Introduction to Institute of Forestry and the ComForM Project

Bir Bahadur Khanal Chhetri, PhD
Associate Professor
TU/IOF, Pokhara, Nepal

khanalbb1@gmail.com
Institute of Forestry (IOF)

- IOF is one of the five technical institutes under Tribhuvan University, Nepal
- Produces human resources in the field of forestry and natural resource management
- Works as a center of excellence in the area of forest research in Nepal.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Programs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1947</td>
<td>Forestry Training Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1972</td>
<td>Incorporation into the TU as IOF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>TCL and B.Sc. in Forestry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>M.Sc. (Forestry, NRMRD and Watershed Mgt.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>PhD in Forestry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>TCL in Forestry phased out</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
IOF activities

In addition to teaching ....

• **Short term professional training**
  – Such as community forestry planning and extension, scientific writing, data analysis and modeling etc.

• **Facilitate national/international students for research and course works**

• **Organize overseas study programs such as MSU, MNRSA, SUTROFOR etc.**

• **Conduct research in different IOF field sites in collaboration with different national and international partners**
Ongoing research activities

• **Students research**
  – PhD, Master and Bachelor levels

• **Individual/group faculty research**

• **Research conducted by the institutional projects**
  – Community based forest management in the Himalaya *(ComForM III Project)*
  – Education, Research and Training for Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in Himalayan Watersheds *(NUFU Project)*
  – Memorial centre of excellence *(MemCoE)*
Community Based Forest Management in the Himalaya

ComForM III

Purpose, activities and outcomes
Background: Partners

- Institute of Forestry, Tribhuvan University
- Dept. of Forest Research and Survey
- Kathmandu Forestry College
- Forest Action
- Forest & Landscape, University of Copenhagen, Denmark
Background..

Research capacity building project to fill the gap of the emerging research issues such as forest-poverty dynamics, forest income sustainability and household level adaptive capacity, by generating long term empirical data on forest use and forest productivity.
Goal

Improve livelihoods through sustainable and equitable management of forest resources in Nepal

BBK Chhetri
Institute of Forestry, Pokhara
Objectives (ComForM –III)

1. To provide improved understanding of dynamics of livelihood-forest interactions in response to climate change through integrated studies in long-term sites located in three physiographic regions of Nepal.

2. To develop increased capacity for undertaking high quality climate related research on forest and natural resources management at key forestry research institutions in Nepal.
Research activities

The ComForM empirical data basis

- Short-term studies
- Strategic studies
- PhD studies
- Action research
- Theses (M.Sc., B.Sc.)
- Post-docs
- Long-term studies
Long-term studies: Socio-economic household survey data includes:

- Labour allocation (2012)
- Health
- Governance
Socio-economic: Forest income survey method

- ComForM socio-economic survey follow the methods engineered by CIFOR/PEN Project

- The book explain in detail the techniques of quantifying multiple environmental resources from forests, bush, grasslands and river, and also try to address the inconsistent definitions, methodological weaknesses and survey implementation problems that often lead to flawed results

BBK Chhetri
Institute of Forestry, Pokhara
### Forest income survey method

- CIFOR/PEN approach

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>t-3</th>
<th>t-1</th>
<th>t</th>
<th>t+3</th>
<th>t+6</th>
<th>t+9</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep. work</td>
<td>A1, V1</td>
<td>Q2</td>
<td>Q3</td>
<td>A2, V2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Q1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Fieldwork period**

12 month survey period

t = start of the survey month

V₁, V₂ = village surveys

A₁, A₂ = annual HH surveys

Q₁…Q₄ = Quarterly HH surveys

BBK Chhetri
Institute of Forestry, Pokhara
Long-term studies: Biophysical

Biophysical survey includes:

- 240 permanent sample plots
- Spatial extraction (2012-13)
- Farm trees (2009)
- Herbs and shrubs (2007)
- Dendrochronology...
ComForM in numbers (2005-2012)

1 overall project;
3 physiographic zones;
4 permanent villages sites;
9 PhD students;
14 strategic research studies;
36 small-scale research studies;
200+ theses supported
209 households in the average long-term site;
240 permanent sample plots;
836 panel households surveyed;
10,000 household visits in long-term research;
40,000 questionnaire pages filled out and entered;
2,358,724 data cells in the ComForM data bases!
Research capacity development

Strengthen research capacity

a. Human capital: PhDs, research, training, networks

b. Social capital: joint research, seminars, conferences

c. Organisational capital of IOF: PhD, MSc, BSc grants

d. Physical capital: GIS, LIDAR, library, labs
1. Peer Reviewed International Journals

- Ecological economics
- World development
- Forest policy and economics
- Small scale forestry
- Human ecology
- Environmental management
- Agricultural economics
- Ecological modelling
- ...
2. National/Local Journals
   Banko Janakari, Forest and Livelihoods etc.

3. Discussion Papers/Policy Briefs/ Seminar Proceedings

4. Short-term Trainings / Workshops/National and International Seminar
Thank you...
...Questions?

BBK Chhetri
Institute of Forestry, Pokhara