



# **Resource Identification and Management Society (RIMS), Nepal**

**Implementing Agency for  
Western Terai Lot III  
(Nawalparasi, Rupandehi and Kapilvastu)**

***Revised Inception Phase Report (March-April 2013)***

**Submitted to  
Multi Stakeholder Forestry Programme (MSFP)**

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## Introduction

Nepal is one of the least developed country having 25% of its population living below the national poverty line. The World Bank defines **extreme poverty** as living on less than US\$1.25 (*PPP*) per day, and **moderate poverty** as less than \$2 or \$5 a day. As per [Wikipedia](#), the data from 2010 shows that the percent of **total population of Nepal living under the poverty line of 1.25 USD is 24.82%** and those that live under 2 USD is 57.25% percent of the population. In political context, somehow Nepal is still in post conflict transition, seven years after the ten years civil unrest came to an end. Despite some progress shown in poverty reduction in recent years, Nepal remains one of the poorest countries in the world, with a Human Development Index of 0.463, placing it 157th out of 187 countries listed in the UNDP's Human Development Report 2013.

About 80 per cent of Nepal's people live in rural areas and depend on subsistence farming for their livelihoods. Household food insecurity and poor nutrition are major concerns in these areas, where about half of children under five years of age are undernourished. Most rural households have little or no access to primary health care, education, safe drinking water, sanitation or other basic services. Poor rural people in Nepal generally have large families, very small landholdings or none at all, and high rates of illiteracy. They are also concentrated in specific ethnic, caste and marginalized groups, particularly those of the lowest caste (dalits), indigenous peoples (janajatis) and women. Social discrimination plays a significant role in keeping people poor and marginalized in rural Nepal.

Moreover, Nepal is prone to frequent earthquakes, severe thunderstorms, flooding, landslides, drought and glacial melting, whose severity is compounded by the effects of climate change.

## Forestry in Nepal

Around 40% of total land of Nepal is covered by forests. In Nepal, forest is pivotal for local livelihood practices and national politics since it is crucial for meeting rural livelihood as well as state revenues. Study says that Nepal's forests contribute 9% to GDP (NEF 2010). Most of the rural people (70%) regularly use the forest products (timber, fuel wood, grass, fodders, medicinal plants) partly for their own subsistence purposes or partly for income generation. Nepalese rural people largely depend on fuel wood for cooking food and other purpose (84% of Nepalese total HHs), and timber/bamboo for making house to live in. For those involved in agriculture, nutrients supplements from forest are often of critical importance to productivity. Such supplements can be in the form of mulch from leaves gathered in the forest. Another source of nutrient supplement is forest grazing by livestock which converts nutrients from forest biomass into manure. Besides this, people depend on forest for wild foods (animals and plants), medicinal plants, other NTFPs, and for grazing cattle.

Twenty five percent of Nepal's forests (about 1.6 million ha) are now under community Forestry involving 17,685 community forestry groups which comprises of 2.17 million households covering 40% of the national population (26 million).

Nepal's community forestry program has met with some notable successes in terms of improving the biophysical and rural livelihoods during the three decades of period. Because of these successes, Nepal is considered as one of the most progressive countries in the world in terms of community forestry and Community Based Natural Resource Management is widely recognized as an innovative approach to forest management and its governance in Nepal. At present, Nepal's community forestry has moved beyond its original goal of fulfilling the subsistence forestry needs of local people, and heralded as an appropriate instrument to help accomplish the dual goals of environmental conservation and poverty alleviation as envisaged by Nepal's sustainable development framework. Thus, Nepal's community forestry program is now considered as an important instrument for sustainable development strategy for bringing social change- empowering the marginalized communities.

The Multi Stakeholder Forestry Programme (MSFP) is an initiatives of the Government of Nepal (GoN) funded by Swiss Agency for Development of the Government of Switzerland, the Government of Finland (GOF), and the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID). The programme aims to improve livelihoods and resilience of the poor and disadvantaged people in Nepal by maximizing the contribution of the country's forestry sector to inclusive economic growth, poverty reduction, and tackling climate change. MSFP contributes to the vision of Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation (MFSC) , Forestry for People's Prosperity through its four major areas of outcomes: (a) development and implementation of forestry sector strategy, policies and plan through multi stakeholder processes; (b) creating jobs in forestry through investment in forest based enterprises; (c) supporting rural community especially the poor, disadvantaged and climate vulnerable for better livelihoods through access to forest products and services and (d) sustainable forest management, biodiversity conservation and climate resilience.

The MSFP is a ten (10) years programme managed by Swiss Agency for Development and Corporation (SDC) for the first phase (four years transition). It is being implemented jointly by Government and non state actors including the private sector. The MSFP is built on the achievements of past 20 years of work of Government of Nepal in forestry supported by the UK and Swiss Agency Development Cooperation in 6 distinct lots of 23 districts of Nepal. RIMS Nepal, in consortium with ERI and HICODEF is one of the non state Implementing Agency (IA) responsible to deliver MSFP in Lot III Western Terai (Rupandehi, Kapilbastu and Nawalparasi) following undergoing Implementing Agencies selection process at MSFP-SSU through open competitive bidding. This contract has been awarded for two years starting from March 2013. This report is prepared to highlight some key achievements made so far during two months of inception period (1<sup>st</sup> March to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2013).

## SECTION A

### 1 Updated Plan and Budget for 2 Years Plan:

RIMS-MSFP team visited the Terai districts and observed the activities carried out by the earlier forestry programmes namely, Livelihoods and Forestry Programme (LFP) which was funded by DFID and Interim Forestry Project (IFP) funded by DFID and SDC. The team organized interaction programme with DFOs, Local Forestry Groups (LFGs) and other stakeholders, and captured their views and perspectives on forestry development. In addition, newly but experienced team of RIMS-MSFP shared their own observations, experiences, perspectives and thought the way forward to build on LFP and IFP achievements of the past. All the activities and budget were segregated into area, district and PNGO level, aiming to share and get endorsed by District Support Mechanism (DSM).

RIMS-MSFP further revised its plan and budgets by incorporating feedbacks and suggestions from SSU to harmonize with the MSFP results and targets having total budget remaining unchanged. The total budget is:

*Table 1: Updated budget for two years*

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Budget for I year</b>	<b>Budget for II year</b>	<b>Total Budget</b>
<i>Outcome 2</i>	7,810,000	8,065,000	15,875,000
<i>Outcome 3</i>	27,469,000	36,626,000	64,095,000
<i>Outcome 4</i>	9,065,000	8,615,000	17,680,000
<i>Total Programme Cost</i>	44,344,000	53,306,000	97,650,000
<i>Management Cost</i>	17,225,350	14,832,250	32,057,600
<i>Overhead Cost</i>	3,694,161	4,088,295	7,782,456
<i>Grand Total</i>	65,263,511	72,226,545	137,490,056

The proportion of programme cost and management cost in the first year is 72%:28%. The second year the proportion is 78%:22%. This is because the first year will have large proportion of amount to spend on administrative and management cost including procurement of motorcycles and office equipments.

The programme cost in total budget remains 75% in the entire programme period.

RIMS-MSFP team facilitated to form and establish a district level programme support mechanism (DSM) in all three districts. The revised plans and budget was shared and endorsed from DSM of respective districts to build their ownership on the programme.

*(Detailed updated 2 years plan and budget with quarterly breakdown is attached in annex 1)*

## 2 Local Partner NGO Selection:

The RIMS-MSFP developed a detail criteria and procedure in line with the broad framework/principle provided by the MSFP-SSU.

### 2.1 NGO Selection Criteria:

Following basic requirements were considered while selecting the Partner NGOs. The potential NGOs fulfilling all required mandatory will be eligible to qualify for the selection.

**a. NGOs having legal documents on:**

- Registration certificate
- Affiliation with the SWC
- Renewed from the concern authority
- Annual auditing
- All the basic legal documents

**b. NGOs having work experience on:**

- Social Mobilisation/ gender poverty and social inclusion
- Participatory forestry management
- Public land management and private forestry promotion
- Climate change adaptation and mitigation
- Working experience with the LFP/IFP in the region on Social mobilization

**c. NGOs working in programme district (working areas)**

- The NGOs registered and working in the programme district

**d. NGOs having Organisational Profile on:**

- Numbers of relevant projects/Programmes implementing at present
- Organisational Structure
- Executive board/committee

**e. NGOs Human Resources and their Expertise**

- Total numbers of staff working in the organisation
- Area of expertise

**f. NGOs having Institutional Governance on**

- Transparency & accountability
- Decision making system/Process
- Organisational policy / Values and Principle etc

## 2.2 NGO Selection Process:

Different approaches were followed for Local Partner NGOs (PNGOs) selection in the district:

a. Step First:

- Work with those district-based NGOs who had already been joined in the MSFP bidding process as a consortium member.
- If not, then proceed to Step Second to select the NGO in the district.

b. Step Second:

- Invite for Expression of Interest with concept paper to those NGOs who had been involved in implementing the LFP activities in the district/area.
- Share the name of NGOs with the MSFP-DSM in respective district and get their consent for selecting the NGO.
- Select the NGO as a Partner that is compatible and committed to work with RIMS-MSFP.

c. Step Third:

- Discussion with the key stakeholders i.e. DDC/DFCC Chairperson, DFOs, NGO Federation, FECOFUN and share about the RIMS-MSFP, MSFP implementing mechanism, NGO Selection process and criteria as mentioned in the steps above.
- Form a NGO selection committee through DSM
- Request to NGO federation in district chapter to shortlist potential 3-5 NGOs as per the given criteria.
- Provide framework to the shortlisted NGOs to prepare the concept note with maximum half an hour presentation by each NGOs.
- Select the best competent NGO through rigorous assessment process.
- Endorsement of selected NGO from DSM

## 2.3 NGO Partners in District:

Following partner NGOs were selected to deliver the MSFP activities in the Terai districts. The NGO Partners for the Nawalparasi, Rupandehi and Kapilvastu are already endorsed by the district support mechanism (DSM) of respective district.

### **Nawalparasi:**

In Nawalparasi, Himalayan Community Development Forum (HiCoDeF), Kawasoti, Nawalparasi was selected unanimously as it is consortium partner of RIMS Nepal in MSFP bidding process.

### **Rupandehi:**

In Rupandehi, two potential NGOs who were involved in LFP period were invited for expression of interest through restricted bidding. However, only one NGO, Nepal Community Support



Group (NECOS) of Siddhartha Nagar Municipality ward no. 7, Bhairawa, Rupandehi submitted the EOI for working with RIMS Nepal to implement MSFP activities.

#### **Kapilvastu:**

Request was made to NGO Federation to short list the top 5 NGOs who are potential to work for RIMS Nepal to implement MSFP activities. The evaluation committee was formed of DDC, DFO, NGO Federation, Kapilvastu, and RIMS. After a rigorous process, Kapilbastu Integrated Development Services (KIDS), Taulihawa, Kapilvastu was selected through open bid selection.

Kapilvastu Integrated Development Services was established in Kapilvastu District in August 2005 having an affiliation with social welfare council. Its goal is the establishment of equitable, healthy and self-reliant society. It is liable among its community people to provide informative awareness and community services as their right. More precisely, it has been running its successive regional level programs in its various sectors named, Health, Water and Sanitation, Nutrition & Education, Income generation program for Smallholder farmers, Rural prosperity Initiative (RPI), Commercialization of Agriculture, Poverty Reduction Programme for under privileged and marginalized people, school level educational program, LGCDP, health education, climate change and HIV&AIDS reduction program for MSM and Migrants with support of different donor agencies with its great potential of hard working and highly motivated skilled human resources. In addition, it is the only sole organization working in partnership with different NGO and INGOs for marginalized and disadvantaged communities in Kapilvastu & Pyuthan districts to enhance their health & socio-economic status. The workforce diversity of KIDS is 31.25% female. 50% is madhesi, and 25% Brahmin/Chhetri.

### **3 Management System in Place:**

#### **a Human Resource Management:**

RIMS/MSFP staff structure and their designation proposed for center, area and district level are same as mentioned in the proposal submitted during bidding process. Contract had been signed with all staffs and deployed in their respective field with TOR.

The management and coordination among staff will be as follows:

**Center level:** RIMS-MSFP has formed a 4 member steering committee to oversee the programme, develop policies and effective monitoring. RIMS Chairperson will lead the committee with consortium members and executive director of RIMS will be the member secretary of steering committee.

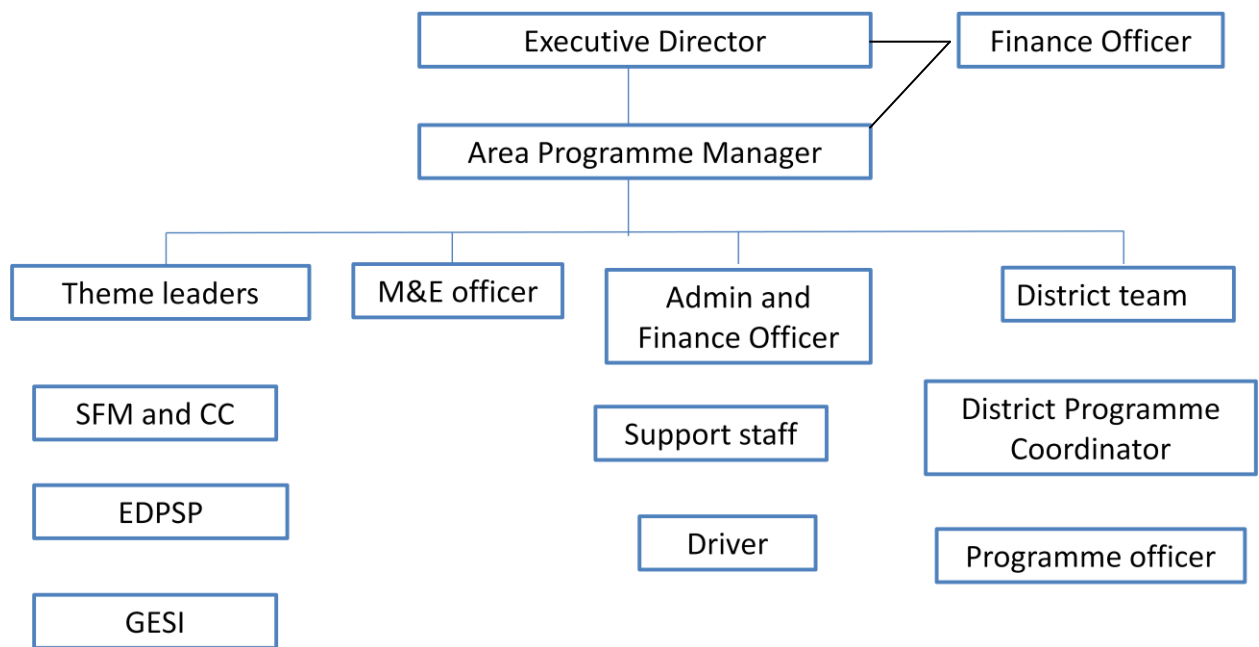
In guidance of the PSC, the Area Project Manager will lead the entire team and take overall responsibility of project implementation at area level. At central level, a focal person supported by Admin & Finance Officer and office assistant will coordinate with donor and central level stakeholders for smooth implementation and communication of project activities.

**Area Level:** Area Programme Manager along with the four thematic officers (Forestry and Climate Change, GESI, Enterprise Development Officer and Monitoring & Communication Officer) and Admin & Finance officer will support the implementation of project activities. Besides, as and when required, consultancy service will be procured on different areas of project implementation.

**District level:** District Coordinator (DC) with Program Officers and support staff will focus in district level activities in respective district. Under the overall guidance of area level team, the District Programme Staff will be responsible for planning and implementation; resource mobilization, monitoring, evaluation and reporting; coordination with district level agencies (DFCC, DFO, DADO, DLSO, DSCO, DDC, WDO, FECOFUN District Chapter, COFSUN, NGOs, FNCCI, Financial Institutions, Civil Society, Youth Clubs, and other Associations related to forest and biodiversity conservation, forest based enterprise development and livelihood improvement) for connected development. In addition to this, the District Team also support DFO and communities in sustainable management of forest resource. District Team will also be responsible for coaching and provide technical support to VFCCs, for the implementation of their respective plan.

**VDC level:** Field Officer will be deputed to plan, implement and monitor the area level activities under direct supervision of District team. At VDC level, Forestry Facilitator (FF) will implement the project activities at grass root level in coordination with VFCC and LFGs and under the direct supervision of District Team. All these VDC level officers/facilitators will lead the social mobilization function for project activities.

**RIMS-MSFP staff structure**



RIMS-MSFP as per its value and principle, is quite sensitive and stand for, to maintain the workforce diversity within the organization. Considerable attention has been made by RIMS to maintain mixing skills with inclusive structure within the organization. RIMS-Nepal recruited the deserving and experienced staff as program officers, district coordinator and thematic officers through competitive process as mentioned in RIMS policy.

The staff selection criteria adopted as follows:

- Person submitted his/her CV on the proposal at MSFP bidding.
- Professional Person having high degree of commitment & positive attitude.
- Person having experience in forestry livelihoods and climate change adaptation
- Person with knowledge of participatory, inclusive and rights base development approach
- Person involved in LFP delivery
- Person from minority cast and gender
- Mix skills for maintaining work force diversity.

All together 16 staffs had been recruited and deployed to implement the MSFP programme in respective area and districts. RIMS-MSFP has tried to maintain work force diversity of 25% of women, 20% Madesi, 25% Janajati and more than 50% staffs from within the programme area.

*(The detail list of staff with their respective base is mentioned in the annex -2)*

## **b Financial Management:**

RIMS-MSFP central and area office bank account has been maintained at Sidhartha Bank Pvt Ltd in Kathmandu and Butwal respectively. Total expenditures during Inception phase (March-April, 2013) comes to RS 2,213,395.77 (in Nepali rupees, two million two hundred thirteen thousand, three hundred ninety five and seventy seven paisa only). Total expenditure of each district is prepared and attached here in the annex 3. Vehicle, motorcycles, computers, office goods and other equipments have been procured abiding the procurement policy of RIMS Nepal.

### **Financial management system:**

- Fund flow mechanism/reporting:** RIMS-MSFP central office will receive funds from MSFP-SSU to implement the activities and those funds will be transferred to RIMS-MSFP area office. Area office is responsible to release the funds for partner NGOs and consortium partners according to MOU and agreements. However, financial reporting will be done according to SSU policies and requirements.
- Internal control system:** Fund Flow Analysis is crucial for maintaining the governance. Donor audit will be carried out by MSFP-SSU, however, RIMS has the provision of

internal as well as external auditing system for better and cost effective way. Financial monitoring of area office, partner NGOs and consortium partners will be carried out by RIMS central office in quarterly basis.

*(Financial report is attached in annex 4)*

### **c. Institutional set up:**

RIMS-MSFP area office is set up at Bahumukhi Path, Butwal Municipality - 5 (two storey building having 8 rooms with compound for vehicle parking). Lease contract has already been made with the house owner with effective from 28<sup>th</sup> March 2013. Moreover, office goods and equipments have been procured. MSFP-SSU has provided a vehicle to RIMS-MSFP to implement the activities. The area office is now fully furnished with necessary facilities.

*(List of office assets, goods and equipments are attached in annex -5)*

### **d. Consortium Partners**

Environmental Research Institute (ERI) of Kathmandu and HICODEF of Nawalparasi are the consortium partners of RIMS in MSFP implementation in Terai area. Following discussion and negotiations, it is agreed by the consortium parties to implement activities as per the MOU between the consortium partners. HICODEF of Nawalparasi will be sole responsible to implement MSFP implementation in Nawalparasi district whereas ERI will be focusing more on research, studies and training part of the programme.

*(List of Activities which ERI will be implementing is mentioned in Annex 6)*

RIMS Nepal will take overall responsibility of implementing the MSFP and will be first hand point of contact and correspondence concerning the programme in the Terai programme area.

## **4 Support to Coordination Mechanism:**

RIMS-MSFP team visited different stakeholders i.e. DDC, DFO, DSCO, FECOFUN, NGO Federation and networks etc of all three districts and shared about the RIMS-MSFP working mechanism and approach. Besides, the team has built rapport with the key actors involved in the forestry sector development and livelihoods enhancement in the Terai area. In addition, RIMS-MSFP has facilitated to form District Support Mechanisms for effective monitoring and implementation of the programme in all three districts of Terai area.

**a. District Support Mechanism** - It comprises the following members:

- DFO as a Chairperson-----1
- DDC representative as a member----- 1
- Forest Officer nominated by DFO as a member----- 1
- Representative from IA (RIMS)-----1
- MSFP-SSU CPC of respective Cluster -----1

Total 5 members of MSFP district level Programme Support Mechanism has formed. The DSM organized its first meeting in all three districts to share and endorse RIMS-MSFP plan, budget and selection of partner NGO.

**b. Project steering committee:**

RIMS-MSFP has formed the 4 members steering committee to oversee the programme, develop policies and effective monitoring. RIMS Chairperson will lead the committee with consortium members and executive director of RIMS will be the member secretary of steering committee.

## 5 Delivery of Initial Activities during Inception Phase

RIMS-MSFP has so far achieved following progress during the inception period (March-April, 2013):

- Offices have setup in central, area and district level.
- Staffs are recruited and assigned in their respective field.
- Unpacked and finalized RIMS-MSFP plan and budget in consultations with field staff. The plan and budget has been further revised incorporating the feedbacks from MSFP-SSU and DSM.
- Office goods, equipments and assets are procured.
- Facilitated to form DSM and organized first meeting in all three districts
- Negotiated with the consortium partner ERI and made agreement on role and responsibilities between the parties.
- Partner NGOs have been selected and endorsed from DSM in each district.

District	Nawalparasi	Rupandehi	Kapilvastu
Partner NGOs	HICODEF	NECOS	KIDS

- Endorsed plan and budget from DSM of each district
- Visited all three districts and built rapport with the stakeholders
- RIMS-MSFP team visited various places of 3 districts where LFP and IFP activities were implemented.

## SECTION B

### 6 Context of Terai

The Terai plain of Nepal is the low-lying land mainly to the south of the Siwalik Hills. It extends from east to west along the country and covers approximately 20% of the country's land area. It has a large number of small and usually seasonal rivers, most of which originate in the Siwalik Hills. The soil in the Terai is alluvial and fine to medium textured.



Total forest cover (including protected areas) in the 20 Terai districts is 41.5% (i.e. 1.4 million ha) of the land area. Altogether, 57% of the forest area in the 20 Terai districts is found in the Churia or Mahabharat Hills, leaving only 43% (493,379 ha) in the Terai plains or inner Terai plains (Bampton et al. 2007). Although Terai forest makes up approximately one-fourth of the national forests, only about 5% of it have been handed over to local communities as community forests and approximately 12% of the community forest user groups (CFUGs) (around 2043 in number) are in the Terai (CFD database, 2012). Moreover, deforestation is still a problem as annual rate of deforestation is 1.75% (MSFP logframe) which is the result of illegal felling and encroachments. Past and present research has shown that Nepal's vast forest cover spread across various zones has been receding at an alarming rate. A government report of the past shows that the country's forest cover declined from 43% in 1978 to 37.4% in 1986 and

subsequently to 29% in 1998 (Amendra Pokharel, 2008). Forest cover in the Terai and hill areas has decreased at an annual rate of 1.3% between 1978 and 1979, and 2.3% between 1990 and 1991 (Bhujju, U.R., Shakya, P.R., Basnet, T.B., Shrestha, S. (2007), *Nepal Biodiversity Resource Book. Protected Areas, Ramsar Sites, and World Heritage Sites*).

The Terai programme districts (Nawalparasi, Rupandehi and Kapilvastu) shows above clearly its physical setting with having green forest only in northern belt. 31% of total programme districts land is covered with forest area. About 23.4% of total Western Terai districts (Nawalparasi, Rupandehi and Kapilvastu) forest area is handed over to community forest user groups in (LFP, 2011). As the area managed as leasehold and religious forests is insignificant as compared to the total forest area, major parts of the national forest is still under government management.

### **Forest Regime with Different Management Modalities in Western Terai districts**

**Community Forestry:** Community forestry is the main community-based forest management modality in the region. The recent data shows that 38,327.57 ha of total national forest area has come under this management modality benefitting 304 CFUGs with 123,609 households. It directly serves about 32% households of the Terai districts (IFP Terai LSI Report, 2011 + CBS census data, 2011).

53% of CFUG are found to be involved in forest-based enterprise development in LFP period. Similarly 43% of CFUGs are found having climate change related Community based Adaptation Plans.

**Government Managed Forest:** Almost 72% of the Western Terai forests are under the government management scheme. These forests are rarely managed scientifically in practice even in demonstration plots. The management practices are still traditional in nature.

**Public & Institutional Land Management:** Under the Livelihood Forestry Programme initiative, communities have taken on the management of under-utilised public land with immediate benefit going to the poor (especially women, dalits and people of minority ethnic or religious groups). Little of the original rich forest remains in the Terai plains and majority of the Terai population lives in the southern belt, and hence lacking direct access to the forest resources of Northern belt. This situation had fuelled a tension over the use of forest resources in this area (Dhungana 2007). Thus, the LFP sought to increase the access of poor and excluded people in Terai communities to forest products through more productive use of currently 'barren' public land. 89% of the potential public lands are available for community management in Terai. Till 2011, there are 519 PILM groups managing about 1816.57 ha of waste and barren land in these three districts benefitting 29651 user households.

**Collaborative Forest Management:** Following the Revised Forestry Sector 2000 and the CFM guideline 2003, a part of GMF which are in large contiguous blocks, have been identified to be managed under collaborative mode. The CFM is appreciated by local stakeholders for its equity perspective and for addressing the needs of distant users in principle (Bampton et.al 2007). The recently updated district forest management plan delineated a total of 35,142 ha forests under

potential CFM. Up to now, there are 5 CFM groups managing 2153.5 ha of block forests in these three districts benefitting 70,810 households (LFP, 2011).

The management of Nepal's productive and biodiversity-rich Terai forests have been a major issue of debate and discussion in recent years. Despite the successful community forestry modality in hills, it is argued that the management challenges in Terai are not as similar to hills. The major justification behind this argument is mostly based on the social and biophysical setting of Terai. In addition, this argument is also supported by the fact that that the community forestry model does not address the issue of distant users' as Terai mostly does have large segments of population living far away from the forest areas.

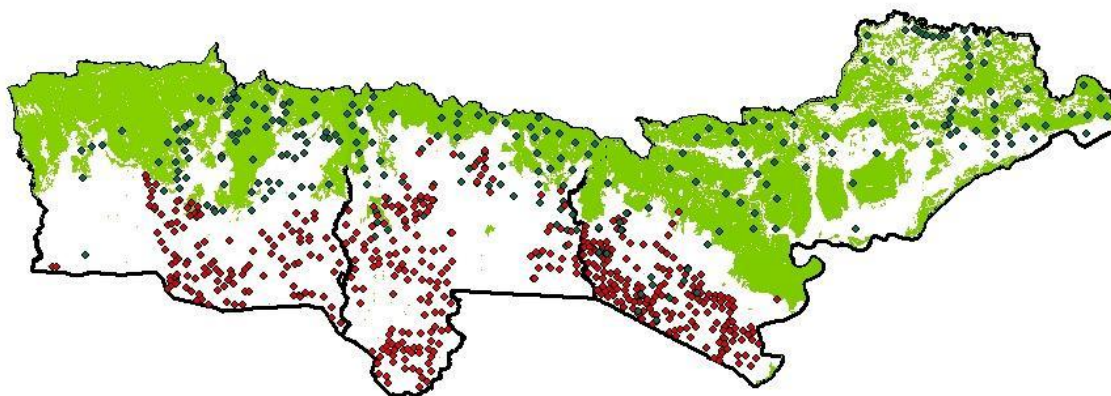
**Leasehold Forestry:** Although there is only one poor focused leasehold forest in Kapilvastu , leasehold forestry for the poor has been intensively implemented in 18 hill VDCs of Nawalparasi district. By the end of 2011, a total of 85 groups have been leased out to manage 603.79 ha of forest area benefitting 926 households. The Leasehold forestry has been not only supporting for the livelihoods of poor ethnic communities but also retarding shifting cultivation practices resulting in reduced forest fires and soil erosion.

**Buffer Zone Community Forest:** In Nawalparasi district, six buffer zone CFs are formed, and they cover an area of 213.8 hectares. These are managed primarily with a conservation objective.

**Protection Forests:** A large portion of Western Terai forest is found in the Siwalik Hills, (and even in Mahabharat range in Nawalparasi district). These forests along with some riverbank areas were classified as protection forest by OFMP, although no any other legal or policy documents explicitly describe about the protection forests. The protection forests by their category would have been managed for watershed protection and soil erosion control.

**Private Forests:** There are 146 registered private forests, covering an area of 205.64 ha benefitting 2775 households.

*Map showing the area under Collaborative Forest Management, Public Land Management and Community Forestry in Western Terai Districts (Source LFP/IFP, 2011)*





## 7 Fact sheet of Terai Districts

Description	Kapilvastu		Nawalparasi		Rupandehi		Grand Total		
	Total in the district	VDCs Coverage	Total in the district	VDCs Coverage	Total in the district	VDCs Coverage	Total in the Cluster/area	VDCs Coverage	% to Total Terai Cluster
Total VDC /Municipalities	77 + 1 = 78	22	73 + 1 = 74		69 + 2 = 71		219 + 4 = 223		
Total HHs	91,321		128,793		163,916		384,030		
Total Population	571,936		643,508		880,196		2,095,640		
Total District Land Area (Ha)	173,800		216,200		136,000		526,000		
Total District Forest Area (Ha)	44,770		96,673		21,810		163,253		31%
Total CFUGs Group	94	21	124	45	86	28	304	94	
Total Hhs involved in CFUGs	25,051		38,197		60,361		123,609		32%
Total CF Area	10,076.59		15,881.98		12,369		38,327.57		23.4%
Total LHFG	1	1	84	12			85	13	
HHs involved in Leasehold FUG	10		916				926		
Total Leasehold Forest Area	5		598.79				603.79		
Total PILMG	165	37	194	30	160	35	519	102	
HHs involved in PILMG	7299		10075		12277		29651		7.7%
Total PILMG Area (Ha)	903.06		574.45		339.06		1,816.57		1.1%

Total CFM	3	53	1	10	1	16	5	79	
Total CFM Area	18,257		1,778.16		1,118.34		21,153.5		12.9%
HHs involved in CFM	38,962		9,974		21,874		70,810		18.4%
Total PF	75	13	57	8	14	5	146	26	
Total PF area (Ha)	109.26		73.58		22.8		205.64		0.1%
HHs involved in PF	1500		995		280		2775		0.7%
Total LFUGs	338		460		261		1059		
Total LF Area	29,350.91		18,906.96		13,849.2		62,107.07		38.%
HHs involved in total LFUGs	72,822		60,157		94,792		227,771		59.3%
<b>% to total district</b>	<b>79.7%</b>		<b>46.7%</b>		<b>57.8%</b>				
Total LAPA – VDC level	47		44		35		126		
Total CFUG involved in LAPA	94		54		85		233		
CFUG-CAP	28		18		63		109		
PILMG-CAP	164		147		144		455		
Total HH benefitted	18,121		35,831		15,021		68,973		
Total vulnerable HHs	4,786		9,463		3,967		18,216		

## 8 MSFP Intervention through RIMS in Western Terai

RIMS Nepal will be implementing Multi Stakeholder Forestry Programme in Western Terai districts of Nepal namely Nawalparasi, Rupandehi and Kapilvastu for two years starting from

March 2013. Its consortium partner is ERI and will basically focus in research and study activities. Its other consortium partner HICODEF will be implementing social mobilization part in Nawalparasi district. The other two partner NGOs, NECOS and KIDS will be also implementing social mobilization part in Rupandehi and Kapilvastu districts respectively. RIMS will take lead role in overall management and implementation of MSFP.

## 9 Strategic Outlook

RIMS-MSFP will have LFGs and their networks as an entry point for the MSFP intervention. The programme implementation will be carried out through local NGOs, private sector, LFGs and VDC, local governance. It will have participatory and bottom up approach in planning and implementation. It will focus to poor, excluded and disadvantaged groups for livelihoods improvement interventions. It will confine the geographical focus to the selected VDCs to make intensive support effective. Disproportionate endowment of forest and land resources in the southern and northern belts of Terai districts requires geographic area specific approach to ensure tenurial rights and accessibility over the forest resources to local communities. Distance user issue coupled with identity politics and livelihoods of poor household has been the major development issues in the south. Public land management and low carbon strategy will be promoted in the southern belt of Terai. It emphasizes on inclusiveness in every intervention. It will have partnership and coordination with state and non state actors as much as possible and applicable. Programmes will be endorsed through district support mechanism in respective districts. It will have strategic guidelines through District Forest Coordination Committee. Joint monitoring will be done for monitoring and reporting. Emphasis will be made for Coordination and collaboration in executing activities.

### **Multi stakeholder approach**

RIMS-MSFP will uphold the multi stakeholder approach of the MSFP in all aspect of the programme delivery through involving all stakeholders including government, non government and private sectors. This approach will help to improve accountability, responsibility, transparency as well as to support the decentralized and devolved forestry sector planning, implementation and monitoring activities. This mechanism will further strengthen leadership and ownership of multi stakeholders in the process ensuring institutional sustainability, effectiveness and efficiency.

## 10 Outcomes Planned for 2 years (2013-2015)

MSFP programme document has expectation of four outcomes by the end of the program in 2021. These are:

1. Government and non-state actors jointly and effectively implementing inclusive forest sector strategies, policies and plans;
2. Private sector (farmers, entrepreneurs, and financial institutions) increase investment and jobs in the forestry sector;
3. Rural communities – especially poor, disadvantaged and climate vulnerable people and households - benefit from local forest management and other investments; and
4. Forest and trees sustainably managed and monitored by government, communities and private sector and climate resilient

However, the implementing agencies are assigned to be implementing activities to achieve only three outcomes i.e. 2-4 as mentioned below.

## 11 Expected Outcomes for two years

The outcomes for RIMS-MSFP are described as mentioned below.

Outcomes	Outputs	Key targets/results
2. Private sector (farmers, entrepreneurs, and financial institutions) increase investment and jobs in the forestry sector	2.2 Lasting business partnerships established between private sector, local forestry groups, and farmers for forest-based enterprises	1 enterprise promotion and private sector involvement strategy developed Value chain study of 3 products. 1 operational guidelines and norms developed for supporting enterprises 3 Networks of entrepreneurs established 1200 employments generated through enterprises
3. Rural communities – especially poor, disadvantaged and climate vulnerable people and households - benefit from local forest management and other investments	3.1 Local forestry groups managing and accessing more and better forest resources	45 new forest hand over 60 OP revision 3 manuals for training on governance, climate change and social mobilization 25 LRPs trained and accredited
	3.2 Local forestry groups and multi-stakeholder structures practice good governance	45 Multistakeholder forum in VDC level established 30 LFGs practice public audit.
	3.3 Poor, disadvantaged and climate vulnerable households receive targeted goods and services (including finance) from local forestry groups and multi-stakeholder structures	8500 poor HHs benefited from income generation activities 13500 vulnerable HHs benefitted from climate resilience activities
	3.4 Local forestry groups implement plans and constitutions that reflect sustainability and improve climate resilience.	45 new OP & 60 OP revised incorporate CAP and GESI 15 LFGs implement CAPA 15 VDCs implemen LAPA
4. Forest and trees sustainably managed and monitored by government, communities and private sector and climate resilient	4.1 Local forestry groups implement plans and constitutions that reflect sustainability and improve climate resilience.	15 LFGs practice silviculture operation 60000 seedlings produced 24 VDCs use biogas/ICS as alternative energy. 2 PES piloting activities

**Outcome 2:** *Private sector (farmers, entrepreneurs, and financial institutions) increase investment and job in the forestry sector:*

Terai has a huge potential area for establishing forest-based enterprises. This area is rich for NTFPs. RIMS-MSFP will co-ordinate on establishing business partnerships between private sector, local forestry groups and farmers for forest based enterprises. The program activities are designed to support enterprises to set up, strengthening and scaling up to generate more job for poor and DAGs. Similarly, the program will focus on capacity development of entrepreneurs through technical, financial assistance and linkage of market. (see details in the outputs)

**Expected outcomes:**

- An enterprise promotion and private sector involvement strategy will be developed for Terai region
- Value chain study of 3 key products will be carried out for potential products in Terai
- An operational guidelines and norms will be developed for supporting enterprises
- Networks of entrepreneurs will be established and strengthened in three districts
- 1200 employments will be generated through appropriate enterprises in three districts

**Outcome 3:** *Rural communities – especially poor, disadvantaged and climate vulnerable people and households - benefit from local forest management and other investments.*

About 59% total Terai households are managing 38% of the total forest area receiving livelihoods opportunity through sustainable management of forest resources as community forest, leasehold forest, public land, collaborative management and private forest. However, due to impact of climate change, the rural people are being more vulnerable to poverty and their livelihoods.

- 45 Local Forestry Groups (LFG) will be newly formed/handed over
- 60 LFGs will revise and amend their OP & constitution
- 3 manuals for training will be prepared and updated on governance, climate change and social mobilization
- 25 Local Resource Persons (LRPs) will be trained and accredited to support in technical part of LFGs
- 45 Multistakeholder forum in VDC level will be established and strengthened
- 8500 poor HHs will be benefited from income generation activities
- 13500 vulnerable HHs will be supported by climate resilience activities

To achieve the outcome, the program will empower and enhance the capacity of local forestry user groups to manage and access more and better forest resources. Emphasis will be given to prepare, revise the operational plans and constitutions of LFGs for sustainable forest management and addressing the climate change adaptation schemes. Community based

Adaptation Plans (CAPs), active management of forest, gender, equity and social inclusion (GESI) will be in focus in all program implementation. (see details in the outputs)  
The poor, DAG and climate change vulnerable households will be targeted while intervening income generating activities and quick impact activities to improve their livelihoods and enhance their resilience towards climate change impact.

**Outcome 4:** *Government agencies, communities, private sector and climate resilient become responsible and accountable to manage and restore forests, ecosystem products and services:*

It is no doubt that the conservation and sustainable use of forest and ecosystem services contribute to mitigate climate change and help people adapt from its impacts.

- 30 LFGs will have Silvicultural operation plan and Implemented
- 600,000 seedlings planted in private and public lands in 300 ha of land area.

To achieve the above outcome, capacity of local bodies, private sectors, and community people will be developed and sensitized to manage and restore forests products and ecosystem services. The program will promote the use of alternative energy (Bio-gas, improved cooking stove, improved ghatta, solar PV panel etc). Silvicultural operation, NTFP management, plantation in private and public land is major activities to attain this outcome. (see details in the outputs)

#### **Other effect and cross cutting outcomes /themes**

The potential cross cutting outcomes can be summarized into following two points.

- a. Emphasis will be given for GESI in participation and in decision making roles in the programme implementation area.
- b. Targetting for Pro-poor and climate change vulnerable HHs for IGA and quick impact schemes
- c. Emphasis on balancing workforce diversity in MSFP area partners

## **12 Outputs intended for two years (2013-2015)**

**Overall outputs defined in the program document.**

- 2.1 Lasting business partnerships established between private sector, local forestry groups, and farmers for forest-based enterprises
- 3.1 Local forestry groups managing and accessing more and better forest resources
- 3.2 Local forestry groups and multi-stakeholder structures practice good governance
- 3.3 Poor, disadvantaged and climate vulnerable households receive targeted goods and services (including finance) from local forestry groups and multi-stakeholder structures

- 3.4 Local forestry groups implement plans and constitutions that reflect sustainability and improve climate resilience.
- 4.1 Forests and ecosystem products and services restored, managed and enhanced scientifically

### **Key outputs for 2 years (2013-2015)**

RIMS-MSFP has planned following outputs to achieve the above stated outcomes:

#### **2.2. Lasting business partnership between private sector, LFGs and farmers for Forest based Enterprise promotion**

RIMS-MSFP will provide technical and financial assistance for the new and existing forest based enterprises. It will also develop enterprise promotion/development and involvement of private sector strategy for Terai area. It will conduct value chain of 3 potential forest products along with matrix ranking. RIMS-MSFP will develop training package for entrepreneurs to enhance their skills and capacity in entrepreneurship. It will support linking businesses to banks/ financial institutions for credit facility and other stakeholders for market linkage and building networks. RIMS-MSFP will emphasize on creating job opportunities for poor and DAG people from the existing enterprises.

Key targets:

- 1 strategy on enterprise development and involvement of private sector in forest-based enterprise
- 3 products will have value chain study along with matrix ranking.
- 1 Develop training package for enterprise development and business plan preparation
- 3 events will be conducted for training to entrepreneurs in three districts
- 10 enterprise will be supported to prepare business plans
- 1 operational guideline will be developed for supporting enterprise development including registration process
- 37 forest based enterprises will be supported with fixed assets to set-up and strengthened to generate 1200 jobs for poor and DAG individuals.
- 3 strengthen existing forest related networks.

#### **3.1 Local forestry groups managing and accessing more and better forest resources.**

RIMS-MSFP will focus on intensive social mobilization in the VDC/communjty level. It will help to regain momentum of the gap created by the non-existent service providers due to late approval for donors programme from the Nepal Government after LFP and IFP project ended in 2011. For this, it will provide training to LRP and Social Mobilisers on social mobilization

including thematic and good governance. RIMS-MSFP will support to form groups mainly in public land management. RIMS-MSFP will also develop training packages for building capacity of LFGs to secure forest management rights, to prepare forest OPs, institutional development, good governance and to access support from program and local partners. It will support in strengthen VFCCs to execute good governance in VDC level. RIMS-MSFP will identify targeted households with well being ranking exercise for income generating activities and quick impact activities. Besides these, RIMS-MSFP will conduct vulnerability mapping assessment for climate change impact. On the basis of study report, RIMS-MSFP will support to prepare and implement CAPA and LAPA in Terai districts.

Key targets.

- 45 new LFGs will be formed with 45 operational plans (OPs) incorporating community adaptation plans (CAPs), sustainable forest management and GESI
- 60 OPs and constitutions of LFGs will be revised and implemented with special consideration of community adaptation plans (CAPs), sustainable forest management and GESI
- 3 training manuals will be prepared for LFP on SM, Governance and Climate Change.
- 30 LFGs will be provided orientation on good governance and institutional development.
- 25 LRPs will be trained and accredited

### **3.2 Local forestry groups and multi-stakeholder structures practice good governance**

RIMS-MSFP will continue focus on to stressing the practice of good governance at all levels of programme interventions. Capacity building of concerned local stakeholders (LFGs, LRPs, social mobilisers, service providers, and multi stakeholder bodies etc) is main thrust to achieve this output. Improving governance practice with respect to gender, equity, social inclusion representation in leadership positions and pro-poor targets for livelihoods improvement are in priority in this programme. Linkage between LFGs and local bodies and multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism will be established.

Key targets:

- 45 VFCCs will be established
- 30 LFGs will practice public audit

### **3.3 Poor, disadvantaged and climate vulnerable households receive targeted goods and services (including finance) from local forestry groups and multi-stakeholder structures**

RIMS-MSFP will give priority to target for poor, DAG and vulnerable households benefitting from income generating activities and quick impact support from LFGs. This will be achieved by improving governance practice, capacity building of poor and DAGs to empower them and providing cash, kind and services directly.



Key targets:

- 8500 identified poor and DAG HHs and climate change vulnerable have increased income.
- 22500 climate change vulnerable HHs practicing climate resilient schemes

### **3.4 Local forestry groups, farmers, and multi-stakeholders bodies implement plans and constitutions that reflect sustainability and improve climate resilience.**

RIMS-MSFP will provide technical support to LFGs to prepare and update OPs and constitutions incorporating sustainable forest management and climate resilience.

Key targets:

- 45 new LFGs will implement their operation plans (OPs) with respect to community adaptation plans (CAPs), sustainable forest management and GESI
- 60 revised OPs and constitutions of LFGs are implemented with respect to community adaptation plans (CAPs), sustainable forest management and GESI
- 15 VDC level LAPA will be prepared and implemented
- 22500 HHs will have climate resilient schemes in programme area.

### **4.1 Forests and ecosystem products and services restored, managed and enhanced scientifically**

RIMS-MSFP will support to LFGs and communities for forest and ecosystem management. Support will be provided for tree plantation by private/LFGs, seedling production, improved silviculture practices to achieve this output.

Key targets:

- 15 LFGs practicing silvicultural operations in their forests.
- 600,000 seedlings will be produced
- 54 VDCs will be using alternative energy as biogas/ICS and solar
- 2 VDCs will have PES initiatives

## **13 Planning, Monitoring and Reporting**

### **Planning and Implementation Strategies**

The Planning, Monitoring, Reporting and Accountability function includes minimizing fiduciary risk and complying with MSFP planning, monitoring, documentation, and reporting and communication requirements.

Emphasis will be given for social and economic empowerment of poor and disadvantaged groups. Creating ownership of the program by the beneficiaries and local stakeholders is an important approach of service delivery. Therefore, participatory planning, review, monitoring and feedback mechanisms will be adhered, which will become the core thrust of the MSFP program cycle. These will be followed and applied with participatory monitoring and feedback mechanisms in implementation and progress to ensure relevance, effectiveness, efficiency impacts and sustainability throughout project implementation. In this connection, self monitoring will be conducted in 45 LFGs to have their own participatory monitoring and planning.

Successful processes and good practices of DFID/SDC program will be replicated in programme implementation. The program will consult other projects, GoN organizations for community initiatives. In addition, the organization follow this Social mobilization and harmonization approach for enhancing effectiveness of projects to reach and benefit people, especially the poor and disadvantaged groups through better targeting, organizing, empowering and linkages. Social mobilization not only helps mobilizing people but also the local resources and stakeholders for better results. The suggestions from DFOs, regional directorate of MSFC as well as that of DDCs/VDCs are crucial in program planning and implementation strategy. Social mobilization is important for attaining institutional sustainability.

Periodic programme planning, sharing, review, progress and coordination will be held in the district, area and central level. Joint monitoring will be done with DFO, SSU, RIMS and national level journalist. Documentation of learning and publication of extension materials will be carried out.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Within the monitoring and accountability framework, a seamless monitoring system will be set up using a simple database management system such as Microsoft Excel, the software which can be used by all with little orientation. This system will have continuous collection of data and update in the database so that it provides an up-to-date compilation of field data or information on programme delivery, financial resources and outputs employing public hearing/auditing, joint monitoring, self-monitoring and photo monitoring. The initial data collected before implementing an activity or program serves as a baseline and allows comparison for assessing impact of the programme at any point in time.

Photo monitoring will be considered as an essential tool for monitoring system in this programme. Photos on landscape and socio economic livelihoods will be captured and recorded with all the details. The GIS software will be used for forest management planning and monitoring.

RIMS-MSFP will use multiple types of monitoring and evaluation tools and approaches to ensure that the project activities are being implemented in accordance with the agreed project design and the methodology. Joint monitoring will be done periodically with multiple stakeholder.

RIMS-MSFP adopts the public audit/hearing as an effective tool to enhance mobilizing local people in order to promote accountability of the service providers and to develop mutual

understanding between service providers and local community. RIMS-MSFP will focus on institutionalizing public audit in all the activities implemented by the programme intervention.

An external evaluation will be conducted to assess the overall performance and effect/impacts of the project implementation process at the end of the programme.

### **Reporting System:**

District Coordinators will report to Area Programme Officer (Technical and Financial) quarterly. The Monitoring and Communication Officer will compile and consolidate the area level report together with Thematic Officers. The Area Program Manager corresponds to the Focal Person at RIMS Nepal Kathmandu. The Focal Person will communicate /coordinate with MSFP - Service Support Unit (SSU). RIMs will also prepare Outcome Monitoring System report periodically and submit to MSFP –SSU.

The planned activities are an integral part of district forest development program and priorities, and will be regularly reported to the respective government agencies such as DFOs, DDCs and RD/MFSC.

## **14 Issues and Challenges:**

1. Asymmetrical distribution of forests and settlements in the northern and southern belt. In Northern belt, population is lesser in number whereas in southern belt, there is no forest or very little. There is tendency to follow administrative boundaries and not properly identified real users in Terai resulting conflict between potential users.
2. Occurrence of illegal encroachers close to the forests.
3. High value of the resource and its capture by elite group of users.
4. Domination by elites who understand the system better and can bend CF to their own advantage and benefits.
5. Management focus is only in timber for revenue generation rather than forest products to support poorer users' livelihoods.
6. Not existing legal authority for the public and institutional land users group as the ownership of public land is still in confusion whether it should fall under District Administration, Local government or VDC. Although District Forest Office has recognized these groups and has been providing technical support, grant and seedlings, but it is denying for providing protection and management responsibilities.
7. The CF guideline allows to harvest only 50-80% of increment of growth in the community forest, which makes it difficult to implement forest management silvi cultural system.
8. There is no proper Collaborative Forest Management guideline as to date. Consequently, there is no recognition of users group and there is no public hold in this type of modality.

9. It is a challenge to balance work force diversity in the organization and local partner NGOs with the present staff structure scenario.
10. Limited budget for human resource management cost
11. Disruption in programme implementation at district level due to uncertainties of bandhs (general closures), strikes, road closures by political parties and civil societies.

## ANNEX 2: RIMS/MSFP Staffs

S. No	Name of Staff	Position	Address	Joined Date	Remarks
1	Mr. Bishnu Tripathi	Executive Director	Taksar-9 Lamjung	15/03/2013	Part time
2	Mr. Rabindra Shrestha	Finance manager	Palungtar, Gorkha	01/03/2013	Part time
3.	Mr. Surendra Bhujel	Office Assistant	Naubise -7 Dhading	01/03/2013	Full time
RIMS – MSFP Area and District level staff.					
4	Mr. Lila Raj Paudyal	Area Program manager	Bangsing-8, Syangja	02/04/2013	Full time
5	Mrs. Draupadi Subedi	Gender and SI specialist	Hapur-2, Dang	02/04/2013	Full time
6	Mr. Sudil Gopal Acharya	Forest and CC Specialist	KelTole, Kathmandu	21/03/2013	Full time
7	Mrs. Soni Shrestha	M & E officer	Lalitpur sub metropolitan city-14, Lalitpur	16/06/2013	Full time
8	Mrs. Sushma Bhattarai	District Coordinator, Nawalparasi	Jhalari-5, Kanchanpur	02/04/2013	Full time
9	Mr. Uday Bahadur Paudyal	District Coordinator, Rupandehi	Bhairahawa, Rupandehi	18/03/2013	Full time
10	Mr. Nathu Prasad Chaudhary	District Coordinator, Kapilvastu	Chilhiya-5, Rupandehi	23/04/2013	Full time
11	Mr. Chet Nath Tripathi	Program Officer, Nawalparasi	Taksar-9, Lamjung	01/04/2013	Full time
12	Mr. Dol Raj Thanet	Program Officer, Rupandehi	Rajahar-1, Nawalparasi	10/04/2013	Full time
13	Mr. Girijesh Pathak	Program officer, Kapilvastu	Somdiha-1, Kapilvastu	12/04/2013	Full time
14	Mr. Dol Krishna Regmi	Admin & Finance officer	Shankar Nagar-5, Rupandehi	15/03/2013	Full time
15	Mrs. Amrita Thapa Magar	Support staff	Butwal 5, rupandehi	18/04/2013	Full time
16	Mr. Prakash Subedi	ED & PSP Specialist	Lamahi, Dang	02/05/2013	Full time