

**Community Forestry for Environmental Management and
Poverty Reduction in Nepal- A Case study of Syalapani
Community Forest Management, Dang**

**A Thesis Submitted to the
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Central Department of Rural Development
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of
Master of Arts in Rural Development**

By

**Rohini Raj Nepal
(TU Registration No. 534/95)**

**Central Department of Rural Development
Tribhuvan University
Kirtipur, Kathmandu**

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TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY
त्रिभुवन विश्वविद्यालय
CENTRAL DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
ग्रामीण विकास केन्द्रीय विभाग

विभागीय प्रमुखको कार्यालय
कीर्तिपुर, काठमाडौं, नेपाल
Office of the Head of Department
Kirtipur, Kathmandu, Nepal
Ph. 331383

Ref. No.

Date :

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

This Thesis entitled "**Community Forestry for Environmental Management and Poverty Reduction in Nepal- A Case study of Syalapani Community Forest Management, Dang**" is prepared by **Rohini Raj Nepal** under my guidance and supervision in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in Rural Development. To the best of my knowledge the study is original; I hereby forward it with recommendation to the evaluation committee for the approval.

(Prof. Dr. Pradeep Kumar Khadka)

Head & Supervisor

Central Department of Rural Development

Tribhuvan University

Date: _____



Approval Sheet

This Project work entitled "**Community Forest for Environmental Management and Poverty Reduction in Nepal- A Case study of Syalapani Community Forest Management, Dang**" submitted by **Rohini Raj Nepal** as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in Rural Development has been accepted by the undersigned research committee.

Evaluation Committee

1. **Head of Department** _____
(Prof. Dr. Pradeep K. Khadka)
2. **External Examiner** _____
(Prof. Dr. Pushkar Pradhan)
3. **Supervisor** _____
(Prof. Dr. Pradeep K. Khadka)

Date: _____

Acknowledgement

This Thesis is prepared for the partial fulfillment of the requirements of Masters' Degree Course in Rural Development. The main objective of the study is to identify the role of community forestry for the poverty reduction in rural Nepal.

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Rohini Raj Nepal
Kapan VDC-1, Kathmandu, Nepal
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Abstract

Community forestry concept is an innovative and future oriented approach towards participatory forest management by the local people. Community forestry in Nepal provides some key outcomes in the aspects of livelihoods and democracy and identifies two key lessons in relation to forest resource management, social inclusion and contribution to democratization process in Nepal.

Rural people as having complex livelihoods depend on diverse resources, not as farmers who depend on a single resource. Community management is an effective way to transfer state property rights to rural people. People dependent on forest resources often live in extreme poverty. The majority of the world's poorest people live in rural areas. People who depend on forests for their livelihoods are often geographically isolated, socially and culturally marginalised. The World Bank estimates that 80 percent of people living in absolute poverty depend on forest resources. This means that forest management is central to poverty alleviation.

***Syalapani Community Forest** has increased community participation in forest management and community people agree with current changes towards a more diversified understanding of rural livelihoods amongst forestry organisations and development workers. It has promoted social equity because several groups share control over resources, including marginalised people. If excessive rent seeking can be avoided, collaboration with state forest authorities can improve management and market access for villagers and improve resource use in tropical forests.*

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List of Acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank
ADB/N	Agricultural Development Bank of Nepal
CBS	Central Bureau of Statistics
CF	Community Forestry
CFUGs	Community Forest User Groups
DDC	District Development Committee
DFID	Department for international Development
DFO	District Forest Office
EPMS	Electronic Progress Monitoring System
FC	Forest Community
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HHs	Households
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IGP	Income Generating Programme
INGO	International Non Governmental Organization
JFM	Joint Forest Management
Kg	Kilogram
LFP	Livelihood Forestry Programme
LGP	Local Governance Program
LHFP	Leasehold Forestry Programme
LSI	Livelihood and Social Inclusion
MOF	Ministry of Forest
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
NRCS	Nepal Red Cross Society

NRs	Nepali Rupees
NTFPs	Non Timber Forest Products
PAF	Poverty Alleviation Fund
PDDP	Participatory District Development Programme
UG	User Group
UNDF	United Nations Development Fund
VDC	Village Development Committee
WB	World Bank
WHO	World Health Organization
\$	United States Dollar