



Process Report on Research-Policy Interface

August 2017



Acronyms

AF	Agroforestry
CF	Community Forestry
CSO	Civil Society Organization
EnLiFT	Enhancing Livelihood and Food Security from Agroforestry and Community Forestry in Nepal
EPL	EnLiFT Policy Lab
UUL	Under Utilized Land

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Designing the EPL framework

The overall approach to linking research-policy was conceived under the concept of a policy lab that goes beyond any rational model. Named as EnLiFT policy lab (or EPL), the approach takes into consideration the view by Spilsbury and Nasi (2006) - to simply assume that conducting research on policies relating to forests and disseminating the findings will lead to changes in the policies themselves is unrealistically naive and grossly overestimates the role of knowledge in policy change processes. While critiques of rational, technocratic and multi stakeholder approach argue that policy lab within key policy actors and policy makers would not be able to raise the voice from ground, the research findings shared by researchers (policy lab facilitator and team) are embedded within critical action research. In a broad sense, research-policy interface refers to communication processes used to open frontiers of dialogue between researchers and policy actors. Such interface has been seen as having the potential to foster collaboration and co-creation of knowledge among science and policy actors (Van den Hove 2007). Figure 1 below shows how the bridging of the research and policy cycles takes place.

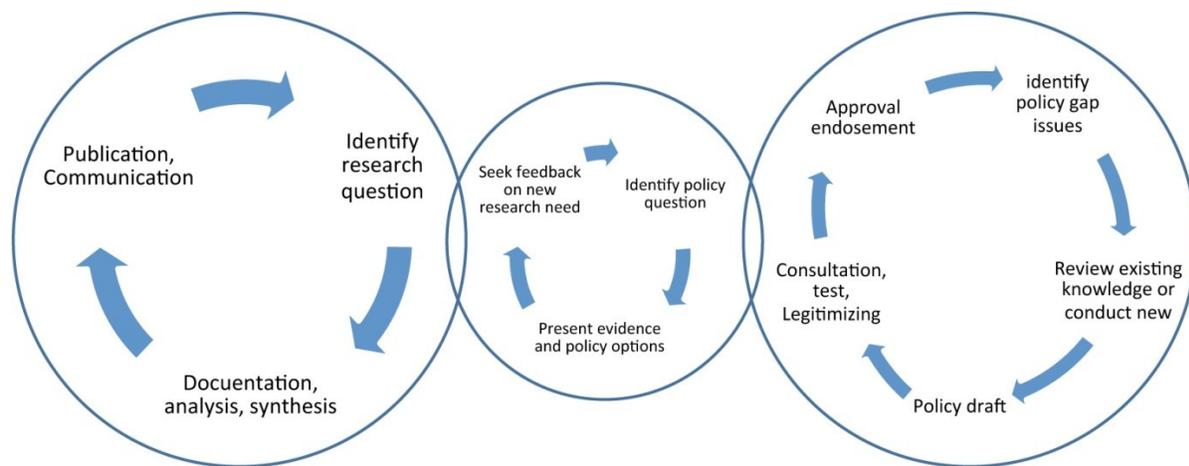


Figure 1: Bridging of research-policy cycle

Different policy options and modalities of research-policy deliberation in enhancing food security through community forestry and agroforestry were explored under the EnLiFT project. Having sound learning from grassroots embedded within action research, the policy team in search of appropriate modality of research-policy interface came up with conclusion of conducting policy lab and started designing its framework and methodology (see annex 1). Series of policy labs were conducted (see table 1) which is believed to facilitate the engagement of stakeholders in the process of collaborative inquiry. The events were carried out with a view to exploring and promoting suitable policy options for improved linkages among forestry, agroforestry and underutilized land. But most importantly, the policy labs were conducted with the trust that it would support in policy formulation that would eventually lead to increased food security and livelihoods of local communities in the hills of Nepal. The objectives of policy lab includes: i) to systematically engage policy actors in the research process; ii) to identify and generate policy relevant data and evidence drawing on the rich experience of the policy actors; iii) to generate descriptions of the ways in which key policy actors understand and interpret

policy problems, including the contested views and interpretations of problems and solutions; iv) to create opportunities for collaborative inquiry between researchers and policy actors; and v) to identify potential policy solutions.

Table 1: Summary of EnLiFT policy lab events

SN	Topic of Policy Lab	Participant Composition	Outcomes
1	Transforming State-Community Contract in Community Forestry; (15 January 2017)	Govt- 3; CSO- 2; Donors- 2	Recognition of the problem, commitment to develop a category of CFUGs with differential details for administrative requirement.
2	Scientific Forest Management (12 December 2014)	Govt- 2; CSO- 4; Private sector- 2	Recognized that a greater focus should be on governance aspects and in increasing the capacity of CF members
3	Regulatory hurdles in private forestry (8 March 2015)	Govt- 2; CSO- 1; Donors- 1; Private Sectors- 2	Exemption of 26 species of timber from regular administrative requirements, further work on promoting private forests
4	Land use planning and food security (19 January 2015)	Govt- 2; CSO- 1; Private sector- 2; Political parties- 2	Shared concern of the of the gloomy scenario, commitment to promote private forestry in those areas
5	Post-earthquake reconstruction and relaxing timber supply (19 June 2015)	Govt- 2; CSO- 2; Private Sector- 1	Immediate policy response in relaxing harvesting and transportation for timber from CF

How is policy labs designed?

Policy lab critically appraises the learning embedded within the action research. The process constitutes documentation and critical appraisal of action research learning in policy hurdles, identification of policy questions. Based on the action research finding, policy analysis and literature review - policy lab team sit together (physical or virtual) and identify 2 to 4 policy question. Policy questions are kept very specific rather than framing broad issue as a policy question itself (see table 1 for list of policy questions). Based on this a planning form is filled and shared among research team for their inputs. Planning form is a pre-designed questionnaire which in summary provides detail of the event - why particular EPL, its implication in policy process, possible outcome, evidence based on each policy question, program structure and even the possible participants. It is posted in Basecamp - a web based software use to communicate project update with project's team member. These policy questions are now taken to policy lab for collaborative inquiry.

Once the policy question is identified, a further identification of key policy actors is carried out. A minimum of 5 and maximum of 8 participants representing diverse stakeholder groups: government, civil society, private sector, business, conservation agencies, political parties and the like. Prior to the policy lab, the participants are asked to go through 2-4 pages issues brief or background reading material and informed pre-hand that this is not a conventional workshop. The details on how discussion takes place are presented below:

Step 1 - General introduction on what and why of the Lab

Step 2 - Researcher 'A' describes policy puzzles or specific issues – as experienced in practice. Two to three key policy issues are prioritized for discussion. Each policy issue could be elucidated through various specific facets of policy problems:

- a quote from the community members, local leaders, or a poor, women and dalit
- national data – Example: migration, remittance, forest product sale
- quote from the policy and regulatory document – Example Forest Act 1993

Step 3 - Researcher 'B' asks questions and facilitates discussions. Researcher 'A' (or C) takes notes and ask clarifying questions

Step 4 - Researcher 'B' summarizes the discussion and thanks all the participants

The duration of the policy lab is kept as short as possible (2-3 hours) to ensure effective discussion among participants. There are certain principles followed during the policy lab discussion - i) open dialogue and sharing; and ii) every argument needs to be supported by empirical evidences. Following every policy labs, a brief report is prepared to synthesize the overall discussion (see annex 2 for synthesis report of selected EPLs) in addition to policy recommendations that could further lead to secondary outputs including policy blogs or even policy briefs. The researchers of the policy lab would make sure that the views of participant remains anonymous if taken further for publication. If it feels that identified policy options on policy questions needs further refinement and ground validation, research question will be set and taken into action research cycle and it continues.

Key outcomes

The policy lab concept but has opened up numbers of avenue in prioritizing research in policy uptake. Some of the key outcomes of the policy labs are as follows:

- Policy actors understand, appreciate and act on the need to effectively integrate food security outcomes in forestry, agroforestry and land management practices in Nepal.
- Enhanced cooperation between EnLiFT and policy actors in the three land use sectors in Nepal – forestry, agriculture and land management
- Increased likelihood of EnLiFT results being used by the policy actors during and after the Project
- Specific policy options (for linking food security with CF/AF/UUL) along with substantive evidence and insights identified, along with barriers and opportunities

- Social scientific explanation of why/how/when research can (or cannot) contribute to policy making in Nepal focusing on environment and development issues
- Development, testing, refinement and dissemination of deliberative policy lab as a tool to link research with policy process in the context of developing countries
- Ease of timber supply for post-earthquake reconstruction: After conducting fifth policy lab in post-earthquake timber supply, spoke person of Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (MFSC) requested researchers (policy lab team) to submit list of policies recommended for revision in regards to easing the timber supply from community forestry and agro-forestry. This was particularly relevant and important during the post-earthquake reconstruction. As an impact of the deliberation, the Department of Forest issued a circular allowing the Community Forest User Group (CFUG) even with expired operational plan to harvest timber for reconstruction.

Annexes

Annex 1: General framework adopted during the EPL

Date:

Completed by:

A. General Information about the proposed EPL

1. Title of the EPL (less than 15 words):
2. Research theme (CF/AF/UUUL):
3. Key participants (categories and numbers – not over 10 participants)
4. Researchers involved:
5. Tentative date of the EPL:
6. Venue:

B. Background and rationale of the proposed EPL

1. Why is the EPL on this topic (~150 words)?
2. Why is this EPL now (~150 words)
3. How is the EPL relevant to the project aims, questions, outputs and activities (~200 words)?
4. Relevance to EnLIFT aims:
 - 4.1 Relevance to research questions:
 - 4.2 Relevance to outputs:
 - 4.3 Relevance to activities:

C. Objectives and expected outcomes

1. What are the expected outcomes of the planned EPL in terms of (200-300 words)?
 - 1.1 Enhancing the analysis of the policy issues or clarifying the policy problem or identifying possible solutions
 - 1.2 Contributions to minimize conflicting understanding or interpretations of policy problems or solutions
 - 1.3 Engagement with policy actors and development of collaborative attitude to work further in resolving the policy problem (or learning to resolve the issue)
2. How will the policy lab fit into the ongoing policy processes – in terms of relevance as well as potential impact? (100 words)

D. Research evidence and inputs to policy lab

1. List or briefly describe the data/evidence/case studies/analysis that the research team has developed to use into the EPL
2. Present a summary of evidence that will be used against the key policy lab questions:

Policy questions to be analyzed in the EPL	Description of key evidence / analysis to be used in
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	the EPL process
Question 1:	
Question 2:.....	
Question 3:.....	

Note: It is suggested that one EPL limits the work within three carefully identified questions that reflect three major aspect of a well-defined policy problem.

3. Additional research input/evidence and analytical supported expected from the project to conduct this EPL:

E. EPL time plan and responsibility

Duration 2.5 to 3 hours

Activity (time)	How?	Lead role
1. Introduction and purpose of the EPL (5m)		
2. Overview of the policy problem, contexts, opportunities, challenges and the three questions to be tackled in the EPL		
3. Question 1 and discussion		
4. Question 2 and discussion		
5. Question 3 and discussion		
6. Overall synthesis, conclusion and reflections on EPL process		

F. Participants

Who will be invited? Write 2-3 sentences description for each of the participants, highlighting the unique perspectives he or she will bring. Also include their affiliations and contact details in a tabular format.

G. Post-EPL follow up strategies

1. What are the expected inputs for the research team for action research?
2. What follow up activities are planned or at least envisaged? When and how?

Annex 2: Summary of selected EPL meetings

Meeting Note

EnLiFT Policy Lab

Hotel Greenwich, Lalitpur, Nepal

8 March 2015

The round of EnLiFT Policy Lab was focused on agro-forestry theme. The objective of which was to identify policy and regulatory framework that inhibit/encourage private forestry in Nepal. To this end, following policy questions¹ were discussed:

- a. How has the policies, laws and regulations (Forest Act 1993, Forest Regulation 1995, Environment Protection Regulation 1997, and Private Forest Development Directives 2011) promoted/inhibited registration, management, harvesting including timber marketing of private forest?
- b. How can implementing agencies such as DFO and Policy encourage private forestry development and marketing in the prevailing regulatory framework?

Naya Sharma Paudel commenced the floor by sharing among the participants the overall idea of policy lab and the need for this policy lab on private forestry². Swoyambhu Man Amtya elaborated the policy questions which were further supported by Bishnu Hari Pandit based on the field experiences of EnLiFT project.

Below we present major points raised during the discussion:

EPL team member started the discussion by posing a query on a provision of private forest development directives - As per private forest development directives 2011, 26 different plant species can be planted in private forestry. This includes Sal as well despite the fact that it is not legalized to cut. Similarly, we can sell fruits of Lapsi (*Choerospondias axillaris*) and Jamun (*Syzygium cumini*) grown in private land, however selling of wood of these tree species is restricted. Several evidences from field (for details see Pandit *et al.* 2014) too was shared among the participants.

The participant responded that government has been attempting to revise multiple clauses under policies and regulations to promote private forestry. Government has requested 4 species under tree category to be removed from the Annex: Timur, Lapsi, Amala, and Rithha.

While policy team members presented field data on difficulties on registration of private forest , government officials shared future plan to ease the process and are as follows:

- Government has decided to bear the cost for private forest registration. It has targeted to register 300 new private forests in the year 2072 B.S. For the same it has allocated NRs. 1.5 million (estimating of around NRs. 4000 for each forest). The collaboration of forest officials and officials from department of survey is expected to further ease the process

¹ On its 2 and half year of EnLiFT journey, several policy issues on private forestry mainly a) registration b) Marketing of timber has been frequently encountered. For details see Pandit *et al.* 2014

² for details please refer EPL Planning Form_Private Forestry_Draft.Docx posted in basecamp on Research-Policy Interface team on 6th March, 2015

and motivate farmers register their private forest. Similar program will continue in the years to come.

- To ease the registration as well as marketing of private forest products - government is in process of amending following two provisions mentioned both in Forest Regulation 1995 and Private Forest Directives 2011 - a) District Forest Office should be informed 24 hours prior harvesting of the timber in case of registered ones b) Harvesting permit is needed to cut the trees in case of unregistered private forest.
- Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation is soon going to organize national workshop on private forestry.

Looking at the low rate of registering private forests by individual owners, and recognizing the practical difficulties of registering private forests, EnLift Policy Lab team suggested that if respective District Forest Offices could organize a field camp to facilitate private forest registration process. It was also suggested that the Ministry of Forest in collaboration with Department of Survey could take this initiative in the appropriate date and time.

The idea was highly acknowledged by the participants from ministry of forest. Similarly, proposed an idea of organising similar campaign in project study site which will be led by project team and ministry would collaborate on the same.

While discussing the possibility of organising field camp on private forest registration, a participant opined that Government has failed to acknowledge the role of local government on easing the process of private forest registration. The decision to bear the cost of registration by government follows the same tedious procedure where the process of land verification is redirected to department of survey. VDC can certify the land in the presence of ranger and the land owner. This would reduce the transaction cost.

While discussing the issues on private forest registration and marketing of its products participants shared with us multiple issues related to private forestry and includes:

- While regulation explains providing legitimacy to the District Forest Officer in providing verification to cut timber from private land (not registered as private forest), however has not explained the process and procedure of agreement. The write-up of the policy provisions sometime is problematic. The provision has mentioned the permission may be granted, it has not said DFO is permitted. This is one of the examples why one needs to work to simplify the existing provisions in the acts/laws/regulations.
- As farmers do not have land entitlement certificate of which they are taking care of (either unregistered to avoid tax or encroached over the period of time), farmers are reluctant as they might have to abandon lands they are occupying.
- Registration of private forest automatically increases the proportion of benefit to the farmers. For instance, farmers receive of approx. NRs. 120 per cubic ft. from contractor in selling timber of Uttis in case of unregistered land, which would have been NRs. 300 per Cubic ft. in case of registered forest. However, the complexity is that many farmers do not have land entitlement certificate and thus are happy to receive NRs. 120.
- The need for registration of land as private forest even if to sell the timber produced in farmland has benefitted middle man the most. One won't be registering its land as forest

just to sell 5 to 6 number of trees. There should be certain provision on selling timber from farmland (which has land entitlement certificate).

- As government officials lack capacity to regulate the forest, often has tendency to bring sorts of policy provision that reduces administrative hurdles.
- Rules and regulation is often targeted to commercial farmers boycotting 99 percent of the total farmers of Nepal. Small farmers don't own separate patch of land as forest rather opts agro-forestry. However, the current private forest jurisdiction fails to incorporate trees within farm land.
- Registration of certain patches of land that indigenous group has been farming since decades can't be registered until and unless these group submit land entitlement certificate. Providing land entitlement certificate on this case is quite problematic and is a tedious process. This has hindered private forest registration to the larger extent in case of hilly and Himalayan belt of Nepal.
- Registered private forests are more in case of Terai compared that of hills. The reasons behind the same are still questionable? While some believe that forests in terai are in block so is easy to measure and register while, in case of hills the terrain, random plantation of trees has created difficulties in measurement as well as classification as forest. Similarly, terai forests have higher economic value compared that of hills, thus farmers are more motivated to register their forests.
- While we are recommending making the registration and marketing of private forestry to be ease, we can't always assume that private sector are always fair. Government is reluctant to ease the process as multiple cases of illegal activities by private forestry actors are often covered by news.

While the issue of selling of small numbers of trees from ones farmland (not registered as private forest) was discussed time and again it was realized by all the policy lab participants along with the policy team that the definition of private forest is still not very clear. There are numbers of households with few trees in the vicinity and current policy has no clue how to deal with such cases, the current definition of private forest fails to acknowledge this concern thus there is a need of revision of the definition.

The working modality of researcher was questioned a couple of times. All those present where of the view that we researchers are primarily focusing on regulatory hurdles and are attempting to widen it in the non regulatory areas like (financial aspect, capacity, skill etc). The problem here is researchers on private forestry are mainly forester and lacks knowledge on economics, industry, and enterprise. Rather than looking what law or policies supports, researchers also need to focus on if we can reform some rules that have been hindering private forestry in case of Nepal. Research should be widened in other areas than narrowing to the regulatory forestry only. Researchers were also recommended to be cautious while using the current statistics on private forestry. A participant opined that *"The current data on supply of timber from private forest is misleading. We need to do comprehensive study on total amount of timber produced and supplied from both registered and un-registered private forests. Importantly, when we look closely on private forestry and its use, the timber produced is mainly used in veneer and plywood*

production. It has no record on energy consumption and many others. So we should be cautious while using the current data available."

Along with the suggestion of field camp on private forest registration, strengthening local government to ease the process of private forest registration at local level itself, redefining the scope of private forest, and differently orienting researchers approach several other means to strengthen private forestry both in registration and marketing in current regulatory scenario were identified and are as follows:

- Establishment of timber based farmers' cooperative would drastically reduce the transaction cost in selling timber to market. Bigger the size of cooperative, stronger the bargaining power would be.
- Current rules have not defined provision for communal private forestry. Adjoining farmers with small patch of land who wish to work in collaboration on development of private forest can't register it as a private forest. The provision of same is expected to motivate farmer to opt communal farming and ultimately registration of the same.
- There should be clear distinction by government on what all species falls under agricultural commodity as well as under timber commodity. Similarly, what incase if a particular species can be used for both fruits and timber. For example - Lapsi.

While asked about the slow policy response of government in private forestry it was shared by participants that one of the major reason behind slow policy response on private forestry is that both government and donors priority was on community forest on last 3 decades or so. Similarly, the growth of umbrella organisation further strengthens its growth. Strengthen and growth of private forestry umbrella organisation also needs to be prioritized. Private forest group should unite and come into frontline.

Throughout the lab it was well accepted by the participants that there lacks credible research on multiple aspects of private forestry and requested EnLiFT team to carry out research on following topics

- Why it is registration of private forests more in case of Terai compared that of hills?
- Does reward system motivate farmers to register their patch of land as private forest?
- What ways can be deployed to ease the process of selling trees from farm land which is not registered as private forest but farmer do own land entitlement certificate?
- Intellectual support to organize national workshop on private forestry. Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation is planning to organize this workshop in near future.

EnLiFT Policy Lab (4/2015)

Introductory Meeting with officials from Ministry of Agriculture Development

27th August, 2015

Venue: Ministry of Agriculture Development, Singh Durbar

Agro-forestry being one of the core working theme of EnLiFT project, the need for good network with Ministry of Agriculture Development (MoAD) has been well realized by the

project team. In the regard, an introductory meeting with officials from MoAD was organized on 27th August, 2015. This meeting note summarizes the discussion of this introductory meeting.

Note: We initially plan to organize EPL but unfortunately some of the participants could not join us and informed us at last moment. Thus, EPL team decided to reorient policy lab as introductory meeting with MoAD. All the participants include officials from MoAD including Chief Planning officer and Directors.

Summary of the Discussion:

Dr. Swoyambhu Man Amatya facilitated the session and firstly introduced the idea with policy lab. Activities around agro-forestry theme and the activities being carried out by the EnLiFT project were further elaborated among the participants.

Participants highly appreciated the idea behind Policy lab. However, time and again raised the question behind not incorporating MoAD on EnLiFT consortium as Agro-Forestry (AF) and Under Utilized Land (UUL) are two major working theme of EnLiFT project. Furthermore, participants suggested to institutionalize the concept of policy lab as these sorts of attempts are mainly project, person, or resource driven.

During the discussions the Chief Planning Officer wanted to know if the district agriculture officers was aware about the project activities that were supposed to perform. He immediately made a telephone call to his officer based at Kavre district. In response to the call the officer at Kavre made a very good remark about the project and he reported that he has been participating in the project activities.

The chief planning Officer further made clear that MoAD has been recently organizing 'Public Policy Dialogue Series'. This dialogue brings together experts from agriculture field mainly those who worked for years in foreign land but are unrecognized in Nepal and seek their suggestion in pre-identified topic. Till date three such dialogues has been organized and participants also include experts from IFRI, ex-advisor of Prime Minister of India among others.

MoAD officials kept forward the possibility of collaboration between 'Public Policy Dialogue Series' and 'Policy Lab' in days to come.

Recently MoAD has identified 10 AF core districts and has been promoting motivation driven AF. Though separate budget is not allocated for these districts, however, AF related capacity building activities has been prioritized on these 10 districts. Furthermore, is planning to work together for AF promotion on these districts in collaboration with ICRAF.

MoAD officials further proposed to work in coordination between MoAD and EnLiFT. A first class officer opined *"Since EnLiFT team has been deploying action research in both AF and UUL theme whereas, MoAD still is opting old age techniques. In this situation we look forward for collaboration be it be structural coordination, functional coordination, or coordination by information"*

The meeting concluded with the idea of organizing a disseminative workshop to let know MoAD officials on the activities carried out by EnLiFT till date.

Remarks

- This being the first Policy dialogue with the concerned officials from the Ministry of Agriculture Development, the officers involved have to be briefed about the project.
- EnLift Policy lab could be the direct forum where these type of discussions/ and later a joint recommendation could be forwarded to the Government of Nepal to take appropriate action in developing both Agriculture (mainly forage) and forestry in utilizing the available and marginal lands.
- Enlift Policy lab should continue this type of discussions in future dates so that a common platform could be created within the two ministries.
- The role of District Coordination Committee and its ownership is very crucial in mobilizing the governmental sectoral entities based within the district.

Participants

SN	Name	Institution and Affiliation
1	Mr. Rajendra Adhikari	Chief Planning Officer, MoAD
2	Mr. Mahendra Poudel	Senior Agriculture Economist, MoAD
3	Mr. Mukul Upadhyaya	Chief , Veterinary Epidemiologist
4	Mr. Parashu Ram Adhikari	Senior Plant Protection officer
5	Dr. Swoyambhu Man Amatya	EnLiFT and Nepal Agro Forestry Foundation
6	Mr. Udeep Regmi	Researcher, Forest Action
7	Ms. Sajina Thapa	Nepal Agro Forestry Foundation

Meeting with officials of Agricultural Development, District Forest Office and Livestock Development

12th May, 2016

Venue: District Forest Office, Lamjung

As per the scheduled an EnLiFT Policy Lab Meeting was held at Lamjung District on 12 May 2016. The meeting was attended by the forest officers of District Forest Office, district Agriculture Development Office, District Livestock Development Office and the officers from Nepal Agroforestry Foundation, Forest Action and Local Resource Person. The meeting was

chaired by Mr. Khadananda Sharma. The list of persons attended the meeting is provided in Annex 1.

Summary of the Discussion:

Dr. Swoyambhu Man Amatya, of Nepal Agroforestry Foundation briefed about the project objectives, and the on-going activities in the district. He also briefed the about the EnLiFT Policy Lab.

During the discussion District Forest Officer told that there aren't any hindrances or obstacles for cutting the tree but with the view to future prospectus they have prohibited to cut the Sal (*Shorea robusta*) tree. District Forest Office also pointed out that private individuals can harvest 23 number of tree species without any difficulty after fulfilling the simple procedure.

Participants of the meeting raised the agenda of underutilized land. They further stated that young people are leaving their respective villages thus leaving productive agriculture land to remain fallow. They further stated that if the government initiates to collect the fine for leaving the land unused as a penalty then the farmer will compel to plant the corps or the land may be leased out to another potential farmer for cultivation.

Livestock Development Officer raised the issue related to the wild animal. According to the officer wild animals entered the village and destroy the crop. So, to protect the agricultural crop wild animal should be controlled.

In regards to the private forest, participants of the meeting forwarded their views about the registration of private forest. With the discussion it came to know that the private forest registration is costly. Participants suggested that if the cost could be reduced then the number of private forest will increase.

Participants further more discussed the market chain of agroforestry product. They raise the issue of transport access. They stated that there lack sustainability in transport system. There may be the market opportunity for agricultural product if there will be the good transport system.

Dr. Amatya remarked that there is more unregistered private forest in the district than registered one. Individuals have to face several types of problems while harvesting trees from unregistered private forest. He wondered if a campaign could be lunched in registering the private forest like that used to be for citizenship certificate then number of individuals that would register private forest may increase. This will ultimately increase the revenue of the government and also the harvesting of timber would be easy to some extent. He suggested that there should be fixed target per district forest office for registering the private forest. Fixing the target would help in registering the private forest.

Remarks

- This meeting is the first EnLiFT Policy Lab district level meeting. Participants were very happy to know about the project, its activities and the approach for generating policy level understanding.
- The idea generated at local level could instrumental in deciding future policies in respective field.

Annex 1: List of persons attending the meeting.

SN.	Name	Designation and Institution
1	Mr. Khadananda Sharma	District Forest Officer, Lamjung district
2	Dr. Dhirga Nath Dhungana	Livestock Development Officer
3	Mr. Meghendra Pokharel	Program Officer, District Development Committee
4	Ms. Shanta Sapkota	Treasurer, FECOFEN
5	Mr. Jeet Bahadur Nepali	Agricultural Development Officer
6	Mr. Kashi Raj Pandit	Assistant Forest Officer, Lamjung district.
7	Mr. Daya Nidhi Aryal	Assistant Forest Officer, Lamjung district.
8	Dr. Swoyambhu Man Amatya	Executive Director, NAF
9	Ms. Sajina Thapa	Assistant Officer, NAF
10	Mr. Madan Batshyal	District Coordinator, Forest Action
11	Mr. Bholu Nath Poudel	Local Resource Person, EnLift Project

EnLiFT Policy Lab Meeting

09th March, 2017

Venue: Regional Forest Office, Hetauda, Makwanpur

This meeting note summarizes the discussion of EnLiFT Policy Lab meeting held on 09th March, 2017 at Regional Forest Office, Hetauda, Makwanpur.

17 participants representing from regional and district level office of Livestock Service, United Nation World Food Program, Forest Office, Soil Conservation Office, Institute of Forestry, Plant Resource Office, Federation of Community Forestry Users, Agriculture Development Office, President Chure-Terai Madhesh Conservation Development Board, Association of Collaborative Forest Users and 2 personnel from EnLiFT project attended Policy Lab Meeting. Annex I provides the details of the personnel attended the meeting).

Regional Director of Central Forest Regional Directorate Mr. Ganesh Jha facilitated the session.

Dr. Amatya presented about the EnLiFT project, its implementation modalities and objectives of EnLiFT in the audience. He talked about the role of private forest in carbon sequestration, payment for carbon stocks on private forest and simple documentation of edible plants in forest areas could help in identifying species that would help combating food insecurity. Similarly, promotion of Non Timber Forest Products and its cultivation and domestication in private forest could enhance livelihood and food security. He introduced the idea of policy lab in the meeting. He further stated that the policy lab was one of the discussion forums in sorting out some of the policy hurdles in promoting private forestry and agroforestry in the past.

In this meeting Dr. Amatya stated the reforms made by the Government in promoting agroforestry and private forestry in the country and provided the list of reforms made by the Government including the provisions included in the Private Forest Development Directives, 2011. He remarked that the idea generated at this meeting could be instrumental in deciding future policies in respective field. After then Dr. Amatya open the floor to the participants expecting the participants would discuss on those issues and make implementable recommendations.

Focus of the policy lab:

Participants discussed on the provisions of the Directives and the list of species provided such as Mango (*Mangifera indica*), Lichi (*Litchi chinensis*), Lapsi (*Choerospondias axillaris*) in the Directive are not very suitable for construction works.

The other point raised in the policy lab was the limitation land that one can use as private forest. The Forest Nationalization Act of 2013 B.S has provisioned that an individual can have private forest only in small areas (3.38³ hectare in Terai and 1.27⁴ hectare in hilly regions). This restriction has more or less discouragement people in developing private forests.

The third point was the implementation of the Forest Sector Master Plan. According to Master Plan 1988, community forest and private forest were kept in P1 program. Community forest succeeded and showed better result but attention was not paid to the private forest. It has been stressed that there is no uniformity in implementation of private forest regulation/policy/directives. The implementation process varies from districts to district and with the officers on duty.

Although there is provision of providing US\$38.73⁵ as subsidies for registration of private forest, this have not motivated land owner for the process of registration, this complication may have raised due to lengthy/costly process along with lack of regular monitoring on condition of private forest and harvesting pattern by technical foresters after registration of private forest.

Livestock admirably contributes in national income. 65% livestock rearing farmers are depending on forest areas. Registration of livestock farm is increasing in district level showing grow in demand of improved fodder and forage grass.

While making policy and directives inter-ministerial co-ordination should be done and programs should be launched in root level making co-ordination including all related stake ministry and departments.

To promote agroforestry and private forestry, participants remarked that Policy Lab could play a significant role. They all commended the task taken up by Dr. Amatya and hoped that this process would bring some changes in the promotion of agroforestry and private forestry in the country.

³ 1 Bigha=0.67 hectare

⁴ 1 Ropani= 0.050872 hectare

⁵ US\$ 1=105.87 Nepalese Rupee

List of participants

Nepal Agroforestry Foundation

EnLIFT Policy Lab Meeting

सहभागी उपस्थिती विवरण

Venue: Hetauda, Makwanpur

मिति: २०६३/११/२६

क्र.श.	नाम	ठेगाना/संस्था	सम्पर्क न.	हस्ताक्षर
१.	डा. स्वयंभु मान अमात्य	NAF	९८५१२५६६२५	
२.	जोषा मा	क्र. १११ नं. हेटौडा	९७५६०१२३७३	
३.	डा. राम प्रकाश श्रेष्ठ	नि.प.सं.के.का.मकवानपुर	९८५५०७०७२२८	
४.	राज श्रेष्ठ	विश्व पाठ्यक्रम	९८५५०२२६३६	
५.	राज किशोर थाकुर	जि.सं.के.का.मकवानपुर	९८५५११५९२५	
६.	अशोक कुमार खत्री	मिना प्र.सं.के.का.मकवानपुर	९८५६८३३९०७	
७.	सिद्धि कुमारी सिंह	ब.वि.अ.संस्था हेटौडा	९८५५२३१३३३	
८.	चन्द्रकला ठाकुर	राज.व.सं.के.का.मकवानपुर	९८५५१२४६२१७	
९.	फर्चु माया ख्यातान	फेडरेशन मकवानपुर	९८५५०७०५६५	
१०.	ब्रह्म प्रसाद नेपाल	मकवानपुर (१०) प्रा.वि.के.के.मकवानपुर	९८५५१२५९५५	
११.	सुजन कंडेल	वि.सं.के.का.मकवानपुर	९८५५३६९९८९	
१२.	रामकृष्ण पहाडी	ब.वि.अ.सं.के.के.मकवानपुर	९८५२०६९९४४	
१३.	पुष्प राज पराजुली	मकवानपुर (१०) प्रा.वि.के.के.मकवानपुर	९८५५०२२६५९	
१४.	बसन्त राज जोशी	राष्ट्रपति विद्यापीठ, मकवानपुर	९८५२०६९९४६	
१५.	विक्रम श्रेष्ठ	जिल्ला वन विभाग, मकवानपुर	९८५२०६९९४६	
१६.	मुहम्मद साद अहमद	कैलाश विद्यापीठ, मकवानपुर	९८५५१०५९५५	
१७.	विश्व ठकाल	NAF	९८५१०६०९३६	
१८.				
१९.				
२०.				

