

Innovation, Sustainability, Development: A New
MANIFESTO

NEPAL MANIFESTO

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Local and global sustainability and development objectives and associated “directions” of innovation/ development

Points made during the discussions:

1. Sustainability is often used as a grand concept without considering the understanding at different levels. For instance, in Hindu Kush Himalayan region, sustainable development for communities mean issues of food security, adequate cash generation, how to mitigate migration since here, addressing the vulnerability of migrants and families left behind undermines any other issues. This implies that sustainability at grass root level is totally different from sustainability at governance level. To make sustainability more meaningful it should start at the grass root level focusing on the type of development which understands innovative capacity of the people. Direction of sustainable development should address multilateralism (bringing out different partners and their capacities), devolution (giving voice to the poor and empowering them to make decisions) and decentralisation (in terms of governance, access of funds etc). Development for the people means bringing out their voice in terms of specific needs; and need of continuity of systems and processes which have been put in place by external agencies such that they can go on even without the support from these external agencies.
2. For sustainable development, local capacity and local resources should be in balance with material generation and consumption, energy generation and consumption and livelihood. This implies that people, resources and innovative capacity needs to be in balance.
3. Problems in development should be resolved through local solutions; sustainability should not vary context wise. For instance, you cannot isolate issues related with food security from those of livelihoods or socio-economic development.

4. Sustainable development for countries like Nepal should be based on rights based approach integrating market, rights and environment. Technology and policy should be directed towards understanding the local needs, even customised to local needs.
5. Locally contextualised solutions are the requirement of the day; need to move away from prescriptive strategies.
6. There is a need for knowledge management combining both new and traditional knowledge, proper governance, and transparency; relationship between different stakeholders or sectors should be maintained and developed. Empowering ourselves through social networking is very important.

Forms of innovation that are relevant to meeting these objectives

Points made during the discussions:

1. Linking people and sector, connecting communities to supply chains, markets and R & D, which could be achieved through creating common platform bringing together different actors as well as stakeholders in terms of quantity and quality for dialogue.
2. Information access and its implication on innovation: Community is vital, brining the markets together for instance business sectors. Recreating communities, building communities, making them realise the value of diversity and help them find ways to overcome the conflicting potential issues. For instance, diversification of agriculture to adapt to climate change, adopt new farming ideas to increase production etc.
3. Access of tacit information, ability to convert this information to codified knowledge.
4. Revamping old technologies up to current use and age.
5. Innovation in different sectors, importantly in ICT, financial systems, value chain financing etc. For instance, innovation in ICT for income generation; the contribution of ICT to Nepal's GDP is increasing at present, and the demand is increasing even in rural areas. This shows potential as well opportunity to develop further.
6. Technology should address socio-economic development, improvising locally available technologies. For instance traditional water mills are improved and converted to multiple end uses such as Improved Water Mills.
7. Innovations should be socio-economically feasible, i.e.

AAA: Affordable; Accessible; Adaptable -----to local needs

PPP: Innovation in **Process** (taking it to the needy); **Product** Innovation; Appropriate **Policy** for overall progress.

8. Combining knowledge and research between natural and social scientists as well as communities for holistic development.
9. Innovation in governance so that people can access to their rights such as participatory audit, electronic voting etc.
10. Innovative business models such as CSR, public private partnership and advocate pro-active society.
11. Institutional Innovation: Develop partnerships between different groups within grass root context, and empower people for decision-making to enhance their livelihood. This institutional arrangement should be inclusive including poor and women.
12. Context and content of innovation in which it is embedded is very important as much as to see what drives and nurtures the innovation, i.e. the environment which sustains the innovation in the long run.
13. Develop financial mechanisms from private and government partners.