

Environmental Considerations for FOOD SECURITY

It is important to consider the environment in food security projects in order to reduce the vulnerability of earthquake affected people in both the short-term, and long-term recovery and rehabilitation period of the earthquake.

Nepali law requires compliance with environmental regulatory frameworks at the national and local levels as described below. At the international level, the Sphere Handbook, the Code of Conduct for The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief, and the Hyogo Framework for Action address the need to prevent over-exploitation, pollution, and degradation of environmental conditions and encourage sustainable use and management of ecosystems.

The guidance contained in this flyer is for aid workers, government officials, and community members involved in food security interventions.

- Rapidly promote livelihood activities through agricultural restoration (including traditional production systems with short season crops and early maturing varieties), cash for work, green enterprises, and rehabilitation and creation of on and off-farm micro-enterprises so that people can rebuild their lives and reduce dependency on forests.
- Ensure sustainable harvesting of natural resources through the promotion of wise use.
- Promote sound agricultural recovery practices including the distribution of only tested and verified seed varieties and livestock breeds that are recommended by the Nepal Ministry of Agriculture Development.
- Promote intensive agriculture through the use of protected structures.
- Promote sustainable livestock keeping by providing adequate forage and fodder.
- Promote community based seed production system with seed storage in community seed banks.
- Promote crop production systems and integrated pest and soil management practices, and the use of small farm machinery.
- Rehabilitation of irrigation schemes needs to consider post-earthquake changes in the quantity and quality of water resources as well as the needs of freshwater systems.



Goat Farm in Devasthan CFUG, Bhulbhule, Lamjung

- Provide training on the proper use of pesticides and fertilizers and ensure that uses of chemicals are legal.
- Ensure that agricultural practices have minimum negative impacts on water quality and do not have negative impacts on the watershed or adjacent river basins.
- Ensure compliance with environmental regulations such as minimum flow in the downstream to conserve aquatic diversity, irrigation system and livelihoods.
- Employ production practices that reduce soil erosion, pesticide use, and water pollution and better manage production wastes.
- Monitor the supply of appropriate variety of seeds and chemicals; and ensure no negative impact on environment.
- Promote stabilization of agricultural land which have been cracked and recommend appropriate cropping pattern.

Recommended consultations:

- Municipal water authority
- Community Forest User Groups
- Department of Forests
- Department of Soil Conservation and Watershed Management
- Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation
- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Livestock Services
- Department of Cottage and Small Industries

Applicable Nepali laws and regulations:

- Seed Act (1988)
- Animal Health and Livestock Service Act (1998)
- Pesticide Act (1991)
- Plant Protection Act (2007)
- Industrial Enterprise Act (1992)
- Organic and Bio fertilizer Regulation Procedures (2011)

References:

Green Recovery and Reconstruction Toolkit: www.green-recovery.org
 Agricultural Development Strategy 2014, Nepal Ministry of Agricultural Development
 National Seed Vision 2013 – 2025 (Seed Sector Development Strategy)
 National Agrobiodiversity Policy, 2007
 Irrigation Policy 2002
 Nepal Agro-Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2014
 National Agricultural Policy (2004)
 Land Use Policy (2012)
 National Fertilizer Policy (2002)
 Herbs and NTFP policy 2004
 Rangeland Policy, 2012
 Agro-business Promotion Policy, 2064 (2006)

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