

**CONTRIBUTION OF FOREST PRODUCTS TO PROMOTE
RURAL LIVELIHOOD:**

A STUDY OF COMMUNITY FORESTRY USER GROUPS

BUDHAKOT VDC, ACHHAM



A Thesis Submitted to:

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In partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the thesis entitled **Contribution of Forest Products to Promote Rural Livelihood: A Study of community forest user groups Budhakot VDC, Achham** submitted to the Central Department of Rural Development, Tribhuvan University, 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 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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RECOMMENDATION LETTER

This thesis entitled **Contribution of Forest Products to Promote Rural Livelihood: A Study of community forest user groups Budhakot VDC, Achham** has been prepared by SHANKAR BAHADUR THAPA under my guidance and supervision. I hereby recommend this thesis for examination by the thesis committee as a partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Degree of Master of Arts in Rural Development.

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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 an important means for rural development and is immense to rural livelihood. The need of identifying rural opportunity, researcher has chosen this study topic contribution of forest products to promote rural livelihood by increased income opportunity in selected community forest in Budhakot VDC Achham. Two CFUGs were randomly selected for this study as study site.

Focus group discussion, household survey, KII, Direct Observation and study of relevant secondary literature were the basic tools to gather some 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.

Among of respondents 75.47% respondents were adopted agriculture occupation and followed by occupational works. Land holdings have 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 25 Ropani. To some extent, Livestock rearing practices was changing to words stall-feeding System from conventional open grazing system after the handover the forest patches as community forest. It has created positive impact on regeneration in community forest. Some forest management activities were practiced in CFUG but they were still passively managed with strict protection. Neither, the forest operational plan was positive toward achieve forest management for sustainable benefit. Recently, some FP promotion activities were introduced in 2 selected CF; Users were facing the problem of selling their products due to weak marketing linkage and access of road. By the selling of forest products users used to buy the daily consumption goods like: sugar, Oil, soap etc. Similarly forest products help to education to the children. To buy the Book, copy and paying the fee of students are dependent on forest product selling. 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. 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 of include Dalit, women and other disadvantaged members in the decision making position of CFUGs. Similarly at the district level; technical support for active forest management needs to be provided through DFO and/or other partner organizations. FP 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.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page No.
Title Page	
Declaration	i
Recommendation Letter	ii
Approval Sheet	iii
Acknowledgements	iv
Abstract	v
Table of Contents	vii
List of Tables	ix
List of Figures	x
Acronyms	xi
CHAPTER –I: INTRODUCTION	1-8
1.1 Background of the Study	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem	4
1.3 Objective of the Study	6
1.4 Significance of the Study	7
1.5 Delimitation of the Study	8
CHAPTER - II: REVIEW OF LITERATURE	9-29
2.1 Theoretical Review	9
2.2 Empirical Review	22
2.3 Conceptual Framework	27
CHAPTER-III: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	30-33
3.1 Research Design	30
3.2 Rational of the Selected Study Area	30
3.3 Nature and Source of Data	31
3.4 Population and Sampling Procedure	31
3.5 Sample Size	31
3.6 Data Collection Tools& Techniques	32
3.6.1 Household Survey	32
3.6.2 Observation	32
3.6.3 Focus Group Discussion	32
3.6.4 Key Informants Interview	33
3.6.5 Reliability and Validity of Data	33

3.7 Data Analysis and Interpretation	33
CHAPTER-IV:PROFILE TO THE STUDY AREA	34-40
4.1 General introduction of Achham District	34
4.2 General information of Budhakot VDC	35
4.2.1 Forest Condition in Budhakot VDC	36
4.3 Description of the Selected CFUGs	37
4.3.1 Pale CFUG	37
4.3.2 Jamaladhara CFUG	38
CHAPTER- V:RESULT AND DISCUSSION	41-51
5.1 Socio-demographic characteristics of respondents	41
5.1.1 Respondents by sex	41
5.1.2 Caste composition of respondents	41
5.1.3 Religion of the respondents	42
5.1.4 Age wise population's compositions of the respondents	43
5.1.5 Education statuses of the respondents	43
5.1.6 Forest products use in different purposes	44
5.2 Livelihood Strategy	44
5.2.1 Occupation of Respondents	44
5.2.2 Landholdings of Respondents	45
5.2.3 Livestock rearing practices	46
5.2.4 Collecting major forest products	46
5.2.5 Forest management Activities	46
5.3 Livelihood Assets	47
5.3.1 Natural Assets	47
5.3.2 Financial Assets	47
5.3.3 Physical Assets	47
5.3.4 Social Assets	48
5.3.5 Human Assets	48
CHAPTER-VI: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS	52-56
6.1 Summary	52
6.2 Conclusion	53
6.3 Recommendation	54
REFERENCES	57
Annexes	60

LIST OF TABLE

	Page No.	
Table 4.1	Situation of the land	34
Table 4.2	Different types of forest and its area	35
Table 4.3	Land use of Budhakot VDC	36
Table 4.4	Availability of FPs and their uses by the cast	39
Table 5.5	Age-wise Population Composition of respondent	43
Table 5.6	Education status of the respondent	43
Table 5.7	Landholding of the Respondents	45
Table 5.8	Livestock rearing practice	46
Table 5.9	Forest product collected by respondent	46
Table 5.10	Condition Changed after Handover	47
Table 5.11	Annual income of respondent	47
Table 5.12	Awareness program with respect to wellbeing rank	50
Table 5.13	Representative in CFUGs committee	48

LIST OF FIGURES

		Page No.
Figure 2.2	Relationship between community forestry, Environment and Socio- economic development.	12
Figure 2.3	Sustainable livelihood/conceptual framework from DFID	21
Figure 5.4	Respondent by sex	41
Figure 5.4	Caste compositions of the respondent	42
Figure 5.5	Religion of the respondent	42
Figure 5.7	Purposes of FPs collection by user	44
Figure 5.8	Occupational Distributional of respondent	45

ACRONYMS

BS	BikramSambat
CBS	Central Bureau of Statistic
CF	Community Forest
CFU	Community forest User
CFUG	Community forest User Group
DDC	District Development Committee
DFID	Department for International Development
DFO	District Forest Office
DOF	Department of Forest
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization
FP	Forest Products
GDP	Gross Domestic Production
GON	Government of Nepal
Ha.	Hectare
HH	Household
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
MPFS	Master Plan for Forestry Sector
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NPC	National Planning Commission
NTFP	Non Timber Forest Product
NWFP	Non-wood Forest Product
PRSP	Poverty reduction Strategy Paper
SL	Sustainable Livelihoods
SLA	Sustainable Livelihood Approach
SLC	School Leaving Certificate
TFP	Timber forest products
VDC	Village Development Committee
OWL	Other wooded Land