



Special issue - January 2009

Promoting rural innovations through grants

In this issue

- [Message from Grant Coordinator](#)
- [Narrowing the gap between generating and implementing research recommendations](#)
- [Research on dairy goats improves livelihoods of women and children in Afghanistan and Pakistan](#)
- [Recognizing 'default organic' production systems used by subsistence farmers in the Himalayas](#)
- [Enhancing the sustainability of organizations of poor rural people: lessons from Bangladesh and Mongolia](#)
- [Centre established to improve atoll agriculture in the Republic of Kiribati](#)
- [Assessing knowledge networks: a social network analysis of ENRAP](#)
- [New projects and programmes approved](#)
- [Upcoming events and missions](#)

Message from the Grants Coordinator

The September issue of the newsletter focused on agricultural research supported by IFAD regional grant programmes. This issue presents a selection of grant programmes that have been working on and promoting various rural innovations in the Asia and the Pacific Region.

Promoting pro-poor innovation is one of the main tenets of the IFAD policy for grants financing (2003). The policy places a premium on rural innovation and supports the development of innovative community-based approaches.

The IFAD Innovation Strategy (2007) retains the definition of innovation articulated in the Initiative for Mainstreaming Innovation: "In its simplest form, innovation is a process that adds value or solves a problem in new ways. For IFAD, it is the development of improved and cost-effective ways to address problems and opportunities faced by the rural poor...the most important innovations are those that change the way smallholders and other rural poor people invest in, produce and market their products; manage their assets; get organized, communicate and interact with their partners; and influence policies and institutions." (IFAD Initiative for Mainstreaming Innovation, Operational Framework for the Main Phase, EB 2004/83/R.2).

IFAD provides grants to institutions to pilot innovative approaches that can enhance the livelihood strategies of IFAD's beneficiaries. These innovations – if proven successful – could be then further developed and scaled up by loan-funded investment projects.

This newsletter presents a range of innovative approaches that grant programmes have been promoting in the last few years in different fields and countries of the region.

Carla De Gregorio, Grants Coordinator, Asia and the Pacific Division

[Back to top](#)

[Narrowing the gap between generating and implementing research recommendations](#)

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Making a Difference in Asia and the Pacific

Issue 23: November-December 2008

Public-private-people partnership

Special issue: October 2008

Supporting agricultural research through grants

Issue 22: August 2008

Islands

Issue 21: June-July 2008

Food security in the context of increasing commodity prices

Issue 20: January-February 2008

Rural infrastructure

Issue 19: January-February 2008

Rural finance

Issue 18: December 2007

Forestry

Issue 17: September-October 2007

Water

Issue 16: June-July 2007

Managing risks and reducing vulnerability to natural hazards

Issue 15:

For research to effectively support development interventions it is important that its results are implemented. There is often a gap between generating and implementing recommendations of research. This is primarily because researchers and implementers often do not interact and the process of research dissemination takes time. In a recently concluded research grant from IFAD, the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) adopted a unique approach to narrow this gap. This article highlights important features of this approach and lessons learned.

IFAD's grant to CIFOR entitled 'Programme for Improving Income-Generation for Forest Communities through IFAD's loan portfolio in the Asia and the Pacific region' (2004-2008) aimed to generate knowledge to support IFAD's poverty alleviation initiatives in forest communities in Asia. CIFOR implemented the grant in collaboration with three IFAD-supported loan projects that have significant forestry components:

- North Eastern Region Community Resource Management Project for Upland Areas (Meghalaya) in India
- Leasehold Forestry and Livestock Programme in Nepal
- West Guangxi Poverty-Alleviation Project in Guangxi in China

Needs-based research

Research topics were identified and prioritized through country visits, consultations with stakeholders by the Principal Scientist and Project Coordinator from CIFOR, and through the programme's start-up workshop. The workshop involved potential principal investigators and research partners from the three countries. To generate lessons and allow comparability of cases, the identification of country studies was guided by four themes: forest products and markets, institutional mechanisms, review of natural resource management strategies and policy support. Country studies are listed below:



A woman selling handicrafts in Meghalaya



A woman weaving a mat using local grass in Nepal

Country	Research study
China	Improving efficiency of the post-harvest processing of aniseed oil
	Potential of the bamboo sector in improving incomes
	Study on the status and potential of forest products cooperatives in Guangxi
	The impact of forest policies in Guangxi
India	Study on the status and potential of forest products and markets in Meghalaya
	Analysis of the changes in livelihoods due to forest-based interventions by the North Eastern Region Community Resource Management Project for Upland Areas
	Analysis of traditional institutions in Meghalaya
	Policy analysis of the Supreme Court Order and related laws on natural resource management

March/April 2007

Energy for sustainable development

Issue 14:

January/February 2007

- Sustainable natural resource management

Issue 13:

November/December 2006

- PBAS: looking beyond the resource allocation system

Issue 12:

September/October 2006

- Communication for poverty reduction and rural development

Issue 11: July/August 2006

- Working with UN agencies at the country level

Issue 10: May/June 2006

- Indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities

Issue 9: March/April 2006

- Access to land

Issue 8:

January/February 2006

- Agricultural Technology Management

Issue 7:

November/December 2005

- Pro-poor policies

Issue 6:

September/October 2005

- Gender & MDGs

Issue 5: July/August 2005

- Partnership

Issue 4: May/June 2005

- Rural Finance

Issue 3: March/ April 2005

- Donor Harmonization

Issue 2: January/ February 2005

Issue 1: November/ December 2004

Upcoming events

Nepal	Institutional analysis of the Leasehold Forestry and Livestock Programme
	Documentation of effective practices of community-based forest enterprises
	Comparative review of community forestry and leasehold forestry programmes
	The impact of various forestry programmes on livelihoods of poor people in Nepal

Locally based research partners

CIFOR selected locally based research partners to lead the investigation on the identified research topics. This helps to build the lacking capacity in research within the selected project sites. CIFOR also made arrangements with senior officials from the three projects to serve as its country liaison officers. Their role was primarily to maintain collaboration with CIFOR's research partners in the selected locations of the research projects and direct the research outputs to meet the needs of the loan projects.



Women with children making bael fruit juice in Nepal

Impacts and lessons

The collaborative approach proved to be effective in increasing the usefulness and impact of the entire research project. Focusing on priority research issues generated strong support from loan projects and their openness in incorporating the research recommendations.

The results of research have been disseminated primarily through national workshops, presentations to IFAD country programme managers and through online publications. Many recommendations were and are being incorporated in project strategies and country policies.

For example, CIFOR's collaboration with the Leasehold Forestry and Livestock Programme in Nepal resulted in changes being made in the implementation of the programme. These changes include:

- simplifying the procedure for handing over lease certificates
- introducing effective techniques for identifying the poorest of the poor
- further promoting community-based forest enterprises in improving their income

In Meghalaya in Northeast India, the studies on forest products and markets showed the high contribution of forest-based enterprises to the state economy and led to new investments and policy support amongst the policy makers.

However, there are some constraints in this approach, such as additional tasks for project staff, who may be less supportive out of fear that their participation in the research would add another layer of 'evaluation' to their performance, causing some delay in implementing the research. Another constraint is the lack of baseline data in the study areas, making assessment studies particularly challenging. Nevertheless, these costs are outweighed by the benefits.

The research project affirmed that research can provide the necessary information and analysis to guide IFAD and government policy. It also demonstrated that the collaborative research approach can help identify research topics and shorten the time for implementing and disseminating research results.

Adrian Albano, Project Intern

Read more:

- [Center for International Forestry Research \(CIFOR\)](#)
- [Nepal's 'poorest of the poor' reap the benefits of innovative leasehold project](#)
- [North Eastern Region Community Resource Management Project for Upland Areas \(Meghalaya\) in India](#)

and missions:

Cambodia

Asian Development Bank (ADB)/IFAD debriefing with donors on the technical working group on decentralization and deconcentration (D&D) – Tonle Sap Poverty Reduction and Smallholder Development Project, 19-23 January 2009

ADB/IFAD fact finding mission and detailed project design and quality enhancement mission – Tonle Sap Poverty Reduction and Smallholder Development Project, 26 January – 8 February 2009

ADB/IFAD/World Bank joint country portfolio review meeting – 2 February 2009

Indonesia

Start up workshop – Rural Empowerment and Agricultural Development Programme in Central Sulawesi, 9-10 March 2009

Nepal

Review of results-based COSOP – January 2009

Joint review mission – Western Uplands Poverty-Alleviation Project, February 2009

Philippines

Supervision and implementation support mission – Rural Microenterprise Promotion Programme, 19-30 January 2009

Start-up workshop – Second Cordillera

- [West Guangxi Poverty-Alleviation Project in Guangxi in China](#)
- IFAD operations [China](#) | [India](#) | [Nepal](#)
- Rural poverty [China](#) | [India](#) | [Nepal](#)
- [Research publications](#)

[Back to top](#)

Research on dairy goats improves livelihoods of women and children in Afghanistan and Pakistan

The project is being implemented by the International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) in Balochistan and Punjab provinces of Pakistan and in Baghlan and Nangarhar provinces of Afghanistan. It reaches its beneficiaries by interacting closely with all members of local communities, supporting already established groups of women and initiating new groups with the help of women facilitators.

In Afghanistan

After the programme started, 272 women in seven villages in Nangarhar and 274 in seven villages in Baghlan became members of local women's organizations.

Re-stocking of dairy goats through credit-in-kind

This programme activity restocks goats that were lost during the war with adapted breed goats (Gujri breed). In this way, the improved breeds will enhance the genetic base of village flocks. The indigenous Gujri breed of Afghanistan is a preferred breed. It is resistant to diseases and is able to produce under cold temperatures and high altitudes. The Gujri breed produces an average of two to three litres of milk per day and ideally gives birth to one to two kids every eight months.

Re-stocking is for women and women-headed households. The activity is implemented through a 'credit-in-kind' scheme, in which a woman programme participant forwards a young female goat to another beneficiary. This system allows the programme to reach out to many more women.

The eligibility criteria for re-stocking targeted three categories of beneficiaries. The first category includes widows or women who are heads of their families and who:

- possess management skills
- have access to feed resources
- own a shelter for goats
- are willing to participate in collecting data on lambing, mortality, milk yield, weight gains, cashmere yield, feeds offered, health problems, etc
- are among the poorest of the poor, owning no livestock or land

The second category includes widows or women who are heads of their families and who own one to three goats but lack technical knowledge on improved goat production. These women will receive technical advice and support to build their assets.

The third category includes widows or women who are heads of their families and who do not own goats but have other livestock and sufficient goat-rearing experience. These women would receive a kid through the 'pass on the gift policy' from women who received goats as first beneficiaries and will become 'second-round beneficiaries'. Availability of shelter, willingness to collect data and



Children of a beneficiary family in Sanjavi district (Balochistan) holding kids delivered by a doe mated with an improved buck provided by the project



A widow beneficiary

Highland Agricultural Resource Management Project, 2-4 February 2009

Sri Lanka

Post supervision visit – Smallholder Plantations Entrepreneurship Development Programme, February 2009

Useful links

Knowledge Networking for Rural Development in Asia/Pacific Region

(ENRAP) is a programme financed and implemented by IFAD and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). The programme aims to bring the benefits of accessing and sharing global information resources to IFAD-supported programmes and projects in the Asia and the Pacific region.

Occasional papers are a series of studies on emerging thematic issues in the Asia and the Pacific Region published by IFAD. The papers contribute to IFAD's efforts to share the knowledge and experience emerging from its activities and those of its partners in the region.

Rural poverty portal

powered by IFAD is a website where rural poor people, policy-makers, donors, research institutes, non-governmental organizations and other development partners can share information about eradicating rural poverty.

Beneficiaries. Availability of shelter, willingness to collect data and access to feed resources are considered for eligibility

receiving a twin-bearing doe provided by the project in Baghlan (Afghanistan)

The programme distributed 93 pregnant does and six bucks to beneficiaries. Bucks are used for service in village flocks grazing in communal pastures.

Vaccination and de-worming

Programme participants in both Afghan provinces acknowledged the impact of vaccination and de-worming, provided by the programme, on the health of goats. The vaccination against major diseases such as enterotoxaemia increased kid survival and overall flock productivity by three to five times. Programme staff and their partners believe that this positive result will convince households to share the cost of veterinary services in the future. Introducing a service fee is an important step to ensure the sustainability of the intervention.

Beneficiaries of Nangarhar Province (Afghanistan) acknowledge the impacts of the project

Twelve community representatives from seven villages of the Dar-e-Noor district where the IFAD-funded project is being implemented sent a letter (signed by all of them and the District Administrator) to ICARDA to express their appreciation for the successes of the project in their respective communities. They wrote: "We community representatives are strongly grateful for ICARDA's doings and appeal for further proceedings in our villages. The women alternative livelihood venture project, which is active since the last two years has established seven women associations and has organized village women in these associations in all the seven villages." The letter continued: "The women members of these associations have received civic mobilization and dairy hygienic handling and processing trainings which are extremely valuable and improvement steps in increasing the tradition of dairy products processing. The village women have now learned the hygienic milk collection and processing and have enhanced their proficiency in producing hygienic yogurt, cheese and curd, which is playing a helpful role in income-generating source for our women."

The programme introduced important innovations for reaching to women by a 'training women through women' approach. In this model, the programme was able to reach all women project members (over 500) through various trainings including milk hygiene and processing.

In addition, the programme introduced successful technologies to improve the feed resource base (e.g. mulberries, intercropping of legumes and maize), animal health status (participatory livestock disease control through vaccination and treatments administered by animal health workers), and genetic resources ('pass-on-the-gift' approach).

The activities were positively evaluated by an IFAD supervision mission in April 2008 and consequently considered for scaling up by the new investment project of IFAD in Afghanistan – the Rural Microfinance and Livelihoods Enhancement Programme. This is an outstanding achievement of the grant programme.

In Pakistan

The programme works in ten villages in Punjab and five villages in Balochistan. About 180 women in Punjab and 75 women in Balochistan are members of local women's organizations. The implementation of programme activities was relatively easier in Pakistan than in Afghanistan because of the availability of trained human resources to undertake on-farm research.

However, the productivity of livestock in Pakistan is constrained by many factors, including:

- low rainfall and cyclical drought



Dr T. Akhtar, National

About IFAD

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is a specialized agency of the United Nations, dedicated to eradicating poverty and hunger in developing countries. Its work in remote rural areas of the world helps countries achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Through low-interest loans and grants, IFAD develops and finances projects that enable rural poor people to overcome poverty themselves.

IFAD tackles poverty not just as a lender, but as an advocate for the small farmers, herders, fisherfolk, landless workers, artisans and indigenous peoples who live in rural areas and represent 75 per cent of the world's 1.2 billion extremely poor people. IFAD works with governments, donors, non-governmental organizations, local communities and many other partners to fight the underlying causes of rural poverty. It acts as a catalyst, bringing together partners, resources, knowledge and policies that create the conditions in which rural poor people can increase agricultural productivity, as well as seek out other options for earning income.

IFAD-supported rural development programmes and projects increase rural poor people's access to financial services, markets, technology, land and other natural resources.

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- scarcity and seasonal fluctuation of quality feed
- high rates of animal diseases
- overgrazing in communal pastures
- unbalanced nutrients in animal feed, which affects the quality of meat and milk and the health of animals
- inefficient utilization of local goat genetic resources
- low reproductive efficiency of goats
- limited marketing opportunities for goat products and low prices due to lack of access to good (lucrative) markets

Project Coordinator
(Pakistan) holding twin
kids produced by a doe
mated with an improved
buck provided by the
project

As in many developing countries, studies on livestock production are limited to government research stations and thus do not reflect the real situation in the farmers' field. The IFAD-funded programme addressed this by designing programme interventions jointly with the communities and by directly implementing these interventions on-farm with the women participants.

The benefits of supplemental feeding on goats' milk yield

The programme tested the benefits to be gained in milk production, as well as the financial benefits, by feeding a supplemental concentrate mix that meets goats' nutritional requirements. It used 68 dairy goats in six villages in rain-fed Punjab for this experiment. The results revealed that dairy goats supplemented with 250 grams of the concentrate mix per day produced 0.8 litres of milk per day as compared to 0.5 litres before the testing. During the nine-week testing period, the goats produced a total of 51 litres of milk, as compared to only 30 litres before the testing. The benefit cost analysis revealed that the benefits from the supplemental feeding were three times higher than the additional costs.

The benefits of supplemental feeding on sacrificial goats

The programme also tested the feeding of supplemental concentrate on fattening male goats for sacrificial purposes (for *Eid*). On average, the goats fed with the concentrate gained 170 grams, compared to 113 grams before the testing. The net benefit per goat from improved fattening was PKR 1,148 (US\$ 15) as compared to PKR 585 (US\$ 7.7) using farmers' traditional practice.

The benefits of supplemental fodder on dairy goats

Another option to improve the production of goat milk is by using guar hay (*Cyamopsis tetragonoloba*) as supplemental fodder. Goats that received two kilograms of guar hay per day produced 0.9 litres of milk per day, compared to only 0.5 litres of milk produced by goats being fed in the traditional way. Guar hay also increased the weight gain of female goats. Goats that received two kilograms of guar gained 133 grams per day, compared to 47 grams for the control goats.

The market studies conducted by the programme in Punjab have shown that women do not obtain the full market value of goat meat. While 1 kilogram of meat sells at PKR 200–220 (US\$ 2.6 to 2.9) at the programme site, the price at the nearby supermarkets is PKR 250–300 (US\$ 3.3 to 3.9). Programme staff are currently exploring the possibility of women forming cooperatives to improve their bargaining with respect to accessing these markets.

Looking ahead

The IFAD-supported programme is developing an innovative approach that links poor farmers to adaptive research. National agricultural research institutions in Afghanistan and Pakistan are directly involved in the programme through identifying appropriate demand-driven and market-oriented practices for goat production.

Despite the relatively short time since its inception, the programme has made a significant breakthrough in implementing improved dairy goat technologies in villages. The programme has also generated a high interest in proposed activities such as improving dairy processing, obtaining better feeds and veterinary inputs and forming goat-raising cooperatives at the village level.

- **Markos Tibbo**, Field Research Coordinator, ICARDA
- **Barbara Ann Rischkowsky**, Project Coordinator, ICARDA
- **Tasneem Akhtar**, National Project Coordinator, ICARDA-Pakistan
- **Abdoul-Haleem Nasery**, National Project Coordinator, ICARDA-Afghanistan

- [Abdul Majid, Country Manager, ICARDA-Pakistan](#)
- [Abdul-Rahman Manan, Researcher, ICARDA-Afghanistan](#)

Read more about:

- [IFAD operations in Pakistan](#)
- [Rural poverty in Pakistan](#)
- [Afghanistan Livestock Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock \(MAIL\)](#)
- [Arid Zone Research Centre \(AZRC\)](#)
- [Dutch Committee for Afghanistan \(DCA\)](#)
- [Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations \(FAO\) in Afghanistan](#)
- [International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas \(ICARDA\)](#)
- [National Agricultural Research Centre \(NARC\), Pakistan](#)
- [National Rural Support Programme \(NRSP\)](#)
- [Pakistan Agricultural Research Council \(PARC\)](#)
- [University of Arid Agriculture, Rawalpindi \(UAAR\), Pakistan](#)

[Back to top](#)

Recognizing 'default organic' production systems used by subsistence farmers Himalayas

Many Himalayan countries are promoting organic agriculture. One of the reasons is to address the growing health and environmental concerns arising from excessive and unwise use of chemicals, especially in rainfed upland farming. But national policies and guidelines for organic production and processing often do not explicitly include prime organic production pockets such as shifting cultivation (jhum), sloping hilly watershed and mountain valleys. The IFAD-funded 'Programme for securing livelihoods in the uplands and mountains of the Hindu Kush-Himalayas' (2005-2010), implemented by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), is harmonizing these traditional farming practices with the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) for organic certification.



Production of Kutki seedlings in a greenhouse in the project area

Poor farmers who practise shifting cultivation lack access to chemical fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides. Their traditional farming systems are ecologically sound and could be profitably converted into organic production systems and recognized as 'by-default organic' (natural) by national and international certifying bodies.

However, subsistence farmers in the uplands are currently unrecognized and unrewarded for these practices and for providing environmental services that potentially benefit downstream communities with clean water. Farmers willing to convert their farms to organic also lack support from the government to improve their ability to assure the quality of their products and at the same time comply with organic standards and periodic monitoring by certification agencies.

The International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) has been concerned about the high costs of existing 'third party' certification processes and their exclusion of poor and marginalized farming communities. The 'third party certification' is mandatory for international markets.

For domestic markets, however, the third-party certification can be substituted by a 'peer guarantee system'. Groups of producers and farmers mutually guarantee adherence to norms of organic practices, thereby 'certifying' both their farming processes and products as organic. The system includes poor, marginalized farmers in the organic production system. A third party certification is necessary only when the products are targeted for export or when bulk buyers require the certification and are willing to pay the premium price.

Based on the principles of the peer guarantee system mentioned above, the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) evolved from more traditional certification systems. Such traditional

systems include the IFOAM' Organic Guarantee System (OGS) which was set up in 1980s and 1990s.

The PGS came about in 2004 following a study by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on existing organic practices in different parts of the developing world. According to IFOAM, "Participatory Guarantee Systems are quality assurance initiatives using their own written standards, often based on IFOAM's Basic Standards."

It is one of the simplest and most effective certification methods, and is particularly suitable for marginal and upland farmers such as those practising shifting cultivation in Northeast India. In India, the system is promoted by the Organic Promotion Council of India with support from IFOAM.

In 2007, the PGS Organic Promotion Council of India approached staff of the IFAD-supported North Eastern Region Community Resource Management Project for Upland Areas to conduct an assessment of shifting cultivation systems and associated practices. The aim was to examine whether such practices could be harmonized within the PGS.

The project approached ICIMOD for technical support, resulting in a US\$ 1.2 million IFAD grant for the 'Programme for securing livelihoods in the uplands and mountains of the Hindu Kush-Himalayas'. One of the outcomes of the programme is a publication titled '*Harmonizing Jhum in Northeast India with PGS Organic Standards: Ways Forward*', which highlights the organic nature of shifting cultivation practices. It also outlines how the practices can be harmonized with PGS.

The document was shared with the PGS Organic Promotion Council of India, which, in principle, accepted the harmonization of shifting cultivation practices in PGS. Two IFAD-supported projects – North Eastern Region Community Resource Management Project for Upland Areas and the Livelihoods Improvement Project in the Himalayas (Meghalaya) – plan to pilot PGS with farmer groups in their respective areas, thereby facilitating the promotion of PGS in shifting cultivation systems in northeast India.

The work to pilot and scale up PGS activities requires building the capacity of farmers to adhere to PGS norms and multi-stakeholder agreements. Credibility is ensured through the participation of all stakeholders involved in the production of organic products for outside markets.

To address these needs, the North Eastern Region Community Resource Management Project for Upland Areas and ICIMOD organized a training workshop in February 2008. District-level project teams, NGO partners and farmers gathered to build up a cadre of trainers and develop a PGS field manual. The manual now provides a tool for trainers to train farmers in PGS practices and norms.

Both IFAD-supported projects currently provide the institutional support for PGS activities. Such support includes raising awareness at the policy level and building technical and institutional capacity at the community level. To ensure that these activities become sustainable, ICIMOD is now looking at transferring this responsibility of capacity building and overseeing the compliance to the PGS norms away from IFAD-supported projects to a partner NGO at the state and local levels.

- [Madhav Karki, Deputy Director General and Director of Programs, ICIMOD](#)
- [Vincent Darlong, Natural Resource Management Specialist, India Country Office](#)
- [Mathew John, Keystone Foundation](#)
- [Dhrupad Choudhury, IFAD Coordinator, ICIMOD](#)

Read more about:

- [A participatory organic guarantee system for India](#)
- [International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development \(ICIMOD\)](#)
- [International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements \(IFOAM\)](#)
- [IFAD operations in India](#)
- [Rural poverty in India](#)
- [Programme for securing livelihoods in the uplands and mountains of the Hindu Kush-Himalayas \(2005-2010\)](#)

[Back to top](#)

Enhancing the sustainability of organizations of poor rural people: lessons from Bangladesh and Mongolia

Development institutions envision poor rural people's organizations (RPOs) as a mechanism to ensure the sustained capacity of their members to fend for themselves. Yet the External Review of the Results and Impact of IFAD Operations commissioned by IFAD in 2002 revealed that RPOs often functioned as mere conduits for projects. IFAD might be retreating from projects before newly formed RPOs have developed sufficient capacities to sustain themselves and take over project activities.

Through the 'Strengthening Capacities of Organizations of the Poor: Experiences in Asia (SCOPE) Project' (2004-2008), IFAD supported interventions to build the organizational capacity of RPOs in four of its loan projects. Initial results show that these RPOs have developed their capacity, thus enhancing their chances to become sustainable, as exemplified in the cases of Bangladesh and Mongolia.

In 2005, SCOPE assessed the capacities of the following five IFAD projects to build sustainable RPOs and coalitions:

- Sunamganj Community-Based Resource Management Project (SCBRMP) in Bangladesh
- Orissa Tribal Empowerment and Livelihood Project (OTELP) in India
- Participatory Integrated Development for Rainfed Areas (PIDRA) in Indonesia
- Rural Poverty Reduction Project (RPRP) in Mongolia
- Northern Mindanao Community Initiatives in Resource Management Project (NMCIREMP) in the Philippines

The assessments identified the needs of the five projects in terms of building RPOs and coalitions. Consequently, SCOPE provided small grants to four of the five projects to support their identified needs. OTELP decided to use its own project resources.

In Bangladesh, SCOPE helped to:

- advance the skills of community development facilitators (CDFs) to support community organizations (COs) when the project ends
- enable SCBRMP to recruit and train CDFs from the communities, an activity that was not part of the original IFAD loan project
- assure the continued presence of and constant interaction with CDFs, which strengthened the confidence and capacities of COs to participate in local development activities such as road alignment and food-for-work
- improve local governance through stronger links between COs and local government units, resulting in improved delivery of services for poor people by local governments, and improved community participation in local development activities



Women's fish pond group during a weekly meeting in Bangladesh

In Mongolia, SCOPE helped to:

- build the capacity of COs (including herder and women's groups, and Rangeland Monitoring and Management Committees (RMMCs)) in two districts; this was achieved through participatory approaches, such as identifying their own development priorities and self-help opportunities, and forming their own organizations
- build COs by forming community groups in two districts, helping them establish their objectives, leadership norms and action plans, and training them in fund management
- improve local governance – for example, community groups now use their new skills to improve the operations of RMMCs and their participation in local bodies (specifically on natural resource and pasture management) and to increase women's participation in health projects.



A woman milking a yak on her farm in

The results of these interventions highlighted that the following actions are necessary to make projects and RPOs sustainable:

Develop social mobilizers from the community who can continue to assist COs after the project ends

According to Sk. Md. Mohsin, Project Director, SCBRMP: "...Through the CDFs, the capacities of COs have increased in banking affairs, resolving social conflicts, and dealing with line departments."

Provide sufficient resources to support the organizational processes of RPOs such as:

- using participatory approaches in strengthening the organization
- ensuring women's participation
- building capacity of their leaders and members in financial management, monitoring and evaluation, training and other areas.

Dalai Dagvaa, Project Director, RPRP said that: "Through the SCOPE grant, the project incorporated participatory approaches in strengthening RMMCs and other groups and communities. The project plans to cover all RMMCs in all *aimags* [provinces]..."

Develop the capacities of RPOs to link with other RPOs, governments and other sectors, such as businesses, religious organizations and advocacy groups, for policy advocacy and to address their common issues and concerns

According to Antonio Menor, Project Director, NMCIREMP: "There is now a core of 'bridging leaders' and coalitions that could facilitate consultations with multi-stakeholders to address common issues. These coalitions now focus on the main challenges facing the project... unresolved indigenous peoples' issues and natural resource management..."

Assist RPOs to generate and sustain their own resources

Djadi Purnomo, Project Director, PIDRA, said: "The SCOPE grant supported microfinance training for District Implementing Officers and PIDRA staff. Self-help groups and federations have established a Common Fund to support members' economic activities. The local government units now provide training funds for self-help groups and seed capital for microfinance institutions, and link them to banks."

The SCOPE Project was implemented by the Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ANGOC) and the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP).

- [Nathaniel Don Marquez](#), *Executive Director, ANGOC*

Read more about:

- IFAD operations [Bangladesh](#) | [Mongolia](#)
- Ruaral poverty [Bangladesh](#) | [Mongolia](#)
- [Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development \(ANGOC\)](#)
- [Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific \(CIRDAP\)](#)

[Back to top](#)

Centre established to improve atoll agriculture in the Republic of Kiribati

A new research and development centre for atoll agriculture is being established in south Tarawa, Kiribati, at the research station of the Department of Agriculture at Tanaea. The main partners in this research and development (R&D) programme are the Kiribati Government, IFAD and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC).

The Centre of Excellence for Atoll Agriculture Research and Development in the Pacific will become a focal point for Pacific



A beach in Taunga, Motu

scientists developing technologies to help atoll farmers increase their productivity.

District, Vava'u, Pacific Islands

Producing food crops on an atoll island requires perseverance. Nil or almost no land resources coupled with infertile coralline soils and long spells of dry weather make any form of agriculture very difficult. As a result, atoll communities face problems in maintaining food security and eating a balanced diet. Technologies to increase food crop production will improve local food supplies and nutrition. Other benefits will include more market opportunities for farmers and higher incomes.

For a number of years, governments of atoll countries and territories have requested regional and international organizations working in agriculture and forestry to give special attention to their research and development needs. In their 2007 Vava'u Communiqué, Pacific Islands Forum Leaders called on SPC to develop a new agriculture and forestry initiative with a focus on atoll agriculture. The new centre is being established in response to these requests.

"SPC is proud to partner with the Government of Kiribati and IFAD in establishing this centre of excellence," said Mr 'Aleki Sisifa, Director of SPC's Land Resources Division. "The centre is the beginning of a process that we hope will attract more assistance from the international community for research and development of improved technology and best practice for agriculture and agroforestry on atoll islands, including the high islands of the region."

An R&D programme has been developed and agreed on between the main partners – the Kiribati Government, IFAD and SPC – and a Memorandum of Understanding will be signed.

IFAD will provide most of the financing and SPC will manage the programme, provide technical backup and organize equipment and supplies. A programme coordinator has also been recruited. The Government of Kiribati is providing the facilities and will contribute labour, materials and supplies, as required.

Research activities will be undertaken with the full participation of the farmers. The centre will emphasize the use of participatory methods to engage beneficiary groups to promote local produce and to revive production of traditional food. It will also promote gender equity and seek the involvement of women and youth in agricultural and fisheries production.

Initial research priorities for the centre will include documenting some of the proven technologies used in the region; for example, banana circles in Kiribati, coconut hydroponics in French Polynesia, and indigenous agroforestry systems such as pulaka pits. The centre will also source appropriate and transferable technologies developed on atolls in other regions, such as the Maldives and Caribbean.

The centre's research areas will include soil improvement, water harvesting and irrigation, crops adapted to atoll conditions, pest and disease control, improved local livestock breeds, waste management and improved agroforestry systems.

Technologies developed or refined at the centre will be tested by farmers in Tarawa and on the outer islands of Kiribati and other Pacific atolls, using established outreach approaches such as farmer field schools. Information on successful technologies will also be made available through specially developed extension materials.

- [Press Release: Secretariat of the Pacific Community, 24 July 2008](#)

[Back to top](#)

Assessing knowledge networks: a social network analysis of ENRAP

Networking is a natural social phenomenon between individuals and groups. One of IFAD's important networks in rural development is the [Knowledge Networking for Rural Development in Asia/Pacific Region \(ENRAP\)](#), a programme financed and implemented by IFAD and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). Through ENRAP and other regional networking programmes, IFAD is encouraging its stakeholders to share knowledge and learn



A map illustrating the

from each other. This helps IFAD-supported projects in their effort to reduce poverty. IFAD's Knowledge Management Strategy identified networks as one of IFAD's key knowledge management assets since they provide a platform to share ideas, issues and experiences. links in the ENRAP network

The strength of networking can be assessed through a social network analysis (SNA). The analysis can also provide feedback to improve the network management and sustain the network in the future. ENRAP has recently conducted a social network analysis. This article summarizes some results.

What is SNA?

According to Orgnet.com – a company that provides social network analysis software and services for organizations, communities and their consultants – SNA maps and measures relationships and flows between people, groups, organizations, computers, websites and other information/knowledge-processing entities. The nodes in the network are people and groups. The links show relationships or flows between the nodes

SNA provides both a visual and a mathematical analysis of human relationships. To understand networks and their participants, SNA enables the location of actors in the network to be evaluated.

It helps in identifying which actors or nodes are central to the flow of information, who connects people to others and who may be unconnected. Through a visual mapping of connections, decision makers can analyse the connections and linkages between actors in a network and take appropriate action to strengthen networking or decide how best an idea can travel within a network

ENRAP: An SNA snapshot

Ms Patti Anklam, a social network analyst, initiated the SNA of ENRAP. She mapped the ENRAP networking processes and behaviour through an online survey sent to 72 ENRAP members. Sixty-nine per cent of members responded to the survey. The map below shows the interconnections between the people surveyed, who knows whom, and who is communicating with whom. This is defined as actors being 'aware' of each other's presence in a network.

The study has two phases. The first phase involves collecting initial data, which offer a visual map or snapshot of the network and provide an analysis of the connections and inter-linkages it actors. The second phase will analyse any observed changes in networking processes towards the end of 2009 and beginning of 2010.

The first phase of the SNA reveals that the network has a healthy structure. The staff of IFAD's Asia and the Pacific Division and ENRAP are the key nodes through which information flows across the network.

Within the network, the number of people knowing each other and connected to each other signifies how well connected each person is within the network. It is also referred to as 'network density'. The distance between network members in terms of how frequent and close the connections between members are is also analysed through a calculation of degrees of separation between each member. Compared to other networks of ENRAP's size and diversity, according to Anklam, the analysis indicates positive connections and flows between network members.

The SNA of connections between network members within countries and across countries also helps to identify the key connectors and gate keepers of information flows. Anklam's analysis provides detailed country mappings which can be used to explore how the network can evolve in the future at the country levels. In this way, this analysis can be used to help ensure the network survives when the ENRAP regional programme ends,

More detailed reports on the study will be available soon on the ENRAP website and through the mailing list. Those interested in learning more can contact Apoorva Mishra at amishra@idrc.org.in.

Apoorva Mishra, Research Officer, ENRAP

Read more about:

- [ENRAP website](#)
- [ORGNET website](#)
- [Patti Anklam website](#)

[Back to top](#)**New projects and programmes approved**

The 95th Session of IFAD Executive Board, which took place on 15-17 December in Rome, approved the following projects/programmes in the Asia and the Pacific Division:

- China: Dabieshan Area Poverty Reduction Programme
- Indonesia: Country Strategic Opportunities Programme
- Lao People's Democratic Republic: Sustainable Natural Resource Management and Productivity Enhancement Project
- Philippines: Rapid Food Production Enhancement Programme
- Tajikistan: Khatlon Livelihoods Support Project
- Viet Nam: Pro-poor Partnerships for Agroforestry Development

[Back to top](#)