

**ASSESSMENT OF  
POTENTIAL NON TIMBER FOREST PRODUCTS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.  
A CASE STUDY OF CHAPAKO COMMUNITY FOREST,  
RAMKOT, KATHMANDU**

**A Dissertation Submitted To  
THE CENTRAL DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE,  
TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY, KIRTIPUR, KATHMANDU, NEPAL**

**For the partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Master's Degree in  
Environmental Science**

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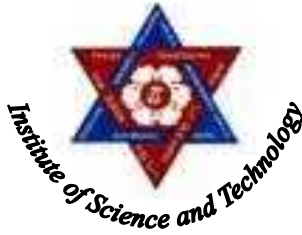
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## LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

This is to certify that the works incorporated in this dissertation “**Assessment of Potential Non Timber Forest Products for Economic Development, A Case Study of Chapako Community Forest, Ramkot, Kathmandu**” submitted by **Mr. Keshab Shrestha** was based on the original research and study under my supervision and guidance. He has worked with sincere interest during his study period. This dissertation work bears the candidate’s own work. To the best of my knowledge this dissertation has not been submitted for any other degree.

Therefore, I recommend this dissertation for approval for the partial fulfillment of M. Sc. Degree in Environmental Science.

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## LETTER OF APPROVAL

This dissertation paper entitled “**Assessment of Potential Non Timber Forest Products for Economic Development, A Case Study of Chapako Community Forest, Ramkot, Kathmandu**” submitted by **Mr. Keshab Shrestha** has been accepted as partial fulfillment of M.Sc. Degree in Environmental Science.

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## ABSTRACT

This dissertation is aimed at identifying the NTFPs that bear potential for the economic development of the communities especially CFUGs. The main focus here is to manage these resources to enhance the livelihood status and promote NTFPs both through conservation and cultivation in CF where it bears potential. The study was carried out in Chapako CF at Ramkot, one of the rural areas of Kathmandu where NTFPs are integral part to poor people's lives.

The results of the study showed that NTFPs are in considerable amount in the forest. The initiation and interest of FUG for the promotion of NTFPs are encouraging to take it as potential sector to uplift the economic status of the community. The processes for the management of these resources, cultivation of high valued products and their willingness to assess more in the sector was important. The species like *Gaultheria fragrantissima*, *Cheorospondias axillaris*, *Piper longum*, *Amomum subulatum*, *Cinnamomum tamala*, *Daphne bholua* and *Acorus calamus* should be prioritized for the cultivation, conservation and promotion for economic development of CFUG at the Chapako CF. Furthermore, related institutions like FECOFUN, DFO – Kathmandu and various related programs have provided support to the user group for the promotion of this sector separately.

Future programs to support the FUG should be related to the harvesting mechanisms and propagation procedures of NTFPs to meet the higher degree of success. For the policy makers, there should be strong policy, infrastructure interventions and legal provisions providing support for the management and promotion of this sector. Community forest programs directly benefit poor users through improved access and use of forest products, and indirectly through investment of forest user funds in community activities that generate income. Benefit from NTFPs should be prime objective for more integrated resource management.

Lack of sufficient support in terms of physical infrastructures combined with financial and technical assistance as well as weaker enforcement of policy and legal provisions appear to be inhibited in this sector. However, there appears ample of opportunities to promote NTFPs and can be considered to be an important source of income.

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## ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ANSAB	
CECI	Asia Network for Sustainable Agriculture and Bioresources
	Canadian center for international studies and Cooperation
CFs	and International development and research center
CFUG	Community Forests
DFO	Community Forest User Group
FAO	District Forest Office
FORESC	Food and Agriculture Organization
FPS	Forest Research and Survey Centre
FUG	Forest Products
GMFs	Forest User Group
GoN	Government Managed Forests
ha	Government of Nepal
HHs	hectare
HNCC	HouseHolds
IUCN	Herbs and NTFP Co-ordination Committee
MAPs	World Conservation Union
MFPs	Medicinal and Aromatic Plants
MFSC	Minor Forest Products
MT	Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation
NNN	Metric Ton
NPC	Nepal NTFP Network
NRs	National Planning Commission
NTFPs	Nepalese Rupees
NWFPs	Non Timber Forest Products
pl/ha	Non Wood Forest Products
PPA	plants per hectare
SEAN – N	Public Private Alliance
USD	South and East Asian Network - Nepal
VDC	United States Dollar
	Village Development Committee

