



# **Social innovations in community forestry**

**An application and success case from Nepal**



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# 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



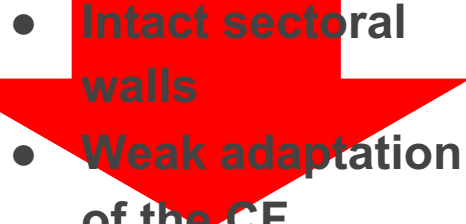


# Key social innovations

- 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

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- Intact sectoral walls
  - Weak adaptation of the CF program

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- 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





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