

Chapter Three

RESPONSE MEASURES

In recognition of the existing environmental issues in these two important sectors for Nepal, His Majesty's Government has formulated policies, legislation, standards and guidelines, and implemented several activities since the start of planned economic development in the mid-1950s. Before the re-instatement of democracy in 1990, several policy and legal measures aimed to use the natural resources and agro-chemicals even at the cost of environment. However, the more recent policies and programmes are more environment-friendly and there is a clear shift in policy from command-and-control approach to people's empowerment, i.e., the importance of people's participation in the conservation of the natural resource base has been recognised. This is clearly reflected in the Ninth Plan which has prioritised agriculture and forestry as the key resources for sustainable economic growth and poverty alleviation.

The following sections briefly describe the Nepal's initiatives to avoid and/or minimise environmental impacts in the agriculture and forestry sectors, including steps taken to meet international commitments on environment.