



# **INTERNATIONAL FORUM FOR RURAL TRANSPORT AND DEVELOPMENT (IFRTD)**

**7<sup>th</sup> ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL MEETING (APRM)**

## **Creating Alternative Means of Rural Livelihood through Road Building in Nepal**

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**Kathmandu, Nepal**

# Rural access programme: Aims

**“Reducing poverty through road building”**

## **GOAL**

More secure and sustainable rural livelihoods for poor and disadvantaged in hill areas in Nepal

## **OBJECTIVE**

To use the building 632km of roads in the most poverty stricken and inaccessible rural areas of Nepal to reduce poverty

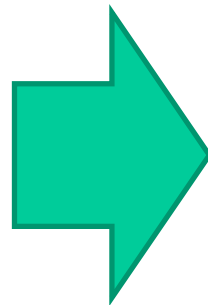
# Ethos

**“Integrating social and engineering aspects:  
Access can begin but does not stop at road building”**

For a significant impact on poverty reduction, infrastructure alone is not enough and complementary interventions are required.

RAP considers non-physical barriers:

- Economic
- Social
- Political
- Cultural



ideas  
attitudes  
practices

# **RAP programme approach**

**“Road building & socio-economic activities in parallel”**

## **Transport plus approach – phase construction**

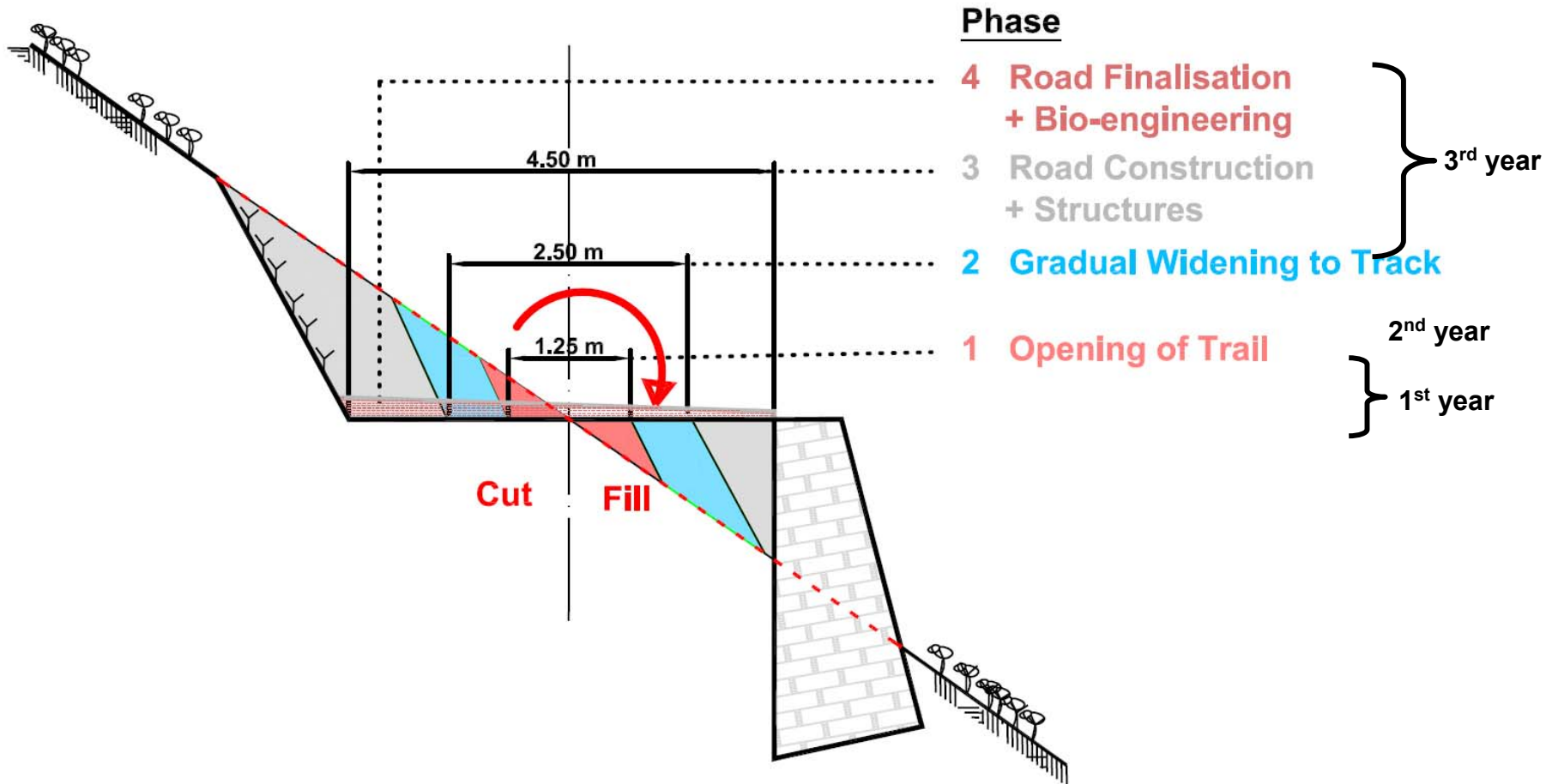
Labour based, environmentally friendly and participatory approach of road building with simultaneous livelihood improvement programmes.

## **Major components of RAP**

1. Improve physical access
2. Enhance livelihood
  - Social and economic development programmes
3. Pilot rural accessibility planning
  - District Transport Master Plans (DTMP) using IRAP tools.

# Technical details

“The phased approach to construction has provided value”



# Construction - Phases



**Track opening**



**Widening**



**Finished works**

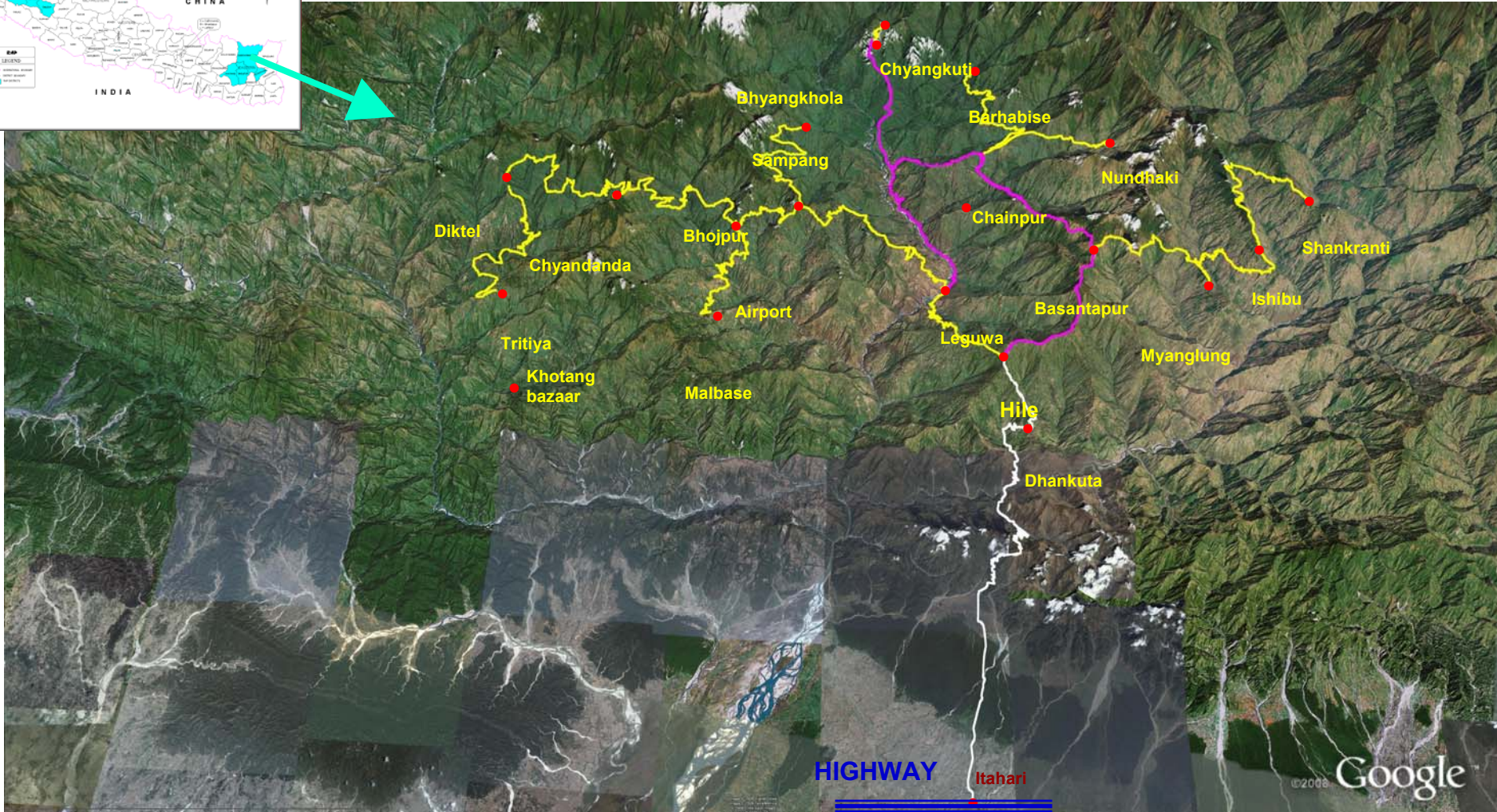


**Road construction structure**



**Bio-engineering work**

# Location - Eastern Region



09/09/2009

APRM hosted by NFRTD

# **RAP funding and achievements**

**Availability of grant : £ 36.12 million**

## **Physical**

Road corridors = 18                      Total length = 632km

Feeder road corridors = 4    District road corridors = 14

## **Employment and income**

6.55 million total labour days created for 35,000 households, average household income remained at NRs 64,200

## **Livelihood creation**

Improved and sustained (?) rural livelihood in programme areas

**Programme period - 7.5 years (2001-2008)**

# RBG selection and mobilisation

## “Introduction of group working concept & institutionalisation”

- Labour availability survey
- Wealth being ranking
- Inclusive
- Severely project affected household
- Orientation
- Training on group management, leadership, book keeping, use of first aid kit,
- Group facilitator - Sahajkarta
- Work measurement system

# Key programme interventions

**“Imparting short, medium & long-term impacts on livelihood”**

- **RBGs empowerment** – aware on citizen’s rights, clear roles and responsibilities, training, support to enhancement overall capacity of groups
- **Organizational development** – group of 20 people and work management, public audits of accomplished tasks
- **Wage saving and credit** – 10% saving of wages and introduced group lending system with interests
- **Promotion of income generating activities** – identification of IGAs and support from RAP, 71.4% of total RBG households initiated IGAs
- **Improved physical access** – schooling, health, market facilities, reasonable commodity price etc.

# Livelihood creations

- Financial capital and multiplier effects
- 65% productive investment and 35% consumptive purposes
- 45% sold vegetables with average annual income of NRs 13,400 – 4 times more compared to the baseline data
- 47% sold livestock & livestock products with average annual income of NRs 11,750 – 2 times more than before

# Words from the floor - success stories



**As a result of RAP, Ms Dhak Maya Bhattarai's family in Bhojpur have :**

- **food sufficiency (previously only 8 months)**
- **worked for 205 days on road and earned NRs 50,000**
- **bought land**
- **been able to speak up at village meetings**
- **started raising livestock and petty trading**



**As a result of RAP, Mr Gun R. Shrestha's family in Bhojpur have:**

- **food sufficiency (previously only 1 month)**
- **earned NRs 150,000 from road construction**
- **improved house**
- **run grocery shop**
- **earned NRs 50,000/yr**

# RAP eastern cluster performance

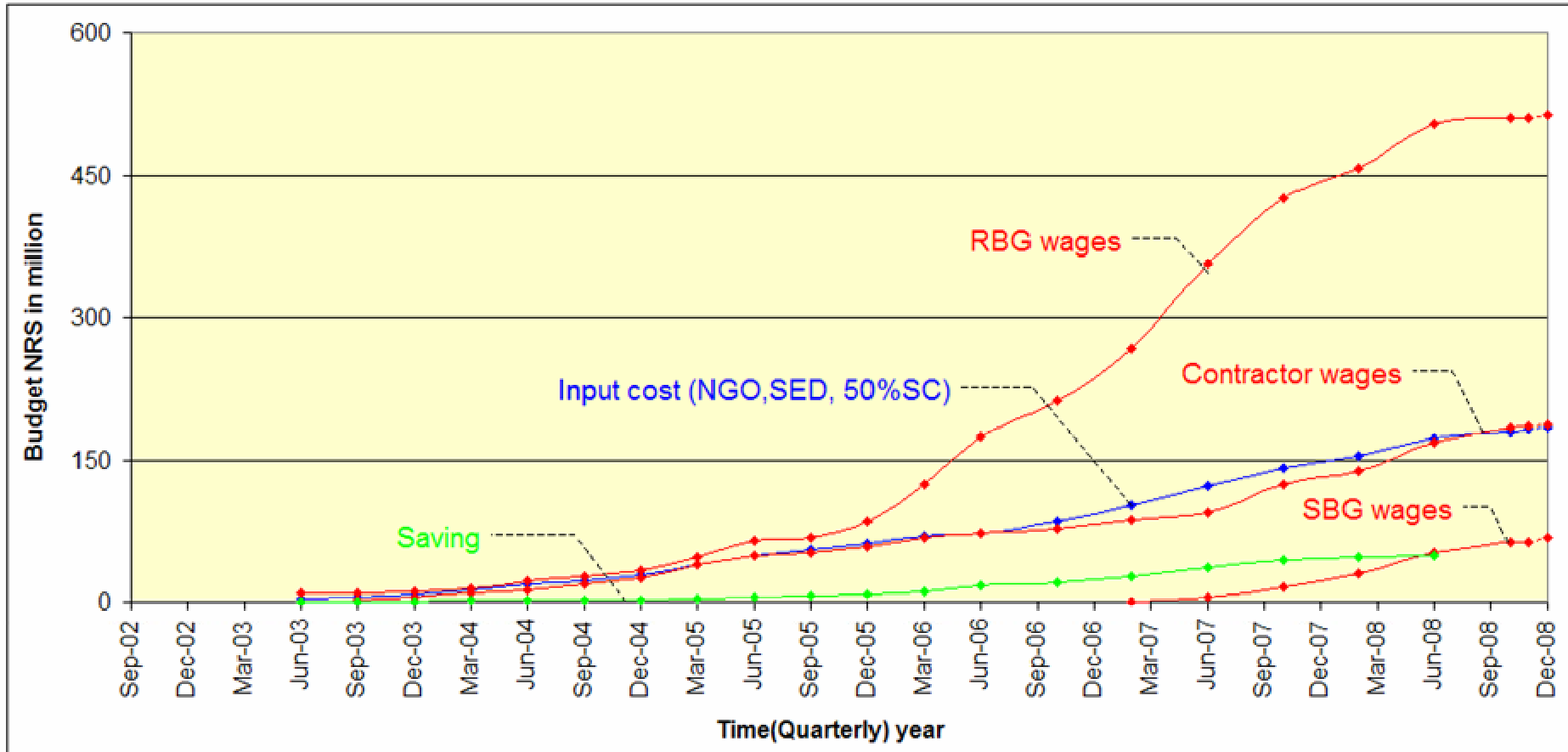
“Enabling a cost effective and efficient programme”

## Livelihoods:

Max RBGs:505

Max SBGs:75

Est final RBG wage:537.7M



# Conclusion & recommendation

- primary impacts – associated with wage income
- RBGs to encourage start IGAs once immediate needs satisfied
- 2 years of consolidation phase after road construction would boost IGAs to ensure long-term sustainability

**Thank you for your kind attention**