Social innovations in community forestry
An application and success case from Nepal
Community forestry

- Community forestry - initiatives increasing the roles of local people in governing and managing forest resources
- Nearly a third of forests under community forestry globally
- Engagement of hundreds of thousands of local communities to manage forest resources
Community forestry in Nepal

- Introduced in the 1970s to tackle Himalayan forest degradation
- Tested, improved and scaled out
- Gradual expansion of scope and geographic coverage
- Molded to achieve diversified objectives
- Currently comprises of a ½ population and more than 1/3 forest area
Community forestry governance

- Overall leadership of Ministry of Forest and Environment (MoFE)-along with provincial Ministry (MoITFE)
- A formal Community Forest User Group (CFUG) at each community
- Leadership of CFUG by Executive Committee
- General assembly as an apex body
- Sub-groups of CFUG as necessary
Key social innovations

- Breaking patriarchy – women identified as household heads
- Inclusive and democratic community institutions
- Adoption of holistic development model
- A strong network of communities
Key strengths and weaknesses in social innovations

- Intact sectoral walls
- Weak adaptation of the CF program

- Progressive design
- Stakeholders’ strong support
Challenges for social innovations

- Diffusion of major structural problems in state mechanisms
- Weak market linkages and finance
- Increasing demand for support and decreasing assistance