Welcome and Namaskar from Nepal

Federation of Community Forestry Users, Nepal (FECOFUN)
Geographical Location of Nepal
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Forestry Figure of Nepal</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Area of Nepal</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Forest Area</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Potential Community</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Forest Area</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Area of Community Forestry handed over</strong></td>
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# Forestry Figure of Nepal

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Population of Nepal</strong></td>
<td>25 million</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Comm. Forest handed over population</strong></td>
<td>7.7 million (30%)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total No. of CFUGs</strong></td>
<td>13978 (July. 2005)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total No. of House Hold</strong></td>
<td>1.60 million</td>
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COMMUNITY FOREST
(in context of Nepal)

“A national forest handed over to an users’ group under forest law for its development, conservation and utilization for collective interest”
A Community Forestry Users Group means an User’s Group which is registered under forest law for the management and utilization of community forest.
CFUG: According to the Forest law

a. CFUG is entitled as an autonomous and corporate body having perpetual succession by Forest Act of Nepal. It has a separate seal of its own.

b. CFUG as a person may acquire, possess or transfer or otherwise manage movable and immovable property.
c. CFUG as a person may sue or be sued in its own name

d. CFUG can collect, sell and distribute the forest products.

e. CFUG can run an industry based on Forest products.
Objectives of the CF management as decided by CFUGs

- Sustainable forest management
- Support to poverty alleviation
- Protection of environment
- Biodiversity conservation
- Socio-economic uplift of community
- Local Community development
Decentralization and Democratic Practice in Community Forestry

- Community Forestry Users Groups is the best example in Decentralized process. This is the type of organization in which all the member make the needful policy and rules themselves in their own involvement and general consensus which indeed rules themselves.

- The working committee is formed with the group discussion and unanimous general consensus which rules the users group according to the constitution and operational plan which is prepared by themselves.

- The group member has autonomy to discuss the every issue and to keep their different voices which should be heard by the group and there is the system of recognition to the good work and punishment to the wrong doing.
There is a system of public auditing of annual income expenditure and its record before making final decision.

The supreme power of the community forestry users group is the users themselves and their assembly thus the decision power is within themselves. Hence this is the example of decentralization and they are working as administrative, judiciary and.......... as of a state.
Introduction of FECOFUN

- A national umbrella organization of CFUGs established in 1995
- Formation from the representatives of CFUGs
- A responsible and leading civil society in the forest sector of Nepal
Vision of FECOFUN

Forest User Groups will become self-reliance through institutional consolidation and empowerment for sustainable forest resources management, proper use & equitable sharing.
Mission of FECOFUN

"To provide leadership for empowerment of forest user groups and inculcate self-reliance and strength among them through promoting their involvement in the decision-making process"
Strategy

1. Good Forest Governance

The community forestry is the people-centered forestry. It is based on the principles that forestry is for the people, of the people and by people. The features such as transparency, accountability, participatory and predictability should be embedded in the CF process to be ideal as envisioned. The forestry sector policy and legislation has also embraced the principles. FECOFUN promotes the principles in its all level of the organization and also within the community forest user groups.
2. Gender balance

The constitution of FECOFUN has guaranteed the representation of members in the National Executive Committee (NEC) from all five-development regions of the country. Woman representation has also guaranteed equally in the NEC. Moreover, if through the elective process the representation of women could not be materialized from disadvantaged/so called untouchable community; there is a provision of nomination of the representatives from the community for NEC. In addition, there is constitutional compulsion for one woman out of chairperson and vice-chairperson similarly one woman out of member secretary and treasurer. The participation of woman thus in decision making role is under it norms and value. The involvement of women (the primary users of forest products) will thus be ensured in all level of executive body of the organization through the constitutional provision. The role of local people, particularly women, in forest resources management will be recognized and integrated from the onset of the program planning and implementation.
3. Sustainable harvesting

It is expected that eventually, all the Mid hill forests will be managed as community forests by the communities themselves. However, some forest management practices have negative implications for biodiversity, such as the removal of undesired species and their replacement with monocultures, and collection of all dead trees and branches and of leaf litter. Forest user groups will be given training to manage blocks of forests, as they are officially divided on a rotational basis which will allow sufficient time for plant regeneration in 'fallow' forests. Technical knowledge will be provided in sustainable harvesting of forest resources.
Cont....

- **4. Network & alliances building**
  - The coordination and collaboration will be ensuring with diverse stakeholders to carry out specially focused programs and projects for women, disadvantaged ethnic groups, the poor and dalits. It will draw attention of diverse organization, individuals, journalists, pleaders and others towards community forestry process and its activities.
  - It will join hand for networking with NGO, INGOs in common interest areas. Similarly, it will take initiation and or get involved in alliances of cross-sector partners for national and international solidarity to safeguarding rights & interests of forest users.
5. Policy advocacy

The community forestry approach requires more discussion amongst all levels of management, including government, NGOs, INGOs, donors, politicians and forest user groups. FECOFUN is the proactive civil society for the forestry sector and acts as the watchdog for policy formulation; revision and amendment of legislation for the forestry sector. It will create necessary pressure to the government to rectify policy, laws and regulations if that stand against the interest and welfare of forest user group.
FECOFUN
Towards Community Forestry Management in Nepal
District Chapters covered by FECOFUN: 71 districts out of 75 districts
CF AFFILIATED WITH FECOFUN

As of Aug. 2005, (source: Fecofun, Resource & Information Unit)

- Total no. of CFUGs – 9,713
- Total CF. area handover (ha.) – 818,783
- Total no. of household – 1,094,149
- Average Population (no. of HH * average HH size) – 6,127,235
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Activities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>□ Provide facilitators and facilitation</td>
<td>□ Training/Seminar/Workshop etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>□ Provide service for the different stages of CFUGs formation and its planning process</td>
<td>□ CFUG support program (A package program for establishing right of poor and disadvantaged group within the constitution and operation plan of CFUG and for its institutional development)</td>
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<tr>
<td>□ Empowerment of women, disadvantaged and poor people of the communities</td>
<td>□ Women empower package program □ Good Governance program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Role</td>
<td>Activities</td>
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<td>☐ Advocacy for the protection of community rights in local and national level in policy and planning process</td>
<td>☐ Legal awareness program</td>
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<td>☐ Support to litigation and conflict management /resolution</td>
<td>☐ Interaction program with national political parties/stakeholders as per needed, protest rally, Demonstration, Signature Campaign, Submission of Memorandum</td>
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<td>☐ Litigation in various level of courts as per needed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Role</td>
<td>Activities</td>
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| Poverty reduction through sustainable management of natural resources | - Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Conservation for Sustainable Livelihood  
- Programs on Poverty reduction through effective management of Forest, Land and Water  
- Mass education through media and village level group discussion on Conservation of natural resources, environment and biodiversity  
- Responsible Forest management Certification (Community based NTFP Certification) |
Achievement

- Employment
- Forestry increase
- Development
- Help in peoples revolution 2
- Emissions Common property management
- Advocacy
Challenges

**Organization**
- Representation
- Unfair Competition for Leadership
- Degenerate political activism
- Finance/Fund raising
- Coordination and communication
Cont....

Issue base

- Limited representation of disadvantage and poor group
- Current Political Environment
- Unstable policy environment in Forestry sector (CFMP, BD, PA,.....)
- Limited competencies
- Benefit sharing/ Fund Mobilization
Cont....

Livelihood issues (Enterprises)

- Identification of poor HH
- Identification of NTFP species with respect to commercial value.
- Technology transfer
- Marketing
NAMASTE!

THANK YOU!