Development Orthodoxy: Persistent policy failure in the Himalayas

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Fast Facts

- 27.47 millions population (25.2% living below poverty)
- Ranked 157th out of 187 countries (HDR, 2013)
- High juvenile malnutrition (47% under 5 are stunted and 36% underweight)
- 1/3rd of working age male population migrate for work
- Agriculture is one of the largest contributors to national GDP (36%)
...investment in agricultural development is crucial

....struggle for agricultural development continues in mythical Shangri-La
One of the unique features of Nepal’s agriculture is its close coupling among crop, forest, rangeland & other common resources.
Forms of agricultural development

**Bottom-up**
- Generating income
- Managing risk
- Building capacity

**Top-down**
- Confronting

**Livelihoods**
- Clumsy

**Large scale**
- Elegant

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Forms of engagement

Social mobilization  Participatory  Top-down  Bilateral

Small scale  Large scale

Economic development activities

Small and diverse  Specific and targeted

Livelihoods  Market driven
Engagement and participation

Women in knowledge production

Symbolic but changing

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Capacity building

Livelihoods focus

Economic development

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Managing risk

Agro-biodiversity increases the system’s resiliency
Funded by ADB, and implemented by the GON, the thrust of HIMALI project is the formation of commercially viable agribusinesses in the mountain region of Nepal.
Attract investment in the production of high-value agricultural products, value-added agribusiness that links producers to markets, and the packaging and marketing of processed agricultural products for both the domestic and export markets.

- Educate farmers for enterprise creation, expansion and marketing of the local products;
- Provide business plan and assist to grant applications with commercially viable business plans
- Gather input and output market information
- Develop agribusiness promotion and networking value chain linkages.
It is seen as development success
There is a constant supply of knowledge from outside
Jersey gets to eat the best

Farmers are even growing forage – instead of food
Buckwheat is increasingly replaced by forage

There is market for milk

Courtesy: BB Tamang
It is me - Lulu

No investment
NGO started operating in Nepal in 1995. LI-BIRD is committed to capitalizing on local initiatives for the sustainable management of renewable resources and to improving the livelihoods of resource-poor and marginalized people. It has been recognized as a center of excellence for its contribution for developing and promoting good practices for on-farm conservation of agricultural biodiversity.
### Participatory Plant Breeding

#### Domain/Region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domain/Region</th>
<th>Terai/Inner Terai/Mid hill river basins</th>
<th>Mid-hills</th>
<th>High-hills</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Upland</td>
<td>Judi 582, Barkhe 1027, Barkhe 1036</td>
<td>Mansara 4</td>
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<td>Medium land</td>
<td>Barkhe 2014, Sunaulo Sugandha, Barkhe 3017-5</td>
<td>Biramphul 3, Improved PJB</td>
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<td>Lowland</td>
<td>Barkhe 3004, Barkhe 3019</td>
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Community Seed Banks

Local seed security through seed banks – key to adaptation and mitigation using diverse crop varieties

Neglected and Underutilized Species

- Yam
- Air potato
- Water Spinach
- Winter Bean
- Mealot o'Goebe
- Rosella or Sorrel
Lease Based Farming

Provide lease land to the vulnerable communities as source of income which increase their adaptive capacity.

Integrated Hedgerow

Hedgerow technology for improving ecological stability of the sloping lands, reduce erosion and enhance carbon sequestration.
Community-based biodiversity fare

Orthodoxy around development in the Himalayas

Livelihoods focus
- Participation
- Social mobilization
- Focus on local
- Co-creation
- Vulnerability focus

Economic development
- Specialization
- Social exclusion
- Top-down
- External support
- Market driven

Clumsy Solutions
- Multiple Outcomes

Elegant solution to a problem
- Single outcome
When good is *not good enough*