

**“Community Based
Non-Timber Forest Products
(NTFPs) Management”**

Western Development Region

Workshop Proceedings

Pokhara, Nepal

With support from SNV NEPAL

April 16-17, 2003

Organized by:

**Asia Network for Sustainable Agriculture and Bioresources (ANSAB)
Kathmandu**

In collaboration with

**Natural Resources Management Sector Assistance Program (NARMSAP), Pokhara
and
Livelihood and Forestry Programme (LFP), Dhaulagiri**

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Abbreviations

ANSAB	Asia Network for Sustainable Agriculture and Bioresources
NTFPs	Non-Timber Forest Products
NARMSAP	Natural Resources Management Sector Assistance Programme
LFP	Livelihood and Forestry Programme
FECOFUN	Federation of Community Forestry Users, Nepal
HJSS	Himali Jadibuti Sarokar Samuha
IoF	Institute of Forestry
DoF	Department of Forest
MFSC	Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation
FNCCI	Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industries
DFO	District Forest Officer
AFO	Assistant Forest Officer
ACAP	Annapurna Conservation Area Project
CFUG	Community Forest User Group
FUG	Forest User Group
NGO	Non- Governmental Organization
GO	Governmental Organization
NP	Natural Product
NNN	Nepal NTFP Network
OP	Operational Plan
WDR	Western Development Region
VDC	Village Development Committee
NFA	Nepal Forester's Association

Executive Summary

ANSAB organized a regional workshop (April 16-17) on Community Based Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) Management in collaboration with Natural Resources Management Sector Assistance Program (NARMSAP) and Livelihood and Forestry Program (LFP). The workshop was organized in order to bring together governmental and non-governmental stakeholders to discuss on current initiation and to identify significant issues on community based NTFP sector in the western development region.

The objective of this workshop is to share on NTFP related activities undertaken in the western development region and to identify common issues pertinent to use and sustainable management of NTFPs. The workshop also aims at identifying specific interventions and collaboration mechanisms.

Mr. Chandi Prasad Shrestha, Secretary at Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation (MFSC), Dr. Keshav Raj Kanel, Deputy Director General of Department of Forest, Mr. Bhim Prasad Shrestha of Federation of Community Forest Users, Nepal (FECOFUN), Mr. Lal Kumar K.C. of Himali Jadibuti Sarokar Samuha (HJSS), Prof. I.C. Dutta from Institute of Forestry, Pokhara and Bhishma P. Subedi of ANSAB addressed the opening session. They spoke on available raw materials, conservation, marketing, technical assistance, coordination and information sharing to upgrade the NTFPs management in Nepal.

The presentation session took informal mode but equally concrete and consequential. There were 12 presentations made on the status of NTFPs and NTFPs support activities carried out in different districts.

Group work presentations were made on the management practices and trend, distribution, resource condition, enterprise and marketing as well as policy and regulatory influences relevant to NTFPs.

The workshop recommended that the harvesting quality of jadibuti should be estimated in the potential area of production for sustainable yield as well as indicator should be developed on the basis of local knowledge and experiences for the NTFP management. The meet also suggested amending the existing operational plan to incorporate proper management of NTFPs. The workshop realized a need of information dissemination, integration and coordination among the stakeholders. What is more, revenue rate should be fixed formulating a review team in consultation with organizations like ANSAB, FNCCI and NFA.

The workshop brought out concrete results from sharing of NTFP related activities undertaken in the western development region. The workshop helped to build on further actions more comprehensive and effective through informed interventions. The workshop was also fruitful to bring together governmental and non-governmental stakeholders to discuss on the current initiations. Participants came up with a consensus to workout in a common framework for efficient and equitable use and management of NTFPs in community forest.

Section 1 Background and Objective

1.1 Background

Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) abundantly available in various ecological domains across Nepal have been identified to serve critical living needs of the communities. The multiplicity in using NTFPs and their importance in reaching subsistence as well as income generation necessities have now been increasingly recognized. Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation (MFSC) has adopted community forestry with top priority, and community initiatives and external support are concentrated in respect with this priority. Hence, there is a need to consider management and use of NTFPs under community forestry framework.

Asia Network for Sustainable Agriculture and Bioresources (ANSAB) has been working to promote the NTFP sub-sector primarily through incentive based conservation approaches. A number of interventions have been identified for NTFP sub-sector. One of the interventions relate to enhance the appreciation among national stakeholders to initiate or expedite interventions on NTFP sub-sector, and to enable them share on experiences and lessons so that future actions would be effective towards desired goals. To this end, ANSAB has carried out a number of initiatives through partnership with widest possible range of stakeholders, including local communities, NTFP traders, local governments and civil society organizations, networks and forums, intermediaries, bilateral and multilateral projects, Ministries and government departments.

It is recognized that there is already a good deal of experience across diverse organizations and individuals working in the western development region in the NTFP sub-sector. There is a need to highlight and build on the experiences and lessons learned so that future actions would be more comprehensive and effective through informed interventions.

In this context, ANSAB organized a regional workshop on *Community Based Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) Management* in collaboration with Natural Resources Management Sector Assistance Programme (NARMSAP) and Livelihood and Forestry Programme (LFP). The workshop was organized in order to bring together governmental and non-governmental stakeholders to discuss on current initiatives and to identify pertinent issues on Community Based NTFP sector in the western development region. The detail of the program is mentioned in **Annex 1**, and the participants in **Annex 2**.

1.2 Objectives

The workshop was held with the following objectives:

- Share on NTFP related activities undertaken in the Western Development Region
- Identify common issues pertinent to use, sustainable management and trade of NTFPs
- Identify specific interventions and collaboration mechanisms

Section 2 Highlights of the workshop

2.1 Introductory Session

Mr. Chandi Prashad Shrestha, Secretary at the Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation, who was also the chief guest of this program, inaugurated the workshop. Other representatives who attended the session were from Institute of Forestry (IoF), The Netherlands Development Organization (SNV) Nepal, Federation of Community Forestry Users group, Nepal (FECOFUN), Himali Jadibuti Sarokar Samuha (HJSS), Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FNCCI), Asia Network for Sustainable Agriculture and Bioresources (ANSAB) and Department of Forest (DoF). ANSAB, LFP Dhaulagiri and NARMSAP Pokhara hosted the workshop on Community Based Non-Timber Forest Products management.

Mr. Chandi Prasad Shrestha, recalled the absences and potentialities of the NTFPs, referring to the organizations like ANSAB and FECOFUN to take initiatives and leading role in NTFPs management. Shrestha also spoke on the property rights of Nepalese revealing the fear from outside intruder on NTFPs collection and its trade. He further said, "NTFP is one of the important resources in Nepal. We have abundant raw materials. To tap this resource, we require appropriate technology and know-how to get on value addition and marketing to find remunerating markets." Most often we talked on conservation, overshadowing the proper marketing sector and so, the forthcoming plan necessitates to give focus on marketing, he said. According to him, Private sector and community based enterprises should be encouraged in processing and marketing areas where Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation and its offices will play an important role in conservation and management of resources through the involvement of local communities.

Dr. Keshav Raj Kanel, Deputy Director General of Department of Forest, offering a welcome speech, spoke on the technological importance to accelerate the development of enterprise and equally emphasize the importance of medicinal plants of Nepal. According to Kanel, strict rules and regulations should be formulated in this regard. The role of government and its departments is to facilitate, involve and encourage managing and utilizing the resources, he said, initiative of community based enterprise is seen as a successful example in the Seti zone of Bajhang.

Mr. Lal Kumar KC of Himali Jadibuti Sarokar Samuha (HJSS) detailed on the conservation of bio-resources that would lead to further development of the country. It follows that we should bring the concept up to market successfully. K. C. also assumed the certainty of concrete outcome that the workshop provides for.

Prof. I.C. Dutta from Institute of Forestry, Pokhara delivered vote of thanks to all the participants along with his view on the importance of management of NTFPs. He focused his speech on the management standpoint along with ecological aspects. Dutta said the area of NTFPs is very wide and we should be thus selective in our approach for proper management of NTFPs. He said there should be supply of good information, integration and coordination among the stakeholders. He calculated, processing plays an important role and so proper management inclusive of processing leads to profit in sale.

Detailing the concept of NTFPs Bhim P. Shrestha, Chairperson of FECOFUN said commitment from political leaders contributes a lot in bringing out solid outcome. The concept of livelihood needs to be really put in action through such seminars in respect with its main objectives. Finally he also expressed his view on the requirement of transparency for the proper management of NTFPs.

Mr. Bhishma P. Subedi, Executive Director of ANSAB expressed his view on the importance of NTFP management in Nepal. "NTFP has immense potential to generate incomes for the poor and reduce the poverty in Nepal. And so, we have to create incentives for local communities for the conservation and management of our biodiversity which is possible much by providing economic opportunities through NTFP based enterprises." Mr. Subedi further said that the main objective of ANSAB is to bring "incentive based approach" in sub-sectors of NTFPs. And ANSAB works form grassroot level in resource management upto national level in marketing. According to him, now is the time for us to promote enterprise oriented resource management in order that this important resource is utilized to shape the country's future. He also stressed the need to empower broader alliance among key stakeholders, so that we can share our ideas and learning as well as coordinate our programs for greater benefit to the society.

2.2 Presentations

The presentation session took informal mode, but equally concrete and consequential. The session was presided over by Dr. Keshav Raj Kanel, Deputy Director General of Department of forest. The detail of the presentations is found in **Annex 3**.

Table 1: List of presentations

Topic of Presentations	Presenter
Status of NTFPs in Gorkha District	Yam B. Thapa
Status of NTFPs in Parbat District	Ganesh Ray
Status of NTFPs in Myagdi District	Surya Kant Sigdel
Status of NTFPs in Baglung District	Bhagwan D. Yadav
Status of NTFPs in Kaski District	Prem Khanal
Status of NTFPs in Tanahu District	R. N. Jaiswal
NTFP support activities of ACAP	Roshan Serchan
NTFP support activities of LFP	Puskar Ojha
NTFP support activities of NARMSAP	Rameshwar Pandit
NTFP database project activities of IoF	I. C. Dutta
SNV involvement in NTFP	Francisco A. Tolentino
Community based NTFP management in Nepal: ANSAB's approach and strategies followed by a case of community based forest enterprise: Video show	Bhishma P. Subedi

2.3 Group Work and Group Presentations

Individual participants started the second or last day of the workshop from recap of the first day's activities. Indu Bikal Sapkota, Surya Bandu Binayee and Bharat Rai continued facilitation of the workshop. The following tasks were included in the group work.

Group work on Status of NTFP sub-sector in the western development region is focused on the following issues.

- Resource condition and management status
- Trade systems and benefit sharing
- Role of different stakeholders
- Policy and regulatory influence

Following this, the participants were divided into three groups, and each group were given one hour for their group task and 15 minutes for each group presentation. The detail of this presentation is found in **Annex 4**.

2.4 Closing

Speakers of the closing session said the workshop a success in identifying common issues important most in respect with management of NTFPs and their appropriate utility. The session presided over by I. C. Dutta came up with a mutual voice that the workshop definitely will contribute a lot to make concrete decisions on management issues.

Bhishma P. Subedi, Executive Director of ANSAB offering thanks to all the participants said, proper marketing concept is very essential to maintain sustainable management. Mr. Subedi further made obvious the necessities of community based NTFP management through providing adequate incentives for conservation, research and study, technical assistance, integration of biodiversity conservation, and enterprise development along with appropriate policy and legislation provisions. According to him, mutual recommendations and sharing of presentations help to keep pace forward in NTFP management. He also expressed hope to fulfil the required responsibilities from respective position and capacity.

Mr. Lal K. C. demonstrated a strong hope to work practically together with relevant stakeholders in a positive way to achieve the NTFPs management essentials. Mr. Y. B. Thapa, D. F. O. of Gorkha, highlighted the outcome of the workshop that it has made known to various unknown aspects of NTFPs. He also expressed happiness that the district level bodies are getting exposure to national level because of the sharing among different stakeholders about NTFPs management issues.

Dr. Keshav Kanel, Deputy Director General of Department of Forest said community forestry based NTFP management is a remarkable attempt. Expressing commitment to help implement the issues raised in the workshop, he requested all the DFOs to resolve the management problems appeared in the districts.

Concluding the meet, Mr. I. C. Dutta from institute of forestry, Pokhara appreciated the success and fruitfulness of the workshop, also conferring a credit 'excessively informative' to drive management actions in future. Dutta also emphasized a need to include NTFP relevant information in ISC forestry course book curricula. We are working in NTFP inventory database and the database will be circulated to relevant stakeholder that will help for the management of NTFP, Dutta said. Giving a suggestion to hold such workshop in future, he thanked all the participants in making this workshop a success.

Section 3. Recommendations and Conclusion

Recommendations

Following points are recommended for further action and implementation.

- Existing operational plan should be amended to incorporate proper management of NTFPs.
- There is a need to highlight and build on the experiences and lessons learned so that future actions would be more comprehensive and effective through informed interventions.
- Technological importance to accelerate the enterprise and equally of the scope of Jadibuti in Nepal.
- There should be supply of good information and integration and co-ordination among the stakeholders.
- Baseline survey of NTFPs should be undertaken for their understanding and management.
- CFUG and forestry staff should be trained properly to identify, assess, cultivate, harvest and process the NTFPs.
- Coordination mechanism should be institutionalized to bring collectors, traders, DFO and other stakeholders at one place for better NTFP management.
- Development of well communication network between DFO and real collectors for technology transfer, share market value, demand and control on illegal collection.
- The harvesting quality of jadibuti should be estimated in the potential area of production for sustainable yield and indicator should be developed on the basis of local knowledge and experience.
- Pilot studies and research should be conducted for commercially important NTFPs according to specific forest type, species, composition and topographies that help local FUG as well as forest extension workers to sustainably manage the NTFPs.
- Emphasis should be given on regular monitoring and evaluation (bi-monthly) especially in the harvesting areas.
- Fixation of revenue rate through regular study of the market demand and production capacity.
- Revenue rate should be fixed formulating a review team in consultation with organizations like ANSAB, FNCCI and NFA.

Conclusion

The workshop held on April 16-17, 2003, brought out concrete results from sharing of NTFP related activities undertaken in the western development region. Enterprise oriented community resource management, success materialized through pilot initiatives and broader strategic alliance for wider impact was realized to step forward. Identification of common issues significant to use and sustainable management of NTFPs has helped to bring out some specific interventions and collaboration mechanism. Besides, implementation of the action plan of NTFP for sustainable development of community people prepared through the maximum participation of the communities as NTFP is realized to be inevitable.

The workshop has helped to build on further actions more comprehensive and effective through informed interventions. The workshop was also fruitful to bring together governmental and non-governmental stakeholders to discuss on the current initiations. Participants came up with a consensus to workout in a common framework for efficient and equitable use and management of NTFP in community forests. The workshop made known to various unknown aspects of NTFPs. According to the participants, holding of the meet has given an opportunity to know the working ways of organization like ANSAB and SNV that would give a kind of guidance for further work.

The workshop felt a need to share information, integration, and coordination among the stakeholders as well as to formulate a baseline survey to build up understanding on NTFP management through community based forest enterprise. The meet argued, processing also plays an important role for management and so appropriate processing leads to profit in sale. The workshop also called for commitments from the political leaders.

On the whole, the workshop was fruitful to step up actions and implementation for community based NTFP management as per the management issues raised in the program, which was felt possible through the collective efforts of all relevant stakeholders.