Mountain Men and Women Adapting to Climate Change: Photo-story Telling from Nepal

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Climate change is taking place at a rapid pace, exacerbating pressures on fragile ecosystems and human well-being. Ecosystems in the Hindu-Kush Himalayas and communities dependent on these for livelihood and other services are highly vulnerable to climate related risks. Traditionally local communities have been adjusting to climatic and environmental changes and therefore possess a rich indigenous knowledge on adaptive practices. Natural resources management impaired by poor governance, unsustainable practices, inequitable access to resources and decision-making, increased out-migration of men and youth, is additionally threatened by climate change - particularly socio-economically disadvantaged community groups including women bear increased burden of adaptation in farm and natural resources management. A sound understanding of their coping capacity is therefore critical for effective adaptation on the ground. Visibly affected by both climatic and non-climatic factors (e.g. lesser snowfall, extreme events, inadequate governance) community-based approaches are piloted in Jumla and Mustang districts of Nepal which aim at improving socio-ecological resilience of mountain communities. These communities are enabled to test and adopt innovative adaptive practices to enhance agro-ecosystem production and agribusiness opportunities. Few key inclusive and adaptive activities and technologies tested are: intercropping apple with different crops, on farm grass varieties production, off-season vegetables with low-cost greenhouses, biobriquettes, and soil and water conservation e.g. drip irrigation and mulching. Opportunities and challenges of mountain men and women adapting to climate change will be presented through an audio-visual method of photo story telling.