

**CURRENT FARMING PRACTICE AT PELKACHOUR VDC,
SYANGJA**

A THESIS

**Submitted to Department of Rural Development
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in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of
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LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

This is to certify that Mr. YogendraGurung has completed this dissertation entitled **Current Farming Practice at Pelkachour VDC, Syangja** has been prepared under my supervision and guidance as a partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Arts in Rural Development. I, therefore, recommend and forward this thesis for final approval and acceptance by the thesis committee.

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APPROVAL SHEET

This thesis entitled **Current Farming Practice at PelkachourVDC,Syangja** submitted to the Central of Rural Development, Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur, Kathmandu by Mr. YogendraGurung has been accepted as the partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in Rural Development by the undersigned members of the thesis committee.

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Declaration

I hereby declare that the thesis entitled **CURRENT FARMING PRACTICE AT PELKACHOUR VDC, SYANGJA** submitted to the Central Department, 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 writing this thesis. The result of this thesis have not been presented or submitted anywhere else for the award of any degree or for any other purpose. I assure that no part of the content of this thesis has been published in any form before.

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Current Farming Practice at Pelkachour VDC, Syangja is a thesis prepared in accordance with the mandatory rule of Tribhuvan University as the partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Master of Arts in Sociology. It is an attempt to investigate the causes, practice and consequences of arable land abandoned. I would like to express my warm and sincere gratitude to my research supervisor Prof. DrPrem Sharma for his tireless guidance, constructive commitments, gracious suggestions and encouragement with invaluable ideas in preparing this work into the final look. Similarly, I am ideally indebted to my respected Mr. Sujan Singh Pokhrel who initially helped me in selecting framework and suggested me with a serious concern on this challenging work. Likewise, I am again sincerely indebted to Mr. TiluckRanaChhetri for managing my scattered data in analytical form through the computer program SPSS11.5 for windows. I must thank him for his assistance and encouragement through the work of this dissertation. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all of those respondents, who helped me for collecting data. I am also thankful to Mr. SantoshSundash for her help in the collection of data at the field. Special thanks to Mr. IndraGurung my classmate researcher and KhemBahadurGurung as well for their kind assistance during the field work.

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ABSTRACT

Millions of people are living with undernourishment and hunger in the world due to shortage of food. So, many countries of the world are prioritizing for food security. However, in Nepal, a quite opposite phenomenon is taking place. Fertile agricultural lands are being abandoned at an unprecedented degree in recent years. A critical question that then arises is: How and why productive lands are being abandoned by farmers who otherwise had cultivated them for so many generations? The question is much more relevant for a country like Nepal that faces severe food insecurity. The aim of this paper is to investigate the drivers of agricultural land abandoned practice in VDC of Syangja District. This study applies a mixed method approach to data collection, using household survey and key informant interview, in three village of Pelkachour VDC of Syangja district. The results indicate three key drivers: first, shortage of farm labour due to outmigration; second, reduced agricultural production, concomitant with availability of more attractive alternative opportunities; third, increment in the demand for the cash for health, education and other social services, cannot get output instantly from farming as money. The paper concludes by highlighting some ways to address the agricultural land abandoned practice issue.

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ACRONYMS

ADB	:	Asian Development Bank
ADO	:	Agricultural Development Office
APP	:	Agricultural Perspective Plan
CBO	:	Community Based Organization
CBS	:	Central Bureau of Statistics
DDC	:	District Development Committee
FAO	:	Food and Agriculture Organization
FGD	:	Focus Group Discussion
FWLD	:	Forum for Women, Law and Development
FYM	:	Farm Yield Monitor
GDP	:	Gross Domestic Product
GON	:	Government of Nepal
HHs	:	Households
ICESCR	:	International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights
INGO	:	International Non Government Organization
IPCC	:	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
JBY	:	Jilla Bikash Yojan
MCNP	:	Mercy Crop Nepal Program
MDG	:	Millennium Development Goals
NGO	:	Non Government Organization
NLUP	:	National Land Use Project
OXFAM	:	Oxford Committee for Famine Relief
TAF	:	The Asia Foundation
USA	:	United States of America
VDC	:	Village Development Committee
WFP	:	World Food Program