Women’s Leadership for Change – Why the Need?

Experiences from Nepal

17 October, 2012
1. Explores - why the change has been slow for women:
   with examples from 2 initiatives
   - i) Nepal’s Policies, strategies, plans and
   - ii) Programmes and processes: LGCDP; REDD+ Readiness Process

2. Some good practices - e.g. Rural Women’s Leadership for Change
Nepal’s GESI - sensitive plans, programs, strategies, mechanisms

Example:

- Interim Constitution (2007)
- Three Year Interim Plan (2007-2010)
- GESI Strategies – i. Forest, ii. Agriculture, iii. Health & iv. Local Development
- Gender Responsive Budgeting and Guideline
Nepal’s GESI - sensitive plans, programmes, strategies, mechanisms

Example:

- Gender Focal Points – 25 ministries

- Progressive laws and policies - women related; CFUGs (the most progressive)

- National level sectoral GESI Assessments – GESA of 7 sectors
Example:

- 1. Local Governance Community Development Programme (LGCDP):
  - Active in 75 districts – 3415 VDCs with total 466.1 mil USD
  - Policies, mechanisms, resources in place – *Minimum Conditions and Performance Measures*
e.g. REDD+ Process - Pilots

- Builds on Community Forest’s progressive policies – e.g.
  - 50% women’s representation (?)
  - Representation in key positions: No women chair in 16 CFUGs except in “all Women CFUG”
  - Stronger women discouraged and excluded
  - Access and control – decision, information, participation ….
  - Benefit – distribution - of the carbon fund for women – still not reaching the poor women
Extensive stakeholder consultations (?):

- Both at local & national levels
- Women and excluded groups consulted (?)
REDD+SES Technical Working Group – 3 women out of 8 members
What are the ground realities?

Are women and the excluded peoples voice being heard and concerns taken up?

Is there an enabling environment to – participate..?

Does the institutions have adequate and robust capacities?

Are women and excluded able to grab the opportunities?

Are there robust mechanisms and resources to ensure/monitor?....
Implications for women

• No or selective information, limited engagement

• Seizing opportunities:
  ▪ Building/enhancing capacities
  ▪ Influencing and making decisions
  ▪ Prioritization
  ▪ Developing agendas
• Some Learning - Accelerate Change

• Investments:
  – Organisational/Institutional levels – training; organisational assessments
  – Local levels – quality and quantity & supply and demand side
• Build women’s & excluded people’s leadership and leadership skills:
  – to grab opportunities – mobilize resources; be in decision making positions; negotiate to participate and engage in activities outside hhs ....
• Build Mechanisms for continuous coaching and mentoring
Build/Strengthen Networks
e.g. Women Leadership Circles