

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (UNDP)



The "Training of Trainers on Local Economic Development (LED)" held in Surkhet, Nepal from December 11th to 14th, 2022, aimed to educate master trainers on the significance of LED and provide technical support for effective implementation of government policies. A total of 32 participants, including 8 females and 8 Dalits, attended the training. Led by the Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration (MoFAGA), the training covered topics such as LED introduction, implementation aspects, enterprise and skills development, and strategy formulation. Interactive methods were employed to ensure comprehension and retention, with emphasis on dialogue and feedback. Training materials supported discussions. The symposium sought to celebrate local governance innovations, gather policy insights, and promote collaboration among governance stakeholders.

The first day of training introduced participants to Local Economic Development (LED) and its alignment with Karnali planning. Led by Mr. Krishna Gyawali, the session highlighted LED's legal mandate within the federal structure, its basis on international standards like the SDGs, and its aim to uplift marginalized communities through sustainable development. Guiding principles of LED include wealth generation, employment, equitable distribution, and creating a supportive environment.

Session 2: LED Dimensions and Best Practices (Sustainability and Resilience)

Facilitated by Mr. Maniram Singh Mahat, the session showcased the success story of Jumla's apple industry, attributing its growth to collaboration among government, civil society, and the banking sector. Emphasizing sustainable and resilient economic growth, factors such as technology, innovation, entrepreneurship, and knowledge were highlighted. The session also introduced Participatory Appraisal of Competitive Advantage (PACA), involving local stakeholders to identify and prioritize economic opportunities.



Session 4: Challenges and Opportunities in LED

Facilitated by Ms. Manorama Adhikari, participants identified challenges including policy implementation uncertainties, infrastructure limitations, skills gaps, and market access constraints. Despite challenges, opportunities such as leveraging the growing tourism industry, public-private partnerships, strategic planning, technological integration, and promoting indigenous products were highlighted for local economic development in Karnali province.

Session 5: Institutional Infrastructure for LED Implementation

Facilitated by Mr. Krishna Gyawali, participants gained insights into institutional arrangements for LED implementation, including the mandate of LED dialogue forums and practical aspects of strategy implementation such as resource allocation, capacity building, and monitoring. This session equipped participants with knowledge and skills necessary for effective LED strategy implementation.

Session 6: Social Accountability and Mobilization

Facilitator Ms. Manorama Adhikari stressed the importance of involving community members and civil society organizations in promoting transparency and accountability in LED initiatives. Social accountability mechanisms like public hearings and community meetings were discussed to ensure stakeholder engagement and responsiveness to community needs, vital for sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

Session 7: Economic Empowerment and Livelihood Improvement

Ms. Radhika Aryal highlighted the significance of Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) in development, emphasizing economic empowerment's role in providing individuals with tools for financial independence. Key constructs and indicators of economic empowerment were discussed to ensure equal access and benefits from development initiatives.

Session 8: Strengthening Municipal Infrastructures for Economic Innovation

A panel discussion moderated by Dr. Pukar Malla explored methods for improving municipal infrastructure for economic innovation. Panelists discussed intergovernmental collaboration among federal, provincial, and local governments, aiming to foster productive conversations for LED advancement.

Conclusion

The panel discussion concluded that the lack of collaboration between agencies in the federal structure is due to the failure to adhere to existing laws and policies aimed at promoting such cooperation. The participants posed questions to the panel, which stressed that LED initiatives should prioritize Return on Investment (ROI) with a focus on equity, equality, and collaboration.