

Stakeholders' Workshop on Present Policy Provisions and Practices related to SMFE sector in Nepal

November 03, 2011

Bhishma P. Subedi, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Asia Network for Sustainable Agriculture and Bioresources (ANSAB)

Agenda

- Brief overview of policy issues and Framework for Group Discussions
- Group Discussions
- Way forward

Brief Overview of Policy Issues and Framework for Group Discussions

Existing Policies

- Several policies, plans, acts and laws interact to regulate and set the context:
 - Herbs and NTFP Development Policy 2061 (2004)
 - Master Plan for the Forestry Sector (MPFS) 1988
 - Forest Act 2049 (1993), Forest Regulations 2051 (1995) and their Amendments
 - Local Self-Governance Act (LSGA) 1998
 - Industrial Policy 2067 (2010)
 - Environment Protection Act 1996 & Environmental Protection Regulation 1997

Existing Policies

- The Five-Year Plans
- Nepal Biodiversity Strategies, 2002
- National Conservation Strategy 1988
- Nepal Environmental Policy and Action Plan 1993
- EIA Guidelines for the Forestry Sector, 1995
- Decentralization Act 1982
- National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1973
- Soil and Watershed Conservation Act 1982

Existing Policies

- Pasture Land Nationalization Act 1974
- Aquatic Life Protection Act, 1961
- Trade and Transit Agreements (with India)
- Import and Export (Control) Act, 1957
- New Trade Policy 1982
- Custom Act, 1963
- Plant Protection Act, 1972
- Land (Survey and Measurement) Act 1961

A Range of Stakeholders

- Collectors to end users
- Local traders to exporters
- Traditional healers to professional practitioners
- Small processors to big manufacturers
- CBOs to NGOs government agencies

Analysis

- **Impacts and implications:**
 - **on growth, conservation, equity and poverty**
 - **potential untapped**
- **Most important policy issues to be addressed for conservation, growth and poverty reduction**

Impacts

- Some progress in sustainable harvesting, economic gain and poverty reduction, esp. in community forestry, where appropriate external support is provided
- Vast majority (90%) harvested from the wild mostly by the poor in remotest mountains
- Inappropriate and over-harvesting, as well as mismanagement of these resources
- Discouragement and little incentives to produce in private land

Impacts

- Limited enterprises; over 90% NTFPs traded in raw forms; inefficient, badly governed value chains
- Generally, low returns to local collectors, forest users and village level traders
- The poor become poorer and end up destroying their only livelihood – the biodiversity rich forest

Potential not tapped

- Abundance of resource and scope for sustainable management
- Growing market
- 30 + years of experience in community based natural resource management
- Lost opportunity of forestry sector estimated at NRs. 42b (MFSC)
 - 162 million USD from Timber; 67.6 million USD from NTFPs; also from ecosystem services (ANSAB 2010)

Potential not tapped ...

- 60% of total forest land potential for community forestry; also for enterprise oriented NTFPs management
- ANSAB initiated incorporating NTFPs in community forest management in 1996 from Humla and promoted value chain with responsible biz. practices
- A case analysis of enterprise-oriented community forest management (37 CFUGs in 6 districts) illustrate that they can manage conserve the forest, generate income and employment, serve the poor, women and dalits better with greater social justice

What can we do?

- A vast scope to improve the policy and regulatory environment by:
 - Improving policy formulation and revision process
 - **Revising and formulating national legislations**
 - **Improving the implementation practices, esp. governance & coordination**
 - Establishing an effective monitoring system

Framework for Group Discussions

- Identify important policy issues under the given policy headings
- Prioritize the issues
- Suggest policy reform options and their implications

Identify important policy issues under the given policy headings

- Review main national policy provisions and implementation practices to evaluate impacts, and identify gaps, contradictions and confusions
- List important policy issues to be addressed
- Be specific as much as possible

Policy Issues – Major Headings

- Property rights & access to resources
- Lack of clear policy re traditional knowledge & IPR
- Enterprise registration and establishment
- **Bans & restrictions**
- **Unnecessary hurdles & trade barriers**
- **Royalties and taxation**
- Distorted implementation practices
- Development Support

Prioritize the Issues

- Prioritize the issues to be addressed to maximize the following goals:
 - Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity
 - Well-governed value chain, esp. distributional equity
 - Economic growth & social justice, esp. poverty alleviation

Suggest policy reform options and their implications

Issue	Reform Option	Justification

Headings for Groups

Group A	Group B	Group C
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Property rights & access to resources•Lack of clear policy re traditional knowledge & IPR•Enterprise registration and establishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Bans & restrictions•Unnecessary hurdles & trade barriers•Royalties and taxation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Development Support•Distorted implementation practices

Way Forward
