

REPORT

Consultation Workshop on Present Status and Future Prospects of Agroforestry in Nepal (March 26-28, 2015)

**Jointly Organized by Government of Nepal,
Ministry of Agricultural Development, Ministry of Forests & Soil Conservation,
World Agroforestry Centre, and
Asia Network for Sustainable Agriculture and Bio-resources (ANSAB)**

Ministry of Agricultural Development (MOAD), Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (MFSC) of Government of Nepal; World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) and the Asia Network for Sustainable Agriculture and Bio-resources (ANSAB) jointly organized a consultation workshop at Hotel Himalaya, Kathmandu, Nepal during 26-28 March 2015 on “Present Status and Future Prospects of Agroforestry in Nepal”. A total of 153 senior policy makers, scientists, and representatives of international/ national organizations, NGOs, farmers associations, private sector, and of Nepal Peasants Coalition were in attendance. The Government of Nepal was represented by Hon’ble Minister of MFSC Mr. Mahesh Acharya, Hon’ble Minister of MOAD Mr. Hari Prasad Parajuli, Prof. Kailash Nath Pyakural, Vice Chancellor, Agriculture & Forestry University, Mr. Sharat Chand Paudel, Secretary MFSC, Dr. Shyam Kishore Shah, Officiating Secretary, MOAD, and Mr. Bishwa Nath Oli and Mr. Yogendra Kumar Karki, respectively Joint Secretary of MFSC and MOAD. The Government of India was represented by Mr. R. B. Sinha Joint Secretary, Department of Agriculture Cooperation (DAC), Ministry of Agriculture; Dr. S. K. Dhyani, Director, Central Agroforestry Research Institute (CAFRI), Indian Council of Agricultural Research, and by Dr. A. K. Handa, Principal Scientist, Agroforestry at CAFRI. Among others, seven ICRAF scientists from Bangladesh, China, India, Kenya, and Sri Lanka; were in attendance. ANSAB was represented by its Director, Dr. Bishma Subedi, and Nepal Agroforestry Foundation was represented by Dr. Bishnu.

The Workshop was inaugurated on 26th March 2015 by Honourable Minister of Forests and Soil Conservation Mr. Mahesh Acharya, and the session was chaired by Dr. Shyam Kishor Shah, Officiating Secretary, Ministry of Agricultural Development. Opening the workshop, Chief Guest, Honourable Minister of Forests and Soil Conservation appreciated the organization of the workshop, and valued the contribution of ICRAF to initiate the dialogue about the National Agroforestry Policy (NAF) of Nepal. Assuring the full support of MFSC to this very timely initiative, Hon’ble Minister said, “To ensure that population of Nepal gets full benefits of Agroforestry, we need to develop a National Agroforestry Policy (NAF), and I am pleased to see that the process has already begun” On behalf of the organizing committee, Dr. Javed Rizvi, Regional Director, South Asia Program of ICRAF outlined the objectives of the workshop: (1) Provide a platform to stakeholders involved in Agroforestry to share experiences and to identify

agroforestry technologies for up/out scaling in Nepal, (2) Identify thematic priorities for future considerations, and (3) to deliberate if Nepal needs a National Agroforestry Policy to accelerate and converge the efforts of various actors.

Mr. Rakesh Bhushan Sinha, Joint Secretary, Department of Agriculture Cooperation (DAC), Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India congratulated policy makers and scientists from Nepal to initiate the dialogue on a national agroforestry policy, and briefly outlined the benefits of having a National Agroforestry Policy (NAP) to the country.

The first technical session “Present Status of Agroforestry and Agroforestry Research in Nepal” was held on 27th March where details about various Agroforestry initiatives by MOAD and MFSC were presented by Mr. Uday Chandra Thakur, Joint Secretary, MOAD; and Mr. Bishwa Nath Oli, Joint Secretary, MFSC. An overview of the status of agroforestry in Nepal was presented by Dr. Bhishma Subedi, Director, ANSAB, Nepal. Dr. Swoyambhu Man Amatya, Ex Secretary of MFSC, and present Deputy Coordinator of Agroforestry (IUFRO); and Dr. Bishnu Hari Pandit of Nepal Agroforestry Foundation discussed prospects of agroforestry and regulatory challenges in Nepal. The Session concluded with a consensus that currently available information is inadequate to identify technologies/ systems from the ongoing investigations for up/out scaling in Nepal. .

Another technical session focussed on the initiatives on agroforestry policy in South Asia which was chaired by Mr. Rakesh Bhushan Sinha, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India. Mr. Sinha shared the process followed to formulate the National Agroforestry Policy (NAP) formulation in India. He emphasized that having a NAP is a prerequisite to optimize the benefits of Agroforestry in South Asian countries. Outputs and outcomes of the agroforestry policy implementation in India were discussed by Dr. V.P. Singh, Senior Policy Advisor at ICRAF’s South Asia Program. Dr. Shiv Kumar Dhyani, Director, CAFRI, India shared the contribution of research for development in implementation of agroforestry policy of India. Prof. DKNP Pushpakumara, the Country Liaison scientist of ICRAF in Sri Lanka discussed the need of agroforestry policy for socio economic, environmental, food and nutritional security in context of Sri Lanka. Success of agroforestry policy in India and using the lessons learned in replicating the experiences in neighbouring countries was discussed in detail.

A presentation on “Potential of soil-plant spectroscopy for agricultural productivity and environmental health in Nepal” was given by Dr. Erick Towett, Soil Scientist at ICRAF, Nairobi. The presentation showcased the potential role of soil-plant spectral analysis in rapid, accurate,

and cost-effective land management, and help taking informed decisions in agriculture, forestry, and agroforestry.

A session focussing on identification of most important thematic priorities, and to discuss if Nepal needs its own agroforestry policy was chaired by Professor Kailash Nath Pyakural, Vice Chancellor of Agriculture and Forestry University, Nepal. Based on lively and detailed discussions, following thematic areas were identified for future considerations: (1) Fodder (2) Income (commercial agroforestry) (3) Food and nutrition security, multi-purpose trees (4) Quality planting material and germplasm (5) Bio-energy (6) Land degradation and soil health, and (7) agroforestry models suitable to different ecological zones of Nepal.

With reference to the question if Nepal needs its own National Agroforestry Policy, participants emphasized (1) There is a need to develop an agroforestry policy in Nepal (2) Cognizance is required to existing policies in Nepal affecting agroforestry, such as National Forestry Policy and National Development Strategy (NDS) (3) Need of integration of efforts and resources of concerned agencies involved in agroforestry (4) Indian experience of agroforestry policy development could be taken as reference; and (5) expertise of ICRAF and other agencies could be taken on board for the development of National Agroforestry Policy of Nepal..

A draft **Kathmandu Declaration on Agroforestry** was drafted and discussed under the Chairmanship of Prof. Kailash Nath Pyakural, Vice Chancellor, Agriculture & Forestry University, and Co-Chairmanship of Dr. Mr.Bishwa Nath Oli and Mr. Yogendra Kumar Karki, respectively, Joint Secretaries of MFSC and MOAD. The draft of declaration was vetted, approved, and signed by both the Secretaries from MOAD and MFSC in presence of Hon'ble Minister of Agricultural Development, Mr.. Hari Prasad Prajuli.

Honourable Minister of Agricultural Development, Mr. Hari Prasad Parajuli, chaired the closing session of the workshop on 28th April. “Nepal needs an Agroforestry policy to accelerate the efforts on mainstreaming of agroforestry. In consultation with my colleague Mr. Mahesh Acharya, Minister of Forests and Soil Conservation, I assure you all for our fullest support to this important development” said Hon'ble Minister. Thanking ICRAF for this very crucial and timely initiative, and appreciating the active participation of all stakeholders from Nepal, Hon'ble Minister officially released the workshop recommendations as “Kathmandu Declaration on Agroforestry”. Dr. Bishama Subedi, Director, ANSAB, extended the vote of thanks on behalf of the organizing committee; and Dr. Javed Rizvi concluded the workshop by appreciating the support of the two Ministries, staff of ANSAB, and enthusiastic participation of all the stakeholders from Nepal.



Honourable Minister of Forests and Soil Conservation Mr. Mahesh Acharya inaugurating the workshop



Honourable Minister of Agricultural Development, Mr. Hari Prasad Parajuli (in centre) releasing the Kathmandu Declaration on Agroforestry. Others on the dais are Mr. Sharat Chand Paudel, Secretary MFSC, and Mr. Rakesh Bhusha Sinha, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India (left to right), Prof. Kailash Nath Pyakural, Vice Chancellor, Agriculture & Forestry University, and Dr. Shyam Kishore Shah, Officiating Secretary, MOAD.



A group of participants with Honourable Minister of Forests and Soil Conservation Mr. Mahesh Acharya (centre in traditional dress)



Participants with Honourable Minister of Agricultural Development, Mr. Hari Prasad Parajuli at the closing of workshop



Honourable Minister of Forests and Soil Conservation Mr. Mahesh Acharya introduced with Indian delegation