

POINT FOR
ACTION

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- Simplify policies and support participatory processes
- Promote multisectoral learning and action
- Enhance interagency collaboration
- Make NGOs and the private sector partners in poverty reduction



Working
in
partnership



WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

Simplify policies and support participatory processes

National forest policies that have proliferated over the last few years have created layer upon layer of new directives, while the capacity of over-structured and under-resourced forestry departments to implement them has decreased. This needs to be turned around. Policies must be simplified and more widely shared. Poor local forest producers must actively participate in policy negotiation and prioritization. Agencies supporting poverty reduction need to adopt flexible, best-bet approaches, and offer regular exchange of information and experience inside the agency and with other stakeholders.

Promote multisectoral learning and action

Single-sector solutions will not reduce poverty. An improved understanding of the various elements and

dynamics of poverty suggests that multiple agencies need to be engaged. At national and international levels, insufficient intersectoral coordination and unnecessary duplication result in poorly targeted action, sometimes at the expense of the priorities of the poor. Interagency collaboration requires much interchange, recognition of comparative advantage, negotiation and a steady focus on knowledge-generation with poverty reduction priorities. Codes of conduct for supporters of national forest programmes that integrate poverty reduction priorities show much promise. Agencies must also pursue joint finance and sector-wide approaches.

Enhance interagency collaboration

Most countries are required – under various commitments and degrees of pressure – to produce national forest programmes, poverty reduction strategies and national strategies for sustainable development. These

approaches, and a range of other sectoral and cross-sectoral planning processes, require a concerted multistakeholder process as well as concrete content and product. Yet, they are generally pursued independently, instead of being used as opportunities for a broader understanding of poverty and the role of forests in reducing it. They should be treated as a system of continuous processes – of information flows, analysis, debate, experiments, monitoring and learning – rather than parallel-track master plans.

Make NGOs and the private sector partners in poverty reduction

Support is needed to increase capabilities and create partnerships among businesses and NGOs. These partnerships can spearhead the effort of forestry in reducing poverty. Collaborative forest management remains a vital way forward and NGO roles, in partic-

ular, are crucial. The challenge is to reduce transaction costs while maintaining the drive for equitable local governance and sustainability. NGOs and the private sector can also provide specialized business services.

Partnerships between industry and local producers can enable industry to secure forest product supplies with competitive cost structures and prices while providing credit, extension, markets and skills development to poorer producers, through contracts on tree production and trading and other forms of contract arrangements. A true partnership approach requires a long-term perspective, flexible contract terms and attention to reducing business risks. Cooperative arrangements and bargaining position of small producers need to be strengthened to enable them to gain a stake in the benefits of downstream processing and trade.

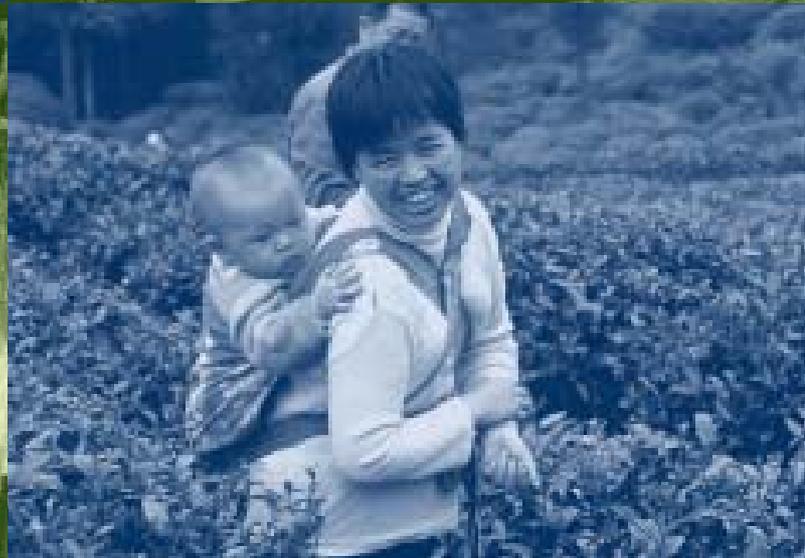
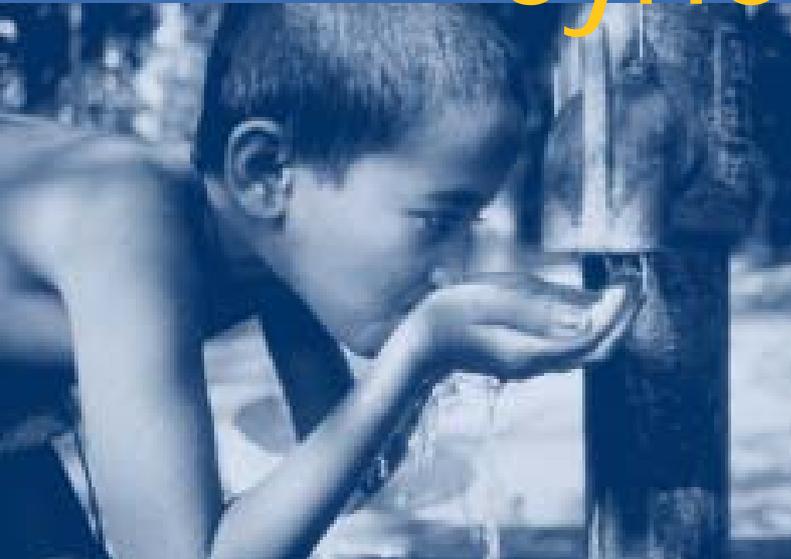
AGRICULTURE, FORESTS AND POVERTY REDUCTION

Trees have many **agricultural uses**, such as food, fuel, fodder, fertilizer, shade, windbreaks, fencing, packaging, water regulation and erosion prevention. In Nepal, poor farmers - unable to purchase fertilizers - try to maintain a 3:1 ratio of forest to agricultural land, to sustain supplies of livestock fodder and hence manure to fertilize their crops.

HEALTH, FORESTS AND POVERTY REDUCTION

Forests provide **medicines** and **critical food supplements**. One billion people depend on drugs derived from forest plants for their medicinal needs. People living beside rainforests in Ghana receive more protein from forest products than from crops or livestock. In arid environments, **forests are crucial to food security** in dry seasons and years.

Forestry must capture potential **synergies**



between sectors
to maximize impact.