

**Proceedings of the National workshop on
Organic Agriculture-Practice to Policy**

February 24, 2012 Lalitpur, Nepal

Organized by

Nepal Permaculture Group (NPG)
P.O Box: 8132, Babarmahal Kathmandu, Nepal

Co-organizers

HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation Nepal
Jhamshikhel, Dhobi Ghat, Lalitpur
&
SNV Nepal
Bakhundole, Lalitpur

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Forewords

It is my great pleasure to mention here that Nepal Permaculture Group in collaboration with HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation Nepal and SNV Nepal jointly organized a National Workshop entitled Organic Agriculture - Practice to Policy, on 24th February, 2012 in Staff College Jawalakhel, Lalitpur, Nepal. The Workshop was part of NPG's National Convergence and General Assembly. The Workshop covered a broad theme, examining organic agriculture's status from the field level to the policy approaches.

In this proceeding, efforts have been made to reflect above. I trust this would be an important compilation to benefit the readers in one or other ways.

I am very thankful to the resource persons for their effective paper presentations and facilitation of the group works. My gratitude and thanks goes to NPG staffs, board members and general members who directly or indirectly contributed to this workshop. Meanwhile I would offer special thanks to Bishan Pradhan for his valuable work to prepare and manage the workshop to have done including important work of editing and organizing the proceeding. I am indebted towards HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation Nepal and SNV Nepal who joined hands with NPG for this important event.

The entire workshop wouldn't have been possible without the financial support from EED, hence a big thanks and appreciation goes to them.

Umesh Lama

President

Editorial

Organic agriculture first appeared as one of the priority sectors in Nepal in the 10th Five Years Plan of the Government. Since then its importance has been felt by both public and private sectors and major initiatives have been taken to bring it to the centre stage of general agriculture policy. Owing to globally increasing trend of demand for organic food, Nepal has high potentialities and comparative advantages of producing quality organic products. Initiatives taken by various organizations have now made the potential of organic based system very apparent.

Despite growing demands for organic products both in national and international markets, OA faces numerous challenges associated with lack of awareness, poor product marketing mechanism, inadequate technical services and policy support. There is always a room for developing strategies to improve organic agriculture, product legislation, standardization, certification, marketing and thereby fostering sustainable livelihoods. In order to understand and address these various challenges and opportunities, Nepal Permaculture Group (NPG) has been actively involved to develop and promote functional linkages and networking among various stakeholders, research work, technology transfer and adoption, and provide inputs for policy formulation, planning and program development.

Nepal is on the threshold of a new socio-cultural, political and economic change. In this regard, agricultural policies and strategies are sure to undergo reshaping. The Government of Nepal, through a consultant team is currently drafting Agriculture Development Strategy for the promotion of overall Agriculture Development in Nepal. To review on agricultural policies and update the initiatives taken in mainstreaming the organic agriculture integration on the Agriculture Development Strategy (ADS), NPG conducted a one day National level workshop entitled 'Organic Agriculture- Practice to Policy.' We hope that this proceeding can provide a view of organic agriculture related issues, needs and opportunities and contribute to build a humble foundation for appropriate policy formulation.

Editors would like to appreciate and thank the paper presenters and discussants. Participants are also duly acknowledged. Constructive comments and suggestions are anticipated and appreciated.

Acronyms

ADS	Agriculture Development Strategy
APP	Agriculture Prospective Plan
CoPP	Coffee Promotion Programme
DoA	Department of Agriculture
IAAS	Institute of Agriculture and Animal Science
ICS	Internal Control System
INGOs	International Non Government Organizations
MoAC	Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
NARC	National Agricultural Research Center
NCCOAPPS	National Coordination Committee for Organic Agriculture Production and Processing System
NGOs	Non Governmental Organizations
NOAAB	National Organic Agriculture Accreditation Body
NPG	Nepal Permaculture Group
OA	Organic Agriculture
OCN	Organic Certification Nepal
PGS	Participatory Guarantee System
PROMS	Promotion of Organic Production and Marketing Systems through Policy, Information and Advocacy
TA	Technical Assistant

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Background

The history of organic agriculture in Nepal dates back to time immemorial whereas the agrichemical usage started from early 60's. The arguments in organic versus modern agriculture at the farmers level started in early 80's by NGO people. Since then several I/NGOs has established learning resource centers and carried out organic agriculture action research, field studies on indigenous farming practices and local cultivars, developed training courses, and disseminated information and technologies to the farmers' and other relevant stakeholders. Nepal Permaculture Group (NPG) in collaboration with multi-stakeholders has been implementing various programs through networking with emphasis on policy formulation, research, advocacy and lobbying in the field of organic agriculture, sustainable development and Permaculture. In recent times, NPG had initiated organized dialogues in collaboration with Government Organizations, International/Non-Governmental Organizations and civil society for the promotion of organic agriculture in Nepal.

There have been number of policies and programs formed for the development of Agriculture sector including various five year plans and highly ambitious Agriculture Perspective Plan (APP) However our Agriculture sector is yet at its infancy. Talking about the Organic Agriculture, the national policy guidelines have already been placed; however, the implementation of the policy at various levels is rather weak. The Government of Nepal through a consultant team is currently drafting Agriculture Development Strategy (ADS).

In this regard, the workshop was an opportunity to bring together a wide range of stakeholders and to share experiences and fill gaps in the present strategy and to incorporate policy measures with regard to Organic Agriculture. A detailed programme of the workshop is presented in Annex I. The workshop was financially supported by EED Germany, HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation Nepal and SNV Nepal.

The specific objectives of the workshop were:

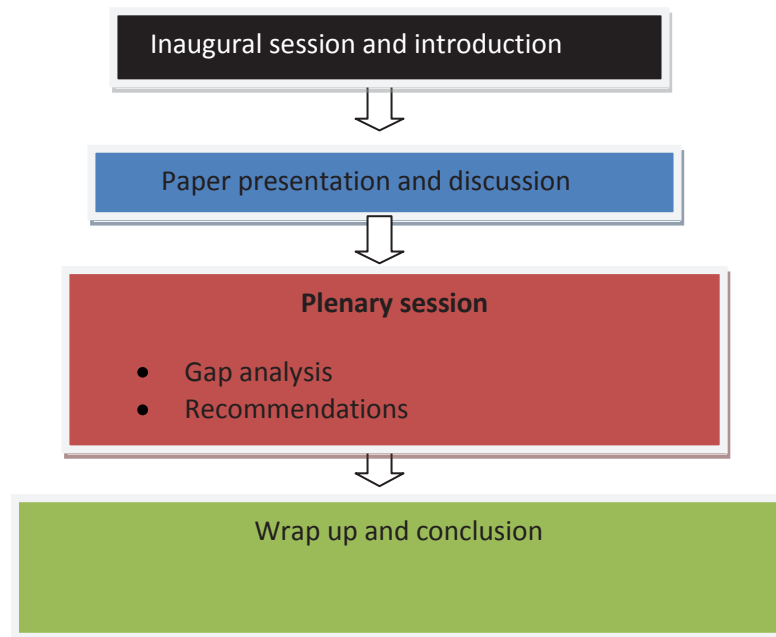
- To share and update the on-going farm level and national level activities for the promotion of Organic Agriculture and identify the gaps and opportunities
- To share and update the status of Agriculture Development Strategy (ADS).
- To provide a platform to the stakeholders with common ground to identify policy interventions, strategies, good practices and research and development interventions for organic agriculture promotion.

Executive summary

NPG in collaboration with HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation Nepal and SNV Nepal have been conducting a series of workshops and meetings advocating policy issues related to Organic Agriculture. In order to provide continuity to this and also to know whether this sector finds its place in the strategy documents that is being developed by the Government of Nepal, a one day National level workshop was conducted on 24th February, 2012 at Staff College, Jawalakhel. Over 80 participants, from academia, and a range of international government and non-governmental organizations, scientist, representing farmers, consumers, organic associations, agri-business and environmental enthusiast attended the workshop (Annex II).

This proceeding presents the outcomes of the workshop. The focus of the workshop was on policy approaches to organic farming but at the same time field level issues were also addressed. Five papers were presented by the experts and related issue based discussion was carried out along with the gap analysis of the developing agriculture strategy to identify the gaps between the significant needs and the policy.

The figure below represents the workshop process:



The workshop started with a welcome speech by Mr. Basanta Ranabhat, member, NPG. He briefly shared the organization's intention and priorities in holding the workshop, and also highlighted the objective of the workshop. It was followed by self introduction among the

participants. The first presentation was by Mr. Basanta Rana Bhat, (member of NPG) on the Role of Nepal Permaculture Group in Promoting Organic Agriculture. The project was implemented by NPG with the main objective to mainstream OA in the national agricultural policies and plans. The presentation brought out the issues that are constraining the development of OA at the district and community levels.

The second presentation was by Mr. Damodar Kanel from SNV, Nepal. He shared the project initiative of SNV Nepal on “Organic Apple Value Chain Development: Experience from Jumla.” He mentioned all the actors involved in the production, processing, trading and selling of the specific product “Apple” and the project approach in building partnership along the chain. The organic value chain will only function well if all stakeholders involved cooperate. Partnerships between the different stakeholders therefore play an important role.

“Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation – Initiative on the promotion of organic practices” was the third presentation presented by Mr. Bholu Kumar Shrestha, Team Leader, CoPP Helvetas. Recognizing the importance of Organic Agriculture in environmental, social and economic aspect, Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation has been involved in its promotion since 1996. The presentation highlighted these works.

“State Policy and Institutional Arrangement on Organic Agriculture Promotion”, was the fourth paper presented by Ms. Bidya Pandey, Senior Horticulture Development Officer, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MoAC). She talked about the initiatives that the Government of Nepal has taken till date in promoting Organic sector. An unclear development strategy for OA topped with fragmented policies were some issues that she highlighted. The greatest challenge, however, she mentioned will be to find ways to integrate such policy tools into effective packages for the future of OA.

Organic Agriculture is the most rapidly developing market segment not only in Nepal but globally as well. Mr. Chris Landone Lane, a team member of the Agriculture Development Strategy (ADS), provided a brief sharing on this scenario.

The final presentation was by Mr. Surya Prasad Paudel (team member of ADS) on the “Preparation of Agriculture Development Strategy: A Brief Introduction”. The presentation brought forward the present endeavor of ADS and its national approach. It provided a preview on the decision of Government of Nepal to develop a long-term strategy for the agricultural sector. After all the presentations the plenary session was focused on summarizing the key issues and recommendations generated from the workshop. A “Gap- Analysis” to identify the missing policies and to find alternative policies for OA was then done by Mr. Naya Sharma Paudel, Environment Governance Specialist, Forest Action.

We hope that the articles will contribute to the current and future debate on organic farming, particularly in the context of policy reform and the development of the Agriculture Development Strategy draft. It is not an exhaustive analysis of the issues. Many questions and issues remain, with the need for further multi-disciplined analysis. We hope that this proceeding will further boost efforts to create a more level playing field for all the players of organic agriculture.



P R E S E N T A T I O N

Role of Nepal Permaculture Group in Promotion of Organic Agriculture

-Basanta Rana Bhat, Kiran Amatya and Deepika Adhikari

Abstract

Nepal Permaculture Group (NPG) is a national network of all the organizations and individuals working in the field of sustainable agriculture, sustainable development and permaculture. It was established in 1992. Organic agriculture is one of the thematic areas of NPG. It utilizes both traditional and scientific knowledge to enhance the health of agro-ecosystem in which the farm operates. Organic farms rely on the use of local natural resources and the management of the ecosystem rather than external agricultural inputs such as mineral fertilizer and agrochemicals. Organic agriculture, therefore, prohibits synthetic chemicals and genetically modified inputs. It promotes sustainable traditional farming practices that maintain soil fertility

NPG has been implementing several programme related to organic agriculture in collaboration with different stakeholders including private sectors and government. Organic agriculture is getting increasing attention from development stakeholders as well government in Nepal. There are indeed several challenges and constraints ahead due to the weak enabling environment, lack of research information and marketing infrastructure. However NPG has been involved in the promotion of organic agriculture in collaboration with different stakeholder including private sector and government. In general, the indicators are positive and satisfactory. The programmes implemented by NPG are successful in terms of mainstreaming organic agriculture initiatives in the annual action plan of District Agriculture Development Offices (DADOs), integration organic course curriculum in academic institutions and initiation of collaboration with research institution in organic agriculture.

Introduction

Nepal Permaculture Group

Nepal Permaculture Group (NPG) is a national network of all the organizations and individuals working in the field of sustainable agriculture, sustainable development and permaculture. It was established in 1992. Since then it has been coordinating more than 950 individual members, 16 institutional members. Its thematic areas are Bio-diversity, Climate Change, Food security, Nepal Permaculture Group and Organic agriculture. Working approaches of NPG are Promotion, Training & Education, Network, Research, Publication & Communication, Advocacy & Lobbying, Governance and Administration.

Organic agriculture

Organic agriculture is a production system that sustains the health of soils, ecosystems and people. It relies on ecological processes, biodiversity and cycles adapted to local conditions, rather than the use of inputs with adverse effects. Organic agriculture combines tradition, innovation and science to benefit the shared environment and promote fair relationships and a good quality of life for all involved (IFOAM).

It utilizes both traditional and scientific knowledge to enhance the health of agro-ecosystem in which the farm operates. Organic farms rely on the use of local natural resources and the management of the ecosystem rather than external agricultural inputs such as mineral fertilizer and agrochemicals. Organic agriculture, therefore, prohibits synthetic chemicals and genetically modified inputs. It promotes sustainable traditional farming practices that maintain soil fertility.

Organic agriculture has become one of the priority areas for sustainable agriculture development worldwide due to concerns about the negative impacts of conventional agriculture, international trade potential and its contribution to sustainable development. Besides these, small scale Organic agriculture is very relevant for a developing country like Nepal due to its diverse ecological niches, fragile & marginal farming characteristics and high labor force availability.

For Nepal, organic farming is not a new concept. Practices similar to it have been doing by the resource poor farmers for centuries. This already existing knowledge and skill about organic farming turned out to be a positive factor for promoting Organic agriculture in the country. The Organic agriculture sector in Nepal has developed to date with equal support from both the Government and Non- governmental sector with recent involvement of the private sector as well. Some national policies from which the sector has benefited includes the Pesticides Act 1992, the

environment protection Act 1996 and the Agriculture Policy 2004, which has policy statements for encouraging organic farming. Also with the access to World Trade Organization as a member, the organic movement gained its momentum. However a proper strategy for implementing the policy is yet to be established. It is clear that the sector cannot develop to its full potential without government support. Mainstreaming of organic agriculture into the National policy is the critical issue that requires this support.

Principles of Organic agriculture

The Principles of Organic agriculture serve to inspire the organic movement in its full diversity. They guide development of positions, programs and standards. Furthermore, they are presented with a vision of their world-wide adoption.

Organic agriculture is based on:

- Principle of health
- Principle of ecology
- Principle of fairness
- Principle of care

Principle of health

Organic agriculture should sustain and enhance the health of soil, plant, animal, human and planet as one and indivisible.

Principle of ecology

Organic agriculture should be based on living ecological systems and cycles, work with them, emulate them and help sustain them.

Principle of fairness

Organic agriculture should build on relationships that ensure fairness with regard to the common environment and life opportunities

Principle of care

Organic agriculture should be managed in a precautionary and responsible manner to protect the health and well-being of current and future generations and the environment.

Organic Programme

The EED, Germany, supported project on Promoting organic production and marketing systems (PROMS) through policy, information and advocacy was designed and implemented with this same understanding. It further responded to the needs and opportunities identified by the international workshop on “**Organic agriculture: Challenges and Opportunities**” organized in Kathmandu in 2008 with the multi stakeholder participation. The project aimed at improving the weaknesses identified in the area of policy implementation, technical and marketing systems of both default and made Organic agriculture in Nepal. The project equated synergies with the programs of government, research institutions, business sector, NGO’s, farmers’ organization and other development actors. The findings of the project will therefore assist policy makers to explore the options for promoting organic agriculture in Nepal. At present PROMS phase III is being continued.

PROMS phase II- major thrust areas

The PROMS II project rolled out in January 2009 in nine districts from five development regions, the administrative zones of Nepal. Among them Dhading, Nuwakot and Rasuwa were in the central region, Sunsari and Morang in the Eastern region, Rupandehi and Kaski in the Western region, Kailali in the far west and Bardiya in the mid west. It was implemented by Nepal Permaculture Group in collaboration with MOAC and the respective DADOs of the target districts. The project worked towards increasing the capacity of governmental organizations, business sectors, NGOs and grassroots people to participate in strengthening the biological, socio-cultural and economic skills related to organic agriculture and assuming leadership roles in enterprise and market development. With the main objective to mainstream organic agriculture into national agricultural policies and programs, PROMS II worked closely with the Ministry of Agriculture and cooperatives (MOAC) worked towards identifying indicators for government policies and also addressed institutional, policy and research agenda needs to support Organic agriculture.

PROMS II has been successful in mainstreaming organic agriculture initiatives in the annual action plan of District Agriculture Development Office of Dhading and Rupandehi. This involved visiting the key personnel at district level and coordination with the concerned stakeholders. Workshops and training for the extension workers of district agriculture development offices and the farmers helped them to understand the technical aspects of Organic

agriculture. In the meantime, it was very good step for the extension of organic agriculture in district level as they are working in the whole district with the community people. The development of organic agriculture in the country still faces a lot of bottlenecks stemming from inadequate information as well as production and marketing technologies. The project enhanced capacity and effectiveness of GOs, NGOs and private entrepreneurs for providing technical, advisory and intermediary services for the promotion of Organic agriculture. Training workshop on Organic certification were organized in each of the project districts to develop the common understanding regarding the Organic certification process among the stakeholders as well as prepare local human resources capable to facilitate organic inspection and certification system. The establishment of good network among the producer certifier and trader of organic product in Morang, Kaski, Rasuwa and Dhading district helped organic growers a very good market of their produces and developed partnership cooperation amongst them. Furthermore, these network establish a very good business relationship among the wide range of stakeholders.. The project also identified the key challenges facing the production and marketing in Organic agriculture. The main challenges include i) financing the shift to organic production and ii) lack of proper market structure. PROMS II Strengthened information flow mechanism among networks of producers, cooperatives, private institutions, GOs, NGOs and other development actors. The project has generated new ideas like farmer's speaker corners where farmers share their issues and concern on agriculture production and marketing aspects.

Achievements

The major achievements of the project can thus be summarized as:

- Mainstreaming of organic agriculture initiatives in the annual action plan of District Agriculture Development Offices of Dhading
- Enhanced capacity on organic agriculture policy guidelines, technologies and practices, certification process and fostered market links at district and community levels through training, organized dialogues, workshops, exposure visits, publication distribution, network promotion and media mobilization
- Developed 144 local resource persons for organic inspection and certification process facilitation

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- Eighteen district level and two national level policy dialogue workshops were organized in two years period for the promotion of Organic agriculture in the country. These workshops were very much helpful to raise awareness on organic agriculture among the stakeholders. Further, these workshops brings issues and concerns on organic agriculture promotion which provide evidences for the decision makers to formulate new policies and programme
 - Multi-stakeholders participation in organized dialogues creates space in establishing networks at different levels by resolving misinformation and misunderstandings
 - Development of partnership cooperation amongst producers–traders–certifiers and establishment of business networks with support to the market outlets

Lessons learned

The major lessons learnt from the Programme are:

- Integration of Organic agriculture component in district agriculture development offices annual programme builds credibility.
- Implementation strategy development support integrating in policy formulation process will facilitate quick actions.
- Policy dialogue workshop at district, regional and national level provide strong inputs on issues, needs and opportunities on organic agriculture to the central level who are responsible for policy formulation, planning and program development.
- Formation and establishment of the National Coordination Committee for Organic agriculture Production and Processing System (NCCOAPPS), and National Organic agriculture Accreditation Body (NOAAB) are not enough unless capacity building program integrated in the process in order to make them functional.
- Sharing of achievements on study and research findings of different actors in interactive workshops contribute in upscaling research work, technology transfer and adoption.
- Media mobilization with orientation and most significant change stories (learning and resource centers, and farmer innovations) further brings evidences to the notice of a big mass of people and provide inputs to the policy formulation process.

Recommendations

- Government should formulate concrete policies on organic agriculture (specially the implementation strategy), which should focus on up scaling the small scale producers, the ones that are facing greater challenges.
- Government should encourage and facilitate the expansion of the domestic market for organic products.
- Provide subsidy for the production and procurement of organic inputs.
- Conduct action research on organic farming through research institutions such as NARC, IAAS.
- Government should develop and make mandatory organic curriculum at all levels of education.

Conclusion

Organic agriculture is getting increasing attention from development stakeholders as well government in Nepal. There are indeed several challenges and constraints ahead due to the weak enabling environment, lack of research information and marketing infrastructure. However NPG has been in the promotion of organic agriculture in collaboration with different stakeholder including private sector and government. In general, the indicators are positive and satisfactory. The programme implemented by NPG are successful in terms of mainstreamed organic agriculture initiatives in the annual action plan of District Agriculture Development Offices of Dhading and other project districts specially the DADOs are willing to include organic agriculture initiatives in their annual action plan from the coming fiscal year. Enhanced capacity on organic agriculture policy guidelines, technologies and practices, certification process and fostered market links at district and community levels are some of the successful initiation taken by the project.

Acknowledgement

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all organic farmers, and well wishers who have contributed and encouraged in the process of preparing this paper as well as contributed for the successful implementation of project activities. We are thankful to Nepal Permaculture Group (NPG) for providing valuable information and giving us an opportunity to lead this initiative. We

are especially thankful to Mr. Umesh Lama, Chairperson of NPG and other board members as well as staffs for their constant support into bringing this paper in a final shape.

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Organic Apple Value Chain Development: Experience from Jumla

- Mr.Damodar Kanel

Introduction

SNV Netherlands Development Organization piloted the approach of inclusive business with Organic Apple value chain in the district of Jumla. The pilot (2009-2011) as such aimed at establishing commercial business linkage between organic apple producers and agribusiness located at major market centers in the country. The presentation delivered in the National Level Organic Policy and Practice Workshop was based on the experiences gained in the pilot project

Organic apple value chain

Organic apple value chain comprises a set of actors and functions that take the product (organic apple) from production to consumers through a set of interrelated actors and functions. Jumla apple value chain comprise of actors like input suppliers, producers, collectors, wholesalers, national retailers, and consumers.

Project Approach

As stated above the project adopted the approach of Inclusive Business for Value Chain Development. Key distinguishing features of the project were:

- Agribusiness with proven market demand as entry point.
- Linking local producers with the supply chain of agribusiness.
- Facilitation of mutually beneficial contracts between the demand and supply side actors.
- Building capacities of producers and producer organizations for production and market management.
- Supporting embedded service from agribusiness.
- Facilitating agribusiness investment for value chain development

The project collaborated with a range of stakeholders. While the role of private sector (agribusiness) was critical in sourcing organic apples from Jumla, other stakeholders like the District Agriculture Development Office (DADO) and development partners like WUPAP, EIG, World Vision etc. also played a key role in supporting production, organic certification, and marketing.

The project activities can be briefly summarized as below:

- Linkage facilitation
- Capacity building for supply of organic inputs: composting, FYM, bio-pesticides etc.
- Capacity building for improved orchard management
- Capacity building for market exploration and grading/ packaging
- Consumer awareness in Kathmandu
- Support for organic certification
- Support for capacity building of Local Resource Persons (LRPs) and Internal Control Inspector.

Key issues in Jumla apple VCD

Declaration of district as organic

- Preparedness of VC actors and service providers?
- Capacity of service providers?
- Availability of local solutions: temperate climate and nature of biomass available. E.g. Pine needle → soil acidity

Mobilization of LRPs and Internal Control Inspectors

- Quality of advice and service delivered
- Demand for LRP services
- Possibilities of “fee for services”

Certification

- Subsidized
- Price gap: Certified Vs Non-certified? → Incentive for certification + costs associated → Sustainability
- Consumer studies: WTP

Facilitation areas for the future

Input supply

- Provision of easy and affordable access to organic inputs (e.g. organic input supply chains, local capacity development etc.)
- Information on organic inputs (price, locations etc) to farmers

- Quality and integrity of organic inputs: Who and how?

Production

- Research and Development
 - Climate change → pest outbreak, over/under supply of water → select/ develop resistant tolerant varieties
 - Indigenous knowledge and best practices
- Incentive for producers
 - Market through price premium
 - What about incentives from the state?
- In house capacity building and extension services
 - How is the current extension system going to meet the aspirations of farmers opting for organic?
How can organic be separated from conventional?

Market

- Export orientation Vs domestic market penetration
 - Implications for certification
- Which market is the focus: Domestic or international?
 - If international, which country to focus → implications on selection of certifiers
- A common mark (branding) of country's organic product

Other issues

- To what extent is the National Agriculture Policy and priority friendly to organic agriculture?
- Is there a national framework or other structure/ mechanism that coordinate various actors/stakeholders? E.g. National Framework for Organic Agriculture, Royal Government of Bhutan.
- Roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders (government, non-government) and effective coordination.
- Striking balance between issues of food security and niche market demand (organic)
- Land ownership and tenancy: As organic demands long-term investment in land, land ownership and property rights play a key role.

Organic Agriculture" Practice to Policy" in Coffee Promotion Programme

-Bhola Kumar Shrestha,

Key Words: Organic Agriculture, Policy, farmer's field school, certification

Abstract

*HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation Nepal is contributing for the improvement of the living conditions and status of economically poor and socially disadvantaged people **since 1956**. Coffee Promotion Program (CoPP) is active since 2003 in promotion of organic coffee production and processing practices in partnership with farmers association, NGOs and Government line ministries through their involvement in planning, extension process, policy discussions, and monitoring of activities. Major interventions of CoPP are farmer field school, organic pest management practices, internal control system for Organic certification, field research support: internship, local resource person (LRP) development, policy advocacy and coffee sub-sector strategy development.*

There is an increasing demand of certified organic products in national and international markets. Support to small farmers group to set up internal control systems is a base for organic certification. Collaborative effort of different stakeholders can play an important role for promotion of organic agriculture at local, national and international level.

Background

HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation Nepal is a Swiss INGO actively contributing to the improvement of the living conditions and status of economically poor and socially disadvantaged people. It has been working in Nepal **since 1956** with development goal to support economically poor and socially discriminated people in their strive to improve their living conditions. Currently, it has been running 14 programme /projects within five broader areas: Water and Infrastructure, Environment and Climate, Education and Skills Development, Governance and Peace and Rural Economy.

Coffee Promotion Program and Sustainable Soil Management Program are under Rural Economy sector and working on the promotion of organic agriculture from field level activities to policy support.

Organic coffee production and processing was one of the major areas of Local Initiatives Support Program (LISP) initiated in Palpa in 1996. Coffee Promotion Program (CoPP) since 2003 has been promoting the practices in nine districts in partnership with District Coffee Producers Association (DCPA) and NGO at district level and at national level with National Tea and coffee Development Board (NTCDB), Coffee and Tea Development Section of Department of Agriculture (DoA) and Nepal Coffee Producer's Association (NCPA). Similarly, Sustainable Soil Management Programme has been actively promoting sustainable soil management practices since 1999 through different programmatic approaches.

This paper highlights some of the activities undertaken by CoPP on promoting organic agriculture with reference to coffee.

Working approaches and Modalities

CoPP has been playing a facilitating role for successful implementation of activities based on need and demand with poverty focused and women targeted. The programme activities in the field have been implemented through its implementing partners (IPs). The Programme has close collaboration with stakeholders' right from planning to implementation of coffee related activities. Linkages has been maintained with central and district level organizations of Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives through their involvement in planning, workshops, extension process, policy discussions, activities monitoring etc. Coffee Farmers' Field Schools (FFS/C) is used as an approach to encompass all the participants/group members to have equal opportunity of learning.

During the planning, implementation as well as monitoring and evaluation of programme, due consideration has been given to the participation of stakeholders concerned and inclusiveness. CoPP's working approaches and modalities are defined with the overarching principle of HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation Nepal and the following approaches, in sum, are adapted to suit to move the sub-sector in favor of smallholders.

- Demand led
- Cooperative oriented
- Poverty focused and women targeted
- Facilitation and support,

-
- Coordination and cooperation
 - Local technology and market first
 - Coffee sub sector approach
 - Self-financing group capacity building
 - Organic coffee production system

Intervention of CoPP in Organic Agriculture (OA)

Following are the areas of intervention of CoPP

Farmers Field School (FFS): Farmers knowledge and experience on organic practices of coffee production have been building through the FFS approach in CoPP supported districts. The approach has been instrumental to generate new ideas and innovations at local situation. Small effort on the improvement of cattle shed to collect urine and protection of manure from direct sunlight have made farmer realize the importance to conserve nutrients. Similarly use of local plant materials /botanicals and cattle urine as organic pesticide have been promoted through training, FFS is an effective medium to transfer the scientific knowledge in a very convenient manner and at low cost. Also it enriches the knowledge horizon of the participating farmers as they practice – learning by doing.

Organic pest management practices: Organic pest management practices have been promoting through training, workshops, exchange visit programme, demonstration plots and FFS. Farmers experience based extension materials have also been produced in a regular basis which have positive acceptance.

Field research support: The program have been supporting Agriculture graduate students of Agriculture colleges to conduct field research as part of their thesis on organic practices. White stem borer of coffee was one of the major areas of the research. In addition, other studies have focused on productivity measurement, organic system development and application. The findings from such studies are disseminated in different forum of agricultural scientists, extension workers and policy makers alike.

Internship: The fresh graduates of Agriculture College are also provided internship opportunity for one year with focus to organic practices so as to prepare quality human resources on this field.

Local Resource Person (LRP) development: One of the approaches to provide intensive services to farmers is use of LRP who gets intensive training and back up support. They have been certified by the National Skill Standard Board of CTEVT. They have been very effective to share and deliver the farmers field based experience at local situation. Promotion of such human resources has been a good resource to support the farmers.

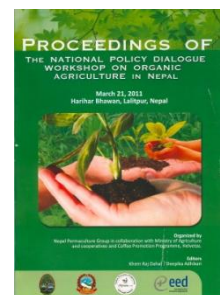
So far CoPP has developed 279 local resource persons to facilitate on organic coffee production practices and organic certification processes with focus to Internal Control System (ICS) implementation.

Organic Agriculture Policy Advocacy:

CoPP is one of the major organizations for coffee sub-sector development in Nepal. The development of the sub-sector from the scratch to linking the produce at the international level has provided ample experience to share. So CoPP has been instrumental to share its practical experience in the promotion of organic agriculture in Nepal, particularly on extending the organic agriculture system, certification issues and its constraints. CoPP provides analysis and the way forward to the farmers, farmers associations, cooperatives and policy makers.

Coffee Policy Development - CoPP played a facilitating role since preparing draft of the coffee policy which got approval from the government in 2003. The policy has highlighted the importance of organic practices and urged to follow organic principle and practices in the production and processing of coffee.

Support for workshops and Seminars: CoPP has been contributing in organizing national workshops and seminars on OA in collaboration with Nepal Permaculture Group (NPG), Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperative (MoAC), SNV and other likeminded organizations. With this support, practitioners are



able to communicate their finding in a common forum and inform the policy accordingly as what is going on in practice.

Sub-sector Strategy Development: Realizing the need of systematic intervention in the coffee sub-sector, CoPP facilitated NTCDB to develop coffee sub-sector strategic plan which covers four broad areas: Production and productivity, Quality management, Marketing and Coordination and networking. The plan has emphasized on promotion of organic practices in all steps of coffee production, processing and marketing.

A coffee sub-sector working group have been formed under the leadership of the NTCDB with participation of the MoAC, the Department of Agriculture (DoA), the National Agricultural Research Council (NARC), representatives of coffee producer organisations, traders and CoPP, HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation Nepal. CoPP facilitated a process for the development of a strategy to strengthen the coffee sub-sector. The strategy was endorsed by MoAC and provides the base for the future development of the sub-sector. This strategy also considers the work required to develop a regulatory framework at sub-sector level.

Organic certification: CoPP has been supporting DCPA and District Coffee Cooperatives Union (DCCU) to establish Internal Control System (ICS) with a comprehensive operational manual for organic certification. DCCU Lalitpur and District Cooperative Federation (DCF) Gulmi have already received organic certificate. Similarly coffee in Kaski, Shyangja and Palpa have been organic certified where as Sindhupalchowk, Kavre, Parbat are under process.

Production and distribution of extension materials

CoPP has been publishing and distributing the organic coffee related posters, pamphlets, booklets and audio-visuals as extension materials.

Some analysis of organic coffee at the sub-sector level opportunities in Organic agriculture

There is an increasing demand for organic products with increased awareness on Health and Environment .Thus, demand of organic products including coffee has exceeded the production.

Majority of Nepali farming system is by default organic and can be converted to organic without any changes in production and productivity.

The government Policies: Coffee policy; Agriculture policy are favorable towards organic Agriculture. Government has also approved a Technical guideline for National Organic agriculture production and processing 2064 ammendment 2065.

Government support: Government has already started support package to promote organic system in agriculture with support on organic certification, subsidy on organic fertilizer manufacture etc. There exist long term trading relationships with organic and Fair Trade buyers in Europe and Korea. Certification services with international facilities are available at national level on affordable cost .

Challenges in organic agriculture

Internal control System(ICS) implementation and certification: Organic and fair trade certification needs systematic and detail data management and quality control system for which Internal control System implementation is a base which demands a functional institution with updated records and plans of each member. Maintaining all these requirements for small holder farmers is not easy and feels like a challenge.

Similarly certification for export oriented crops has been undertaken by external certification bodies. There seems lack of functional body to monitor the quality of certification services. However, there exists an ad-hoc committee for Organic accreditation body which needs to be reactivated and empowered.

Suggestions

Department of Agriculture has shown very positive impression to promote organic sector through export promotion. It provides partial support as grant for certification cost of exported commodities like Coffee which directly benefits the exporting company but very indirect to farmer. Thus, it is an area government need to review and revise the policy to support the small farmers group and cooperative for implementation of Internal Control System

Strengthen National Organic Accreditation Body to monitor organic certification process with expert advice from experienced people without conflict of interest.

Acknowledgement

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State Policy and Institutional Arrangement on Organic Agriculture Promotion

-Ms. Bidya Pandey, MoAC

Background

Worldwide intensification of agriculture with expanding use of agro-chemicals has resulted in several problems. Pests' resistance to pesticides, their resurgence due to reduced natural enemies, pesticide residues in food, water, air and soil, degrading soil environment and ecosystem, animal and human health hazards and ultimate economic losses are known examples.

Realizing the facts, organic agriculture is gaining popularity with peoples' growing concerns shifted from mere increased production and productivity to resource sustainable and eco-friendly techniques. Relevant policy documents were reviewed with their content analysis. Agriculture sector policy has a realization of higher cost incurred by conventional agriculture due to agro-chemicals use and resulting public health and environmental hazards, while higher benefit of organic production due to opportunities associated with prevailing system of agriculture and ecological diversities in the country.

The government, based on policy provisions and programs, is committed to promoting organic farming. However, the policy provisions, lacking adequate and integrated instruments, are too broad without clear pathways to their translation into actions. Inadequate research, extension, manpower and other supports on organic production, marketing and input supply have hindered organic agriculture promotion. Organic product legislation, standardization, certification and infrastructure in such development are also major issues of policy concerns.

Organic agriculture initiatives and its development

Conventional agriculture focused merely on productivity rise with intensive use of inputs that paid little concerns to resource sustainability. This led to natural resources and environmental degradation, upset eco-friendly approaches of indigenous system and resulted in high cost but less competitive products. Consequences are conventional system's non sustainability, declining productivity, food insecurity (quality, nutrition and safety) and health hazards. Emphasis given on modern agriculture hardly changes faces of majority farmers especially in the mountains. The country's Agriculture system is predominantly based on indigenous knowledge, subsistence farming and local resources (low consumption of fertilizers and chemicals).

Major part of agriculture system is by default organic, but the products cannot be claimed as organic in the prevailing market structure. The major organic products are coffee, tea, large cardamom, ginger, vegetables, honey and herbal products. The area and number of farms known to be organic are quite low due to lack of formal reporting. Considerable area under coffee, tea, cardamom, ginger and vegetable is expected to bring under organic system. Transforming the system to organic is not difficult, but state initiative in this line is weak. The interest on organic farming is growing from governmental and nongovernmental organizations. Similarly, farmers are growing organic individually or collectively. State agencies such as MOAC, DOA, NAST, NARC, IAAS, Tea and Coffee Development Board, local governments and non-governmental agencies such as NPG, SECARD, SSMP, SNV, WI, Helvetas, ECOCENTER, HOPTA, AEC and CBO (cooperatives) are taking some organic promotion initiatives. However, marketing management, generation and dissemination of technology and databases in line to organic agriculture promotion is very poor; mechanism of certification yet to be developed.

Initiation on relevant Policy, Plan and Programs

Some Acts and Regulations such as Plant Protection, Pesticides, Food, Consumers' Protection and Environment Protection have arrangements to reduce adverse impacts of agriculture on environment and human health. Even though some technological, environmental and high value commodity links, APP is basically indifferent and unfriendly to organic agriculture.

The 10th plan was also apathetic, though an agriculture sector objective (*conserving natural resources, environment and biodiversity*) vaguely infers emphasis laid on organic agriculture. National Agriculture Policy, 2004 has provisions to support organic farming and organic products certification (sn31). Provisions for reducing adverse impacts of agrochemicals (sn50), improvement of organic manure production/usage (sn51), people participated food quality management (sn38) and regulated use of pesticides (SN 36) and GMO (SN 32) seen as having positive links to organic agriculture promotion..The 3-Year Interim Plan (2007/8-09/10) emphasizes IPM/IPNS (p.138) and eco-friendly technologies (p.141) based on indigenous knowledge and skills (p.143).Agribusiness Promotion Policy, 2006 has provision for development of org. production zone.

National Fertilizer Policy, 2002 emphasized IPNS and curtailed direct subsidies, but the state has recently reinstated some price subsidy. The 3-Year Interim Plan (2010/11-12/13) covers food

and nutritional security in agricultural sector objective (p.69), promotion of organic farming in strategy (p.70) and support and subsidies on FYM/compost/urine management, people's awareness to reduce adverse impacts of pesticides, development of export-market based organic production zones and dissemination of relevant knowledge and skill to local level in working policy.

Initiation of National Standards of Organic Agriculture and Processing Systems

The standard prohibits chemical contamination in production, transfer and processing and use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and radioactive devices (RA-devices). The standard further limits use of fertilizers and contaminated manure and emphasizes use of local-variety, organic seed source and no chemical seed treatment. The standard also avoids torturous raring, fetal implantation, cloning and hormonal use in animal production. Likewise, the standard protects farmers for fair remuneration and employees and consumers for their rights. The standard consists of structural arrangements for organic certification and specifies land arrangement for organic production.

Organic Agriculture Development Initiatives on Plan and Program

No national level organic agriculture development plan has initiated yet. At present State has provided exported organic-product certification, on-farm manure production and use factory based production of manure. Some fragmented programs implemented are on local initiatives of state agencies, INGOs, NGOs, CBOs and entrepreneurs such as certification, marketing, trainings, visits, workshops, exhibition and fairs.

Major Challenging Issues

- establishing procedures, norms and standards of organic certification; maintenance and awareness
- certification is costly to sustain by small farmers; promotion of group marketing and ICS
- organic product marketing and trade
- quality assurance through accredited institutions
- standards, rules and regulations complying importers
- awareness building to state agencies and stakeholders

-
- risk in shifting conventional to organic agriculture system
 - Input subsidy and price discrimination
 - setting clear strategy considering aforesaid issues

Recommendations: policy gaps and anomalies

- Policies fragmented on sectoral and sub sectoral basis without clear pathways of their integration
- Subsidy mechanism – certification subsidy only for exported products, subsidies on organic manure production/use do not have consideration of organic agriculture promotion
- Little visible way to translate policy provisions into action; recent programs in action not perfectly guided by policy
- Lack clear demarcation between conventional and organic agriculture development strategies
- Incongruous program formulation; for example subsidies, certification, human resources development and institutional development
- Weak vertical and parallel linkages
- No formal mechanism of monitoring and reporting
- Weak cooperation among relevant stakeholders

Way forward

- Organic agriculture promotion policy and strategy (separate/inclusive) with identification of adequate instruments integrated to organic promotion (production and trade). Should include small holders' scope/roles, priority areas, commodities and subsidies.
- Implementation of certification programs with standards focused on specialty of traditional agriculture practices.
- Institutional/legislative arrangements such as accreditation body, certifiers, inspectors and quality assurance.
- Identification of priority programs including research and development coordination, capacity building and information system.

Status of the Preparation of Agriculture Development Strategy (ADS)

-Surya Prasad Paudyal and Shabnam Shivakoti

Introduction

Nepalese Agriculture is central to National economy contributing 33% of GDP. Growth rate of Agriculture lies between 2.5 to 3.0 % per annum which is far below than the targeted 4.1%. Nepal is chronically food insecure and in 16th Position amongst the 31 food insecure countries. 38 districts are food deficit districts based on cereal requirement. About 20 percent of Ultra poor spent 73 percent of their income on food items (Household Budget Survey, NRB, 2008)

There have been number of policies and programs formed for the development of Agriculture sector in Nepal including various five year plans and highly ambitious Agriculture Perspective Plan (APP). However our Agriculture sector is yet at its infancy. The implementation of the policy at various levels is rather weak. The Government of Nepal, through a consultant team is currently drafting Agriculture Development Strategy for the promotion of overall Agriculture Development in Nepal.

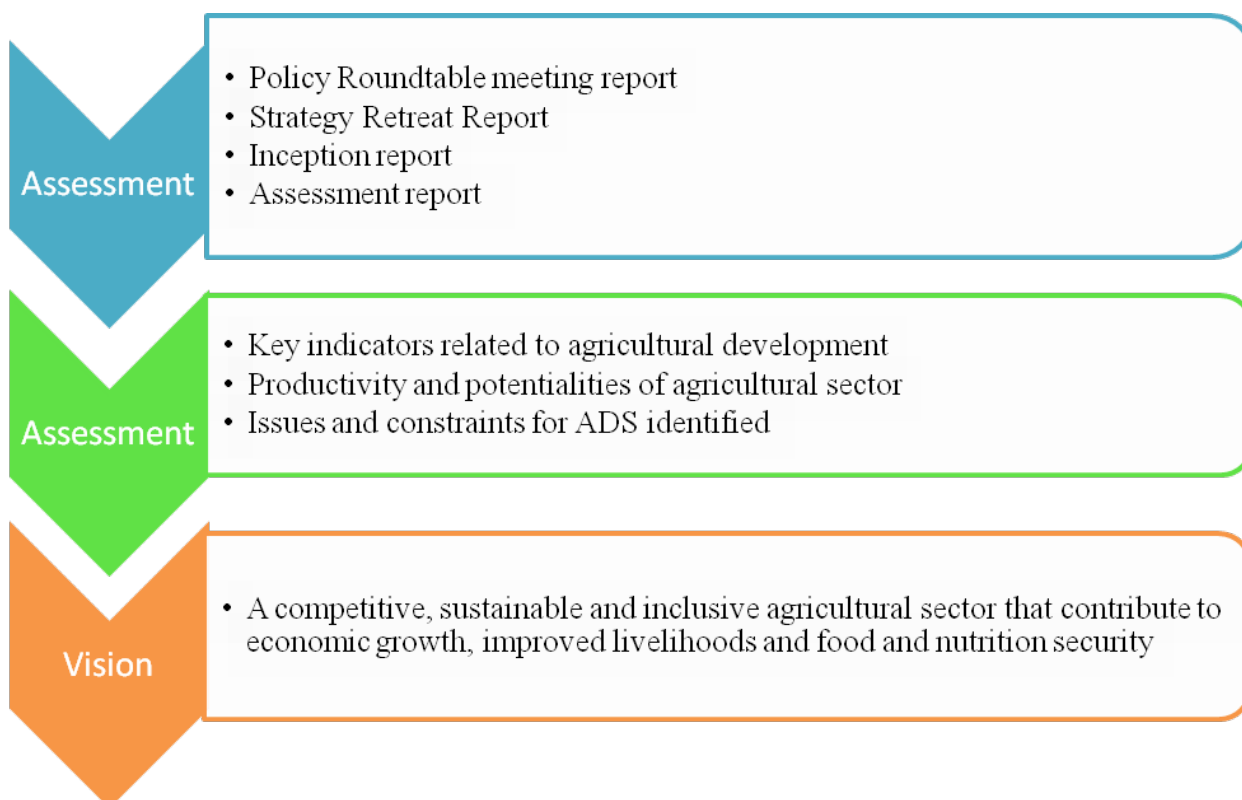
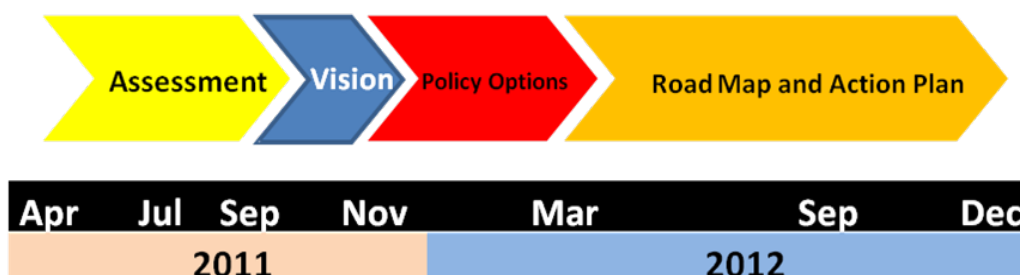
Objectives

To prepare an agriculture development strategy (ADS) with a 20-year vision and a 10-year planning horizon

Scope of the ADS

- Food security, agricultural productivity, connectivity and resilience;
- Sustainable production and resource management through climate change mitigation;
- Adaptation and improved land and water management and water allocation;
- Increased private sector development (including cooperative sector), delivering fair reward to all stakeholders in the value chain; and
- Policies, institutions, and investments.

Overall Work Plan



Major Priority Areas

- Research, Extension and Education
- Finance institutions for agriculture
- Farmers organization
- Irrigation, Fertilizers, Seed and Breed
- Addressing the opportunities from migration and remittance
- Policy Reform to promote PSI in Agro-industries

Means for agricultural transformation

- Best Use of factor of production
- High yielding technology
- Value chain
- Comparative advantage and competitive advantage

Future Trend

- Majority of population will be moved to middle class status
- GDP per capita will be increased in coming 20 years
- Society will be moved from agro-based to industry and service-based
- Requirement of food will be *increased by 100%* in developing country to feed the population
- Major challenge will lie in *access to food*

Policy options, road maps and Action plans

- On the basis of problems identified and sector problems, various options will be identified.
- Policy options include policies, investments and institutional innovations
- Analysis of advantages and disadvantages of each options
- On the basis of the analysis, set of best options will be recommended

Assessment of the Agriculture policy- A Gap Analysis

- Naya Sharma Paudel

Moving towards sustainable agriculture policy

The conventional agriculture has focused merely on productivity usually through intensive use of costly inputs often leading to heavy resource exploitation and natural resources degradation. Unfortunately, despite heavy use of costly inputs our agriculture is facing a declining productivity, food insecurity and health hazards. Currently, we are importing pesticides of about 131 million rupees and fertilizers of about 4000 million rupees. There is an increasing realization that the country cannot sustain this heavy external input based conventional agriculture. Though sustainable farming is a predominant practice particularly in the hills and mountains, these farms are under increasing pressure from market so that they have been gradually faced a dilemma of whether to use the costly inputs or opt for organic and other forms of sustainable farming. In this context a number of government agencies and non-government organizations, in recent years, have been promoting organic farming.

The government initiatives are focused around developing regulatory framework, setting up standards and creating some incentives to reward organic farmers. Apart from setting up norms and standards, the government is developing strategies to encourage certification, group marketing, agri-information system and for awareness raising program. In the meantime, the Agricultural Development Strategy being developed by the government has sought to transform existing subsistence based agriculture into commercial one. Though it has opened up diverse possibilities including taking advantage of specific ecological and climatic zones, the central focus is on intensification of agriculture to increase yield.

In this context, agricultural experts, civil society activists and farmers associations have shown increased interests in long term agricultural policies and are seeking policy support for sustainable agriculture. This brief note is developed and shared in workshop organized by Nepal Permaculture Group (NPG) during its 15th General Convention in Lalitpur.

Why do we need policy?

There are couple of rationales for working towards bringing about policy changes in favor of sustainable agriculture. One of the important objectives is the scaling up of the already existing successful practices of sustainable agriculture. As is evident from several presentations during

the workshop, there exist diverse and very encouraging examples of organic farming and other forms of sustainable agriculture. The sustainable agriculture policy would recognize and support the existing practices which may then rapidly expand across the country. The second important objective is once sustainable agriculture is prioritized by government policies, it would help reallocate resources in favor of sustainable agriculture resulting in increased investment and incentives. Therefore, it is obvious that those who are involved in the promotion of sustainable agriculture should be pushing for bringing policies that recognize and prioritize sustainable agriculture.

Where are the challenges?

The current agricultural policy process in Nepal is founded on two important elements:

A) Current state of knowledge that is dominated by the green revolution ideology assumes that modern monoculture with heavy use of chemicals; machines and hybrid seeds are the only way to boost agricultural production. The mainstream agricultural scientists, government bureaucrats and policy makers alike are convinced with this science and are blind to alternative possibilities.

In this context, working towards sustainable agriculture must address three important questions.

The first is to confront the critical question - can organic farming feed the growing population of the world in general and that of Nepal in particular? As our reliance on chemical fertilizer, pesticide, hybrid seeds and costly equipment has been increasing it is hard to think of maintaining this production without these inputs. People hardly believe that production can be maintained with low external input sustainable agriculture. However, there is critical lack of credible knowledge to convince that current level of production can be maintained and even increased with alternative technology. Therefore, action verified, well tested knowledge that challenges the wisdom around conventional practice and shows the possibility of alternative practice must be generated, documented, analyzed and shared with the policy makers and citizen at large. In this context, a question immediately follows- what kind of technology we have available in order to increase the crop productivity and total yield? Are there proven technologies in practice? How accessible and convenient are these?

The second is what kind of socio-economic and politico-cultural fabrics support sustainable agriculture. The presentations and discussion during the workshop brought several cases of successful organic farming. At the same time it was learnt that these practices have not expanded

elsewhere and many of them are in need of external support to sustain and flourish. Therefore, it emerges that technology alone does not provide a complete answer to move towards sustainable agriculture. Whatever a good practice exist in a small, localized scale, may not be scaled out to larger scale unless the social and market institutions and incentive structures favor such practice. Many of the existing institutions, service system and incentive structure are against sustainable agriculture, particularly against organic farming. For example, there is higher interest rate for loan to buffalo raising than for purchasing a car. There are numerous such cases which are at odd with the wider social and ecological public goods. In such context, our research question could be - what kind of financial incentive arrangements and socio-political institutions favor organic farming? How does the current legal and regulatory framework favor/disfavor organic, sustainable farming in Nepal? How market is supporting/hindering organic farming? How it can be restructured?

Third important element for pushing for any policy change is to highlight the relevance or the significance of certain policy agenda. The policy makers won't bring any new policies without clear incentive or visible pressure to do so. There must be some public pressure towards certain policy change. The task from knowledge perspective is to explore the public goods around the new policy agenda which can then generated sufficient public backing to take action. In this case, an estimation of the lost opportunity due to lack of policy of organic farming should be established. Another equally important task is to demonstrate the link between the public goods associated with organic farming and the private interests of the political leaders in promoting such initiatives. In other words, we must tell them how they are going to win public support by bringing sustainable agriculture, organic farming policy.

B) Democratizing the policy process is another important strategy towards sustainable agriculture. The process of developing policies, programmes and strategies is controlled by a closed scientific circle that often excludes diverse stakeholders who are directly affected by the particular policy. Current policy process in Nepal does not provide adequate spaces to diverse perspectives, views and concerns. Consequently, there are widespread contestation around many of the existing policies and programme. Recent contestation around Agricultural Development Strategy (ADS) that resulted in halting the whole process is a case in point. In forestry, for example, several policy decisions such as creation of more protected areas, centralizing forest

management and imposing heavy tax on local forestry groups have been contested, resisted and sometimes completely rejected.

Mobilizing larger constituencies of farmers, particularly peasant farmers, civil society organizations, sister organizations of political parties, youth association and women's organizations is critically important to challenge the expert monopoly over agriculture policy. The policy process must be brought into wider public debate so that its assumptions, analyses, priorities and thematic thrusts can be scrutinized, examined and modified through a deliberative and constructive dialogue among relevant stakeholders and citizen at large. Therefore, one of the key roles of NPG and all actors around sustainable agriculture are to critically examine the current process and inform the wider society on the pros and cons of certain policy options.

It can be concluded that both the science and politics of agriculture policy making must be reviewed, documented and shared to wider public in order to ensure their active participation in the process. NPG as a common platform and bridging body between farmers, agriculture professionals and policy makers can effectively assume the role of democratizing the agriculture policy process so that the most informed policy outcomes would obviously prioritize organic, sustainable agriculture.



CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Conclusion

The Government of Nepal is slowly but increasingly realizing the positive impacts of Organic Agriculture. Comprehensive policy structures to support the same have been developed but are still not prevalent. Even though, implicit support from the government side is visible in many of the government led activities, some of the plans and programs are basically unfriendly to Organic Agriculture. Currently this sector finds its support from the private sector (more encouraged by its market potential) and the I/NGOs and they hold the credit for the existing expansion of organic agriculture production and trade in the country. The Agriculture Development Strategy (ADS) which is in its development process focuses largely on increasing food production. Therefore, a timely and relevant intervention to seek more political commitment focusing on integrating all agricultural and other environment policies areas in an efficient way for the further development of the organic sector is needed. The workshop reached to the conclusion that any plans related to organic agriculture should be linked to the country's agriculture policies in order to make it mutually supportive. Also the process of drafting the Agriculture development strategy requires a great deal of coordination and public consultation. The workshop was largely participatory and an opportunity to compare the existing National policies and evaluate the gap and differences within it. Based on this some relevant recommendations was developed .They have been summarized below:

Recommendations:

- Organic agriculture should be promoted as a mainstream solution for which general and organic agriculture policies should support each other.
- Data about organic production and markets need to be collected and made available to the policy makers.
- Traditional knowledge on pest/ disease management should be surveyed, included in extension services and disseminated.
- The farmer's organization with respect to marketing of organic products should be supported by the government
- Organic desks should be established in other relevant ministries.
- The two national committees developed (NOAAB and NCCOAPPS) should be more proactive and inclusive to facilitate consultations between government and private bodies.
- Promotion of action research on OA through research institutions

Annex I: Program outline of the workshop

Friday 24th February, 2012 Staff College, Jawalakhel, Lalitpur

Inaugural Session

10.00- 10.30	Registration reception of the guest, Invitees and Participants
10.30- 10.50	Taking seat and badge distribution and inauguration
10.50- 11.00	Welcome and Objective of the workshop
11.00-11.35	Few words from the guests
11.35-11.45	Few words from the chief guest
11.45- 12.00	Vote of thanks and closing of inaugural session from chairperson
12.00 -12.30	Tea Break

Technical session

12.30 –12.45	Role of NPG in promotion of organic agriculture in Nepal
12.50 - 1.05	OA at field level (SNV)
1.10 - 1.25	OA at field level (CoPP HELVETAS)
1.30 - 1.45	Initiatives on OA- Policy and implementation (MoAC)
1.45 – 2.00	Sharing of status of ADS linking with OA
2.00 – 2.30	Tea and snacks
2.30 - 3.00	Gap Analysis and presentation
3.00 – 3.30	Plenary discussion and recommendation
3.30- 3.40	Closing and vote of thanks

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