



Technical support to formulate a National Agroforestry Policy for Nepal



**South Asia Regional Program (SARP),
World Agroforestry Centre, New Delhi, India**

And

**Inter-Ministerial Coordinating Committee (IMCC)
Ministry of Agriculture, Land Management and Cooperatives
Ministry of Forest, Soil Conservation and Environment
Singha Darbar, Kathmandu, Nepal**

**Submitted To
Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN)
2018**

Contents

Executive summary:	ii
1. Introduction:	1
2. Trees and forests in Nepal: Background information	4
3. Implementation of the response plan:	9
Activity No. 1: Review of current national policies, laws and strategies related with forestry/agroforestry	10
Activity No. 2: Capacity building of Ministries of Agriculture, Forest, and Environment in policy development	32
Activity No. 3: Holding consultation workshops in three major regions of Nepal	35
Activity 4: Drafting of National Agroforestry Policy	47
Activity 5: National multi-layered and Multi-Stakeholder Consultations	47
Activity 6: Comparative Analysis and Best Practices for Agroforestry Policies in South East Asia	55
Activity 7: Final analysis of success, challenges and impact from peer learning and knowledge sharing purposes	56
Acknowledgements:	57
Annexes	

Technical support to formulate a National Agroforestry Policy for Nepal

Executive summary:

The idea and need to formulate and implement a National Agroforestry Policy in Nepal originated during a three days' national consultation workshop on agroforestry held in Kathmandu during 2015. The workshop was jointly organized by the Ministry of Agriculture Development (MOAD), Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation (MFSC) (names of the Ministry mentioned here as these were called during 2015), Asia Network for Sustainable Agriculture and Bioresources (ANSAB), and the World Agroforestry Centre (also known as ICRAF). About 150 stakeholders participated in the workshop and deliberations resulted in issuing a document called, "Kathmandu Declaration on Agroforestry" signed by the Secretaries of the two Ministries and released by the then Minister of MOAD. In this background, during 2016, MOAD, requested CTCN to extend Technical Assistance to develop agroforestry policy of Nepal. On approval of this assistance, an agreement was signed in April 2017 between CTCN and ICRAF to implement the Response Plan of the technical assistance. The overall aim of the project is to formulate a National Agroforestry Policy for Nepal.

To oversee the work on policy development, Government of Nepal constituted an Inter-Ministerial Coordination Committee (IMCC) during 2016 representing then Ministry of Agriculture Development (MoAD), Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation (MFSC), Ministry of Population and Environment (MOPE), National Designated Entity (NDE) & ICRAF. IMCC developed and approved a road map to draft national agroforestry policy. Following this, various activities of Response Plan is initiated. An analysis of existing relevant policies and laws affecting agroforestry in Nepal was completed. A study of 30 relevant policies, laws and strategies of Nepal indicated a clear requirement to develop a new agroforestry policy, as many of the existing policies and laws imposed prohibitory regulations deterring farmers from adopting agroforestry.

As India is the only country having approved and implemented its national agroforestry policy, a study visit for IMCC members was arranged to India. During this, IMCC members interacted with senior Indian officers and policy makers who actively contributed to develop and implement the Indian agroforestry policy. This followed the organization of three regional workshops in high, medium and low mountain areas of Nepal. A total of 119 stakeholders were consulted on various aspects of agroforestry, and on the need of a dedicated agroforestry policy in Nepal. Inputs received through these consultations strongly supported the need to develop agroforestry policy. Inputs of stakeholders also provided important information on constraints in adopting agroforestry, currently available support to farmers through various players, and the expectations of the farmers from such a policy/Government. It became also very clear that there is a need of diversification of food production to increase the food and nutritional security. These

Technical support to formulate a National Agroforestry Policy for Nepal, 2018

workshops also created awareness about environmental contributions, and role in of agroforestry in adopting to/ increasing resilient to climate change.

Information generated through the review existing Government policies and inputs from the regional workshops provided the basis to develop the first draft of agroforestry policy. This was reviewed and modified by IMCC, and then shared with 187 stakeholders through three national level workshops. Inputs received during these workshops were incorporated in the draft policy, and it was sent to IMCC for its review. After making necessary corrections, the draft policy document was once again reviewed by both the Ministries, and Ministry of Forest and Environment (name of the Ministry changed by this time) provided few more suggestions to improve the policy. Majority of the suggestions were incorporated, and the draft was translated in Nepali language. In total, 8 consultations (7 during the assistance and one before the assistance) were held involving more than 500 stakeholders to develop the policy. On September 30th, 2018, both the English and Nepali drafts were handed over to IMCC which was accepted for further processing through the Government system. With the submission of the final draft of national agroforestry policy to IMCC, the technical assistance closed successfully. Government of Nepal thanked IMCC, ICRAF and CTCN through a formal letter sent to ICRAF.

1. Introduction:

The idea and need to formulate and implement a National Agroforestry Policy in Nepal originated during a three days' national consultation workshop on agroforestry held in Kathmandu during 2015. The workshop was jointly organized by the Ministry of Agriculture Development (MOAD), Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation (MFSC) (names of the Ministry mentioned here as these were called during 2015), Asia Network for Sustainable Agriculture and Bioresources (ANSAB), and the World Agroforestry Centre (also known as ICRAF). About 150 stakeholders participated in the workshop and deliberations resulted in issuing a document called, "Kathmandu Declaration on Agroforestry" signed by the Secretaries of the two Ministries and released by the then Minister of MOAD (Annex-1).

(http://www.worldagroforestry.org/sites/default/files/Kathmandu%20Declaration_1-9-2015.pdf)

In this background, during 2016, MOAD, requested CTCN to extend Technical Assistance to develop agroforestry policy of Nepal. On approval of this assistance, an agreement was signed in April 2017 between CTCN and ICRAF to implement the Response Plan number 201600029 entitled, "Technical support to formulate a National Agroforestry Policy". CTCN and ICRAF agreed to initiate the implementation on 1st of May 2017 (Annex-2). The implementation of the Technical Assistance is focused on achieving the following planned outcomes:

- a. A National Agroforestry Policy for Nepal is formulated through multi-stakeholder consultations to be ratified by the Government,
- b. The knowledge to formulate National Agroforestry Policy for Nepal is acquired by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Ministry of Forest and Environment, and National Designated Entity (NDE) of CTCN.
- c. A comparative study is conducted to compare the development process employed by India and Nepal, and the challenges faced, and lessons learned are highlighted.

Nepal is among some of the most vulnerable countries to climate change, water-induced disasters, and hydro-meteorological extreme events such as droughts, storms, floods, inundation, landslides, debris flow, soil erosion and avalanches. Based on National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA) 2010, out of 75 districts, 29 districts are highly vulnerable to landslides, 22 districts to drought, 12 districts to GLOFs, and 9 districts to flooding. An average of 0.06 °C increase in temperature per year is recorded during 1975 – 2005; and mean rainfall has significantly decreased on an average of 3.7 mm (-3.2%) per month per decade. Various climate change scenarios indicate a mean annual temperature increase of 1.3 to 3.8°C by the 2060, and 1.8 to 5.8°C by 2090. Annual rainfall is projected to reduce across the country by 10 to 20%.

Technical support to formulate a National Agroforestry Policy for Nepal, 2018

Impact of climate change in Nepal is very visible in terms of impacts on snow and glaciers that are directly linked with Glacier Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs). Till 2010, the number of glacier lakes increased by 11%. These have impacted the frequency of extreme weather events, such as landslides, floods and droughts resulting in the loss of human lives as well as high social and economic costs. An Economic Impact Assessment of Climate Change conducted during 2013 in agriculture, hydropower and water-induced disasters projected economic costs of climate change to 2-3% of the GDP/year by mid-century. In addition, the expected adverse effects on trees cover through natural and social forest and on agricultural landscapes will significantly hamper the carbon sequestration enhancing the impact of climate change.

Nepal emphasizes in mitigating adverse impacts of climate change and in adopting adaptation measures; and prioritizes the development of mitigation-friendly forest management systems. More than 25,000 community-based forest management groups across the country are directly engaged in managing about 30% of the country's total forest area. Considering climate change mitigation and resilience as one of the major strategic pillars, the Forestry Sector Strategy (2016-2025) aims to enhance Nepal's forest carbon stock by at least 5% by 2025 as compared to 2015 level. Besides targeting forests to achieve these, a systematic focus on agroforestry will facilitate achieving these goals.

In order to harness the full potential of agroforestry improvements to the policy and regulatory framework such as reversing restrictive regulations about felling, transport, and marketing of agroforestry species; regulating production and distribution of quality planting material and creating finance and insurance instruments etc. are urgently required. Agroforestry has potential to produce significant amount of timber and wood to reduce the indiscriminate harvesting of natural forests. However, restrictions on felling and marketing of the timber producing species discourage farmers to grow these trees on the farms.

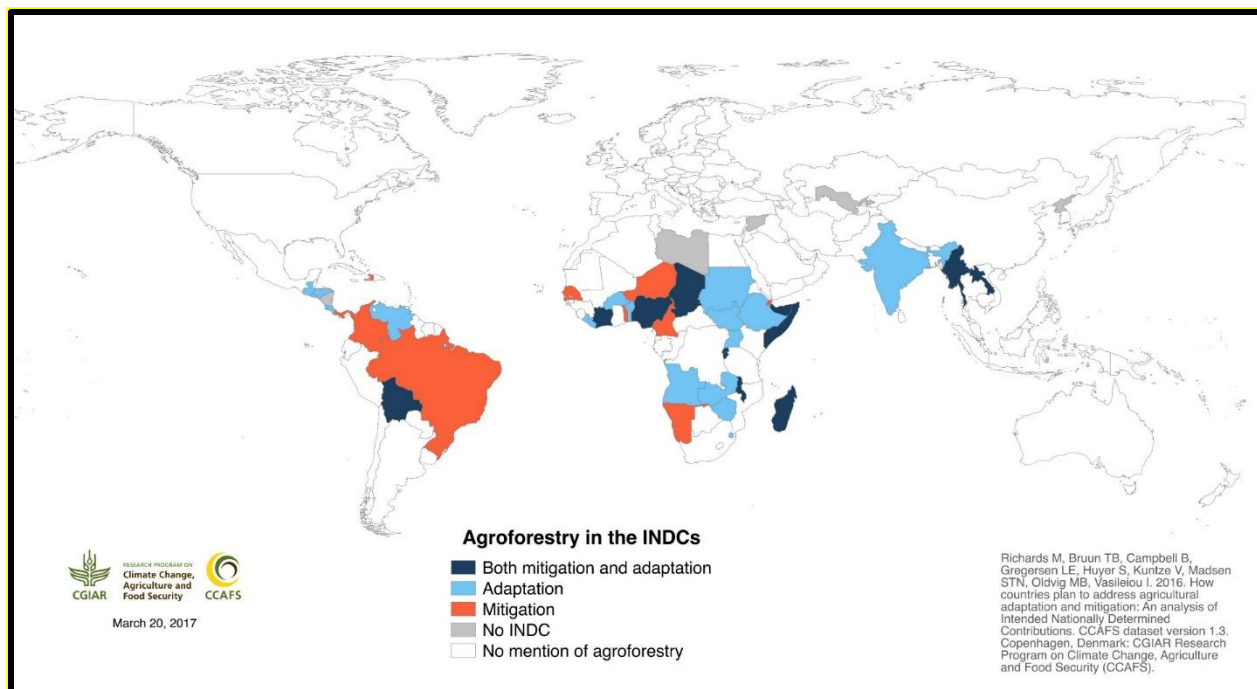
In Nepal, the farm production system is characterized by subsistence farming. Majority of the farming communities have landholdings of less than 0.5 ha. Due to increase in population and division of wealth among the family members, the farm size is getting even smaller. Small landholders need to produce maximum per unit area to ensure availability of enough food round the year. This is only possible by intensive crop-tree-livestock production using the multi-storied agroforestry systems which will also help mitigation and adoption to climate change. It is estimated that about 90 % of the farmers in the mountains (267,510), 75% in the hills (1,186,066), and about 40% (583, 514) in the plains (Terai) practice some sort of agroforestry. Thus, promotion of agroforestry practices through a national policy is expected to instantly help about 2 million small holders to be more resilient to climate change and extreme events.

In most simple terms, agroforestry is defined as 'agriculture with trees. It is also defined in a comprehensive way as "Agroforestry is the practice and science of the interface and interactions

between agriculture and forestry, involving farmers, livestock, trees and forests at multiple scales". A detailed description of agroforestry explains it as, "agroforestry is the interaction of agriculture and trees, including the agricultural use of trees. This includes trees on farms and in agricultural landscapes, farming in forests and at forest margins and tree-crop production, including cocoa, coffee, rubber and oil palm. Interactions between trees and other components of agriculture may be important at a range of scales: in fields (where trees and crops are grown together), on farms (where trees may provide fodder for livestock, fuel, food, shelter or income from products including timber) and landscapes (where agricultural and forest land uses combine in determining the provision of ecosystem services). At national and global scales, forestry and agriculture interact ecologically and through policies relating to land use and trade and are important with respect to climate change and other environmental concerns. Agroforestry embraces an agro-ecological approach putting emphasis on multi-functionality and the management of complex systems and polycultures rather than focusing exclusively on monoculture. We use the word 'tree' inclusively, to refer to trees and shrubs, all woody perennials, palms and bamboo. We also use the word 'agriculture', inclusively, to refer to a human activity, carried out primarily to produce food, fiber and fuel by the deliberate and controlled use of plants and animals. (<http://www.worldagroforestry.org/downloads/Publications/PDFS/RP17128.pdf>).

Agroforestry is seen as mitigation priority by 23 countries, adaptation priority by 29, and by several as both the adaptation and mitigation priorities. At the same time, 126 countries have listed agriculture as mitigation priority (see map below). Besides, supporting countries on these fronts, agroforestry is recognized as one of the most useful approaches to improve environment sustainability, provide cushion against extreme weather, and improve food, nutrition, fodder and energy security besides providing above and underground eco-system services.

It is expected that a functional agroforestry policy would mainstream agroforestry at landscape level and would help Nepal in both to mitigate and adopt to climate change.



(<https://ccafs.cgiar.org/agricultures-prominence-indcs-data-and-maps#.Wfa1uohx200>)

2. Trees and forests in Nepal: Background information

How trees are defined in Nepal?

According to the Community Forest Development Inventory Guideline (2001), tree is a woody plant having Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) greater than 30 cm. This definition of tree is restrictive and excludes large number of tree types. Forest Resource Assessment (DFRS 2015) has categorized tree as per their use as lumber.

1. High-quality sound tree - A live tree which will yield at least a 6 m long saw log.
2. Sound tree - A live tree not qualified as class 1 but able to produce at least one 3m saw log or two 1.8 m saw logs.
3. Cull tree - A malformed tree that does not meet and cannot be expected to meet regional merchantability standards.

(Tree classes: Class 1= 2/3 part is timber, Class 2= 1/2 part is timber, Class 3= no timber, only fire wood)

Beginning of community participation in forest management:

Nepal realized the importance of people's participation in the conservation and management of the forests in the mid-1970s. Nepal formulated the national forestry plan in 1976, which was the first government document to accept the need for people's participation in forest management. The forest act of 1961 was amended in 1977 to include a provision to hand over a part of

government forest to the local governance unit called Panchayat, a territorially based politico-administrative unit established under the party-less Panchayat system. Based on the amendment, the Panchayat Forest (PF) and Panchayat Protected Forests (PPF) rules 1978 were promulgated for implementation. Forest Rules (1978) further facilitated implementation of such programs. Thus, local panchayats had ownership over plantation forests (Panchayat Forest), on natural forests (Panchayat Protected Forests); and the local households were involved to protect the forest. But after the panchayat system changed to multiparty democracy in 1990s, Panchayat Forest and Panchayat Protected Forest were later replaced by the community managed forests under the current forest management regimes.

The Forest Act of Nepal (1993) defines forest as an area fully or partly covered by trees (HMGN 1993). The Department of Forest Research and Survey (DFRS)/Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation defines forest as an area of land at least 0.5 hectare in area with minimum width/length of 20 meter with a tree cover of more than 10% where trees attain a height of 5 m at maturity (DFRS 2015).

Forest management regimes in Nepal:

Based on land tenure arrangement, forests of Nepal can be classified into national and private forests. Forests planted, nurtured, or conserved on any private land owned by individuals are private forests, and all other forests beside them are considered as national forests. As the registered private forests cover less than 0.04 % of the total forest area, majority of the forests in Nepal are national forests. National forests generally include paths, ponds, lakes or streams and river-beds inside forest. This includes waste or uncultivated or unregistered land surrounded by forest or situated near adjoining forest. The national forests are all under the land ownership of the government of Nepal but divided into several management categories: government managed forest, protection forest, protected area system, and various types of community-managed forest (community forest, collaborative forest, leasehold forest, religious forest and buffer zone community forest). The summary of forest areas managed under various management regimes is given in table 1.

Government Managed Forests:

These are national forests managed by the Government of Nepal. Forest development work and other activities are implemented in the government managed forests as per Government's plans, and the ownership of all forest products and services rest upon the Government. The area of the government-managed national forests is about 3.43 million ha and represents over 58% of Nepal's forest. This includes 8 protected forests covering an area of 133,685 ha, which have been designated to conserve the high conservation value forest outside the protected area system. In 2011, the government introduced the "National forest development and management program" for proper management of government-managed forests (DoF 2011). This program includes

block forest management, district forest plan and collaborative forest management. There are some projects of the government that have allocated about 34,000 ha of the government forests as the production forests for producing specific products in demand by industries, organizations or citizens. Sagarnath Forest Development Project in Mahottari and in Sarlahi districts; and Ratuwamai Plantation Project in Jhapa are the examples of production forests.

Forests within Protected Areas:

If the government deems that any portion of a National forest is of any special environmental, scientific, cultural, or of any other specific importance, Government of Nepal declares such portion of the National forest as a protected forest. The activities in the protected forests will be done according to the approved work plan. Presently about 3.4 million ha, or 23.23% of the country's geographic area has been managed by the government under the protected area system (DNPWC 2012). Of this, about 0.6 million ha is forest land which represents about 10% of Nepal's forest. The protected areas include 13 National Parks, 1 wildlife reserve, 6 conservation reserves, and a hunting reserve. While these areas are important for the protection of biodiversity, most of these also provide recreational and eco-tourism services.

Community Forests:

Community forest are part of national forests that are managed through forest users groups of local communities. The community forest user group (CFUG) prepares an operational forest management plan which is approved by the district forest officer (DFO). Normally, such plans cover a period of 5 years, but in certain district it can be extended up to 10 years. CFUG can decide the duties, rights and roles of members and the groups under the approval of its general assembly. During the implementation of the plan, CFUGs may amend some of the activities in consultation with DFO. By 2017, across the country, there are about 19,916 documented community forest user groups (CFUGs) which represent about 35% of country's population and manage over 1.8 million hectares (about 30%) of the total national forest (DoF record August 2017). Mid-hills represent the largest area of forest handed over to the communities, which is over 1.2 million ha. In Terai and High-mountains, respectively, over 374,000 and over 298,000 ha of forest has been handed over to communities.

Leasehold Forests:

The Leasehold Forestry (LHF) Program has been implemented as a livelihood strategy for rural poor, landless, and marginalized households of the hilly region. The Government grants any part of the national forest as a leasehold forest. Such programs focus on restoring the highly degraded conditions of the forests and land resources by a group of people. The target beneficiaries are families below poverty line, with special emphasis on landless, women and other marginalized ethnic groups such as Magar, Thami, Praja/Chepang and Tamang people. The program was

started in 1993 which has led to handing over of about 39,000 ha (about 0.65%) of Nepal’s forests to 6,712 leasehold user groups involving 40,000 households in 22 districts of Nepal (DoF 2013).

Collaborative Forests:

In order to address specific issues of Terai region of the country, such as inclusion of distant users, the government of Nepal has handed over certain patches/block of national forests as collaborative forests. Presently, 19 collaborative forest management (CFM) groups in 9 Terai districts are managing 54,073 ha or about 0.9% of forests (DoF 2013). The major actors in collaborative forest management are local forest users, district forest offices and local governments that work closely for sustainable management of the Terai and inner Terai forests.

Religious Forests:

Religious forests are part of the national forests handed over to certain religious institutions groups, or communities who can utilize forest products limited to the religious purposes. Activities such as cutting of trees except dead trees and causing environmental deterioration and/ or soil erosion in the watershed are prohibited. Only about 543 ha of forests are registered as religious forest.

Private Forests:

All planted, nurtured or conserved forests in any private land that belongs to an individual are considered private forests (HMGN 1993). Private forest owner can protect, develop and manage his/her private forest, utilize or sale forest products according to his/her will, but following the prevailing rules and regulations, such as Forest Act 1993 and Forest regulations 1995 of the Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation, Government of Nepal. There are about 2,458 registered private forests in Nepal managing close to 2,400 ha or about 0.04 % of Nepal’s forests (Department of Forest, 2013). In reality, majority of the trees grown in private lands have not been properly accounted for. Not all private forests are necessarily registered as such, but private plantations occur in farming areas in the Terai and mid-hills in the uplands. Thus, the reported area under private forests may have been grossly underestimated.

TABLE 1. SUMMARY OF FOREST AREAS MANAGED UNDER VARIOUS MANAGEMENT REGIMES

Management regimes	Managed by	Area (ha)	Number of management units
Government managed forest	DoF	3,480,000	75
Forests within Protected Areas	DNPWC	600,000	24(NP-13, WR-1, CA-6,HR-1)
Community forest	CFUGs	1,879,998	19,916

Technical support to formulate a National Agroforestry Policy for Nepal, 2018

Leasehold forest	LHF user groups	38,918	6712
Collaborative forest	CMF groups	54,073	19
Religious forest	Religious groups	543	-
Private forest	Individuals	2,361	2458

Note: NP= National Park, WR= Wildlife Reserve, CA= Conservation Area, HR=Hunting Reserve

Source: Data from DoF (2013) and DoF records (August 2017)

3. Implementation of the response plan:

Based on the Kathmandu Declaration on Agroforestry, 2015 (Annex -1), and through a joint action by the two nodal Ministries known at that time as Ministry of Agriculture Development (MOAD), and the Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation (MFSC); an Inter-Ministerial Coordination Committee (IMCC) was established during March 2016 to oversee the formulation of the National Agroforestry Policy of Nepal. The IMCC was led by a Joint Secretary of MOAD having other members representing MOLD, MFSC, and the South Asia regional Program of ICRAF. The first IMCC was established during 2016 (Annex-2). During the period of policy development, the IMCC was re-organized for 6 times (Table-2). Through one of such re-organizations, the Nationally Designated Entity (NDE) for CTCN was also inducted in the IMCC. The Response Plan of CTCN was implemented under the overall guidance of the IMCC which developed a road map to formulate the National Agroforestry Policy of Nepal (Annex-3).

Table-2: Frequency of change of Coordinator of IMCC (2016-2018)

English date	Nepali date	Coordinator Introduced (6)	Position	Department
18/03/2016	05/12/2072	Dr Suroj Pokhrol	Joint Secretary	Business Promotion
09/08/2017	23/06/2074	Dilaram Bhandari	Joint Secretary	Business Promotion
01/11/2017	15/07/2074	Suresh Babu Tiwari	Joint Secretary	Business Promotion
28/12/2017	13/09/2074	Lekh nath Acharya	Joint Secretary	Business Promotion
26/7/2018	10/04/2075	Dr Tej bahadur Subedi	Joint Secretary	Business Promotion

01/10/ 2018	15/06/2075	Dr. Yogendra Karki	Joint Secretary	Planning & Develop Cooperation
----------------	------------	--------------------	--------------------	-----------------------------------

Activity No. 1: Review of current national policies, laws and strategies related with forestry/agroforestry

The review of the relevant policies and laws concerning forestry, agriculture and environment was completed to see how these affect adoption/ mainstreaming of agroforestry in Nepal. Natural forests of Nepal are managed through several regimens involving local communities and farmers; and trees are defined in different ways. Thus, it was imperative to clearly understand the roles of communities/ farmers & the existing policies in managing various types of forests/ tree plantations in Nepal.

Analysis of the policies

Project team including two experts from Nepal, and members of the IMCC reviewed the relevant policies/ laws and documents. Among other issues, any possible restriction/regulatory regimes on planting, felling, and transport of trees on agriculture and non-forest land was also studied. Existing relevant policies/ laws / strategies are summarized in Table-3.

An analysis of a total available 30 relevant laws/ policies concerning agroforestry/ tree plantation revealed 26 % of these in fact promote agroforestry, and 20 % impose restrictions on felling and/or transport of trees.

The Private Forest Nationalization Act (2013) ended the system of private ownership of forests. This helped curbing unregulated trees felling and trade of timber. Further, National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act (1973), and its amendment promoted protection of categorized area and introduced regulations.

The National Forest Plan (1976) focused on balanced and sustainable development of forests, and forest-based industries, and supported the local needs for fodder, fuel wood and timber.

Forest Act of (1993) and its regulation (1995) provisioned leasehold forest in Article 6, where agroforestry can be practiced developing and conserve leasehold forests. Further, article 8 of Forest Act 1993, and Article 7 of Forest Regulation 1995, encouraged farmers to establish private plantation adopting agroforestry technology. However, farmers need permission/ certificate / registration to establish private forests from District Forest Office and need to obtain transport permits for tree products. The Forest Act 1993 has been amended three times in 1999, 2002 and 2005.

Nepal Environment Policy and Action Plan (1993) encourages farmers to plant trees, shrubs and grasses on private land to produce additional source of fodder and to conserve environment. Revised Forestry Sector Policy (2000) promotes private forestry by encouraging tree plantation

Technical support to formulate a National Agroforestry Policy for Nepal, 2018

on farms and on other private land. The Policy also promotes agroforestry systems like, intercropping of fruit trees with medicinal and aromatic plants, as well as other multiple land-use systems. The Policy also recommends research to develop/ identify fast-growing species suitable for agroforestry plantation. The policy did not have desired impact on agroforestry due to lack of institutional arrangements & modalities for coordinate and convergence to mainstream agroforestry at national level.

Leasehold Forestry Policy (2002) facilitated handing -over severely degraded forests with less than 20% crown cover to the individuals, group of the people, or to corporate bodies on a lease basis. National Wetland Policy (2003) and Range land Policy (2010) do not consider agroforestry as tool to to develop and restore wet lands and range lands. The Climate Change Policy (2011) suggests the implementation of Agroforestry programs but lack of institutional arrangement, for effective management, support, and coordination remains unattended. Similar gaps are found in the Forest Policy (2015) with respect to promotion of agroforestry in Nepal. Policy does promote plantation programs in private land, cost effective soil and water conservation, and agroforestry system development through action research. The similar gaps are observed in the Forestry Sector Strategy (2016). Agriculture Development Strategy (2014) also have gaps on institutional arrangement, research and development, and on coordination mechanism for promoting agroforestry in Nepal.

Table 3. Existing agriculture and forestry laws, and other policies, guidelines and strategies of Government of Nepal dealing with agroforestry and tree plantations inside and outside forest areas

S. No.	Law/Policy/Guidelines/Action Plan/Review	Year of original document	Mention about Agroforestry and trees outside forests with page number	Constraint	Web Link	Inference
1.	Private Forest Nationalization Act	(2013)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After the commencement of this act, ownership of all private forests in Nepal has been accrued by the Government. (PP 2) • This act was primarily concerned with bringing an end to indiscriminate felling of trees in the Terai forests and the unregulated trade of timber with a view to check the further degradation of forests in the country. 	<p>Led to overgrazing and destruction of trees cover in private farm lands.</p> <p>No compensation</p>	<p>http://www.lawcommission.gov.np/en/documents/2015/08/private-forests-nationalization-act-2013-1957.pdf (Nepal Rajapatra, Vol. 6, No.39, Magh 22, 2013 (February 5, 1957))</p>	Act does not include tree plantations on agriculture lands
2.	National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act,	1973	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These laws have restrictions to cut, clear, fell, remove or block trees, plants, bushes or any other forest resources, or do anything to cause any forest resources dry, 	Local peoples and forest product-based	<p>http://www.lawcommission.gov.np/en/documents/2</p>	Act does not include tree plantations on agriculture lands

			<p>or set it on fire, or otherwise harm or damage it, inside national parks and reserves. However, the prescribed officer may, if he/she deems necessary for the proper management of a national park or reserve, hunt, remove any natural resources or perform any other necessary activities inside the national park or reserve, and may provide prescribed forest products or other services by collecting prescribed fees inside a national park or reserve. (pp 4 and 7)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Warden shall carry out works relating to the management and conservation of the buffer Zone. Provided that ownership of the land of the local People shall not be affected while managing and conserving the areas. (pp 3) • The warden, in co-ordination with local authorities, may form a user’s committee for the management of fallen trees, dry wood, firewood and grass in a national park, reserve, conservation area or buffer zone. (pp 7) • Up to thirty to fifty percent of the amounts earned by a national park, reserve or conservation area may be expended, in co- 	enterprises suffer from the lack of basic forest products	015/08/national-parks-and-wildlife-conservation-act-2029-1973.pdf	
--	--	--	--	---	---	--

Technical support to formulate a National Agroforestry Policy for Nepal, 2018

			ordination with the local authorities for community development of local people. (pp 11)			
3.	National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (first Amendment) Act, 2031(1975)". 2031/6/20	1975		Local peoples and forest product-based enterprises suffer from the lack of basic forest products	http://www.lawcommission.gov.np/en/documents/2015/08/national-parks-and-wildlife-conservation-act-2029-1973.pdf	Act does not include tree plantations on agriculture lands
4.	National Forest Plan	1976	The National Forestry Plan 1976 was the first forest policy in Nepal, which envisaged the proper and sustainable development of forests and forest industries, with an emphasis on making the country self-reliant in the daily needs of its people for fodder, fuel wood and timber (pp 9).		Financing for Sustainable Forest Management in Nepal http://lib.icimod.org/record/3388	Act does not include tree plantations on agriculture lands
5.	Forest Act 1961 amended	1978	The Panchayat Forest Rules and the Panchayat Protected Rules of 1978 allowed	Real users were not		<i>Also, it is not clear if in</i>

Technical support to formulate a National Agroforestry Policy for Nepal, 2018

	in 1978 has formulated Panchayat Forest Rules and Panchayat Protected Forest Rules		communities to manage barren or degraded lands for forest production. Areas of national forest handed over to Panchayat for the development of plantations has been termed Panchayat Forests (PF), whereas those areas of national forest handed over to Panchayat for their protection and management known as Panchayat Protected Forests (PPF). (pp 4 and 5)	involved, and therefore, local people could not feel themselves as the legal owners of the forests.	http://thereddesk.org/countries/laws/panchayat-forest-and-panchayat-protected-forest-rules-nepal	<i>Panchayat Forests, and in Panchayat Protected Forests there will be any restrictions on felling and transport of trees by the communities?</i>
6.	National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (Second Amendment) Act, 2039(1982)". 2039/9/8.	1982		Local peoples and forest product-based enterprises suffer from the lack of basic forest products	http://www.lawcommission.gov.np/en/documents/2015/08/national-parks-and-wildlife-conservation-act-2029-1973.pdf	Act does not include tree plantations on agriculture lands
7.	National Parks	1989		Local peoples and forest	http://www.lawcommission.gov.np/en/documents/2015/08/national-parks-and-wildlife-conservation-act-2029-1973.pdf	Act does not include tree

Technical support to formulate a National Agroforestry Policy for Nepal, 2018

	and Wildlife Conservation (Third Amendment) Act, 2046 (1989)". 2046/6/11			product-based enterprises suffer from the lack of basic forest products	n.gov.np/en/documents/2015/08/national-parks-and-wildlife-conservation-act-2029-1973.pdf	plantations on agriculture lands
8.	Master Plan for the Forestry Sector	1989	MPFS has emphasized the forest development plan for the supply of main forest products. This plan has given priority to community and private forestry, and national and leasehold forestry. These programs are designed to supply fuel wood, fodder and timber for households and for construction and industrial purposes.(pp 40)	There is no envision of agroforestry and its institutional arrangement	http://www.forestrynepal.org/images/publications/mpfs_imapacts_monitoring_i.pdf http://www.forestrynepal.org/images/publications/institutional_development-plan.pdf	Promotes supply of fuel wood, fodder and timber for households and for construction and industrial purposes

Technical support to formulate a National Agroforestry Policy for Nepal, 2018

					http://www.orestrynepal.org/images/publications/MPFS_Summary1.pdf	
9.	Administration of Justice Act, 2048 (1991) 2048/2/16	1991		Local peoples and forest product-based enterprises suffer from the lack of basic forest products	http://www.lawcommission.gov.np/en/documents/2015/08/national-parks-and-wildlife-conservation-act-2029-1973.pdf	Act does not include tree plantations on agriculture lands

Technical support to formulate a National Agroforestry Policy for Nepal, 2018

10.	National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (Fourth Amendment) Act, 2049 (1992)". 2050/2/27	1992		Local peoples and forest product-based enterprises suffer from the lack of basic forest products	http://www.lawcommission.gov.np/en/documents/2015/08/national-parks-and-wildlife-conservation-act-2029-1973.pdf	Act does not include tree plantations on agriculture lands
11.	Nepal Environment Policy and Action Plan	1993	Nepal Environment Policy and Action Plan 1993 encourages the planting of trees, shrubs and grasses on private land to provide additional source of fodder for livestock to conserve natural environment. (pp 18)	-	https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/import/downloads/nepap1.pdf	Apparently, no restrictions imposed
12.	Forest Act, 1993 and its regulation 1995	1993 / 1995	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a provision of leasehold forest on Article 6 of the Forest Act 1993, and in its regulation 1995. Agroforestry work can be conducted to develop and conserve leasehold forests. • There is a provision of private forest in Article 8 of Forest Act 1993 and Article 7 of Forest Regulation 1995, which encourages 	Certificate of private forest need to be taken by the farmers registering private forest in the District Forest Office	GON law books http://www.foresstrynepal.org/images/Forest_Act_of_Nepal_1993.pdf	Farmers growing private forests need to obtain "Private forest certificate" for harvesting and transportation of forest products.

Technical support to formulate a National Agroforestry Policy for Nepal, 2018

			<p>farmers to establish private plantation adopting agroforestry technology.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmers having private forest should obtain private forest certificate for harvesting and transportation of forest products. Upon the recommendation letter provided by the member of the Village Development Committee or Municipality, which should be informed to the District Forest Office and shown in forest product check post during transportation of tree product obtained from agroforestry system. • According to this act and regulation, farmers who have no private forest certificate must submit application to the District forest Office for permission letter to harvest trees. After harvesting trees, transport permit should also be taken from the District Forest Office for the transportation of forest products. • According to the Article 4 of Forest Regulation 1995, Community Forest User Group can also practice agroforestry technology growing perennial cash crops except cereal crops in community forest areas without any harm in density and 	<p>for obtaining transportation permits of forest products, which is huge burden for farmers living in remote areas.</p>	<p>http://www.lawcommission.gov.np/en/documents/2015/08/forest-rules-2051-1995.pdf</p>	<p>If farmer does not have “Forest Certificate”, a permission to harvest has to be obtained from District Forest Office. In addition, a</p>
--	--	--	---	--	--	---

Technical support to formulate a National Agroforestry Policy for Nepal, 2018

			<p>productivity of the main forest products. This agroforestry provision in community forest areas needs to be written in community forest operational plan.</p>			<p>transport permission is to be obtained from the District Forest Officer.</p> <p>Not clear if there is a restriction on harvesting and transport of the perennial cash crop (trees) grown by the Forests Users Group inside the forests</p>
13.	<p>Forest (First Amendment) Rules, 2056 (1999) 2056 .05.21 (6 Sept. 1999)</p>	1999	<p>These rules and regulations classify forest into following categories, and explain kind of restrictions applicable: Government managed forests: The Government of Nepal by publishing a notification in the Nepal Gazette may impose a ban on the collection, use, sale, distribution and transportation of any specified category of Forest Products. (pp 8) Protected forests: It is declared for the protection of a forest and biodiversity, and</p>	<p>Agroforestry is not considered as separate forest types or category</p>	<p>http://www.lawcommission.gov.np/en/documents/2015/08/forest-rules-2051-1995.pdf</p>	<p>Registering Private Forests, and permission for transporting required</p>

		<p>the Authorized Officer may issue a License for forest products from a protected forest based on procedures and quantities specified in work plan. (pp 13)</p> <p>Community forests: Community forest user group can plant any cash crops (long term) other than food crops in the community forest without adversely affecting the crown cover and production of the main forest products. Details related to such crops should be written in operational plan. (pp 17)</p> <p>CF timber shall be transported only after informing the relevant Forest Office in advance and having it endorsed by check posts located en route, and other Forest Products other than timber may be transported after informing the District Forest Office in advance and obtaining a permit from the person or Committee designated by the Users Group. (pp 20)</p> <p>Leasehold forests: Leasehold Forest Policy 2002 have further specified the provision to hand-over any part of national forest as leasehold forest to the individuals or group of the people or to the corporate bodies for the production and sale of forest products;</p>			
--	--	---	--	--	--

		<p>production of raw materials for the forest based industries; protection and development of forest for the eco-tourism business; agroforestry purposes as well as for wild life farming; over a time bound period of time with the charge of royalty.</p> <p>The pro-poor leasehold forestry program was started to improve livelihood of poor households, in which national forests having crown cover less than 20% have been handed over on lease for 40 years to poor households on group.</p> <p>It is prohibited to operate anything other than that specified in the operational plan. (pp 29)</p> <p>Religious forests: National forests handed over to any religious body or group or community is known as religious forests. The concerned religious body should start working according to the operational plan within the three months of handover.</p> <p>Private forests: Any person or institution desiring of having a registration of the</p>			
--	--	---	--	--	--

Technical support to formulate a National Agroforestry Policy for Nepal, 2018

			<p>private forest submit an application in the concerned District Forest Office along with evidence to prove ownership over the land. The District Forest Officer makes necessary enquiries into an application and registers the concerned land as a Private Forest mentioning the species and numbers of trees. Farmers having private forest certificate should notify concerned DFO at least 24 hours before transportation forest product upon the recommendation letter provided by the member of the Village Development Committee or Municipality. The owner of a Private Forest not registered private forest submits an application to the District Forest Office either directly or through the Area Forest Office to cut and transport trees on his Private Forest. The District Forest Officer may conduct necessary enquiries into the application and grant permission to cut and transport the trees. (pp 37)</p>			
14.	Revised Forestry Sector Policy	2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote private forestry by encouraging plantation on farms and other private land. • Promote agroforestry techniques like the intercropping of fruit trees with medicinal 	There is no institutional arrangement and coordination	http://www.dofdocs.gov.np/downloads.php?file=24_F	Promotes tree plantation on farm and private lands

Technical support to formulate a National Agroforestry Policy for Nepal, 2018

			<p>and aromatic plants as well as other multiple land-use techniques adopted to various farming systems as well as to commercial plantations. (pp 19)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct research on and develop alternative and fast-growing species suitable for agroforestry. (pp 23) • Ensure the functional integration of research and development in the departments of the MFSC so that each benefits from co-operation and firm leadership. (pp 26) 	and linkage mechanism between concerned line agencies for agroforestry research, planning and implementation	orestry_Sector_Policy_2000.pdf&contentid=72	
15.	Forest (Second Amendment) Rules, 2059 (2002) 205 9.04.27 (12 Aug. 2002)	2002		Agroforestry is not considered as separate forest types or categories.	http://www.lawcommission.gov.np/en/documents/2015/08/forest-rules-2051-1995.pdf	Registering Private Forests, and permission for transporting required
16.	Leasehold Forestry Policy	2002	It has provision to hand-over any part of national forests and degraded forest having crown cover less than 20% as leasehold forest to the individuals or group of the people or to the corporate bodies for the production and sale of forest products; production of raw materials for the forest	Lengthy process for handing over of national forest to individual person or	http://erg.com.np/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/leaseho ld-	<i>Encourages tree plantation to regenerate forests</i>

Technical support to formulate a National Agroforestry Policy for Nepal, 2018

			<p>based industries; protection and development of forest for the eco-tourism business; agro-forestry purposes as well as for wild life farming; over a time bound period of time with the charge of royalty. (pp 9, 10, 11 and 14)</p> <p>The pro-poor leasehold forestry program started to improve livelihood of poor households, in which national forests having crown cover less than 20% have been handed over on lease for 40 years to poor households on group. (pp 10)</p> <p>It is prohibited to operate anything other than that specified in the operational plan.</p>	entrepreneur .	policy-2002.pdf	
17.	National Wetland Policy	2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine and implement special programs for the restoration of disappeared wetlands by promoting the involvement of local communities and local bodies. (pp 9) • Prioritize and implement wetlands conservation programs that provide tangible benefit to local people and improve their living conditions. (pp 12) 	No mention of developing wet lands through agroforestry/ tree plantation	http://www.dofdocs.gov.np/downloads.php?file=national+wetland+policy%2C+2003.pdf&contentid=78	Not clear if agroforestry/ tree plantation is included as one of the approaches to develop wetlands

Technical support to formulate a National Agroforestry Policy for Nepal, 2018

18.	Herbs and NTFP Development Policy	2004	Government of Nepal has prioritized 30 medicinal and aromatic plants for research and cultivation for Nepal.		http://www.mfsc.gov.np/downloadfile/11_NTFPPolicy_1331617429_1498635419.pdf	
19.	Terai Area Landscape Strategy, 2004–2014	2004	Incentive packages and market information will be undertaken for the effective promotion of agroforestry activities in TAL areas. (pp 31)		http://www.dofdocs.gov.np/downloads.php?file=tal_strategic_plan_20100323034613.pdf&contentid=81	
20.	Gender and Social Inclusion Strategy in the Forestry Sector, 2004-19	2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide for at least 33 percent reservation for women candidates, particularly from excluded groups, in new staff recruitment and selection. (pp 6) • Ensure proportional representation of women, Dalit, Janajati and other excluded groups in executive committee forest user groups. (pp 8) 	-	http://www.msfp.org.np/uploads/publications/file/MFSC%20OGSI%20Strategy%20(English%20Version)_	Encourages gender participation

Technical support to formulate a National Agroforestry Policy for Nepal, 2018

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement intensive income generation programs and for forest management of private and public lands. (pp 8) 		20130129010447.pdf	
21.	Agriculture Policy	2004	Agriculture policy 2004 has made agroforestry provision for the purpose of upgrading forests and other lands to reduce poverty in the country. (pp 7)		http://nnfsp.gov.np/PublicationFiles/124863a3-8a3d-4742-9128-8cfb6f457bec.pdf	
22.	Forest (Third Amendment) Rules, 2062 (2005)	2005		Agroforestry is not considered as separate forest types or categories.	http://www.lawcommission.gov.np/en/documents/2015/08/forest-rules-2051-1995.pdf	Registering Private Forests, and permission for transporting required
23.	Agriculture Business Promotion Policy	2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land ceiling will not be applicable for the encouragement of national priority export-oriented agriculture business. (pp 4) No tenancy right in lease farming land. (pp 5) 		http://www.nnfsp.gov.np/PublicationFiles/c4067347-0b56-4025-95b4-	

Technical support to formulate a National Agroforestry Policy for Nepal, 2018

					53a15efc2e7a.pdf	
24.	Range land policy	2010	Rangeland based herbs, plants, forages, livestock, birds, local knowledge, skills, practices, technologies and products will be conserved and promoted (pp 5). Research on rangeland will be accorded priority in Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC) system, Department of Forest Research and Survey, Department of Botany and other concerned national and international educational institutions. Research on production status, areas converge, use in pasture land of new forage species will be done in coordination and participation of national research institutions, universities, government departments and local communities (pp 8)	Not mention about improvement of range through agroforestry practices	http://www.npafc.gov.np/content.php?id=261	-
25.	Climate Change Policy	2011	Climate Change Policy 2011 also suggests the implementation of agro-forestry programs for soil conservation needed for reducing the impacts of climate change. (pp 9)	No institutional arrangement for research and coordination mechanism	http://www.climatenepal.org.np/main/downloadFile.php?fn=fcy7m8j1h3v.pdf&f	

Technical support to formulate a National Agroforestry Policy for Nepal, 2018

				for agroforestry promotion in Nepal	t=application/pdf&d=publication	
26.	Agriculture policy collection	2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agroforestry systems will be developed for the improvement of degraded forests and watershed, and biodiversity conservation and utilization and management. (pp 10) • Private and government land leasing provision for commercially coffee production. (pp 42). 	Not mentioned about Rubber plantation development and management through agroforestry.	http://nnfsp.gov.np/PublicationFiles/ac96544e-f499-4d5b-a678-dcce99366205.pdf	
27.	The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan	2014	The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2014 is the recent important policy document which highlights the importance of NGOs for agroforestry promotion in public lands for biodiversity conservation. (pp 49)		https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/np/np-nbsap-v2-en.pdf	
28.	Agriculture Development Strategy	2014	ADS 2014 is the recent policy document of Nepal, which highlights the development of integrate land use models with productive, commercial and socially inclusive models. According to the ADS 2014, 80% of total cultivated land in Nepal is used to grow cereals crops. But there is high possibility for	No institutional arrangement for research and development and	http://www.nnfsp.gov.np/PublicationFiles/bf53f040-32cb-4407-a611-	

Technical support to formulate a National Agroforestry Policy for Nepal, 2018

			<p>other types of agricultural land uses including horticultural products, forages, agroforestry, livestock and fishery production.</p> <p>The total cost for the implementation of the ADS Action Plan for the first 10 years is estimated to be Rs 501.8 billion, in which 8% cost is allotted for forestry and agroforestry. (pp 17, 18 and 26)</p>	<p>coordination mechanism for agroforestry promotion in Nepal</p>	<p>d891935d2e97.pdf</p>	
29.	Forest Policy	2015	<p>Forest Policy 2015 is the recent important policy document highlighting plantation programs in private land and cost-effective soil and water conservation and agroforestry system development through action research and technology would be handed over to farmers. Soil conservation programs will be conducted adjusting forest and agriculture system for food production and food security. (pp 11)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Degraded national forest lands are provided as leasehold forest for agroforestry development involving private sector or individuals or group of pro-poor farmers. (pp 15) 	<p>No institutional arrangement for research and development ; and coordination mechanism for agroforestry promotion water source protection</p>	<p>http://mfsc.gov.np/downloadfile/book%20Final3_1423839826_1424075607.pdf</p>	
30.	Forestry Sector Strategy	2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote community based and private forest enterprises for livelihoods 	<p>No institutional arrangement</p>	<p>Book</p>	

Technical support to formulate a National Agroforestry Policy for Nepal, 2018

			<p>improvement and wealth creation especially for poorer people. (pp 7)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote agroforestry in existing privately-owned farmlands (pp 51) targeting 200,000 ha private forest covers by the year 2025. (pp 8) 	<p>for research and development , coordination mechanism for agroforestry promotion water source protection</p>		
--	--	--	--	---	--	--

Above analysis indicates interest and willingness of various Government agencies to promote agroforestry, and several good attempts have been made. However, the approach (various plans, policies, strategies and recommendations) requires more convergence and coordination with an independent point of view focusing on agroforestry. As it is almost impossible to modify so many existing policies/ strategies; replicating the successful Indian approach of having an exclusive agroforestry policy will be a practical, faster and logical option. Thus, developing agroforestry policy is a need of the country.

Activity No. 2: Capacity building of Ministries of Agriculture, Forest, and Environment in policy development

An educational/ interaction trip was arranged to India for following IMCC members during August 7-13, 2017:

- Lekha Nath Acharya, Joint Secretary, MOAD & Coordinator, IMCC
- Dhananjay Paudel, Joint Secretary, MFSC
- Bansi Sharma, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Livestock
- Keshab Adhikari, Under Secretary, MOAD
- Basudev, Under Secretary, MOAD
- Ram Pantha, Under Secretary, MOEP & NDE-CTCN

Senior officers from the Ministry of Agriculture Development (MoAD), Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation (MoFSC), Ministry of Population and Environment (MoPE), and the Ministry of Livestock Development (MoLD) who were the members of the IMCC & were actively involved in the development of the policy joined this trip. The NDE for CTCN from MoPE was also part of this delegation. Originally, the above mentioned 6 members delegation led by the Coordinator of the IMCC were scheduled to visit, but due to some last-minute changes by Nepal Government, the Coordinator of IMCC was officiated by Dr. Dhananjay Paudel, Joint Secretary, MFSC & a member of IMCC. He was designated as the leader of the group.

During this trip, IMCC members interacted with senior policy makers of India who were involved in the formulation of the Indian Agroforestry Policy; and then continued contributing to its implementation. Besides, IMCC members exchanged ideas with the Director of the agroforestry mission of India (Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture), who also heads the implementation of the policy. In addition, members interacted with number of stakeholders who played pivotal role in the development & implementation of Indian policy, including the Director General of the Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR). In addition, IMCC members visited the Central

Technical support to formulate a National Agroforestry Policy for Nepal, 2018

Agroforestry Research Institute (CAFRI) of the Government of India located at Jhansi (UP). Members studied the process that was used to develop the Indian agroforestry policy and discussed how the methodology and approach could be useful in Nepal. Vital linkages were established between Indian and Nepali policy makers/ researchers, and with relevant institutions. ICRAF throughout the process of the development of policy in Nepal, facilitated a continued formal and informal exchange of ideas between the policy makers of the two countries.

Technical support to formulate a National Agroforestry Policy for Nepal, 2018



3. Briefing of Nepali delegation at South Asia Regional Program, ICRAF
4. Meeting with the Director General, ICAR and Secretary ICAR
5. Meeting with the Director, Central Agroforestry Research Institute of India

1. Meeting with the Director, Agroforestry Mission and for Policy implementation, Ministry of Agriculture
2. 6- Field visits

Evaluation of the visit

The study visit was evaluated by the visitors on a scale of 1-5 (1 lowest, 5 highest). Following questions were asked before and after the visit.

- A. Understanding about agroforestry and its benefits?
- B. Opinion about the need of agroforestry policy for Nepal?
- C. What benefits Nepal may expect if an agroforestry policy is developed and implemented?
- D. India is really getting benefits through policy interventions?
- E. Lessons learned in India can be useful for Nepal?
- F. Will agroforestry policy benefit farmers?
- G. Will policy facilitate investment by Government and private sector?

Analysis of the response demonstrated that the understanding of participants on all the above was enhanced through interaction with Indian stakeholders. An overall 40% improvement was recorded in the responses.

Activity No. 3: Holding consultation workshops in three major regions of Nepal

Three regional workshops were organized in 1) District Mustang in high mountain region, 2) district Dhankuta in middle mountain, and 3) Chitwan in plain region (Figure-1). Representatives from a wide range of stakeholder from both the Government (Federal and local); and non-government organizations (NGOs/ associations/ cooperatives/ farmer associations/ forest users associations); and market and industry contributed to these workshops.

Stakeholders' details

Participants from agriculture, horticulture, forest, soil conservation, livestock, agroforestry, and women and child development departments represented the Federal and local governments. Whereas participants from education and research institutions; farmers' group, cooperatives, NGOs and INGOs, and markets and industry represented the non-governmental stakeholders. Effort was made to maintain a 50:50 ratio between these two major stakeholder groups (Figure -2). Each of these workshops was facilitated and coordinated by at least 2 IMCC members. Number of participants of was respectively, 24, 42, and 53 at Mustang, Dhankuta, and Chitwan. Largest group of stakeholders in these workshops was of farmers (28 %); followed by 17% from ministry/ department of agriculture; 11% from farmer's groups/ cooperatives; 10 % from local governing institutions; 7 % from ministry/ department of forest & soil Conservation, 6 % from livestock ministry/ department; 4% each from department of horticulture, academic and research institutions, and community forest associations; and 3 % each from market and industry,

Technical support to formulate a National Agroforestry Policy for Nepal, 2018

women and child development department, and from agroforestry staff based at different departments.

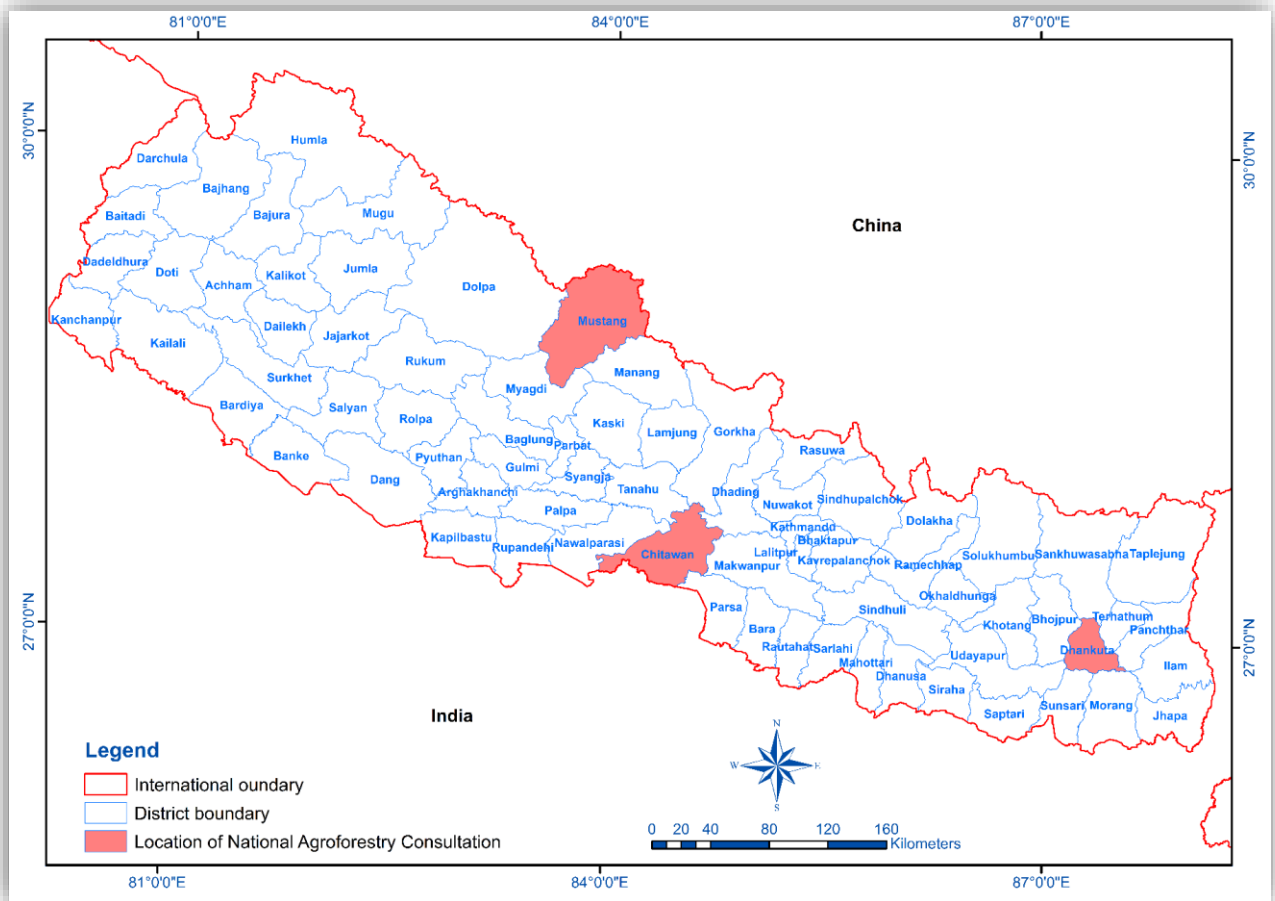
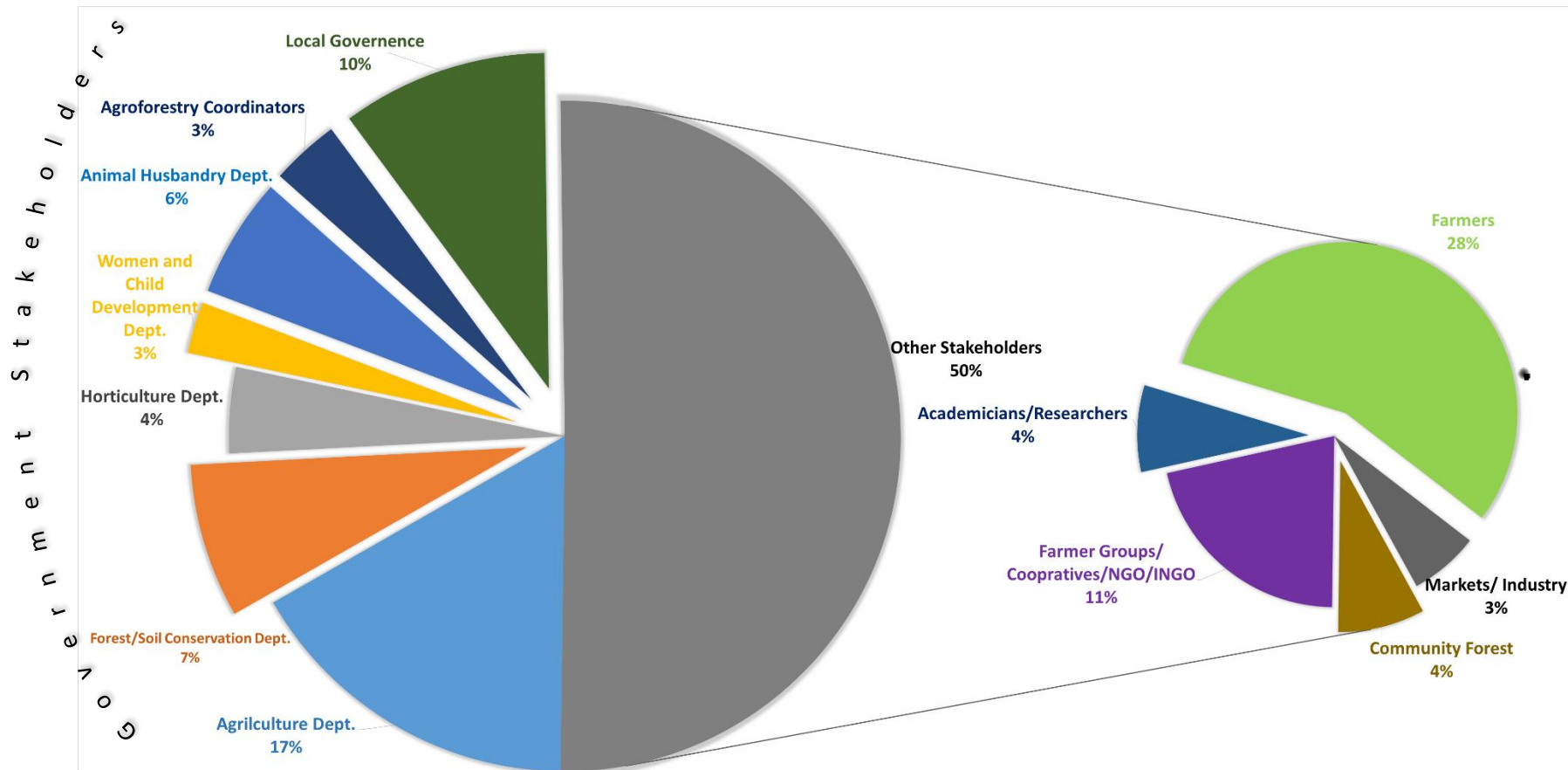


Figure 1- Sites of three regional workshops

Technical support to formulate a National Agroforestry Policy for Nepal, 2018



Besides a presentation on agroforestry, participants were asked to respond to 6 major questions summarized in table-4.

Table-4 Stakeholder’s response to questions on need, scope and potential of a National agroforestry policy

Question	Workshop location		
	Mustang	Dhankuta	Chitwan
Agroforestry (AF) policy required, Why?	Yes, To establish suitable institutional mechanism for agroforestry research, extension, capacity building, field activities planning and implementation and monitoring and evaluation.	Yes, AF is currently an un-organized sector.	Yes, It is needed to carry out forestry, agriculture and livestock activities in coordinated manner.
Ministries/ department/ Government institutions to be involved	National planning commission, MOAD, MFSC, MOLD and MOPE and NARC etc.	Agriculture, Forest & Livestock	Agriculture, Forest & Livestock
Coordination modality for AF policy	Through a national committee	Through a national committee headed by the Member of National Planning Commission.	Through a national level committee under the Chairmanship of the Secretary MOAD with involvement of Joint secretaries from concerned Ministries.
Implementation modality at district level	District Agriculture Development Office, District Soil Conservation Office, Annapurna Conservation Area	Institutions involved in agroforestry should be inclusive and active. National and district level coordination is required.	Through specifically established District Agroforestry Coordination committee (DAFCC) involving all line

Question	Workshop location		
	Mustang	Dhankuta	Chitwan
	Project (ACAP), Conservation Area Management Committee, District Livestock Service Office, DDC, VDC, WWF/Hariyo Ban and Himali Project and farmers and their cooperatives etc.	District Forestry Coordination committee (DFCC) is to be formed involving all line agencies, farmer groups and cooperatives, FECOFUN members, chamber of commerce and private sector.	agencies, farmer groups, cooperatives, FECOFUN members, chamber of commerce, and private sector.
Roles and responsibility of institutions	National coordination committee to oversee overall policy development, and eventually facilitates its implementation. District Agroforestry coordination committee (DAFCC) actually implement the policy	National coordination committee to oversee overall policy development, and eventually facilitates its implementation. District Agroforestry coordination committee (DAFCC) actually implement the policy	National coordination committee to oversee overall policy development, and eventually facilitates its implementation. District Agroforestry coordination committee (DAFCC) actually implement the policy
What aspects of agroforestry to be covered in policy	Legal issues on felling and transport & marketing of products, quality seed & planting material, demonstrations, capacity development, research & extension, risk avoidance (insurance) & motivation (incentive through payments), registration of	Legal issues on felling and transport & marketing of products, quality seed & planting material, demonstrations, capacity development, research & extension, risk avoidance (insurance) & motivation (incentive through payments), registration of	Legal issues on felling and transport & marketing of products, quality seed & planting material, demonstrations, capacity development, research & extension, risk avoidance (insurance) & motivation (incentive through payments), registration of

Question	Workshop location		
	Mustang	Dhankuta	Chitwan
	agroforestry plots, gender & social inclusion	agroforestry plots, gender & social inclusion	agroforestry plots, gender & social inclusion

Analysis of responses from stakeholders representing three regions clearly indicates need to develop and implement a national agroforestry policy. In addition, stakeholders also provided following existing challenges that go against adoption of agroforestry

- Constraints in practicing of agroforestry (poor availability of desired species, quality seeds and seedlings)
- Lack of knowledge and support to establish and manage agroforestry plantations
- Need of plot registration and certification Poor capacity of field staff, NGOs staff and farmers
- Difficulties in obtaining a permit to cut and transport trees?
- Fee payment structure to permits for one tree or for a lot, and to whom?
- Poor markets and marketing inks
- Middleman problem
- Problems due to absence of value chain and value addition facilities
- Gender and social inclusion
- Need of Agroforestry policy for Nepal

Other useful information:

Agroforestry: Farmers requirements, understanding and expectations:

These workshops provided an excellent opportunity to undertake a quick survey about perspective and thinking of farmers about agroforestry which gave following information:

Food Security status:

Farmers from one of the three regions, Chitwan (Plains or Terai) reported being food secured round the year (Figure- 3). Whereas the mid and high mountain regions reported food security only for 4.6 and 6.1 months, respectively. However, the food secured, communities of plain region still face challenge of nutritional in-security. Thus, policy must prioritize diversification of

food production in Chitwan. In contrast, the mid and high mountain regions will require push on both diversification and increased food production round the year.

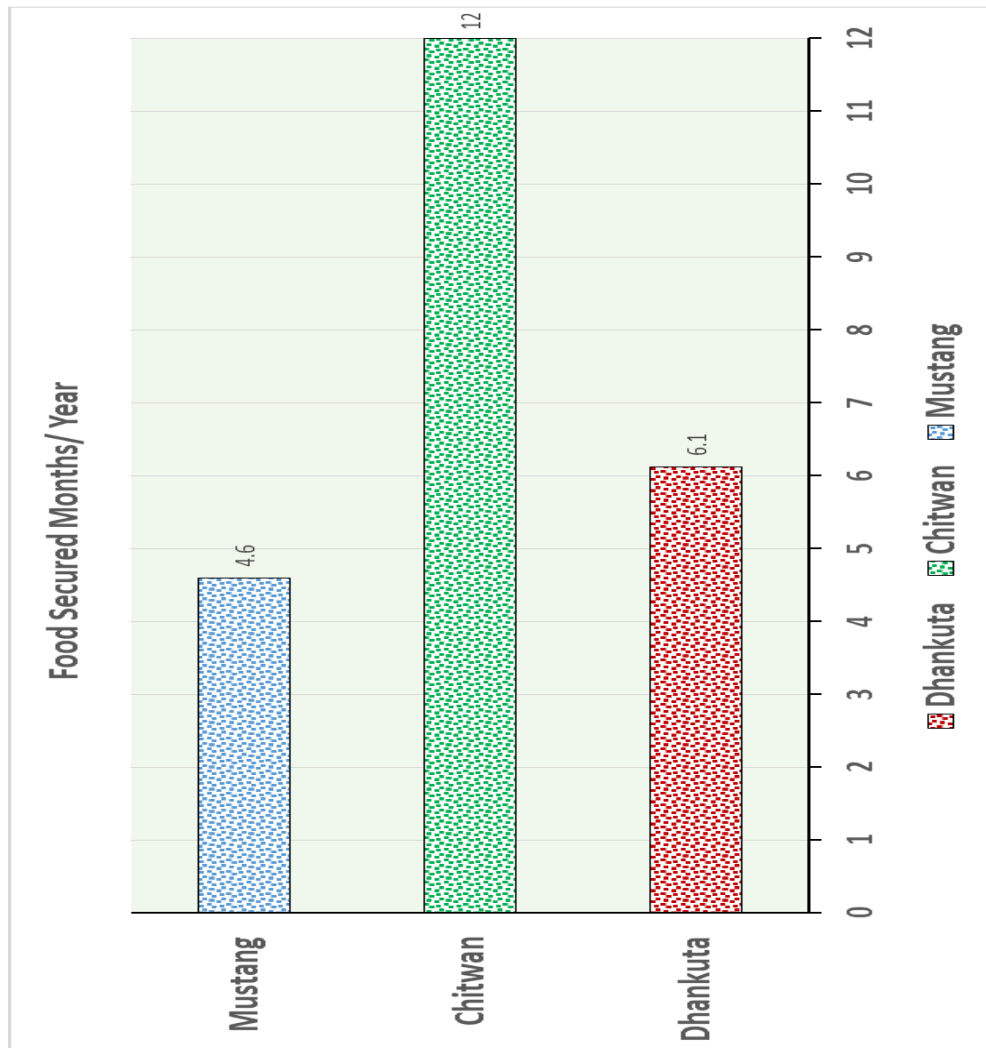


Figure- 3: Regional food security mapping

Farmers’ understanding about trees on farm, and appetite to increase the numbers:

It is encouraging to see that majority of farmers in mid-mountain and in plain region grow trees on their farms, and around their houses. Given the necessary support and opportunity, farmers expressed deep interest to increase the number of trees. Interestingly, the ratio of existing trees to farmers’ desire s was very high in plain region (0.03 to 5.0), as compared to 0.15 to 2.88 in mid-mountain region of Dhankuta (Figure 4 and 5).

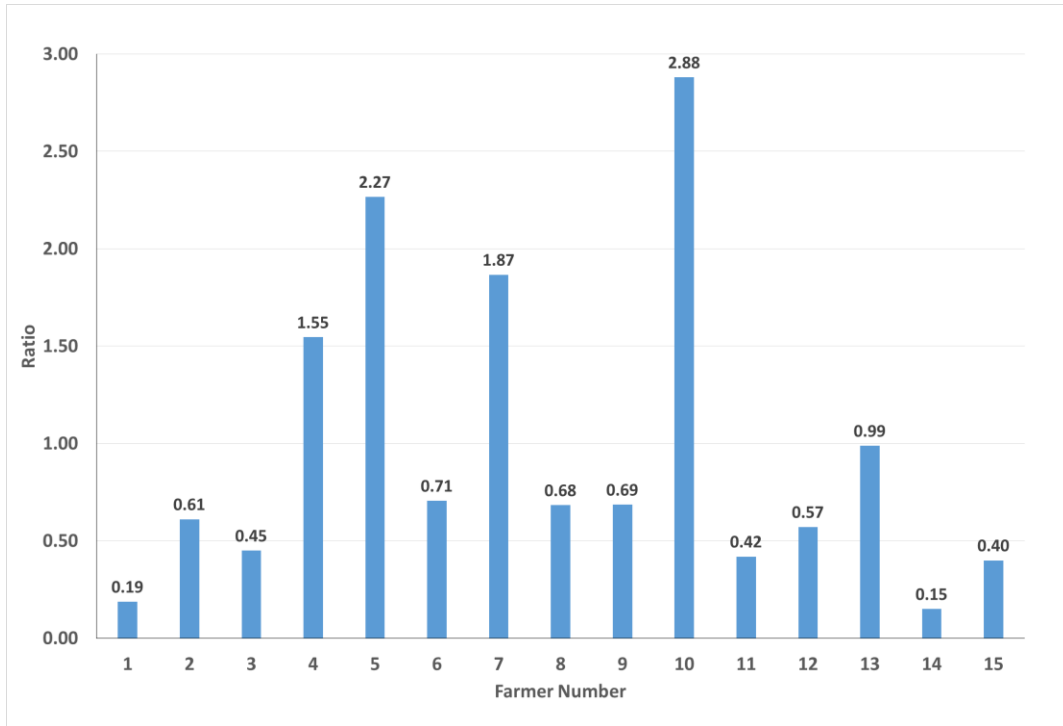


Figure 4: Ratio of existing trees on farmers' field to desire of increasing the numbers in Dhankuta

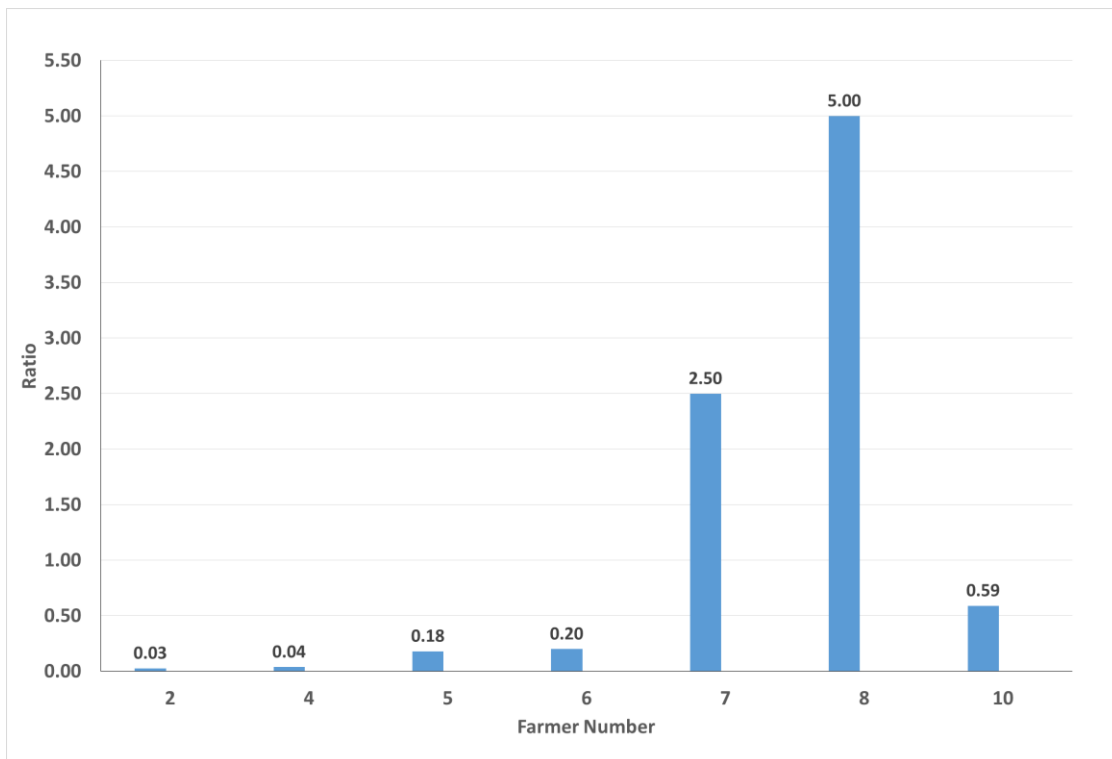


Figure-5: Ratio of existing trees on farmers' field to desire of increasing the numbers in

Chitwan

Farmers' understanding about problems in practicing agroforestry:

Some of the major responses included lack of proper knowledge (26%), and the challenge of open grazing system followed by rural communities (20%). Farmers also expressed other concerns that can be seen in Figure-6.

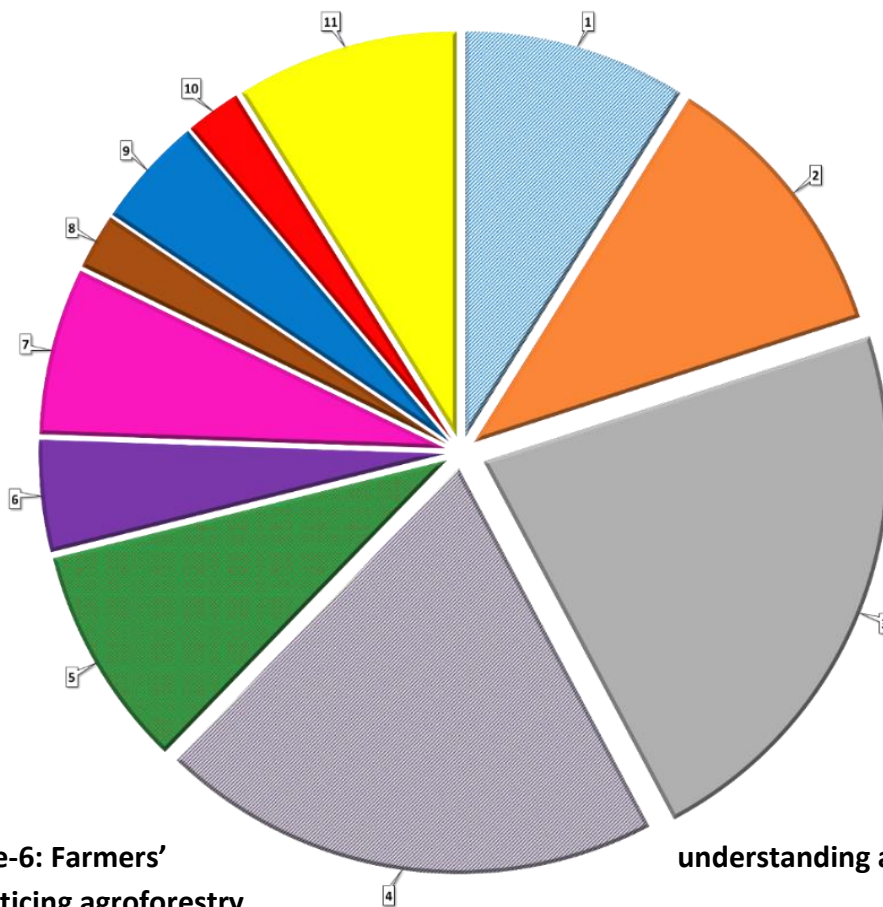


Figure-6: Farmers' understanding about problems in practicing agroforestry

understanding about problems

Captions for figure 6

- 1 Pest /diseases on A/F (9 %)
- 2 Difficult to Put fence for seedlings/Nursery (11 %)
- 3 Don't' know/ no idea/Knowledge about A/F (22 %)

4	Open Grazing (20 %)
5	Irrigation/drought (9 %)
6	Lack of capital for A/F (5 %)
7	Lack of availability of good quality planting material (7 %)
8	Good community forest farmers need reorganization (2 %)
9	Dose not aware about A/F (4 %)
10	No coordination between various departments for A/F (9 %)
11	Disturbance due to near forest (Animal/birds) (9 %)

Farmers’ understanding of challenges in harvesting /marketing agroforestry products:

About 25 % respondents do not have an understand the marketing of agroforestry products. Another 25 %, sell their produce in local markets. 9% of farmers complained about non-availability of markets. More than 40 % farmers sell at low prices due to poor access to larger markets. A 22 % reported not facing any problem in selling their agroforestry produce, but 19 % respondents complained facing severe difficulties and time required in obtaining necessary permits to cut and/ or transport trees (Figure-7).

Government support to promote agroforestry:

As there is no dedicated agency/ Government department to coordinate and support mainstreaming and adoption of agroforestry, various government departments/ agencies help farmers. About 20 % respondents indicated that Government support does not reach to their communities. Two of the most supportive government departments were identified as District Agriculture Development Office (DADO-27%) and the District Soil Conservation Office (DSCO-27%). About 24 % farmers also receive help from District Live Stock Office (DLSO), District Forest Office (DFO), Community Forest, and Annapurna Conservation Area Project (Figure-8).

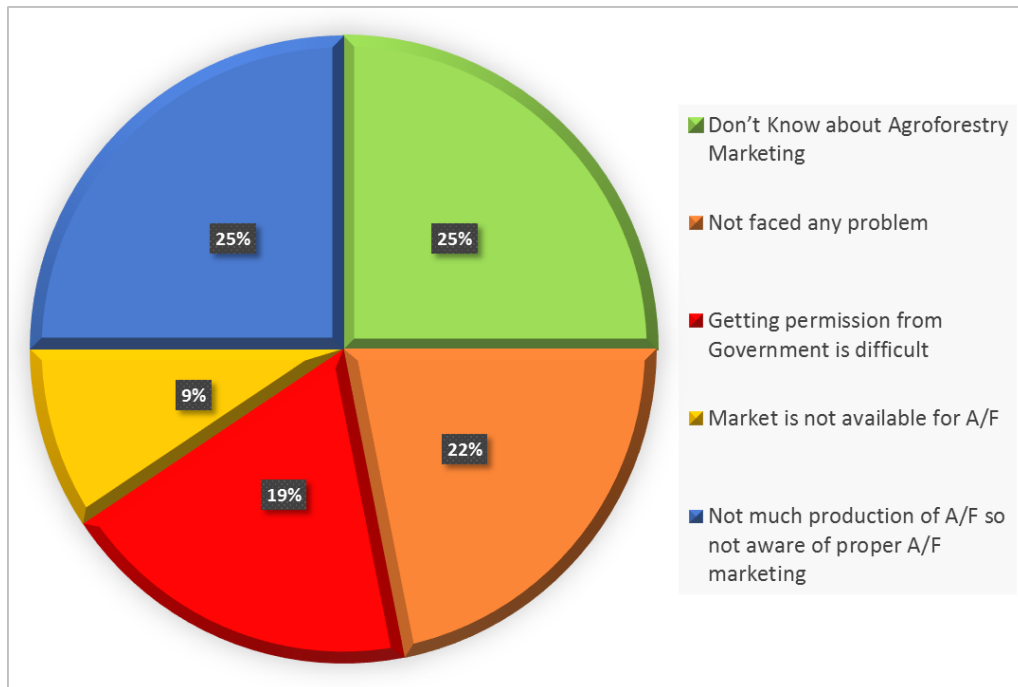


Figure-7: Farmers' understanding of challenges in harvesting and marketing agroforestry products

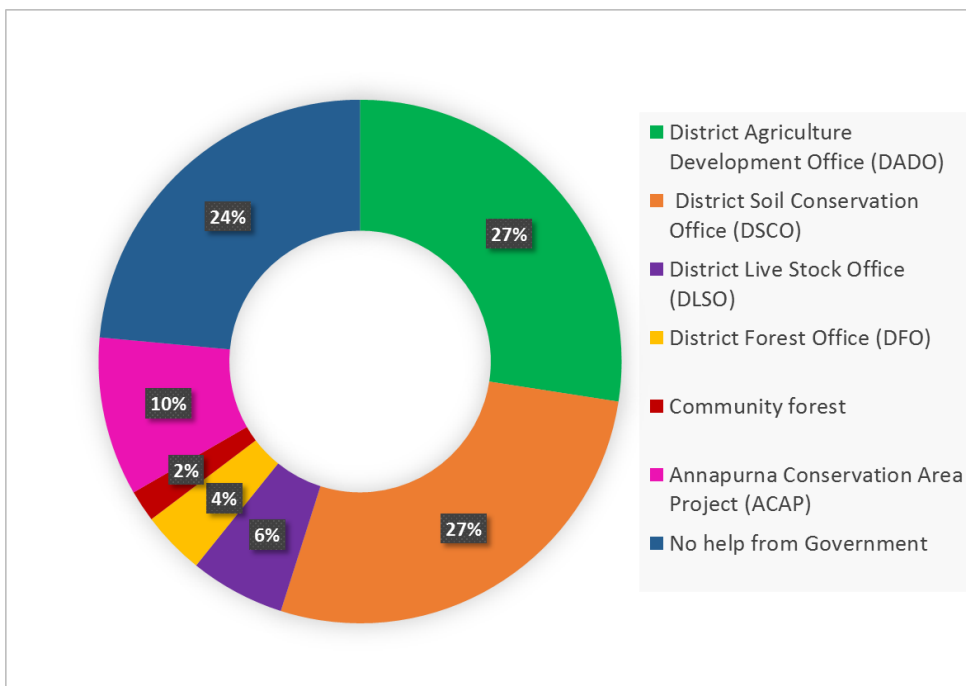


Figure-8: Government support to adopt agroforestry

Expectations of farmers from Government:

Farmers expressed eleven major expectations ranging from material and cash support, and minimum support price, and help in building capacity. Figure 9 illustrates the extent of various expectations.

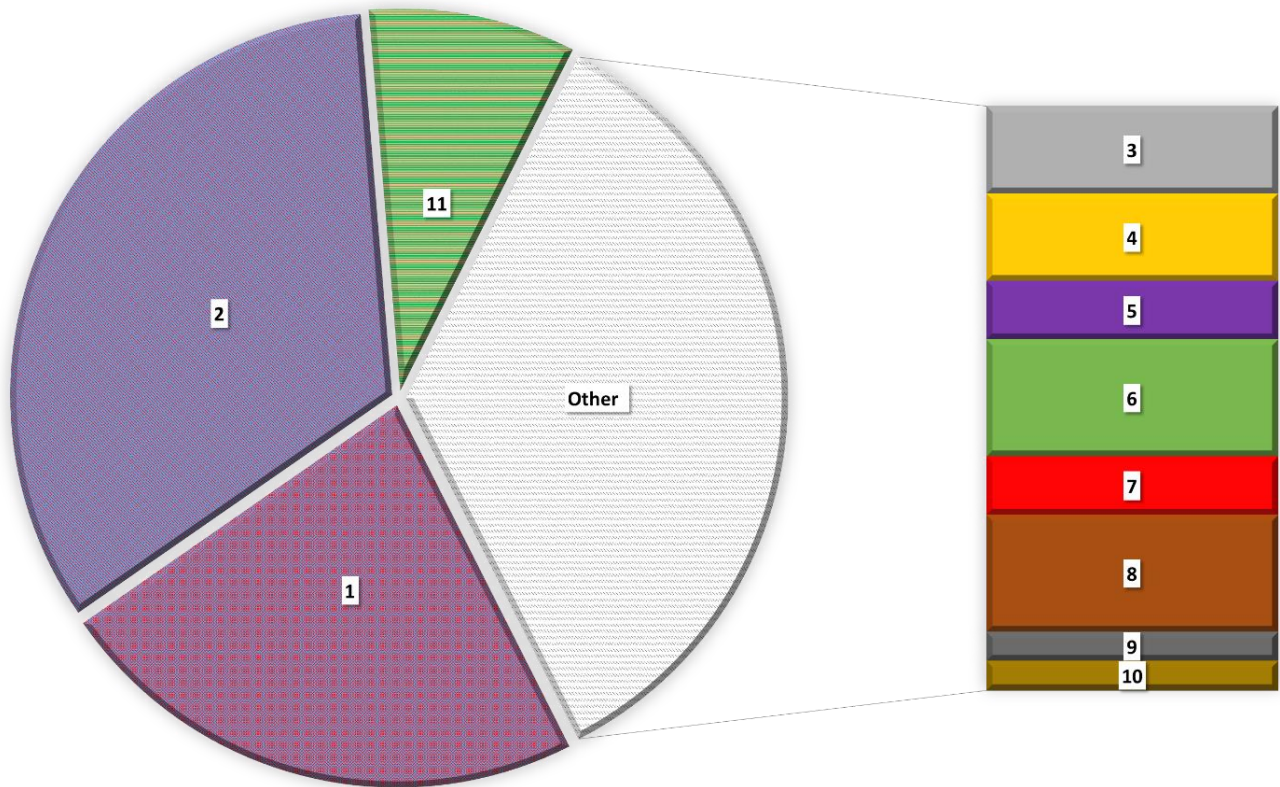


Figure-9. Expectations of farmers from Government

Captions for figure 9

- 1 Free quality seedlings (23 %)
- 2 Training on A/F (33 %)

- 3 Field visits (3 %)
- 4 Soil Testing (5 %)
- 5 Skill enhancement on nursery techniques (3 %)
- 6 Right for transport/selling A/ (7 %)
- 7 Subsidy for A/F (4 %)
- 8 Skill enhancement on A/F- fertilizer and nutrient management (7 %)
- 9 A/F extension worker for villages (2 %)
- 10 Fixed pricing for A/F (2 %)
Common lands to be developed for A/F (9 %)

Activity 4: Drafting of National Agroforestry Policy

A draft policy was developed using the information collected by reviewing the existing policies; and using inputs collected during three regional workshops. IMCC coordinated this procedure through a total of 14 meetings (9 times during the period of CTCN Technical Assistance, & 5 times before that). A consultant was hired to help the policy drafting process & experts from ICRAF; and senior policy makers & researchers from Indian institutions also supported the process. Regional Director of ICRAF for South Asia, who was ICRAF's lead researcher coordinated the technical assistance, and remained a member of the IMCC throughout the period of technical assistance. Draft thus developed was discussed with 187 stakeholders through three national workshops.

Activity 5: National multi-layered and Multi-Stakeholder Consultations

A total number of 187 stakeholders were consulted through three consultations. Details and an analysis of the 187 stakeholders who attended these consultations are given in Table- 5, and in Figures 10, 11 and 12. Inputs from these workshops were incorporated to the draft policy, and a revised draft policy was submitted to IMCC. Though the process of policy development is led by IMCC which is headed by the Ministry of Agriculture, the success of policy will eventually depend on the collaboration between the two nodal ministries: Agriculture and Forestry. Thus, the revised policy draft was again shared with the Ministry of Forest through a special meeting organized by the Secretary and Chaired by the Minister of Forest and Environment Ministry. The meeting was attended by 50 top ranking officials of the Ministry who further provided comments on the draft. In consultation with IMCC, the draft was again modified using these additional inputs from the Ministry of Forest; and the policy document was finalized.

Table-5: Details of participants in three national consultations

Sr. No	Consultation on 2nd November 2018 held at Dhulikhel	Consultation on 4th November 2018 held at Kathmandu	Consultation on 5th November 2018 held at Kathmandu
1	Ministry of Agricultural Development	Academicians	Seed Enterpruner's/Agroforestry Associations
2	Ministry of Livestock Development	Farmer /Agroforestry Association/Co-operatives	Ministry of Agricultural Development, Government of Nepal
3	Ministry of Land Reform & Management	Ministry of Agricultural Development, Government of Nepal	Seed Producer/Supplier/Nursery
4	Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development	National/ International NGOs	Farmers
5	Ministry of Population and Environment	Forest/ Fodder Associations	Media
6	Department of Food Technology and Quality Control	Agroforestry Industry/Trade/Private Sector/Export agencies	Ministry of Livestock Development, Govt. of Nepal
7	Department of Forest Research and Survey	Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation, Govt. of Nepal	International NGOs
8	Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation	Ministry of Livestock Development, Govt. of Nepal	Agriculture Information and Communication, Government of Nepal

Technical support to formulate a National Agroforestry Policy for Nepal, 2018

Sr. No	Consultation on 2 nd November 2018 held at Dhulikhel	Consultation on 4 th November 2018 held at Kathmandu	Consultation on 5 th November 2018 held at Kathmandu
9	Department of livestock services (DLS)	Women Associations	National Farmer Commission
10	Fruit Development Directorate	Annapurna Conservation Area Project	Agroforestry- Ayurveda Medicine Company
11	Conservation Development Board		Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation, Govt. of Nepal
12	Dept. of Plant Resources		
13	Timber/Forest Product Dev. Board		
14	National Planning Commission of Nepal		
15	District Officers (Agriculture Development, District Soil Conservation, Forest, Livestock)		
16			NGOs, Bank, Academicians, Agroforestry Industry and Media
Total participants	63	72	52

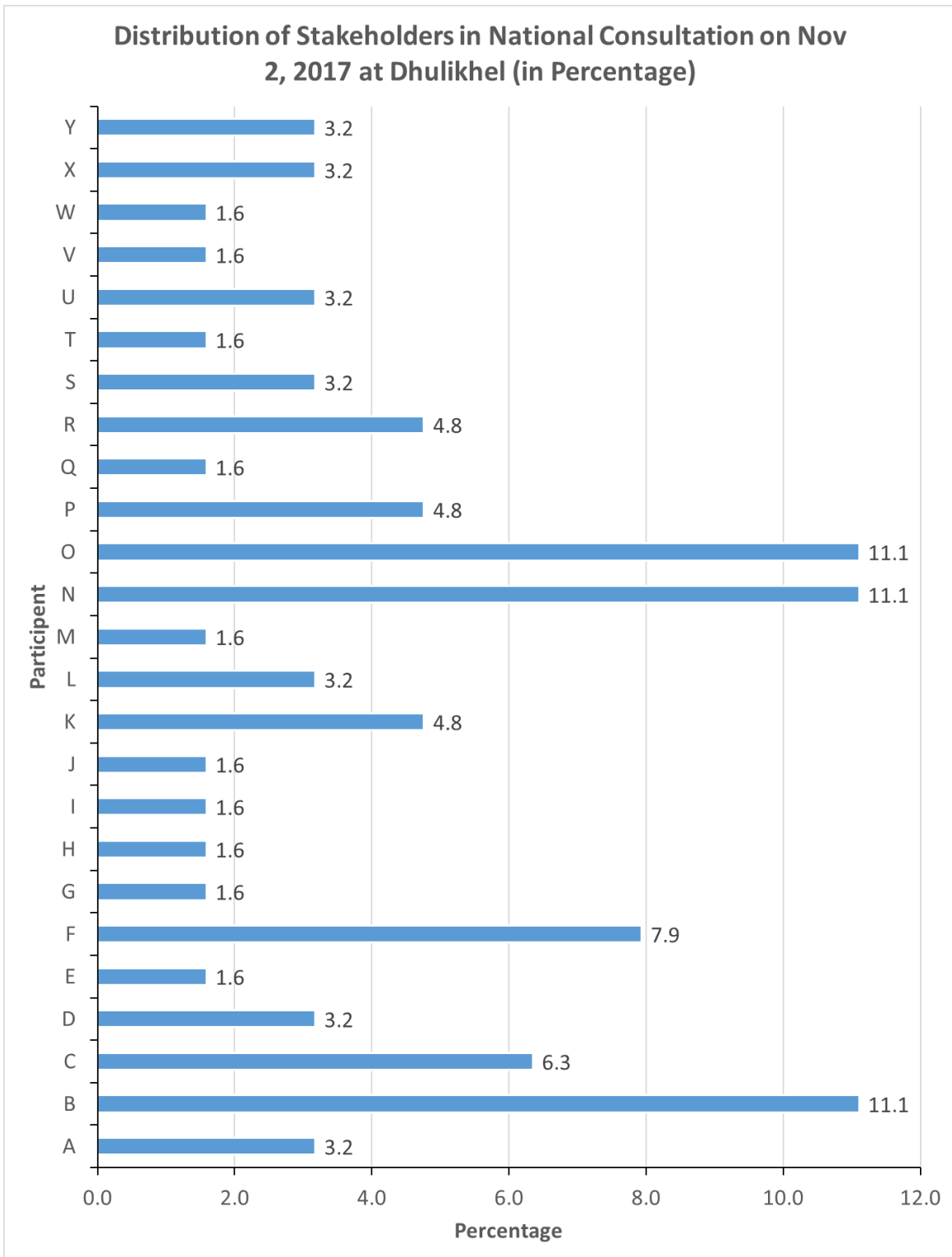


Fig. 10. Distribution of the participants in National consultations on 2nd November at Dhulikhel

Figure 10 legend

Legend	Category of participants
A	Bank
B	Ministry of Agricultural Development, Government of Nepal
C	Ministry of Livestock Development, Govt. of Nepal
D	Ministry of Land Reform & Management, Government of Nepal
E	Department of Food Technology and Quality Control, Government of Nepal
F	Academicians
G	Conservation Development Board
H	Department of Plant Resources, Government of Nepal
I	Media
J	Fruit Development Directorate, Government of Nepal
K	Distt. Livestock Officer, Government of Nepal
L	District Agriculture Development Officer, Karve
M	Department of Forest Research and Survey
N	District Soil Conservation Officers
O	Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation, Govt. of Nepal
P	District Forest Officer, Dhankuta
Q	Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development
R	International NGOs
S	Ministry of Population and Environment
T	Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation
U	Timber/Forest Product Dev. Board
V	Department of livestock services (DLS)Nepal
W	National Planning Commission of Nepal
X	Others
Y	Agroforestry Industry

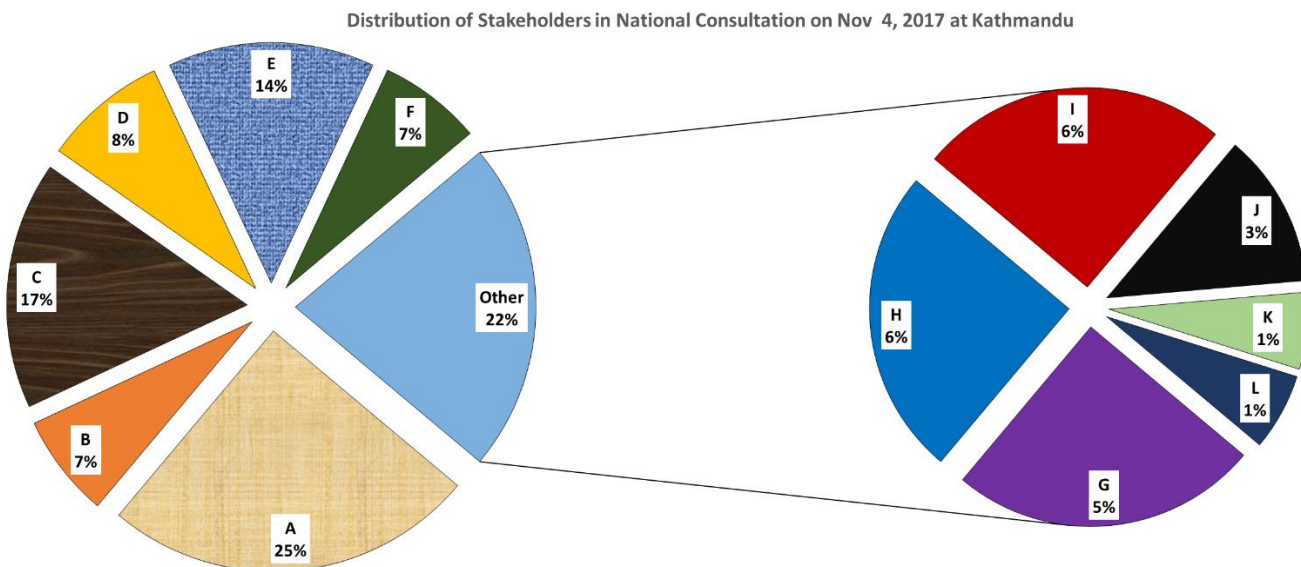


Fig. 11. Distribution of the participants in National consultations on 4th November at Kathmandu,

Figure 11 legend

Legend	Organization
A	Media
B	Academician
C	Farmer /Agroforestry Association/Cooperatives
D	Ministry of Agricultural Development, Government of Nepal
E	National/ International NGOs
F	Forest/ Fodder Associations
G	Agroforestry Industry/Trade/Private Sector/Export
H	Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation, Govt. of Nepal
I	Ministry of Livestock Development, Govt. of Nepal
J	Women Associations
K	Annapurna Conservation Area Project
L	Other

Distribution of Stakeholders in National Consultation on Nov 5, 2017 at Kathmandu

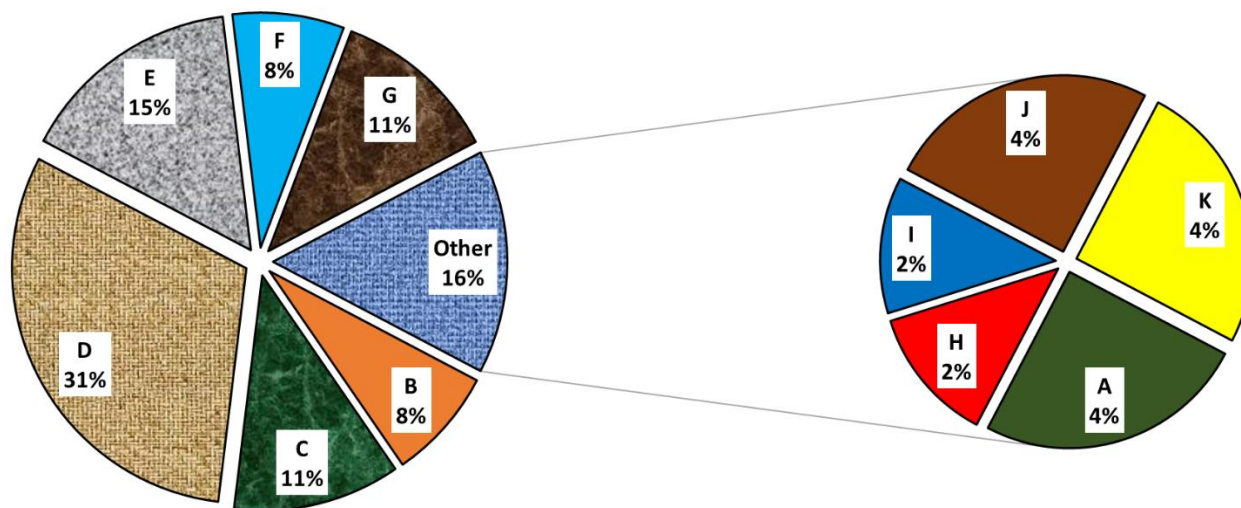


Fig. 12. Distribution of the participants in National consultations on 5th November at Kathmandu

Figure 12 legend

Legend	Organization
A	Seed Entrepreneurs/Agroforestry Associations
B	Ministry of Agricultural Development, Government of Nepal
C	Seed Producer/Supplier/Nursery
D	Farmer
E	Social Media
F	Ministry of Livestock Development, Govt. of Nepal
G	International NGOs
H	Agriculture Information and Communication, Government of Nepal
I	National Farmer Commission
J	Agroforestry: Ayurveda Medicine Company
K	Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation, Govt. of Nepal



Minister of Forest & Environment (siting extreme right) & Secretary, Ministry of Forest and Environment with Javed Rizvi of ICRAF reviewing the final policy in July 2018.

On 30th September 2018; the final draft of the policy was handed over to the Coordinator of IMCC in presence of some of the current members of IMCC, and officials of the two nodal ministries (Annex-4). ICRAF received a thank you note form the Coordinator of IMCC & Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture acknowledging the receipt of the final draft of National Agroforestry Policy, both in English and in Nepalis. The Joint Secretary also expressed appreciation for the help and support received form ICRAF and CTCN (Annex-5).



Smiles of satisfaction: IMCC members and senior Ministry staff from the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MoALD) & the Ministry of Forest and Environment (MoFE) holding final draft of National Agroforestry Policy in Nepali and English (Left to right: Mr. Sankar Sapkota, Under Secretary (MoALD); Dr Yogendra Karki, Joint Secretary MoALD & Coordinator IMCC; Dr Javed Rizvi, Director, South Asia Regional Program ICRAF; Dr. Sindhu Prashad Dhungana, Joint Secretary (MoFE); Mr Murari Joshi, Forestry College of Nepal, Consultant to IMCC; Mr. Ram Hari Pantha, Under Secretary MoFE & NDE-CTCN; Mr. Pradip C Bhattarai, Under Secretary MoALD-Policy; and Mr. Keshab Adhikari, Agroforestry Focal Point, MoALD & IMCC member.

Activity 6: Comparative Analysis and Best Practices for Agroforestry Policies in South East Asia

Nepal is the second country after India to develop a national agroforestry policy. In India, sensitization work on the need of an agroforestry policy began in 2008, whereas the policy was formally approved by the Government in 2014. The policy was officially released by the President of India during the inaugural session of 3rd World Congress (2014) which was jointly organised by the Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) and the World Agroforestry Centre (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x-Te8xJG7l0>). ICRAF was actively involved in the development of the Indian agroforestry policy, and the whole process of policy development is published.

(<http://www.worldagroforestry.org/publication/national-agroforestry-policy-india-experiential-learning-development-and-delivery-phases>). The back ground and the process of development

of Indian and Nepali policy are different. In India, the driving force behind the development of the policy was a high-powered council, called the National Advisory Council which coordinated with other stakeholders to develop the same. The council also played crucial role in getting the policy approved through Government system. Whereas in Nepal, it was the Ministry of Agriculture which realized the need and potential of a policy and collaborated with ICRAF-CTCN to develop the policy. The policy development process in Nepal benefitted from the Indian experience, and expertise of ICRAF. Based on the experience of India, Nepal and some of the ASEAN countries, a script has been developed comparing the best practices of policy development. This will be eventually published in a refereed journal (Annex-6).

Activity 7: Final analysis of success, challenges and impact from peer learning and knowledge sharing purposes

Entire process of policy development followed in Nepal is well documented in this document. It also includes various types of analysis on most of the steps. Though the governance, social, and political scenarios will affect the approach in different countries, the process described here may be used as a generic guide for such policy development. The buy-in, full involvement, and ownership of the country's government is crucial for the success of any such process. At the same time, to avoid the inter-departmental / inter- ministerial differences/competition, mediation and coordination by a trusted, neutral, and acceptable to all partners is a must for the success of such endeavors. In this case, ICRAF successfully played the role of a trusted and impartial partner for all the stakeholders.

Challenges:

Various major challenges faced during the implementation of the technical assistance are listed below:

- Non-availability of original policy documents/ laws/ strategies etc. on the respective websites of the concerned Ministry/departments
- Absence of English translation of the original policies/strategies/laws
- Developing understanding between the two nodal ministries (Agriculture & Forest)
- Frequent transfers of concerned staff in the Ministries
- Reorganization/ merger of various ministries during the implementation period
- Frequent change at top level (Ministers/ Secretaries) in both the concerned ministries
- Frequent changes of the Coordinator and the members of the IMCC. During policy development process, the coordinator of IMCC was changed 7 times
- Various delays and disturbances due to introduction of new constitution in the country

Technical support to formulate a National Agroforestry Policy for Nepal, 2018

- Change of Governance from Federal to Provincial system
- Delays, restrictions, and disturbances during a series of elections for local, district, province and country level public representatives

Acknowledgements:

Most important contributors to the development of this agroforestry policy are more than 500 stakeholders who devoted their time and provided valuable inputs through 8 high level consultations. Without their critical and frank inputs, it was not possible to complete the task. Whole hearted support from the Ministries of agriculture, Forestry, Environment, & Livestock (that eventually merged and became two major ministries); the secretaries, joint secretaries, undersecretaries, head of institutions & heads of various sections; security agencies; members of other Government departments at national, provincial, district and level is deeply appreciated. A big thank you is due to the representatives of NGOs, INGOs, farmers' groups, forest user associations, and cooperatives; input suppliers; banks; and insurance providers. Coordinators & members who served the Inter-Ministerial Coordination Committee throughout the process deserve a very special mention. But for their leadership, a timely formulation of policy would have not been possible. We sincerely acknowledge the cooperation and contribution of ANSAB and its staff in various aspects of policy development, and for providing logistic support in Nepal. Cooperation extended by IWMI-Nepal, Dabur-Nepal, and many other partners is gratefully acknowledged. A sincere thank is due to Indian policy makers/scientists of ICAR and its research institute; and to senior staff of the Department of Agriculture Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, India for their cooperation in the process. Financial assistance by CTCN and South Asia Regional Program of ICRAF to complete the policy development is thankfully acknowledged.