

Socio- economic Impact of Community Forestry
(A Case Study of Tokme Danda CFUG of Fungling and Dokhu VDC of
Taplejung District)

A
Thesis
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Development

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RECOMMENDATION

This is to certify that Mr. Yogendra Dahal has completed the thesis entitled "Socio-economic impact of community forestry". A case study of Tokme Danda Community Forestry in Taplejung district under my supervision and guidance. I, therefore, recommend this thesis for final evaluation and acceptance.

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Approval Letter

The thesis entitled "**Socio-economic Impact of Community Forestry**" (A Case Study of Tokme Danda Community Forest User Group of Fungling and Dokhu VDC of Taplejung District) submitted by **Mr. Yogendra Dahal** in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master's Degree (M.A.) in Rural Development has been approved by the evaluation committee.

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Declaration

I hereby declare that the thesis entitled "**Socio-economic Impact of Community Forestry**" (A Case Study of Tokme Danda Community Forest User Group of Fungling and Dokhu VDC of Taplejung District) submitted to the Department of Rural Development, Tribhuvan University, Mahendra Ratna Multiple Campus, Ilam is entirely my original work prepared under the guidance and supervision of my supervisor. I have made due acknowledgements to all ideas and information borrowed from different sources in the course of preparing this thesis. The results of this thesis have not been presented or submitted anywhere else for the award of any degree or for any other purposes. I assure that no part of the content of this thesis has been published in any form before.

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Abstract

Nepal's community forestry has become an example of progressive legislation and policies in the decentralization of forest management. It has attracted international attention because in Nepal, decentralization is linked with emerging issues – sustainable forest management, forest governance, policy advocacy, equity, gender, poverty and the role of civil society in community forestry. In particular, the role of the forest user group network in legal advocacy, capacity building and the establishment of democratic governance on a wider scale shows the unique strength of the community forestry approach in Nepal. Since the enactment of the Forest Act in 1993, the government of Nepal has gradually been handing over parcels of national forest, particularly in the mid-hills, to local communities based on an agreed forest management plan between the District Forest Office and local forest user groups.

The concept of community forestry is not new anymore, but there is a growing interest among policy makers, donors, and development practitioners to understand the extent to which community forestry contributes on economy of individual households and nation in general. Nepal's community forestry is a unique model of devolution in Asia and has experience of more than two decades. Therefore, it is time to assess the economic implication of community forestry in Nepal, for self learning and scaling up of good practices to other countries. In this backdrop, this paper presents an analytical view of community forestry from economic perspectives, particularly looking on the contribution towards people's livelihood and income generation.

Nepal has increasingly gained worldwide recognition in participatory forest management, primarily through "Community Forestry" program. This study sketches trajectory of forest management practices in Tokme Danda Community Forest User Group of Funling and Dokhu VDC of Taplejung District and analyzes achievements and pitfalls associated with Community Forestry. The focus is on analyzing the relations amidst good forest governance, sustainable livelihoods and forest conservation. My analysis indicates that Community Forestry program has been successful to meet the twined goals of forest conservation and socio-economic transformation through power devolution, participation and good governance. Encouraged with such achievements, Nepal has envisioned attaining the national goals of poverty alleviation and the global goals of Sustainable Development by strengthening good forest governance, sustainable forest management, and livelihood improvement. Though, there are adequate challenges,

mostly socioeconomically, Community Forestry has been a 'Learning platform' that empowering people and recognizing their rights over the resources is the most viable approach of sustainable forest management for a country like Nepal.

This Tokme Danda Community Forest is located at Fungling and Dokhu VDC of Taplejung district. This forest covered 14.10 hector land and around 240 households are engaged for their livelihood. 850 number of population is directly related with the socio-economic activities of Tokme Danda Community Forest. This forest is considered as the habitat of all scarce animal and plants having high attitude. This forest has various economic and environmental potentialities with having high bio-diversity maintenance. This research is targeted to identify these entire mechanisms.

This study is focused on their problems to strengthen the idea to reduce the problems. This research targeted to solve these problems through identifying the solution and destination of good natural resource management. The general objective of this study is to identify the economic and environmental activities through development of community forest. The specific objectives are to identify the economic activities of user group in Tokme Danda Community Forest of Fungling and Dokhu VDC, to analysis the FUG participation in bio-diversity conservation, and to identify the impact of Tokme Danda Community Forest on socio-economic and environmental life of local community.

The main economic activates of FUG in this forest are particularly agricultural, livestock farming and other home based industries. The entire FUG is involved in agricultural and livestock farming with the help of fodder, irrigation channels, compost manure, fuel wood and other resources from this forest. With the support of these things agriculture and livestock, farming is getting success. Other economic activities related with forest as the home-based industries signify economic activates of FUG with the help of community forest. Iron based, furniture and bamboo based industries are making based to this forest for raw materials which are indicator of economy and are also acquired for additional income from forest. These are main findings of this research. Another aspect of this research is the environment of forest. The bio-diversity is conservation very effective through various activities. Except these relations, the social relation with this forest of FUG is highly attached where most of them are worshipping as incarnation of God.

Author

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Abbreviation/ Acronyms

CF	- Community Forest
CFDD	- Community Forest Development Division
CFUG	- Community Forest User Group
DDC	- District Development Committee
DFO	- District Forest Office
FA	- Forest Act
FPR	- Forest Protection Rules
FUG	- Forest User Group
TDCFUG	- Tokme Danda Community Forest User Group
MPTS	- Master Plan for the Forestry Sector
MOFSC	- Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation
MOPE	- Ministry of Population and Environment
MPFS	- Master Plan of Forest Sector
NA	- Nationalization Act
NPC	- National Planning Commission
PFR	- Private Forest Rules
UG	- User Group
VDC	- Village Development Committee
WB	- World Bank
NTFP	- Non Timber Forest Product

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APPENDIX

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

1. Socio-economic characteristics of FUG members.

1.1 Identity of respondent:

Name Sex Occupation Ward No
 Education Marital status Ethnic group Religion

1.2 Family description

S. N.	Name	Age	Sex	Education	Occupation	Marital status	Remarks

1.3 Landholding sizeRopani

S.N.	Land type	Area in ropani	Cultivation ownership			Remarks
1.	Khet (irrigated land)					
2.	Bari (non-irrigated land)					
3.	Private forest					
4.	Others					

1.4 Crop production pattern (in muri/kg)

Crop	Paddy	Wheat	Maize	Potato	Mustard	Total

1.5 Live stock composition

Animal	Cow/Ox	Buffalo	Goat	Pig	Cock	Others
Number						

1.6 How do you feed the animals?

- a) Stall feeding
- b) Grazing on government land
- c) Stall feeding
- c) Others

1.7. What are the forest products that you collect from CF?

Fuel wood	Timber	Medicinal Herbs	Leaf litter	Fodder	Others

1.8 What is the source of energy?

- a) Firewood
 - b) Others
- If firewood from where do you collect?
- a) Private forest
 - b) Government forest
 - c) Community forest
 - d) Others

1.9 How many bhari of firewood you need a month?

.....

2. Sources of income of HH.

2.1 Income from agricultural crops and cash crops.

S.N.	Name of crops	Annual Income
1.	Paddy	
2.	Maize	
3.	Wheat	
4.	Potato	
5.	Mustard	
6.	Tea	
7.	Cardamom	
8.	Ginger	
9.	Others	

2.2 Income from community forestry.

a) Through wage

Name of program	No of involvement		No of working days		Wage rate		Annual income

b) Through salary

S.N.	No of worker	Monthly salary Rs.	Annual income

3. Sources of income of management committee

3.1 Income from community forest

S.N.	Types of forest products	Annual income (Rs)
1.	Fuel wood	
2.	Fodder	
3.	Timber	
4.	Leaf litter	
5.	Medicinal herbs	
6.	Others	

3.2 Other sources of CF income

S.N.	Sources	Annual income (Rs)
1.	Entry fee	
2.	Fines and penalties	
3.	Membership fees	
4.	Donation from individual/organization	
5.	Visitor donation	
6.	Others	

4. Employment provided by CF.

4.1 Have you provided employment to people?

.....

4.2 If yes, what types of employment have you provide?

S · N ·	Employment	Year	members involved (1,2,3,4) frequency	and	Rate	Time spent day/hour
1.	Nursery work					
2.	Plantation/Weedding					
3.	Thin/purn/sing/cleaning					

4.	Harvesting and distribution and product				
5.	Protection work (Heralu/Others)				
6.	Collection/Processing of NTFPs				
7.	Participation in training workshop/observation tour				
8.	Other (specify)				

5. Women participation

5.1 How many women are in executive committee of your CF?

- a) 1-3 b) 3-5 c) over 5

5.2 What is the status of woman's presence in CF?

- a) Active b) passive c) Normal

5.3 Do you feel that other people respect and consider your opinion?

- a) yes b) no c) no idea

5.4 What type of role do you play in meeting of executive committee?

- a) as a audition b) discuss c) provide suggestions

5.5 How do participation in the CF development programme?

- a) providing volunteers b) Providing land
c) Providing financial support d) Others

5.6 What types of social development works have you CFU?

S.N.	Activities	Days
1.	Trial road construction improvement	
2.	Water supply	
3.	Temples	
4.	Others	

5.7 What do suggest to Improve Woman's Participation in community forest development Programme?

Questionnaire only for CF committee

-) Name of CF committee... ..
) Name of the member (respondent) :.....
) FUG formation time:

- J Committee meeting Weekly Monthly Annually
- J Total annual income of CF (Rs.):
- J Income source of CF:
- J Development activities:
- J Community development: - What By whom When
How
- J Forest development and management
- J Institutional development: - By what ...? By whom
- J What participation in decision making:
- J Problem of CF:
- J Future plane: