

Is Community Forestry Beneficial for Poor? Impact Analysis of Community Forestry on Livelihoods of Forest Users in Nepal

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Introduction

Community Forestry (CF) in Nepal holds potentials for rural development as well as poverty alleviation in Nepal.

Objectives

This study assessed the impacts of CF on livelihoods of Ranipani community forest user group (CFUG) . It aimed to explore how the potentials of CF can be achieved.

Methods

Methodology is derived from the DFID- Sustainable Livelihoods approach

Location: Ranipani CFUG, Tanahun District, Nepal

Methods used:

1. Semistructured questionnaires,
2. Forest inventory at community level

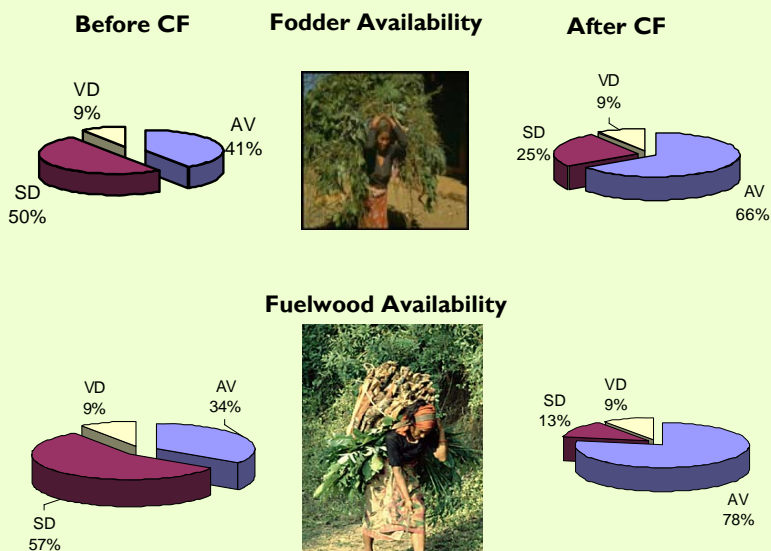


CFUG members at decision making process

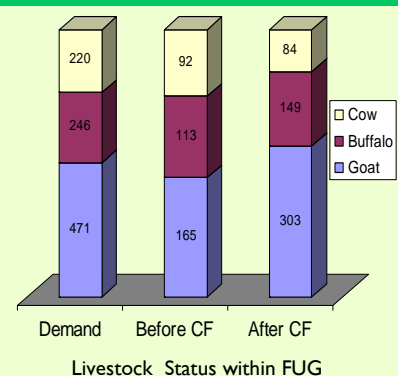
Results

The results show that CF contributes to user livelihoods by meeting the basic needs for forest products, easy access and availability of forest products by reducing the time for collection, encouraging to adopt productive livestock and stall-feeding, and this all leads to improved living conditions of the users. After the implementation of CF, CFUG were able to contribute on development activities at the village.

Comparison of fodder and fuelwood availability before and after CF implementation



AV= available throughout the year, SD= seasonal difficulties, VD= very difficult



Conclusion

Present practice of Ranipani CF plays a fairly significant role in capital formation, environmental sustainability, institutional development and its sustainability, in the process of community empowerment and social change and the reduction of vulnerability.