

DM2009 Project Summary

Project Number: 3436 Booth Number: 33

Hope Sprouts in Reforestation for Resilience of Humla and Jumla Communities

COUNTRY: Nepal

ORGANIZATION: The Mountain Institute

FUNDING REQUEST: \$200,000

OBJECTIVE: To increase community and organizational resilience, ecological resilience, resilience to hazards and natural disasters, economic resilience, and food security, leading to an increase in overall resilience and successful adaptation to climate change. This will be accomplished through reforestation and erosion-control initiatives, participatory trainings on climate change awareness, and improved irrigation techniques. Organizational capacity will be built by strengthening resource user-groups, as well as networking and scaling up these groups to provide integrated watershed ecology management.

RATIONALE: Mountain farmers in Nepal have always survived by adapting to changing conditions. However, recent, unprecedented rates of climate change require much more rapid adaptation than has been historically possible without external support. During community consultations in April, participants listed irregular rainfall, long drought periods, decreased snowfall, earlier fruiting, landslides, and new crop diseases as major impacts. Nepal's mountain farmers have the knowledge and ability to respond to climate change, but need external support to catalyze rapid solutions to a rapidly changing climate.

INNOVATION: True innovation in the face of climate change must be durable and comprehensive and create a solution that addresses the myriad of challenges presented by our changing climate. Our project seeks to address adaptation following ecological rather than political boundaries, and to bring proven technologies into new and untested environments. We also will mobilize poor communities and use indigenous knowledge to strengthen the natural resilience of subsistence farming communities.

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