

ICIMOD-GIZ-ICFRE REDD+ Planning workshop on “REDD+ Himalayas: Developing and using experience in implementing REDD in the Himalayas” at Dehradun from 26-28 August 2014

The Himalaya region is a biological hotspot & one that is facing rapid deforestation & forest degradation. Himalayan countries are taking serious steps to engage in REDD+ programs where a large population is dependent on forest resources, but their capacity to meet various standards for participation is constrained. There are large data gaps and many nations have no capacity to address international standards required for REDD+. There is a need to standardize data sets requirements at a regional scale. Small LDCs like Nepal and Bhutan can gain from the Indian expertise. The government is drafting the national REDD Plus strategy and requires capacity building and trainings for developing the Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) standard.

The overall goal of this project is to build the capacity of the REDD Plus focal points in the 4 countries to develop & implement National REDD Plus Strategy through conservation & sustainable use of natural sinks. Conservation & sustainable use of forests through REDD+ programs is an effective mitigation & adaptation measure. The project will assist in the capacity development of REDD Plus focal points in Nepal, Myanmar, India (NE) & Bhutan to develop & implement REDD Plus projects through establishing a south-south platform that will focus on trainings, technology sharing and knowledge dissemination. Pilot REDD Plus projects will be established in each country for all stakeholders. Through this regional scale REDD+ project, it meets the goal “Transboundary landscapes are better conserved and managed for sustaining ecosystem goods and services to improve livelihoods and enhance ecological integrity, economic development, and socio-cultural resilience to environmental changes”

A three days Planning workshop was organized by Biodiversity and Climate Change Division of ICFRE in collaboration with ICIMOD and GIZ at Dehra Dun from 26-28 August 2014 for finalizing the operational part of REDD+ capacity development programme for Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar and India. The workshop started with the welcome address by Dr. T. P. Singh, ADG (BCC), ICFRE which was followed by Dr. Rajan Kotru, Regional Programme Manager, ICIMOD, who gave the brief introduction of ICIMOD and REDD+ linkage to Kailash Sacred Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative (KSLCDI). Dr. Bhaskar Karky, REDD Coordinator, ICIMOD explained the purpose the workshop, the partners countries and the objectives of the project for which the workshop was held, followed by the presentation of Prof. S. P. Singh who gave a key note on “Forest degradation in Himalayas and possibility of a greater role of forests in Carbon savings”. Dr. G. S. Goraya, DDG (Research), ICFRE gave his opening remarks regarding the workshop. He emphasized the need of REDD Plus program and its implementation for the enhancement of carbon stock and sustainable management of forest ecosystem.

Shri Saibal Dasgupta, DDG (Extension), ICFRE highlighted the benefits of REDD Plus program for the improvement of livelihood of the local communities. The participants from ICFRE headquarters, Forest Research Institute (Dehradun), Rain Forest Research Institute (Jorhat), State Forest Department of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh and G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development (Almora) attended the workshop. During the workshop, activities related to the formulation of objectives in the form of outputs, outcomes and impacts; Actor Analysis in relation to present and future scenario and their relationship to REDD+ in India; formulating indicators; activity planning and budgeting were carried out as group tasks followed by presentation, discussion and feedback from each group. After the different group activities and discussions, the ICIMOD expert team produced a document entitled “Activities for India REDD+ programme” which contained proposed Impact, outcome and output for REDD+ implementation in India based on the results gathered from the assessment of different group activities, presentations and discussions. The workshop reviewed the ongoing REDD+ programmes in India and prepared an impact pathway and logframe and planning of activities for implementing the programme for India from 2014 to 2018.

On 28th August 2014 Dr. G. S. Goraya, DDG (Research) in his concluding remarks said that the workshop was very informative and every participant had learned from the workshop which will be helpful to them in implementation of REDD+ in India. In the end, Dr. Bhaskar Singh Karky gave the closing remarks for the workshop by thanking all the participants for their active participation which lead to the success of the workshop.