

COMPARATIVE STUDY BETWEEN UGANDA AND NEPAL ON THE PARTICIPATION OF POOR IN COMMUNITY FORESTRY

Meena Suyal Chhetri
Simon Peter Achuu



OUTLINE OF THE PRESENTATION

- ❑ What is Community forestry ?
- ❑ Objectives of presentation
- ❑ Practice of Community Forestry
- ❑ Benefits of engaging communities in the management of forests
- ❑ Participation in community forestry
- ❑ Comparison between Uganda and Nepal
 - Similarities and differences in practice of Community Forest
 - Why Nepal is performing better than Uganda?
- ❑ Conclusion



WHAT IS COMMUNITY FORESTRY?

- Community Forestry refers to practices used by rural dwellers to manage tree vegetation.
- It therefore ensures that;
 - residents have access to land and its resources,
 - plays a key role in meaningful forest decision making and
 - begin to protect and restore their forest

(Jong, 2012)



OBJECTIVES OF PRESENTATION

- To determine factors responsible for the participation of poor in community forestry;
- To find out reasons why Nepal is performing better than Uganda.



PRACTICE OF COMMUNITY FORESTRY

Nepal

- Mainly practiced as Community Forestry
- National forests handed over to local communities as CFUGs for protection, management, utilization.
- Autonomous, independent & stable local level community organizations guided by the collective decision and actions
- 17,685 CFUGs managing 1.6 million ha. of National forest.
- 100% benefit goes to the community forest user groups.
- Primarily aims to fulfill basic needs but also provides other ecosystem services.

Uganda

- Mainly practiced as Collaborative Forestry Management (CFM)
- It is mainly executed as;
 - (i) Local authorities establish and manage forests
 - (ii) Private farmers plant and manage trees → own or hired land
 - (iii) CB → state forests
 - (iv) Local communities → historical or cultural values.
- By 2011,
 - About 27 CFM agreements signed,
 - 30 applications approved and 28 others initiated



BENEFITS OF ENGAGING COMMUNITIES IN THE MANAGEMENT OF FORESTS

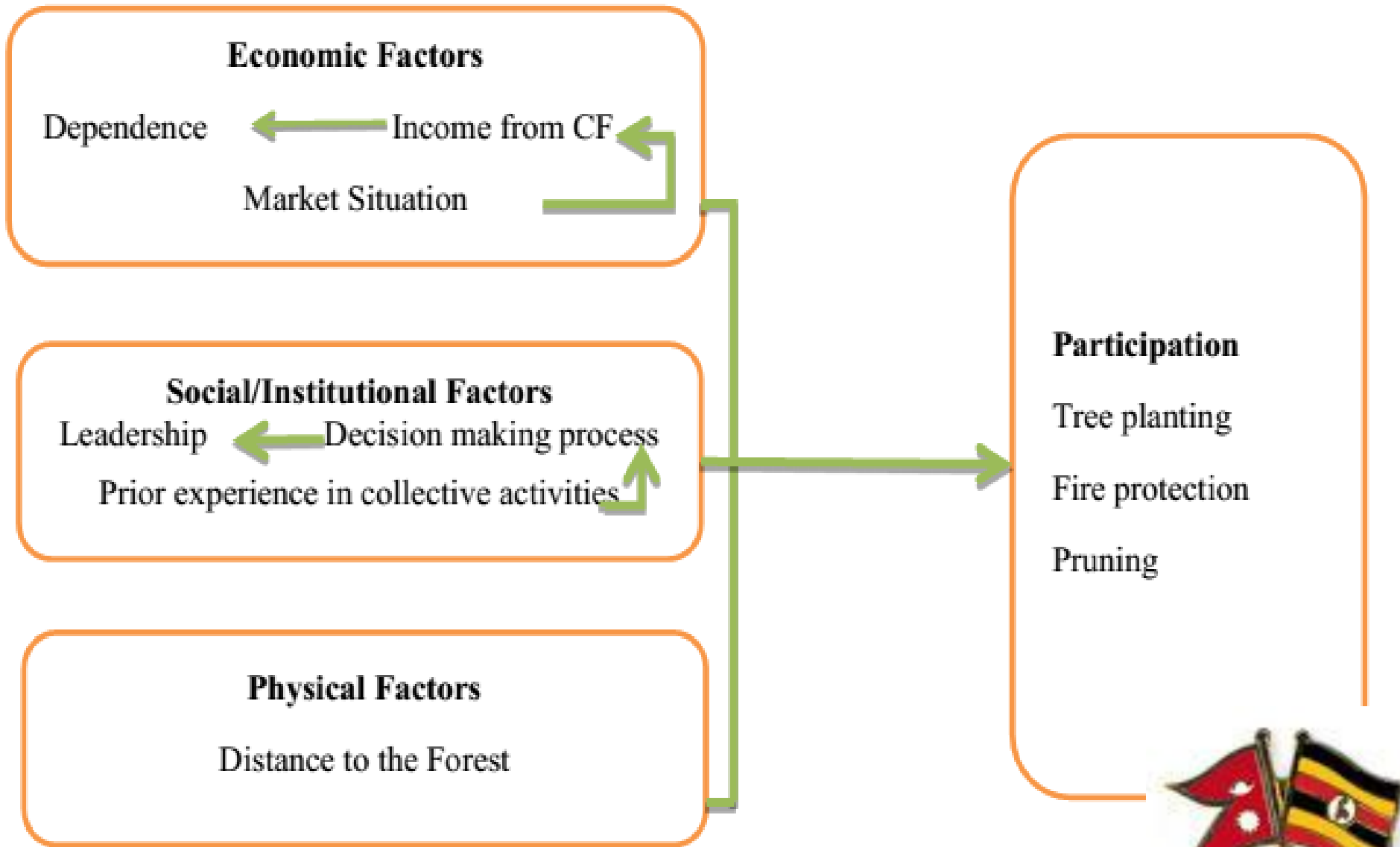
- Reduces government costs for forest management → delegation of responsibility and authority.
- Enables community people to secure social and economic benefits
- Builds skills and capacity of local people → sustainable management of forest.
- Ensures continuous flow of forest benefits to the community
- Creates confidence and ownership on users to conserve community forest.



Source: greenfudge.org



PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY FORESTRY



COMPARISON BETWEEN UGANDA AND NEPAL (USER PARTICIPATION)

Economic Factors

Similarities

- Income from forestry
- Wealth status of the households
- Power structures

Differences

- Equitable Benefit Sharing



Social Factors

Similarities

- Decision making process
- Policy gaps; long bureaucracy vs undefined community roles

Differences

- Drivers; CDD vs External (technocrats)
- Tenure period; In Nepal tenure rights 40 years while in Uganda Tenure agreements last between 5 to 10 year.
- Prior experience in collaborative activities;
1970s Vs 1990s



Physical Factors

Similarities

- Quality of the forest resource
- Distance to the forest resource



WHY COMMUNITY FOREST IS MORE SUCCESSFUL IN NEPAL THAN IN UGANDA

Nepal



- Long history in community forestry (1970s)
- Internally driven community forestry
- Rights, Rules and Equitable benefit sharing mechanism
- Existence of a good pro-poor policy.

Uganda



- Short history in community forestry (1990s)
- Eternally driven community forestry
- Weak pro-poor policy.



CONCLUSION

- Participation in community forestry per say is not enough; initiatives that target individual households should be sought rather than community in order to ensure equal participation of all member in the community
- Pro-poor policies that aim at alleviating poverty through community forestry should not only be formulated but also implemented.



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION!!!**

