

## **Project Update: February 2011**

Two Focused Group Discussions (FGD) were arranged within the local community people to assess their perception in co-management. One female and one male group, each consisting of six members, participated in the FGD.

The outcome of the FGDs can be summarised as follows:

### **Community views on biodiversity and co-management**

1. Have primary idea about the importance of conservation (NSP played a significant role in this regard).
2. Protected areas (its resources) are important for their livelihood.
3. Illegal harvesting and felling from wildlife sanctuary reduced significantly. NSP and IPAC project played a substantial role in this regard.
4. Co-management helped to increase awareness apart from creating a joint responsibility to prevent unwanted activities/illegal felling
5. Women members involved in the programme are trying to divert /reduce their dependency on PA through AIG (Alternative Income Generation).
6. More confident about programme benefit due to the legalisation of the participation through GO (Government Order).
7. Community people felt empowered through the project. They are now invited by the local forest authority during various stages of co-management programme which deemed absent in conventional management system of the forest department.

### **Weakness/Drawbacks encountered by the community people**

1. Less inputs (i.e. training, finance and marketing support) towards AIG.
2. Still influenced by local elites in different management activities i.e. beneficiary selection for plantation, training, AIG support and others.
3. Protected Area (Chunati Wildlife Sanctuary) (PA) is almost barren due to massive exploitation.
4. Number of forest resource users (FUG) are more compared to available initial support provided by the programme/project.
5. Community people who are directly involved in the project are positive towards the co-management concept while others have mixed opinion.
6. Local forestry officials are reluctant or less enthusiastic in promoting co-management concept and its implementation.