

Changing Approaches to Forest Management In HK-H Countries: Policies, Issues and the Way Forward

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Outline of the Presentation

- Background and Context
- Traditional Approach to Forest Management
- New Perspectives in Forest Management
- Changing Paradigm of Com. Forest Mgmt./Jt.Forest Mgmt. in South Asia
- Key Policy Issues
- Emerging Challenges & Opportunities
- Policy Making Process & the Way Forward

Background & Context

- Forests and range lands - the important means of livelihoods.
- Besides economic benefits, forests protect watersheds, conserve biological diversity, sequester carbon, stabilize climate and balance ecosystem
- The well-being of people, especially Mt. community depend largely on the richness and diversity of forest resources
- Sustainable development needs sustainable use & management of forest resources

Traditional Approach to FM (1)

- FM in South Asia had their origins in **colonial system**
- Even Nepal & Bhutan that were not colonized, initially **copied the colonial system of nationalization and bureaucratization of forests**
- Until 1970s most of the countries followed the traditional approach—management of forest through centralized bureaucracy under command & control
- In traditional FM
 - Focus **remained** on **silvicultural management**
 - Forests were considered as **sources of revenue** rather than means of peoples livelihood
 - **People** were considered **as outsiders and their access was controlled through varying rules & regulations**

Traditional Approach to FM (2)

- Historical evidence shows that the general **Scientific Management** could neither protect forest nor improve the livelihood of tribal people
- Forest has been **degraded severely** in most of the **HK-H** countries
- The **degradation** of forests has accelerated soil erosion, land degradation, & exacerbated the environmental hazards

New Perspectives on FM

- Now widely realized that Govt. alone can not protect the forests - combined efforts of the **people & the government are needed**
- While Hardin, considered people as selfish & 'Tragedy' is inevitable in **CPRs**, social scientists are discovering 'Magic' in collective action and collective choice.
- Growing evidence suggest that **Collective Actions** guided by clear rules, regulations & sanctions can protect forest & improve livelihoods

Types of CF/JFM Policies in South Asia

- **Regulatory Policy** – Existing policies and rules need critical review & rationalization;
- **Fiscal Policy**: Fiscal incentives for wise use, best practices, Producer Co-ops. & Community enterprises.;
- **Institutional Policy**: Community or Participatory Forest Management is an improvement on the old practices but policies regarding enterprise development and marketing also need to be in place;
- **Marketing & Trade Policy**: Registration, Source /Quality Certification & Transport rules still unclear.

Changing Approaches to FM in South Asia

- Most countries are gradually moving from centralized to participatory approaches of FM
- CF occupies a central place in FM in Nepal. JFM has emerged as an effective tool to regenerate forest in India. Since 1979, Bhutan has been pursuing SF/PFM
- In Nepal, about one-fourth of the forests - more than one million HHs - is managed by 14,000 FUGs

Changing Approaches to FM in South Asia

- In **India**, about **14 million ha** of forestland is managed by village forest communities in collaboration with Forest Department involving about 75 million people
- In **Bhutan**, **23 CF** managing more than **2,000** ha of forest land benefiting more than 1,000 households.
- Vast experiences gathered in Nepal, India & Bhutan can be valuable for other countries of Asia & elsewhere.

Emerging Challenges (1)

- CBFM is broadly accepted at policy level, its effective implementation is however weak.
- Positive attitude of forestry staff: It needs to be supportive; beneficiaries need to be empowered
- Participatory management, is social capital development through multi-stakeholder consultations.
- Economic benefits and secured tenure influences successful CFM; Decision making authority needs to be devolved at local/community level

Emerging Challenges (2)

- Governments must **transfer adequate powers** to local bodies to make their own rules & regulations
- **Share of benefits** to local users have to be significant and must not be captured by local elites
- Poor and weaker citizens must see their quality of life, economic stability & social equity improve.
- Forest quality and productivity should improve along with peoples' livelihoods
- **Policy & institutional** arrangements should target poorest of the poor, women, & disadvantaged groups and improve their capabilities to develop and manage forests.

Emerging Policy Issues (1)

- CBFM should not be restricted to degraded forests only
- CBFM can not succeed without firm legal basis?
- CBFM practices vary from country to country and region to region based on social and ecological systems.
- CBFM requires a minimum common framework.
- CBFM-based Forest committees require greater authority or power to be effective.
- Forest protection committees be given a larger share in timber revenue.

Emerging Policy Issues (3)

- Regulations requiring Govt. permits for extraction, cultivation, transport, use & export of NTFPs are largely ineffective.
- Legal production, processing marketing and enterprise dev. of forest products promotes forest development and conservation

Expected Outputs & Outcomes of CBFM

- Well intended, locally-informed and enterprise oriented policies, rules and practices;
- Consolidation and sharing of CBFM wise practices at local, national & global levels;
- Sustainable livelihoods of poor, marginalized, especially women; & local farmers/ growers & collectors;
- Practice of coordinated & multi-stakeholder-participated consultations at all levels at all times on key policy issues.

ICIMOD's COMMUNITY-BASED NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROCESS

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Technological

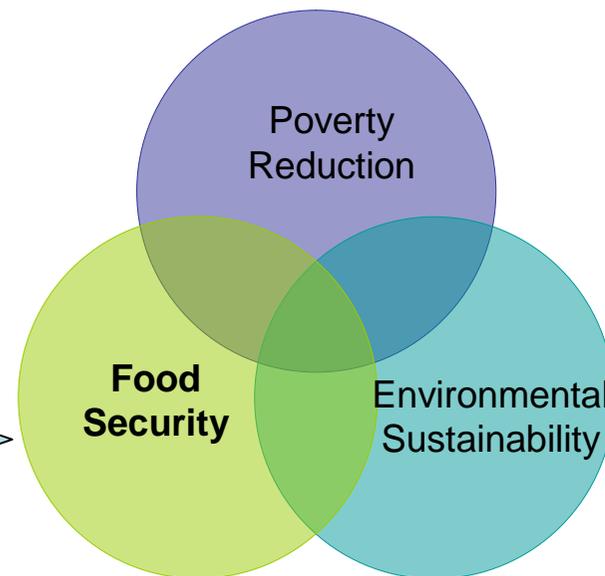
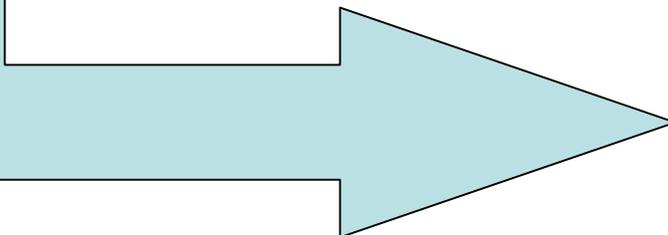


Institutional



Policy

**Increased
Productivity
of Mountain
Resources**



Conclusion

- Lack of policy harmonization, coordination and weak implementation leads to failure in harnessing full potential of Forestry sector.
- Therefore, it is important to improve the policy and institutional environment to:
 - promote forest product/services management & efficiency,
 - Forest conservation and sustainable livelihoods,
 - Public-private-civil society partnership,
 - Participation of local forest dependent men & women.