Green Jobs from Nepal’s Community Forestry

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The main focus

- The **concept** of green jobs in the context of community forestry
- The **context** of community forestry and potential of green jobs in Nepal
- Community forestry: Reservoir of **green jobs and community forestry**
- **Opportunities and challenges** for green jobs
Forest conservation

Jiri, Dolakha 1968

Jiri, Dolakha 2008
Green jobs

- Timber
- Bio-Briquette
- Essential Oil
- Resin
Nepali handmade paper
Bel juice
An example: Forest based enterprises (n=178)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>CFUGs (in no.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Resin</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timber</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essential oil</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Handmade paper</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bel juice</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bio briquette</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amala candy</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leaf plate</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Musical instrument</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bamboo basket and furniture</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wooden mask</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allo processing</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>121</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Relevance of the concept of green jobs in community forestry

- Jobs that reduce the negative environmental impact
- meet the standards of ‘decent work’
- contribute to a low-carbon development
- reduce consumption of energy and raw materials;
- limit green house gas emission
- minimize waste and pollution and protect and
- restore ecosystems
- The good governance through green jobs – socially inclusive, targeting women, young and people living in poverty
- Contribution of green jobs – MDG One (poverty reduction) and MDG Seven (protecting the environment) mutually supportive.
- Any project should have a low carbon emission technology and practice
- Environmentally friendly and climate resilient economy
The context of community forestry and potential of green jobs in Nepal

- 15,000 Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs)
- 38% of Nepal’s population (1.6 m families)
- From running cost of community forestry 30,000 jobs round the year;
- From benefits - goods and services 300,000 jobs every year.
Community forestry: alternative way of creating (green) jobs

Community Forest User Groups create jobs through

- **Forestry**, agriculture and energy
- **Community infrastructure** development
- **Human and social development**

Some examples – Photos and figures
Contribution of Community Forestry in Creating jobs to reduce poverty and to limit greenhouse gas emission
1. Increase forest land

- Communities have transferred barren land into dense forest
- Farmers have grown wood and food together
- Communities bear the cost
Forests in Dadapakhar Nepal in 1978

Now
2. Increase forest density and biomass

- Community forest density has increased
Forest in Mude Nepal after 27 years

1978

NOW
3. Reduce the rate of deforestation and degradation

- Communities have been able to reduce the rate of deforestation and degradation
Charikot, Nepal in 1986 and Now
4. Conservation of forests

Local communities and farmers organised in community groups have practiced agro-forestry, afforested degraded land, conserved forests, biodiversity and watersheds in a much effective way.
Gully in Bonch, Nepal after 30 years

1978

NOW
Benefit to people living in poverty

- **Grant (Rs. '000)**
  - 2006: 17
  - 2008: 149

- **Soft loan (Rs.'000)**
  - 2006: 174
  - 2008: 506

- **Timber (cu.ft.)**
  - 2006: 3233
  - 2008: 6096

- **Land (HHs)**
  - 2006: 181
  - 2008: 369

- **Area of land (Ha.)**
  - 2006: 185
  - 2008: 401

- **Scholarship (no.)**
  - 2006: 14
  - 2008: 154

- **Enterprise (share holder)**
  - 2006: 601
  - 2008: 601

- **Employment (person year)**
  - 2006: 174
  - 2008: 209
• Recognise the contribution of CF in protecting environment and CREATING GREEN JOBS IN reducing poverty

• Craft clear policy and legal framework, simple procedures and local level institutional mechanisms to reach the poorest households

• Value multiple functions of forests for both climate change adaptation and mitigation that should contribute to green jobs

• Do not divert attention from poverty agenda, instead promote pro-poor governance as the pre-requisite to fight against poverty and climate change
Opportunities and challenges for green jobs

Opportunities

- The World Bank (1989) estimation - NRs 22500 million (22 Arab 50 crore) income annually from sustainable wood harvesting alone (Sowerwine, 1994).
- Same amount from non-wood products, e.g. herbs, essential oils, resins, fibers etc.

Challenges

- At the moment forestry sector generate only 5% revenue of its potential
- Firstly, policy, regularity and institutional constraint
- Secondly, inappropriate forest land tenure system for value chain
- Finally, forestry sector lacks business services to promote entrepreneurship, enterprises and income earning activities
1  Enabling Environment for enterprise and business

2  Actors in market (value) chain
   Collectors  Contractors  Processing enterprise  Traders  Exporters

3  Business service providers
Challenges cont....

REDD+ in **red** and second (+) in **green**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>R</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reducing</td>
<td>Emission</td>
<td>Deforestation</td>
<td>Degradation</td>
<td>Conserve forests</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Who invest? And who benefit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Forestry Regime</th>
<th>Security of tenure Right</th>
<th>Institu. performance</th>
<th>Ecological performance</th>
<th>Contr. to poverty reduction</th>
<th>Prospect of benefit from REDD+</th>
<th>Prospect of benefit from CC adaptation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community forestry</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leasehold forestry</td>
<td>LOW</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Karky and Banskota, 2009; Mahat, 2010 modified
CHALLENGES OF UNDER UTILISATION
Scenario in Dolakha in 2009 (N=245)
Conclusions

- Community forestry has huge potential for green jobs
- Creates ‘decent work’ in rural areas
- Contribute to a low-carbon development
- Sequestrates carbon reduces emission;
- Restore ecosystems and increases community's capacities for adaptation
- Promotes socially inclusive governance and improve livelihoods of people living in poverty.
- Climate resilient economy
- Contributes positively to MDG 1 and 7 directly

**But communities are less likely to benefit unless climate change intervention is made community centric**