

Promotion of Family Forestry:

Reducing Poverty through Locally Managed Forests



Organized by: Asia-Pacific Forest Policy Think Tank

KEY MESSAGE OF POLICY

ASEAN achieved Economic growth in the past decades, however poverty and increasing inequality remain a big issue. Many poor people and ethnic minority living in and around forest areas losing their land through various forms of land conversion, deforestation and degradation. Can they overcome and better manage their own development?

Pilot experiences from Asian countries showed that family forest management could contribute to Sustainable forest management and address poverty reduction though developing a mix of edible species for immediate consumption and cash, while high-value timber species can generate medium and long term income. Meanwhile Enhance forests functions and services could address climate change, water shortage



UNDERLYING CAUSES OF POVERTY IN THE FOREST AREAS

- Degradation of natural resources due to pressing population
- Land conversion: commercial industrialization, urbanization, deforestation, mining,...
- Limited livelihood options for people living in and around forests
- Forest land concession for large scale plantation, Farmers owning smaller or no pieces of land
- Social structure and marketing systems



POSSIBLE OPTIONS

Promotion of family forestry: this support sustainable forest management, reducing conflicts in the communities, increases people's control over forest land, facilitates more intensive and long-term land use and forest and ensures food security.

-it requires medium and long term investment, a comprehensive policy and guidelines for local government on land and forest allocation, training for farmer on agroforestry, etc.

Promotion of private companies for large scale forestry: this provide jobs for local farmers, has high productivity and market development. But biodiversity reduced as a result of monoculture and intensive chemical use, leading to fertility depletion, water scarcity and environment degradation, etc.

RECOMMENDATION AND CONCLUSION

- ❑ **Promotion of family forestry** is suitable for Asian countries as land scarcity and majority are small and medium land owners, ensure ecosystem sustainability
- ❑ Need to **develop clear mechanism, policies, institutions** for land and forest allocation to families,
- ❑ Farmers should be provided **small loans and forestry techniques** to implementing family forestry, for good understanding of the family forestry and selection of suitable agro forestry farming
- ❑ Assessment of model after time to draw lessons learnt

Thank You

