

**CONTRIBUTUION OF COMMUNITY FORESTRY IN  
LIVELIHOODS ENHANCEMENT OF USERS GROUPS**

**"A Sociological study of Mayalu Community Forestry" in Dang District**

**A Thesis submitted to Central Department of Sociology/  
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for the Degree of Master of Arts in Sociology**

**By**

**Tilak Prasad Sapkota  
T.U. Reg. No. 6-1-19-811-98  
Roll Number. 111(2061)  
Symbol No. 5081**

**To**

**Central Department of Sociology/Anthropology  
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**LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION**

This dissertation entitled “**Contribution of Community Forestry in Livelihoods Enhancement of Users Groups**” has been prepared by **Tilak Prasad Sapkota** under my supervision in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in Sociology.

I forward it with recommendation for approval.

.....

**Mr. Jiban Mani Poudel**

Central Department of Sociology/Anthropology

Tribhuvan University

Kritipur, Kathmandu

Date:

**TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY**  
**CENTRAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY/ANTHROPOLOGY**

**LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE**

This dissertation entitled “**Contribution of Community Forestry in Livelihoods Enhancement of Users Groups**” prepared and written by Tilak Prasad Sapkota has been accepted as the partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in Sociology.

Approved by

.....

**Prof. Dr. Om Prasad Gurung**

Head of the Department

.....

**Mr. Jiban Mani Poudel**

Supervisor

.....

**Shambhu Prasad Kattel**

External Examiner

Date:

## Abstract

*National forest in Nepal is being increasingly handed over as community forest to fulfill the basic needs of forest products along with income and employment to the rural people. With changing context, community forest has broadened itself as important activity for rural livelihood empowerment. The need of identifying rural livelihoods empowerment impact of community forestry with emphasizing the employment opportunity, researcher has chosen this study topic contribution of community forestry in livelihood enhancement of users group by increased employment opportunity in selected community forest in Dang district.*

*Focus group discussion, face-to face household survey and study of relevant secondary literature were the basic tools to gather the information. Both qualitative as well as quantitative data were used to draw the conclusion. Quantitative data were analyzed with the help of computer, Excel 2007.*

*Majority (83 %) of respondents had agricultural occupation. Land holdings has positive correlation with well-being status in agrarian society, thus it was tried to find out the landholdings of the respondent. The majority of the respondents were from medium level landholdings (0.33 to 1.6 ha) size. Livestock rearing practices was changing towards stall-feeding system from conventional open grazing system after the handover the forest patches as community forestry. It has created positive impact on regeneration in community forest. Alternative energy was found at initial stage in the study area. Only 19 % respondents have installed Bio-gas plant for cooking purpose. This figure indicates that, there is great potentiality of bio-gas installation. Some forest management activities were practiced in CFUG but they were still passively managed with strict protection. The resources were underutilized. Neither, the forest operational plan was positive towards active forest management nor the users were aware about the importance of active forest management for sustainable benefit. Recently, some NTFP promotion activity was introduced in selected CF which has contributed to the earning of users.*

*This study has highlighted the potentiality of future employment generation through intensive management of productive forest and NTFP promotion in CF through short term lease to the poor users .The case of selected CF, Mayalu CFUG has shown the possibility of earning Nepalese currency Twenty thousand per annum from just 2 kattha (0.06 ha) of land.*

*This study reveals that community forestry has remarkable contribution in livelihood assets generation but the assets were not equitably accessible to the poor people. The disparity of poor in human, financial, and social assets were identified.*

*Total of 3 person full employment for whole year employment have been created through community forestry in selected CF. This study has explored the future potentiality of 100 workday/ha seasonal employment from the intensive forest management and 480 workday/ha from NTFP cultivation. It has recommended for technical support to the users for active forest management as well as NTFP cultivation & processing. Present research has also recommended the need of strong marketing linkage of NTFP products to increase the benefit to the rural community.*

*The recommendations for user group level are equitable benefit sharing system should be adopted during the distribution of forest products and group fund, and It is very important to include poor, women and other disadvantaged members in the decision making position of CFUG. Similarly at the district level; technical support for active forest management needs to be provided through DFO and/or other partner organizations. NTFP cultivation should be promoted with sufficient technical knowledge and well-established marketing mechanism should be improved in district level. Identification and promotion of viable forest based enterprises needs to be established in a way that provide sustainable benefits to the poor users.*

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**Tilak Prasad Sapkota**  
**Gaindakot – 5, Nawalparasi**

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## **Abbreviations/Acronyms**

ADB	Asian Development Bank
CBS	Central Bureau of Statistic
CF	Community Forest
CFUG	Community Forest User Group
CFUGC	Community Forest Users Group Committee
DAG	Disadvantaged Group
DDC	District Development Committee
DFID	Department of International Development
DFO	District Forest Office
DOF	Department of Forest
ed.	Edited
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FP	Forest Products
FUG	Forest User Group
ha.	Hectare
HH	Household
HMG/N	His Majesty's Government (Former Name of Government of Nepal)
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
IGA	Income Generating Activity
LFP	Livelihood & Forestry Program
MPFS	Master Plan for Forestry Sector
NACFP	Nepal Australia Community Forestry Project
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NPC	National Planning Commision
NTFP	Non Timber Forest Product
OP	Operational Plan
SL	Sustainable Livelihoods
SLC	School Leaving Certificate
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
USA	United State of America
VDC	Village Development Committee

# CHAPTER I

## Introduction

### 1. 1 Background of the Study

Nepal is rich in terms of forest resources and biodiversity. A broad range of ecosystems flourish in a relatively small area of Nepal. The forest resources have made a significant contribution to economic and social development of the country. Besides, forests are indispensable as a life support system for people in the Inner Terai, hills, and mountains, where agriculture, livestock and vegetation influence the ecology of the area and the lives of the local population in Nepal.

In rural Nepal, forests are an integral part of the farming system as there is a heavy dependence on forests for the essential elements of fodder, firewood and timber (Gilmour, 1992). Eighty percent of firewood for domestic consumption is obtained from forests and fodder from forestland provides more than 40 percent of livestock nutrition (FAO, 1978). Most hill farmers rely heavily on maintaining a flow of nutrients and energy from the forest to their farms. Nutrients contained in grass and leaves flow from the forest to the agricultural terraces to maintain agricultural productivity (Gilmour, 1992). Historically, forestland has been the prime source for the expansion of agriculture (Yadav, 2004). It has also a crucial protection function with respect to soil and water conservation. Hence, the forest considered a wealth of the nation. Forest is important to sustain the economy. Thus, better forest management practices, together with an increased consciousness of the environment, are of paramount importance to Nepal's development.

Access to forest products is a vital component of livelihoods system for Nepal's rural population ( Graner, 1999). Farming households of rural Nepal use forest as a source of firewood, fodder, animal bedding materials and to support their subsistence requirements (Pandey, 1999). In case of rural; the dependency of people on the forest may vary. For rural communities, the forest is the main source of energy for maintaining their livelihoods. There has been a dependency of rural people on the forest from ancient times for fuel wood, timber, grass, thatch grass, agricultural tools and other domesticated needs and also for NTFPs including medicinal herbs. There is a lack of alternative resources in terms of energy, fuel, fertilizer, fodder and construction materials for rural people. The forest can supply the villages' short-term

and long-term needs including materials and cash income. Moreover, forests are not only essential for people but also for both wild and domestic animals. Livestock is part of rural livelihoods and is partially dependent on the forest for fodder and grazing. Another most essential resource for rural people is water and the main source of water is the forest. In rural areas, people depend on natural springs for drinking water and small irrigation systems as well. Populations are required to manage and maintain forest resources so that they are sustainable and remain secure for future generations.

The Community Forestry Program is being implemented throughout Nepal. It has been focused mainly in the central hills up to the present time. In 1988, the Master Plan for Forestry introduced community forestry (CF) as a higher priority initiative. A strategy was developed for handing over all accessible hill forests to local communities based on their ability and willingness to manage the forest. It is estimated that as much as 3.5 million hectares of forest or 61% of total national forest area can be handed over to the local forest user groups (FUGs) for their development and management.

The basic assumption of the 'Community Forest User Group' (CFUG) is that users are united and capable for managing community forests for their mutual benefit. The nature of each community differs at each different location. The capability of each FUG is dependent upon the ability of its individual members. The users are bounded by sets of rules and regarded as an organized corporate body. The strong relationship between the level of involvement of a FUG in active community forest management and its social and institutional development has been particularly striking. Fieldwork undertaken by Branny (1995) has attempted to define the relationships among the social factors, the institutional factors and forest development. Each FUG requires institutional 'capacity' to trap the potential of forest resources through CF management.

This study is try to examine the " contribution of community forestry in livelihood enhancement of users groups "at Dang District. It mainly focused on assessing the different resources owned by community forest user groups. The study has analyzed the status of various livelihoods opportunity and their access to different level of users.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

The success of CF has been spectacular, with around 13,000 CFUGs registered and community forests covering more than 1 million ha of forestland. However, as implementation has proceeded, a range of second-generation issues has emerged. Issues such as income generation, equity, active forest management (particularly the development of “appropriate” silvicultural systems), and commercialization of products from community forests and expansion of community forest modalities beyond the Middle Hills have assumed importance (Gilmour, 2003). Thus, CF has been facing challenges to its sustainability, livelihood and governance aspects, widely referred to as second-generation issues.

Despite achievements and contribution that community forestry has made in Nepal, there are many unresolved issues and challenges in all areas of capital as well as governance. In worst cases, the implementation of CF policy has inflicted added costs to the poor, such as reduced access to forest products and forced allocation of household resources for communal forest management with insecurity over the benefits. Untransparent decision-making and fund management reflect weak FUG level governance in many cases (Pokharel, 2003).

Management of CF is geared towards the production of intermediate products that are inputs in the farming system and towards subsistence rather than income generation. Obviously households with livestock and farmland, yet fewer livelihood options and higher dependency on commons, would benefit from CF more than the landless poor who have little/no use of farming system inputs from commons (Richards, et al, 1999). The existing patterns of CF management tend to be skewed towards fulfilling the livelihood needs of land-poor and serving the interests of well-off peasant farmers. Access to livelihood support for landless poor from CF remains limited/restricted even when they are included in the group, and this inclusion costs them more than the benefit they could potentially get. CF has not been able to make significant positive impact on livelihoods of rural community in general and of poor in particular (Tiwari, 2002). This study has tried to assess the contribution of community forestry on livelihoods of rural community.

The success of the CF policy lies in building and/or strengthening a robust social institution of a group of people with collective concern over the forest they have

traditionally depended on. One must, therefore, examine how CFUGs have been evolving as an institution in the course of CF development process. CFUG has got legal recognition as a self-governed, autonomous and corporate institution to be operated under a collectively agreed constitution. The traditional users of a forest are expected to organize as a user group, recognizing individuals' collective use rights over a particular forest and drafting a constitution by themselves to function as an institution. But the majority of the CFUG members have often been found broadly little aware of the contents of their own constitution as well as the Community forest operational plan (OP). Experience and studies reveal that the majority of users have little knowledge about their own rights and responsibilities towards effective functioning of their CFUGs (NP Yadav, 2004).

Basically the level of poverty in rural area is more serious than urban one. Thus, to achieve the target of the development plan, main challenges are employment generation and poverty reduction in rural areas. Unless poverty is addressed, it is not possible to fulfill the obligation of forest management goal. To overcome these problems, a wide range of initiatives has been initiated in the forestry sector during the past few years. However, due to the limited study, to answer the question of “how much effects are created on the livelihood of the rural people from community forestry initiatives?” is still questionable.

Some case studies on the impact of community forestry on the different aspect of livelihood assets have been carried out. Kanel & Niraula, 2003 focused on the financial aspect of livelihood (Kanel & Niraula, 2003). Dev et.al., in his study in eastern mid-hills, found the positive impact in terms of improved level and security of forest product and benefit flow, household income generating opportunities, support for community infrastructure and development activities but the impact was below their potential (Dev et.al, 2003). Yadav, 2004, pointed out that community forest provides regular and seasonal employment to users as forest watchers, nursery foremen, and office secretaries and seasonal labor for harvesting. Unfortunately, former study are lacking in the Terai region to find out the contribution of community forestry in livelihood enhancement of users with respect to employment generation. This study has attempted to see the contribution of community forestry in livelihood enhancement of users group in terai region.

### **1.3 Research Questions**

The main research question of this study

- a) What are the resources generated by community forest user groups?
- b) What is the present condition of rural livelihood (relating five assets) in the study area?
- c) Are the assets equitably accessible to rural poor?
- d) What is the contribution of community forestry for livelihood of Mayalu CFUG HHs?
- e) What is the situation of employment generation through community forestry initiatives?

### **1.4 Objectives of the Study**

The general objective of the study is to assess the contribution of community forestry in livelihoods enhancement of users groups. The specific objectives are as follows;

- ) To assess the different resources owned by community forest User group.
- ) To analyze the status of various rural livelihood opportunities and their access to different level of users.

### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

Although the study area is very small in comparison to the total area covered by the community forestry programme in Nepal, it is hoped that the outcome of this study can give the indication of the trends occurring in the implementation of community forestry programme in relation to the participation, awareness and the utilization of forest resources there by its relation to livelihoods improvement of rural community in the district. The students and researchers who are willing to get knowledge and idea about the contribution of CF in livelihoods empowerment of rural community and ultimately to rural development in Nepal will be directly benefited by the findings of the study. Besides, the research will provide valuable insights for the agencies supporting the whole community forestry process in Nepal. The study will generate relevant information and establish processes that will be useful to all stakeholders, for the development of support strategies for further promotion of community forestry in the wider sense. In earlier stages of community forestry, most of the FUGs were



conservative in their management and utilization of forest products. They focused on the protection of community forest with limited use. Present community forestry has crossed the protection phase and is moving towards the productive stage because the needs of users are increasing and this cannot be fulfilled by the protection mechanism. The forest requires appropriate productive mechanisms, i.e. based on silviculture operations, which can help to fulfill the needs of local people. The productive role of forest in particular is to provide materials and be of economic value directly to the local community as well as having other indirect benefits to people. The findings seem to be useful to planners and implementers in making modifications in existing strategies that, in turn, could improve programme implementation in the district and subsequently contribute to community forestry development in Nepal.

### **1.6 Organization of the Study**

The report is divided in six chapters. First chapter deals about the Introduction of the study and second chapter deals about literature review regarding the study. Research Method is included in third chapter. Similarly, the fourth chapter deals about physical setting of study area and fifth chapter have analysis of the findings and discussion with relevant with the objectives and the sixth chapter have summary and conclusion of the study.

## CHAPTER II

### Literature Review

This chapter discusses previous studies and other significant information related to this research. Encompassed subject areas include historical background of forest management in Nepal, concept of community forestry, community forestry in Nepal, policy and regulatory environment of community forestry, community forestry development process, people's participation in forest resource management, potential benefit of income generation through community forestry, rural livelihoods empowerment through community forestry, achievements and challenges of community forestry in Nepal.

#### 2.1. Historical Background of Forest Management in Nepal

History indicates that interest of the government in forest management emerged only after the overthrow of the Rana regime in 1950. The first forestry policy was written in 1953/54. Though the policy recognized the importance of forests for meeting subsistence needs, it was never implemented. To prevent the destruction of forest wealth and to ensure the adequate protection, maintenance and utilization of privately owned forests, The Private Forest National *Act* was passed in 1957 and all forestlands were brought under the control of the Forest Department. However, due to lack of human, financial and other resources needed to put all accessible forests under proper management, government could not achieve the above objective and hence, widespread indiscriminate cutting of forests. The government passed *The Forest Act, 1961* to protect, manage and utilize the forest efficiently. For strengthening the role of the Forest Department, The Forest Conservation Act, 1967 was introduced. However, these Acts also could not help to control the deterioration of forest. ( Yadab 2009 )

In 1975, a conference was convened in Kathmandu to consider various issues relating to the management of forests in Nepal. The conference was followed by the formation of a working group charged with the task of formulating a plan to guide the future development of forestry in Nepal. This culminated in the publishing of the National Forestry Plan in 1976, which provided a policy base for initiating forestry development work in the hills area that had been largely ignored (Gilmour and Fisher, 1991).

This was followed by the adoption of Panchayat Forest Rules and Panchayat Protected Forest Rules (1978) that would govern the handing over of government forestland to the local Panchayat, expecting people's participation in the forest management through local political body. These landmark regulations gave formal recognition of the rights of villagers to manage their own forest resources with technical assistance being provided by the Forest Department. The right of villagers was further strengthened by the provision of Decentralization Act, 1982. The model was no longer sustained due to division of forest resources and people as well by political boundary and administration by elected political bodies. ( Yadab 2009 )

Therefore, considering the urgent need to redress the deteriorating forest situation, the government of Nepal, with assistance of ADB and FINNIDA, prepared and implemented a long-term Master Plan for the Forestry Sector (MPFS) in 1989. Twelve programmes have been formulated to meet its long-term and medium-term objectives of all aspects of forestry and forestry-related areas. Out of them, the government has led strong emphasis to Community and Private Forestry Programme. This is the largest programme and recognized as the first priority program by the MPFS. About 47 percent of the whole forestry sector budget is allocated for the community and private forestry programme alone. Community forestry (CF) aims at the development and management of forest resources through the active participation of individual people and communities to meet their basic needs (MFSC, 1989).

The previous acts, rules and regulations were reviewed; drawbacks were identified with the reference of MPFS that recognize the concept of Forest User Groups (FUGs). Consequently, the Forest Act, 1993 and the Forest Regulations, 1995 emerged to implement the CF programme efficiently. The concept of FUGs is simple in that one who protects and manages the forest shall also utilize its products. The central policy thereof is to develop and manage forest resources through active participation of communities to meet their basic needs of forest products. To achieve this, the strategy put forward is to handover all accessible forests to communities to the extent that they are able and willing to manage them. The management of the forests is to be regulated by people's own decision and through CF operational plan. ( Yadab 2009 )

## **2.2. The Concept of Community Forestry**

During the succession of bottom-up development approaches, the pro-industrialization forest development model was challenged in the 1970s. Westoby, a

former economist of FAO, became a strong advocate of a CF programme in the 1970s and played a significant role against forest-based industrialization and emphasized the mobilization of resources for socio-economic development (Gilmour and Fisher, 1991). The concept of CF emerged in response to the failure of the forest industries model to lead to socio-economic development, and partly to the increasing rate of deforestation and forestland degradation in the Third World (Gentle, 2000).

The term social forestry first came to prominence in the 1976 report of the National Commission of Agriculture in India that was used for a program of activities to encourage those who depended on fuel wood and other forest products to produce their own supplies – in order to “lighten the burden on production forestry” (FAO, 1989).

Conceptually, community/social forestry was initially defined as any forest management activity or situation which intimately involves local people in a forestry activity and tree growing activities, for which rural people assume (part of the) management responsibility and from which they derive direct benefit through their own efforts (FAO, 1978).

Gilmour and Fisher (1991) define CF as "the control and management of forest resources by rural people who use them especially for domestic purposes and as an integral part of their farming system". This definition emphasized local control over resources.

The original concept of community forestry was based upon three main elements- fulfillment of the basic needs of fuel wood, fodder and timber at the rural household, supplying food and the environmental stability for cropland and the generation of income and employment in rural communities. The eighth World Forestry Congress (Jakarta, 1978) further endorsed the concept of CF, which was devoted to the theme “Forestry for People” (Gilmour and Fisher, 1991; Gentle, 2000).

Community forestry, according to Arnold (1983), can be defined as “the active involvement and participation of the local people in the planning and execution of tree growing and management to meet their own needs and the government support of the people’s need to be able to grow and manage trees.”(Bhatta 2002)

According to Blender, et al. (1998), managing forests with the express intent of benefiting neighboring communities, is community forestry. The common

denominators in all community forestry programs are their focus on the role of forest-dependent communities in managing resources and in sharing the benefits that flow from those resources.

The Forest Act of Nepal, 1993, defines community forest as “that part of the national forest which the District Forest Officer hands over to the user groups for development, protection, utilization and management in accordance with the operational plan, with authorization to freely fix the prices of the forest products, and to sell and distribute the forest products for the collective benefit and welfare” (HMG/N, 1993).

A key goal of community forestry is the long-term conservation of forest resources. Nevertheless, conservation goals must be integrated with efforts to generate a steady flow of products that meet the needs of local people. The fundamental idea behind social / community forestry is to support directly the sustainable use of forests that provide welfare to the community.

Central to the concept of community forestry is the basic idea of “community.” A community is often defined as the human population that lives within a limited geographical area, shares common interests and carries a common interdependent life.

Different approaches have been adopted for involving local people in forest management in Nepal. For example, CF Programme is intensively practiced in middle hills, Leasehold Forestry Programme has been implemented with dual objectives- to alleviate poverty of people below the poverty line and generate the investment opportunity in the forestry sector, Collaborative forest Management is being implemented in some Terai and inner Terai districts for productive forest management and Buffer Zone Management system is being practiced in the buffer zone of the protected areas (National Parks / Reserves/ Conservation Areas) to make the local people self-sufficient in forest products.

Hence, CF is a participatory forest management system in which local people are involved in the protection, development and utilization of the forest. Nepal has been implementing CF programme through the active participation of local people, called Community Forest User Group (CFUG). The CFUG is an autonomous and corporate body having perpetual succession (HMG/N, 1993). After the registration of its constitution in the concerning District Forest Office, the CFUG is entitled to take over the responsibilities to conserve, develop, use and manage any part of national forest as

community forest. The operational plan (OP) is written by the CFUG in consultation with the field forestry staff. Management of the CF is outlined in the OP. The OP of the particular forest is approved by the concerning District Forest Officer. After the approval of OP, the concerning CFUG receives legal rights over the forest resource. The Forest Act, 1993 allows CFUG to control access to the particular forest and monitor resource extraction. Similarly, CFUG has a right of production and sale of forest product as prescribed in OP, generate funds from various sources, fix the price of forest products, spend the CFUG fund in forest development activities and for community development activities such as roads, education, health, irrigation and drinking water.

Under current arrangements of CF in Nepal, the government owns the land, but CFUGs are entitled to receive the benefits flowing from forests, which provide incentives for managing the forests (Kanel and Niraula, 2003).

### **2.3 Community Forestry in Nepal**

Community forestry program began in Nepal as a problem solving strategy in the late 1970s. The problems to be addressed were of two major types. First, deforestation and deteriorating condition of the forests in the county were believed to be critical and community forestry program was identified as a strategy to combat such problems. Community plantation and handover the authority for the protection and management of local forest to the communities (called Forest Users Group) have been the means of achieving this goal. Second, People were alienated from forestry due to the Private Forest nationalization of 1957 and it was realized that this could pose problems for any conservation efforts in the country. (Chhetri, 1999)

Chhetri (1999) argues that the main objectives of the Community Forestry in Nepal as provided in the policy and legislative documents are : to provide forest products to the local users to meet their subsistence requirements of firewood, fodder, leaf-litter and some timber; and conservation of forest resources through peoples' participation.

Earlier statutes have been specifically harmful to the development and conservation of the Nepalese forests. Their main shortcomings stem from their indifference to, or failure to address, the needs and aspirations of the people who continued to depend on forest products for their very subsistence. Community forestry started in one Village Panchayat in Sindhupalchowk district with the naming of a forest committee by the

District Forest Officer (DFO). The forest committee, having been nominated by the DFO was given authority to decide on the use of forest allotments, which were protected or newly planted by its members. Community forestry was initiated by the villagers supported with the DFO's modest budget, plus small amount of foreign assistance in the form of training and establishment of the nurseries (MPFS, 1988).

## **2.4 Policy and Regulation related to Community Forestry**

### **2.4.1 Forest Act 1993**

Forest Act 1993 evidences a marked shift towards democratizing the regulation of forests. It has repealed conventional forestry laws and paved way for liberalizing forestry initiatives in the Kingdom. Among 13 chapters, Chapter 5 (sections 25-30) and Chapter 9 (sections 41-45) of the Act furnish provisions relating to community forestry processes (HMG/N, 1993).

Under the Act, the District Forest Officers may validate FUGs constituted for being desirous to collectively develop and manage specified forests and utilize products thereof. The Act authorizes the District Forest Officer to hand over portions of national forests so that communities may conserve and manage the forests and adopt independent distribution mechanisms for forest products. Community forest OP forms the basis of such handover and communities may make timely amendments in such plans. It has provisions of penalizing user-group officials or invalidating user-groups and taking back community forests that fail to comply with groups' constitution and OP. The user-groups themselves can penalize their members contravening their codes. The Act also establishes precedence of community forestry over leasing.

The Act is considered the most conducive legal arrangement for the development and promotion of community forestry in the history of Nepal, and in other nations of the globe at present. Community forestry as envisioned in Nepal is perhaps one of the most innovative and truly community-oriented programs in the world (Knisely, 1993).

### **2.4.2 Forest Regulations and Other Statutory Provisions**

Forest Regulations 1995 is the procedural law that enables materializing the Forest Act and relevant policies on community forestry. Chapter 4 of the Regulations stipulates procedures and provisions concerning community forestry.

The provisions and procedures laid out in the rules impart increased autonomy of forest user-groups that are real actors of community forestry, and promote a changeover of governmental role from policing to facilitation.

Similarly the Department of Forests (DOF) has prepared community forestry directives. The directives further simplify matters of determining community forests, formation of users-groups, and handing over of community forests. It further clarifies on registering of users-group, preparation of OPs, establishment of industries, transportation of forest products and withdrawal of community forests and so forth.

The Community and Private Forestry Division under the DoF has prepared Operational Guidelines for the community forestry development program. The guidelines specify the process for planning community forestry. Some other statutory provisions that effect community forestry processes include: Cabinet or Ministerial level decisions, and Departmental circulars.

## **2.5 People's Participation in Approach in Development and forest resources.**

People's participation is an important decisive factor in any development effort. Forest resources have an obvious importance on the economic life of the people living in, around or adjacent to them. T R Pandey ( 1999 ) argues that the daily life of rural households of Nepal who do farming has a close relation with the forest resources. The basic needs of firewood, fodder, animal bedding materials and timbers to support their subsistence requirements is taken from the forest. Jackson and Ingles (1994) argue that CFUGs are motivated to accept the responsibility for forest management because users have a vested interest in the fate of their local forests. This argument is particularly relevant when products from community forests have value in the market, because FUGs have an incentive to ensure that forests are properly managed in order that they can continue to obtain benefits from the sale of products. This argument is unique not only to community forestry but also to other participatory natural resource activities. E.g, Jackson & Ingles. (1994) argues: "...people will act to conserve valuable biological resources in situations where they are organized to take action, have a measure of control over the resource base, have sufficient information and knowledge, and believe that their well-being is dependent on sound, long-term resource management."

Dr. Chhetri (1999) argues that People's participation in actual field practice are believed to be in the community forestry and Conservation and Development



activities which have gained very high level of popularity in Nepal. In many areas of Nepal, where community forestry has been successful, there has been a decrease in the rate of forest degradation and increase in the quality of natural forests, through plantation establishment on marginal lands and improved management of natural forests. Much of the improvement in forest condition, increased vegetation and species diversity can be attributed directly to forest user-group protection and management practices (Blockhus, et al., 1995). Pandey (1999) argues that the quality of the forest resources has been improved compared to its condition before its handover to the communities.

In many Asian countries, attention is turning towards natural forest management as a way to increase forest productivity while preserving biodiversity. Natural forest management is a strategy for enhancing the productivity of a forest as it grows naturally, instead of relying on artificial planting. Because these methods do not depend on heavy doses of costly external input, they are well suited to community-based management effort. Presently, the focus of the community forestry program in Nepal is on natural forest rather than on establishing plantations (Shrestha, 1995).

## **2.6 Potential Benefits of Income Generation through Community Forestry**

Recent experiences in Nepal suggest that community forestry management can yield more subsistence needs and FUGs can generate income from a variety of sources, including the sale of forest products, fees, fines and donations (Yadav, 2004). The income generated from community forests can, and does, play an important role in providing local employment and in developing local markets (Malla, 1993; Jackson and Ingles, 1994). In one study, Jackson and Ingles (1994) estimated that the 2,000 potential FUGs in one hill district could generate Rs. 19,000,000 (US\$ 352,000) each year, or 9.5 times the current budget provided to the local government agencies in the district. They further suggest that the capacity for income generation will expand exponentially as the number of forests handed over to FUGs increases and the condition of new and regenerating forests improves.

The group fund generated from the sale of forest products, levies, and outside grants are the financial capital through the community forestry. The average FUG fund size of about NRs. 8,000 in 1996 has risen to NRs. 13,000. It is reported that there is a balance of about NRs. 100 million among 12,000 FUGs in the country (CFD, 2002).

This amount is almost equivalent to the government's annual forestry development budget allocated to all districts (Pokharel and Nurse, 2004).

Timber and timber products are not the only products available in community plantations. In a study, Jackson et al. (1994) estimated that an area of 130 ha. of well managed pine plantations in the Nepal Australia Community Forestry Project (NACFP) area could potentially generate an annual operating surplus of almost Rs. 1 million (US\$ 18,520) from the sale of surplus timber. Maharjan et al. 2004 in a study of Koshi hills of Nepal observed receiving employment opportunity from resin tapping from the pine trees of the community forests. He also noted that before the forest users engaged in resin tapping, their main occupation was making charcoal and selling it to the local market, but when they were employed in resin tapping work each user made an income of US \$ 100 to 120 in one tapping season.

## **2.7 Sustainable Livelihood Approaches**

Sustainable livelihood is widely used in contemporary writings of the poverty and rural development. The welfare definition of livelihood has recently been broadened to recognize the importance of access to assets. Poverty is defined as insufficient assets (natural, physical, financial, human, and social) or lack of an appropriate mix of assets, to be able to generate or sustain an adequate and sustainable level of livelihood. Livelihood defined in this connection as comprising the capabilities, assets and activities required for a means of living and sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stresses and shocks and maintain or enhance its capabilities both now and in the future. Sustainable livelihood is a way of thinking about the objectives, scope and priorities for development with the ultimate aim of poverty elimination (DFID, 2001).

The development of sustainable livelihoods has become the central theme in the quest for the alleviation of poverty. The historical emphasis on the efficient utilization of natural resources has been superseded by a more holistic approach to focus on all livelihood assets and to identify the best entry points to promote change. There are several tools for understanding the poverty and sustainable livelihoods as widely used in present context. Such as;

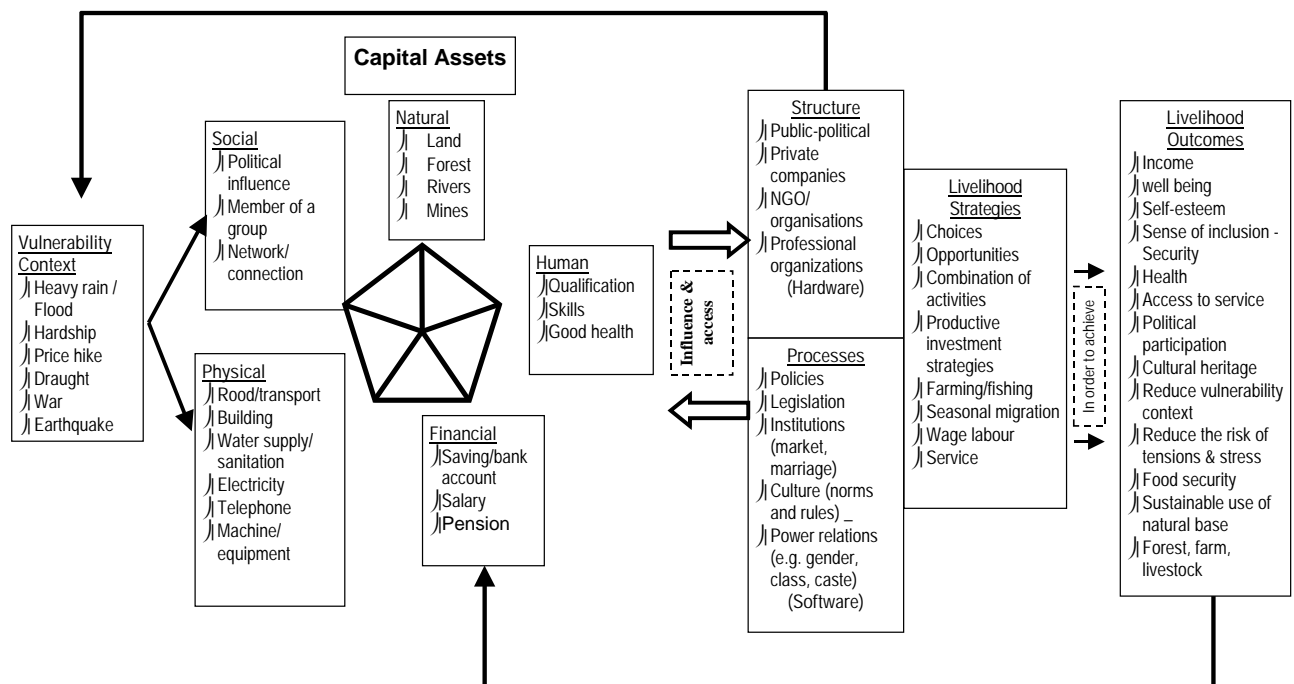
DFID's Sustainable Livelihood (SL) Framework

UNDP's Sustainable Livelihood (SL) Framework

## CARE's Livelihood Model

### Oxfam's Sustainable Livelihood (SL) Analysis

Out of these tools, the DFID's SL framework is used as conceptual framework for overall research work because DFID approach has emphasized the natural resources as key component of livelihood in the rural community. It is a holistic approach that tries to capture, and provide a means of understanding the vital causes and dimensions of poverty without collapsing the focus onto just a few factors. The conceptual framework (Fig 2.1) shows number of basic elements of the livelihood in the Community Forestry. The livelihood framework is a tool to improve our understanding of livelihoods, particularly the livelihoods of the poor. The framework presents the main factors that affect people's livelihoods, and typical relationships between them. It can be used in both planning new development activities and assessing the contribution to livelihood sustainability made by existing activities (DFID, 2001).



**Figure 2.1: Sustainable livelihood/ conceptual framework adopted from DFID,**

**2001**

## **2. 8 Rural Livelihood enhancement through Community Forestry**

Jackson and Ingles (1994) observed that effective participation of local people is essential for making community development work. Community Forestry encourages the participation of local people in decision-making by:

Providing local control over forest management;

Encouraging local participation in defining needs and setting priorities for development;

Encouraging local participation in implementing solutions;

Providing a direct a local source of funds for community development; and

Strengthening local links between development and forest conservation.

FUGs carry out many community development activities on their own. Construction of village trails, small bridges, community building, schools, drinking water, and temples are the examples of community infrastructure supported by CFUGs. Evidences show that a large amount of FUG fund is being spent on various community development activities. For example, analysis of data of NSCFP (2003) indicated that FUGs had spent 39 percent of their FUG fund for community development activities, mainly on construction (21%), education (8%), health (6%), and other (4%) (Pokharel and Nurse, 2004).

The present forest policy, rules and regulations provide the legal rights of the rural people to manage the community forest for their priority needs. The surplus income of user groups could be used for development activities other than forestry. FUG can also raise funds from different sources as indicated in the Act. It is also empowered to acquire use, sell, transfer, or otherwise dispose of mobile or immovable property (Act 93 section 43, clause 3).

Although the basic objective of the community forestry programme is to fulfill the subsistence of forest product to the local people, the new policy allows FUGs to cultivate NTFPs, and any other perennial cash crops as well as the commercialization of community forest products and their processing (ODAs review of PFM, 1996). The initial aim of community and private forestry was to develop and manage forest resources through the active participation of individual people and communities to meet their basic needs (MPFS 1988). If both forest policy statements are compared, it

is clearly shown that community forestry objectives are shifting from basic needs to perceived needs of users.

Community forestry cannot be successful unless it addresses the root issues (social, political and economical in equalities of an area). For this reason, community forestry must be understood as a process of equitable distribution of resource ownership, management and access. Seeing the condition of the forest related to its true cause reveals that effective community forestry is a part of the large process of community development and change. Community forestry is not an end in itself but a tool with which a community can shape and control its resources for future use.

Liz Wily argues that community forestry is playing the role of an agent of social change in many ways. The 'success' of the institution in the form of the FUG is more than socially inclusive forest management. It involves how the organization is already commonly used as a stepping stone to other self determined and self reliant developments, clean drinking water, resting place, path reconstruction, school building and donation for the sick (poor) people or provision of seed money for income generation.

## **CHAPTER III**

### **Research Method**

This chapter describes the rationale of selection of study area, research design, universe of the study, nature and source of data and techniques of data collection.

#### **3.1. Rationale of Selection of the Study Area**

The Dang district, situated in the mid-western development region of the country, was selected for this study. This district is one of the pioneer Terai districts for community forestry initiatives. This district holds the larger number of CFUG in Terai. Many donor-funded projects have been implemented in this district for last 20 years. Other cause of selecting this district for research is the familiarity of the researcher with this district being development worker. The diversity of forest resources and also in social dynamics motivates the researcher for doing research in this district.

Among total of 437, only Mayalu CFUG was selected purposively so that the intensive study has been possible.

#### **3.2 Research Design**

Research design provides a way to reach research objectives. It describes the general framework for collecting, analyzing and evaluating data after identifying: (i) what the researcher wants to know and (ii) what has to be dealt with in order to obtain required information (Wolff and Pant, 2000:74). This study has used the descriptive research design.

#### **3.3. Universe of the study**

Universe of the study comprised all the user households of Mayalu CFUG. All the households were selected as the units of the study.

#### **3.4 Nature and Source of Data Collection**

Both qualitative and quantitative data were used in the research. Data were collected from both primary and secondary sources. Different PRA tools were used for the collection of primary data. Secondary data was collected from different published and unpublished documents of District Forest Office, LFP, CFUG and other relevant

NGOs Office and other published and unpublished relevant literature related to community forestry and livelihood linkage.

### **3.5. Techniques of Data Collection**

Both, quantitative and qualitative data were collected using various methods such as focused group discussion, household survey and key informants interview. The techniques for the collection of data of the study were as follows.

#### **3.5.1 Focused Group Discussion**

Focused Group Discussion was carried out to identify the activities intervened due to the community forestry targeted to poor and deprived community. Distribution pattern of benefit from community forestry identified by group discussion so that study have analyzed the contribution of community forestry to the rural livelihoods. Besides, the public opinion regarding the community forestry and its direct support to their livelihoods also identified by the group discussion. The total households of study were divided in two groups. The support of local resource persons was taken for conduction of FGD. The checklists were used for the discussion.

#### **3.5.2 Household Survey**

The total of 34 households was surveyed for data collection. Detail survey form was used for household survey. One data collector was hired for door to door household survey. Detail information about the benefit to different level of users from community forestry and livelihoods assets and their access to local people, situation of employment generation activities and its distribution and opportunity of social empowerment activities and its distribution pattern was identified by the household survey.

#### **3.5.3. Interview**

Key informants interview was carried out to understand the role of community forestry in livelihoods of study area. DFO, Assigned Ranger, CFUG chairman, women representative from executive committee, A dalit households involved in IGA supported by CFUG were selected for the interview. Contribution of CFUG fund to the different level activities such as infrastructure development, pro poor income generating activities, education etc. were identified from the key informants.

#### **3.5.4. Study of Operational Plan of CFUG**

For the purpose of the study of forest condition analysis, the inventory report in the approved operational plan was the base. The inventory report was analyzed to predict the supply situation of the CFUGs as Natural assets.

#### **3.6. Data Presentation and Analysis**

Socio-economic data were both qualitative and quantitative in characters. The quantitative data were analyzed by using descriptive statistical tools i.e. percentage, mean, standard deviation and presentation is displayed through table, graphs, chart etc. In the same way qualitative data have been presented in descriptive way. The necessary summarization and conclusion are undertaken after analyzing the information.

#### **3.7. Limitation of the Study**

This study especially covered a community forest in Dang from where the people are getting forest resources. The findings and recommended strategies can be applicable within the district as well as to some other parts of the country, but cannot serve as a basis for making a generalization of the true situation of CFUGs in the entire country.

- ) This study covers only a community forest out of 437 community forest in the district. The study may not represent entire community forests.
- ) Due to lack of base line information the information about the situation before the community forest intervention are basically based on the memory of the respondents.



## CHAPTER IV

### Physical Setting of Study Area

#### 4.1 Dang District

Dang district is situated in mid -western development region which is more developed in the trade and industrial sector and more fertile land among the five districts of Rapti zone of Nepal. It is made up of by two big valleys, Dang and Deukhari. Within the two valleys, there are other small valleys, such as Tui Dang.

Dang district lies between 27<sup>0</sup>37' to 28.2 latitude and 82<sup>0</sup>2' to 82.54 longitudes. It is 300 km away from Kathmandu valley. The elevation ranges from 213m to 2058m above mean sea level. The climate of Dang district varies from sub-tropical to tropical temperature and also there is mild and cool temperature in the hilly area. The district receives an average rainfall of 1254mm. It has two municipalities and 39 VDCs, 5 parliamentary representative election sectors, 13 DDC units. The district headquarters is Ghorahi. The total population of the district is 4,62,380 of which 2,28,958 ( 49.51%) are male and 2,33,422 (50.49%)are female. Population density is 56.47 persons per sq. km (CBS 2001). The number of household in the district is 82495 and average household size is 5.60 members per household. The literacy rate of this district is 59.9 percent. The female literacy rate is 49.4 percent whereas the male literacy rate is 70.5 percent. The occupation is agriculture that plays the important role for the livelihood of the peoples of this district. Main castes of this district include Brahmin, Chhetri, Kami (Blacksmith), Sunar (Goldsmith), Damai (Tailor) and Sarki (Cobbler). Among ethnic groups, dominant ethnic groups are Tharu, Magar and Raute.

According to the ICIMOD publication, District of Nepal: Indicators of Development 1997 Dang district ranks 30<sup>th</sup> among the country's 75 district on development scale. About 64.7% area of the district is covered by forest with increasing rate of 0.16% annually (DoF, 2005). Out of the total 194262 ha of forest and degraded forest area, 89721.5 ha is handed over as community forest. Altogether 437 no of community forest are functioning in the district (DFO, 2010). The district covers three types of climatic condition. Northern part of district lies in Mahabharat range, middle part covers dun valley and siwalik range and lower part is covered by Deukhuri valley. Due to this variation in climatic and landscape, Dang district is rich in both floral and

faunal diversity. In the lower part, Sal (*Shorea robusta*) is dominant species where as in the upper part pine becomes common. *Acacia catechu*, *Terminalia tomentosa*, *Dalbergia sissoo*, are other major species found in the forest of Dang district.

## 4.2 The Social Characteristics of Mayalu CFUG

Mayalu community forest lays in the ward no 11 of Tulsipur Municipality. The forest is plantation forest. Total area of the forest is only 16 ha. It was established in 2056 when the users planted different species like Sisoo, Khair and Epil-epil in the streambed near the village. Different types of grass are now sufficiently grown near the streamside. Kurilo Plantation is held in about 15 Kattha of Land in this CF.

### 4.2.1. Population

34 households are covered by selected CFUG and total benefited populations are 279 of which 143 are female. Mayalu CF is a community forest managed by homogeneous group. All users are from indigenous tharu community.

FUG has divided the total households into four groups on the basis of wellbeing. The major basis for wellbeing is land holding. According the record of FUG the basis of wellbeing is presented as follow.

- ) Rich : The households holding more than 1 hector land
- ) Medium : The households holding more than 0.25 hector to 1 hector land
- ) Poor : The Households holding less than 0.25 hector land
- ) Very Poor : The households holding no land.

**Table 4.1: The detail wellbeing status of CFUG households is presented as follow.**

Total hhs	Rich	Medium	Poor	Very Poor
34	4 ( 11.7% )	5(14.7%)	17 (50%)	8 (23.5%)

Source: field data, 2011

#### 4.2.2. Economy

The major source of economy of the users of the selected CFUG is the agriculture and livestock farming. Out of the 34 users, major source of economy of 26 households was agriculture. For the additional income, eight users of the CFUG has been involved in NTFP farming ( Kurilo Farming ) with the support of CFUG fund. 10 Youths from the CFUG coverage area have been in abroad for employment. 3 of the total population are teacher of Local Primary School.

#### 4.2.3. Education

Majority of the population are illiterate. Out of the total population 21 have passed the SLC. Among them 9 are female. The total users are aware on the importance of education and sending their children to school. The detail of the status of literacy is presented in table as follow.

**Table 4.2: Detail status of literacy of selected hhs.**

# of Illiterate hhs		# of Literate hhs		# of total population		# of total hhs
Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
45	112	91	31	136	143	279

Source: field data, 2011

#### 4.2.4. Resources

The beginning when the forest was handover to users, there were no sufficient resource. After two years of plantation, conservation and grazing control, grass cover developed and now necessary expenses are collecting through the sales of thatch grass. The users of this CF are protecting the forest on rotational watching system (Palo Pahara System). People are getting sufficient grass, timber and firewood from the forest. Energy requirement is being fulfilled by agricultural residue and dung cake. Eight poor farmers have been involved in Kurilo cultivation for last two years.



## CHAPTER V

### Result and Discussion

This chapter discusses of resources of the study CFUG and analysis of various livelihoods opportunities and their access to different level of users.

#### 5.1. Resources owned by community users groups.

Study has identified that community forest user group have different natural and other resources which are presented as follow.

##### 5.1.1. Natural Resources

Mayalu Community Forest Users Group is benefiting from different natural resources available in their forest such as timber, firewood, grass and other non timber forest products. Users are getting timber from their forest for building house. Groups provide the timber in low rate to its user. User is getting timber at the rate of Rs 400 per q/fit. Firewood as fuel for cooking is used by users which are available in forest. Grass is also available in the forest which is contributing to the livestock bearing by users. The resources like timber and grass are also sold by the groups to non user households in high rate which is the main source of income of FUG.

##### 5.1.2. Human Resources

Mayalu CFUG has skilled human resources. CFUG has developed different skilled local resource persons in the sector of forest management, NTFP farming, livestock bearing, vegetable farming, bamboo furniture etc. Details of Local Resource Persons are presented as follow.

**Table 5.1: Details of LRPs developed by FUG**

SN	No of LRPs	Sector	Female LRPs
1	2	Vegetable Farming	1
2	2	Vatenary	0
3	3	Bamboo Furniture	1
4	8	NTFP ( Kurilo farming )	4
5	3	Nursery Management	2
Total	18		8

Source: field data, 2011

Users are getting technical support from LRPs in their required sector. LRPs are also earning money providing technical support to local communities. LRPs some time goes neighboring village to work.

## **5.2. Livelihoods opportunities and their access to different level of users**

This study has identified that Mayalu CFUG has created different livelihoods opportunities such as self employment, Permanent and temporary employment etc. Group has established a IGA revolving fund targeted to poor households. Users get money from revolving fund as loan in low rate of interest (6 percent) for running IGA such as vegetable farming, Fishery, NTFP farming, Small Enterprise running etc. FUG has supported to the skill development training, Exposures, Loan for foreign employment etc. Some major interventions of CFUG have been given as follows.

### **5.2.1. NTFP Cultivation & Processing**

CFUG has allocated the open area of forest land for the NTFP cultivation. 2 hectares land has been allocated to the eight poor household of the group. They have cultivated KURRLO in the allocated land. It has been alternate employment to the poor users in the leisure time of their agricultural work. CFUG has provided the users with 7 days Kurilo farming. A case about the KURILO Farming has been presented as follow.

### **Case Study 1: Case of NTFP Cultivation**

Mayalu CFUG has allocated about 1 ha of land for NTFP cultivation. In First year, four household were involved in the program. Next year other four households were motivated for NTFP cultivation. Altogether, 8 poor households were involved in the program. All were from Tharu community. CFUG has allocated about 4 Katthas of land for each household. They have cultivated Kurilo. The seed was provided from the LFP and technical support was provided from district forest office. Averages of 800 plants were planted in each households plot. This year, the first lot has been harvested with an average of 1 kg crude tuber per plant. About 1600 kg crude tuber extracted from single persons plot. 15 to 20 % dry matter could be found from the crude tuber. Each household will be able to sale at least 300 kg of Kurilo. The market price of Kurilo is 200-250/kg . By this figure it is expected that, every household can earn minimum of Rs. 60,000 to 80,000 from the investment of total 25 days during the time of cultivation ( 1<sup>st</sup> Year) and average of 30 days in the time of harvesting and processing (2<sup>nd</sup> Year). Total of 55 days labor can fetch Rs.80, 000 in two years. This practice may become excellent toll for income generation if expanded in other CF as well. Now CFUG has planned to support the Kurilo farmig to other users of the groups.

#### **5.2.2. IGA Revolving Fund Management**

The study has identified that the Mayalu CFUG has established a Pro-poor IGA revolving fund. The fund has been focused for IGA support to the poor user households. Rs 50 thousand had been allocated for revolving fund. It's been 4 years the group is running RV. Now the fund has been increased to Rs 62 thousands. Group provides loan for IGA with low rate of interest (six percent) for not exceeding one year duration. Total of 20 households has been benefited from the revolving fund. The benefited households are running different IGA such as vegetable farming, Goat Keeping, small grocery Shop etc which are given below.

**Table 5.2: Details of IGA activities run with revolving fund.**

SN	Name of IGA	No of HHs benefited	Percentage out of total	Remarks
1	Vegetable Farming	6	30	Out of total Benefited HHs
2	Goat keeping	3	15	
3	Small grocery shop	3	15	
4	Kurilo farming	8	40	
Total		20	58.8	Out of total HHs ( 34 )

Source: field data, 2011

The study has identified that the Benefited households are earning good money from IGA. The details of income of IGA of fiscal year 2066/67 is presented as follow

**Table 5.3: Details of income of IGA of fiscal year 2066/67**

SN	Name of IGA	Income per HHs in Rs
1	Vegetable Farming	37000.00
2	Goat keeping	43000.00
3	Small grocery shop	61000.00
4	Kurilo farming	40000.00
Total		181000.00

Source: field data, 2011

### **5.2.3. Skill Development Training**

Mayalu CFUG has supported users for skill development training. Various skill development training has provided to users such as Veg farming training, nursery management training, veterinary training, bamboo furniture production training etc. The support of skill development training has contributed to the promotion of self employment among the users. Total of 23 users have got skill development training with support of CFUG. The beneficiaries of training are making good money with their skill. Some of them have established their own business and other are working as



technician in local and adjoin VDCs. The details of the beneficiaries and their annual income of the year 2066/67 have been presented below.

**Table 5.4: Details of beneficiaries of skill development training**

SN	Name of Training	No of total beneficiaries	# of female ben.	Percentage total beneficiaries out of total ben.	Remarks
1	Veg farming	11	6	47	Out of total beneficiaries
2	Vetenary	3	1	13	
3	Nursery Management	2	1	8.6	
4	Bamboo furniture Production	7	3	30.4	
5	Total	23	11	67.6	Out of Total Users

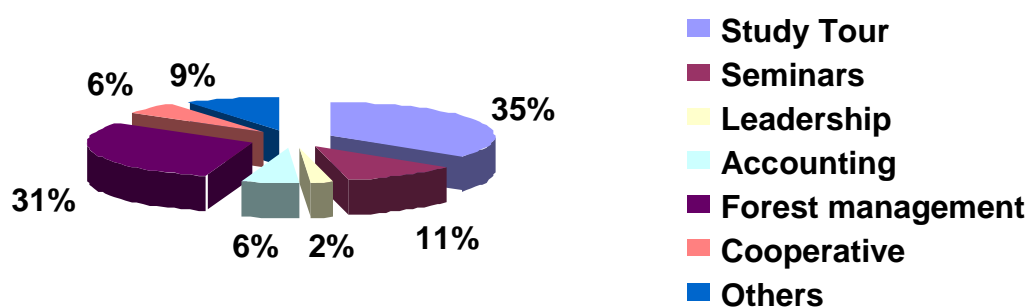
Source: field data, 2011

#### 5.2.4. Awareness Program

The selected CFUG has often provides opportunities to users to participant in different awareness program. Only 31% users hhs have participated in awareness program. The major awareness program participated by the users were study tour, seminars/ workshop, leadership training, co-operative trainings and others.

##### 5.2.4.1 Type of Awareness program

The major awareness programs which the users participated were study tour and forest management training. Majority (35%) hhs participated in study tour followed by forest management training. 11% hhs were participated in seminar and workshop.



**Figure 5.1: Type of Awareness Program**

### 5.2.5 Permanent Employment

The employee might be changed; some types of employments were permanent type. Forest watcher and office bearer were permanent type of employment. In the study area, there were 3 permanent employees for year round. Out of them 1 was forest watcher and rests were office bearer.

### 5.2.6 Temporary Employment

Users were getting employment from CF. Employment were temporary and daily wages types but the amount was remarkable. Employment related data were presented as follows;

**Table 5.5: Details of Temporary Employment in FY 2066/67**

<b>CFUG</b>	<b>Work Day</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Total Wage</b>
Mayalu	364	100/day	36400

Source: field data, 2011

### 5.2.7 Forest Products Sale outside of the CFUG

The study has identified the CFUG sells the surplus timber to outside the FUG users group. The Mayalu CFUG has sold total of 200 Cft. outside the FUG in the year of 2066/67. The earning from timber is deposited in bank as FUG fund.

## CHAPTER VI

### Summary and Conclusion

#### 6.1 Summary

Community forestry practices in Nepal has been celebrated its 32<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In the beginning, this practice had the priority of basic need fulfillment of the users but now community forestry practices not only limited in providing forestry products to the users but also supporting rural development in broader sense. Employment opportunity can support sustainable livelihood of the poor by coping the stress in the time of leisure from agricultural work by providing extra income to the household level. This study has emphasized the aim of finding out the impact of community forestry in livelihoods enhancement users group particularly in dang district. To achieve the above general objective, some specific objectives as to analyze various livelihood capitals and their access to people, to find out the community forestry contribution in rural livelihoods enhancement and lastly to find out the employment opportunity generated by community forest management were set for the study.

This study was carried out in Mayalu CFUG of dang district. Focus group discussion, face-to face household survey, formal as well as informal discussion with DFO and other concern agencies and study of relevant literature including the operational plan of the selected CFUG were the basic methods adopted together the information. All qualitative as well as quantitative information were analyzed using the computer MS-Excel.

All together 34 households were surveyed during the field study. Out of them, 23.5% had very poor well-being status; 50 % had poor, 14.7 % had medium well-being status. Only 11.7 % respondents were from rich well-being status. All the respondents were homogeneous in composition.

Agriculture was the major occupation of the respondents, 76 % respondents had agricultural occupation

FUG has supported poor users for IGA activities. 20 poor households are running different IGA such as vegetable farming, goat keeping, bamboo furniture production etc. NTFP farming (Kurilo farming ) has been running in open land of forest through poor households. 2 hector of land has been allocated by the FUG for cultivating

Kurilo. 8 poor households have been benefited by NTPF farming. 23 users have got the different skill development training such as vegetable farming, bamboo furniture production, veterinary etc. The skill development training has contributed to the promotion of self employment among users. FUG has created permanent and temporary job to the users. 3 persons have benefited by permanent employment among them 1 is watch man and rest of them are office staff.

This study has highlighted the potentiality of future employment generation through intensive management of productive forest and NTFP promotion in CF through short term lease to the poor users.

## **6.2 Conclusion**

- ) The CFUG has generated different natural (timber, firewood, grass, NTFP) and human resources (skilled LRPs in different sector) which has directly supported to the livelihoods of users.
- ) Poor and medium level users have been directly benefited by the IGA revolving fund established by the CFUG.
- ) Skill development training provided by CFUG to users has contributed to the promotion of self employment in local level.
- ) Different awareness program run by FUG has empowered the users which has contributed to the social, economical and human empowerment of users.

I have come in conclusion that CF has contributed positively in livelihood enhancement of user groups.

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## **ANNEX 1: Checklists for observations, group discussions, and meetings**

### 1.1. Checklist for observations

#### 1. Observation at home and homestead

Use of timber and non-timber forest resources in the house/ household goods

Type & number of livestock (local, hybrids), rearing pattern (stall feeding, grazing).

General observation of private trees

#### 2. Observation on farmland

Private trees on farm land

#### 3. Observation on community forests (if any related activities are going on and forest condition)

Forest development works (plantation, protection etc)

Harvesting and utilization of timber forage

Protection system (watcher, fencing/ trench)

Forest condition (coverage, regeneration trends)

Grazing pressure

#### 4. Observation on meeting/ assembly

Participation of (poor & women) in community forestry activities

Information sharing process

Decision making process

Minute/ record keeping process



## 1.2. Checklist for group discussions

Participants: Focused to poor (one women and another men & women mixed groups)

Group size: 7- 13 participants, a facilitator and a reporter

Time frame: 2-3 hours.

Methods: PRA tools like informal discussion, resource mapping, trend line

Materials: Locally available materials, flip charts, marker and tape recorder (if possible)

S.N.	Objectives	Methods
1.	Identify access and control of forest resource before and after CF system	Group discussion
2.	Identify income and employment opportunity in forestry work before and now	Group discussion
3.	Asses decision making and benefit sharing system in CFUG	Group discussion
4.	Identify major strengths/ weakness and their consequences of the community forestry program	Group discussion
5.	Identify changes in livelihood assets	Group discussion
6.	Observation of infrastructure construction and consequences (trench, canals, village road etc)	Group discussion

## 1.3 Checklist for Community Forestry User Committee Office Records

1. Records of the involvement of human resources in different forest management and development work.
2. Fund expenses (2067/8)
3. Direct Employment
4. If available, records of partial or full employee
5. Involvement employment and/or self employment after training

## ANNEX-2: Questionnaires Format for HH Survey

### घरधुरी सर्वेक्षण फारम

मेरो नाम तिलक प्रसाद सापकोटा हो । म त्रिभुवन विश्वविद्यालय समाजशास्त्र संकायमा स्नातकोत्तर तहमा अध्ययनरत छु । मैले आफ्नो अध्ययनको क्रममा यो घरधुरी सर्वेक्षण गरीरहेको छु । यस सर्वेक्षणको उद्देश्य सामुदायीक वन बाट ग्रामिण विकासमा भएको योगदान सम्बन्धि निश्कर्ष निकाल्नु रहेको छ । सबै जानकारीहरु अत्यन्त गोप्य र बेनामी तरीकाले विश्लेषण गरीनेछन् । कुनै जानकारीहरु पनि अध्ययन प्रयोजन बाहेक अन्य कार्यमा प्रयोग नगरीने र कुनै तेश्रो व्यक्तिलाई उपलब्ध गराईने छैन । जानकारीहरु केवल अनुसन्धान रिपोर्ट तयार गर्न मात्र प्रयोग गरीने छन् । त्यसकारण तपाईंहरुलाई आफ्नो विचार खुलस्त र निस्पक्ष ढंगले व्यक्त गरी मेरो अध्ययनलाई वास्तविक र सत्य तथ्य बनाई दिनुहुन अनुरोध गर्दछु ।

उपभोक्ता समुह

स्तरीकरण श्रेणी:

उत्तरदाताको नाम :

लिंग: पु. । म.

उमेर:

उत्तरदाताको पेशा:

शैक्षिक योग्यता:

क) निरक्षर

ख) साक्षर

ग) एस. एल. सि.

घ) उच्च शिक्षा

परीवार संख्या:

१. तपाईंको परीवारको स्वामीत्वमा रहेको जग्गा जग्गा उल्लेख गर्नुहोस (बिगाहामा)

.....

२. तपाईंको घरमा घर पालुवा जनावरहरु छन वा छैनन् ? छन । छैनन्  
छन भने, चरण प्रकृया कस्तो छ

घर पालुवा जनावर	सामुदायीक वन हस्तान्तरण भन्दा अगाडी		२०६२/२०६३	
	घरमै बाँधेर राख्ने	चराउन लैजाने	घरमै बाँधेर राख्ने	चराउन लैजाने
भैँस				
गाई गोरु				
भेडा बाख्रा				

३. के तपाईंसंग वैकल्पिक ऊर्जा श्रोत छ ? यदि छ भने कहिले र कस्को सहयोगमा सुरुगर्नु भएको हो ?

छ	छैन	किसिम	सहयोगी संस्था		
			सामुदायीक वन	अन्य	आफ्नै श्रोत
		सौर्य उर्जा			
		गोबर ग्याँस			
		विद्युत			
		मट्टितेल स्टोभ			
		आधुनिक चुल्हो			
		अन्य			

४. तपाईंको परिवारका सदस्यहरु कुनै जागरण कार्यक्रममा सहभागी भएका छन् ?  
क) छैन ख) छैनन्

छैन भने,

कार्यक्रम	सहभागी		आयोजक	
	पुरुष	महिला	सामुदायीक वन	अन्य
शैक्षिक भ्रमण				
कार्यशाला गोष्ठी				
नेतृत्व विकास				
लेखा तालिम				
वन व्यवस्थापन				
सहकारी व्यवस्थापन				
अन्य				

५. सामुदायीक वन बाट कुनै आयमुलक तालिम र रोजगारीका अवसर पाएको भए, कृपया खुलस्त हुनुहोस ।

कार्यक्रम	तालिम पछी		आयोजक	
	रोजगार	ब्यवसाय	सामुदायीक वन	अन्य
पशु पालन				
स्वास्थ्य उपचार				
कखुरा पालन				
कृषि				
नर्सरी व्यवस्थापन				
माहुरी पालन				
अन्य				

६. के तपाईं तलका सामाजिक कार्यमा संलग्न हुनु भएको छ ?

कार्यको विवरण			मानविय श्रम (श्रम दिन)
छ	छैन	सरसफाई	
		बाटो निर्माण	
		बाटो मर्मत	
		स्कूल निर्माण	
		स्कूल मर्मत	
		खाडल निर्माण	
		खाडल मर्मत	
		मचान निर्माण	
		मचान मर्मत	
		चेतनामुलक कार्यशाला	
		अन्य	

७. तपाईं र तपाईंका परिवारका सदस्यहरुको देहायका सुबिधामा कतिको पहुँच छ ?

सुबिधा	२०५८	२०६३
	लाग्ने समय	लाग्ने समय
खाने पानी		
स्कूल		
स्वास्थ्य		
सिंचाई		
पशु स्वास्थ्य		
विद्युत		
बैंक		
मोटर बाटो		
अन्य		

८. तपाईं वा तपाईंका परीवारका सदश्यहरु आय आर्जनको कार्य वा कुनै लघु उद्यम कार्य मा संलग्न हुनुहुन्छ ?  
 क) छ ख) छैन  
 यदि छ भने, कृपया प्रमुख कार्यहरु भनिदिनु हुन्छ कि ? क) ख) ग)
९. के तपाईंलाई सामुदायीक वन उपभोक्ता समुह बारे थाहा छ ? क) छ ख) छैन
१०. तपाईं वा तपाईंका घरका सदश्यहरु सा व मा कस्तो प्रकारको सदश्य हुनु हुन्छ ?  
 क) कार्यकारीणी सदस्य ख) साधारण सदस्य
११. तपाईं बैठकमा जानुहुन्छ ? क) जान्छु ख) जादैन  
 यदि जानुहुन्छ भने, कती पटक  
 क) सधैं ख) प्रायः ग) पटक, पटक घ) कहिले काँहि मात्र जान्छु
१२. तपाईं बैठकमा कस्तो भूमिका निभाउनु हुन्छ ?  
 क) कृयाशिल ख) निस्कृय ग) केवल उपस्थित हुने र कुनै हस्तक्षेप नगर्ने
१३. तपाईंले तलका मध्ये कुन कुन कार्यमा समुहले निर्णय गर्दा आफ्नो भूमिका निर्वाह गर्नु हुन्छ ?  
 क) वन पैदावार बिक्रि वितरण ख) समुहको कोष परीचालन ग) सामाजिक कार्यमा  
 घ) अन्य (कृपया खुलाउनु होस)
१४. तपाईं आफ्ना समितीका सदश्यको बारेमा के सोच्नुहुन्छ ?  
 क) ईमान्दार छन् ख) संकास्पद छन् ग) ठिकै छन् घ) ईस्यालु छन्  
 ड) तटस्थ छन्
१५. तपाईंलाई आफ्नो समुहको नियम कानुनको बारेमा जानकारी छ ? क) छ ख) छैन
१६. तपाईंको समुहले बनाएको नियम कानून प्रति तपाईं कती सन्तुष्ट हुनु हुन्छ ?  
 क) पूर्ण सन्तुष्ट ख) सन्तुष्ट ग) तटस्थ घ) सन्तुष्ट छैन ड) एकदमै सन्तुष्ट छैन
१७. तपाईंको समुहले विधान तथा कार्य योजना तयार गर्दा तपाईं संग छलफल गरेको थियो ?  
 क) थियो ख) थिएन
१८. तपाईंको सामुदायीक वन हस्तान्तरण हुनु भन्दा पहिला कुन अवस्थामा थियो ?  
 क) साह्रै राम्रो ख) राम्रो ग) खराब घ) धेरै खराब
१९. तपाईंको सामुदायीक वन हस्तान्तरण भए पछि कुन अवस्थामा परीवर्तन भै रहेको छ ?  
 क) धेरै सुधारात्मक ख) सुधारात्मक ग) कुनै परीवर्तन छैन घ) खराब  
 ड) धेरै खराब
२०. गत वर्षमा तपाईं वा तपाईंका परीवारका सदश्य वन व्यवस्थापन कार्यमा संलग्न हुनु भएको थियो कि थिएन ?  
 क) छु ख) छैन
२१. तपाईं यदि संलग्न हुनु भएको भए कति पटक संलग्न हुनु भएको थियो ?  
 क) एक पटक ख) दुई पटक ग) तिन पटक घ) चार वा चार पटक भन्दा बढि पटक
२२. कुन प्रकारको वन व्यवस्थापन कार्य तपाईंको सामुदायीक वनमा भैरहेको ?  
 क) एकल्याउने ख) हाँगा काट्ने ग) पत्ल्याउने घ) गोडमेल ड) सरसफाई  
 च) वृक्षारोपण छ) अन्य (प्रश्न पार्नुहोस)
२३. के तपाईंको सामुदायीक वनमा समुहका सदश्यहरु जडिबुटिको बारेमा सचेत छन् ?  
 क) छन् ख) छैनन् ग) थाहा छैन  
 यदि छन् भने कुन कार्यक्रम संचालन गरीरहेका छन् ?  
 क) नर्सरी स्थापना ख) जडिबुटि खेती ग) जडिबुटि संकलन घ) अन्य
२४. तपाईंको समुहमा वन पैदावार वितरण कसरी हुन्छ ?  
 क) सबै लाई बराबर ख) समानुपातीक ग) लिलामी बाट घ) आवश्यकता अनुसार
२५. गरीव तथा पिछडीएको वर्गको लागी सामुदायीक वनबाट वन पैदावार वितरणमा कस्तो व्यवस्था छ ?  
 क) निःशुल्क ख) न्यून मुल्यांकनमा ग) समान मुल्यांकनमा

२६. तपाईंको विचारमा तपाईंको समुहले गरीब तथा पिछडीएको वर्गको लागि कुनै विशेष योजना तर्जुमा गरेको छ ?  
 क) छ ख) आंशिक छ ग) छैन घ) थाहा छैन

२७. उपभोक्ता समुहमा महिलाको विचारको कत्तिको सम्मान हुन्छ ?  
 क) सधै हुन्छ ख) प्रायः हुन्छ ग) कहिले काँहि हुन्छ घ) हुदैन

२८. तपाईंलाई आफ्नो समुहको कोष प्रति कत्तिको चासो छ ?  
 क) सधै छ ख) प्रायः छ ग) मलाई मतलब छैन घ) कार्यालय संचालकले बताउन चाहदैनन

२९. तपाईंको समुहको कोषमा भएको रकम बारे तपाईंलाई थाहा छ ?  
 क) छ ख) छैन

३०. सामुदायीक बनले आयोजना गर्ने भौतिक निर्माण र बन व्यवस्थापन कार्यमा संलग्न हुनुभएको छ ? क) छ ख) छैन

३१. यदि छ भने, कृपया कुन काममा कति दिन काम पाउनु भयो ? बताईदिनुहोस ।

कार्यक्रम	संलग्न दिन		आमदानी
	पुरुष	महिला	

३२. सामुदायीक बनको काममा दिईने ज्याला कुन दरमा छ ?

कामको किमीम	कामदार		ज्याला दर	
	महिला	पुरुष	महिला	पुरुष

धन्यवाद