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Social Equity in Community Forests

Two Case Studies from Nepal

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Cover Photo: Social equity exercise in REDD+ training session, Birtamod, Jhapa district, Nepal. (© Rabindra Roy/ForestAction Nepal)

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Abstract

Social equity is the fairness of treatment of all concerned stakeholders according to an agreed set of principles, particularly in procedures used to form and implement policies and in the distribution of resources and costs. Social equity leaves plenty of room for individuals, households, and communities to seek the mix of economic, social, and ecological assets that best reflects their values. In order to understand the practical implementation of various dimensions of equity in forest management, two case studies were carried out in two community forests (CF) of Nepal, namely Chisapani CF of Nawalparasi district and Bandre CF in Syangja district. The methods used in these case studies included field observations, interaction with executive members of the respective CFs, and key informant interviews with socially and economically marginalized social groups i.e. women and Indigenous Peoples (IPs), Dalit and Madheshi.

Some key questions were addressed in the analysis processes on each dimension of social equity i.e. distributive, procedural and contextual – how the major elements of equity-dimensions have been addressed in the forest management by the local villagers, and evaluating the impacts of addressing them. Chisapani and Bandre CFs are found to be good in terms of equitable distribution of benefits of forest resources, good governance in decision making process and inclusion of socially and economically excluded social groups. In this context, the forest management practices that are adopted, can add value to the implementation of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) projects in days to come. They could be taken as the guiding tools for benefits sharing, from the perspective of forest carbon trading and non-carbon received from the CFs.

Contents

1. Introduction

Social equity is the fairness of treatment of all concerned stakeholders according to an agreed set of principles, particularly in procedures used to form and implement policies and in the distribution of resources and costs. Social equity leaves plenty of room for individuals, households, and communities to seek the mix of economic, social, and ecological assets that best reflects their values[1] . In other words, equity, fairness and justice all imply 'fair treatment or due reward' (Schroeder 2010). The equity framework consists of a three-dimensional central core i.e. 'content of equity' which is surrounded by three layers namely the target or scale of equity; the goal of equity; and the parameter-setting process (McDermott 2011) (Figure 1).

In order to understand the practical implementation of various dimensions of equity in forest management, two case studies were carried out in two community forests (CF) of Nepal. Using the equity framework proposed by McDermott *et al.* (2011), the case studies analyzed three key dimensions of equity – distributive, procedural and contextual, in terms of their application and how they influenced the achievement of or lack of social equity in the selected CF.

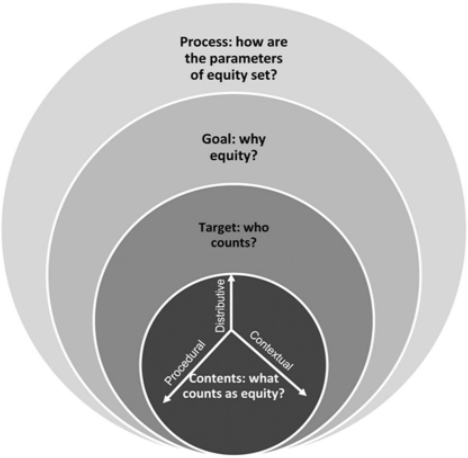

Figure 1: The equity framework

Adopted from McDermott *et al.* 2011

Distributive equity highlights the need to consider the allocation of benefits, costs and risks associated with the management of CFs. Procedural equity encompasses fairness in political processes and participation in decision-making processes, whereas contextual equity recognizes the fact that there is no level playing field, that people's capabilities and their access to resources and power determine the extent to which they are able to determine the outcomes for themselves.

1 http://www.reliableprosperity.net/social_equity.html [accessed on 2 May 2014]

The case studies have been conducted in the CFs of the Western Development Regions of Nepal, namely Chisapani CF of Nawalparasi district and Bandre CF in Syangja district. The methods used in these case studies included field observations, interaction with executive members of the respective CFs, and key informant interviews with socially and economically marginalized social groups i.e. women and Indigenous Peoples (IPs) who are also known as Adibasi Janajati, Dalit and Madheshi. A checklist-style questionnaire was developed to carry out the field study. Researchers from ForestAction spent three days in each CF for the field study during December 2013.

The analysis presented in this report focuses on each dimension of social equity – how the key elements of each dimension have been addressed in the management of forests by the local villagers, and evaluating the impacts of addressing them. With regards to distributive equity the case studies have looked at local people's access to fuelwood, timber and other non-timber forest products (NTFPs), local marginalized groups' and community forestry user groups (CFUG) access to CF lands for income generation activities, including distant users[2]. For procedural equity the focus of analysis has been mainly on the constitution of the CF Executive Committee (EC), participation and representation of different sections of the society in the EC and the decision making process. For contextual equity, the case studies looked into the capacity building initiatives undertaken by the EC, process of social inclusion, promoting transparency in financial dealings, and efforts to increase livelihoods opportunities to the local villagers.

Below is the description of key finding of implementation and effectiveness of key elements of equity in two CFs in Nepal.

2 Forest users, who reside 12 to 18 km away from the CF are considered as the distant users for this CF.

2. Chisapani Community Forest

2.1 Background

The Chisapani CF is situated in the northern part of Nawalparasi district, in western development region of Nepal. Chisapani CF is spread over seven Village Development Committees (VDCs) namely Makar, Panchnagar, Jahada, Sarawal, Badahara Dubauliya, Rampur Khadauna, Ram Purawa. It has 2,654 households and a population of 16,801. Some of these households include those who migrated from other districts to settle here, especially from hilly regions. In order, to become a member of CFUG, the migrants have to pay Nepali Rupees (NPR) 1,200 as membership fee.

The Chisapani CF has both natural and plantation forests. Major tree species of natural forest are Sal (*Shorea robusta)*, Asna (*Terminalia tomentosa)* and Jamun (*Syzygium cumini);* tree seedlings of Sissoo (*Dalbergia sissoo)* have been planted in the open and barren land within the CF. The CF covers an area of 165 hectares, and Chisapani CFUG has plans to extend it up to 500 hectares in the future.

According to the Assistant Forest Officer (AFO) of Ilaka Forest Office, in Bardaghat, the local people had begun the process of establishing CF back in 1997 (2053 BS[3]), but it was formally handed over to the local communities only in 2009 (2066 BS) by the District Forest Office (DFO), Nawalparasi. The main reason behind such a delay in handing over the CF was the decade long Maoist conflict in Nepal, which lasted from 1996 to 2006 (Basnett 2009). During this period, the government managed forests were the main source of basic livelihood needs of the local communities.

Discussion with the members of CFUG and other villagers revealed that during the handover of the CF to the CFUG, some aspects of social equity were already being considered. The handover process included provisions to ensure the participation of people from all social groups and encouraged fair and equitable distribution of both cost and benefits in CF management and development. In this regard, the then DFO played a key role by creating a space to include the distant villagers who are located almost 12 to 18 km away, in southern part of CF, as the members of the CF. Efforts were made to include women, indigenous peoples, Dalit and Madheshi social groups residing in close vicinity to the CF.

3 Abbreviate of 'Bikram Sambat', an official Nepali calendar which is 56.7 years ahead of the Gregorian Calendar.

Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with distance users at *Ghaatgaddhi*, Bardaghat, Nawalparasi district.
Photo: © rroy

The analysis presented below has looked into all three key dimensions of equity and their effectiveness in sustainably managing Chisapani CF.

2.2 Distributive equity

2.2.1 Access to and distribution of fuelwood

The local villagers can collect fuelwood from the Chisapani CF annually, for a period of two months, specifically every Saturday, from 15 December to 15 February (Mangsir to Falgun) for household consumption only. During this period, NPR 5 is charged from each household as a membership entry fee for every visit to the CF for collection of fuelwood. The CF users, who are residing close to the CF, go to the forest to collect the fuelwood, while the villagers living further away (12-18 km) from CF collect the fuelwood from the nearby wood depot, locally known as *ghaatgaddhi*. The distant users have to pay NPR 200 for one quintal (100 kg) of fuelwood and each household receives only one quintal of fuelwood per month during the two-month collection periods. In addition to the seasonal access to CF and nearby wood depot for collecting fuelwood, each household also has rights to four quintal of fuelwood, to meet the fuelwood needs for cultural and religious ceremonies and rituals, such as weddings, funeral procession etc.

Both distant and nearby users take part in forest management and silvicultural operations, such as thinning, singling and pruning. They also engage in

cleaning and clearing fire lines inside the forest during the forest fire prone seasons. In such operations, a group of 10 to 15 members from the distant villages contribute their time voluntarily whereas all users close to CF take part in the process.

There are procedures in place for allowing access to forest resources for all the members of CFUGs, including for those living far away from it, and also for their contribution to maintaining CF.

2.2.2 Access to and distribution of timber

With regards to access and distribution of timber, the members of Chisapani CFUG collect and store timber in the local *ghaatgaddhi*. The distribution of timber from *ghaatgaddhi* to CFUG members is decided by the CF executive committee (EC). Depending upon the demands from the CFUG members, the CF EC decides the type and amount of timber to be distributed to the members-households.

The CF EC sends out information to all CF users to apply for the required amount of timber for the construction and maintenance of their homes. After receiving the application from the users, the Evaluation Sub-committee examines all the applications and makes a decision on timber distribution to the applicants. The selling price of timber is fixed for different species by the CF EC. For example, the selling price for Sal, a high grade timber, is fixed at NPR 750 per cubic feet (cft); for a low grade timber it is fixed at NPR 400 per cft. Both these rates are lower than the government rate, which are fixed at NPR 800 for grade A (higher grade), NPR 500 for grade B (equivalent to lower grade of CF EC) and NPR 300 for grade C (lowest grade) respectively (GoN 2011).

Distance users are collecting their quotas of timber at *Ghaatgaddhi*, Bardaghat, Nawalparasi district. Photo: © rroy

Before the formation of the CF, the forest was largely used by those living close to it, while those living far away from it did

not have access to fuelwood and timber, mainly due to difficulty in accessing these resources. However after establishing the CF and mainstreaming equity consideration into CF planning, the forest resources were equally accessible to the villagers living far away from the CF. Moreover, they also contribute in maintaining CF by taking part in fire management and other silvicultural practices.

The procedures in place for accessing and distributing fuelwood and timber from Chisapani CF among the CFUG, is a good example of distributive equity in CF management.

2.2.3 Leasing of CF land to socially and economically excluded social groups

Besides considering the access to forest resources for near and distant users of Chisapani CF, the CF EC also provided adequate attention to ensure inclusion of socially and economically marginal groups into CF management practices. This was done by allocating 1.5 hectare of Chisapani CF to each household of the poor and marginalized group, including Indigenous Peoples, Dalit and Madheshi who are economically backward as identified through a wealth ranking exercise conducted prior to the establishment of CF (please see section 2.4.1). The allocated land is primarily used for cultivating economically valuable Non-Timber Forest Product (NTFP) and Medicinal or Aromatic Plant (MAPs) species, such as amriso (*Thysanolaena maxima)*, sarpagandha (*Rauvolfia serpentine)*, menthe (*Mentha arvensis*), and citronella (*Cymbopogon winterianus Jowitt)*; thus providing the group an opportunity to earn money.

Cultivation of NTFPs species at leased land of Chisapani CF. Photo: © rroy

2.3 Procedural equity

2.3.1 Composition of Executive Committee

The Chisapani CF has 23 members in its EC, the election for the EC is held every three years. Currently, the ethnic composition of the EC includes 10 *Brahmins*, 1 *Chhetri*, 9 members of IPs and 3 Dalits; Out of 23 members, six are women. The EC is further supported by four sub-committees, namely Advisory, Evaluation, Account and NTFP management. The 9-member Advisory sub-committee has 4 *Brahmin*, 4 IPs, including one woman from *Brahmin* community; the Evaluation sub-committee has 2 *Brahmin* and 2 members of IPs and one of them is a women. The Account sub-committee has one member each from *Brahmin*, Indigenous Peoples and woman from Dalit social group. Thus, it can be said that Chisapani CF EC strives to be a socially and gender inclusive body.

Even as the Chisapani CF EC and sub-committees strive to be socially inclusive there is only 26 percent women in the EC, as against the Community Forest Guideline of 2009 (2065 BS) which requires provision of at least 50 percent women in the EC, from all socially and economically excluded groups i.e. IPs, Madheshi and Dalit.

The EC is aware of this and it is trying to increase women's representation in the EC and ensure their active and meaningful participation in the CF management process. Intense engagement of women in the household chores, illiteracy and hesitation to speak in front of village leaders and public were cited as some of the reasons for low representation of women in EC.

Thus, in terms of procedural equity, the Chisapani CF EC have made conisderable efforts to ensure the participation of all sections of society in the decision making body, however, there is a room for improvement, particularly with regards to enhancing women's representation in the EC and strengthening their voice in the decision making process.

2.3.2 Decision making process

A monthly meeting of EC is scheduled for the 17th of every month of the Nepali calendar; a general assembly of CFUG is held once in a year. Each VDC of Chisapani CF has elected its own representative to put forward the management and development issues of the CF in EC, and resolve them with

consensus. Respective sub-committees help in the decision making process and to resolve any issues. In the meeting, decisions are made through a democratic process, and the voice of every member of EC is heard and considered in the decision making process.

In addition, there is active participation of youth in forest management, protection and development. All executive members contribute their time and efforts voluntarily for the development and management of CF. Everybody is aware of the value of the forest for their livelihoods and other environmental benefits and actively participate in the sustainable management of CF, and thus ensure a sustainable supply of resources from the forest and their equitable distribution among the users.

2.4 Contextual equity

This section discusses whether the voice of marginalized social groups is reflected in the decision making process or not. Furthermore, contextual equity also looks into the context with regards to the access of marginalized social groups to forest resources and related capacities.

2.4.1 Social inclusion

As mentioned earlier, Chisapani CF has promoted key elements of social equity, such as social and gender inclusiveness, especially in benefits sharing and decision making processes. Diverse social groups have been well represented and are active in the EC, other sub-committees and general assembly. Moreover, there is land allocation of 1.5 ha in block 4 and 5 of the CF for the poor households to earn incomes through the sale of NTFPs and MAPs. Amriso (*Thysanolaena maxima)*, is bought by the local traders for selling them in local market whereas all raw materials of Sarpagandha, Mentha and Citronella are used at distillation plant of the CF to produce essential oil.

2.4.2 Transparency

To maintain transparency in the management of CF and its funds, the EC shares the annual report and audit report at the annual general assembly meeting. The feedback from the users is gathered and incorporated before finalizing the reports.

The CF has its own bank account for financial transactions. Chairperson, secretary and treasurer are the signatory to the CF bank account.

2.4.3 Networking with institutions

The CF receives continuous technical support from Ilaka and the District Forest Office. Likewise, the Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal (FECOFUN) has been providing training on REDD+ and other emerging issues of CF with the support of RECOFTC – The Center for People and Forests. The trainings have helped create awareness among the forest users about the issues of climate change, carbon trading and sustainable forest management. Adding to this, the CF receives NPR 10,000 per month from International Development Enterprises (IDE) Nepal for the management of the forest nursery, and salaries (NPR 5,000 per month) of two local women who are employed to maintain the nursery. Similarly, Resource Identification and Management Society Nepal (RIMS-Nepal) has been supporting the local villagers for fish farming, pig rearing and eco-tourism activities.

2.4.4 Development of wetland area

Short term and long term plans to manage wetland areas within the CF are being developed. The CF is also planning to create tourist attractions to promote eco-tourism around the wetland. The plan includes the mainstreaming of equity elements into different aspects of developing eco-tourism in the wetland area. The CF plans to give priority to the poorer households for benefits sharing, and they will also be encouraged to participate actively and meaningfully in the planning, implementation and decision making processes.

Wetland area inside the Chisapani CF.
Photo: © rroy

2.4.5 Wildlife rehabilitation center

The Chisapani CF EC is also engaged in providing shelter to the injured wild animals and arranging for their treatment and rehabilitation. The CF EC and other members of CFUG have rescued a number of injured deers and brought them to wildlife rehabilitation center situated at CF office. After the treatment

by the veterinary doctor/technician, the animals are released back into their natural habitat. The EC believes that the center would be able to create awareness on the significance of wildlife conservation and reducing wildlife and human conflict among the forest users, and thus, also contribute to the decision making process with regards to the forest protection and conservation.

Wildlife rehabilitation center at office primises of Chisapani CF.
Photo: © rroy

3. Bandre Community forest

3.1 Background

Bandre CF is situated at Fedhikhola-1, Syangja district, in the western development region of Nepal. It covers almost 31 ha of forest area and has 107 member households, it consists of two VDCs - Fedikhola-1 and Bhatkhola-8. Out of total households, *Brahmin* and *Chhetri* are the dominant groups with only three households from Dalit and only one household from IPs. Similar to Chisapani CF, the families that migrate to the village have to pay NPR 3,500 to become a member of the CF as an entry fee; new households formed after separating from an existing member household have to pay NPR 750.

The Bandre CF has natural and plantation forests. Major tree species of the natural forest are Chilaune (*Schima wallichii)*, Katus (*Castanopsis indica)* and Pine (*Pinus roxburghii);* whereas tree seedlings of Badahar (*Artocarpus lakoocha)*, Champ (*Michelia champaca*) and Lapsi (*Choerospondias axillaris*) have been planted in the open and barren land within CF. The CF was formally handed over to the villagers by the DFO, Syangja in 1995 (2051 BS).

The historical account of Bandre CF reveals that the villagers were handed over a poor quality of forests, with very sparse tree cover. Prior to the handover, it was being used as an open-access resource, and frequent incidences of forest fires further contributed to its degradation. Upon being formally recognized as a CF, the villagers took the initiative to manage the forest and adopted in a number of rules and regulations to stop further degradation of the CF. In addition, a number of rehabilitation measures, including plantation and enrichment activities, were initiated by the villagers. Currently, a full time forest watcher takes care of the forest, which is without any fencing.

Bandre CF has been divided into three major blocks for (i) silvicultural operations such as thinning, pruning, singling, (ii) rotational harvesting of dead, decaying, diseased trees; and (iii) management of matured trees. Along with a number of rules and regulations with regards to using forest, the EC has made provisions of penalty for illegally using the forest. For example, cattle-grazing is prohibited inside the CF, and a defaulter has to pay a fine of NPR 500 for each animal.

It is interesting to report that 97-years old Chairperson of Bandre CF, Mr. Mana Dwoj Thapa, has been contributing his time and effort to the development of

Bandre CF for last two and half decades. Mr. Thapa has been given this position in recognition of his immense contribution for the development of Bandre CF. For day to day operations, Bandre CF has a caretaker Chairperson.

In the section below, the key results of different elements of equity are discussed.

3.2 Distributive equity

3.2.1 Access to and distribution of fuelwood

Bandre CF conducts silvicultural operations i.e. thinning and pruning in the months of December and January (Nepalese months: Paush and Magh). For this, each *tole* (hamlet) committee forms a group and EC assigns selected block of the CF to it for thinning and pruning operations which continue for one or two days. Fuelwood collected during the silvicultural operations is distributed among the members of the group free of cost; socially and economically excluded social groups i.e. poor and Dalit are given due priority.

The silvicultural operation is also carried out during the *Dashain* and *Tihar* festivals (in October) - the longest and the most auspicious festival in Nepal - and dry seasons when the frequency and intensity of forest fire increases. In the silvicultural operations, dead, decaying and diseased tree twigs and dry leaf litters are removed from the forests by the CFUG members in order to minimize the chances of forest fire.

3.2.2 Access to and distribution of timber

Majority of tree species in the CF are pole size, with a diameter between 4 and 10 inches at breast height, and are not mature enough for harvesting. At present, the extraction of timber is minimal, instead the CF focuses on forest protection, and enhancing growing stock of forest and prevention of forest fires.

3.2.3 Rotational leasing of CF land to the socially and economically excluded groups

In 2009 (2066 BS), leasehold sub-committee of Bandre CF made the provision of allocating two hectares of CF land to selected households from the socially and economically excluded groups i.e. women, IPs, Dalit and others for income generation activities. This forest block is leased to these social groups

for five years which is handed over to other marginalized social groups after five years in a rotational period. At present, the forest block is utilized for cultivating grass such as napier (*Pennisetum purpureum)*, amriso (*Thysanolaena maxima)*, stylo (*Stylosanthes guianensis)*, and molasses (*Melinismin utiflora)* to feed the livestock. In addition, the leasehold sub-committee can utilize 35 percent of the CF fund for the improvement of livelihoods of the socially and economically excluded groups such as women, IPs and Dalit, in accordance to the CF guideline-2009.

Leasing the forest land: An example of social equity

Ram Bahadur Gurung (51), who migrated to Bhatkhola VDC in 1997, explained that tole committee is formed with representation from all households before the silvicultural operation and fuelwood collection seasons begin. After this operation, all members of tole committee receive fuelwood equally. For this, they use 3 to 5 feet long stick to measure volume or quantity of fuelwood. He further shares that the CF has the provision of leasing forest land to the socially and economically excluded households and priority is given to the poor and Dalit minority. In this context, the CF EC selects the households on the basis of a wellbeing ranking. This is the strongest part of the CF in terms of social equity for the betterment of livelihoods of the marginalized groups.

The decision making process is transparent and all concerned stakeholders are included in the process. Besides, rules and regulations of the CF are strong and respected by the CFUG members. Those found violating the rules and regulations, including EC members, are penalized. The EC presents the annual audit report in the General Assembly and share details about the income and expenditure of the CF.

(Source: Field Survey, 2013)

3.3 Procedural equity

3.3.1 Composition of executive committee

The Bandre CF has 11 members in its EC who are elected for a three year term. The ethnic composition of the EC consists of 1 *Brahmin* member, 8 members from *Chhetri* group and 2 Dalit members. Among these, 6 are women members, which is more than what is prescribed (50 percent) in the CF guideline-2009. The EC holds a meeting every month and a general assembly is organized once a year. The EC is supported by three sub-committees, namely Advisory, Account, and Leasehold and Forest Management. It is mandatory that every sub-committee has at least one woman member. In addition, the Leasehold sub-committee has 8 women members including one Dalit woman. Representatives of all social groups in the EC and sub-committees ensure that the decision-making process is democratic and participatory.

3.3.2 Inclusion of IPs and Dalit

As mentioned above, the fuelwood generated from silvicultural operations is distributed to all households who participate in these operations. Adding to this, biomass briquette making training was given by FECOFUN to the forest users, to promote the use of alternative energy sources, thus minimizing the pressure on the forest. Forest users sell the surplus biomass briquette in the local market, which earns them extra income.

There is no caste-based discrimination while distributing forest resources i.e. fuelwood, timber and grass. In this matter, high priority is given to the poorest households who are categorized under the category D of CF wellbeing ranking[4]. In the wellbeing ranking, households are categorized under four groups – A to D in descending order of income levels.

Engaging in the decision making process: voice of Dalit woman

Shanti Mijar (38), a residence of Fedhikhola-2, is a member of the EC. Ms. Mijar reported that the CF does not have any caste or gender based discrimination, even during the determination of access and distribution of forest resources. She feels free to put forward any issues related to benefit sharing of forest resources, for the social and economically excluded groups. If issues and decisions are not clear to her, she never hesitates to discuss them during the meeting of EC. She attends the EC meetings regularly to update herself regarding the development of the CF. Ms. Mijar, a mother of three children, engages in vegetable farming in her own agricultural land, and her husband migrated to Qatar for employment.

(Source: Field Survey, 2013)

3.4. Contextual equity

3.4.1 Social Inclusion

As mentioned above, Bandre CF includes women, IPs, Dalit and other socially and economically excluded groups in the decision making process as well as in benefit sharing of forest resources such as fuelwood, timber, fodder etc. In the case of Bandre CF, women are more actively involved in decision making processes than men. At least one key position to women is mandatory in every committee including Dalit. In addition, two hectare of forest land is allocated for poor households of the CF. These measures indicate that the CF has succeeded in institutionalizing social and gender inclusion.

4 Poor households are identified with wellbeing ranking and grouped as 'a, b, c and d.'

3.4.2 Transparency

To maintain the transparency in the CF, the EC presents the annual report along with audit report during the annual general assembly; feedback from the forest users are solicited and incorporated before the report is finalized. The CF also has a bank account for financial transactions; the Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer are the signatories to operate the CF bank account. The CF has adequate participation in the general assembly, silvicultural operations and forest management activities, members from all social groups take part equally and actively in these activities.

3.4.3 Networking with institutions

The CF receives regular technical support from DFO. Such support includes pitting for plantation, training for pruning and thinning, and cleaning of forest fire-line before dry seasons. Likewise, FECOFUN has been providing training on biomass briquette production, fish farming, and pig rearing etc. to the members of the CF.

3.4.4 Awards

The CF is a winner of *Sarbamaanya Ganesh Man Singh Ban Bikash Puruskaar* in 1997 [2054 BS] which is one of the prestigious awards in the field of forest management in the country, awarded by the Government of Nepal. The Bandre CF has also received an award from the District Forest Office for good forest management over three consecutive years – 1995, 1996 and 1997 respectively.

4. Prospects of REDD+ in the CFs

Chisapani and Bandre CFs are found to be good in terms of equitable distribution of benefits of forest resources, good governance in decision making process and inclusion of socially and economically excluded social groups. In this context, the forest management practices that are adopted, can add value to the implementation of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) projects in days to come. They could be taken as the guiding tools for benefits sharing, from the perspective of forest carbon trading and non-carbon received from the CFs. However, there is a need of further study on the implementation aspect of REDD+ in the CFs throughout Nepal to ensure the equitable rights of CF user groups while implementing REDD+.

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