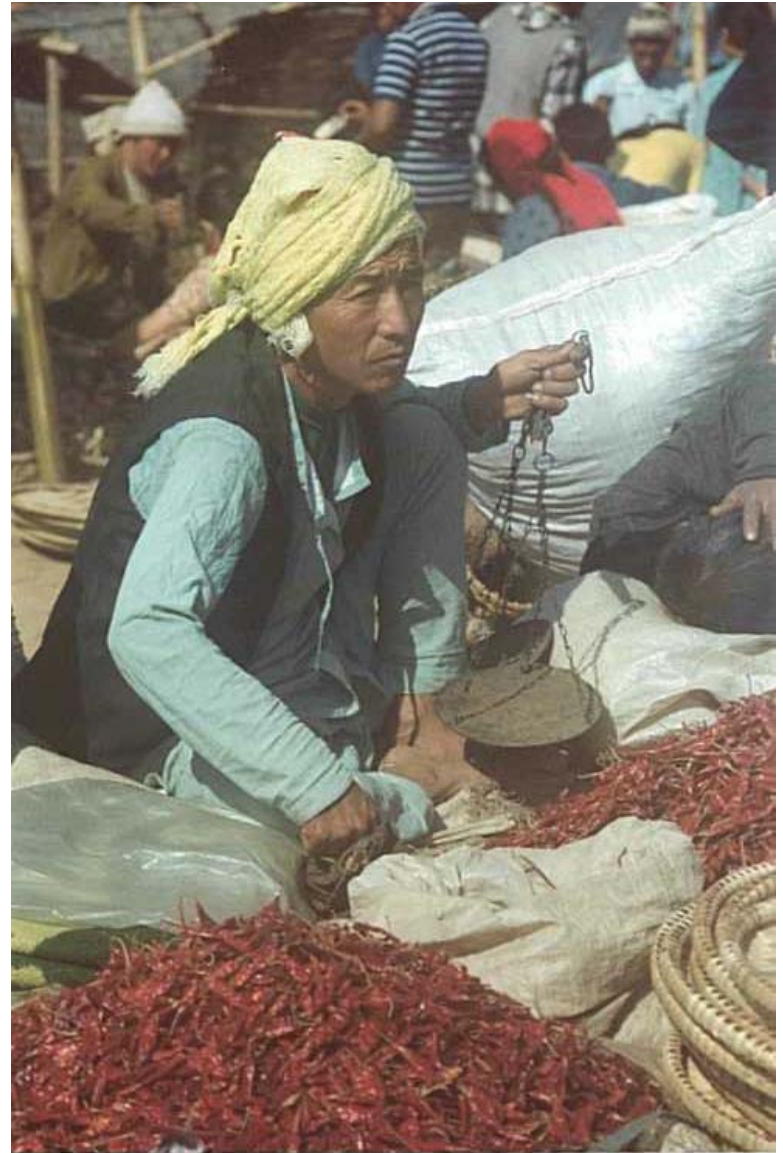


The Design of the Rural Access Programme Nepal

Economic and Social
Justifications of Rural Transport

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WSPimc



Goal and Purpose of RAP

- More secure and sustainable rural livelihoods for poor and disadvantaged in hill areas of Nepal
- Poor peoples' access to goods, markets and services that they value is improved in targeted hill areas

Map of Nepal



Impact Study Findings

- Some positive socio-economic impacts found
 - Access to health and education improved
 - Mobility - supportive social & kinship networks
 - Generally positive for trade, prices, jobs
- BUT
 - Most economic benefits accrued to better-off
 - Poor and excluded generally unable to respond to economic opportunities
 - and suffered negative impacts

“Transport Plus”

Physical Access

- Two feeder roads
- 500km district roads
- Trails
- Footbridges
- To bring 70% of people within ½ days walk from a road

Wider Access Interventions

- Supportive policy environment for rural access
- Promote lesson learning
- Locally planned and managed initiatives respond to local needs
- Additional measures to allow poor and disadvantaged benefit
- Knowledge and information on sustainable enterprise opportunities

Engineering Approach

- Advanced awareness raising
- Minimum reliance on outside technology
- Maximum reliance on local labour
- Construction season planned around farming calendar
- Environmental impacts

Road Building Groups

- Selected from poor and excluded – locally agreed gender targets
- Direct employment of over 19,000 people - indirectly 1.2 million people benefit
- No voluntary/compulsory labour participation
- Rs. 15,000 (≈ US\$192) per construction season (5 months per year – for 3 to 4 years)

Enhancing and Protecting Interventions

- Mitigating and protecting interventions to reduce negative impacts of road construction
- Enabling interventions to reduce non-physical barriers that prevent taking advantage of new opportunities
- Enhancing interventions to ensuring longer term benefits arising from roads accrue to people

Conditions for Sustainable Outcome of RAP

- Four basic conditions:
 - Funds flow unhindered to districts
 - District capacity consistent to the requirement
 - Commitment from both government and people
 - Ownership
- These depend upon:
 - Good information, level playing field, and positive incentives for civil servants and civil society



The End



Promoting Programme Outcomes

Basic Conditions	Institutional factors		
	Information	Enforcement	Incentives
Finance Available	Informed choices	Efficient spending	Funds not diverted
Skills Gained	Information used better	Skills used effectively	New skills valued
Motivation high	Changed practices	Outcomes Predictable	Reward system works
Ownership high	Local leaders use information	Improved enforcement	High quality outcomes rewarded

EPI Long Term

Enhancing

- Provide information on income generating opportunities
- Liase with marketing organisations to promote increased trade
- Support co-operatives with information / training
- Provide two-way channels of information flow to inform access decisions
- Build capacity for excluded groups to voice their needs (communication skills, leadership skills, confidence building, advocacy)

EPI Medium Term

Enabling

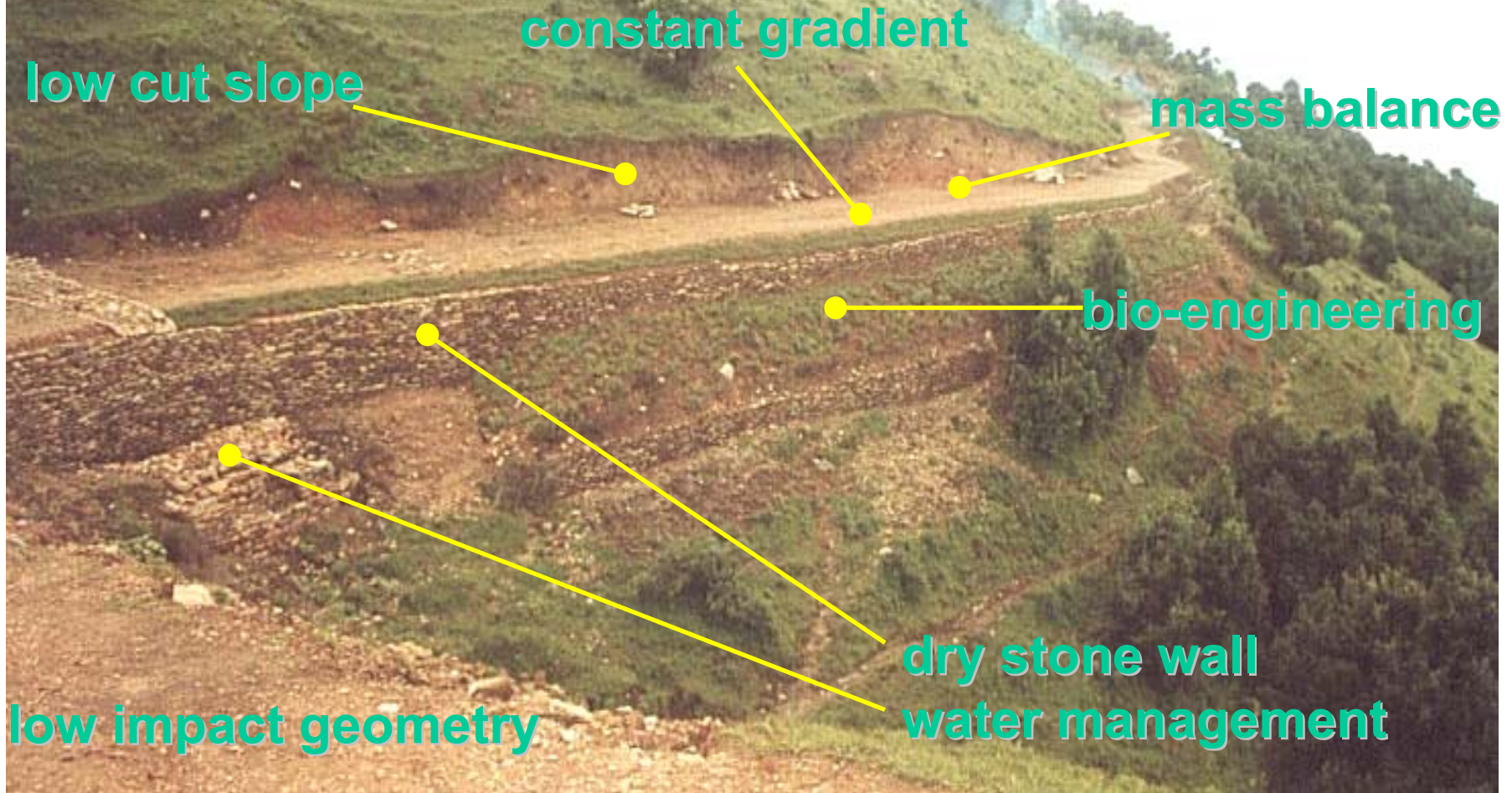
- Train local NGOs to support road building groups
- Transparent decision-making
- Witness labour payment for work
- 30% target quota for women in RBGs
- Issues of child labour and child care
- Provide information and training in savings group formation
- Co-ordinate with other donor / development initiatives for parallel funding

EPI* Short Term

Mitigating & Protecting

- Informing PAFs about impact of programme
- Establish community audit system
- Social welfare of RBGs
- Health, safety and welfare issues along roads (including AIDS / HIV awareness)
- Local committees resolving compensation issues

Green Road Technology



Features of Nepal

- Highly diversified physiography
- Most hill and mountain areas have no access to facilities or services
- Subsistence economy with very low growth rates
- Large proportion of populace lies outside development mainstream
- Almost half of the population below poverty line
- Deprivation and social exclusion highly visible
- Low economic base, increasing dependence on external aid

Impact Study Findings

- Social Impacts
 - Access to health and education
 - Mobility - supportive social & kinship networks
- Economic Impacts
 - Generally positive for trade, prices, jobs
 - Most benefits accrued to better-off
 - Poor unable to respond and suffered negative impacts in many cases

Social aspects of design

- Social Impacts
- Institutional & Rural Access Impacts
- Social mobility
- Exclusion and Vulnerability
- Gender Impacts

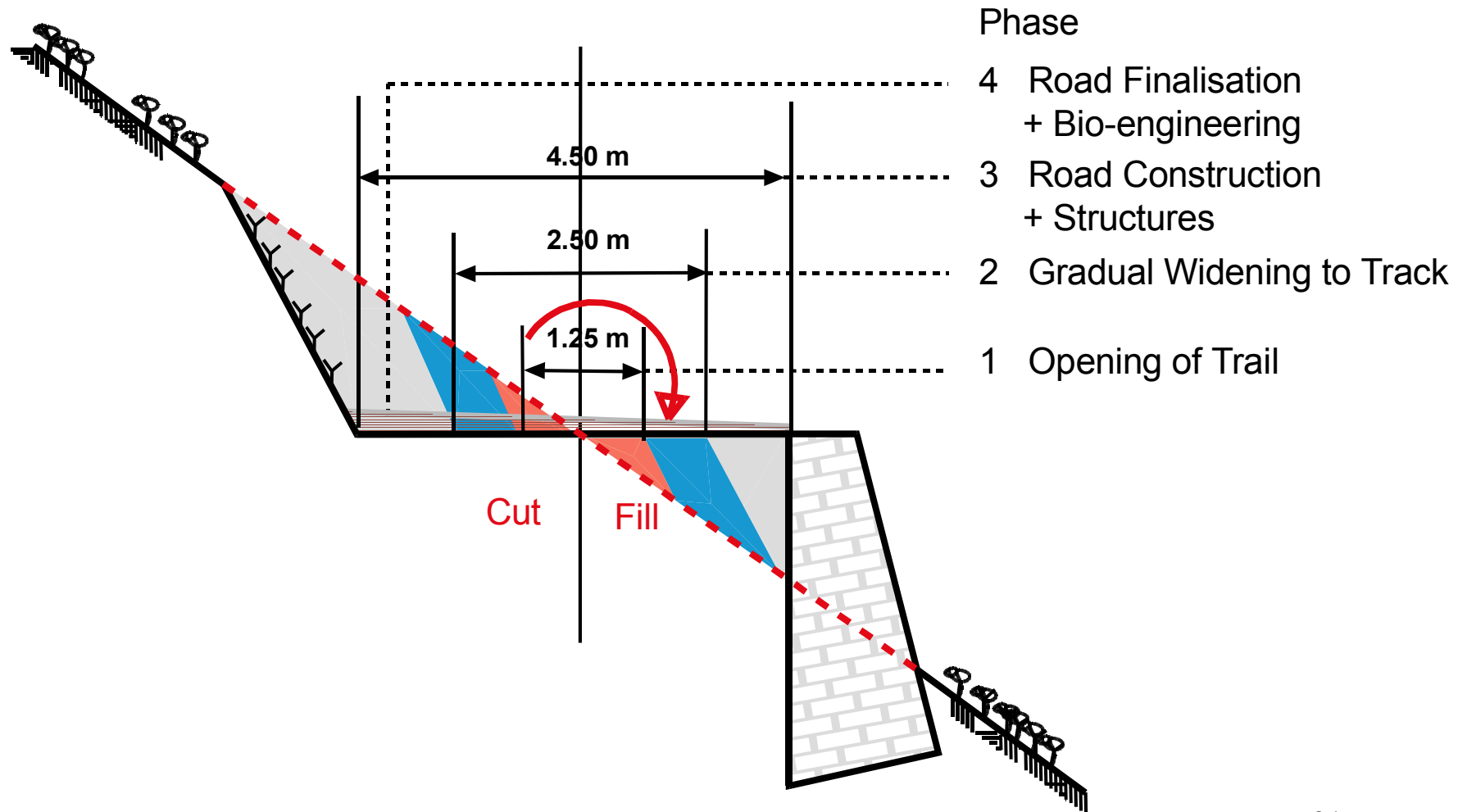
Economic aspects of design

- Labour during construction
- Group savings and rotating fund
- Income generation & employment
- Livelihoods damage (eg long haul porters)
- Agriculture
- Trade
- Growth centres

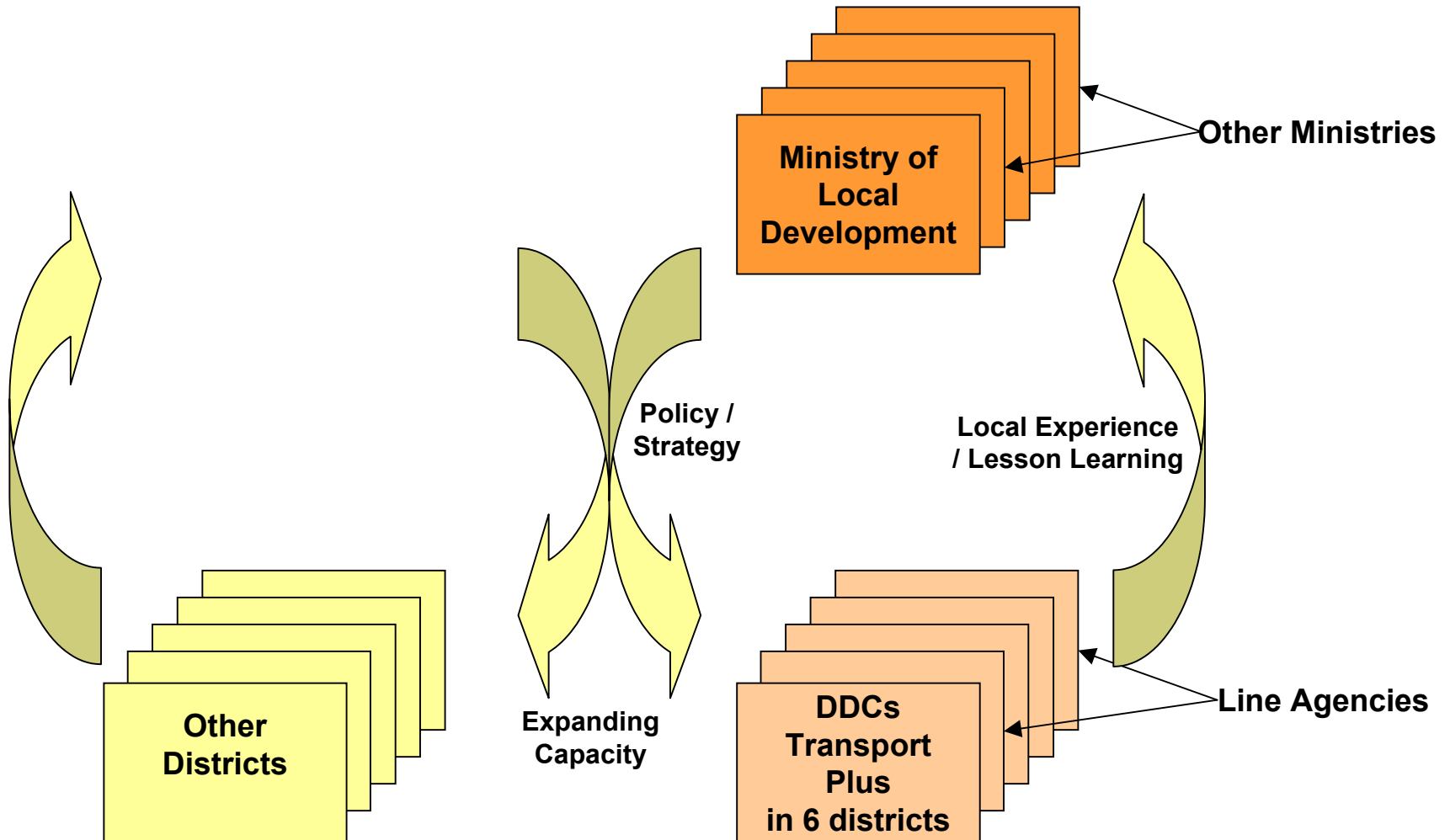
RAP Districts



RAP Road Phasing



Rural Access Strategy (Long Term)



Background of RAP Design

- Transport development serving national interest and providing access to various resources
- Transport development facilitated the process of economic growth
- Most benefits accrued to better-off
- Poor negatively impacted in most cases
- Nepal facing a greater specter of poverty

RAP Outputs

1. Policy environment made more supportive of effective rural access
2. Channels of information established to promote lesson learning
3. District and village level institutions enabled to plan and manage transport infrastructure in response to local needs

RAP Outputs

4. District transport infrastructure implemented and maintained in a sustainable manner
5. Poor and disadvantaged in RAP areas socially and economically enabled to take advantage of increased opportunities arising from improved access
6. Support to sustainable enterprise opportunities in RAP areas delivered to poor with potential

RAP Approach

- RAP adopts 'Green Roads' concept
- Roads construction through Road Building Groups from poor and excluded community
- Implementation through existing institutions
- Ensuring effective peoples' participation through support to bottom-up planning and local self governance

RAP Approach

- Implementation of Enhancing and Protecting Interventions
- Community audit and transparency
- Donor coordination

Enhancing Interventions

- Identify potentials IGAs and locations
- Establish database and supply information
- Assist with business know-how and technological know-how
- Identify partners for enterprise development