessons learned in each country regarding e.g. current status, trends and progress on forest tenure policies and regulation, issues and challenges related to forest tenure, relation between tenure policies and livelihoods/income of local communities, current policy gaps and area for improvement or endorsement.

The international and regional context of tenure reform was also discussed where progress, trends and key achievements in different regions (Asia, Africa and Latin America) to date were described. Voluntary Guidelines (VGGT) were cited as providing important framework in the reform process that can be used by countries in improving the governance of tenure. Selected initiatives on how to advance forest tenure reform were shared, e.g. recent Constitutional Court Ruling (Indonesia), Communal Land Titling (Lao PDR), Indigenous People's Right Act (Philippines), Collective Forests (China), and Leasehold and Community Forest (Nepal). Global research of CIFOR that focuses on Indonesia, Uganda, Peru, Nepal, DRC and Ecuador was shared with the objectives to understand how tenure reforms emerge, impacts of tenure reform, constraints and lessons learned.

Furthermore, specific programme related to tenure and livelihoods from FECOFUN, NTFP-EP, IUCN and Multi-stakeholder Forestry Programme Nepal were shared and discussed. What became clear was that those programmes have common objectives such as the importance of clarifying tenure rights, helping forest dependent communities to have more secured access to forest resources, providing better opportunities for them to generate income from forest-based activities and at the same time promoting gender equity and equality. Policy environment and capacity building were considered to be important elements in the whole reform process.

The discussion and break-out group sessions revolved around key issues such as the definition of tenure, the importance of supporting tenure reform with adequate policies and capacity building programmes, the need to ensure tenure security, the critical need to involve multi-stakeholder actors in the process, the need to learn from existing best practices and experiences, the need to build institutional capacity to support tenure reform, establish networking and platforms for sharing information, the importance of implementing the principles presented in FAO Voluntary Guidelines.

In pilot countries, the following are proposed as immediate activities for the next few months:

- Hold a national multi-stakeholder inception workshop to further refine action plan for the implementation of the TCP.*
- Conduct policy review to assess the current status of forest tenure, identify gaps and develop action plan to address those gaps. The VGGT framework should be used to inform the process of policy review.*
- Conduct institutional capacity building need assessment. The VGGT framework should be used to inform the process of CBNA.*

Background

National governments in many countries in Asia have shown commitment for forest tenure reform by creating space for non- state actors and transferring certain responsibilities and authorities to them. There is a mix result of such reform, but in general, making non-state actors more responsible in the protection and management of forests resulted in better forest condition and better livelihoods for local people. There are the cases, where potential benefits from the forest management are not fully realised yet. Restrictive regulations, weak policy framework and capacity of stakeholders are some of the factors which limit the benefits from the forests. The status, trends and issues of forest tenure across Asia, Africa and Latin America is not the same. Each region and country has specific socio-economic and political context, which determine the type of forest tenure reform and related policies and regulation. As of now, some 60 percent of the total forest of Asia is under the government administration, whereas remaining 40 percent of forest is allocated to be administered by local communities and indigenous people, private sector or individual firms (RRI, 2014). However, there is an increasing trend of shifting tenure from state to other actors in most countries in Asia. This indicates that there is an increasing recognition of the role of non-state actors in the management of forestland and resources. Such shift also helps to clarify tenure rights, and protect the existing rights with greater security.

Against this backdrop, FAO under the technical cooperation programme (TCP) has been implementing a project since September 2014 on “Strengthening Forest Tenure for Sustaining Livelihoods and Generating Income” across the selected pilot countries in Asia namely- Cambodia, Nepal and Vietnam. 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 agenda. The ultimate beneficiaries are forest-dependent communities whose livelihoods depend on access and use of forest resources. In the long run, those communities are expected to have stronger and secure forest tenure rights, which is as a key prerequisite for ensuring livelihood benefits from forests. Interventions under 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 on the principles of Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure, training on conflict management, etc.

The framework of this TCP follows the principles of FAO Voluntary Guidelines which aims to: recognize and respect all legitimate tenure right holders and their rights, safeguard legitimate tenure rights against threats and infringements, promote and facilitate the enjoyment of legitimate tenure rights, provide access to justice to deal with infringements of legitimate tenure rights, prevent tenure disputes, violent conflicts and corruption.

The regional inception workshop of the FAO- TCP was organised in Kathmandu (11-12 February 2015) to discuss and exchange information and share experiences on the following topics:

- Status, trends, challenges and future outlook of forest tenure in Asia in particular and how they relate to livelihoods of forest dependent communities

- Programme 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

The regional inception workshop was co-hosted by the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation of Nepal (MoFSC). The participants were from- government agencies of pilot countries, civil society organisations, FAO staff and representatives from international organisations working in Cambodia, Indonesia, Nepal and Vietnam (please see Annex-3 for the full list of participants).

Opening Session- Key Highlights

During the opening session, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation of Nepal Mr. B.N. Oli highlighted that the management of forests should ensure that both environmental and economic goals are achieved in parallel.

Mr. Oli said Nepal has been applying multiple models of forest management to address the specific needs in specific geographic location. For example, in mid hills community and leasehold forestry are very common, whereas in terai- low land- collaborative forest management and buffer zone community forest are implemented. In high hills- most of the area is under conservation zone and is administered by the government. Specific attention has been given to protect Chore region- a geographic region between mid-hills and terai, which is a fragile landscape and increasingly deteriorating in recent years. In all these regimes tenure is considered as a core element, which determines the quality and sustainability of forest management.

FAO -Assistant Director General and Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific Mr. Hiroyuki Konuma in his written message (read by Mr. Somsak Pipoppinyo- FAO Representative in Nepal) highlighted that “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 the pilot countries”.

Mr. Konuma also pointed out that the livelihoods of millions of people in Asia region, particularly of the rural poor is based on security of tenure and their rights to access and manage the resources. Many people in the region depend on forests for their livelihoods. Therefore, forest resource is extremely important for food security and for addressing poverty. To achieve these goals, good governance and enabling regulatory and policy frameworks are fundamentals- he said.



Mr. Somsak Pipoppinyo- FAO Country Representative, Nepal

Mr. Patrick Durst- Senior Forestry Officer from FAO RAP provided an overview of the TCP highlighting the key purposes and implementation arrangement.



Mr. Patrick Durst- Senior Forestry Officer, FAO RAP

In his deliberation, Mr. Durst said that the main purposes of the TCP are to strengthen regulatory frameworks and institutional capacity of pilot countries (Cambodia, Nepal, and Vietnam). It is expected that in long run, the TCP could contribute in gaining more secure and stronger forest tenure rights by the forest dependent communities. Such tenure security is key prerequisite to ensure the contribution of forests to the livelihoods of local communities and generate income.

The chief guest of the opening session, Mr. Sharad Chandra Paudel- the Secretary of the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation Nepal highlighted that government of Nepal is committed to protect forests and sustainably use forest resources to address poverty and food insecurity.



Mr. Sharad Chandra Paudel- the Secretary, Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation of Nepal

Mr. Paudel also mentioned that there exists a huge potential of forest to generate income and provide job opportunities, which eventually could help in addressing increased problem of food insecurity particularly in rural areas.

At the end, the chair of the opening session Mr. Rajan Pokharel- Director General of the Department of Forests of Nepal emphasized that there is an increasing need to protect forests not only to support livelihoods of forest dependent communities, but also to achieve environmental functions from the forests. He reiterated government commitment to follow

international convention, standards, and guidelines related to forests, tenure, governance and climate change which are agreed and signed by the country.

Session I: Country Presentation

Cambodia

Mr. Khin Mengkheag from Ministry of Environment Cambodia presented the status of forest tenure and associated issues and challenges in Cambodia. He took reference of Protected Areas Law and its implementation on the ground. Some of the highlights of the presentation are presented below.

As of 2013, nearly 98 percent of the total forest area of Cambodia is under government administration, remaining two percent of forest is designated to indigenous people and local communities with limited usufruct rights to use and manage. Community forestry is relatively new approach in Cambodia and mostly limited on piloting under the technical and financial support of international donors. Forestry Law 2002 is a key legal instrument to promote community forest in Cambodia. Overlapping claim is a common problem in Cambodia, as there are no defined administrative roles, boundaries, legal procedures, and land tenure information in place. Hence everyone is trying to produce supporting documents to legitimize their claims over land and forests.

Government has granted land under concessions to private companies in order to promote the large scale development of ostensibly unused or under-utilized land in Cambodia. However such economic land concession has also a huge implication in terms of livelihoods and rights of local communities and indigenous people who have been living in and around the forest for the last many decades. Similarly, conversion of forest into agriculture land is another problem in Cambodia. The total forest cover in Cambodia was estimated to be approximately 61 percent of the country's land area, but this percentage is gradually decreasing as deforestation has been continued until recently.

Nepal

Mr. Krishna Pokharel- Chief of Community Forestry Division from the Department of Forest presented the status and trends of Forest Tenure Governance in Nepal. Below is a summary and key highlight of his presentation.

Facts and figures about Nepal: total area- 14.7 million hectare (mha), total forest land- 5.8 mha (39.6 percent of total land area), total population 26.49 million. Geographically divided into five regions namely- high mountains, mid mountains, mid hills, siwaliks, and terai. According to land use pattern, the total forest area is divided into three categories namely- forest (29 percent), shrub land (10.6 percent), and other (60.4 percent). In terms of management, the forest in Nepal is broadly divided into two: government managed forests, and community managed forests. The latter category includes- community forest, leasehold forest, collaborative forests, protected forest, religious forests, and buffer zone community managed conservation area. The latest status of different community management forests in Nepal is presented below.

Table 1: Status and scale of various types of forest management regime in Nepal

SN	Type of forest management	Total number of groups formed, and forest area coverage	Percent coverage of total forest area
1	Community forest	18324 groups, managing 1.8 mha	31.23 percent
2	Leasehold forest	7214 groups managing 42,000 ha	0.73 percent
3	Collaborative forest	12 groups managing 58,000 ha	1.01 percent
4	Protected area	12 groups with 273192 ha	4.74 percent
5	Government managed forest	---	Around 60 percent of the total forest

Source: Department of Forests, 2015

All forests lands other than private are considered as national forests and the ownership of land remain with the government of Nepal. Community forest is a part of the national forests handed over to the user groups for the development, conservation and utilization in the interest of the community. The tenure period is not limited under this category, but the forest management plan need to update periodically on every 5 or 10 years. In the case of Leasehold, the tenure arrangement is limited for 40 years with possible extension for another 40 years. In collaborative forest- the tenure is unlimited but the benefits should be shared equally between community and the government. Protected and conservation forests are mainly government administered model of forest management, but community are also included in the protection of forests. Limited use rights are given to the community.

In general, community forests model is doing well in Nepal in terms of improving forest condition, biodiversity conservation and contribution on addressing livelihoods and poverty of rural population. Forest user groups in both community and leasehold forest are functioning as strong local institutions thereby applying democratic rules and practices. Studies have indicated that there is huge potential of community forests to generate economic benefits for local people, but so far such potential has not been fully realized.

Vietnam

Mr. Phuong VT, Son H.L. and Tiep N.H. from Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences (VAFS) presented a paper on- An Overview of Forest Tenure in Vietnam. Key highlights of the presentation are described as below:

In Vietnam- forest area covers 13.9 mha which is 40 percent of the national area of the country. Total population of Vietnam is 25 million. Before Doi Moi policy initiated in 1986, most of the forests were under government ownership. Legal frameworks were changed in 1990 towards recognition of rights of legitimate rights holders other than the state. At present, there are two laws governing forest tenure policies namely- Forest Protection and Development Law (2004) and Land Law (2013). Land in Vietnam is tenured by all people and the state is a representative of the tenure. In general, forest tenure in Vietnam is divided into four categories- private, state, community and contracted forests. As of 2014, around 66 percent of forest in Vietnam is managed by the state, whereas private sector

owns only 26 percent of the forests. Based on function, the State owned forest is also sub divided into: production, protection and special use forests. Production forests are mainly used for the production of timber and non-timber forest products for commercial use, but consider the environmental protection and sustainability of the resources. It covers around 7 mha which is almost 50 percent of the total forest of Vietnam. Similarly, protection forests serves the objective of protecting water, soil, prevent erosion and desertification, mitigate natural disasters and regulate climate thereby contributing to the protection and enhancement of forest ecosystem services. It covers around 4.6 mha of forest area. The special use forests on the other hand refer to those protected areas designated to meet conservation objectives including preservation of standard specimens of national ecosystems and forest biological gene sources, scientific research, protection of cultural and historical relics and landscape conservation. It covers around 2 mha of forest area.

Forest tenure is relatively stronger in Vietnam as compared to other Southeast Asian countries, but still many issues exist such as- poorly defined property rights, limited use and decision making rights given to the communities. The policies related to benefit sharing mechanism is poorly defined and weak. Nevertheless, communities in Vietnam are legally accepted as entities to receive forests and forestland. In order to make the Forest Land Allocation meaningful there is a need of devolution to make decision about management and monitoring of forest policy implementation by local people. FLA should be more pro-poor, equitable and recognize customary tenure and management practices that local communities have been following since last many generations.

There are a number of issues associated with tenure which need immediate attention such as recognition of full rights of legitimate land owner, and accelerating the process of granting land use certificates to the legitimate land owner. Forest tenure rights along with power to make decision and monitoring should be granted to local people. Recognition is necessary for the traditional practices. To realize rights given under current regulatory framework, it is noted that there is a need for capacity building of multiple stakeholders at all levels, mainly on the following areas.

- Ways to enhance rights of community people in forest management
- Ensuring contribution of forest product in improving livelihoods and reducing poverty
- Facilitation of stakeholders engagement and participation in policy processes
- Strengthening forest governance and sustainable forest management
- Diversification of benefits from forest resources such as PES, Carbon credit, REDD+

Indonesia

Mr. Erpan Faryadi- Asia Regional Facilitator from International Land Coalition (ILC) presented an overview on Forest and Land Tenure Policies in Indonesia. Here are some of the key points of his presentation.

More than 97 percent of the total forest of Indonesia is under government administration. Until recently government did not recognize the rights of customary tenure (*adat*). However, the right of ethnic minorities and indigenous people on land and forest is currently recognized through the decision of Constitutional Court No 35/2012 on Judicial

Review of Forestry Law. It states that forest area owned by customary *adat* communities are category of private forest and non- state forest hence cannot be considered as state forest reserves.

In order to avoid conflict caused due to overlapping claims by multiple actors over the same patch of land, Indonesian government recently initiated “one map policy”, however it is not clear how long will it take to prepare one map agreeable by all sectors, and how the possible challenges arising in this process will be handled by the government.

Land conversion is one of the key issues in Indonesia, mainly conversion of forests land as non-forest area for the expansion of palm oil plantation, mining, food estates and for large infrastructure projects, especially in the Island of Sumatra, Sulawesi, Kalimantan, and Papua in the framework of Master Plan for acceleration and expansion of Indonesia Economic Development (2011-2015). Gazettement process is moving relatively slowly, only a small portion of the state forest reserves has been designated and gazetted until 2011 (11 percent of 130 million hectare of state forest reserves). The allocation of state forest for community management is insignificant in terms of scale and is limited only on pilot. For example- people production forest- HTR, community forest- HKm, village forest- Hutan Desa. Government projected that by the end of 2030 total area under community management will be around 5.6 mha, which is considered as a conservative target toward tenure reform.

Coordination amongst multiple agencies is another challenge in Indonesia. Each ministry and institution has their own laws and policies which did not necessarily relate with the policies and laws of other ministries hence causes complication in the implementation of those laws on the ground. There are 12 ministries and state institutions linked with the designation of forest state zones and preparation of ‘one map’. Therefore, there is a problem who amongst 12 ministries should take lead role in resolving conflict over land and forest.

The capacity of both- local community and government needs to strengthen to accelerate the process of preparing ‘one map’ and developing forest policies consistent with the guiding principles given in the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGT).

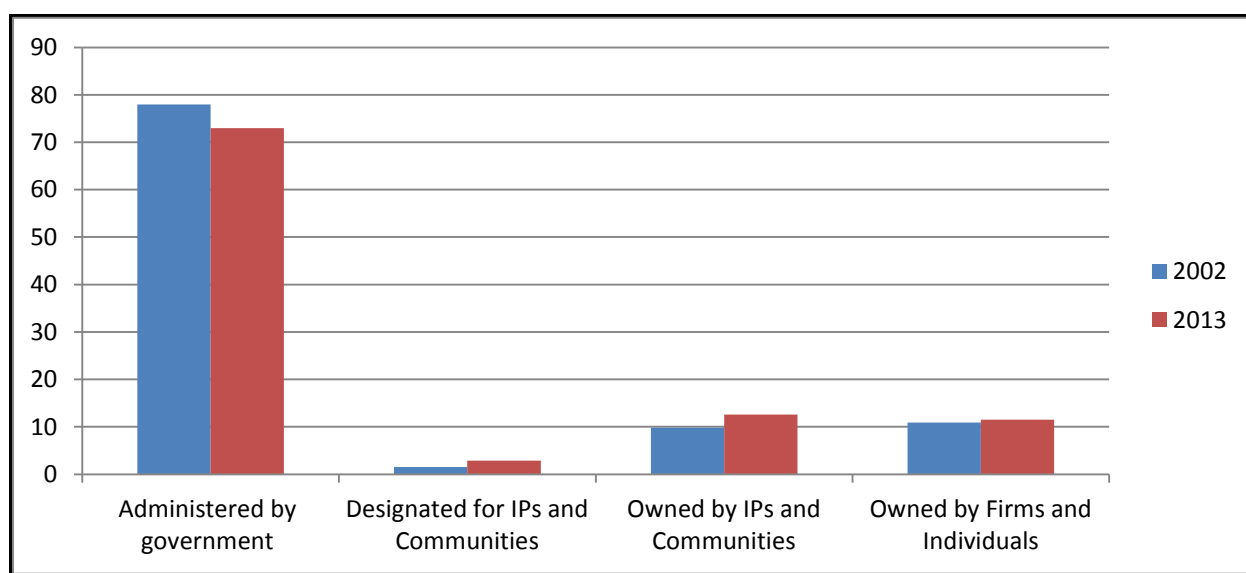
Session II: International Experiences

Mr. Ganga Dahal, International Consultant (Forest Tenure Policy) from FAO-RAP has presented an overview of global and regional forest tenure status, trends, issues and challenges. Some of the key highlights of Mr. Dahal presentation are summarized here.

At global level- as of 2013, almost 73 percent of forest is administered by government, whereas 2.9 percent of the public forest is designated to local communities and indigenous people for use and management. Likewise, 24 percent of the forest is privately owned either by indigenous people and communities or by firms and individual (Figure 1). However, there is a gradual shift of ownership from state to other non-state actors for the protection and management of the forests.

In most countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America the land ownership remains with the state, but usufruct rights transferred to local communities or indigenous people. The distribution of tenure across public and private owner is almost balanced in Latin America, where as in Africa so far almost all the forest owned by the state. In the case of Asia, the tenure distribution is nearly balanced between government and other categories (60:40). Figure 2 gives a comparative scenario of the trends of forest tenure in Asia, Africa and Latin America in 2002 and 2013.

Figure 1: Global trend of forest tenure (% of forest area in 2002 and 2013)

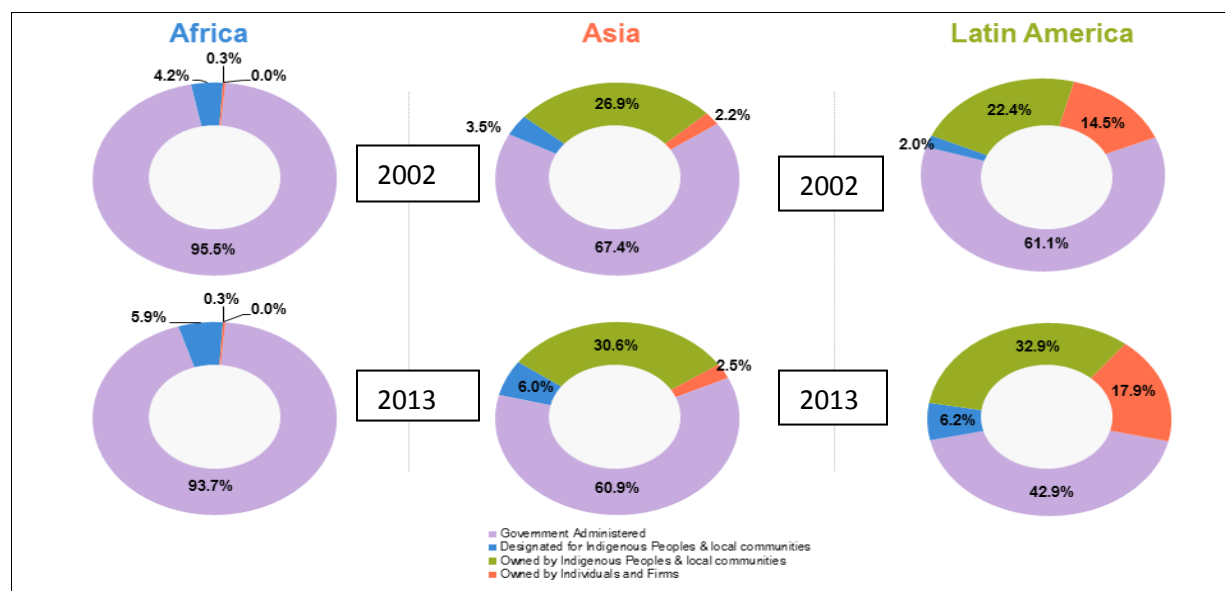


Source: RRI (2014)

In Asia- as of 2013, almost 60 percent of forest is administered by government, whereas remaining percentage of forest is either owned by private sector and individual or government designated for use by local communities and indigenous people. China is a unique example of forest tenure reform, where 60 percent of total forest land is owned by communities through collective tenure arrangement. State owned only 40 percent of the total forest land mainly on natural forest zone. Recent reform further allows allocating patch of forest land from the collective to the individual household to manage, protect and use.

Although government still predominately owned the forest land in Asia, there are some moves across countries to transfer rights over forestland and resources from the state to local people or other actors. For example- recent Constitutional Court ruling in Indonesia which provided legal basis for more than 40 million indigenous people to claim their ancestral land and forest which was under customary *adat* system earlier. Similarly, in the Philippines, Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA) -1997 allows IPs to have titling over their ancestral domain; in India- Forest Rights Act (FRA) 2006 also recognizes the rights of tribal communities over land and resources in tribal domain.

Figure 2: Comparison of forest tenure trend in Asia, Africa and Latin America (2002 and 2013)



Source: RRI (2014)

Despite progress achieved on reforming forest tenure in Asia, there remains a number of challenges and issues which need immediate attention so that better economic benefits from the forests could be realized. Key issues and challenges include: overlapping claims and land use conflict, unclear property rights and in most cases titling is absent, regulatory barriers limit the economic potential of forests to generate income, no recognition of customary tenure over forests and forestland. Forest land tenure and its security is one of the key factors in achieving two outcomes from the forests mainly- improved livelihood of forest dependent communities and better forest condition.

To take tenure reform process forward by strengthening governance of tenure, it is important to apply the principles and guidance provided under FAO Voluntary Guidelines (VGGT). It is realized that a more diversified and balanced tenure distribution across rights holders could provide better enabling condition for improving forest management and improve local livelihoods. Secured tenure is a necessary pre-condition to promote private sector investment in forestry. Along with government commitment there is also a need to have capacity of stakeholders to move ahead for tenure reform and for full realization of economic benefits of forests. Clarity of tenure is equally important in addressing emerging challenges such as: climate change, REDD+, Carbon Credit, FLEGT VPA etc.

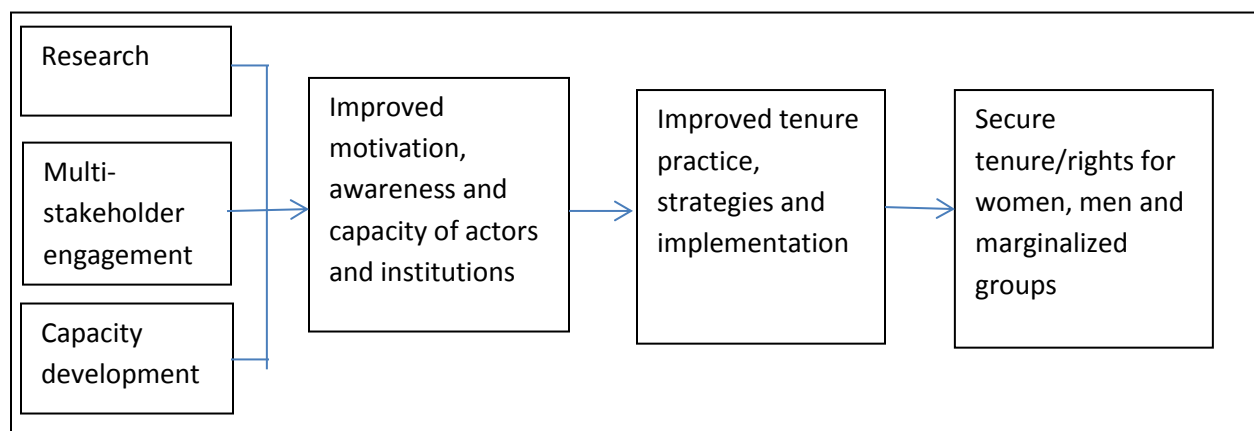
Mr. Mani Ram Banjade from the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) presented a global comparative research on “Securing Tenure Rights for Forest Dependent Communities” which is currently implementing in Peru, Uganda, and Indonesia. But the data from Ecuador, DRC and Nepal are used for comparison purpose.

Key objectives of this research are to: establish how forest tenure reforms emerged and document experiences and options for formal approaches to securing customary rights; identify the impacts of tenure reform on rights and access of women, poor men and ethnic minorities to forests and trees; and identify factors that constrain reform implementation. However, in long run, it is expected that the research will results into: improved motivation, awareness and increased capacity of actors and institutions; improved tenure policies, strategies and better implementation practices; and secure tenure rights for women and men, and marginalized community groups in particular (Please see figure 3 for the framework).

The specific aims of the global comparative research on forest tenure are:

- To establish how forest tenure reforms emerge, and document experiences and options for formal approaches to securing customary rights
- To identify impacts of tenure reform on rights and access of women, poor men and ethnic minorities to forests and trees
- To identify the factors constraining reform and its implementation
- To disseminate lessons learned and knowledge generated at sub-national, national, regional and international levels.

Figure 3: Research Framework used by CIFOR for comparative global research on forest tenure



Forest tenure is an important factor and involves at multiple scales therefore there is a need of multi-stakeholder engagement in the policy process at all levels. Local universities, government forest agencies, NGOs, multi-stakeholder forums, and forest dependent communities all require to work together in order to resolve some of the problem around defining tenure reform and ensuring tenure security of the local people. In practice, actual tenure security means- how the tenure is enforced on the ground. But normative tenure security is more like a formal or statutory provision. Normative tenure security involves robustness in terms of legality, clarity on bundle of rights. Legality is that the rights have strong legal basis and endorsed or offered by the legitimate authority. Clarity involves the clear definition of the right holders, content of the rights, limits or the boundary of the rights and way of excluding others. Duration is the clear definition of the period that the right is given with any possibility of extension.

CIFOR is implementing this research at multiple levels. At national and sub-national levels an analysis of policies and practices is being undertaken by using a number of tools such as bureaucracy analysis, legal analysis, scenario building workshop (participatory prospective analysis), stakeholder analysis, and oral histories of the reform by the champions. A spatial analysis will also be done to see the changes in forest cover over time, particularly the changes before and after the implementation of tenure reform. All these information indicated that there are clear possibilities of complimenting each other between CIFOR and FAO in the initiative toward strengthening forest tenure and improving livelihoods and generating income.

Plenary Discussion from Session I and II

This session discussed a number of important issues related to forest tenure such as the importance of clarifying forest management objectives, realizing rights, strengthening rights through community forestry, addressing overlapping claims and conflict, and capacity building.

Defining the objective of forests:

Defining the objective of forest is the first and foremost important element for sustainable management of forest resources. So far protective and productive aspect of forest management s remain as a key objective in most Asian countries. But there has been little attention paid on the way how local people can benefit from the management of the forest resources where a large number of populations are relying on forest for their livelihoods. Equitable distribution of benefit to all stakeholders associated with the forests need to be better ensured. In the meantime, addressing agenda of poverty and livelihood from the use of forest resources is equally important. To generate economic benefits from the forest, private sector involvement is crucial, but this sector so far is largely ignored in many countries in Asia.

Realizing the rights:

Realizing the right by the forest dependent communities is possible if there is enabling regulatory frameworks in place which facilitate the implementation of policy into practice. Despite having good policy in favor of local communities and indigenous people, the benefits from the forest may be too little until the economic potential of forest is fully explored. Community forestry model in some countries is working well, for example in Nepal, where communities are getting benefits from forest management and use of forest resources. Therefore, there is a need to scale up these models more widely where possible or adapt at least some of the good learning points, which help to strengthen forest tenure and improve livelihoods.

Migration and productivity:

Migration- both internal and external- becoming a common phenomenon in most countries in Asia and is causing a major implication on the forest management and production of agriculture commodities in rural areas. For example in Nepal, in recent year the trend of youth migration has drastically increased. Most of the youth who are capable of managing

forests and cultivating land for agriculture crops are migrating from rural areas to the capital cities or abroad in search of work. National statistics shows that at least 1000 youth migrate every day from Nepal to abroad mainly across Gulf countries for jobs. Consequently, large area under agriculture cultivation is now converting into fallow land; hence, the agriculture production has decreased significantly.

Benefit sharing mechanism in forestry

In most countries in Asia, the economic potential of forests has not fully been realized yet. Securing rights and increasing access of poor and disadvantaged community alone could not produce expected results until and unless a commonly agreed fair mechanism for benefit sharing is developed. A clear benefit sharing mechanism could be helpful in maintaining equity and advancing democratic practices at local level. For example, in Nepal, community forest user groups have devised certain provision to support identified poor and disadvantaged households in community. Such households received special subsidies on timber and non-timber forest products. However, in collaborative forest management the benefit from the forests will be equally distributed (50:50) between community group and the government. There is no provision of any special subsidy for poor members in collaborative forest management.

Overlapping claims and conflict

Overlapping claims by multiple owners over a single patch of forestland has generated conflict in most countries in Asia. Indonesia is one of the common examples, where the scale of such conflict is severe. Therefore, government has recently developed the concept of – one map policy- but it is still not clear how this policy will be materialized in practice and how long will it take to complete ‘one map’.

Mainstreaming forest tenure policy

Integration of forest tenure policies into the development program at national level will help to mainstream tenure and establish better coordination amongst line ministries. In most cases, policies and programme are crafted by a single ministry at the center and even without having enough consultation with people who will be directly affected by those policies. The outcome of such policies remained mostly negative. In Indonesia, conversion of forestland to Palm Oil plantation and issuance of license to the large scale concessionaire are some of the examples where national government makes decision in Jakarta without having Free Prior Inform Consent (FPIC) of local people. Hence, the conflict between concessionaires and local people is very common in Indonesia. Similarly, declaration of Chure Conservation zone by the government of Nepal without enough community consultation resulted into the conflict between government and local people in Chure zone.

Capacity need

Building capacity of involved actors is one of the prerequisites to strengthen forest tenure. Strong capacity of actors means greater confident to take tenure reform process forward. Key capacities need include: ability to maintain and practice good governance, ability to

manage forest sustainably, ability to add value on the forest products, and ability to access market will help to sustain livelihoods and generate more income from the forests.

Session III: Experience from Selected Programme and Projects

This session aimed to share experiences from various programme and institutions who are directly involved on activities related to forest tenure, livelihoods and income generation of forest dependent communities.

Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal (FECOFUN)

Ms. Bharati Pathak, Secretary of FECOFUN presented the experience of FECOFUN in securing community rights over forests and forestland in Nepal. Key points of her presentation are summarized below.

FECOFUN is an umbrella organization- a network of more than 18,000 community forest user groups functioning across Nepal. It was established in 1995. The main objective of FECOFUN is to protect the rights of forest user groups as provisioned in Forest Act 1993 and Regulation 1995. For this, FECOFUN is involved in advocacy work at multiple levels, and support on capacity building of local forest users, facilitate to establish practice of good governance, and help community to optimize economic benefits from their forests.

Major models of community managed forests in Nepal include- community forest, leasehold forest, collaborative forest, buffer zone community forest in protected areas, and religious forests. All forestland in Nepal is owned by the government, however certain patches of the national forests are handed over to local communities to protect and manage under agreed terms and conditions. After government managed forest, community forest is the major management regime in Nepal terms of scale as it covers almost 30 percent of the total forest area of Nepal. Some of the visible impacts of community forest in Nepal over the last two decades include: restoration of forest in mid hills, significant increase in crown coverage, resumption of biodiversity and protection of natural regeneration.

There are around 18, 323 forest user groups under community forestry in Nepal (as of February 2015). Besides protection and management of forest, these groups are also playing important role in community development at local level such as: building local road, irrigation canal, local school and supporting local health post. Such role include- granting fund from the account of forest user groups to local body called Village Development Committee- VDC, or providing timber to construct school or community building at local level. Forest user groups as legal institutional entity are also strengthening democratic values and principles particularly in decision making process, benefits sharing mechanism and ensuring inclusiveness and maintaining equity and equality in practice.

Recently, FECOFUN in collaboration with other advocacy based civil society organizations, networks and federations in Nepal has been advocating for the recognition of community property rights by the forthcoming new Constitution of Nepal. It is believed that stronger legal framework ensures greater security of tenure and greater benefits from the resources.

Non Timber Forest Products- Exchange Programme (NTFP EP)

Mr. Sony Oum- Country Coordinator, NTFP EP Cambodia presented the experience on NTFP based enterprises development in South and Southeast Asia. NTFP EP is a collaborative network of more than 60 NGOs and CBOs working with forest based communities to empower them to make the best use of and manage their forest resources in a sustainable manner. Some of the key highlights of Mr. Oum presentation include:

NTFPs are all biological materials other than timber which are extracted from forests for human use. It is estimated that NTFP account as much as 25 percent of the income of close to one billion population. NTFP species promote forest conservation and cultural identity. Key issues in the promotion of NTFPs and related enterprises include: insufficient protection of livelihoods knowledge and culture, large scale land grabber rapidly replacing smallholder people who depend on forests and NTFPs for their livelihoods.

Continued expansion of conservation and protected area poses threat to forest dependent communities and indigenous people who use NTFPs as main source of their livelihoods. Therefore, it is essential to map out community and IP conserved areas for clear boundary demarcation and the recognition of their traditional rights. Such rights should be secured through legal instruments. Strong network and federation of community groups could play an instrumental role in protecting and expanding the rights of IPs and local communities over timber and NTFPs available in the local forests.

IUCN Nepal

Mr. Yam MALLA- Country Director of IUCN Nepal provided an overview on forest, trees and forest land tenure in Nepal. Key points from his presentation are explained below.

In broader sense, tenure is an arrangement for access to and rights of using and managing a particular resource (such as- forest, trees and forestland). It includes a bundle of rights ranging from access, use, management, exclusion to alienation. Tenure is a set of agreed rules either formal or informal with defined resources boundary and users.

At present, 23 percent of total land in Nepal is under protected area that includes area of National Parks, Wild life Forest Reserves, and Conservation Areas declared by the government. Forests in Nepal are being managed by multiple actors- mainly by the government, local communities, and private sector (the scale is insignificant). The forest managed by local communities has given better result in terms of protection of biodiversity and natural regeneration, and forest coverage. But still there are lots of issues unresolved such as: the issue of gender dimension which is not fully addressed under any tenure arrangement either publicly owned or privately owned forest. Likewise, increased commodity demand by rapidly growing cities and population put pressure on forests as they require more timber for housing. The issue of illegal timber harvesting is still a problem in most districts in Nepal.

At present, the gap between rich and poor in Nepal is widening. It is likely that current approach may further widen such gaps. To reduce such gap, private tree plantation could play significant role as it helps individual household to generate income. Forest law is in

place that secures the access and use rights of the users, but written statements in a piece of paper, commitment on public speeches, and demonstrations alone have not helped the poor and fill their hungry stomach. Therefore, there is a need to go beyond speeches and policy rhetoric.

Multi-stakeholder Forestry Programme (MSFP) Nepal

Mr. Ramu Subedi- Team Leader of Multi-stakeholder Forestry Programme (MSFP)/Service Support Unit (SSU) presented the experiences of Multi-Stakeholder Forestry Programme in Nepal. Key highlights of his presentation are given below.

Multi-Stakeholder Forestry Programme (MSFP) is one of the largest programme in forestry sector in Nepal. MSFP is led by government of Nepal and jointly funded by the government of UK, Finland and Switzerland. This is designed for 10 years with aim to build on learning and achievements of the past 20 years of forestry development work in Nepal, and to scale up good practices which could contribute the livelihoods of local communities and reduce rural poverty. MSFP is based on multi-stakeholder approach by bringing major actors of forestry sector together in design, implementation, and monitoring of the programme. Under MSFP government and non- government actors work together to implement inclusive forestry sector strategies, policies and plans.

The expected outcomes of the programme include: private sector increases investment and increases jobs opportunities in the forestry sector with increased income from forestry, rural communities especially women and disadvantaged group benefits from local forest management by receiving better livelihood contribution from the forests, forests are sustainably managed and monitored collectively by government, communities, and private sector. Similarly, the expected results of MSFP include: creating 80,000 additional jobs in forestry, reducing poverty of 1.7 million people, increasing contribution of forestry in household income from 3 to 6 percent, increasing contribution on GDP from 9 to 10.4 percent, improving forest sector governance, reducing climate vulnerability of 550,000 households, increasing forest area managed by local forestry groups to 100,000 ha, doubling the area under scientific forest management- at least 25 percent of total forest area under scientific management regime, and reducing the rate of annual deforestation from 1.7 percent to 0.8 percent.

MSFP supports forestry sector policies and strategies development process by providing inputs for drafting new forestry sector strategy, review of forest sector gender and social inclusion strategy, revision of the community forestry resources assessment guidelines. Forest based enterprises promotion is one of the key objectives of MSFP. In the last two years MSFP supported 363 forest based enterprises by creating 10,748 new jobs. In addition, the programme has supported 36,052 households to implement income generation and livelihood activities at local level. Operational plan of community forest user groups needs revision in every 5 or 10 years so as to update on growing stock and harvestable timber and non-timber forest products. For this, MSFP supported the revision of 2225 operational plan of community forestry user groups. Such revision helped to update on stock of forest products and enrich the plan by adding contemporary social and technical issues such as: inclusion, equity, climate change adaptation, and activities to support livelihoods of poor households

Session IV: Group Work

Mr. Yurdi Yasmi- Forest Policy Officer from FAO RAP facilitated the session. He presented an overview on objectives, task, procedure and expectations of the group work. The participants of the workshop were divided into four groups to look on two sets of questions- one set for forest tenure policy and the other for capacity building. The following questions were given as checklist for group discussion.

Checklist for forest tenure policy group

- What strategies (short term and long term) should a country follow to have effective forest tenure policies which could have better outcome on livelihoods and income?
- What are the key actions and priorities that a country need to implement to improve policies and regulation for forest tenure security?

Checklist for capacity building group

- What capacities at national level need to be developed to strengthen forest tenure in order to realize better livelihood and income?
- What key strategies do we need to follow to strengthen capacities at national level?
- What are specific interventions necessary to address the capacity need to strengthen forest tenure for livelihood improvement and increased income?

After having discussion on small team and agreeing on responses to the checklist, each group presented their views on plenary. The consolidated summary of the group presentation for both categories (forest tenure policy and capacity building) is given below.

Forest Tenure Policy- Key Strategies

- Strong legal framework such as Constitution could better secure the tenure rights.
- To strengthen forest tenure, first we should find out gaps through review of existing policies and legislation and develop strategy to address those gaps.
- In order to realize the tenure rights in practice, it is necessary to have clear benefit sharing mechanism in place. It should be developed considering the concept of “forestry for prosperity”.
- Any strategies to strengthen forest tenure should have balance consideration of bottom up and top down approaches, and ensure multi-sectoral involvement.
- For better result, forest policies must be mainstreamed with other development initiatives at national level.
- Establishing good governance is equally important to strengthen forest tenure. It should also be supported by a clear system of monitoring and evaluation.

Forest Tenure Policy- Key Actions

- Revision of legal framework to find out policy gaps. Tenure should clarify who owns what resources under what condition for how long?
- Prioritization of the forest use is essential- ranging from livelihoods support of smallholder forest dependent community vis-a-vis national economic development and broad environmental functions of forest.
- Support on establishment and promotion of forest based enterprises taking reference of already existing good policies and practices.

- Follow the principles and practices of sustainable forest management.
- Take reference of FAO Voluntary Guidelines to strengthen tenure and governance.
- Facilitate to strengthen community network and federations who could play strategic role to influence policy and support tenure reform process.

Capacity Development- What Capacities?

- Ability to understand tenure and associated concepts such as- governance, legal framework, tenure reform etc.
- Actors need capacity to review and improve policies and regulatory framework.
- Institutional capacity of all actors mainly on: communication, sharing information and exchange learning, documentation, monitoring and evaluation, and governance.
- Ability to establish and handle information system, GIS database, periodical tenure tracking and analyzing the trend.
- Implementation related capacity such as- understanding the local concept of livelihoods, ability to facilitate the process of tenure reform.
- Capacity to establish linkages between forest tenure with other issues such as- REDD PES, Carbon market, climate change etc.

Capacity Development- Key Interventions

- Institutional support to strengthen tenure policies and help establishing effective monitoring and evaluation system in place.
- Action research on forest tenure and livelihoods; training and workshops, periodical policy dialogue, support to establish information system, inter sectoral forum
- Develop resource person at national level who can provide training to the stakeholders on forest tenure policies.
- Establish partnership amongst potential organizations, federation and networks working in the field of forest tenure and policies.
- Increasing capacity of stakeholders on topic like- enterprises development, forest products marketing, evaluation and monitoring etc.
- Establish coordination among government, civil society groups, and private sector.

Capacity Development- Key Strategies

- Facilitate to establish broad conceptual framework of forest land tenure in the context of livelihood and poverty taking reference of the principles and guidance provided on FAO Voluntary Guidelines.
- Strengthen multi-stakeholder approach and apply such approach into practice.
- Strengthen ability to organize action research on topical issues such as: pro-poor forest tenure, correlation between tenure security and livelihoods etc.

Session V- Moving Forward

Based on presentation, plenary discussion and group work organized during the regional inception workshop, a tentative outline has been drawn to move forward. This outline could serve as a basis to craft rigorous strategies, work plan to implement TCP across pilot countries.

- Assessment of existing policies, laws and regulation- to find out gaps on forest tenure policies and capacity need,
- Organize national inception workshop to appraise the outcome of regional workshop and discuss detail on the national political and socio economic situation,
- Facilitate national dialogues to discuss on issues of national interest related to forest tenure policies or the relevant topic as identified by the national inception workshop,
- Outline area of interventions/action plan for each country. For short term for the TCP project phase; and for the long term- beyond the project phase (3-5 years) which could support to strengthen forest tenure and ensure improved livelihood and income of forest dependent communities,
- Discuss at country level to include the principles of FAO Voluntary Guidelines what and how these principles can be endorsed in the national legal framework, and
- A policy brief on strengthening forest tenure for each pilot country and a regional synthesis report for Asia, which could function as a reference document to move forward in strengthening forest tenure and improving livelihoods.

Annex 1: Field Visit

The first day of Asia regional inception workshop was allocated for the field visit. The objective of field visit was to understand the ground realities about various types of forest tenure and their implication on people's livelihood and forest condition. Two sites were selected for field visit and both were from Kavre district- a district adjacent to Kathmandu valley. The type of forest management visited includes- Leasehold, and Community Forest. Below is a summary of some of the key features of these sites and some observation and learning from the field visit.

Ryale Leasehold Forest Group, Kavre

Leasehold forest is specifically designed for poor household to improve their livelihood by providing certain patch of national forest (degraded section) to restore and regenerate simultaneously grow fruits and other cash crop for their livelihood support. Some of the details given by the members of Ryale Leasehold group is as below.

- Ryale Leasehold Forest Group is composed of 35 Leasehold Groups of the area. It covers 330 households and forest area of 235.93 hectares.
- Total population involved in Ryale Leasehold Group is around 2000; out of which 50 percent members are female.
- Leasehold Groups have planted tree species mainly Uttis- alnus nepalensis, Pine- pinus species, Tejpat- cinnamon tamala, broom grass, and large cardamom. Groups associated with Ryale have already started selling of saplings from group nurseries and cardamom from leasehold forest, which are their main source of local income.
- Group members have afforested public and private denuded land obtaining financial assistance from FAO Nepal, and technical assistance from District Forest Office of Kavre
- Production of bio- briquettes from bushes and twigs is a popular source of cash income for local people, and a viable alternative source of energy to replace firewood.



Bio- Briquettes production at Ryale Leasehold Group- a viable source of local income



Participants of Regional Inception Workshop interacting with the members of Ryale Leasehold Forest Group, and staff members from District Forest Office Kavre on 11 February 2015

Dhaneshwor Baikiwa Community Forest, Kavre

Under the legal basis of Forest Act 1993 and Regulation 1995, Dhaneshwor Baikiwa Community Forestry was formed almost a decade ago. Local people have volunteered to protect and develop the forest area. Plantation in the barren land, protection of natural regeneration, protection of watershed, wildlife, biodiversity, expansion of possible income

generation activities such as: bamboo plantation, Cardamom production are some of the activities that forest user group has been undertaking in the community forest. More information about the forest and activities as explained by forest user groups during the field visit is given below.

- The community forest covers 75 ha of forestland, which is managed by 155 households
- Major tree species grown within this CF include- katus (*castanopsis* species), chilaune (*schima wallichii*), kaphal (*morus alba*), Phalant (*quercus* species), and pinus patula
- Key objective of community forest is to supply basic forest products need of the forest user groups members, protect flora and fauna with in CF, conserve watershed, promote public participation and increase income through activities such as bamboo plantation
- In long run, community forest aims to improve livelihood opportunity of local users through sustainable management of forest
- Activities inside the community forestry includes: silvicultural operation, forest protection, promotion of cash crops including bamboo, broom grass and other species
- Special provision is devised for poor and disadvantaged members while distributing forest products such as: fodder, fuelwood, and timber
- Significant change in forest condition has been observed, when community started protection and management of the forest as community forestry
- Community forest is getting payment from the municipality of Banepa every year for the supply of drinking water to the people of Banepa town
- CF is exploring the potential of ecotourism and economic benefits through establishment of forest based enterprises





Participants of Asia Regional Inception Workshop interacting with the members of forest user groups at Dhaneshwor Baikiwa Community Forest in Kavre district on 11 February 2015

Learning from the field visit:

- Community can manage forest better, if responsibility and rights are transferred with clear and secure legal basis. Both Ryale Leasehold Forest and Dhaneshwor Baikiwa Community Forest Groups have been protecting and managing forest well as indicated through the growing natural regeneration and intact condition of the forests.
- There could be a number of ways to generate economic benefits from the forests patches that are transferred to the community. For example, in Leasehold Forest-local community initiated collective nurseries; bio briquettes production, fruit and NTFP cultivation as popular sources of income. Similarly, Community Forest provides forest products such as timber, fuelwood and fodder for its members. PES for watershed protection is a perineal source of income for CF as they have been charging downstream population for supply of water.
- 40 years of tenure arrangement under leasehold forest is considered long enough for a group to protect and realize the benefits from the forest activities such as tree plantation, harvesting of timber and non-timber forest products.
- Tenure is relatively more secured under community forest arrangement as forest user groups obtain legal authority to use and manage allocated forests forever. However, CF user groups have to update their operational plan periodically, either in 5 or 10 years.

- Both Leasehold and Community Forests need more capacity and technical knowledge to add value on available forest products in order to generate better income through forest based enterprises, which eventually could support their livelihood.
- The role of government agencies such as District Forest Office is instrumental in strengthening capacity of user groups, their tenure security and to maximize the livelihood opportunities of the forest dependent communities.
- Private sector can play vital role to promote forest based enterprises and add value on timber and non- timber products that are available in Community and Leasehold forests.
- Leasehold forest direct supports livelihoods of local poor.
- Special provision of subsidies for poor member of the Forest User Groups while distributing forest products to its member helps to maintain equity. Likewise, provision of equal male and female participation in the executive committee of the groups helps to maintain gender balance in decision making and increased women leadership.
- Forest user groups as a legal entity enables communities to follow a proper system, bylaws, and operational plan to protect and manage forest resources and practice democratic norms and values while making decision within groups.
- Multi-stakeholder support extended in establishment and restoration of degraded forest land allocated to Leasehold group is a good example of synergy amongst institutions in achieving common goal of addressing poverty and livelihood of forest dependent rural poor.

Annex 2: Media Coverage of the Regional Inception Workshop

FAO to launch programmes to better livelihoods of forest-reliant communities

News Updated By- Amrit Paudel | Posted From- Washington DC | Feb 12, 2015

Kathmandu, Feb 12: The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is going to start a momentum to better protect the tenure and livelihoods of million of people who rely on access to forest lands.

The FAO announced Thursday that Nepal, Cambodia and Vietnam have been selected as the pilot countries to work with FAO to move the issues forward.

"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 are well-reflected in the development priorities of these pilot countries, FAO Assistant Director General and Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific Hiroyuki Konuma said.

As part of the pilot project, FAO will work with the three countries building on previous and existing practices, with the voluntary guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure (VGGT), and offer training on conflict management and other thematic issues. RSS

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Rastriya Samachar Samiti (RSS) News posted from Washington DC on 12 February 2015



Himalayan Daily News Kathmandu, Nepal



Bernama.com Daily News- Malaysia



Experts emphasize on strengthening forest tenure for sustaining livelihoods

A two-day Asia Regional Inception Workshop on Strengthening Forest Tenure for Sustaining Livelihoods and Generating Income was jointly organized by Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation (MoFSC) and Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) in Kathmandu on 11-12 February 2015 with facilitation and support under Technical Cooperation Programme of FAO.

Nepal, Cambodia and Viet Nam are the pilot countries to work with FAO to establish best practices.

Delivering key-note address, Mr. Sharad Chandra Poudel, Secretary at Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation stressed on the need of further promotion of the community forests.

Stating that two million households are dependent on forest product for energy in Nepal, Secretary Poudel highlighted the Forest Policy 2015 that came up with the government commitment of reforming forest tenure through appropriate policy provisions.

In a message to the workshop, Hiroyuki Konuma, FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific,

said, "Recognition of the importance of strengthening community forest tenure, both from policy and institutional capacity perspectives, to ensure livelihoods and increase income of forest dependent people is well-reflected in the development priorities of these pilot countries." Dr. Somasak Pipoppinyo, FAO Representative in Nepal, who read out the message of ADG Konuma, extended good wishes to the participants for the success of the workshop. Dr. Rajan Kumar

Pokharel, Director General at Department of Forest, highlighted on strengthening forest tenure through community-based forest management modalities and arrangements for equitable benefits sharing in Nepal. Mr. Bishwa Nath Oli, Joint-secretary at MoFSC welcomed the participants on behalf of the organizers.

Experts from FAO Regional Office Bangkok

Mr. Patrick Durst, Mr. Yurdi Yasmi and Dr. Ganga Dahal, and Country Director of ICUN Dr. Yam Bahadur Malla facilitated the workshop. The participants visited leasehold and community forests in Kabhrepalan-chok district. (See also http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/rap/files/meetings/2015/150211_concept_note_and_agenda.pdf)



FAO Nepal- Bimonthly News Bulletin, November- March 2015

Annex 3: List of the Participants

	Government agencies	
1	Mr. Khin Mengkheang	Ministry of Environment, Cambodia
2	Mr. Ram Bhakta Malla	Under Secretary, Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (MoFSC), Nepal
3	Mr. Krishna Prasad Pokharel	Under Secretary, Department of Forests, Nepal
4	Ms. Bindu Kumari Mishra	Under Secretary, Department of Forests, Nepal
5	Mr. Badri Kumar Karki	Under Secretary, Department of Forests, Nepal
6	Ms. Ishwori Prasad Poudel	Under Secretary, Department of Forests, Nepal
7	Mr. Devi Chandra Pokharel	Under Secretary, Department of Forests, Nepal
8	Mr. Rajesh Malla	Under Secretary, Forest Research and Survey Department, Nepal
9	Ms. Uma Poudel	Forest Officer, Monitoring and Evaluation Division, MoFSC, Nepal

10	Mr. Rajendra Adhikari	Joint secretary PICCD, Ministry of Agricultural Development (MoAD) Nepal
11	Mr. Rama Nanda Mishra	Director, Fisheries of Directorate, MoAD Nepal
12	Mr. Krishna Raj BC	Executive Director, Land Management Training Centre, Ministry of Land Reform and Management(MoLRM)
13	Mr. Prem Prasad Sharma	Department of Forest, Nepal
14	Mr. Hari Krishna Silwal	Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, Nepal
15	Mr. Narayan Giri	DoFD/SFDO Nepal
16	Mr. Vo Dai Hai (TCP Focal Point)	Vietnamese Academy of Forest Science (VAFS)
17	Mr. Vu Tan Phuong	Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences (VAFS)
18	Mr. Nguyen Hoang Tiep	Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences (VAFS)
19	Mr. Hoang Lien Son	Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences (VAFS)
20	Mr. Uy Kamal	Ministry of Environment, Cambodia
	NGOs, development partners, international organizations	
21	Mr. Yam Malla	IUCN Nepal
22	Ms. Bharati Pathak	General Secretary-FECOFUN Nepal
23	Mr. Ramu Subedi	Multi-Stakeholder Forestry Programme (MSFP-SSU), Nepal
24	Mr. Rabin Niraula	Helvetas- Swiss Intercooperation Nepal
25	Mr. Ghanshyam Pandey	Global Alliance of Community Forestry (GACF)
26	Mr. Bishnu Paudyal	Country Coordinator- RECOFTC-Nepal
27	Mr. Erpan Faryadi	Asia Regional Facilitator- International Land Coalition
28	Mr. Mani Ram Banjade	Post Doc Research Fellow, CIFOR- Indonesia
	FAO	
29	Mr. Somsak Pipoppinyo	FAOR Nepal
30	Mr. Shrawan Adhikary	Programme Officer
31	Mr. Binod Saha	Assistant FAOR Nepal
32	Mr. Patrick Durst	Senior Forestry Officer
33	Mr. Yurdi Yasmi	Forest Policy Officer
	FAO consultants	
34	Mr. Ganga Dahal	International Consultant (Forest Tenure Policy)
35	Mr. Sony Oum, NTFP-EP	National Consultant Cambodia (Policy/Capacity Building)
36	Mr. Dilraj Khanal	National Consultant Nepal (Policy)
37	Mr. Kapil Neupane	National Consultant Nepal (Capacity Building)
38	Ms. Ha Tran	National Consultant Viet Nam (Policy)
39	Mr. Do Anh Tuan	National Consultant Viet Nam (Capacity Building)

Annex 4: Workshop Programme

Day 1, 11 February 2015, Field Visit		
08.30 – 16.00	<p>The objective of the field visit is to learn how Leasehold and Community Forest 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) and Illaka Forest Office. Two sites are selected for the field visit in Kavre district.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ryale Leasehold Forest Groups, and • Dhaneshwor Baikiwa Community Forest 	Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation Nepal, FAO
Day 2, 12 February, Workshop		
08.00 – 08.30	Registration and breakfast	
08.30 – 09.00	<p>Opening ceremony</p> <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 Mr. Somsak Pipoppinyo, FAO Representative in 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	Session Chair: Ministry

	<p>Panel presentation: forest tenure, livelihoods and income of forest dependent community: status, challenge and outlook:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cambodia - Nepal 	<p>of Forest and Soil Conservation Nepal</p> <p>Forest Administration Department of forests</p>
09.45 – 10.15	Coffee break	
10.15 – 10.40	<p>Session I: Country Presentation (cont'd)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Viet Nam - Indonesia 	<p>VN Forests</p> <p>Mr. Erpan Faryadi</p>
10.40 – 11.30	<p>Session II: International Experience</p> <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 	<p>Session Chair: MoFSC-Nepal</p> <p>Mr. Ganga Dahal, FAO consultant</p> <p>Mr. Mani Ram Banjade, CIFOR</p>
11.30 – 12.00	Q&A and general discussion from Session I and II	
12.00 – 13.30	Lunch	
13.30 – 14.30	<p>Session III: Experience from selected Programme</p> <p>Panel presentation: Experience sharing on forest tenure, livelihoods and income of forest dependent community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FECOFUN - NTFP-EP - IUCN- Nepal - Multi-stakeholder Forestry Programme (MSFP-SSU) 	<p>Session Chair: Mr. Yurdi Yasmi, FAO-RAP</p> <p>Ms. Bharati Pathak</p> <p>Mr. Sony Oum</p> <p>Mr. Yam MALLA</p> <p>Mr. Ramu Subedi</p>
14.30 – 15.30	<p>Session IV Group Work</p> <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 programme needs to be developed to 	<p>Session Chair: Mr. Yurdi Yasmi, FAO-RAP</p>

	strengthen forest tenure?	
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	

Annex 5- Welcome Address by Hiroyuki Konuma, ADG and FAO Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific

*Distinguished delegates and participants, Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

On behalf of FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, Hiroyuki Konuma, I have the honor to welcome you to the **Regional Inception Workshop on Strengthening Forest Tenure for Sustaining Livelihoods and Generating Income**. Before I begin, I would like to extend my appreciation to the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, Nepal, for jointly organizing this workshop. I welcome your collaboration in supporting promotion of poverty eradication and income generation for forest dependent people through strengthening forest tenure and institutional capacity of the government agencies and relevant institutions.

I also wish to express our appreciation and gratitude to all delegates from Cambodia, Nepal and Viet Nam and partner organizations for participating in this important multi-stakeholder gathering, despite your busy schedules at your home and the travel time to join us here in Kathmandu.

Eradicating hunger and poverty, and ensuring the sustainable use of natural resources and environment depend in large measure on how people, communities and others gain and control access to land and other natural resources. The livelihoods of millions of people in this region, particularly the rural poor, depend on secure and equitable access to and control over these resources. They are the source of food and shelter; the basis for social,

cultural and religious practices; and a central factor in economic growth and sustainable development.

Therefore, improved governance of tenure is essential for food security, for poverty eradication, and for contributing to a foundation for responsible investment and for environmental sustainability. So I am pleased that FAO has the opportunity to work through this programme with all of you to ensure improved forest tenure as a prerequisite for improving livelihoods and income of forest dependent communities in the three countries: Cambodia, Nepal and Viet Nam.

Together, we are moving forward to eradicating hunger and poverty as one of the potential key post-MDG agenda, and I believe that forest and land tenure would constitute as one of the key elements towards achieving this important goal.

As we know, there is growing competition for the use of natural resources. Governing institutions often face difficulties in adapting to this growing intensity of competition and to an increasingly dynamic world that provides great opportunities, but also entails large risks and serious concerns. Improving governance of tenure is important, and it is important to do it in ways that reflect the interests of citizens, reconcile differences in opinions, and ensure that people are able to exercise their tenure rights and duties.

You may recall that through the mechanism of global multi-stakeholder fora “Committee on World Food Security (CFS)”, we went through difficult negotiations to agree on Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Forestry and Fisheries. But those efforts were worth it, in the end we succeeded in a breakthrough in negotiation through multi-stakeholder consultation. We are very encouraged by this achievement. Indeed we learned that, even such a difficult negotiation, if we consult each other in positive and constructive spirit we could achieve our goals. Therefore, we are bringing this momentum and spirit right here to Kathmandu for this workshop.

The Voluntary Guidelines provide a framework for the governance of land tenure, fisheries tenure and forest tenure. They provide internationally recognized principles and practices that can be used to improve tenure security and access to these natural resources, whether in existing or new programmes and processes, or when establishing strategies and priorities. Governance of tenure is a priority for FAO and is being mainstreamed in all relevant work. FAO is assisting countries to modernize and improve tenure of land, fisheries and forests in order to ensure food security, poverty alleviation and good nutrition for all.

This regional workshop is part of a process to share knowledge, experiences, good practices and lessons learnt, findings, outcomes of global and regional initiatives on land and forest tenure, and identify and agree on priority actions at country and regional levels. Also discussed would be regional level collaboration, coordination and networking on land tenure initiative such as the Voluntary Guidelines on Governance of Tenure (VGGT).

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to express, once again, my deep gratitude to all of you for contributing your time and sharing your experiences and knowledge. I wish to acknowledge with my appreciation a strong presence from the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation Nepal and delegates from Cambodia and Viet Nam representing land, forest and environment sectors in this workshop. This will give a great opportunity to build up our regional collaboration. I also would like to encourage you to share experience from each other and derive lessons from best practices to be adapted to your countries' work plan.

On behalf of FAO, I would like to wish you all a fruitful and successful workshop. Let this event be an opportunity to exchange ideas on the governance of tenure in a warm and constructive working environment, and further promote our multi-stakeholder partnership towards building our concerted joint efforts to promote strengthened forest tenure for improved livelihoods and income of forest dependant people in our region.

Thank you

Annex 6: Press Release – Regional Inception Workshop, Kathmandu

**Forest-reliant communities in Asia need policies to better protect their tenure, livelihoods and ensure their food security
Cambodia, Nepal and Viet Nam work with FAO to establish best practices**

Kathmandu, Nepal – 12 February 2015 – A momentum is growing across Asia to better protect the tenure and livelihoods of millions of people who rely on access to forest lands with three countries stepping forward to further secure these rights, the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) announced today.

Most of the countries in Asia and the Pacific are struggling to address issues related to forest tenure. Inadequate regulatory frameworks and a lack of institutional capacity are major obstacles in the forestry sector in Asia when it comes to recognizing tenure. However, the economic role of forests, particularly in contributing to the improvement of livelihoods and the income of rural communities, has received greater attention in recent years.

Cambodia, Nepal and Viet Nam are three pilot countries working with FAO to move the issues forward.

"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 these pilot countries," said Hiroyuki Konuma, FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific. Konuma's comments reflected the discussions

being held today between FAO and the three countries at an inception forum on forest land tenure, convened by FAO and hosted by Nepal's Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation.

"The livelihoods of millions of people in this region, particularly the rural poor, depend on secure and equitable access to, and control over, these resources. They are the source of food and shelter; the basis for social, cultural and religious practices, and a central factor in economic growth and sustainable development," Konuma pointed out.

"As we know, there is growing competition for the use of natural resources. Governing institutions often face difficulties in adapting to this growing intensity of competition and to an increasingly dynamic world that provides great opportunities, but also entails large risks and serious concerns. Improving governance of tenure is important, and it is important to do it in ways that reflect the interests of citizens, reconcile differences in opinions, and ensure that people are able to exercise their tenure rights and duties," Konuma said.

As part of the pilot project, FAO will work with the three countries, building on previous and existing practices, with the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGT), and offer training on conflict management and other thematic areas. The initiatives will also focus on current status, trends and challenges regarding forest tenure in Asia and will promote programmes to enhance livelihoods of forest dependent communities.

For further information, contact:

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Annex 7- Chief Guest remarks by Mr Sharad Pokharel- the Secretary of the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation- Nepal

Mr. Chair, Dignitaries on the Dais, Distinguished Delegates and Participants, Media persons, Ladies and Gentleman!
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It is my pleasure to be here in this valuable workshop of **Strengthening Forest Tenure for Sustaining Livelihood and Generating Income** jointly organized by Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, Nepal and Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations.

Nepal is small mountainous country with population of 28 million. Due to diverse altitudinal variation ranging from 70 to 8848 meter (highest peak in the world), Nepal harbors rich biological diversity. Nearly, 40% landmass is under forest which is the largest natural resource. Forest is also the backbone of agricultural system, rechargeable source of

water energy, clean drinking water, ecotourism and source of biodiversity as well. At least 70% energy source of cooking and 40% source of livestock forage is provided by forest. More than 2.8 million households are directly benefited from forest resources which significantly support their livelihood.

According to Forest Act 1993, Forests of Nepal is divided mainly into national and private forest. Under national forest, government-managed forests and different community based management modalities are being implemented such as community forest, buffer zone community forest, leasehold forest, collaborative forest, protective forests, watershed management and landscape level conservation programs which are showcased as successful programs in national and international arena. These community based forest management modalities have also created opportunities of creating space to local communities in practicing good governance in the forestry sector.

I am pleased to inform you that Government of Nepal has recently endorsed Forest Policy 2015 which is a milestone as regulatory and policy framework on forestry development as well as institutional capacity of forestry professionals in Nepal. It aims to maintain at least 40% of the total landmass of the country as forest and guides the overall forestry sector policy and strategy. The forest policy has also prioritized the forest- dependent community whose livelihoods and income depend on the access and use of forest resources as well as sustainable forest management. Declaration of Forest Decade 2014-2023 is also crucial to prioritize public awareness and massive plantation. The synergetic efforts of Ministry of Agriculture Development and Ministry of Land Reform and Management will further enhance the livelihoods of forest dependent poor people.

The inception workshop will be fruitful to share and critically review experiences with strengthening forest tenure for sustaining livelihood and income generation among Asia region. I believe, the deliberations in the workshop will identify and set priorities and strategies for improving forest tenure and livelihoods in the Asia region. I would also like to stress on bilateral and multilateral meetings to strengthen the forest tenure for sustaining livelihood and generating income which I believe would be supportive for further regional synergetic support in this effort. Finally, on behalf of Government of Nepal, I would like to express sincere gratitude to FAO for organizing this inception workshop in Nepal. I wish participants a pleasant stay in Kathmandu and all the success of this workshop.

Thank you.