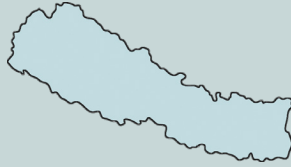


NEPAL



**JOGIDAHA,
UDAYAPUR**

**CLIMATE JUSTICE
FEMINIST
PARTICIPATORY
ACTION RESEARCH
2017-18**

COUNTRY PROFILE

Nepal, one of the smallest and poorest nations of the world, is extremely vulnerable to climate change.¹ Flash floods, landslides, droughts, erratic rainfalls, and crop diseases and pests, are some of the impacts of climate change that communities in Nepal have witnessed in recent times.

Nepal signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1992. At the country level, it has formulated the National Climate Change Policy (2011) and the National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA). The NAPA document outlines Nepal's immediate and urgent priorities in adaptation, and provides a guide to aid procuring follow-up funding, including financing from the Least Developed Country Fund (LDCF).²

Nepal also has a national framework on Local Adaptation Plans for Action (LAPA) to strategically implement NAPA priorities. To support vulnerable communities and improve their livelihood, NAPA and the National Climate Change Policy have made compulsory

Supporting grassroots women's movement for sustainable strategies to reduce impacts of climate change

Chetana Mahila Samuha (CMS), a federation of 25 Community-based Women's Groups in Udayapur district of Nepal, conducted this Climate Justice FPAR in collaboration with APWLD, Women's Rehabilitation Centre (WOREC) Nepal Team and Community Women Group.

This project focuses on and supports the local women's movement in Nepal's inner Terai region to find sustainable strategies to protect land and lives from recurring floods and erosion.

provisions to spend at least 80 percent of the available budget for the implementation of adaptation activities at the local level.

However, none of these plans and policies address the gender dimensions of climate change and its potential impact on women.



IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN INNER TERAJ, NEPAL



Changing weather patterns, flash floods and droughts: Jogidaha village and Udayapur district where this Climate Justice FPAR took place has been repeatedly affected by flash floods and erosions. Udayapur district is one of the most climate change vulnerable areas of Nepal.³ The flood water has also been casting sand over large tracts of land, destroying productive farmland and habitats in the area. The participants in the FPAR observed that the weather has been unpredictable with sudden heavy rainfall and long dry spells.

Extensive over-grazing: The loss of land has resulted in unregulated grazing in the area leading to more erosion and flood risks. The area, where cattle rearing is a primary livelihood, has lost most of its grazing areas to the sand casting and flood. As a result, communities now use the land along the river as grazing fields leading to loss of grass and plantations that protect the river banks. The rivers are getting wider every year taking more and more land into it.

Loss of livelihood and migration: Due to the loss of land, Jogidaha area has seen large scale loss of livelihoods in recent times. Agricultural and pastoral fields have been sand-casted. There are no alternative

income opportunities in the area. The little land left for agriculture gets inundated by flood every year. The chronic unemployment has forced most men to migrate outside the country in search of work. More than 70% of the households in the villages have migrant workers employed outside the country.

Increasing work burden for women: With most men out of home, the women now do all the agricultural work in addition to fetching water, collecting firewood and carrying out domestic chores. With loss of land and soil degradation due to siltation, women are finding it hard to grow anything in their fields.

‘Twenty years ago, we lost our agricultural land when the floods covered our fields with sand. My husband left for the Middle East to find work. I worked alone in the fields and tried to revive our land. It took me 10 years to be able to grow things in my field. My husband came back home. However, last year the floods came over and over again, and covered the land with sand. My husband is thinking of going away to look for work again. I feel very lonely and tired. If he leaves it will be very difficult for me.’ said Sushila Regmi (52) who participated in the FPAR discussions.



WOMEN-LED ACTIONS

'Stop Grazing Movement': In 2014, a campaign to stop open grazing was started by the local women. This movement aimed to reduce the impacts of flood through reforestation and growing vegetation on the river bank and embankment. NGO/INGO and local government (District Land Protection Office, District Forest Office, Village Development Committee and Community Forest) provided support and contributed to the campaign. As part of the campaign, the local women encouraged community members to plant bamboo and broom grasses near the river bank, open space and embankment, and help curb overgrazing in the riverbanks.

'Ghumti Gosti' (Movable Meeting): Ghumti Gosti is a series of awareness raising workshops, which is also known as 'my mobile workshop'. The women form small groups and create a network to conduct these awareness meetings. 65 Ghumti Gosti were conducted through the Climate Justice FPAR process in Jogidaha. These workshops use tools like street theatre and posters to talk about climate change and its impacts.

Plantation on Embankment: During the Climate Justice FPAR, women's groups started a plantation drive on embankment. Santi Joyiti Krisak Mahila Samuha, Ramjanaki Mahila Samuha, Samajik Pariwar Mahila Samuha and the local Development Committee of Purbitole led the program and planted 1000 plant varieties on the river embankment of Kang Khola area.

Local Natural Resource Management and Green Growth Committee: The women in the research community have formed a group called the Greenery Defenders' Group to collectively raise women's voices on the issues related to climate change. The group ensures participation of women in planning of local climate justice actions and formulates policies.

Ward Conferences: The women organised two ward-level conferences to discuss the impacts of climate change, best practices to mitigate the impacts and implementation of policies at the local level. These meetings were conducted between the local ward committees and the community through discussions to facilitate implementation.





FUTURE ACTION PLAN

- The women plan to strengthen the grassroots movement started under the Climate Justice FPAR programme and continue to raise their voices in finding solutions.
- They want to mobilise the communities to take mitigating actions like plantation.
- The women plan to work with the local and national government to get policy support to find climate resilient livelihoods and reduce impacts of climate change on their livelihoods and land. They demand that the government support them with technology and information, and allocate funding to find local adaptation strategies.
- The women's movement plans to continue its engagement with the local government in order to strengthen the institutional mechanism to directly implement policies for the benefit of the community.

1. Retrieved from http://cbs.gov.np/image/data/2017/National%20Climate%20Change%20Impact%20Survey%202016%20Report_final.pdf

2. National Adaptation Plan of Action 2011

3. *ibid.*



ASIA PACIFIC FORUM ON WOMEN,
LAW AND DEVELOPMENT

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