

***HARMONIZING THE POTENTIALS OF
LEASEHOLD FORESTRY: PROMOTING RURAL
LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITY***

PROCEEDINGS OF THIRD NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON LEASEHOLD
FORESTRY

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LOCAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING ACADEMY

JAWALAKHEL LALITPUR

ORGANISED BY
LEASEHOLD FORESTRY AND LIVESTOCK PROGRAMME
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TABLE OF CONTENT

ABBREVIATIONS	3
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	5
FOREWORD	6
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	8
INAUGURATION	11
WORKSHOP STRUCTURE	14
SUMMARY OF PAPERS	15
Project Progress and Development of Leasehold Forestry Project with Particular Reference to Establishment of Demonstration Sites	15
Effectiveness of Leasehold Forestry to Poverty Reduction	19
Policy Recommendations for a Greater Contribution of Leasehold Forestry	28
Harmonizing and Organizing Institutions to Support Leasehold Forestry	29
Capacity Building: Guidelines and Training	32
Capacity Building: Database Preparation	35
Rehabilitation of Dry Sites of Leasehold Forests in Nepal-Part I- Ecological Status and Natural Regeneration	40
Rehabilitation of Dry Sites of Leasehold Forests in Nepal-Part II- Choice of Species and Applied Research Protocol	43
WORKING GROUP REPORT	45
ACTION PLAN	47
RECOMMENDATIONS	50
CLOSING	51
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS	53
WORKSHOP PROGRAMME	56

ABBREVIATIONS

AFO	Assistant Forest Officer
BCN	Bahun, Chettri, Newar
BISEP-ST	Biodiversity Sector Assistance Programme for Tarai and Siwalik
CBO	Community Based Organization
CFUG	Community Forestry Users Group
CIFOR	Centre for International Forestry Research
CRDLS	Central Regional Directorate of Livestock Services
CVM	Contingency Valuation Method
DADO	District Agriculture Development Office
DBS	District Based Supervisors
DDC	District Development Committee
DFO	District Forest Office/Officer
DFRS	Department of Forests Research and Survey
DG	Director General
DDG	Deputy Director General
DLSO	District Livestock Service Office
DOF	Department of Forests
EC	Executive Committee
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
TCP	Technical Cooperation Programme
FGD	Focused Group Discussion
FSC	Forest Steward Council
FWDR	Far Western Development Region
GA	General Assembly
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GP	Group Promoter
HLFFDP	Hills Leasehold Forestry and Forage Development Project
IGA	Income Generating Activities
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
JT	Junior Technician

JTA	Junior Technical Assistant
LDO	Livestock Development Officer
LF	Leasehold Forestry
LFLP	Leasehold Forestry and Livestock Programme
LFUG	Leasehold Forestry Users Group
LIP	Livelihood Improvement Plan
LPC	Livestock Programme Coordinator
LSO	Livestock Service Office
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MFSC	Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation
MIS	Management Information System
MWDR	Mid Western Development Region
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
NPC	National Planning Commission
NRM	Natural Resources Management
NSCFP	Nepal Swiss Community Forestry Project
NTFP	Non Timber Forest Products
PAF	Poverty Alleviation Fund
TCP	Technical Cooperation Programme
VDC	Village Development Committee
WG	Working Group

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FOREWORD

Leasehold Forestry and Livestock Development Programme (LFLP) is nationally recognized as a successful approach to help alleviate poverty through conservation and sustainable use of degraded forest land. Despite of being innovative in mobilizing rural poor for their livelihood enhancement through resource conservation, technical capacity of this programme is far from being sufficient and that knowledge of natural regeneration and adaptation of fodder and multi-purpose plant species to a wider range of agro-ecological conditions is inadequate.

To help address these and other operational issues, FAO has supported Leasehold Forestry and Livestock Programme (LFLP) for Institutional and Technical Capacity Building through Technical Cooperation Programme. This project started in June 2007 and is closing in June 2009. During this period numbers of studies covering different dimensions of the programme were conducted.

Department of Forests and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Nepal jointed organized Third National Workshop on Leasehold Forestry from 12 to 13 May 2009. Theme of this workshop was **HARNESSING THE POTENTIAL LEASEHOLD FOESTRY: PROMOTING RURAL LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITY**. Main objectives of third national workshop were to share the findings of those studies; identify ways and means of improved collaboration and coordination at all level and finally recommend measures for improvements at policy as well as implementation level. First and second national workshops on Leasehold Forestry held in 1997 and 2007 respectively were instrumental in establishing the core concepts and underscoring the importance of Leasehold Forestry among wider audience. Theme of this workshop rightly reflects the important role that Leasehold Forestry is playing in rural livelihoods enhancement and environmental conservation.

This workshop has brought the accumulated experience in implementing Leasehold Forestry and provided a forum for sharing the findings of studies carried out under FAO-TCP project. Details of these studies will be circulated among wider audiences once it is endorsed by both FAO and Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation in due course of time. We believe that findings of the study and workshop recommendations would help in guiding future direction of the programme.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Department of Forests and FAO-Nepal organized Third national workshop on Leasehold Forestry for poor from 12-13 May 2009. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has become one of the trusted partners of Leasehold Forestry for poor in bridging resource gap and help address operational level problems.

Activities undertaken under FAO-TCP included establishment of leasehold forests demonstration sites; study on effectiveness of Leasehold Forestry; review of leasehold forest policy; management information system; research protocols for multipurpose exotic species and natural regeneration process dry agro-ecological regions of Nepal.

Study on model leasehold forests has presented the concept, scopes and the process for establishing model leasehold forests. Model leasehold forests are broadly classified into land use and enterprise based.

Study carried out to assess the effectiveness of Leasehold Forestry to poverty reduction has found increasing trend in cash income among Leasehold Forestry group members in general and indigenous and dalits in particular. This study has also indicated the increase in livestock holding per household as well as rise in saving and micro-credit practices. Positive trend was also observed over the access of poor household to basic services such as drinking water, primary school and health care. The study has recommended gender sensitization; handing over specified forest area; increased input from programme and priority to dalits and females in training and capacity buildings.

Study on leasehold forest policy has reviewed contemporary strategies and implementation mechanisms relevant to Leasehold Forestry. Based on the analysis, various policy recommendations for a greater contribution of Leasehold Forestry to poverty reduction are proposed. These include according equal

priority to community and Leasehold Forestry; addressing benefit distribution concerns and decentralizing Leasehold Forestry handover authority to districts forest offices.

Weak institutional arrangement has seriously impacted the Implementation of Leasehold Forestry. This issue is addressed in detail by the study on harmonizing and organizing institutions to support Leasehold Forestry. This study has reviewed forest act and its provisions in detail concerning number of forest management modalities and suggested three models of institutional arrangements for effective implementation of Leasehold Forestry in Nepal.

FAO-TCP has also supported Leasehold Forestry and Livestock Programme in preparing training manuals/guidelines on social mobilization; LFUG livelihood improvement plan preparation and implementation; saving and credit; fund generation and management. These manuals and guidelines have been widely used in training field staffs, group promoters and village finance association facilitators. This support also extended to consolidation of leasehold guidelines, categorization of LFUGs, developing criteria and indicators for sustainable leasehold forest management, designing management information systems, monitoring demonstration plots and organizing/coordinating regional workshops.

One of the important outputs of technical cooperation of FAO-TCP is the study on natural regeneration process in degraded forest of the dry agro-ecological zones and rehabilitation of dry sites of leasehold forests. This study has identified the need to maintain balance between multiple land use practices on lease land and that growing indigenous grass species on it could be first appropriate step towards restoring greenery. However, some leasehold plots are of poor site quality and their restoration could be facilitated by introducing exotic grass species that are shown to be appropriate under similar ecological condition and also palatable. Another study has investigated the usefulness of such species in the given climatic condition and recommended a list of suitable species that

could be planted for rehabilitation of leasehold forests sites in dry agro ecological zones.

The workshop concluded with recommendations for refinements at policy, programme and implementation level. Some of the recommendation included preparing livelihood improvement plan (LIP) of all Leasehold Forestry groups; securing resources for its implementation; harmonizing stakeholders effort in overall livelihood enhancement; building capacity of leasehold forest users for improved effectiveness; installing and operationalizing management information system and incorporating the concept of Leasehold Forestry in other forest management modalities.

INAUGURATION

Third national workshop on Leasehold Forestry was inaugurated by Dr. Uday Raj Sharma, Secretary to the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation and chief guest of the programme. Speaking on the occasion Dr. Sharma thanked the organizers for inviting him to inaugurate the programme. He praised Leasehold Forestry for reaching the unreachable and urged for the expansion of this programme to cover target groups in other parts of the country. Dr. Sharma further noted that despite of being truly pro-poor, this programme has yet to realize its full potential. He suggested concerned authorities to identify additional activities that would help improve rural livelihood in an effective way. Chief guest Dr. Sharma asked the Leasehold Forestry and livestock programme authorities to give more attention on increasing resources for better economic prosperity of the poor people who are the target of this programme. He expressed Ministry's commitment to revise forest act and regulations that would ensure equal status to all types of participatory forest management models including Leasehold Forestry for poor.

Earlier, welcoming guests and the participants, Mr. Bala Ram Adhikari, National coordinator of Leasehold Forestry and Livestock Programme (LFLP) briefly outlined project description and workshop objectives. He elaborated the objectives of FAO-technical cooperation programme (TCP) on institutional and technical capacity building in support of Leasehold Forestry. Mr. Adhikari also explained about various studies carried out under this project. The studies included effectiveness of Leasehold Forestry; policy recommendations for greater contribution of Leasehold Forestry; harmonizing and organizing institutions to support Leasehold Forestry; capacity building for implementation of Leasehold Forestry; establishment of model Leasehold Forestry; Leasehold Forestry operational guidelines with special reference to poverty monitoring Indicators; management information system; criteria and indicators for sustainable management of Leasehold Forestry; natural regeneration process in

degraded forest of the dry agro-ecological zones; applied research protocols for testing promising local and exotic multi-purpose plant species in dry agro-ecological zones and establishing model Leasehold Forestry.

He stressed the need for collaboration among wide range of stakeholders in promoting Leasehold Forestry and livestock programme and establish it as an entry point of all rural poverty reduction initiatives in Nepal.

Mr. Uday Chandra Thakur, Director-Livestock Services Directorate speaking on behalf of the Department of Livestock Services underscored the importance of coordination and collaboration so as to achieve the noble objectives of this programme. He explained the interrelationship between forage production on degraded forest land and goat farming through stall feeding. Both of these activities being core component of the project, have significantly helped raise income of leasehold forest users group most of them are living below poverty line, he noted. Mr. Thakur also expressed commitment of the Department of Livestock Services to implement this programme in an effective manner.

Speaking on the occasion, Director General of the Department of Forests and chairperson of inaugural ceremony, Dr. Krishna Chandra Paudel asked for thorough review of Leasehold Forestry programme, find the gap in implementation if any and scale up input that would contribute in economic growth of the target communities. Dr. Paudel requested workshop participants to take up implementation issues and suggest policy recommendations. He expressed confidence that the workshop would also consider anthropogenic drivers of forest degradation and identify ways and means to protect it. Helping to raise the level of income of the target community and restoring greenery of degraded forest land is a challenging issue and needed the cooperation of all concerned including local governments, poverty alleviation fund and other, he noted. Finally, Dr. Paudel called for the revisit of Leasehold Forestry and livestock programme to assess its impact in poverty reduction.

Workshop Structure

This workshop was held in two days. First day of the programme consisted of inauguration, briefing on project achievements, paper presentation and group discussion on the papers that were presented.

On second day participants were divided into five parallel working groups and extensive discussion were held on the given theme. Overall theme was directed at setting new directions for Leasehold Forestry. Each group was assigned a topic namely

Ways to integrating and harmonizing Leasehold Forestry objectives; capacity building and effective functioning of institutions; enhancing effectiveness/impact of Leasehold Forestry; policy support and further research.

Findings of working group discussion were compiled and later presented in the plenary.

After working group session, participants reviewed the action plan prepared in previous workshops and drafted new action plan for the coming days. Finally a closing ceremony was organized where representatives of the participants presented workshop recommendation and action plan to be endorsed by the workshop. The closing ceremony in plenary concluded with the endorsement of workshop recommendation and the action plan.

SUMMARY OF PAPERS

Project Progress and Development of Leasehold Forestry Project with Particular Reference to Establishment of Demonstration Sites

a. Progress on Institutional and Technical Capacity Building in Support of Leasehold Forestry Project

Based on the lessons learnt during the first phase of the project (HLFFDP), new constraints and conflicting issues hindering the successful implementation of the programme were identified. They are: (i) Poor technical capacity at all the district level to implement the Leasehold Forestry programme (ii) Inadequate knowledge of natural regeneration and adaptation of fodder and multi-purpose plant species to a wider range of agro-ecological conditions beyond the Central and Western development regions (iii) Lack of operational guidelines for uniform implementation of Leasehold Forestry programme across the country, and (iv) Lack of a easy-to-use indicators to identify impoverished households for eligibility to the Leasehold Forestry programme.

To help address the gaps identified in Leasehold Forestry programme, FAO has supported “Institutional and Technical Capacity Building in Support of Leasehold Forestry Projects (TCP)”. The project has emphasized on strengthening institutional capacity of district forest and livestock services offices through training and mainstreaming of approaches and through the provision of international and national expertise.

Project objective:

Overall objective of FAO-TCP is to maintain and build up institutional capacity and planning tools at grassroots and district level that will create favorable conditions for the rapid scaling up of the poverty reduction Leasehold Forestry programmes in all programme districts.

The specific objectives are to:

- Build up implementation capacity and reference points in the 22 Leasehold Forestry programme districts (including 10 ongoing activities in HLFFDP districts) and strengthen implementation capacity in the 10 HLFFDP;
- Finalize the existing operational guidelines that are linked to the existing poverty monitoring indicators for Leasehold Forestry and develop the national standards for Leasehold Forestry to be used across districts and projects; and
- Improve the institutional framework for a greater contribution of forests and trees to poverty reduction.

Achievements:

FAO-TCP has successfully achieved its objectives. Notable outcomes of the project are policy recommendations for greater contribution of Leasehold Forestry, establishment of LF demonstration sites, research on species for rehabilitation of degraded lands, study on the effectiveness of Leasehold Forestry on poverty reduction, establishment of management information system, improved coordination and collaboration among stakeholder and criteria and indicators for sustainable leasehold forest management. These are briefly mentioned elsewhere in this proceeding.

Production and distribution of extension materials

b. Model Leasehold Forests Concepts, Process and Achievements

The report presents conceptual framework of model LF, scopes, the process adopted for the establishment and presents status of model forest plots. General objective of establishing a LF demonstration plot is to demonstrate the inputs and outcomes of all the components of LFLP in programme districts along with specific objectives to demonstrate the development path; act as a demonstration

sites for in-district study tours and exhibit and disseminate the technology of livelihood improvement through Leasehold Forestry.

The conceptual framework of the model LF was developed by defining model LF as a land use system developed to produce or supply diverse products or raw materials to enhance the existing livelihood means of the leasehold forest users groups in a planned and sustainable way. In physical terms, it is a conglomerate of small land use systems developed to maximize the comparative advantages of the land (farm and lease land) owned by the leaseholders. The concept of LFLP is based on livestock management, particularly goat husbandry which requires continuous supply of forage or fodder having high nutrition values. Majority of farmers rearing goats are dependent on leaf fodder from forests which is always in short supply. Lack of practical knowledge on land development and land use management in majority of LFLP districts has several consequences. Therefore model LF was established in five development regions of Nepal with an objective to demonstrate the overall working strategy.

A total of 18 model leasehold forest demonstration plots were established in 18 districts covering all the five development regions. The conceptual framework of model LF was prepared with the consultation of all stakeholders. In the conceptual framework, criteria and Indicators for the establishment of model Leasehold Forestry sites are clearly mentioned as primary and secondary criteria. The framework has stressed to put maximum areas of lease land under forage production followed by multiple use tree or shrub species; NTFPs and fruit trees.

The model framework has identified four major components of model LF and each component represents the development phases of a LFUGs. The components are: i) production of livelihood resource (land development and management), ii) capacity building (institutional and social capital formation), iii) wise-use of resources and value addition (economic enhancement), iv) coordination and integration.

For the operational purposes, two types of models based in Land use systems, and Enterprise development have been proposed. The land use model is further sub-divided into five models namely (i) fodder and forage model (more than 75% area under forage and fodder land use), (ii) forage and cash crops model (50% forage and 50% cash crops), (iii) forage and multipurpose trees model (50% of each) (iv) small timber, forage and NTFPs as undergrowth and (v) farmland model (horticulture and vegetable farming). Similarly, the enterprise model consists of three sub models. They are: (i) Individual household micro-enterprise model (ii) Collective enterprise model and (iii) Community based enterprise model.

The approach includes working with DFO or concerned territorial range office; working with the network of LFUGs or the concerned LFUGs itself; and working with CBOs or NGOs, Diversification of income sources; intensification, resource focus and Integration beyond forest sector.

The logical steps of establishing model LF consists of developing framework, methodology and stakeholders consultation; finalization of general framework of a model LF; identification of district, site and LFUG; preparation of integrated livelihood improvement plan; land use planning and implementation; revision of leasehold forest management plan; development of post management plan; designing monitoring formats and mechanisms and report preparation and dissemination.

The livelihood improvement plans were prepared and incorporated into the forest operational plan of the respective LFUGS. Altogether 18 model LFs were established covering all the development regions of LFLP. Of the total, three each were in western, far-western and eastern development regions, two were in the mid-western development region and the remaining seven were in central development region. A total of 100 ha area of lease land has been brought under intensive management aimed at diversification of livelihoods products as

per the prevailing site qualities of the lease land. On an average, 3000 fodder trees, and multiple use species have been planted and managed. Of the total 100 ha area of model LF, more than 50% area has been managed for improved varieties of grasses such as Stylo, molasses, Paspalam, ray grass, white clover, mendula and join vetch. A total of 43900 slips and cuttings of moth napier, Mullato, setaria, forage peanut, and desmodium, and 223 kg of seeds of different varieties of grasses were distributed for plantation.

The impacts of model LF can be interpreted as transfer of knowledge and skills on resource mobilization through planning and trainings; increased intra and inter group social cohesion among government line agencies, CFUGs, and local elites; increased coordination and integration in terms of institutional linkages and social capital building among different actors working in poverty reduction; conceptualization of integrated LIP preparation and incorporation in forest operation plan of respective LFUGs; enhanced participatory land use planning; and increased adoption of commercial vegetable farming.

Lesson learnt during the establishment of model LF were the lack of complimentary activities such as infrastructure development and economic enhancement; lack of shared vision of process focused development among service providers or development partners; lack of ownership of the programme and uncertainty of achieving results in short period.

Effectiveness of Leasehold Forestry to Poverty Reduction

This report is of a year long field study conducted by the technical cooperation programme of Leasehold Forestry and Livestock Programme (LFLP). The main objective of this study was to investigate the contribution of Leasehold Forestry Programme to poverty reduction. The study conducted in 6 Leasehold Forestry programme districts (Terathum, Sindhuli, Dolakha Tanhu, Salyan and Doti) of Nepal, which covered a wide range of locations from the east to the west and also from low to high elevation ranges.

Primary data were collected mainly from key informant's surveys, focus group discussions and household surveys. Firstly, a total of 18 LFUGs and 18 CFUGs of best, medium and poor categories were sampled based on criteria from 6 districts. Secondly, a total of 216 households were randomly sampled. The valuation of fodder, grasses, firewood and other multipurpose species was done using both existing market prices and contingent valuation method (CVM). In some cases price substitution method was also used. The research began with a conceptual framework illustrating context, process and outcomes of the Leasehold Forestry programme. The indicators of the achievement of the programme were defined in the beginning. The preliminary findings of the study were shared with the participants of the three regional workshops held in Dhangadi, Biratnagar and Kathmandu and feedback from participants was incorporated.

The study area covers a total of 169 households in LF area and 1361 households in the CF area. Similarly, the Leasehold forest area is 84.83 ha and Community forest area is 1343.48 ha. It indicates that one household has an average of 0.50 ha LF land and 0.97 ha (almost double) of CF lands. The average household size is 5.99. Of the total sampled households, almost equal proportion of BCN (46

percent) and dalit (45 percent) households were included. The rest were indigenous households (9%).

The primary school enrolment increased over the project period (i.e. girls enrolment was increased from 44 to 53 percent and boys enrolment was increased from 51 to 64 percent. The people's occupation is mainly agriculture (81 percent), which also includes the contribution of student. The other occupations are service (10 percent), wage labor (6 percent) and business (3 percent).

Fodder and grasses were valued for Rs 2,143 per household or Rs 4,271 from one ha of leasehold forest. Similarly a total of Rs 1,124 per household was valued for firewood, and Rs 1,003 from other multipurpose species products (broom grass, asparagus and small bamboo). Of the three types of product values, grasses and fodder production was higher in LF plots, whereas values from firewood and other multipurpose products were higher in CF plots. In terms of intangible value, more than two-thirds of the households (67 percent) reported that Leasehold Forestry contributed to control of soil erosion. On an average, 69 percent of the total leased lands rehabilitated into greenery, which was almost degraded or without trees, grasses and fodder (degraded land = 95 percent) before the project.

The research findings showed that 11 percent of the leasehold member households have sufficient food. Of the total (96 ultra poor households) before project (10 years ago), 7 percent shifted to medium poor, 5 to poor and 11 to rich category. The change in livelihood status in the control site was very low (1 to 2 percent). This showed that there is significant impact of the project on changing the livelihood status of leasehold members. Over the project period, cash income of the sample households (at 2008 prices) has increased satisfactorily in all sample communities of the project site. Before the project, the sample leasehold member households had an average cash income of Rs. 25,589 which now has increased to Rs. 43,768. The increment is 71 percent. The highest percentage of

share of income in project site during both periods 'before' and 'after' was from wage labor, while in control site highest share of cash income was from business (31 percent). Wage labor share in total income in the control site is second highest. The distribution of income between male- and female-headed households indicated that the percentage share of income of female headed households from farm-source has increased by 10 percent (51 to 61 percent), while the share from off-farm source has decreased by 6 percent (from 65 to 59 percent). An average income per family is highest with Brahmin/Chhetri caste group among all ethnic groups compared. However in terms of programme impact and proportion of change, Indigenous and *Dalit* groups have received more benefits.

In terms of access to land and livestock holdings, Overall 77 percent of the households own land in the project area and rest, 23 percent households are landless. The land size remained almost same over the project period, while animal holding has changed significantly. Before project was implemented, one household owned 3.84 animal unit, which now changed to 4.84 animal unit.

Proportion of sample households involved in cereal crop production has increased from 81 percent to 87 percent in project site. Household involvement in vegetable production has changed over time during project period. The change in percentage of leasehold members involved in vegetable and fruit production increased from 56 before the project to 74 percent after the project and 13 before the project to 65 percent after the project, respectively. In control site also, large proportion of farmers are involved in vegetable and fruit production. It is partly because of project support to non-members as well in vegetable seed supply. However, the percentage of involved farmers is relatively lower in control site than in project site after the project was implemented.

Saving and credit mobilization was one of the important activities of the Leasehold Forestry programme. In almost all cases under study, the LFUGs

have organized themselves to establish informal local financial institutions through saving and credit programmes. On an average, more than two-thirds (75 percent) of sampled households responded that they have saved their money in their own savings groups. The community fund including saving were mobilized by the poorest of the poor households (69 percent) in project site compared to 30 percent in control site. Of the total funds available with LFUG, more than two-thirds (69%) of the funds were mobilized to ultra poor, about one-quarter to medium poor, and the rest (six percent) to the average poor and rich households. In the control group, about one-third was mobilized to ultra poor, 37 percent to medium poor, and the remaining funds was mobilized to rich households. In terms of fund mobilization, some rich households are also getting benefits from the saving and credit programme of the Leasehold Forestry programme. The reason behind this follows from the fact that a few elite households (6%), who are rich were also included in the LFUG at the time of group formation. The local community (Key Informants) and the household respondents claimed that the increased availability of local credit facility, mainly from saving collection, is one of the major reasons for changes in household income and well-being status of people in the project site.

The analysis of the access of poor households to basic services and training revealed some basic services such as tap drinking water, primary school, health services and road head markets have increased over project period. Time required to reach the primary school was substantially reduced over the project period. As a result, enrolment rate in primary school also increased by almost 12 percent (50 to 62 percent). Female child enrolment is even higher in project site compared to control site.

Despite Leasehold Forestry programme, there is still a shortage of grasses and fodders in the project area. The result reveals that one sample household currently lacks almost 2,404 kg (12.45 percent gap) of forage per year, which is currently fulfilled by government forests and other sources. The carrying capacity

of the existing forest and private land is only 87.55 percent. In order to address the gap, the project has to further promote grasses in the leasehold forest and private farmlands. Alternatively, unproductive cattle population should be decreased.

The overall income distribution pattern revealed that outcome achieved from the implementation of the Leasehold Forestry programme has not worsened any members of the society, but improved the living standard of other members of the society who were not directly supported by the programme. Because of the environmental friendly nature of the project, the total benefit including social benefits accrued by the project community is higher than the total costs.

The relationships among important stakeholders were assessed using Network Dynamic Analysis. The result revealed that saving and credit group and organization including cooperatives secured highest score (37) in terms of relationship between and among the stakeholders compared. This shows that saving and credit programme has strong linkage with poverty reduction efforts of the programme. These scores were based on criteria such as power and resource sharing, interest of the individual organization, trust and influence. Followed by SCO/Cooperative, women group was ranked as highest 'giver'. The reason could be that women groups are linked to various stakeholders in the community after the Leasehold Forestry programme was implemented. Of the other organizations among 'giver' side of the matrix are LFUG, DFO, DDC, DLSOO and Bank, who secured more than 30 marks. Along the 'taker' side, LFUG received the highest score followed by women group, SCO/cooperatives, DLSOO, DDC/VDC, DFO, NGO and CFUGs. It showed that LFUG is at the centre of all organizations for support.

Participants were also asked about their satisfaction on the project activities. The level of satisfaction (high, medium and low) of stakeholders was assessed using criteria defined by the group and researchers. The aggregated scores were

converted into percentage of total responses. The analysis showed that men were more satisfied with capacity building, LF nursery management and leadership development activities implemented by the project. Female satisfaction was high on IGA- goat distribution, vegetable seed and fruit sapling distribution, grasses and fodder seeds and Napier slip distribution. The degree of satisfaction of both male and female was relatively lowest on environment awareness related activities.

The representation of women, *dalit* and indigenous people in EC and GA was discussed and analyzed in the FGD meeting. The result revealed that female representation was higher in LFUG (55 percent) compared to CFUG (45 percent). Similarly, Dalit and indigenous people involvement in the LFUG institution was higher. However, this percentage differs if we assess this in the whole community. Normally in LFUG, poor, *dalit* and indigenous people were high and therefore their representation was also high.

Regarding synergies and collaboration between LFUG and CFUG, both of these stakeholders have their own strength and weaknesses. Every one agrees that CFUG has not been able to address the issues of equity, while LFUG has not been able to capture all sections of the society. Despite these differences, this study has investigated synergies and integration between these two groups based on evidence collected from the field. The experience showed that the provision of leasing forest lands to poor households within CFUG would be one of the options to address the equity issue. However, before implementing this approach, one has to guarantee the poor people's access, right and ownership towards the leased land after the completion of CF operational plan period (5 to 10 years) is over. Generally the trend is that once the forest has reached to the productive phase, the richer sections of the community are unwilling to give this land to the poorer households.

To measure the effectiveness of the Leasehold Forestry programme in reducing poverty a set of 43 basic indicators (11 economic, 9 socio-political, 7 human, 9 natural and 7 physical indicators) were developed. The scaling was done at five levels: 1 = the lowest and 5 = the highest level of success. These scales were based on joint assessment among different stakeholders present in the FGD meeting along with the research team's qualitative assessment. The analysis provides sufficient evidence for impact of the programme. All indicators have changed positively. Most significant changes are observed in rehabilitation of degraded lands followed by increase in farm and off-farm income, increase in household cash savings, decrease in mortgaging property, and decrease in number of food shortage months.

Similarly Leasehold Forestry intervention has already started to bring positive social changes for leasehold members in the project area. These are likely to be best reflected in governance and representation systems, and in behavioral changes in some LFUGs. Some of the significant changes can be seen as following; (i) higher level of representation of dalits and women in the decision making process; (ii) improvement in LFUG's governance; (iii) increase in social cohesion and self-help capacity; (iv) improvement in relationship between various stakeholders and institutions; and (v) vast improvement in women's and poor people's access rights to resources.

LFUG members in all sites have improved facilitation and leadership skills through various trainings. They are becoming active and capable of implementing their plan of action effectively. Elite members have developed the positive attitude towards gender, caste and ethnic groups and the poor. The literacy levels of leasehold members and primary school enrolment rates have increased over the project period. The level of understanding and business development skills have also increased, but not to the level of expectation of the project.

Following recommendations are made for each of the livelihood capitals:

Institutional and policy level

- The LF hand over process is target oriented and so handover of LF should be based on user demand and capacity;
- There should be provision in the law to hand over the productive forest to the LFUG. However, in this case a strong monitoring mechanism has to be developed by the agencies concerned;
- In view of the existing debate between LF and CF programme, there is a need to develop proper guidelines and strategies for bringing better harmony between staff of different forestry programme. The inter-staff meetings at all levels (centre, district and local) should be organized and the outcomes of the programme reviewed;
- The production from leasehold forests was found to be higher under individual management system (e.g. Sindhuli District), which needs to be emphasized, with cleared mechanism for monitoring;
- The policy should not give any priority to any forms of forest management systems (LF or CF). The local communities should make the decision;

Social capital

- The on-going LFLP plan to conduct gender sensitization training should continue to focus on both partners (male and female) of the concerned leasehold households;
- In the context of the inclusion of elite in the LFUG, the programme should deliberately send circulars to the concerned DFO and DLSOO to avoid elite interference in the programme. However, the enforcement of such regulations should follow local people decisions;
- Most training programme conducted in the past was mostly done to meet project targets. This should instead be done according to the training needs of the local people;
- Regular sharing and reflections between members and non-members needs to be organized to avoid on-going conflicts created during benefit distribution;

Environmental capital

- Handing over of small (1.87 ha for 9 households) and degraded forest land to marginal farmers is not cost effective in many ways. This has increased work burden to poor members. This needs to be stopped and alternatives should be explored;
- In order to address the existing fodder shortage, the local people needs to be encouraged to plant fast growing fodder trees and grasses in their vacant terrace walls and also discourage increase of unproductive cattle population;
- Contribution of Leasehold Forestry to land rehabilitation, control of soil loss and environmental amelioration should be recognized by local communities, and such achievements should be encouraged at local level;

Economic capital

- The programme should provide revolving funds to LF members so as to start LF product enterprises locally;
- The increased income from Leasehold Forestry intervention and its positive impacts on both sections (poor and rich) of society calls for the continuation of this programme in future. All classes, gender and caste groups should be encouraged to opt for LF farming;
- The criteria set by the programme to form cooperative- or village-based financial institution (VFI) need to be reviewed and implemented based on the local situation;

Human capital

- Women and *dalit* access members to various trainings needs to be increased. The project should encourage women participation in training;
 - The trainings to be conducted by the programme should be needs-based;
- Leadership capability of some of the disadvantaged members has increased over the project period. However, there is still domination by elite in some of the groups observed, which needs to be addressed by the project in future.

Policy Recommendations for a Greater Contribution of Leasehold Forestry

The study aimed to propose recommendations on institutional and policy aspects of the Leasehold Forestry based on needs identification and review of the existing forestry sector policy. The existing Leasehold Forestry covers the Leasehold Forestry Policy 2002 and Forest Act 1993. Master Plan for the Forestry Sector (1989), Agriculture Perspective Plan (1995) and Interim 3 Year Plan (2007-2010) provide the policy foundation on which Leasehold Forestry programme is based. All the above policies and laws were formulated visualizing the Leasehold Forestry for forest product-based industries. The Leasehold Forestry for poor was conceptualized when Forest Act 1993 was already enacted. Thus, the process formulated in the Forest Regulation 1995 has not covered pro-poor aspect of Leasehold Forestry. The Leasehold Forestry Policy (2002), which is basically fabricated to resolve the on-going issues of the Leasehold Forestry, was approved by the Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation but its provisions could not be implemented without amending the Forest Act 1993. In the changing scenario of the country the present study recommends to make the Leasehold Forestry suited to this context. The second national workshop of the Leasehold Forestry (2007) has mandated to make it people-centered. The study makes the following recommendations: (i) implement the Leasehold Forestry Policy 2002, (ii) Expand the Leasehold Forestry other parts of the country including public land management in Tarai (iii) establish functional coordination and synchronization at central and local level for additional resource generation (iv) Integrate Leasehold Forestry with other management modalities of forest management, (v) address issues of Leasehold Forestry in buffer zone areas urgently (vi) facilitate the federation of leasehold forest groups (vii) establish product-based Leasehold Forestry cooperatives, and (ix) adopt stepwise (graduation) process in poverty alleviation and degraded forest management with measurable indicators.

Harmonizing and Organizing Institutions to Support Leasehold Forestry

Forest Act (1993) has provision for handing over forests to the local communities to the extent that they are willing and capable of managing them. The Leasehold Forestry, though receives policy priority is superseded by CF, the top priority programme as per Forest Act. The overall goal of the Leasehold Forestry programme for poor is the sustained reduction in poverty of the poor households who are allocated Leasehold Forestry plots.

CF policy, in particular, has been very popular amongst the donor communities and that numerous projects have been involved in facilitating the implementation of this programme. Community forestry has been the mainstream of forest policy and programme for more than three decades now. With the experience gathered through the implementation of community forestry, more and more issues are coming up. Earlier, issues in community forestry used to be mostly on 'awareness level' in some selected communities. The present issues in community forestry loosely called, as the 'second-generation issues' are directed toward improved governance, equity and economic development.

Unlike community forestry, there are few donor supported projects with Leasehold Forestry. Hill Leasehold Forestry and Forage Development Project (HLFFDP) was one such project and started in few districts in early ninety. It, in effect was implemented almost parallel to CF under independent project support. The main shortcomings of the HLFFDP were identified in: (i) Institutional Issues, Management, Policy Dialogue and Supervision. (ii) Building and Strengthening Grassroots Institutions (iii) Improving the Technological Packages for Forage and Livestock.

Leasehold Forestry for poor provided land open forest land to poor households on a 40-year renewable lease, with security of tenure and the confidence to develop the land which then enables them to generate income and other benefits

and so to move out of poverty. There are some fundamental differences between CF and LF which have affected the implementation of Leasehold Forestry for poor.

The legal status of CF is more secure than that of LF, and the process of user group formation is more rapid and less complex, with registration of the group and approval of the operational plan taking place at district level. Both the programmes should be treated as complementary to each other rather than as conflict. This particular disparity needs to be addressed.

The Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation is the apex body for the implementation of forestry sector policy and programme in Nepal. The institutional framework consists of central, regional and local level offices. Through interactions with the stakeholders and beneficiaries and an institutional analysis several gaps in the system were identified which have affected effective implementation of the LF and CF programmes. For bridging these gaps policy and legal issues need to be addressed to make the programme more cohesive and effective.

Moreover, there is a need to integrate CF and LF programmes institutionally so that a focused attention could be given to community-based forestry programmes which are meant for income generation, poverty alleviation, improving the health and productivity of forests allotted to communities and conserving the national forests. There are considerable similarities in the implementation process of CF and LF programmes such as community-based programmes having similar cross cutting issues. Parallel implementations of these two programmes have resulted in duplicating the resources for similar objectives.

To address these issues three models have been proposed for harmonization of all community-based programmes and their advantages and disadvantages discussed and appropriate recommendations made for the implementation of one of the models, which will increase the efficiency of implementation to harness the

full potential of CF and LF programmes. First model has recommended setting up *Community*-based Forestry Division and including Leasehold Forestry and Collaborative Forestry Sections along with Community Forestry Section Private & Agro-forestry Section. Second model has proposed a new Department of Community-based Forest equivalent to Department of Forest under MFSC and third model is in favour of an autonomous Community-based Forest Board/Corporation under MFSC.

Capacity Building: Guidelines and Training

a. Capacity Building for Implementation of Leasehold Forestry in Participatory and Coordinated Manner

Capacity building is the core objectives of technical cooperation of FAO to LFLP. Relevant training manuals and guidelines prepared by different agencies were reviewed. Training needs assessment of LFLP extension staff, NGOs and LFUG members were also carried out. Based on these works, training manuals on social mobilization; LFUG livelihood improvement plan preparation and implementation; saving and credit fund generation and management; guidelines on LFUG livelihood improvement plan preparation and implementation have been developed and finalized.

Assistant Forest Officers, Rangers, Junior Technicians and Junior Technical Assistants, District Supervisors, Rural Finance Officers, Village Financial Association Facilitators, Group Promoters and Forest Guards of all LFLP districts and leader farmers of Chitwan district have been trained using these training manuals and guidelines. In total, 22 District Supervisors and 125 Group promoters were trained using social mobilization training manuals. Similarly 11 Rural Finance Officers and Village Financial Association Facilitators, 5 District Supervisors and 119 Group promoters in LFUG saving and credit fund management were trained. Finally 76 Assistant Forest Officers/Rangers, JT and JTA, Forest Guards, District Supervisors, Group Promoters and LFUG members were trained using LFUG livelihood improvement plan preparation and implementation training manuals and guidelines. It is recommended that these training manuals and guidelines should be translated into Nepali language for wider application among broad range of stakeholders.

b. Guidelines for Establishment of Model Leasehold Forests Demonstration Plots

Several technical and institutional development training programmes are envisioned for effective implementation of model LF plans. Success of model LF approach is founded on effectively developing technical and institutional capacity of the LFUGs. The capacity building programme must be demand driven, contextual, user-friendly and designed to meet the goals and objectives of the model LF.

Based on the lessons learned, the project realized the need of guidelines for those engaged in implementation and institutionalization of model LF. This guideline presents the concept of a model Leasehold Forestry site, the process for its establishment, management and operation in the programme districts. It was developed in a participatory way in consultation with various stakeholders. It is a compilation of process, tools and methods learned during the establishment of model LF sites in 18 LFLP districts. The objective of the guidelines is to assist field staff and LFUGs for establishing a model LF to demonstrate the overall working strategy, and land management outcomes of the LFLP for improving rural livelihoods.

The model LF framework has seven major activities: (i) developing model LF framework and identification of LF sites/LFUGs (ii) stakeholder consultations (iii) preparation of Livelihood Improvement Plan (LIP) (iv) preparation and implementation of land development plan (v) capacity building (vi) co-ordination and integration (vii) supervision and monitoring. To accomplish these tasks the concerned District Forest Officer, field staff or the facilitator need to follow the steps listed below:

- I. Developing framework and methodology for establishing a model LF and stakeholders consultation

- II. Stakeholder consultation and identification of sites/LFUGs
- III. Consultation with LFUGs at the cluster level and Selection of model LF site
- IV. Preparation of an integrated Livelihoods Improvement Plan (LIP)
- V. Land use planning and land development
- VI. Capacity building
- VII. Enterprise development and economic enhancement
- VIII. Co-ordination and Integration
- IX. Supporting Activities
 - Revision of forest management plan
 - Land productivity enhancement (Composting, Green manuring, Vermicompost)
 - Intensification of forage production
 - Vegetable production and marketing
 - Animal health
 - Adult education
 - Public auditing
- X. Monitoring and evaluation
- XI. Record keeping and reporting.

Capacity Building: Database Preparation

Introduction:

This study on 'Capacity Building and Database Preparation' of the Leasehold Forestry and Livestock Programme is part of technical cooperation to LFLP. Present study covers six different topics namely (i) Developing tools for categorization of LFUGs, (ii) Consolidating existing Leasehold Forestry guidelines, (iii) Developing C&I for sustainable management of leasehold forest, (iv) Designing MIS for LFLP, (v) advising on the monitoring of demonstration plots, and (vi) Support in organizing and coordinating regional workshops. The salient features of these activities are presented in the following section:

Section 1: Categorization of LFUGs

The groups formed during the last 15 years under Leasehold Forestry for poor have attained different level of achievements. Some groups have reached a stage of entrepreneurship while others have only limited achievements. Therefore these groups were stratified on the basis of their level of achievements. The tools developed for stratification of LFUG into three broad categories of active, satisfactory and less active contain institutional, land, livestock, and rural finance development components. There are 25 different indicators identified for the assessment through scoring into optimal, medium, and low level of performance. Participatory categorization of LFUGs is proposed to broaden the knowledge of LFUG members on the status of their plot and facilitate proper planning and logical action.

Section 2: Consolidation of LF Guidelines

To facilitate the implementation of LFLP, various guidelines have been prepared and used. This indicates refinement of techniques applied and processes followed for increasing success of the programme. The existing guidelines prepared in the framework of HLFFDP have not been able to provide detailed

instruction for LFLP. In this study an attempt has been made to introduce poverty monitoring within LFLP. It is also suggested consolidating the existing guidelines to address the emerging issues for smooth implementation of LFLP. Different guidelines of LFLP are found to consist of different indicators related to land development, well being ranking, leasehold forest group formation and hand over, and related trainings. The activities implemented under LFLP have contributed in the identification of different poverty indicators to monitor both objectives-poverty reduction and environmental improvement. However, during the implementation process numbers of issues related to policy and gaps in implementation guidelines were identified. Similarly utilization of existing trees, preparation and following of the calendar of operation, record keeping are recommended to be consolidated in constitution and operational plan preparation guidelines. However the issues like registration of LFUG, inheritance right, legal action on the losses in LF, harvest and sale of products from LF plots, priority to CF over LF, incorporation of LF concept in CF, extension of LF beyond Leasehold Forestry programme for poor are to be addressed by the policy. To enhance the effectiveness of LF implementation, separate guidelines related to Livelihood Improvement Plan, mobilization of GPs, mainstreaming gender and empowerment, and poverty monitoring are proposed to be developed.

Section 3: Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Leasehold Forest Management

Criteria and Indicator provide the measure of sustainability. Sustainability provision of the LFLP seeks monitoring of different information. An attempt has made to define the sustainable leasehold forest management. To define the criteria and indicators for this purpose ITTO (2005) and FSC (1996) platform were utilized and the efforts of CIFOR and BISEPT-ST to define sustainable CF were also considered. The study has reviewed issues of incorporation of LF concept in CF. Similarly efforts have also been made to account the contribution in national GDP from participatory forest management. This is the first initiative

aimed at monitoring the sustainability of LF. The study has suggested that the principle of leasehold forest management have to be guided by the broad factors of policy, ecological, socio-economic, and production of goods and services. There are seven criteria proposed to assess the sustainability of LF including the provision of related rules and regulations, coordination to implement LIP, implementation of management plan, tangible and intangible benefits and livelihood improvement, and monitoring and assessment. Similarly there are 13 indicators proposed to measure the sustainability of leasehold forest. The major indicators are LF rules and regulations, inclusiveness, collaboration and outsourcing, adoption of technology to private & community lands, land rehabilitation & benefits received, rural microfinance programme, livestock & forest development, entrepreneurship development, and participatory M&E. Scoring system and the periodicity of information collection are also suggested for measurements of each of the indicators. Contribution to LF on the national GDP is proposed to be assessed based on five criteria including supply of tangible & intangible benefits, ecotourism services, maintenance of resource base, and contribution in agricultural production. These contributions are proposed to be measured by using eight indicators, namely; supply of forest products, production of oxygen, carbon sequestration, soil conservation, water management, ecotourism promotion, forest resource, and diversified income from agricultural products. Institutionalization of the LF approach in CF is proposed to be assessed by considering four criteria on land management, participation, group consensus, and poverty reduction strategy. There are eight indicators related to land use in CF, income generation activities, participation, and clarity on the concept.

Section 4: Design of MIS for LFLP

The design document of LFLP has proposed an arrangement for simple monitoring and evaluation system and storage of two types of information by establishing a management information system for LFLP. The study has

attempted to design and develop simple and user friendly MIS for LFLP. It has emphasized in the use of data collection formats developed to capture most of the output level data and some outcomes and impact level information on yearly basis. The implementing partners are expected to lead the participatory monitoring process. The MIS has been made very simple to ensure data processing even in sudden absence of computation software. The existing MIS based on Oracle platform is suggested to be replaced by MYSQL platform. The replacement is due to the simplicity of MYSQL in field creation, report formats reformation and easy export and import of information. Further MYSQL is user friendly and can be handled by to non-IT persons, through short orientation. To promote the use of MIS in planning and reporting, district partners are to make optimal use of the MIS. Involvement of district staff in data collection, entry, analysis, and preliminary report writing is emphasized in the proposed MIS. The volume of data to be collected and analyzed in the district is kept higher than that needed at the center. It is suggested that the regional and central level stakeholders will need less data to meet their requirements. Piloting of the MIS in the center has demonstrated its appropriateness for LFLP and also found to be portable to the districts.

Section 5: Monitoring of Demonstration Plots

Demonstration of good practices has been an approach to improve the implementation process of LFLP. This programme has supported establishment of model leasehold forest plots in sixteen districts. A study has been carried out on the monitoring of demonstration plots to suggest tools to refine the process of its establishment. The study highlighted that the monitoring of demonstration plots helps to add effectiveness on land and livestock development and also creates a venue for study tour. It also supports to refine the process adopted for more intensive operations. Monitoring of model LF plot is suggested to concentrate on process monitoring along with some quick outcomes captured in the first year. Yearly monitoring of LFLP is proposed to be carried out in the

same way for all the leasehold plots. Monitoring of demonstration plot is proposed to be done to capture the information on establishment. The study has recommended monitoring of both the *in-situ* and *ex-situ* conservation and the efforts made in the development of private lands. It has also suggested making use of findings for the selection of suitable species for varying conditions of leasehold plots to enhance contributions towards poverty reduction and environmental conservation.

Rehabilitation of Dry Sites of Leasehold Forests in Nepal-Part I- Ecological Status and Natural Regeneration

Most of the tropical and sub-tropical Nepal has very favourable temperature and rainfall for plant growth. This is exhibited in the existing natural vegetation and also in the recovery process of areas once they get protection under initiatives of Community Forestry or Leasehold Forestry. There are four main species *Shorea robusta*, *Pinus roxburghii*, *Schima wallichii* and *Alnus nepalensis* in their respective zones and they take over the colonization of the sites with other associates which are far less conspicuous. The restocking is both through seed source and also through coppice regeneration. Regarding rehabilitation of degraded lands the approach is to allow it to recoup first, slowly with whatever grasses and other species come up. The process of restoration should be a gradual one with interventions practically every year.

The vegetation of most of the Leasehold Forestry areas is degraded. In *Shorea robusta* bearing areas, which are moist to dry tropical, once the forest are degraded they are often colonized by invasive species such as *Eupatorium* and *Lantana* or they also get converted into grass lands in case there are repeated fires in the area. Top soil is washed off within a few years of exposure and there is hardly any organic matter content in the soil. Continued grazing further exacerbates the soil health by accelerating erosion. In the absence of proper site conditions the areas are set back and their recovery depends mainly on prevention of fire and grazing. However, regeneration may come up only on the better sites and where there is sufficient root stock.

Most of the visited sites lacked natural regeneration. Wherever it was present, was mainly due to the fact that better sites with regenerating crop were made available for Leasehold Forestry. In some well protected areas in the Sal, and also in Katus – Chilaune zone, regeneration has been coming up reasonably well.

The Operational Plans in most cases are like optimistic statements and the choice of species for planting in most cases was beyond the ecological capacity of the sites. Rehabilitation of sites will take much longer than what was normally expected.

Stylo and molasses do well only unto a point, may be 3-4 years. Thereafter either they disappear or are overtaken by local grasses. Broom grass and Napier have been doing well in most cases. On the dry sites, growing of fodder grasses and other fodder species can be achieved with additional inputs of moisture and soil conservation, *in situ* water harvesting and addition of organic materials for amelioration and strengthening the soil. Preference of the people is for Napier, Broom grass and the local grasses.

The goal of the Leasehold Forestry is poverty reduction and environmental conservation. The Leasehold Forestry sites in the Far-west and the Mid-west regions of Nepal are depleted sites and their restoration into an agroforestry ecosystem- which is the aim of the project- may be achievable with continued support, guidance and inputs from various government departments. The experience elsewhere has shown that soil and moisture conservation measures and assistance to plants by way of organic/ inorganic manures and microbial inputs can bring about good results in the initial stages which are crucial for plant establishment. The leasehold households are poor and their genuine need for sources of food crops may have to be addressed without converting the Leasehold Forestry sites into agricultural lands and at the same time these sites should not be allowed to become forest plantations either. The requirement of fodder for livestock and the need of sustainable maintenance of the sites without degradation will need to be balanced. This will also call for on-farm initiatives and also a holistic NRM approach in the area. Some bench marking of the economic status of the families could be helpful for future evaluation of the results.

Overall Leasehold Forestry is a laudable initiative. It needs technological support based on ecological knowledge. People are positive and they understand the restoration issues, but are not always in a position to implement them due to socio-economic factors. Largely they have the accumulated wisdom and very clear understanding of the ecological processes and as to what may succeed and how. Inputs from outside by way of material support, science and technology may help in overcoming difficulties. The key requirement is to establish a lively communication between the farmers and the project field staff to identify and promote site-specific packages and appropriate silvi-forage models.

Rehabilitation of Dry Sites of Leasehold Forests in Nepal-Part II- Choice of Species and Applied Research Protocol

Livestock rearing plays a significant role in the economy of the Himalayan people. Sufficient availability of fodder is vital for livestock rearing. The most common fodder species in Nepal are *Artocarpus lakoocha*, *Bauhinia variegata*, *Ficus semicordata*, *Ficus. lacor*, *Ficus nemoralis*, *Ficus roxburghii*, *Litsea monopetala* and *Sauraria nepalensis*. Findings of research on fodder by Indian Council of Agricultural Research indicated that some of the important fodder crops that can be grown on degraded sites were Napier grass (*Pennisetum purpereum*), Ipil-Ipil, *Sesbania sesban*, *Sesbania grandiflora*, and *Cenchrus ciliaris*. Napier hybrid gave best production under all conditions except in sub-temperate hilly regions and in the tarai.

It was observed that the Rhizobium inoculation of the pasture legumes provides synergistic effect for better establishment and obtained 59% and 72% higher green and dry herbage yield as compared to control. Nearly 95 % plant species have mycorrhizal association. In some cases a host can support more than one type of mycorrhizal association. *Alnus* (alders), *Salix* (willows), *Populus* (poplars), and *Eucalyptus* can have both AM (arbuscular mycorrhizae) and EM (ectomycorrhizae) associations on the same plant. Among the tree or crop genera *Acacia*, *Albizia*, *Bauhinia*, *Dalbergia*, *Erythrina*, *Gliricidia*, *Inga*, *Leucaena*, *Pongamia*, *Prosopis*, *Robinia* and *Sesbania* have symbiotic nitrogen fixation.

A list of suitable species that could be planted for rehabilitation of sites in dry agro ecological zones is given. Suggestions have also been made for perennial food crops and also for soil and moisture conservation. Napier and Broom grass has done better in the tropics of Nepal. Among tree species Tanki and Ipil-Ipil are doing well.

For research purpose it will be useful to select 30 Leasehold Forestry areas of approximately 3 ha each. Experimental planting could be done along contour

lines of 5 m interval. Seedlings of tree species could be planted 4 m apart and the inter space may be used to plant/sow the seeds of shrubs / trees 1 m apart. Initial application of Farm Yard Manure @ 1 kg for 2 sq. m for the treatment plot and application of 500 gm of moist top soil collected from root zone of the tree species in each pit may be done.

Experimental results will give useful information for five Development regions; three altitudinal zones and for north and south aspects on species suitable for rehabilitation of dry agro ecological sites, best possible combinations of grasses and legume for fodder production, most suitable fodder trees, and effect of application of farm yard manure and soil inoculants on establishment and growth of various species.

WORKING GROUP REPORT

After paper presentation, participants were divided into groups and assigned a topic for discussion. The topics were (i) Ways to integrating and harmonizing Leasehold Forestry objectives, (ii) Capacity building and effective functioning of institutions (iii) Enhancing effectiveness of Leasehold Forestry, (iv) Policy support, and (v) Future research and studies. Following is the summary of working group reports.

Strength:

- a. Established functional coordination mechanism from field to policy level for effective implementation of leasehold for poor
- b. Created a platform for coordination and collaboration among stakeholders through Livelihoods Improvement Plan (LIP) of LFUG
- c. Contributing directly to the national objectives of poverty reduction
- d. Attempted to improve the livelihoods of marginalized, poor, female and deprived people in the programme
- e. Strengthened the sense of ownership
- f. Promoted rural capital formation and mobilization, helped build leadership, created opportunities for social inclusion and empowerment of disadvantaged community
- g. Increased the access of females and deprived communities to resources
- h. Helped in poverty reduction through increased income from forest and livestock
- i. Helped in rehabilitation of degraded forest land
- j. Optimum use of forest area with low crown cover and improvement in environmental condition

Issues:

- a. LFUG is not recognized as an entry point for poverty reduction initiatives
- b. Inadequate forest area handed over per LFUG household
- c. Project approach to poverty reduction through Leasehold Forestry; insufficient input to LFUGs
- d. Pro-poor Leasehold Forestry is limited in policy
- e. Lack of legal basis to take action against illegal activities in the Leasehold Forestry
- f. Lacks clarity about Leasehold Forestry in the buffer-zone management regulations
- g. Unclear status of leasehold forests after the completion of lease period
- h. Complication on handing over Leasehold Forestry within community forests
- i. Poor knowledge among line agencies and service providers on livelihoods improvement plan and management information system
- j. Inadequate knowledge on land development
- k. Low level of local stakeholders participation in implementing Leasehold Forestry for poor
- l. Stakeholders forum that have proved effective at field level are yet to be recognized
- m. Low dissemination of research findings, extension, sense of ownership and continuity over research
- n. Low priority to indigenous species, process and technology

ACTION PLAN

At the end of workshop, participants reviewed the action plan prepared earlier and collectively drafted new action plan reflecting the learning of this workshop.

This action plan is presented on the basis of development region.

S. NO.	Activity	Time Frame	Responsibility
Far-western Development Region			
1.	To share the issues and recommendations of this workshop among all district level stakeholders	Ashad, 2066	DFO, DLSOO
2.	To identify organizations working for poverty reduction and help secure their support to LFLP	Ashad, 2066	DFO, DLSOO
3.	To organize wider stakeholders interaction workshop for greater contribution to Leasehold Forestry programme	Kartik 2066	DFO
Western Development Region			
4.	To review the implementation status of previous plans and complete the remaining activities	Ashad, 2066	DFO, DLSO and other line agencies
5.	To invite and involve media in the upcoming review meeting at district level	Shrawan, 2066	DFO, DLSO and other line agencies
6.	To conduct interaction workshop for the former LFUGs	Kartik 2066	DFO, DLSO and other line agencies
7.	To conduct field based joint monitoring	Shrawan, 2066	DFO, DLSO and other line agencies
8.	To initiate discussion for making Livelihood Improvement Plan (LIP) based operational plan	Ashad, 2066	DFO, DLSOO
9.	To share the learning of this workshop at monthly staff meeting	3 Ashad, 2066	District Forest Officer

S. NO.	Activity	Time Frame	Responsibility
Central Development Region			
10.	To carryout NTFP plantation only within LFUG cluster area	Ashad 2066	DFO
11.	To Form inter group coordination committee in all remaining districts	Ashwin 2066	DFO, DLSOO
12.	To implement the recommendations of this workshop		DFO, DLSOO
13.	To carryout Jatropha fencing at Kummi danda, Chitwan	Ashad 2066	LFUG
14.	To complete LFUG irrigation at Sokla khola, Dolakha	Jestha 2066	LFUG Sokla khola
15.	To form LFUG federation at Makawanpur	Baisakh 2067	DFO, DLSOO
16.	To register LFUG cooperative at Makawanpur	Ashad 2066	LFUG
Leasehold Forestry and Livestock Programme (LFLP)			
17.	To organize three meetings with Poverty alleviation Fund central office	Kartik 2066	LFLP (DLSO & DOF)
18.	To complete LIP and related guidelines	Kartik 2066	LFLP (DLSO & DOF)
19.	To initiate process for workshop recommendation endorsement by MFSC	Ashoj 2066	LFLP (DLSOO & DOF)
20.	To continue joint monitoring	Regular	LFLP (DLSOO & DOF)
Eastern Development Region			
21.	To share the leanings of this workshop with DFO staffs and LFUG members	Jestha 2066	DFO, DLSOO
22.	To prepare LIP (livelihoods improvement plan) of newly formed	Continuous	DFO-Panchhar

	LFUGs		
23.	To conduct LFLP related programmes effectively	Continuous	DFO-Panchhar
24.	To initiate LIP preparation of CFUG	Continuous	DFO-Panchhar
25.	To carryout joint monitoring of LFLP related activities	Bhadra 2066	DFO/DLSOO
26.	To prepare short and medium term action plan based on the outcome of joint monitoring	Ashoj 2066	DFO/DLSOO/user s- Tehrathum
27.	To prepare two LIPs (livelihoods improvement plan) of newly formed LFUGs	Chaitra 2066	DFO/DLSOO/user s- Tehrathum
28.	To strengthen coordination and communication and expand area of cooperation	Continuous	DFO/DLSOO/user s- Tehrathum
29.	To carryout orientation on Leasehold Forestry for VDC secretaries and DDC officials	Ashad 2066	DFO and DDC- Okhaldhunga
30.	To ensure that District forest monitoring committee conducts monitoring of LFUG activities	Ashad 2066	DFO Okhaldhunga
31.	To conduct LFUG district level networking workshop	Ashad 2066	DFO-Okhaldhunga
32.	To conduct LIP training for staffs	Poush 2066	DFO-Okhaldhunga

RECOMMENDATIONS

Third national workshop on Leasehold Forestry concluded with the presentation of workshop recommendations that covered policy and implementation aspects of the programme. Following are the workshop recommendations:

1. Translate the Leasehold Forestry policy into legislation
2. Incorporate the concept of Leasehold Forestry in other forest management models.
3. Establish Management Information System at center and district level.
4. Prepare the livelihood improvement plan of each and every LFUG.
5. Implement and disseminate appropriate research findings derived from action research.
6. Enhance the competencies of the concerned agencies on knowledge and skills for livelihood improvement of the target groups.
7. Enhance the capacity of the target group for better access to the Service Providers
8. Develop forage, goat and forest-based resource center in each LFLP district
9. Outsource the technical and social mobilization services of the project to address ever increasing demands of LFUGs.

CLOSING

Closing ceremony was presided over by Dr. Krishna Chandra Paudel, Director General of the Department of Forests.

Mr. Krishna Prasad Osti presented the summary of action plan initially prepared by the participants in groups and then summarized by a team. He highlighted livelihood improvement plan, coordination and collaboration, commitments to implement it and better communication among and within line agencies as the four important components of the action plan.

Similarly Mr. Ram Krishna K.C. presented the workshop recommendations that were prepared by a group of selected participants based on the suggestions of working groups. Workshop recommendations addressed the issues related to different dimensions of Leasehold Forestry programme. Workshop recommendation is presented in the previous section of this report.

Speaking on behalf of the participants, Laxmi Tamang and Ram Kumar Karki stressed the need to concentrate time and resources for poverty reduction efforts. Laxmi Tamang told that Leasehold Forestry programme has been able to demonstrate the forests as poor people's resources. Ram Kumar Karki highlighted the importance of this workshop in minimizing confusion among field staffs about the programme. He suggested for joint efforts among concerned stakeholders to implement the recommendations of the workshop.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Nara Bahadur Rajwar, Deputy Director General of the Department of Livestock Services told that poverty reduction initiatives required the cooperation of all concerned and that our efforts could play catalytic role in bringing concerned stakeholders in one forum. He pointed out that functional relationship between forest and livestock sector across all level was vital for the effective implementation of poverty reduction related programmes like Leasehold Forestry and livestock development.

Dr. Appanah, lead technical officer at FAO-Bangkok explained the interrelationship between poverty and forest resources. He praised community forestry and Leasehold Forestry programmes in Nepal for being able to contribute directly to rural livelihood enhancement and environmental conservation. Appreciating this approach, he reiterated FAO's assurance to continue support in Nepal's forestry sector.

Mr. Prakash Chandra Tara, Livestock programme coordinator, LFLP thanked all concerned for making this workshop a success.

Chairperson of the programme, Dr. Krishna Chandra Paudel suggested all participants to return to their respective field with the key message "Nepal ko ban garib ko dhan". He appreciated the concern and commitment shown by the participants in making Leasehold Forestry as a pro-poor programme. Dr. Paudel expressed commitment to take necessary steps for removing inconsistency at policy and programme level if any, and improving project delivery. He focused on the need for integrated land use planning for productivity enhancement and generating sustainable flow of goods and services from natural resource management. He asked the participants for common understanding about Leasehold Forestry for poor while addressing the concerns related to equity, access and empowerment.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

SN	Name	Designation	Office	Address	Contact No.
1.	Mr. Thaneshwar Bogati	JTA	DLSOO	Achham	9749003659
2.	Mr. Mangal Dhungana	DBS	LFLP	Achham	9848435775
3.	Ms. Purna Kumari Pardhan	DBS	LFLP	Bhojpur	9842107319
4.	Mr. Ram Saran Silwal	Chairman	LFUG	Chitwan	9845113713
5.	Mr. Narayan Bhattari	AFO	DFO	Chitwan	9845056005
6.	Mr. Keshav Bdr Thapa	User	LFUG	Chitwan	9845245480
7.	Mr. Shyam Naryan Yadhav	JTA	TTA	Chitwan	9845065530
8.	Mr. P.L. Shah	DFO	DFO	Dadeldhura	9851089568
9.	Mr. Tek Raj Pant	JTA	DLSOO	Dadeldhura	
10.	Mr. Rajendra Neupane	Secretary	LFUG	Dhading	9841659674
11.	Mr. Govinda P.Kafle	RD	FWDR	Dhanghadi	9841534499
12.	Mr. Yam Prashad Poudel	ADO	DADO	Dolakha	9744007344
13.	Mr. Ram Krishna K.C	AFO	DFO	Dolakha	9741058055
14.	Mr. Ram Kumar Karki	Vet Officer	DLSOO	Dolakha	9841361894
15.	Mr. Kalyani Katuwal	GP	LFLP	Dolakha	9741176817
16.	Ms. Laxmi Tamang	Secretary	LFUG	Dolakha	974400745
17.	Mr. Shyam Khadaka	JT	DLSOO	Doti	
18.	Mr. Padam Brd. Thapa	Member	LFUG	Ghorkha	9846070301
19.	Mr. Bir B. Thapa	HDO	DADO	Ghorkha	9841451187
20.	Mr. Krishna Pd. Osti	DFO	DFO	Ghorkha	9841319790
21.	Mr. Indra Bahduar Bhatta	JT	DLSOO	Ghorkha	9846039308
22.	Mr. Dilli Pd. Bhattari	Ranger	DFO	Kavre	9841320431
23.	Mr. Khruschev Sherstha	DSCO	DSCO	Kavre	9841779026
24.	Mr. Ram B. Pulami	Farmer	LFUG	Kavre	
25.	Mr. Ram Krishna Panday	Chairman	LFUG	Lamjung	9841697425
26.	Mr. Raj Dev Prasad Yadav	DFO	DFO	Makwanpur	9855021102
27.	Ms. Maha laxmi Khadka	D.B.S	LFLP	Makwanpur	9845077403
28.	Ms. Kabita Thokar	G.P	LFLP	Makwanpur	9745029728
29.	Ms. Kalpana Karki	GP	LFLP	Makwanpur	
30.	Mr. Bishnu Hari Ghimire	DFO	DFO	Okhaldhunga	9741121152
31.	Mr. Sonphi Sah	LDO	DLSOO	Okhaldhunga	9744005046
32.	Mr. Rupesh Kumar Dev	Ranger	DFO	Panchthar	9849123039
33.	Mr. Shiva Acharya	LSO	DLSOO	Pyuthan	9847821907
34.	Mr. Dhananjaya Poudel	DFO	DFO	Salyan	9841373085
35.	Mr. Ram Bhajan Sah	JTA	DLFO	Sindhuli	984403570
36.	Mr. Rishi Ram Tripathe	RD	MWDR	Surkhet	9848094093
37.	Mr. Shalik Ram Parajuli	AFO	DFO	Tanahu	9846031411
38.	Mr. Babu Ram J.K.	Veterinary Officer	DLSOO	Tanahu	9846046374

39.	Mr. Ramanand Bhattari	DSCO	DSCO	Tanahu	9746038208
40.	Ms. Sabina Rana	GP	LFLP	Tanahu	9806579040
41.	Mr. Bhim Kumar Thapa	Users	LFUG	Tanahu	9806625287
42.	Mr. Mohan Poudel	DFO	DFO	Terhathum	9841741891
43.	Mr. Arjun Dhunagana	JTA	DLSOO	Terhathum	9742004607
44.	Mr. Shrikanta Adhakari	LFP	LFP	Rupandehi	
45.	Dr. Bala Ram Thapa	Regional Director	MRDLSO	Hetauda	9851067824
46.	Mr. Devi Chandra Pokharel	PSO	BISEP- ST,CSU	Kathmandu	9841951144
47.	Mr. Janardan Baral	Representative	Chhalphal	Kathmandu	9841528081
48.	Mr. Saroj Sapkota	P.O	Comfort	Kathmandu	9845024085
49.	Mr. Uday Chandra Thakur	PO	DAP	Kathmandu	9841271269
50.	Mr. Krishna C. Paudel	Director General	DoF	Kathmandu	9841685585
51.	Mr. Bala Ram Adhikari	PC	DoF	Kathmandu	
52.	Mr. Rajan Prashad Dawadi	Under Secretary	DFC	Kathmandu	9841136663
53.	Mr. Laxman Gautam	FO	DoF	Kathmandu	
54.	Mr. Ramesh Shakya	RO	DFRS	Kathmandu	9851059295
55.	Mr. N. B. Rajeswar	DDG	DLSO	Kathmandu	5522056
56.	Dr. Chandra Dhakal	Veterinary Officer	DLSO	Kathmandu	9847041789
57.	Mr. Gopal Kumar Shrestha	DDG	DoF	Kathmandu	
58.	Mr. Prakash Sayami	DDG	DoF	Kathmandu	
59.	Mr. Bala Ram Kandel	Forest Officer	DOF	Kathmandu	9841350969
60.	Dr. Mahendra N. Subedi	DPR	DPR	Kathmandu	9841860365
61.	Mr. G.K. Upadhyaya	Planning Officer	DSCWM	Kathmandu	9841208949
62.	Mr. Rudra Devkota	Executive Director	ECARDS- Nepal	Kathmandu	9841272113
63.	Mr. S. Appanah	Lead Tech. Officer	FAO	Bangkok	
64.	Mr. S.N. Rai	International Consultant	FAO	Kathmandu	
65.	Dr. J. K. Sharma	International Consultant	FAO	Kathmandu	
66.	Mr. Erkii Kumpula	Programme officer	FAO	Kathmandu	
67.	Mr. Bijaya Kumar Singh	Consultant	FAO-LFLP	Kathmandu	9851029303
68.	Dr. B.H. Pandit	Consultant	FAO-LFLP	Kathmandu	9851090939
69.	Dr. Bhoj Bdr. Kshatri	Consultant	FAO-LFLP	Kathmandu	9841544976
70.	Mr. T.R. Dhakal	Counsultant	FAO-LFLP	Kathmandu	9851076176
71.	Mr. Nav Raj Baral	Team Leader	FAOLFLP	Kathmandu	
72.	Mr. Murari Raj Joshi	Consultant	FAO-LFLP	Kathmandu	9841911230
73.	Mr. Lok Prasad Poudel	NC	Fri-PAD	Kathmandu	9747010124
74.	Mr. Deepak Baral	Reporter		Kathmandu	
75.	Mr. Basundhara Bhattarai	Gender Spealist	ICIMOD	Kathmandu	9851054465
76.	Mrs. Karma Phuntsho	Policy Analyst	ICIMOD	Kathmandu	5532052

77.	Mr. Shankar Maharjan	Journalist	Lalitpur	Kathmandu	9851058785
78.	Mr. Rameshwar P. Dhakal	Account Officer	LFLP	Kathmandu	9841002658
79.	Mr. Harish Chandra Singh	AFO	LFLP	Kathmandu	9841365933
80.	Mr. Gyanandra Kayestha	AFO	LFLP	Kathmandu	9841534465
81.	Mr. Pashupati Dahal	AFO	LFLP	Kathmandu	9841503816
82.	Mr. Sagar Rimal	Forest Officer	LFLP	Kathmandu	
83.	Mr. Ram Bali Shah	LDO	LFLP/DLSO	Kathmandu	9803321131
84.	Mr. Ananta K. Paudel	Account Officer	LFLP/DoF	Kathmandu	
85.	Mr. Babu Kaji Dallakoti	AFO	LFLP/DoF	Kathmandu	9841518102
86.	Mr. Prakash Lamsal	Planning Officer	MFSC	Kathmandu	9841512107
87.	Mr. Yug Raj Panday	Section Officer	Ministry of Finance	Kathmandu	9841727199
88.	Mr. Puspa Raj Bartaula	AFO	MOFSC	Kathmandu	9845027658
89.	Mr. Surya Prasad Joshi	Joint Secretary	MOFSC	Kathmandu	
90.	Mr. Tulshi Bhakta Prajapati	Joint Secretary	MOFSC	Kathmandu	
91.	Dr. Annapurna Nanda Das	Joint Secretary	MoFSC	Kathmandu	
92.	Mr. Jaghanath Koirala	M&E Officer	MOFSC	Kathmandu	9841809976
93.	Mr. Kedar N. Dahal	APO	MOFSC	Kathmandu	9841331618
94.	Dr. Uday Raj Sharma	Secretary	MOFSC	Kathmandu	
95.	Mr. Shankar Malla Thakuri	Chair Person	NEFUG	Kathmandu	9841526508
96.	Mr. Prakash C.Tara	LPC	NPAFC	Kathmandu	9746010484
97.	Mrs. Nita Pokharel	Programme Officer	NPC	Kathmandu	9841376077
98.	Mr. Bramha Dhog Gurung	Area Manager	NSCFP	Kathmandu	9851062003
99.	Mr. Arun Pandey	PM	PAF	Kathmandu	9841284544

WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

**Third National Workshop on Leasehold Forestry
May 12-13, 2009, Jawalakhel**

Date/Time	Activity	Responsibility
Day 1		
08.30-09.00	Registration	Secretariat
09.00-9.15	Welcome and introduction to workshop	Mr Bala Ram Adhikari
09.15-09.45	Opening Addresses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAO representative in Nepal • DG, Department of Livestock Services • Secretary of MFSC • DG, Department of Forests 	MC: Babu Kaji Dallakoti
09.45-10.15	<i>Tea break</i>	
10.15-10.30	Workshop outline, logistics, context setting	Facilitator and LFLP
10.30-11.50	Project progress and development of Leasehold Forestry project with particular reference to establishment of demonstration sites	Mr Nav Raj Baral
	Effectiveness of Leasehold Forestry	Dr. B.H Pandit
	Policy recommendations for a greater contribution of Leasehold Forestry	Mr Bijya K.Singh
	Harmonizing and organizing institutions to support Leasehold Forestry	Dr. J.K Sharma
11.50-13.00	Group discussion and feedback on the presentations (Buzz group of 6-8 participants will discuss and present on a) significant findings and innovative ideas/approaches and b) the missing points/suggestions)	Facilitator
13.00-14:00	Lunch	
14.00-15.40	Capacity building for implementation of Leasehold Forestry in a participatory and coordinated manner and Leasehold Forestry operational guidelines with special reference to poverty indicators	Mr Murari Joshi/Mr T.R.Dhakal
	Management Information system for establishment of Leasehold Forestry and livestock programme	Mr T.R Dhakal/Dr S.N. Rai
	C&I for sustainable management of Leasehold Forestry	Mr T.R Dhakal/Dr S.N. Rai
	Natural regeneration process in degraded forest of the dry agro-ecological zones	Dr Bhoj Kshatri/Dr S.N.Rai
	Applied research protocols for testing promising local and exotic multi-purpose plant species in dry agro-ecological zones	Dr Bhoj Kshatri/Dr S.N Rai
15.40-16.00	Tea break	
16.00-17.00	Group discussion and feedback on the presentations (Buzz group of 6-8 participants will discuss and present on a) significant findings and innovative ideas/approaches and b) the missing points/suggestions)	Facilitator
17.00-17.15	Preparations for Day 2 Groups Formation	Facilitator

Day 2		
09.00-10.30	<p>5 parallel working groups on “New directions for Leasehold Forestry”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WG1 – Ways to integrating and harmonizing to Leasehold Forestry objectives • WGII – Capacity building and effective functioning of institutions • WGIII – Enhancing effectiveness / impact of Leasehold Forestry • WGIV – Policy support • WG V – Further research and studies <p>(Each group to discuss on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Strengths in hand? 2) Key issues? 3) Way forward (what needs to be done?) /recommendations 	Facilitator
10.30-11.00	Tea break	
11:00-12:30	Presentation of group findings in plenary	Facilitator
12.30-13.30	Lunch	
13.30-15.00	<p>Review of previous action plans from Regional LFLP workshops and planning for the future</p> <p>Groups: a) District teams b) Regional and central c) LFLP d) Other stakeholders</p> <p>Task:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) What progress has been made in the previous action plans? 2) Based on the learning and recommendations, what new actions / initiatives will your team take in the next 3/6 months? (What, when, who is responsible?) 	Facilitator
15.00-15.30	Tea break	
Closing session		
15.30-15.50	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Presentation of the workshop recommendations 2) Presentation of the summary of action plans 	Group representatives
15.50-16.45	Closing remarks	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Dr. S. Appanah, Lead Technical Officer, FAO, Regional Office Bangkok 2. Mr. DDG DLSO 3. Mr. DG, DoF 4. Vote of thanks by P.C.Tara, DLSO 5. Closing of the workshop by Chairperson, Dr. Krishna Chandra Paudel, DG-DoF 	MC: Sagar Rimal
16.45-17.15	Closing Tea	