

First National Silviculture Workshop, 2017

Key Messages, Recommendations and Next Steps:

The participants worked in 10 groups to identify key messages, recommendations and next steps to implement the recommendations. The compiled key messages, recommendations and next steps are as follows:

Key messages:

- An enabling environment for silvicultural application need to be created through policy guidelines, institutional commitment, awareness raising and training.
- Silviculture is the fundamental to improve forest health, increase production of goods and services, which can transform Nepal from timber importing to exporting country and help achieve the sector's vision of 'forestry for people's prosperity'.
- Silviculture based sustainable forest management, considering the local practice and knowledge, need to be applied in all accessible forests with active participation of concerned user.
- All the constraints that prevent the effective implementation of silviculture need to be removed by recognizing the context, objectives and on-the-ground reality of forest management.

Recommendations:

Silvicultural technologies:

1. Prescribe appropriate silvicultural systems considering silvicultural characteristics, forest conditions including species composition, forest size, management objectives and physiographic characteristics, while not compromising multiple functions of forests.
2. Develop simple and integrated manual/handbook of silviculture for major forest types and regimes.
3. Increase the productivity of the forests by ensuring quality of seed, mother tree selection, seed orchard, gene pool conservation, and using appropriate harvesting and logging tools and techniques.
4. Identify and document indigenous and traditional silvicultural knowledge, and improve indigenous system considering science and market.

Capacity building and awareness:

5. Develop capacity and capability of foresters and stakeholders (government, forest users, private sector, media and other stakeholders) on silviculture based management through motivational and promotional activities, awareness campaigns and training programs.
6. Develop training manual on silviculture based forest management for different levels.
7. Create and mobilize expert group to develop strategy, intensify silvicultural practices and develop knowledge and capacity of stakeholders
8. Establish *Forest Council* to ensure technical quality for silviculture based forest management.

Governance, institution and organization:

9. Ensure rights of forest managers by defining and clarifying role and responsibilities of participating parties in silviculture based forest management.
10. Reform existing institutions in line with the state re-structuring to provide technical backstopping for the silviculture based sustainable forest management.
11. Develop and institutionalize information system based monitoring mechanisms.
12. Establish set of principles, criteria, indicators and verifiers for evaluating and developing quality of silviculture based forest management governance.
13. Develop and implement contracting of forest management in community, private and public partnership.
14. Create enabling environment for silviculture-based forest management with safeguard measures for the potential misuse of funds and risk of encroachment, fire, and environmental hazards.

Policy / legal framework and guidelines:

15. Define and authenticate silvicultural related terms, terminologies and activities.
16. Review and harmonize existing policies, acts, regulations, strategies and guidelines regarding silvicultural provisions.
17. Carry out permanent zoning of forest area in each district based on forest type and management systems.
18. Expedite operational /management plan preparation and approval process.

Research and innovation:

19. Document existing qualitative and quantitative data on silvicultural practices including local skills and knowledge, and identify the gaps
20. Identify silvicultural options for trees outside forests (private, public)
21. Implement research trials (harvesting) to identify suitable silviculture systems across different management regimes and contexts

22. Undertake research to identify the blockages to the application of silvicultural knowledge and communicate the success stories
23. Conduct research into the market opportunities for forest goods and services, and economic optimal rotation age

Investment, Technology and Safety:

24. Develop self-sustainable forest financing from sources of fund from FUGs, forest entrepreneurs, private sector, corporate responsibility and the government, and by also establishing forest development and industry promotion board/fund.
25. Develop financial and technical incentives (such as grant, low interest loan and insurance provisions) with simple access mechanisms for forest management
26. Address the trade barriers with local stewardship/certification and by simplifying harvesting, logging, grading and transportation procedures.
27. Improve measurement, harvesting and logging tools and technologies; and mechanize and digitize the forest management and marketing operations.
28. Make compulsory to use safety gears and strengthen workers safety, OHS (Occupational Health and Safety), capacity building, insurance and social safety.

Suggested next steps:

1. Prepare a 10-year plan for silviculture based forest management, and allocate budget from the next fiscal year to implement activities identifying specific location and define goal to increase forest productivity by 1 cft per year per ha.
2. Document and maintain existing seed orchards, and develop new seed orchards of major species in each physiographic region.
3. Set up silviculture working groups at Central and Regional/State Level, and expedite the process of forming Forestry Council.
4. Review and harmonize existing directives and guidelines to promote silviculture based forest management.
5. Revise and update community forest inventory and thinning guidelines.
6. Develop research plan in coordination with academic institutes, Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation, and private sector.
7. Allocate a proportion of income from all forest management regimes to research and innovation (like 25% into forest management)
8. Explore the possibility of establishing forest development and industry promotion board/fund
9. Strengthen Forest Workers' rights, safety and safeguards.