

Knowledge (traditional/ local/ indigenous) systems and the role of knowledge brokers in contributing towards adaptation.

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- ▶ **Knowledge systems** are a combination of actors practices and institutions that manage the production, use and transfer of knowledge (Cornel et al, 2013)
- ▶ Help in making communities resilient by mediating physically, socially and culturally relevant fine scaled strategies
- ▶ Are complex outcomes of interactions between human and natural resources. There are deep linkages and interdependence between culture, beliefs, traditions, and natural resources that emerge from this interaction and are hence often highly localised

Chizami in Phek District

We delve into the role of North East Network (NEN) in Chizami Village, Nagaland with respect to knowledge systems in fragile mountainous ecosystems

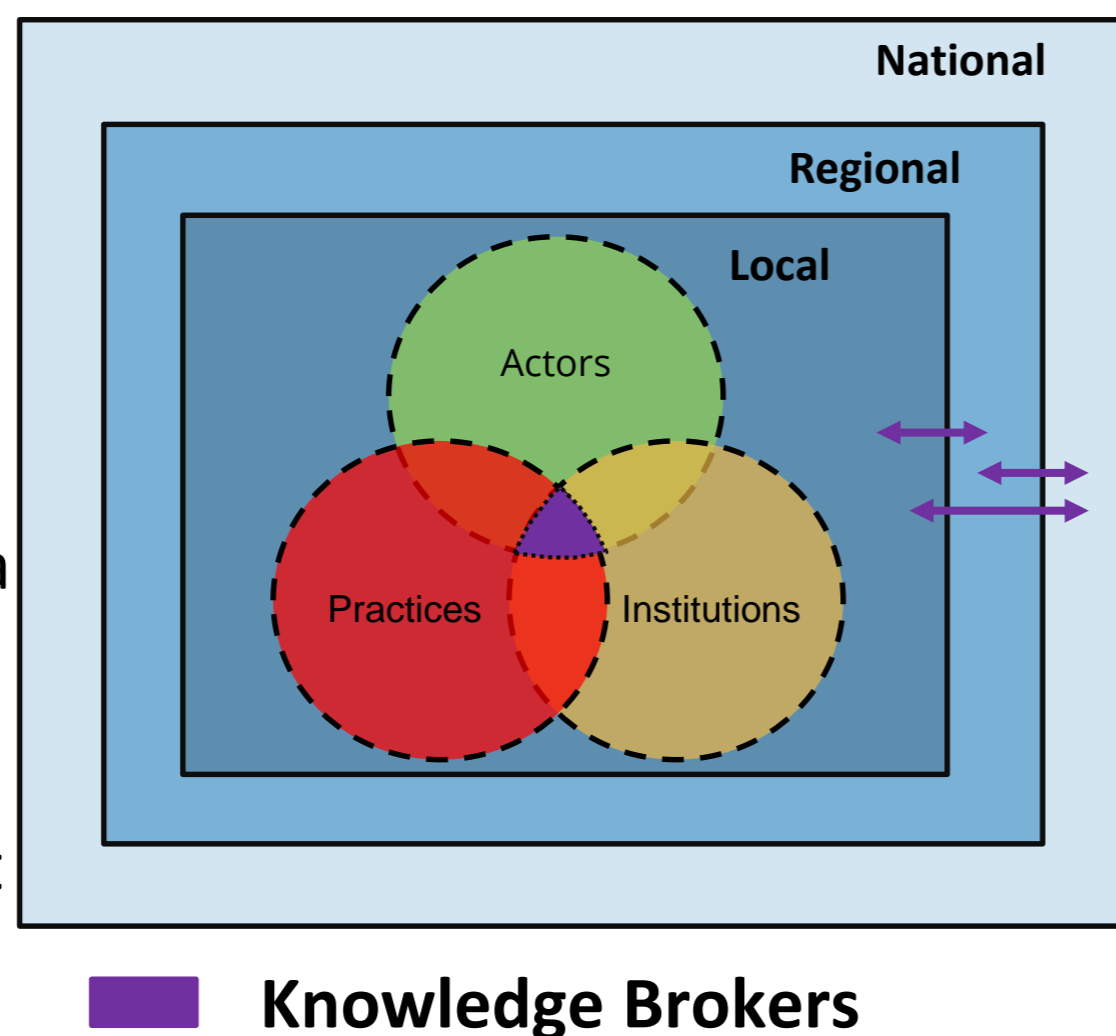


Key functions of North East Network, Chizami

- ▶ **Reviving community knowledge** of agrobiodiverse farming, *jhum* (slash and burn) cultivation and seed keeping with special emphasis on role of women
- ▶ **Engagement with youth and educational institutions:** Setting up of farm schools in collaboration with local schools to mainstream traditional practices in the learning curriculum
- ▶ **Building capacity** of the locals and government authorities eg. facilitating workshops, training programs at community, district, state and regional level.
- ▶ **Encouraging micro up-scaling** by strengthening representation of local actors especially women in village level decision making by forming collectives eg. using methods like participatory video
- ▶ **Facilitate interaction and partnerships** within and among communities and decision making authorities eg, agriculture extension bodies, scientists, government bodies

Knowledge Brokers

- ▶ Bridge and build on existing forms of fine scaled knowledge systems that are optimised to temporal and geographical scales, within a particular context
- ▶ These can be individuals, groups or organisations that maybe state or non- state



So what?

- ▶ The efficacy of knowledge systems like *jhum* cultivation and seed keeping, among dependent communities, becomes challenging against the backdrop of developmental and social transitions.
- ▶ Knowledge brokers like NEN provide recognition to local knowledge and play a key role in binding them with local governance, and hence must be recognized as a step towards effective adaptation.

References

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