

REDD+ Himalaya: Developing and Using Experience in Implementing REDD+ in the Himalaya

Report of Capacity Building Training Programmes Organised under the Project

Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education
(An Autonomous Body of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India)
P.O. New Forest, Dehradun – 248006 (INDIA)



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On behalf of:

 Federal Ministry
for the Environment, Nature Conservation
and Nuclear Safety

of the Federal Republic of Germany


NORWEGIAN MINISTRY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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Background: Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education in collaboration with International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development and GIZ implemented a project titled 'REDD+ Himalaya: Developing and using experiences in implementing REDD+ in the Himalaya'. The overall goal of this project was to build the capacity of the relevant stakeholders on various aspects of REDD+. Institutional capacity building training programmes for effective implementation of REDD+ are needed for all level of forest staff. Involvement of local youth in various REDD+ actions like measurement, field data collection, promoting livelihood activities need also to be encouraged.

Accordingly, one orientation training programme for developing SRAP, eleven capacity building training programmes on REDD+ MRV for local communities and other stakeholders, three awareness programmes on Climate Change and REDD+ for local communities, one exposure visit to the local communities and two training programmes for trainers on REDD+ MRV and gender mainstreaming were organized under the project besides the organization of number of workshops. Details of the capacity building training programmes organized under the project are given below:

1. Orientation Programme on Process for Developing State REDD+ Action Plan: An orientation training programme on Process for Developing State REDD+ Action Plan (SRAP) was organised on 10 - 11 March 2017 at Forest Research Centre for Bamboo and Rattan (FRCBR), Aizawl (Mizoram) by Indian council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) in collaboration with the International Centre for integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD). The orientation programme was aimed to demonstrate the process of developing State REDD+ Action Plan for addressing the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. The orientation programme was attended by 20 participants from ICIMOD, ICFRE, Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat (Assam), Mizoram State Department of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, FRCBR and Mizoram University.

Following presentations were made in the orientation programme by the experts from ICIMOD (Dr. Bhaskar Singh Karky and Mr. Nabin Bhattarai):

1. Linking National REDD+ Strategy with Sub-national REDD+ Action Plan
2. Overview of Sub-national REDD+ Action Plan Approach
3. Introduction to Problem Analysis workshop

After presentations, three groups of participants (Group 1. deforestation, Group 2. forest degradation and Group 3. barriers for enhancement of forest carbon stocks) were formed for identification of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, and barriers for enhancement of forest carbon stocks in the state of Mizoram. Drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, and barriers for enhancement were identified by the groups. Accordingly, necessary strategies and activities for addressing the drivers of deforestation & forest degradation and barriers for enhancement of forest carbon stocks were identified by

the groups. Necessary hotspots in the state of Mizoram were also identified for implementation of the strategies/ activities for addressing the drivers.



2. Awareness Programme on Climate Change and REDD+: An awareness programme on Climate Change and REDD+ was organised for the local communities of Reiek, Ailwang and Chungtalang Villages on 28 April 2017 at Community Centre, Reiek (District Mamit, Mizoram). About 150 participants participated in this awareness programme. A hand on training on operation of solar drier for drying of raw turmeric was also provided to the participants.



3. Capacity Building Training Programmes on Modalities of REDD+ in Measurement, Reporting and Verification: Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) for REDD+ specifically refers to the measurement, reporting and verification of a country's forest, and associated greenhouse gas emissions and removals, including their changes over time. The range of MRV systems and forest monitoring systems that are being developed for REDD+ will likely require monitoring of forest changes, forest carbon stocks, safeguards for biodiversity conservation, forest governance and livelihood support.

Eleven capacity building training programmes on “Modalities of REDD+ in Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV)” for local communities and other stakeholders of Mamit District of Mizoram were organized during the years 2017 and 2018 by Forest Research Centre for Bamboo and Rattan (ARCBR), Aizawl, Mizoram (a regional research centre of

ICFRE)with active support of Mizoram State Department of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in the villages (Ailwang & Reiek, Chungtlang, Khawhrihnim, West Lungdar, Rulpuihlim, Tuahzawl, Lengte, Nghalchawm, Rawpuichhip, Hreichhuk, N. Kanghmun) falling under the project area in District Mamit of Mizoram. All the training programmes were organized in the community centres of the concerned villages. About 547 members of the local community participated in these training programmes. Out of which 212 were women participants. All the capacity building programmes were conducted in local Mizo language and training manual in local Mizo language was also provided to the participants.

The objective of these training programmes was to develop the capacity of local communities and other stakeholders for measurement of forest carbon stocks for implementation of the REDD+ programme. Capacity building training programmes on REDD+ MRV were comprises of the classroom sessions in the form of power point presentations and field demonstrations by the resource persons. Following topics were covered by the resource persons during the training programmes on REDD+ MRV:

1. Introduction to forest, climate change and REDD+
2. Role of forests and REDD+ mechanism in climate change mitigation
3. Scope of REDD+ in Mizoram
4. Drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in the state of Mizoram
5. Importance of REDD+ mechanism to overcome the extent of shifting cultivation in the state
6. Measurement, reporting and verification in REDD+ and its importance for developing a REDD+ pilot project in accordance with voluntary carbon standards and as per the various decisions on REDD+ under UNFCCC
7. Methodology for laying out the sample plots, collection of data and samples (soil, herbs, shrubs and litter) for forest carbon stocks estimation
8. Instruments/tools required for data collection from the sample plots





A documentary on REDD+ MRV was also shown to the participants during the training programme for their easy understanding about the concept of REDD+ MRV. After classroom session, hands on trainings/practical demonstrations were provided to the participants for laying out of the sample plots in forests and handling of the equipment (GPS, magnetic compass, vernier caliper and haga altimeter etc.) required for collection of data.

Demonstration on recording of tree diameter and tree height measurement as well as collection of the soil and plant samples. Hands on trainings for filling of the plot description forms were also provided.

4. Awareness Programme on Climate Change and REDD+: An awareness programme on Climate Change and REDD+ was organised for the local communities of Chungtalang Village (District Mamit, Mizoram) on 12 September 2018 at Village Community Centre. About 90 participants participated in this awareness programme. A hand on training on operation of Improved Cook Stove (ICS) was also provided to the participants and ICSs were distributed to 80 households of low income group.



5. Awareness Programme on Climate Change and REDD+: An awareness programme on Climate Change and REDD+ was organised for the local communities of Ailawng Village, Mizoram on 24 September 2018 at Community Centre, Ailawng (District Mamit, Mizoram). About 70 participants participated in this awareness programme. A hand on training on operation of Turmeric Powdering and Cooking Unit was also provided to the participants



Participants also visited Rural Bioresource Complex for North Eastern India (Turmeric and Ginger Value addition Complex) at Leskein Block, Jantia Hills (Meghalaya). The Complex was being run by the Shelf Help Group (SHG) of Jantia Hills, Meghalaya. The Representative of the SHG demonstrated the activities ongoing at the Rural Bioresource Complex and also briefed the participants about the pre-processing, processing, drying and marketing of the

turmeric and ginger done by the SHG. Exposure to the farming practices followed in East and West Jantia Hills of Meghalaya especially for vegetable crops, plantation crops and horticultural crops was also provided to the participants.

6. Exposure Visit of Farmers to Meghalaya: An exposure visit of farmers of Reiek and Ailawng Villages of Mizoram was organised to Jaintia Hills, Meghalaya from 8 to 12 October 2018. The main objective of the exposure visit was to get the farmers well acquainted with the permanent type of farming system and organic cultivation of the Turmeric and Ginger as adopted by the local community of Meghalaya. Participants interacted with the turmeric cultivators of Lakadong village (Jaintia Village) regarding cultivation and processing of turmeric and ginger in their region.



7. Training Programme on Gender Mainstreaming for REDD+ Implementation: A one day training programme on 'Gender mainstreaming for REDD+ implementation' was organized at ICFRE, Dehradun on 22 October 2018. The overarching goal of the training programme was achieving gender equality. The programme attempts to encourage participation of both men and women in policy and programme cycle for planning, implementation and evaluation of REDD+. The objective of the training programme was, to build conceptual and practical skills on integrating gender into planning of REDD+ projects, develop skill to conduct gender analysis, and to identify additional capacity needs of participants for gender integrating planning. A 'hands-on' group exercise on Gender analytical tools, monitoring and impact assessment was also conducted. Participants from ICFRE, FRI, TFRI and RFRI participated in the training programme.



8. Training Programme on REDD+ MRV (Measuring, Reporting and Verification): A two days training programme on 'REDD+ MRV (Measuring, Reporting and Verification) was organized by ICFRE on 23-24 October, 2018, for capacity building of the participants (Trainers) on Measuring, Reporting and Verification under REDD+. The objective of the training programme was, to create awareness on MRV for REDD+, and technical assessment of carbon stocks in Forests and Plantations.



All the aspects of REDD+ measuring, reporting and verification have been covered in the training programme by the resource persons. Hands on training for forest carbon stock measurement, sampling and data collection for estimation of forest soil organic carbon and analysis of field data for forest carbon stocks were also provided to the participants during the training. Participants from ICFRE, FRI, TFRI and RFRI participated in the training programme.

9. Training Programme on Natural Resource Management, Agroforestry, Livestock Management, Solar Energy and Improved Cook Stoves: The training programme was organized by ICFRE- Forest Research Centre on Bamboo and Rattan at Aizawl (Mizoram) on 30 November 2018. Thirty one participants from project area (Mamit district of Mizoram) were participated in this training programme. Suitable practices of natural resource management, agroforestry, livestock management, solar energy and improved cook stoves with respect to Mizoram were covered by the resource persons during the training programme.


