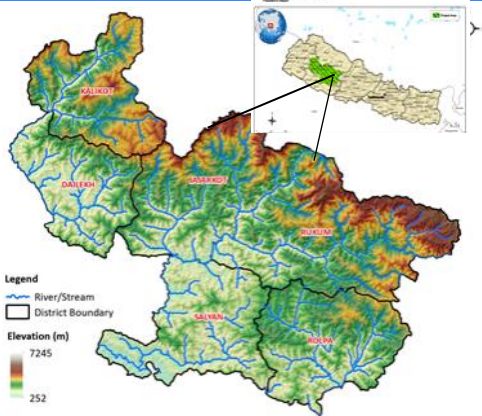


Adaptation for Smallholders in Hilly Areas Project-Nepal



Objective:

Vulnerability of local communities to climate related risks reduced and enabling institutional environment for climate change adaptation strengthened

Key Indicator:

At least 100,000 HHs with access to knowledge of climate resilient farming practices and diversified livelihood options

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Community Knowledge Center Can be Utilized as a Forum for Climate Change Adaptation Action

ABSTRACT

The Adaptation for Smallholders in Hilly Areas (ASHA) Project is a joint initiative of Ministry of Forests and Environment-Government of Nepal and International Fund for Agricultural Development, aims to improve the resilience of smallholders in hilly areas of Nepal by enhancing capacity to cope the adverse impacts and risks of climate change. Community knowledge center is a forum where the smallholders farmers sit together to identify, discuss, knowledge sharing and take actions on issues that directly affect them. In total 63 community knowledge centers (CKCs) were established over last two years in project districts together with local authorities and vulnerable communities. In CKC meetings, impact of climate change at local level identified, discussed, knowledge exchanged, actions were taken and issues were solved. This best practices paper has been prepared based on review and consultations. Moreover, explaining a number of good practices, this paper discusses for utilizing CKC as a community level forum to identify, discuss, knowledge sharing and action to cope adverse impacts and risks of climate change.

CONTEXT

ASHA Project aims to strengthen framework for local-level climate change adaptation and improve climate resilience of vulnerable smallholder farmers. Project has been supporting for community knowledge center to share climate change adaptation knowledge among smallholders to utilize to cope adverse impacts and risks of climate change. The community knowledge center is a forum where the smallholders farmers sit together to identify, discuss, knowledge exchange and take actions on issues that directly affect them. Over the last 2 years, In total 63 community knowledge centers were established utilized to share climate change adaptation knowledge in project districts together with local authorities and vulnerable communities. The main purpose of CKC is the knowledge sharing and empowerment of the climate vulnerable poor and excluded. The CKC helps to educate the members on climate resilient agriculture practices and support them to take actions to address impacts of climate change. In CKC meetings, impact of climate change at local level identified, discussed, knowledge exchanged, and actions were taken and issues were solved. In this context, now ASHA Project intends to disseminate lessons from CKC to wider stakeholders for knowledge and its replication. Realizing this, best practice paper on community knowledge center has been prepared.

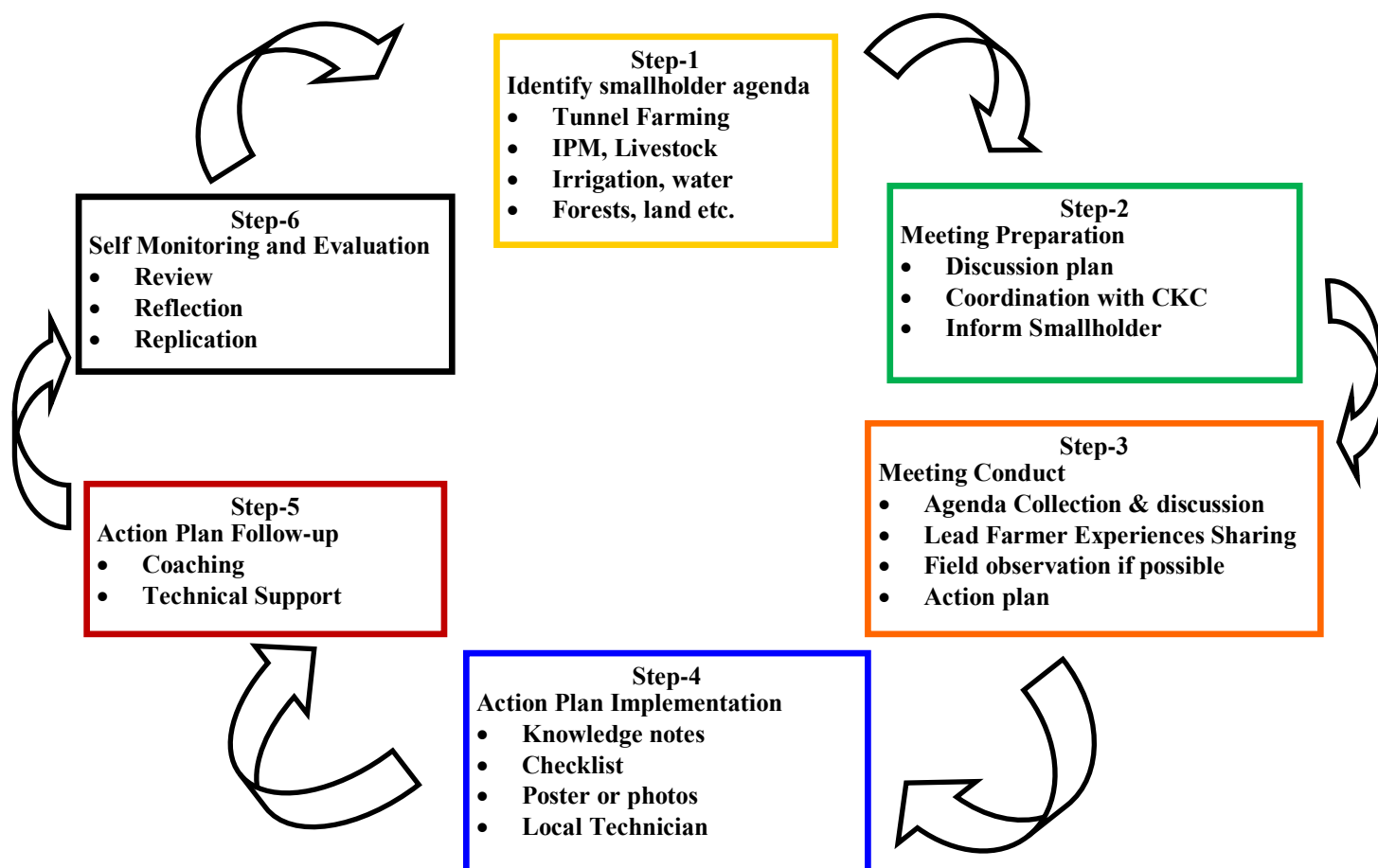
BEST PRACTICES DOCUMENTATION METHODS

The following methods were adopted to document best practices from functioning of community knowledge center in project districts.

- **Reviewed of reports and other relevant publications:** Annual progress reports, guidelines for community knowledge center and community knowledge center facilitation handbook prepared by ASHA Project were reviewed to conceptualize approach and best practices documentation.
- **Prepared checklists and questions to serve as guidelines:** Based on piloting lesson documentation framework, checklists and questions to serve as guidelines were drafted, shared within the project team, and modified and finalized based on the feedback provided.
- **Conducted field visit:** Field visits were carried out in September 2018 in Rolpa, Rukum and Salyan districts. Key informant interviews and consultations were held with officials of local authorities, project service providers, District Project Coordination Units staff, governmental line agencies and local communities.

APPROACH

Figure 1- illustrates community knowledge center functioning approach.



BEST PRACTICES



Case 1: Invasive Species Management through Utilization as a Resource for Biochar Production for Soil Amendment

Community Knowledge Centers in Rukum, Rolpa and Salyan, during CKC meeting identified issues of invasive species, discussed impact of invasion of community forest and agriculture land, developed common understanding of alternative approach to curtail issues of invasion. In three districts, the *Lantana camora* and *Chromolaena odorata* are the most troubling invasive alien plant species; native of tropical America and have colonized areas of forest in the project districts. CKC members practiced invasive alien species management through utilization as a resource for biochar (a solid material obtained from thermochemical conversion of biomass in an oxygen limited environment) production is especially important not only to manage species invasion in order to address the prevalent invasion issues but also for suitable soil management practice. Invasive alien species management through utilization as a resource for biochar production tested and adopted by lead farmers in their field contributing for sustainable soil management practices also getting higher vegetable yield.



Case 2 : Impact of Disease on Goat Production Solved through CKC

Community Knowledge Center in Sunil Smiriti Bheri Municipality-2 Khungri identified the issue- and impact of diseases on goat vegetable production, discussed issues and took action with indigenous herbal knowledge resolved diseases goat production in a cost effective manner.



Case 3: Impact of Pest and Disease on Vegetable Production Solved through CKC

Community Knowledge Center in Sani Bheri Municipality-9 Simli Rukum identified the issue- impact of diseases and pest on vegetable production, discussed issues took action for integrated pest management, with that resolved diseases pest on vegetable production resulted in higher vegetable yield.



CONCLUSION

With project support, local authorities and communities enabled establishment and functioning of community knowledge centers in project districts. Among others, one aim of the project is to strengthen framework for local-level climate change adaptation. The project together with local authorities and communities made efforts to institutionalize community knowledge center and capacitate local authorities' and local stakeholders on effective functioning of community knowledge centers. In CKC meetings, impact of climate change at local level identified, discussed, knowledge exchanged, and actions were taken and issues on invasion, soil fertility vegetable and goat production were solved in a participatory manner. The best practices emerged from community knowledge centers indicate CKC can be utilized a community level forum to identify, discuss, knowledge sharing and action to cope adverse impacts and risks of climate change.



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