

# Building Resilience of Mountain Communities:

Himalica's experience from HKH countries

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International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development

Kathmandu, Nepal

# Himalica - introduction

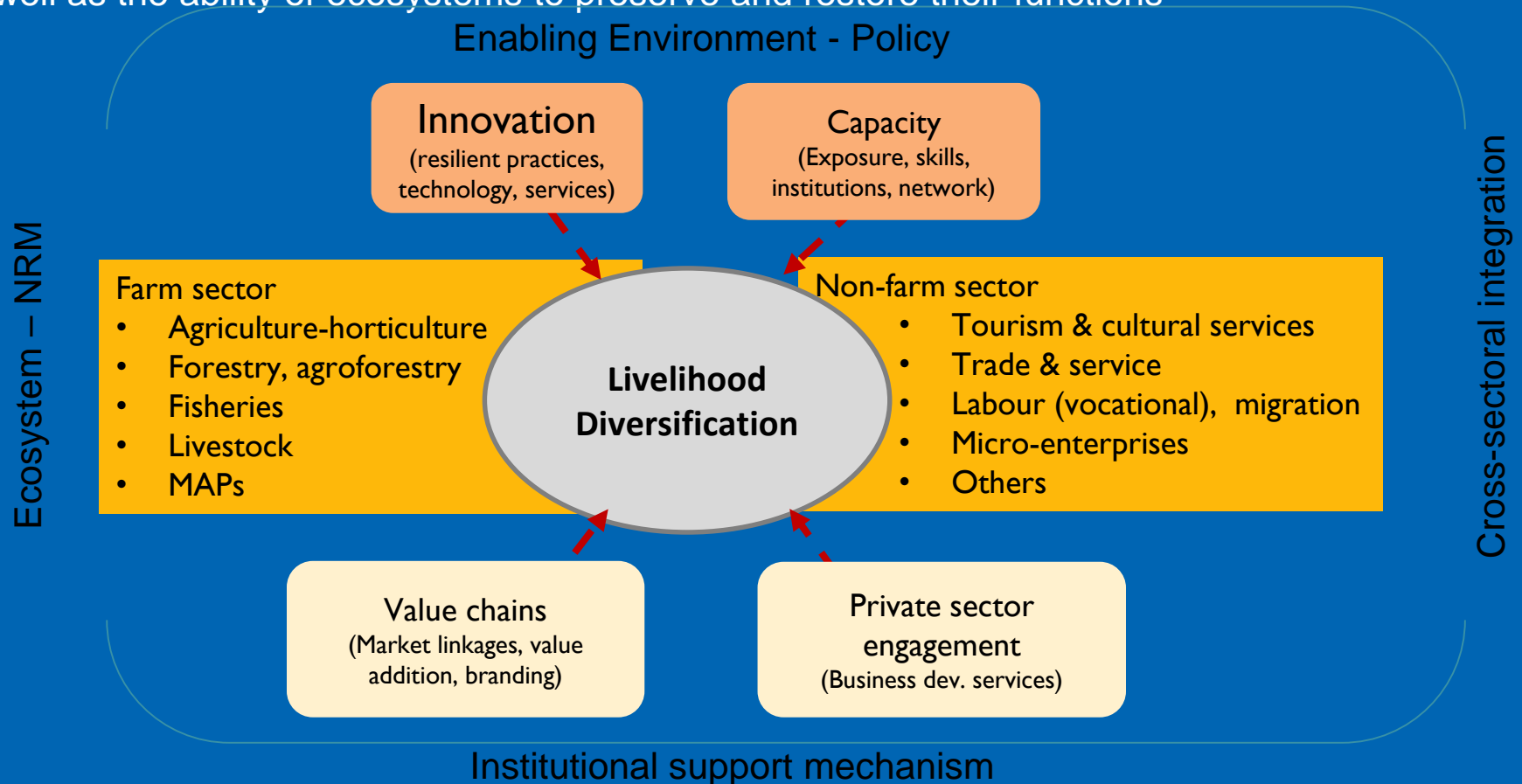
- Himalica - Support to Rural Livelihoods and Climate Change Adaptation in the Himalayas
- Five years programme (2013-2017) funded by EU and implemented by ICIMOD together with partners in 5 countries
- Overall aim is to support the development of rural livelihoods in the context of socio-economic and climate change, and the conservation of ecosystem services through active regional cooperation



Project supported by  
the European Union

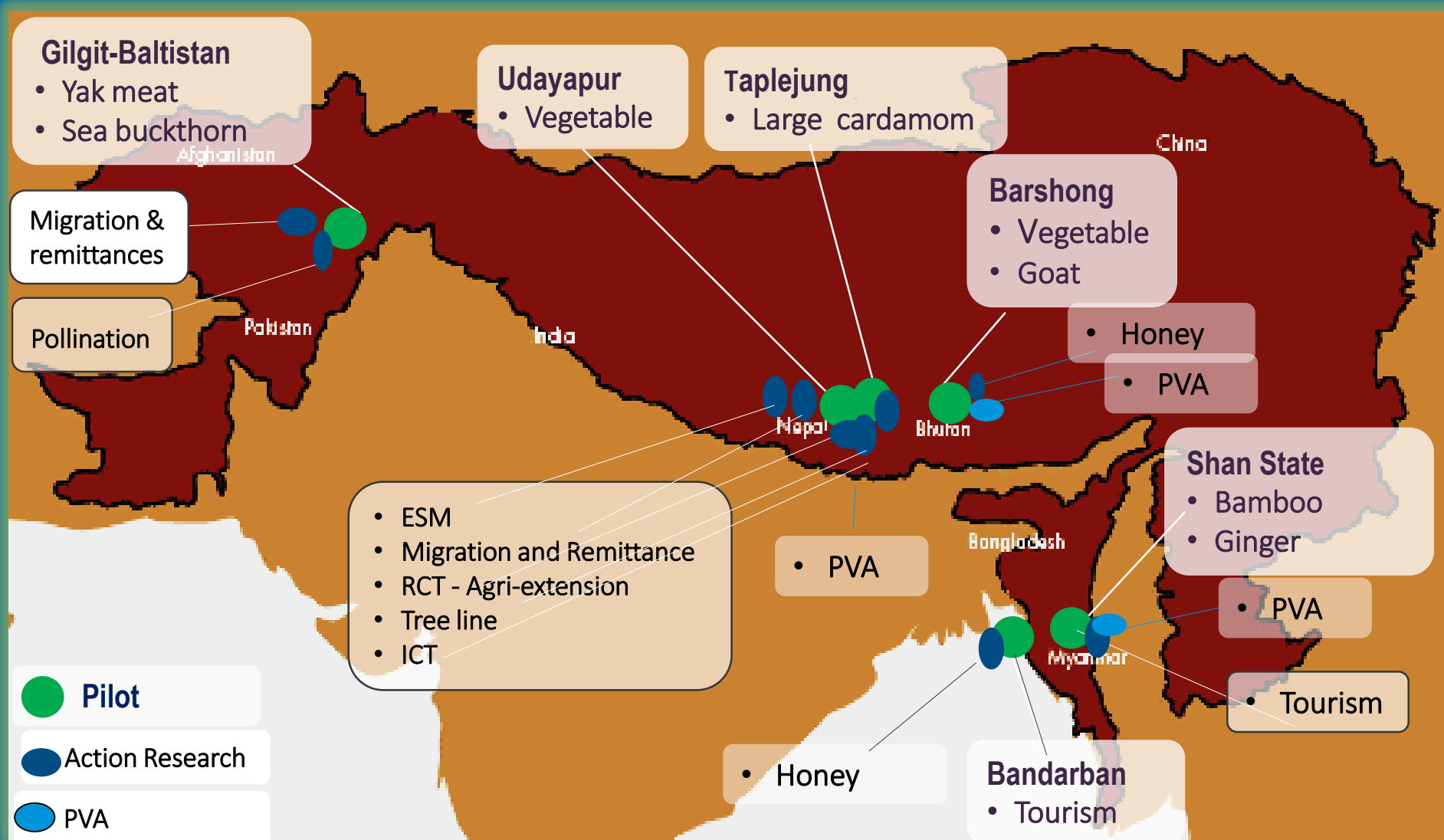
# Resilience – the concept

**Resilience** is the ability of a socio-ecological system and its components to anticipate, reduce, accommodate, or recover from the effects of a disturbance in a timely and efficient manner, including the human ability to learn from mistakes and be forward-looking in thinking and action as well as the ability of ecosystems to preserve and restore their functions



# Himalica - Key Highlights

- Strong foundation for achieving results – collaboration with 32 strategic, implementing and network partners in 5 countries



# Attaining Outcomes with Partners

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- 15,000 rural women, men and children received direct support
- 2000 HHs empowered through 12 sustainable value chains
- 5,691 (3,534 men & 2,157 women) trained for developing their skills & voice



# Moving beyond income: towards resilience

- **Community-led micro-plans** - 25 prepared
- **Sustainable resource management** (ecosystem, farming)
- **Regional collaboration**



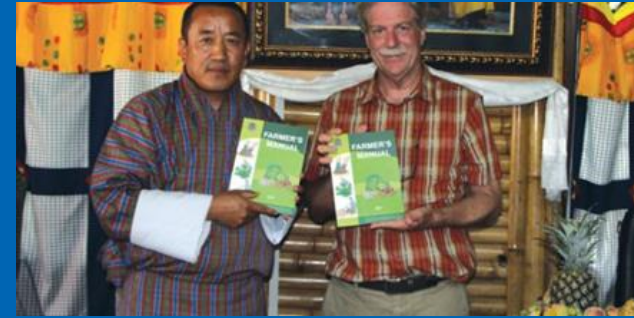
- **Knowledge management**
- **Joint Monitoring and Evaluation**
  - Baselines & End-line survey/impact assessments

[www.icimod.org/himalica](http://www.icimod.org/himalica)



# Pilot project - managing risks

- Climate smart technologies & practices: *water smart, soil/nutrient smart, energy smart, weather and knowledge smart*
- Improved Resource management at Landscape level: *SLM, Ecosystem management*
- Improved access to water resources



## Over 16,000 tree saplings supplied to Shan villagers

THE Myanmar Institute for Integrated Development (MIID) will donate 16,000 tree saplings, including bamboo to six hill-side villages near Shan State's Nyaung-U Township. The four hundred households that make up the six villages will be given 41 tree saplings to plant on slopes near their homes.

Lime, mango, casia siamea, djenkol bean and eucalyptus will reportedly also be planted, in addition to bamboo and avocado, all of which are being financially assisted by FREDIA and Nepal-based ICIMOD.

"The main saplings to be distributed out are bamboo and avocado trees," said U Soe Naing Htay, a MIID staff member from Nyaung-U.

Adding, "Each household will receive 10 bamboo and 10 avocado tree saplings, with the remaining varieties of saplings to be shared out equally. The primary objective of the initiative is to guard against deforestation and prevent hill-side erosion by re-inforcing the slopes with trees."

Also saying that he planting will be a volunteering project.

"We arrived in Shan State back in January, close-by to Inle Lake and visited villages in Kalay and Nyaung-U townships near Hetho," explained David Abrahamson, project official for MIID.

"We began our initiative to plant trees in April 2014, starting to plant the following year. This time marks the commencing of our 2016 initiative."

It is reported that approximately 13,000 of the aforementioned saplings were planted within the grounds of schools of the six villages from 3-17 June. The villages solely rely on rainwater for drinking and cultivating their cabbage, cauliflower, butter bean, banana and bamboo crops.—Myanmar News Agency





# Diversify income & livelihood opportunities

- Product diversification; process & functional up grading
- Access to information, technologies and BDS
- Improved participation of target beneficiaries as chain actor
- Economy of scale – aggregation and collective

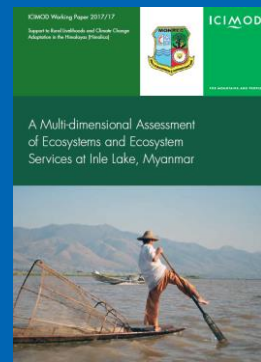
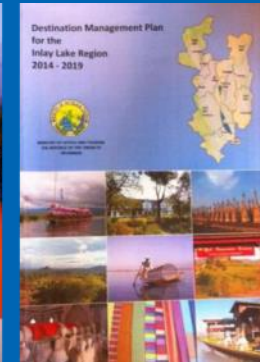
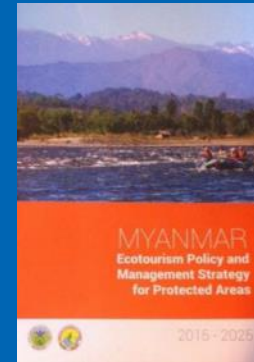
From 12,000kg  
in 2015 to  
40,000 kg in  
2016





# Himalica interventions in Myanmar

- Pilot project focusing on water & land management, and value chains (ginger, bamboo)
- Responsible tourism in the Inle region & ecosystem assessment
- PVA in Chin and Shan; Climate change vulnerability assessment in Chin



Soc Indic Res  
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## Multidimensional Poverty in Mountainous Regions: Shan and Chin in Myanmar

Sanjay K Mohanty<sup>1</sup> · Golam Rasul<sup>2</sup> · Bidhubhusan Mahapatra<sup>3</sup> ·  
Dhruvad Choudhury<sup>2</sup> · Sabarnee Tuladhar<sup>2</sup> · E. Valdemar Holmgren<sup>2</sup>

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**Abstract** Poverty is complex and multidimensional. People living in mountainous regions are vulnerable and more likely to experience multiple deprivation. However, few studies have addressed multidimensional poverty in mountainous regions. Using data from 4290 households of poverty and vulnerability assessment survey and the Alkim-Foster

Mission Report  
Inception Mission to Northern Chin State, Myanmar  
for prioritizing one township for conducting vulnerability assessment in the mountain eco-system



A joint MCCA-ICIMOD mission to Chin State  
19-26 August, 2017

# Examples – Myanmar

## Value chain development

From  To



- Customization of traditional weaving skills – production & use of local resource as per specific requirements of market



- Achieving economy of scale with collective dealing, seedbank. Rather than villagers carrying ginger to local market, trader come to village





# Nepal pilot – Taplejung: Income diversification to reduce risks

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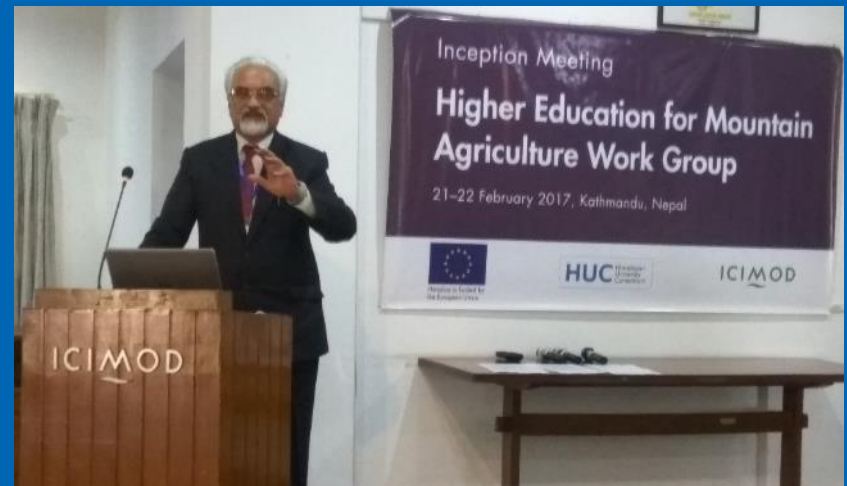
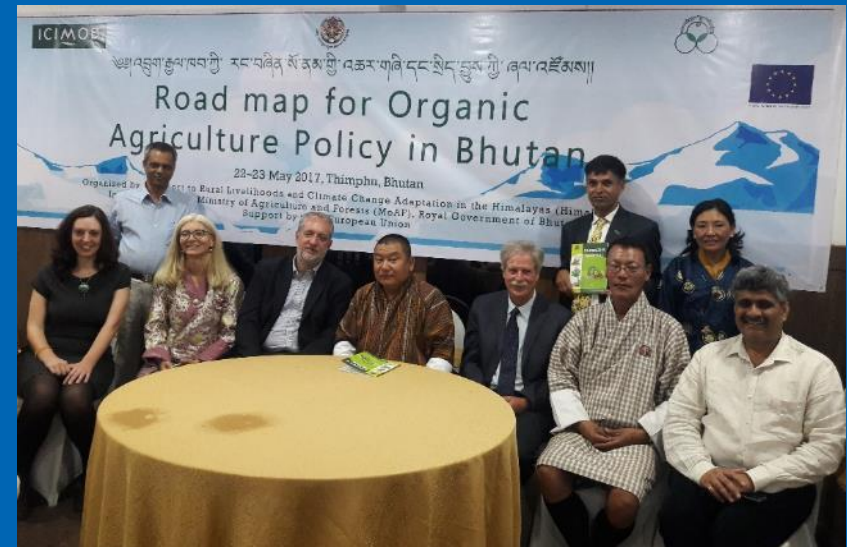
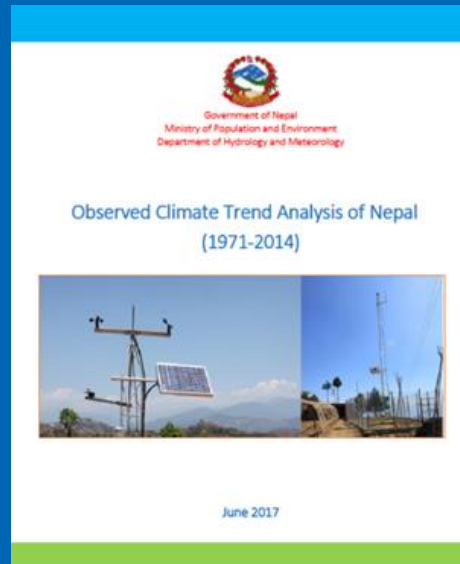
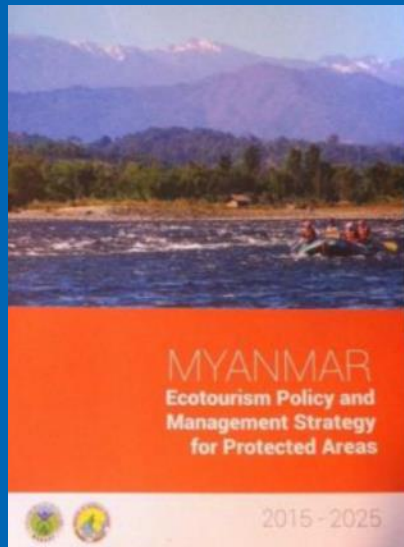
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# Develop capability to adopt policy

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# *Regional learning & experience sharing to facilitate cross-border exchange of ideas/technologies*

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## **E-platforms**

### **Interactive story map**

<http://arcg.is/2oPbs1S>

### **Bandarban: People & Nature in Harmony**

<https://www.facebook.com/bandarbantravel/>

<https://twitter.com/visittbandarban>

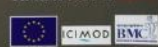
### **Bees and Pollination portal**

<http://www.icimod.org/?q22366>



His Majesty The King at the glacial lakes in Lunana which feed many major rivers in Bhutan, to inspect the glaciers and flood warning mechanisms in place here. Melting glaciers pose a great risk of Glacial Lake Outburst floods and are a matter of immediate concern for Bhutan.

TIME to ACT is





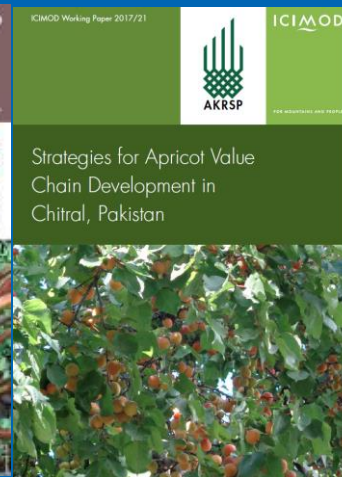
# Raising awareness & disseminating knowledge on CC & adaptation response

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Farmers field school on climate smart ginger production



# In summary

- Mountain communities face multiple challenges, yet, distinctive characteristics/ attributes of mountain products/goods and service offer opportunities to improve livelihoods
- Number of good examples/success stories (VCs, productive use of remittances, tourism, RMV, community-led micro-plans) to build resilience of people's livelihoods
- **Communication gap** - adaptation-process, knowledge and lessons-learned do not flow easily

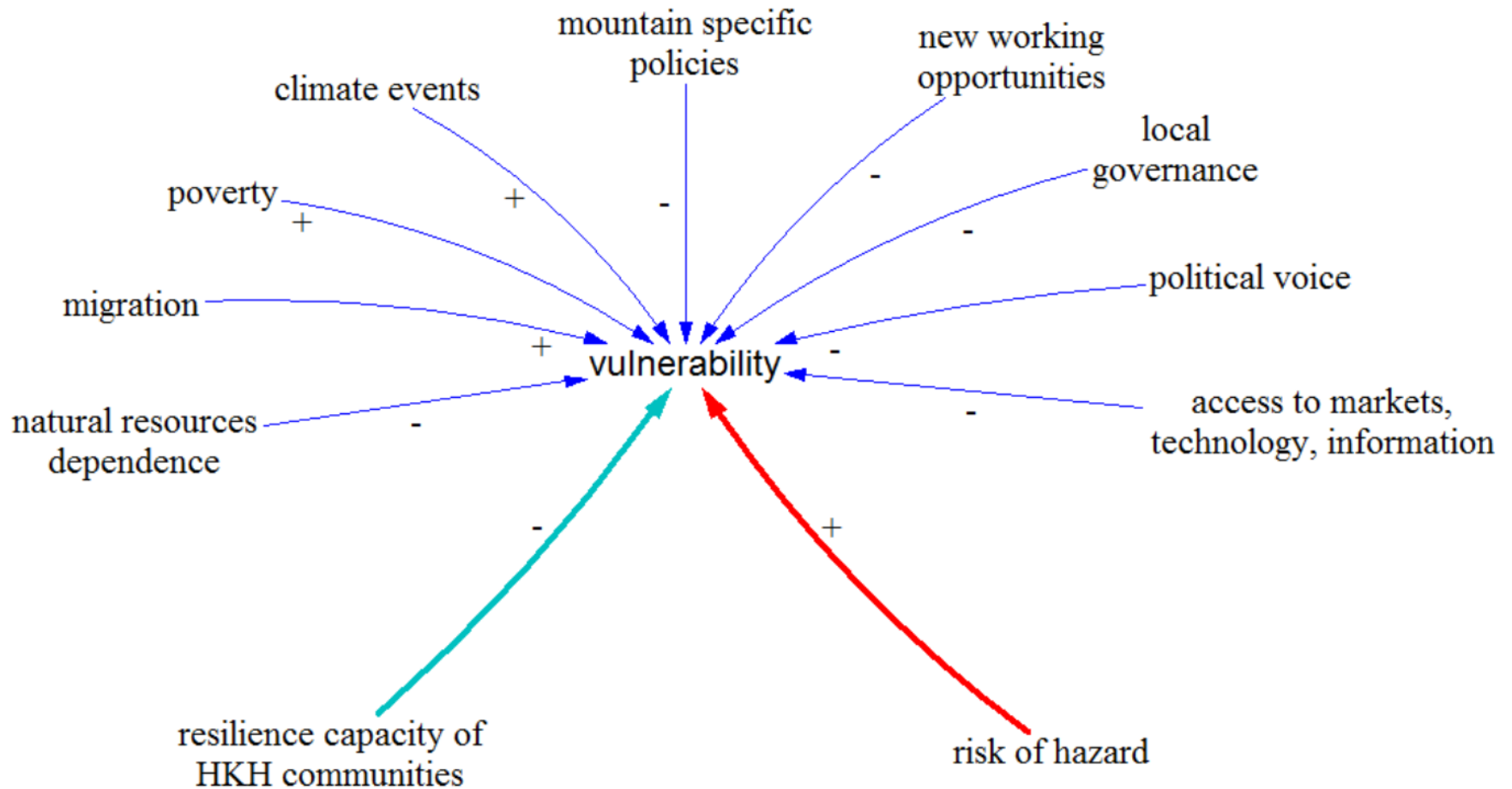


*Challenge to move  
from “Island of  
success” to  
“Sea of  
change”*



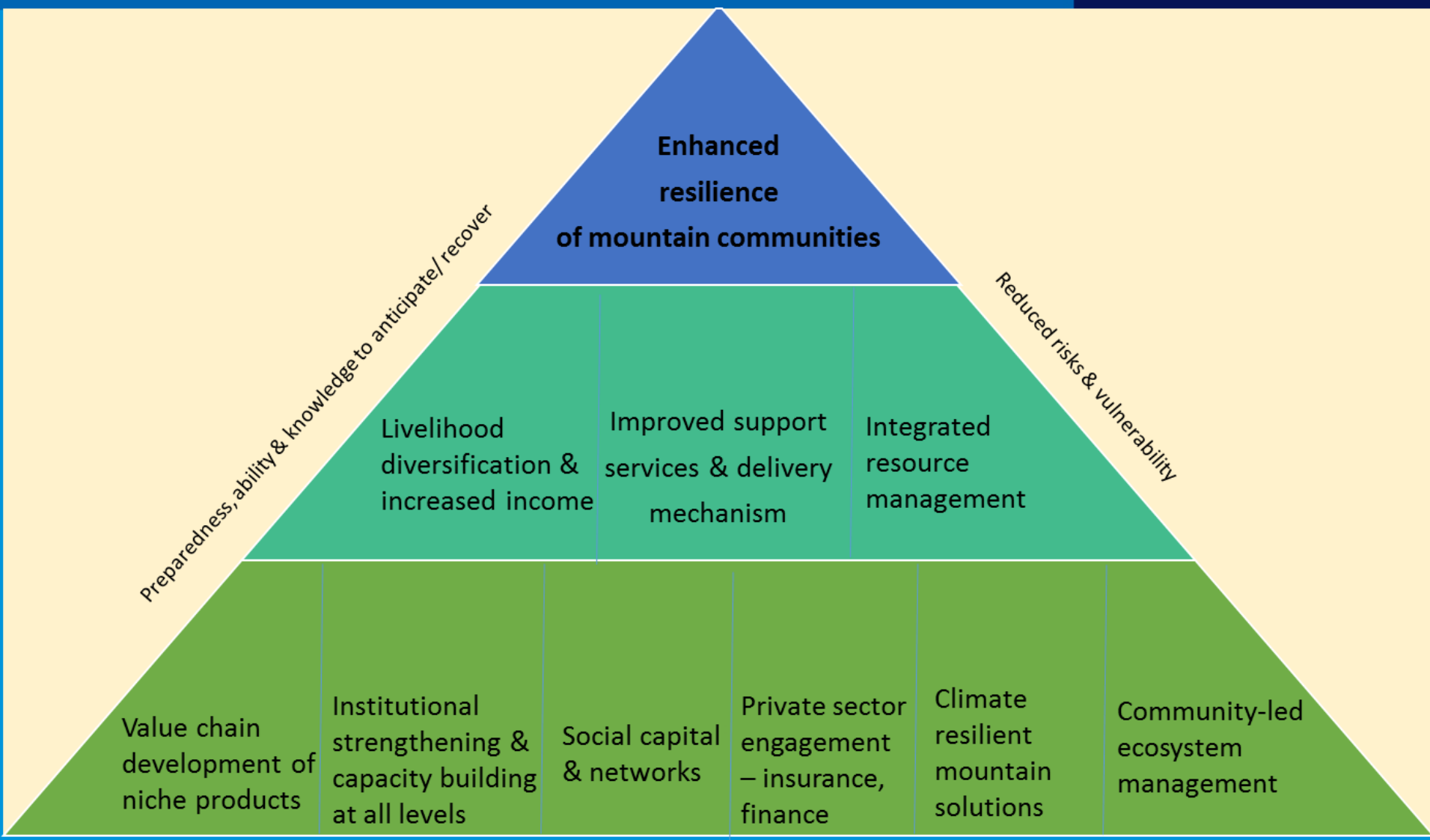
# Key Lessons learnt & way forward

from reducing risks/vulnerability to building resilience





# Key Lessons learnt & way forward



# Thank you

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