

CHAPTER-I: INTRODUCTION

1.1 General Background

Utilization of land had been one of the major sources of food which is essential for surviving. There are other uses of soil but mainly agricultural purpose has been crucial for human live since we began farming. "The evaluation of soil as a resource depends on the time and place and on its use; a soil can only be assessed within a specific context. It is a resource chiefly for agriculture, but as land it is also used for forestry, industrial, urban, and recreational purposes" (Cruickshank, 1979). Currently, due to shortage of food millions of people are living with undernourishment and hunger in the world; and at the same time significant numbers of people are dying annually due to hunger.

Nepal is also not away from the problem of food shortage. Despite of being agricultural country Nepal is facing acute shortage of food supply; hence, compelled to import from neighboring countries and the ratio is increasing day by day. "Land used for agricultural activities have been used for other purposes or left barren" (Poudel, 2010). Many countries of the world are prioritizing for food security whereas in Nepal trend seems quite opposite as shown by existing scenario.

I was born in Syangja district Karendanda V.D.C. 8, now Putalibazar Municipality 12. Geographically, major of areas of my district cover hilly region and very few is plain land. According to (SaikshyikDarpan, 2015). Syangja is 1164 Sq.Km. While considering about arable land, it has 76,520 hector but only 50,350 hector area has been used for farming. The data shows that still around 25,000 hector land has not been used for agrtricultural purpose which indicates that land abandonment practice is existing in the district. Land having irrigation facility can have two times harvesting opportunities in a year whereas land depended on rainfall has only possible harvest within that time period. Major food crops of this district are maze, paddy, wheat, millet, barley and so on. Similarly, cardamom, ginger, coffee bean, orange, lime, etc are some of cash crops produced.

Though population if Nepal is increasing but still people engaged in agricultural activities is shrinking continuously (Poudel, 2010). Above mentioned issue has also been observed in Syangja district. As a result, our forefathers' effort and

time put for maintaining agricultural purpose have been wasted or ignored by not utilizing land properly. Our forefathers had put lot of effort to prepare terrace structure for agricultural purpose to slop areas of this hilly region. And, those forefathers lived with dedication and satisfaction by producing crops from those terrace fields.

While talking about my village and neighboring villages during my primary school level, handful of male members of family were recruited Indian and British army. Very few people used to migrate for their livelihood. Due to lack of educational opportunity and access, it was almost impossible to get governmental jobs. Hence, all the family members had to engage in agricultural activities for hand to mouth purposes as transferred by our ancestor. Not only bigger plots but also smaller plots were used for farming. Those who were not able to manage sufficient food from their own land used to get land as tenant from landlords. Some even used clear jungle and bushes for this purpose. Along with increment of population, family members were also increasing. As a result animal rearing was also prioritized as they were dependent to each other. Compost fertilizer, plough farmland, transportation were some of the contributions from animal rearing. Hence, it was important for farming. Barter system was in practice as a pattern of trade and people used to take maze, millet, paddy and other cash crops to exchange with salt, sugar, clothes between seller and buyer in beshi or nearby market. As a result, time, labor, and income used to be saved through this process. Food storage trend was also practiced with certain traditional patterns for future use. And, some used to sell or barter for income generation purpose. In this way, basic needs shelter, food and clothes used to be managed.

While looking back towards my life, I had a joint family. None of my family member was away from home. Farming done on my farmland was sufficient for sustaining seven members of my family even some gain used to keep for future use. Not only youth, elder but everyone used to participate in farming in available farmland.

But changes have occurred rapidly with the pace of time as change is natural process. Our lifestyle, behavior, habit, social norms and values have also changed according to modern life style. All changes that occur in front of us are not necessarily positive to us. Some changes do not go to our favor. Some changes might be

undesirable to us as we always attempt to create space for positive one which can help us for progress.

In this context, use of farmland since the last few years, in my district social, cultural, political, economic changes have been observed. This has affected in agricultural activities particularly farming. Farmland which used to be sufficient to sustain livelihood for villagers and around the area are now abandoned or used for different purposes, under-utilized day by day. Very few portion of land is used for fruit farming like orange, lime, cardamom but still majority of land is either abandoned or misused. As a result, they have turned out to be barren land or bushes.

If one looks at the nature of land, land being at distance from owner, small plots, and not having irrigation facility have been abandoned particularly. Due to this trend of abandoning farmland or misuse has created imbalance between demand and supply of food produced from the area. Hence, villagers are compelled to be dependent towards import foods. As a result, despite of available resources people are spending huge amount money for import by creating worrying dependency. And, more worrying concern is that this can create food crisis in near future. Despite of this prediction why are people abandoning farming? What are the causes? What can be consequences? What about the future generation? These all questions are in my mind. Hence, I'm going to explore more on it through this research.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Based on my experience and review of literature regarding use of farmland for farming in my country, one can easily understand that changing life style of the people has affected trend of leaving farming activities day by day. My district is also not an exception; people of my district are abandoning farmland without doing farming. And, some farmlands have been made either residential area or other purposes. This trend has created problem on balancing food supply for the district.

As a result, despite of having ample arable land we are dependent towards outer sources for food supply in my area and productive farmlands have been abandoned and misused. The problems can create lots of adverse consequences in coming days. This issue has to be explored and analyzed properly. So that

causes, practice, effects, and consequences of abandoning farm land and farming activities in my district can be identified.

Based on above mentioned discussion following research questions can be presented for exploring the issue further.

- I) Causes of leaving farming profession.
- II) Practice of abandoning farming land.
- III) Consequences of farming in my district.

1.3 Research Objectives

The general objective of the study is to analyze causes and practice of abandoning farming at Pelkachour VDC in Syangja district. Specific objectives of the study are as follows:

- I) To explore the socio-cultural, political, and economic causes relating to land use for farming.
- II) To identify the process of misuse, and using other than farming activities,
- III) To find out the probable consequences of existing land use farming in my district.

1.4 Rationale of the Study

The various studies have been done on land usages for agricultural purposes however, the issues raised in this study i.e. current usages of land in Syangja district, have not been frequently studied in Nepal. In this study, I have tried depict the existing practices of land usages in the district exploring from the experiences of my research participants residing in my research field. Therefore, this research has brought the issue of individual's engagement in farming, farming patterns, changes and transformation in the practice of farming in comparison to their past practices. Another issue, socio-cultural aspects affecting their pattern and shifting trends in

farming in the areas relating to the past has been further explored. At the same time, it can be useful as a reference for developmental issues with the appropriate agricultural conditions the district.

Furthermore, the finding, recommendations and implications made in this study will be supporting documents or a reference for academic as well as policy making sectors. This study will be equally important as references for other researchers. At the same time, it will be valuable asset for my professional development in my future.

1.5 Limitation of the Study

Farming under agriculture sector is based term and has its dynamic aspects. The concern of my study is especially on current practices of farming in Syangja district in relation to their past. For me, there has been very lots of changes in farming patterns in comparison to the past regarding their ways, levels, and purposes of farming in the area.

I have particularly focused on depicting their existing ways of farming pattern practiced in the research field. My research will is limited to farming and its impact to their socio-economic aspects in their daily lives. Regarding the research field, I have followed as I have mentioned in my methodology section. Participants engaged in farming, their experiences, perceptions will be major concerns in my research as to depict land usages in the district by exploring the current farming practices in the district. No study can be free from limitation and this study is no exception. This is an academic research. This study has some specific limitations as follows.

- The study was an academic research for the partial fulfillment of master degree in Rural Development. This study is based on small sample thus the finding may not be generalized to the national level.
- Only active members of the clusters were the respondents of the study. So the finding of the study may not be equally applicable to other areas of the study.

- The researcher used to sample only representative of farmers in ward no 1,2,3 from Pelkachour VDC. Therefore the results should be interpreted cautiously and generalization for the other areas should not be made from them.
- The researcher has considered only active respondents from that VDC's who influences from farming.

1.6 Organization of the Study

This dissertation report is divided into eight chapters. The first chapter discusses the introduction of the study including statement of the problems, research, objectives, limitation of the study and rationale of the study. It deals about agriculture practices in Nepal : causes and realities, policy reviews in agriculture practices, impacts in agricultural activities , lack of labour in agriculture , decline in soil fertility , climate change : emerging challenge , agriculture and migration : an undesired reality , smallholder : a challenge in agriculture, measures in agriculture : land reform .

The Research methods use including the rationale for the selection of the study site, research design, nature and sources of data, sampling procedure, data collection technique, problems of fieldwork, validity and reliability, and method of data analysis and presentation have been discussed in the third chapter. Profile of study area is the fourth chapter where study is made under the subjects : study site description , social organization , climate , caste/ ethnicity of the composition of the respondent , food consumption , religion and language , education , economic structure , occupation structure , family size of the study site , age composition of the respondents , marital status. Fifth chapter helps us to study causes of land abandonment , transformation , under utilization , food scarcity under the subjects youth toiling on foreign land, movement from the harder to the easiest path , penetration modernity in lifestyle , search of new opportunity , the rush returns in the cash , more input but less output , imbalance between labour and land , unfavourable climate , instable political and low prestige in agriculture. The sixth chapter examines how land is abandoned showing major problems like decrement of land importance, social factors encouraging land abandonment. The seventh chapter examines consequences of land

abandonment, transformation of land into other non commercial uses resulting negative impacts on overall national foodproducts. In the last chapter summary, conclusion, major findings and recommendation and suggestions are presented.;

CHAPTER- II: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Agricultural Practices in Nepal: Causes and Realities

Though Nepal has decent portion of arable land for the purpose of cultivation but its fragmentation culture has been an issue. In 2008, per household land availability was 0.6 ha (CBS, 2009). With the doubling of population in every 30 years, land availability per capita is also declining more or less at the same rate as there is less scope to move to non-farm sector. Land and other natural resources like forest are still important for the livelihood of a large majority of rural population (60% of the total population (ADB, 2005, p. 31), even though the contribution of primary sector (especially agriculture) on total GDP of the country is declining and it is at present 32% (Khanal,2006).

Agricultural activities have remained very crucial part in the national economy of Nepal as majority of the people are engaged in agriculture for their livelihood. With this note, several studies are also carried out for exploring the dimensions related. And, in those studies, areas of potential causes, process and consequence are explored with the contextual analysis of agricultural activities as the source of income. Hence, national planning and their implementation have also been mostly concerned in “the importance of agriculture in the national economy, and certainly agriculture has been and remains at the centre of planning for development. Indeed, the Agriculture Perspective Plan (APP)-the major strategy document adopted successively by governments of various political persuasions over the last few years as the corner stone of their development strategy –argues that agriculture must and will provide the basis for economic development over the next two decades and beyond”(Seddonet, 1998, p.1).I also consider that agriculture contributes significantly for national economy of the country.

Despite challenges to transfer Nepal from least developed country to developing country, there are lots of issues still to be explored so that this sector can contribute greatly for this mission economic prosperity. Hence, there is urgent need of policy, planning, strategy to overcome from challenges associated with agricultural practices. Particularly, there has to be proper realization that the majority of the population is engaged in agriculture, productivity and competitiveness of the sector

are low, and adoption of improved technology is limited. There is a growing food trade deficit and malnutrition is high.

In recent days, food deficit has been very grave concern around the world; hence, Nepal is not an exception. Evidently, “The present food crisis is stalking small-scale farms and rural areas of the world, where 70 percent of the world’s hungry live and work. The situation in rural areas in developing countries is dire, coming in the wake of the surge in food and fuel prices in 2007-2008” (Knight, 2003). To cause this problem, there are several reasons ultimately impacting daily lives of the people, particularly, from poor countries. Regarding the context of Nepal, a number of factors explain the weak growth performance of agricultural over the past two decades. During the 12- year conflict that concluded in 2006 had adverse effects on the agricultural sector. Hundreds of thousands of rural households left the land behind and moved to the cities- mostly to the Kathmandu Valley; others moved abroad. These movements of rural population resulted in a situation of labour and investment scarcity in rural areas. Rapidly growing urbanization implied that large tracts of peri-urban fertile agricultural land have been converted to residential uses. Political instability has resulted in the lack of stable government and leaders who could make a continued effort to implement policies, plans, and programs.

2.2 Policy Reviews: In Agricultural Practices

Meanwhile, with the rays of positive hope in coming days, Agriculture Perspective Plan (1995-2015), which is a 20 years strategic plan, provides some of the futuristic glimpses of agricultural scenario of Nepal. The basic premise of APP is the overall economic development triggered through high growth rate in agricultural production. The high agricultural growth rate is assumed to bring strong multiplier effects on growth and employment, both in agriculture and assumed to bring strong multiplier effects on growth and employment, both in agriculture and non-agriculture sectors. Besides the concern for growth, APP envisages regionally balanced-growth by promoting comparative advantages in each sector and reduction in poverty through employment in agriculture and non-agriculture sector (Adhikari, et, 2009, p. 3).

Additionally, regarding the facts of about agriculture and relevant issue, Thapa (2011) puts that growth and poverty reduction strategy can be well implemented by achieving targeted annual rate of 5% growth from 3% at constant basis. Similarly, poverty has been reduced from 49% (1994/95) to 14% (2014/15) and this ratio has to be improved further. And, there are areas to look after on irrigation, fertilizer, technology, roads and power, livestock, high-value crops, agribusiness, forestry and many more in order to improve this sector.

To improve the situation, IMF has suggested Nepal to adopt effective policy from the general principles of liberalization. Liberalization policy had two components –stabilization and structural stabilization. The first deal with the compression of aggregate demand and the later is applied to correct supply side distortions. Stabilization involved devaluation of the currency, control over government expenditure and domestic credit expansion. Structural adjustment policies involve a longer time horizon and deal with issues such as correcting prices, opening up of the economy, civil service reform, changes in various policies and acts and ultimately the reduction in the size of the government.

In the context of Nepal, there can be still very challenging to practice in reality as there has to be well prepared effort from the local level. Hence, “to combat the food shortage caused by small farm size and traditional practices, off farm employment opportunities are the main contributing factors for affecting increasing productive in reality (Ghimire et, 2012, p. 4).In this regard, there has to be well connection between policies and their implementation; where, policies play crucial. Policies have proliferated, allegedly in favour of agriculture, but in many cases policies have been left at the draft stage, and lacked the supporting legislation and resources for implementation. Plans have been formulated, but sometimes the formulation was poor, the targets ambitious, and the institutional capacity for implementation inadequate. Furthermore, both public and private investment has been limited. During the first 10 year of the Agricultural Perspective Plan (APP) investment in agriculture by government partners has declined and not much private investment has taken place.

Recent available information clearly state that Nepal is going to face a food crisis soon as production of food per capita has been declining. It has become a

growing problem for many households. Nepal as a whole has also been considered as a food insecure country as there has been grim reality regarding increasing the productivity in the country. “Just in the last 6 months, several reports came out which highlights a bleak picture of food security. One of these reports is a joint report of Government of Nepal, FAO and WFP, which has estimated that about 3.4 million households in the country are facing food security problems (WFP, et al., 2009). Similarly, 66% percent of rural households surveys as part of this assessment are already experiencing food shortages; the worst hit areas are in the Far- and Mid Western Hill and Mountain Districts. Then, after an OXFAM report on climate change and food security also depicted a dark future in terms of food insecurity.

In terms of Millennium Development Goals (MDG), Nepal seems able to achieve the target of reducing the poverty, but it is still far behind meeting the targets of reducing hunger and malnutrition. It now seems that Nepal cannot meet these targets. Nepal’s poverty reduced from 42% in 1995/96 to 31% in 2003/04. It is expected that this poverty has come down to 25%. This achievement has been a result of remittance though majority of the people are engaged in agricultural activities. But on the other hand, this income does not seem to translate into food security. Nepal’s food security situation is becoming worse day by day. On the other hand, there is no perceptible reduction in child malnutrition in this period. About half of the children below 5 years of ages still suffer from malnutrition of various types. This clearly reveals that just increasing the income is not a sufficient condition for reducing the malnutrition of food insecurity. A proper land use system is required for increasing agricultural production, environmental sustainability and bio-diversity conservation. Sadly, at present, there are no strict norms regarding the land use system as formed rules are not implemented properly.

Overall contribution of agriculture in economy in Nepal has been reported in academia as well. For instance, agriculture is considered as the biggest sector for employment of 66 percent of the active labor force (3.3 m households). This sector contributes to one-third of the GDP. Balances eco-system through green cultivation provides aesthetic value for home for eco-tourism development. Fuel wood meets 78% of energy requirement in the country. And, average farm size 0.8 hector in indicating scattered parcels due to cultural practices of inheritance (Thapa, 2011, p. 6).

There is no sole agency that deals with land use study and planning. In agriculture and forestry, there are programs to improve the land use on a sectoral basis. The urban sector land use planning is done by Ministry of Housing and its associated offices. Realizing the fact that land use planning is important, government of Nepal has set up a National Land Use Project (NLUP). The absence of integrated national land use plan and program has led to land use conflicts. National Land Use Project was set up in the year 2000 under the Ministry of Land Reform and Management to address effectively, various land related problems mainly the land use planning. This project aims to formulate and carry out land use programs for the appropriate land planning in Nepal.

To look at scientific dimension needed in the agricultural sector, the overall status of inherent soil fertility is poor in most of the cultivated soils in the mid hill of Nepal. According to Shreier et al (1995) and Brown (1997), nitrogen and phosphorus levels in the soils are highly deficient with low organic matter content and supply. However, due to wide distribution of mica dominated bed rocks, potassium is abundantly available (Shreier, 1999). Fertility decline of the mid hill soils have been reported by many authors (Carson 1992, Turton et al., 1995, Schreier et al., 1999, Neupane and Thapa 2001 and Pilbeam et al., 2005) major reasons leading to the decline in soil fertility are regarded as accelerated erosion, problems associated with red soils, reduced Farm Yield Manner(FYM) /compost supply, and increased use of acid forming chemical fertilizers(Bhatta et al., 2009, p. 7).

2.3 Impacts in Agricultural Activities

There are many evidences that suggest that there is decline in the performance of agricultural sector. These are seen in the decline in the production of food and productivity of land, shortage of food, and decline in the contribution of agricultural sector to the economy as a whole (together with other sectors within the country) and environmental pollution in agriculture affecting the health of people adversely.

Similarly, there has been socio-political impact in agriculture of Nepal. More than 70,000 people were displaced during the 10-years conflict (1996-2006) between the Government of Nepal (GON) and the Unified Communist Party of Nepal (Maoists). Internally displaced children and women are particularly vulnerable to

trafficking, sexual exploitation and child labor (IDMC 2010). The thousands of IDPs unwilling or unable to return to their homes joined the migration of rural residents in search of employment in urban areas, causing rapid urbanization. Informal settlements have sprung up on government and public land in urban and peri-urban areas. The settlements are unplanned, lack public services, and are usually constructed of substandard housing that is vulnerable to earthquakes and floods (Pokharel 2006; Paudyal 2006).

Due to lack of productivity and proper market people tend to move to other places potentially better. Hence, there is huge rural urban mobility across the country. Many rural families are moving out from villages to towns in search of employment opportunities, better education and health facilities. Similarly there is an increased number of out migrants in search of employment opportunities (Gartaula et al., 2012). As a result, land might be unused and balance between urban and rural area might deteriorate. Similarly, given table explains the status of agricultural production and export-import condition of Nepal.

To be specific, growth rate of cereal crops has been relatively low, even though there was some improvement in the production to cash crops. Yields of the major crops like paddy, maize and wheat has remained stagnated even though there is some improvement but this was not at par with population growth rates. As a result, Nepal is facing food crisis in recent times.

These days, one of the challenges consequences of lack of productivity in agricultural sector has been food insecurity. Despite more than half of the population engaged in engaged in agricultural activities we have been facing significant food shortages each year. Similarly, there are concerns of prevalence of discrimination by gender, age and caste in the distribution of food. Uncertainty of food distribution has been one of the major problems due to high cost of transportation in remote areas (Thapa,2011).It is extremely difficult to tell objectively how much food is produced in Nepal and how much is imported, there is also large variation from year because production depends on rainfall and other production conditions. But, in general, country is facing problems in meeting the local food needs. At present, it is estimated by World Food Program (WFP) that the country can meet only about 80% of its

food requirements. But government estimates that the country food production can meet the basic requirements of food for its population.

Additionally, money sent home from relatives working in the city or abroad has been used in diverse areas. In small agricultural villages, the poor have already exhausted their savings to buy food. Some of the reasons for higher food prices include: low agricultural productivity in the world; high population growth rate in many of the most food insecure countries; problems with water availability and land tenure uncertainty; more frequent floods and drought and low investment in agriculture(Thapa, 1996).

After exploring the several dimensions of consequences of agriculture in Nepal, futuristic need to improve this area so that agriculture can be a determining source in national income. At present, there is a need to achieve the twin goals of lands reforms – ensuring agricultural development and protecting the vulnerable groups from deepening poverty. To achieve these goals, balanced access to land and programs to that effect are critical. The vulnerable population may be protected only when food security and the need for shelter are recognized as fundamental rights of the people. It is therefore important for the people, especially the land-dependent people, to have the right to land(Adhikari, 2011).

Land and agriculture have played a very important part in Nepal's social, economic, and political life for centuries. Access to land is still an important determinant of rural poverty. Poor access to land means more poverty. The landless and people without land security constitute the poor population in rural areas. Economic analysis has long revealed the importance of secure property rights for economic growth, and for this growth to translate into poverty reduction. Lack of land is also means lack of opportunities to avail education, credit and even migration to other areas. It is seen that poorest of the poor and women are not able to move out for employment and income because they lack land ownership which helps in this process by making them able to get credit.

Evidently, the marginal groups who have cultivated land on unfavorable tenure conditions have to dispose off their land and became bonded or semi-bonded laborers. A bonded laborer may suffer particularly from unequal inclusion (lack of freedom

togo elsewhere), may face exclusion in employment (Sen, 2000). To overcome from this challenge, there is no 'integrated land use planning' – inclusive of all natural resources. Productive land are used for non-agricultural purpose, irrigated areas have turned into built-up areas, encroachment of protected areas and forests, land grabbing, fallowing of land, land speculation, illegal deforestation and logging and the like have resulted from lack of integrated land use plan. Whatever plan has been developed has also not been fully enforced. This problem has led to unsustainable exploitation of forest, fisheries and other natural resources. The urban development has also been unsustainable.

Policies, including regulations, related to land are too dispersed in different Laws and Acts, and some of them are contradictory. Lack of policies in improving the waste land and increase the supply of land through land improvements. Farmers' indigenous knowledge on soil fertility management strategy is crucial in managing their agricultural soils. How and what resources are being used by the local people to sustain soil fertility in different land use systems is the key question.

Type of agricultural land has been also debated. For instance, the hills of Nepal are mostly structured as *Bari* (rainfed uplands, with maize-based cropping systems) and *Khet* (irrigated lowlands, with rich-based cropping systems). Soil fertility status of farmland depends directly on farming practices. Soil fertility management issues are becoming critical for the productivity of land, particularly in the hills of Nepal, where population pressure is high. Soil loss and nutrient depletion due to rainfall erosion are very high, particularly in the rain fed marginal land and the degraded grazing lands in hills. The losses of soil organic matter and nutrients are threatening the sustainability of agriculture (Thapa, 1990).

Farmers in the hill of Nepal have been facing a serious problem in managing the soil fertility because of the steep slopes, the dependency on rainfall and unavailability of required inputs such as fertilizers. The gradual decline in soil fertility, the increase in soil erosion, a reduction of the productive forest area and misuse of agro-chemicals are the major agricultural and environmental problems in Nepal. The agricultural environment, particularly in the hills of Nepal, is degrading at a high rate (Regmi, 1999). Apart from these problems, the most severe constraint

recognized by the farmers as well as agricultural scientists is the declining crop productivity (Regmi et al., 2004).

Major crops grown in the area were maize, wheat and rice. However, millet and buckwheat were also grown in some areas as minor crops. Vegetables were grown only for home consumption but a few farmers started growing vegetable for selling. A trend of household migration from high to low elevations villages has been revealed, although the trend was not uniform in all villages. The fertile agriculture lands in the valley floors, construction of rural road with accumulation of income opportunities and labour shortage were reported as major push factors for migration of people from uplands towards the valley floors. At higher elevations, forest had increased at the cost of agriculture at the shrub/grass, while at lower elevations; forest was more or less constant with increase in agriculture at the cost of shrub/grass. However the agriculture have become geometrically complex in shaped in lower elevations due to expansion of settlements and infrastructure development.

Similarly the research conducted on different geographical regions in Nepal conducted Chapagain & Gentle (2015) has shown that the chain of water hazards such as drought and erratic rainfall causing loss of crops, livestock, income and employment which ultimately causes human migration. Similarly, decrease in agricultural productivity farm size and inadequate income opportunities are reported as key reasons for rural-urban migration in hill of Nepal (Maharjan et al., 2012).

2.4 Lack of Labour in Agriculture

In recent decades hill areas of Nepal has lost greater proportion of population resulting labour deficit on hill agriculture. In general decreasing population has greater impact on decreasing cultivated land (Chidi, 2011). Agricultural labor supply is found decreasing in Marpha, Mustang and Aanpchaur, Gulmi. This shortage of agricultural labor has induced to raise the wage rate, which affects on rising cost of production. In case of Bisnupura, Rupendehi, this increased wage rate has forced to replace with mechanical devices. Economics of mechanization shows that there is 41 per cent cost reduction in first ploughing while replacing tractor to bullock power. The mechanization is found in Bisnupura, Rupendehi district (MAC, 2011). This

causes significant drop in production and proper utilization of the land; in which, agricultural activities can be carried out.

2.5 Decline of Soil Fertility

In Parallel, soil fertility is declining as there are fewer livestock for manure because only less number of human resources is available to manage livestock. As a result, the food production is decreased and impacted on the food security situation. Soil fertility decline has been one of the main reasons for poor agricultural growth in Nepal in recent decades. Mid hill region has been worst hit by this problem because of its fragile geomorphology, steep topography and intense human pressure on land and forest resources. This situation is posing a threat to the sustainability of the agriculture system in the region. A number of factors are responsible for the decline in soil fertility. The three major factors often cited are accelerated soil erosion, increased use of acidifying fertilizers and reduced organic matter input into the soils. Many efforts are being made to avert the further worsening of the situation and restore the fertility. Organic matter based improved soil management practice is one of participatory approaches aiming at improving the soil fertility of upland soils in the mid hills of Nepal (Thapa, 2011).

2.6 Climate Change: A Emerging Challenge

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) the mean global surface temperature increased 0.74°C during the 20th century. Since 1971, rates of land surface temperature have been increasing at the alarming rate of between 0.23 and 0.28°C per decade. This continuing trend, coupled with changes in rainfall patterns and greater frequency of extreme weather events, are likely to have adverse effects on the world's population. Mapletoft found that countries most at risk to climate change tend to have higher levels of poverty, less agricultural resilience to floods or drought. Food insecurity and malnutrition are perhaps the most important consequences of climate change.

As the majority of Nepalese citizens engage in smallholder farming, a sector that is particularly susceptible to weather volatility, a great portion of the population will find itself directly affected by climate change. High levels of poverty will restrict

the adaptive capacity of Nepali farmers (Syannott, 2012). Floods, landslides and other natural calamities displace large numbers of farming population from their farmlands. Most of these are poor indigenous people and Dalits who are forced to reside in marginal lands (CSRC, 2012). Disasters and climate change are adding a new dimension to land management in mountain areas. Models of climate change are uncertain at best, however data on monsoon rains point toward more intense rainfall patterns, longer drought periods and new higher ranges for crops (Sudmeier- Rieux et al., 2012).

Such natural hazards, also including wind storms, frost, landslides and floods, can further aggravate the vulnerability of mountain communities and mountain farming (Kollmair and Banerjee 2001, Haller 2012, Milan and Ruano 2014). Nepal is experiencing social, economic and cultural transformations resulting in remarkable changes in the meanings attached to agricultural land and food security. Labour out – migration is one of the important drivers of such changes (Regmi, 1979). Young people and active labour force hardly live in the communities. Members of rural communities are now bearing huge social and emotional costs because of migrating of young people and parents to work in overseas.

In addition, there are many challenges related to land management. The problem of limited land availability is exacerbated by highly skewed distribution of land, with the top 5% of landowners owning a total of 37% of available land and 47% of landowners owning only 15% of available land (Adhikari, 2006). In Nepal's cities, the demand for new houses has risen tremendously in recent years due to high increases in household income, mostly from remittance (Pandit, 2012). There have been significant changes in social, economic, institutional, as well as biophysical landscapes, particularly in rural areas across Nepal. Key drivers of these changes include migration, a remittance economy, community forestry and climate change effects, and the growing economies of neighboring countries. Depopulation leads to changes in local patterns of land uses due to agriculture contraction, increase in fallow lands and wild vegetation with far reaching ecological consequences and food deficit (Knight 2003).

Similarly, farming activities are changing over the time in response to household resources, technology, socio, political and economical environment,

development of physical infrastructures (irrigation, road, education, communication etc), which have combined affect on farm practices. The level of household resources and utilization is also. Off farm employment opportunities, remoteness of local area and increasing awareness in education for children are forces for migration, which influences household size (MAC, 2011).

The meaning of food security also differs according to people's socioeconomic status. Older people believe in having agricultural land for food security as for them the land produces food, while younger people believe in accessing financial capital through other sources in order to acquire food, particularly non-farm labour and migration. In this situation, younger generation eventually is moving out of agriculture. Thus, the changing landscape of labour organization and livelihood opportunities in rural areas that are influenced by the process of modernization and urbanization has a great impact on food security. People's livelihood practices and access to food are gradually shifting from an agriculture based economy to an economy that is based on other sources of income (Regmi, 1979).

2.7 Agriculture and Migration: An Unwanted Reality

Migration to cities and abroad is increasingly leaving behind half families and the elderly. Livelihoods as well as the management of land are affected by a change of labour force, traditional knowledge, remittances and other consequences of migration. In this study we explored how the land and its management is affected by those issues and what are the measures and strategies taken by the population left behind in two sub watersheds of Nepal and Bolivia. In Nepal, the main degradation problem found were invasive alien plant species, whereas the overall vegetation and forest had increased and some types of degradation, such as soil erosion or landslides, were even reduced.

Outmigration of hill farmers of mountain and hill of Nepal to urban centre, plain area and foreign countries is highly increasing during last two decades which has created heavy labor shortage in Nepalese hill agriculture as a result cultivated land is shrinking because of land abandonment in the rural hill areas of Nepal. Conversion of cultivated land into grassland, shrubs and forest(vegetative) area is increasing day

by day (Chidi 2015). Depopulation in the agriculture area, shrinking of cultivated land use change is a greater issue for food security, employment and environmental perspectives as well but very few attentions have been taken on dynamic situation of Nepal. The changing pattern of population and land use are very complex due to diverse topographical features in the hill of Nepal. It requires in depth analysis of the relationship between population change, land use and shrinking of cultivated land under certain physical constraint (Chidi, 2008).

Migration is a characteristic of demographic dynamics for influencing agriculture. As of 2014, every day about 1300 people are officially leaving Nepal for foreign employment. In Panchase area (Kaski, Parbat, Syangja districts), where the studies were conducted, some villages such down to the cities and urban centers. Consequently, around 20-25% of cultivable land has been abandoned in the Panchase region (Upreti, 2014). Hence, migration has been an adaptation strategy by mountain people in the past. Recently, this mobility has increased, related to rural poverty, environmental degradations, enhanced communication means, higher education, changing values, and rising economies attracting thousands of migrant workers, such as Qatar and other gulf countries in the case of Nepal (Seddon et al. 2002, Jodha 2005, Shrestha and Bhandari 2007, Zoomers 2012). It has been shown that for example land abandonment is a growing consequence of out-migration (Paudel et al 2012, Khanal and Watanabe, 2006) 81% of the 58 households surveyed have at least one member, mostly men and young people, living somewhere else in Nepal or abroad. Due to cultural and legal barriers, only a few women are also migrating abroad (Ghimire and Uprete 2012).

While looking at global trend, worldwide land users are facing the challenge of producing from the land while minimizing natural resources degradation. Land management in mountain is furthermore constrained by steep slopes, inaccessibility, remoteness and often harsh climatic and weather conditions. Working on sloping land hampers mechanisation and thus requires more manual labor, and it requires special care to manage runoff caused by heavy rains, and related soil erosion and mass movements (Adhikari et al, 2013). There is huge rural urban mobility across the country. Many rural families are moving out from villages to towns in search of

employment opportunities, better education and health facilities. Similarly there is an increased number of out migrants in search of employment opportunities.

Table 2.1: Comparison of out Migration Trend and Remittance from other Countries (Annual)

Year	In 2007	In 2010
Number of migration for employment to foreign	2,04,533	2,94,094
Remittance (in 000 Rupees)	10014000	23173000

Source: Nepal National Weekly, 24 April 2011, 11(36) as cited in Land reform monitoring indicators, Nepal, 2012)

2.8 Smallholder: A Challenge in Agriculture

Smallholders are those land possessors who have relatively less portion of land for doing agricultural activities. Here, smallholders indicate size of cultivated land is relatively small (e.g. <2hec.) and dependence on family members for most of the labor used; in which low level of technology, little access to know-how. There are limited resources (capital, skills, labor, risk management etc. Hence, may produce subsistence or commercial commodities, with on-farm and off-farm. As a result, capacity becomes limited capacity of marketing and storage and processing value chain are often vulnerable in supply chain (Mercy Crops,2011). These are frequently struggling to improve their farming business but somehow, they are back again to practice the subsistence nature of work. Because farming as a business inherently faces so many risks like crop/livestock failure, business failure and typically the market failure which always discourages the smallholders to jump in.

The majority of Nepal's population depends on smallholder farming for its livelihood. Many households operate on landholdings that are inadequate to produce enough annual food for survival. Certain families, particularly those from lower caste groups, manage landholdings within the *adhiya* (sharecropping) system and are obliged to turn over a significant portion of their harvest to the wealthier or higher caste members holding the land. It either does not rain at all or it rains very heavily. Correspondingly, monsoon does not arrive when it is expected and is more irregular.

Drought frequency is increasing while springs are drying up. Also, people have noticed more landslide occurring. Limited resources have precluded them from formulating a plan to escape or from fortifying slopes and their homes (Mercy Crops, 2012).

2.9 Measures in Agriculture: Land Reform

As a consequence of diminishing production in agriculture in Nepal, there are some attempts to reform land acquisition pattern. The distribution and ownership of land is greatly skewed according to class, gender and ethnicity (Upreti, 2008). Land has a complicated and multi-dimensional relationship with the phenomenon of migrate to other areas where there is plenty of land (Gautaula & Niehof, 2010).

Similarly, there have been several attempts to reduce poverty relating the improvement in agricultural sector. In recent years poverty elimination has become the most important development objective. Combating rural poverty by becoming increasingly common (Deininger, 2003; Binswanger et al., 19995; Dorner, 1992) as inequality in the distribution of production inputs, especially agricultural land seems to be the main cause of rural poverty and income disparity. Indeed, policies to grant secure access to land for the rural poor can greatly increase the welfare of the poor (Ciamarra, 2004). A successful redistributive land reform may increase small household production and contribute directly and immediately to reduce poverty, the more important concern is not how much production will increase but on whose fields this production will increase. When production increases on the fields of poor farmers, this will certainly help reduce poverty.

Redistribution land reform has been an increasingly important strategy for both poverty alleviation and socio-economic development (Binswanger et al., 1995; Griffin et al., 2002). Consequently, large-scale initiatives exist to implement land reform (Deininger, 2003). An effective land reform program must boost efficiency and promote equity and so land ownership should be targeted towards those who use it most productively. Land is often misallocated which then hampers agricultural development and perpetuates rural poverty. Those who have land don't know how to use it most effectively and those who know how to use it, don't have it. Consequently, the agricultural productivity of the country is much lower compared to other countries

in the region (WB, 2006). These all suggest that there is potential for increasing farm production three to four-fold through land and agrarian reform (NPC, 1998). So, proper policy programme to transfer agricultural land from unskilled to skilled farmers through effective land reform program may be an important instrument to alleviate poverty and disparity.

Specifically, it seems clear however that land reform must come as part of a larger overhaul. Only if access to land is unaccompanied by complimentary reforms is it likely to be unhelpful. So, besides better access to land, it is important to improve access to complementary assets such as education, and, it improve the provision of public goods such as infrastructures(provision of road, hospital, market, bank) needed for them to make an effective use of land. These all suggest that programmes of access to land must be packaged as elements of more comprehensive programmes in order to secure the poverty reduction potential of land. Increase in seasonal migration, although it was occurring since generations –families selling assets such as gold when they need extra cash to purchase food (Ahikari, 2013).

In rural areas in particular, access to land is necessary to realize the right to food and to be free from hunger as protected under Article 11 of the ICESCR. States party to the ICESCR are directed to “ improve methods of production, conservation and distribution of food ... by developing or reforming agrarian systems in such a way as to achieve the most efficient development and utilization of natural resources.” In considering that the “roots of the problem of hunger and malnutrition are not lack of food but lack of access to available food” (ICESCR, 2008). Most rural landholdings are owed; about 72% of urban residents claim ownership of their plots, although their rights may be informal and not recognized by formal law(Mahesh,2012). Hence, there has been several attempts to make land reform so that agricultural productivity can be enhanced. But their implementation has been questioned.

Overall, despite several attempts for improving agricultural production in the country but in reality situation seems grime as food deficit has been increasing day by day indicating challenging days ahead. There are different dimensions associated to result this unwanted situation in the country.

CHAPTER- III: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Methodology is essential in every research as it provides certain path for inquiry. It is one of the processes of inquiry based on certain standard. In this research process overall qualitative research methodology are applied. This methodology is appropriate to include personal perception and understanding of the people.

3.1 Research Design

This study applies qualitative research methodology as to capture perception and understanding of the participants is possible through qualitative research methodology. Experience, observation of people engaged in farming will have better representation through this methodology. Particularly, case study has applied to particular families who have engaged or related to farming activities in their daily lives. Case study helps to explore and represent their day to day engagement to farming and first-hand experience and perception can be captured. For which detailed and extended study can be made to particular place, time and participants based on the issue.

3.2 Nature and Sources of Data

The study is based on both primary and secondary sources of information. In order to fulfill the specific objectives of the study, the analysis is mainly based upon primary data. This primary data has been acquired from field surveys, observations and interviews. The secondary data has been collected from different published and unpublished materials such as research articles, books, journals, seminar papers, occasional papers, case studies, research reports and thesis etc. The methods of the study are basically qualitative and quantitative.

3.3 Sampling Procedure

This research is qualitative in its nature, hence; purposeful sampling is followed. In this regard, participants based on nature of their engagement in farming is represented in this research. For instance, two families completely engaged in farming with traditional patterns, two families who have modernized pattern farming and turned into different than past and two families who have past experience of

farming but recently left due to particular reason. Hence, total of six families are participants in this research based on their present engagement in relation to farming.

My field research was at Pelkachaur V.D.C., ward no. 3 of Syangja district. Furthermore, there are six families as my sampling number for my research. The process of sampling for family selection is based on random sampling.

Table 3.1: Sample Size According to Nature of Household

Name of Respondent	Number of Household	Nature of Household
Jiwan Thapa Magar Dilmaya Gurung	2	Traditional Cereal Agriculture
Lal Bahadut B.K. Narendra Paudel	2	Abandoned Agriculture
Jagat Bahadur Gurung Radhika Aryal	2	Transforming Agriculture

Source : Field Survey, 2074

3.4 Data Collection Techniques /Instruments

In order to obtain reliable information, it is very much essential that techniques used for data collection be precise and accurate. Therefore it is used different tools and techniques. Such as interview schedule, case studies were used to collect the required information.

I) Household Survey:-In the first phase of the field work, household survey was conducted to rapport building; it also helps to find out the respondents. Moreover important basic information will be collected using this technique.

ii) Interview Schedule: - The semi-structured questionnaire was prepared and finalized through the discussion with advisor, callings, and experts. Mostly, close-ended questions were prepared. The six families (relatated households on farming) were interviewed individually by administering pre-tested and semi-structured interview schedule. Both open and close-ended question were used in the interview but mostly close-ended questions were used. This is the main techniques.

iii) Case Study Method:-

Separate case studies with the participant carried out. In this study six respondents will be selected for case studies using convenience sampling.

iv) Observation - During fieldwork, household survey, and case studies, focus group discussion, respondents will also be observed to triangulate the collected data to and ensure that the right information will be collected.

v) Key Informants Interview: - A checklist finalized by supervisor, was used to interview key informants. For getting special insights on certain aspects and for collecting more important qualitative data, key informant interview with key or resource persons were also carried out. A checklist was administrated to different categories such as senior officer of Agriculture Development Committee, VDC secretary, village ex-vice chairperson of Pelkachaur, Paralegal and mother's group etc.

VII) Focus Group Discussion

For the focus group discussion, a checklist was prepared and finalized by the help of Thesis supervisor and colleagues. The major contents of group discussion were the causes of agricultural land abandonment, transforming and underutilized. This study focus Group Discussion (FGD) session was held with representative of VDC's.

3.5 Method of Data Analysis and Presentation

All the collected data from field were analyzed both quantitatively as well as qualitatively as per their nature. The information collected from the field were coded, and entered to the computer program SPSS. Simple descriptive statistics will be used to analyze the data and necessary tables, graphs prepared and inserted under suitable headings. Similarly suitable photographs taken during field visit inserted for better illustrated and reinforce the evaluation aspects of the report. Much more qualitative data which was not quantifiable, we manually managed.

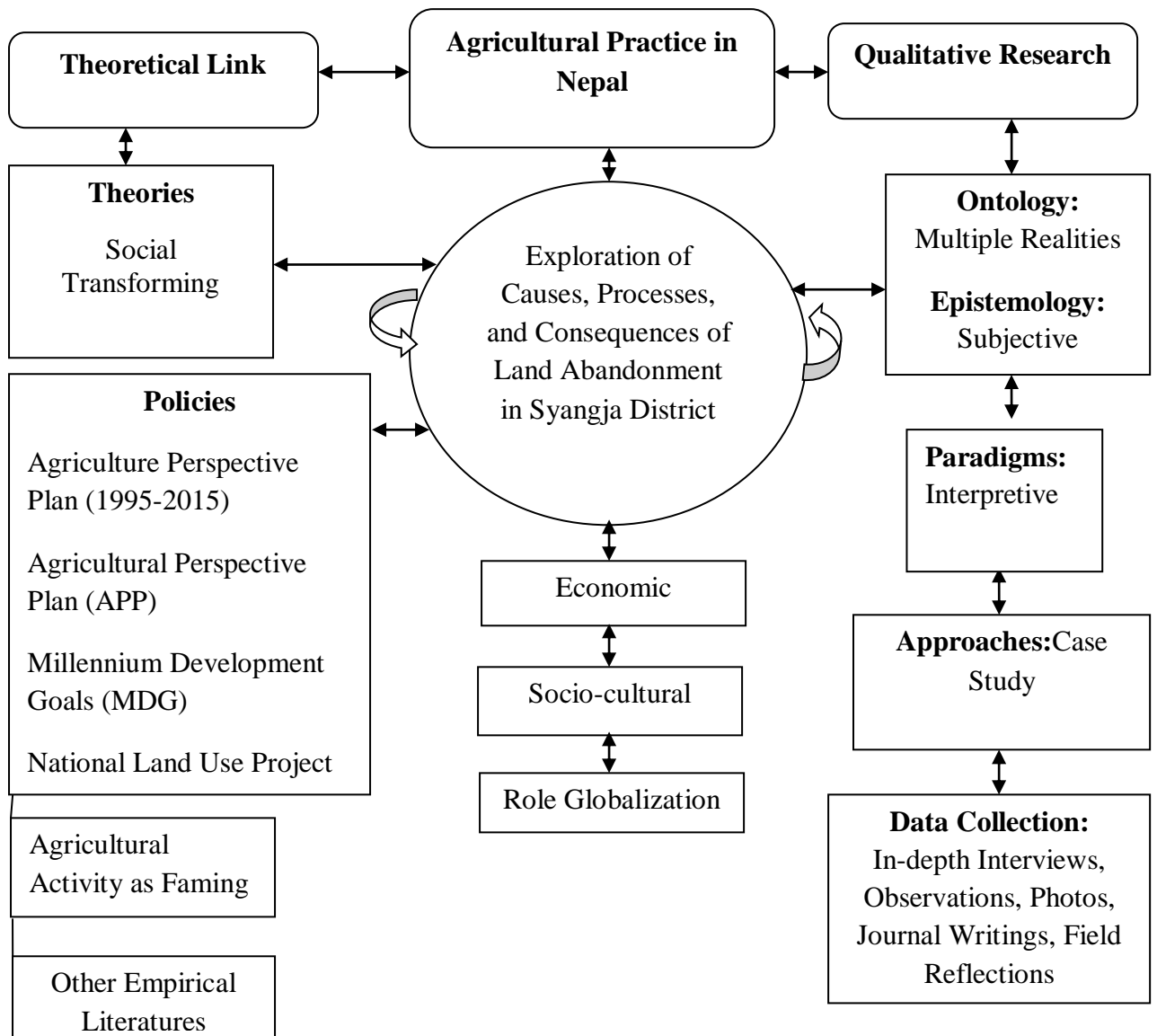
3.6 Problems of Fieldwork

During the fieldwork, researcher faced few problems; it was a peak agricultural season. So it became very difficult to meet farmer in their homes. So it took long time to visit and revisit them. Even after I met them, they were not ready to response to questions because they thought that they know nothing and recommended me to take interview to counterparts. A few of them even thought that there is no point to share their problems. They often raised questions, "what do you get?" Taking key informant's interviews with key persons were relatively easier, it was very difficult to manage FGD sessions and gather participants. Some of the FGD participants told

researcher “Please come back next time with a full bag of improved seeds not with empty one.” Even after I met them, they gave good response me because I had completed my school level education from Manakamana Secondary School which is located in Pelkachaur and my birthplace is their neighborly village. So I didn't bear other kind of problem.

3.7 Research Framework

The following figure is an overall research framework that is applied in the study:



Source: The Author

Fig. 3.1: Conceptual Framework on Current Practices of Farming

CHAPTER- IV: SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY SITE

This chapter includes the socio-economic and demographic background of the study area and the respondents. It includes the study site description, location, climate, cultural setting of the study site, social organization, social structure, caste, ethnicity composition of respondents, food habit, religion, education, economic structure, occupational structure, family size, age and gender composition. The chapter begins with the brief study of the study site description.

4.1 Study Site Description

This study covers only ward no 1,2,3,9 of Pelkachaur VDC. The population of entire district is 2,89,148(Jilla Bikash Yojana, 2073). Out of this population, 4,385 population live in Pelkachaur VDC. The research site is selected purposively. The VDC is situated at 1,356 meters above the sea level. Topographically the study area is both plain and hilly.

This VDC covers more sloppy, stony and less plain land. There are altogether eight wards; Gairishwor, Simle, Tama, Chandrakot, Gaukha, Tulsichaur, Dandagaun and Gumardi. Tulsichaur and Gaukha are paddy farming sites. Bagarekhola provides irrigation facility and these wards lie at lower plain. Paddy farming is not possible in other wards at all. Rest of the wards are in difficult and stony areas. So, maize, millet, wheat, potato, soybean etc. are main crops cultivated in these wards. At the survey area, agriculture is a main source of livelihood. Secondary source of livelihood is remittance. Pelkachaur is boarded west from Biruwa archale. Banethok deurali is at North. And Putalibazar municipality has boarded rest of Pelkachaur VDC. According to village profile 2065, main caste/ ethnic composition are Gurung, Magar, Brahmin, Chhetri, Malla, B.K., Newar, etc.

I was born in Putalibazar municipality. Pelkachaur is very near from my birthplace. I completed my schooling from Manakamana Secondary School located at Pelkachaur. I got chance to observe nook and corner of this survey area since my childhood. I am well familiar with lifestyle and many more. My own observation as well as talks among residential friends helps me to know cereal land transforming rapidly. This made me eager to know causes and possible consequences of cereal land

transformation. Being an educated and civilized citizen I felt to make deep study over this. This is why I choose this site for study.

There is a non pitched road from Pelkachaur to Bagalthok which has link with Siddhartha highway. There are so many non pitched road constructed to link eight wards of this VDC. Some of wards have transportation facility of van, bus, tractor etc only in summer season. There occurs many hurdles during rainy season. Almost all the wards have electricity supply by the year 2061BS. Electricity is generated from Kaligandaki hydropower; one of the biggest hydropower of Nepal. This VDC has close connection with the nearby urban areas. So, use of mobile, laptop, television, computer and many more electrical accessories have increased because of modernization. Massive influences of materials and information due to transportation facilities have contributed to change socio-economic condition. Before some decades, houses roofs were made using grass and stones but this place has been replaced with tin. Many houses have been made nearby VDC office with concrete cements and bricks. Most of the houses are outside cemented and inside red soil with stone and cement and corner roof. Transportation facilities are available to Biruwa Archale and Pelkachaur VDC in to gravelling road.

Villagers faced many problems for longer period of time for they used common well for drinking water and other purposes. At the year 2064 BS, water was supplied from Maghkot shivalaya to ward no.s 1,2,4 and 6 of P elkachaur. water supply has facilitated villagers. Mountains are located at the northern side of this VDC. Especially, Gurung live in the hilly areas among other creeds living in the societies.



Source: DDC Profile, Syangja 2058 BS

Fig. 4.1: Research Areas of Syangja District

4.2 Social Organization

There are various social organizations NGO's /INGO's work on Pelkachaur VDC. "Conservation Education and extension program ACAP" implement conservation education at grade 7 & 8. Secondary School wards no 1DSadagaun. Project itself paid teachers salary of corresponding subject. Some students of school are united and establish a Green force Youth Club. Health & sanitation awareness program was conducted from these youth club.

Nepalese societies have many religions, languages and diversified cultural features. There are more than 40 religious societies (Sapkota 2061:160.) .In Pelkachaur VDC, there are majority of Gurung people. Their main festival is Loshar (Poush 15) and main parba is Mage -Sankranti. Dashain, Tihar, Mega- Sankranti, Jani- Purnama, Nagpanchami, Tij, Loshar, Falgu Purnima, and Tote Parba etc are main festivals in this area They celebrate their festival by conducting Mela of Maidan. For this mela there is one myth, which is as follows! God Shiva visited this place and mesmerized very much .God Shiva visited this place again and again to look like

yogi. He wants to make one temple for God Shiva. Many people gather and celebrate Maghe- Sanskriti there. Simle , one of our village has a cave . many people have tried to find end of this cave but villagers and other visitors couldn't reach more than 500m.different shapes of objects can be found engraved inside of this cave so this is one of the site for internal tourists.There is one historical ruins of palace of king Bhrita at Chandrakot ward no 24 . Group of aged and religious elders OF Chandrakot have exerted some efforts for the conservation and promotion of such historical sites. Manakamana temple at highest altitude of this VDC surrounded by dark and dense forest is assumed its establishment before the establishment of Manakamana temple located at Gorkha district. Many visitors come from far off districts for worshipping gods and goddess .therefore ,it is a religious and tourist sites .

When we talk about such historical and tourists sites , we should not forget to talk about locally established social organizations . there are many child clubs , youths clubs ,civil societies working for the upliftment of such important sites .many public awareness programs are launched at local level time and again for the elimination of many social evils like gender discrimination , water tight system , etc. programs launched at different times have brought many positive changes in a society.

4.3 Climate

Pelkachaur VDC are situated at 1300 to 2000 meters above from sea level. Famous geologist' ' Toni Hagan divides the Nepal in four major geographical divisions. According to him study area are located at Mahabharat-Pardesh. These VDC is covered by sloppy mountains, ridges, few valley,forest, small streams and warm pounds.

Formation of this VDC is at slope in upper part. So there are different climatic condition at northern side & southern side. In northern side late sunrise in morning and fast sunset at evening at winter season. So there is cold climatic condition within whole year. In this area, highest temperature found within range of 32⁰C on August and lowest temperature found within range 6 degree C at January For average records of temperature within range of 14 degree C .the average rainfall is recorded at (625mm/per year) from above data, it seems the climate of study area is medium neither hot nor cold, which is broadly Smithson.

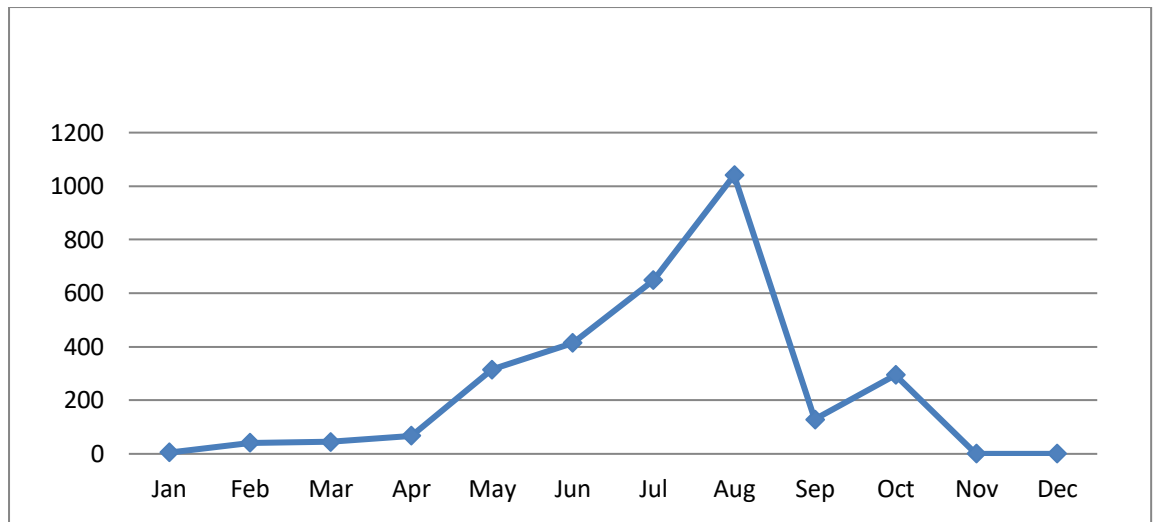


Fig. 4.1: Annual Rainfall in Pelkachaur VDC

4.4 Caste/Ethnicity Composition of the Respondents

History of Nepal is the history of synchronism of various cultural language; religions castes .It is model of mosaic society. Nepal is a country inhabited by various caste/ethnic groups many of whom have a distinct language of their own as well different religious persuasions. In the survey area, it's also have mix scenarios of caste. There are majority of Gurung in Simle, Brahmin and Chhetri in Tulsichar then Chantrakot has mix society of caste.

The majority of (40%) is occupied by Gurung .Brahmin and chhetri each covers 40% respectively. It is 10% covered by Magar and the least is10%by B.K in the study area. The demography represents mixed ethnic society ranging from 40% of the Gurung to the 10% of B.K.

4.5 Food Consumption

When household food distribution nutrient intake is observed in rural Nepal, favored over woman's is food allocation and serving order. Thus, in most cases; women and children are less likely to meet their nutrient requirements than their men counterparts. In fact, women often eat after the rest of the family finishes eating, meaning the survive on the often-insufficient leftover food. There is evidence from quantities and qualitative surveys that the food and cash that women generate themselves are more likely to remain in their own control. The analysis of the survey village shows consumption of readymade food items either imported from other districts or from neighboring countries. This is all the result of land abandonment. It is

compulsion of villagers as less production of cereal crops. Respondents & key informants reported that their food consumption habits were changed.

4.6 Religion & Language

Nepal declared is a secular state; still the majority of the people in Nepal are reported of being the follower of Hinduism. Spiritual belief is very important in the Hindu oriental state, because the term is related with the spirit of soul. The entire respondents were Hindus. Here the researcher tried to survey about the religious composition of the respondents the fact gathered clearly shows almost all the respondents have adopted Hinduism as their core religion. All of them verbalize both Nepali language and own mother language.

4.7 Education

Education is the human rights and essential tool for achieving the goals of equality, development and peace. Plate form for Action and Beijing Declaration (Cited in FWLD and TAF 2003)

Education is the basic requirement and vehicle of change and development, which contributes the developments of social, political and economic betterment. Education not only improves individual skills, ability and awareness, but also arouse the spirits of struggle against poverty, gender based discrimination and inequality. It helps to raise the living standard of the people by well maintaining their economic activities day to day life.

In the survey area, the education level respondents was higher than national level. They were deprived of access to higher-level education. According to their caste/ethnic composition Brahmin were more literate among other caste. Among total number of literacy of Brahmin 14 percent are literate, 4 percent illiterate, 6 percent under SLC. Similarly 20 percent gurung were literate, 6% percent illiterate, 6% percent above SLC and 4% above IA in study area among the other caste. Magar were 6 percent literate, 10 percent illiterate, 2 percent under SLC in the study area. Similarly, 2 percent were literate, 2 percent illiterate, 2 percent were under SLC in this area. Similarly 4% Mall Thakuri were literate, 2% illiterate, 4% SLC pass. Amongst other cast so called Dalit B.K. are 2 percent are illiterate and 2 percent are under SLC in this area.

This data clearly shows that Brahmin was leading education level in this area. Brahmin was most sensitive in education than other caste similarly was followed Gurung and Magar.

4.8 Economic Structure

Women contribute to development not only through remunerated work but also through a great deal of unremunerated work. Platform for action and Beijing Declaration (Cited in FWLD and TAF 2003)

In the context of Nepal ,where the most of the area is covered with a number of villages. So, the main source of village economy is based on agricultural activities. The main sources of livelihood of study are agriculture. The economic condition of VDC of study areas consists predominately of the cultivation cereal production, seasonal and off-seasonal vegetable cultivation and livestock rearing and so on Primary crops e.g. paddy, maize, wheat and vegetables tomato, cauliflower, cabbage cucumber, radish, bean etc. Most of the households are keeping buffalos, cows, goats, ox, poultry etc.

4.9 Occupational Structure

The main source of livelihood in the study area is agriculture. The economy of study area consists predominantly of agro-farming, followed by only subsistence farming, abroad and very few in small scale business are some other jobs to maintain to their livelihoods. Especially Dalit performs their occupational works and wage labourers (Jyala, majduri). Foreign employment is one of the main income sources of the Dalit.

Maximum numbers of the respondents reported the fact that 40% of the households are engaged in the subsistence farming. Whereas another largest no. of households heads 38%are evolved as a foreign employment followed by other job like government job and lastly very few 4% is seen involving in the business sector like kirana shop, vegetable shop hotels etc., Dalit respondents said that they conduct their own traditional work as well as wage laborers.

4.10 Family Size of the Study Site

In the countryside, as a developing and religiously guided societies. The size of the family is believed to be one of the most important factors that determine the livelihood. The structure of the family plays an important role in the socio-economic status. There are mainly three types of families in the study. Therefore the respondents families are dichotomized in two-category joint and nuclear family. The nuclear family includes a husband, a wife and their unmarried children and it is comparatively small in size joint family, which means a husband, a wife (one or more), their married or unmarried children and other relatives living in one household who have their meals in the same kitchen. And an extended family means more and more members and more relatives living in one household. Family is the basic social institution. The size of the family shows about individuals and it directly affects the economy of the family.

4.11 Age Composition of the Respondents

The vast majority of the respondents were found of productive age during the interview, the low age respondents consult their old age and family members while replying before and after ranking questions and some other information.

Percentage distribution of the household members is written below:

- Respondents of age group 51 to 60 cover about 45 which are largest in percentage.
- Respondents of age group 41 to 50 covers about 35 percent
- Respondents of age group 30 to 40 covers about 20 percent

4.12 Marital Status

Marriage is the social and biological requirements of human beings. In study site most of the respondents were found married. Marriage is an important aspect of human life, which provides permission to have sexual relation and give birth to children legally. Marriage is a universal truth in Hindu society. In this study most of the respondents were married.

Majority of respondents in the study area were found married which can be proved by the collected data that 83% respondents are married. Among the 17% of the respondents are unmarried.

CHAPTER- V: CAUSES OF LAND ABANDONMENT, TRANSFORMATIVE, UNDER UTILIZATION, FOOD SECURITY

5.1 Youth Toiling on Foreign Land

Outmigration is not a new phenomenon, but its intensity is certainly unprecedented. In fact, Nepal has been sending its youth abroad for the past 200 years and has been receiving remittances (Adhikari, 2006). A large number of Nepalese youth are serving as labour outside the country. Many youth of this VDC are leaving their birthplace because of many reasons and it has taken a high speed. People of survey area are mostly from Gurung community. Male have been attracted towards Indian and British army since the time of their ancestors. Youth feel proud to serve as Indian & British army because of attractive salary. Dhan Bdr Gurung who live in Simle said, “Mostly most of the youth want to be the British and Indian army and if they are not selected then they thought about abroad works.” (Upreti, 2014) indicates migration is a characteristic of demographic dynamics. As in 2014, every day about 1300 people are officially leaving Nepal for foreign employment. We can find heavy mass of youth who went to be British army for lots of money can be earned without having more academic qualification. That is why, they do their best to serve as British army not they satisfy themselves being Indian army.

After being economically strong, race of migrating towards well facilitated city areas is increasing heavily on this area. Family members leaving village don't feel to work on agricultural work for livelihood if one of the member is making handsome earning working in foreign land. So, land is left uncultivated. Those who can't make military as their profession have last choice that is not other than to go Gulf countries. Nepalese are everywhere in the low paying jobs which are most visible. There is a saying among us here, that '*Nepali ta ahile jaha pani painchha*' (Nepalese people and potatoes are found everywhere)(Dixit et al. 1997:11). According to the field observation I found that wives of men working in Gulf countries live in city areas so that their children can be sent to boarding school. Therefore they quit working on fertile land. In the case of Dil Maya Gurung her elder son has been working in the Gulf country and daughter-in- law stays in nearby city, Rangkhola to provide private school education to her son. These conditions are almost seen in the survey area.

People are going through lots of hard time. Even their hands, legs are cut off and it is well known to men. Despite that there is no any decrement in number of men going in Gulf countries, in context to present situation even woman are going in abroad and their number is in increasing order. Everybody knows that the work is very hard but many people are obliged to go abroad for foreign employment, according to Jiwan Thapa Mager views, people are compelled to show their prestige, ability, wise also they thought we cannot earn a lot money in our country. If youth manpower of the village engages in traditional occupation like agriculture, villagers judge unenthusiastically.

Main source of their income has been remittances through their economic necessities were fulfilled through cultivation of cash crops and vegetables before some decades. Remittances have not been found invested in any agricultural activities because of which this profession is at the peak of danger day by day. Outmigration of hill farmers of mountain and hill of Nepal to urban centre, plain area and foreign countries is highly increasing during last two decades which has created heavy labour shortage in Nepalese hill agriculture as a result cultivated land is shrinking because of land abandonment in the rural hill areas of Nepal. (Chidi, 2012). Increment is the flee of active manpower towards foreign countries has resulted increment in land abandonment .Lal Bahadur B.K. who lives in Chandrakot states that they move to cities if their husband and children are started to earn money.

Educational migration is another form of migration in the survey area. People are found giving higher importance to higher education because of close connection with city area through mainly communication and transportation. There is no facility of higher education on this area. So, youth are found moving towards Kathmandu, Butwal, and Pokhara for completion of gaining higher academic qualification. Those who complete their university studies satisfy themselves doing even minor jobs living in big cities. So, I didn't find people returning to village and giving continuity to agriculture.(Ghimire and Upreti, 2012) conclude that 81% of the 58 household surveyed have at least one member, mostly men and young people living somewhere else in Nepal or abroad. Due to cultural and legal barriers, only a few women are also migrating abroad. In past, many people had left their village because of moist revolution. Among them few people have returned to their village. At present situation, people aren't directly abused. They are indirectly abused of social

domination, racial discrimination (water-tight system), bitterness among brother, neighbors. Besides these, house nearby dark forest is one of the reasons that push them to migrate in city areas.

Table 5.1: Comparative Statistic of Foreign Labour :

Year	India	Gulf	USA/Europe	Japan,Korea China	Other
2004	218	152	31	83	57
2009	311	245	56	131	73
2014	353	327	85	129	89

Source: Village Development Committee Profile 2071

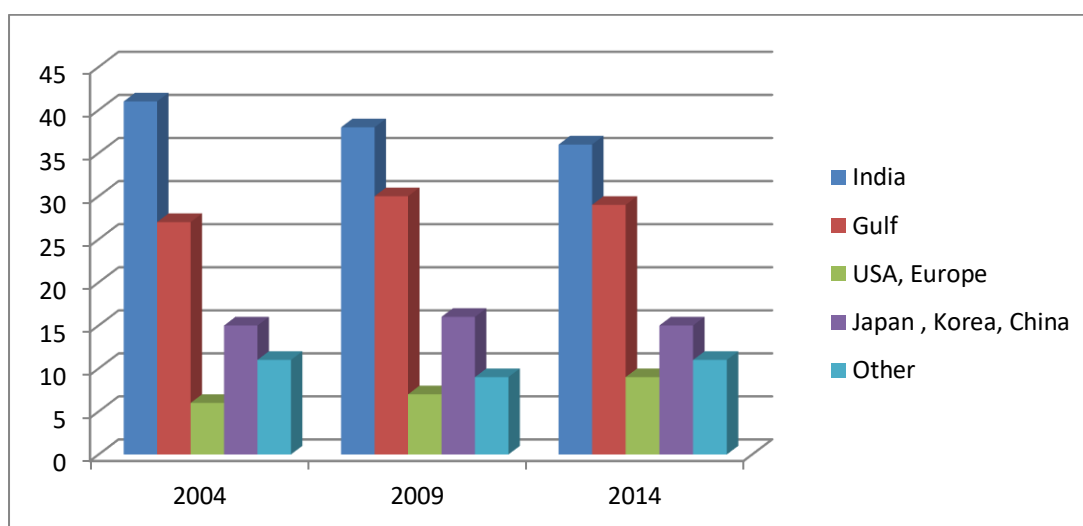


Fig 5.1: Comparative Statistic of Foreign Labour in Different Country

5.2 Movement the Harder to Easiest Path

Land is important funding for human being. Land is directly concern to human life to different purposes. Food production is essential for human survival. He even invented marvelous inventions but one must produce crops for our survival otherwise human life reach to extinction and food products designed to turn a man to the ground. Steps of production from its initial stage to last require large manpower. To cultivate the fields, to carry sewage, plant millet, corn sow, cultivate, and harvest different skills to the agricultural workers is essential. A few decades ago, this area was no shortage of such workers.

Large family size, and family members of many of the field because of his work have done so himself says, this innate The Ward No. 2 living, Jagat Bahadur Gurung 48 years old. He says, "Many villagers used to harvest even by clearing bushes. But now, it's hard to find people even working on fertile land." As there used to be large family size there was not lack of manpower. So works were completed on time. Adding Narendra Panta says "People used to help each other family having male used to send male worker and family having more female workers also did the same."

According to above statements people are migrate harder to easiest path. It means situation is totally changed also (Regmi, 1979) said, "Usually people migrate from higher to lower elevations as internal migration to better facilities and income opportunities." So, there were not problems of irregularity in agricultural task. This tradition (*melaparma*) played key role as there used to be work division. In the case of delay neighbors used to stretch their helping hands. Workers were easily found at reasonable price for doing different minor to major task. Villagers used to give crops if they do not have wages to pay. At present situation its very-very hard to find energetic manpower. There has been like desertification of workers in village. We find only children, old people and women in village. Som Bahadur Gurung, ward no.5 said, "due to lack of male, village is so void and disgrace that even there is no one to carry sick people to nearby health post.

Land has been converted into grassy land as it does not find any active manpower to shed their sweat. But some practices I found there was plantation of orange, guava, and lemon as it does not required much manpower. People are losing their interest in this field for it cannot be made with single effort. So I found many productive lands being converted into barren. There is increasing trend of youth going to Gulf countries which have compelled even women to plough field. Before some years, rearing goats, cows and other domestic animals was the matter of prestige. Requirement of fertilizers was fulfilled by the dung excreted by animals but today I found drastic decrement in the number of domestic animals. As a result, I found shortage of organic fertilizers.

5.3 Penetration Modernity in Lifestyle

Nepal is experiencing unprecedented socioeconomic changes. Nepalese society is rapidly moving towards urbanization, modernization and commercialization,

reinforced by economic globalization and market enforcement (Seddon et al. 1998). This has implications in terms of changing agro-based land use and livelihood. Present world is the world of science and modern technology. Rapid development has made this planet a small global village. Development in communication, transportation has helped in overcoming all kinds of hindrances raised by geographical structure. People living in different corners can easily practice customs and traditions living in one corner. Suryadhoj Thapa, Monitor of village Tulsichaur said that at his period they had to go to rich peoples house for listening radio but at present mobile was available everywhere .

Such effects brought due to development have not left this village 22 km far from Syangja headquarter. Lifestyle of people is heading towards modernization. We can easily feel this. Place of food items made up of barely, wheat, corn etc. have been taken by rice. At present, people feel shy to show others themselves taking *dhindo and roti*. They feel proud when they take rice as their daily meals. 52 years old Dil Maya Gurung of Simle said, “We had to wait festival like Dashain and Tihar only to have rice. Villager used to kill their appetite with roasted soybean, maize, *Dhindo, Khole etc.*”

Not only children but also elders prefer to have food prepared in cities. There is easy availability of aalu *chop, doughnut, sel roti, samosa, puri tarkari* etc. in nearby shop. So, people prefer to have such items as it lessen burden of preparing ourselves. There are many factors that have increased use of imported product. But major one is decrement in food production in villages. Agriculture needs large manpower and they have to toil under scorching sun enduring rain water and slippery land. Our father and grandfathers don't want us to involve in such hardworking profession. So, youth don't have much interest in agriculture.

Mainly the marginal agricultural lands which are very distant from farmer's residence, less fertile and very close to forest have been abandoned. Some of the main causes of land abandonment are wildlife damage, outmigration for jobs, migration to urban areas, alternative income sources such as remittance, pension and foreign job, rural road construction, distant agriculture field, urban employment, education and low productivity. (Khanal & Watanabe, 2006). Radhika Aryal of Simle said that they had

to toil a lot being uneducated but didn't want their children forthcoming generation having life full of lacks.

Villagers are aware of their children education so they are even sending daughters to school as they want them to involve in other prestigious profession. People involving in other profession like army, governmental jobs etc. have more prestige and they have good economic status too. Remittance has been major source of survival for the people live in the village. But that remittance has not been used for any agricultural development. At present people want to live cozy and pleasant life so, money sent by the members working in foreign countries have been used only for buying good clothes, cosmetic items and other equipments of luxury. At present there is electricity supply in this ward. So, people are using computer, mobile and many more electronic appliances. Productive time is spent on playing mobile and computer. There is influence of western culture on traditional cultures, living style. In the year 2059 B.S., road was constructed from Bagalthok to Pelkachaur that joint this VDC to Siddhartha highway. Elders say that they had to use mules to carry day to day materials before construction of road. Even they had to walk seven to eight days to reach Butwal when they didn't have mules to carry materials. That's why, construction of road, supply of drinking water have brought smile on their face. In the year 2067 supply of drinking water from Baadkhola located at ward no. 3 of nearby Majhkot VDC completed. Water taps have been made in society. Before two decades, it was so difficult to collect fodder and woods as well as it took long time to bring required materials from nearby market. In spite of such hurdles villagers hadn't left cultivable land.

5.4 Search of New Opportunity

There is no doubt on it but more serious concern in recent reason of that problem is land abandonment as socio-cultural scenario of rural part has been rapidly changing. People are choosing other options so called easier options avoiding physical activities on the fields. There is huge rural urban mobility across the country. Many rural families are moving out from villages to towns in search of employment opportunities, better education, and health facilities. Similarly there is an increased number of out migrants in search of employment opportunities. (Thapa, 1990). Man is naturally egotistic. Man can never be 100% satisfied. Because of this nature great

achievements in the field of modern science and technology have been gear up. People dependent on agriculture want to be modernized. To be modernized one should have good economic status. Agriculture needs more investment of time and labour. That's why people seek different good opportunities as a alternative source of income. Convenience source of earning like governmental job etc. have lured youth that's why there is huge mass of youth working in the city like Pokhara and Kathmandu. Radhik Aryal of Simle says focusing on main reason of sky rocketing land abandonment claiming that people of this modern age only seek luxurious life ignoring painful livesbut agriculture demands more hard works and sacrifice .

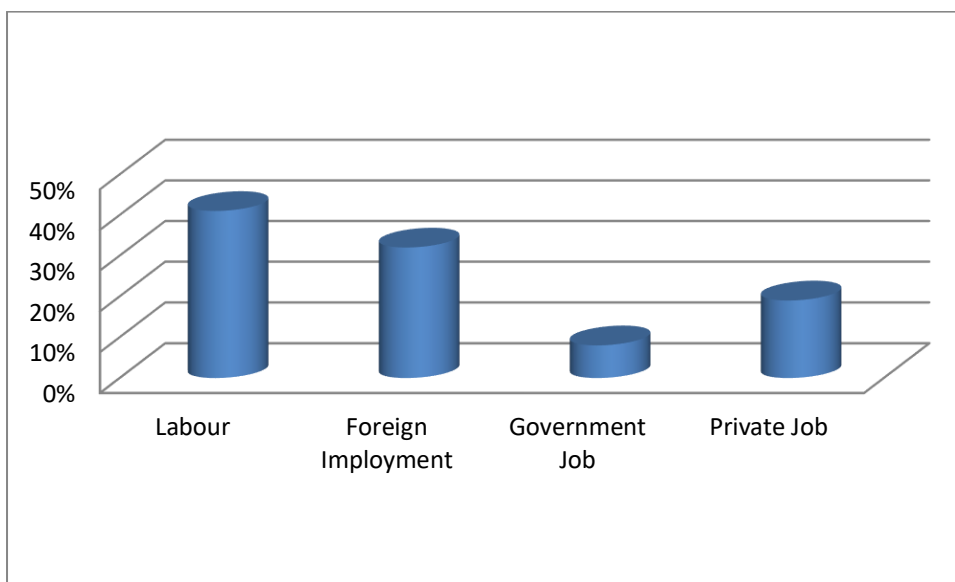


Fig. 5.2 Involvement on another Sector

Youth quit their education for doing different business. In this competitive world, local farmer cannot fulfill his all needs. So, they keep on seeking new opportunity. Abroad remittance has played vital role in changing lifestyle of villagers which result in the verge of extinction of agriculture. To get rid of many problems at national level, Nepal has also similar scenario regarding worrisome picture of trend of agriculture, particularly, way of farming that has been carried out in recent days especially in rural part of the country. "Agriculture is the main livelihood source for rural people in Nepal... For the last two decades, the mid hills of Nepal have witnessed an increase in abandonment of agricultural land." (Poudel, 2010). "If people keep on going migrating toward cities in seek of happy and prosperous life definitely village suffers

isolation” says Jiwan Thapa Mager of Tulsichaur. Even villagers want to live luxurious life in city. Trend of migration towards cities has increased gradually. So recently living villagers are afraid that their village would lack sufficient population in near future. Villagers cannot join their hands and mouth involving in agriculture in one hand, on the other hand there is a challenge to help their children brighten their future. To overcome the problem of fulfilling different need of family, agriculture alone cannot help so this occupation has left them in life full of sorrow and dilemma.

5.5 The Rush Returns in the Cash

The ant is depicted as a symbol of hard work as well as patience and so are the farmers as they need the patience to get outcome of their hard works. The farmer cannot get return by the same day from their field. Farmers harvest the grain of suffering after long period of time. So, they don't get return as quickly as in other occupation. If they get also they consume very less in amount. Very negligible amount of money used to come in use for people used barter system as their customs and traditions but recently the situation has indeed changed a lot. Every items and services can only be used if one can spend money. So, money has become inseparable part of our life. It has been rooted deep into people mind that every facilities can be met with money. Either to be admitted to the hospital for treatment or to admit children in school, money is needed immediately. “Money becomes urgent at marriage ceremony, *bartabanda* and ritual activities. To send children school, buy copy and pencil money is needed. But growing maize and millet cannot be sent as money” says Dhan Bdr Gurung.

Not only is this but Money needed for other social works too. There is risk of losing life due to lack of money so residents of this area want to save money for saving life of their relatives. Farmers do not get today's' output by the end of day they have to wait long time. Farmers go through many difficulties as they need to find market for conversion of their agricultural products into money. It is not always sure that they get to sell their products at reasonable price. Farmers go through economic crisis when there is lack of production and reasonable market. When one needs money, it is needed to borrow money from aristocratic at the cost of returning money on high interest. But farmers are being victims of poverty as they cannot return even principal on time. So, there is high obligation to be debt. People need money immediately to

overcome accidents that come between life and death. People are obliged to choose works based on daily wages. Narendra Panta states “works based on daily wages give at least some amount without delay. When there is money on hand we can buy essential goods, save money and wipe out difficulties.” This is why, villagers are attracted toward loading, daily wages and business activities. These works give quick output in terms of money.

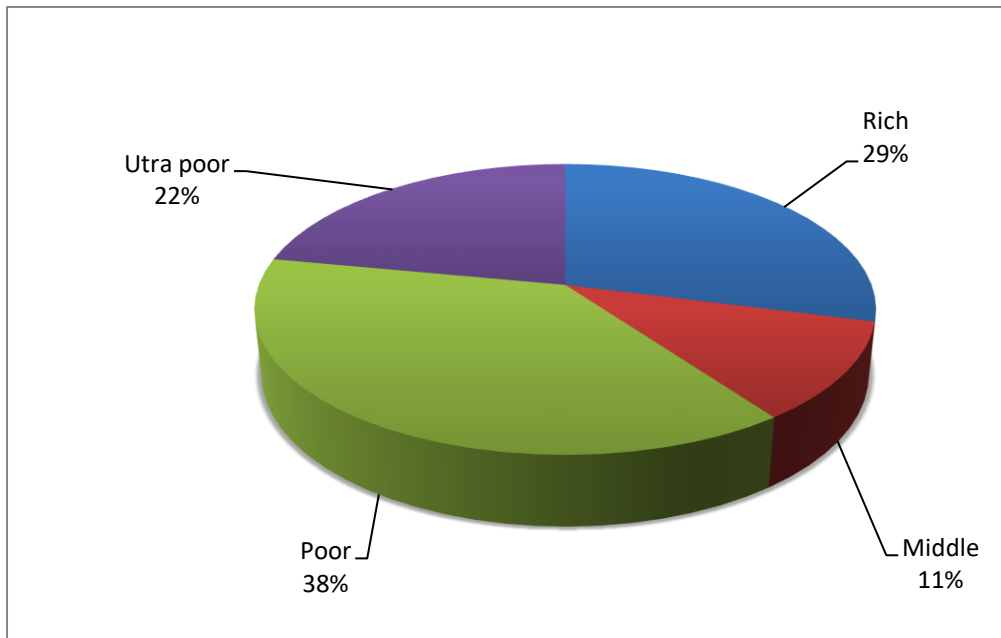


Fig. 5.3: Abandonment by Class Category

5.6 More Input and Less Output

Land used for cultivating crops in a traditional way for many years have lost its fertility. So there is high decrement rate in the food production. The overall status of inherent soil fertility is poor in most of the cultivated soils in the mid hill of Nepal. According to Brown(1997) nitrogen and phosphorus levels in the soils are highly deficient with low organic matter content and supply. However, due to wide distribution of mica dominated bed rocks, potassium is abundantly available (Shreier et al,1999). Fertility decline of the mid hill soils have been reported by many authers (Caarson, 1992) as said by other, soil fertility decreasing in survey area day by day. Rajesh Aryal, Local resident of ward no. 3 who have been involved in agriculture for many years said that it was enough to feed family of eight members even his parents sold maize and millet. However, at present condition is not as before. He meets food

demand of five members hardly. Showing bitterness towards agriculture Lal BahadurBK of Chandrakot that it was easy and better to work on daily wages than to engage in own agriculture.

Animal husbandry is practiced hardly so, there are very few farmers who make compost manure using animal dung. This has resulted use of chemical fertilizers purchased at expensive price. Uses of chemical fertilizers increasethe production for few years. When it is used for years and years, it destroys fertility of a land. This gradually lessens food production. Therefore, farmers face miserable production in the years to come. Every year same kinds of crops are cultivated using chemical fertilizers, this makes land unproductive and barren.

Nowadays, workers working on field are seeking new opportunities and gradually migrating to city areas. So, it's hard to find workers even to plough field. Are children and aged people capable of ploughing field ? If worker are found, they are to be paid very high wages. Jagat Bahadur Gurung said “Workers' wages working on daily basis was expensive and that also very hard to find on time. Theyshould be requested ten times. In village there was no any male. Female do not plough.”

Especially, youth move to urban areas and Gulf countries leaving their homeland for earning money. If anyone is ready to pay expensive wages also its hard to find one to plough field. There is social barrier for women to plough field. This is why, land remains barren. Land types of this VDC are marginal, less fertile, far from human settlements and nearby jungles. Cultivation on far from settlement requires more labour, time and investment. *Mukhiya* of Simle, Rajash Rana said, “When work is completed deploying workers , input is not enough even to pay workers . What mustbe done by not quitting agriculture ?”Hence, large investment bears less production. On the other hand, different birds, wild animals destroy crops produced on the land near by jungle before farmers harvest them. So, there are so many such conditions making farmers investments go in vain. Investment increases when crops are protected from the wild creatures keeping watchman some months before harvesting.

Farmer can avoid wild creature by keeping watchman but cannot avoid uncertain natural disasters like heavy rainfall, storms, hailstone, and drought. This nullifies farmers' investment. Agricultural equipments like plough, sickle, etc. are being

expensive day by day. Different fertilizers, seeds, manure are expensive at present. All these factors obviously increase agricultural investment. Less production even at high investment has compelled many farmers to abandon their tradition lands.

Table 5.2: Average Price of Agricultural Instrument, Seed and Wage

Labour wages		Average Price
Landsman	1 person	Rs. 500
Plowman	1 person	Rs. 1200
Pair of ox	1 Pair	Rs. 2500
Agricultural tools		
Plough	1 per	Rs.1500
Juwa	1 per	Rs. 500
Kuto	1 per	Rs. 300
Kodalo	1 per	Rs. 1500
Hasiya	1 per	Rs. 500
Doko	1 per	Rs. 500
Namlo	1 per	Rs. 300
Dante	1 per	Rs. 500
Manure		
Chemical fertilizer (Sugar..)	1 kg	Rs. 300
Compost fertilizer	1 bhari	Rs. 200
Seed		
Maize	1 Pathi	Rs. 500
Millet	1 Pathi	Rs. 600
Paddy	1 Pathi	Rs. 400
Potato	1 kg	Rs. 75
Wheat	1 kg	Rs. 500
Bean	1 kg	Rs. 250
Soybean	1 kg	Rs. 200

Source : Field Survey, 2074

5.7 Imbalance between Labour and Land

Nepal government has made different plans and policies for the improvement to be made in the field of agriculture but yet not found effective. Ear Pleasanton plans have been made large in number but their implement is fragile that has its direct effect on development. On the other hand many programs related to land reform have stopped. Political parties raise issue only during election, later they forget it. In a nutshell, such delay has bad impacts on GDP. Nepal covers less fertile land and that land is also owned by elite people so, there is no sufficient production made on fertile land as rich family are not directly engaged in this profession. Farmers don't own productive land to shed their sweats. It's so miserable condition in Nepal. Rich people who own large fertile land don't have any obligation to engage in agriculture. So, land is left barren.

Access to land is still an important determinant of rural poverty. Poor access to land means more poverty. The landless and people without land security constitute the poor population in rural areas.(Chapagain et al, 2015). According to VDC secretary, Shrikanta Aryal one fourth of a family of this area don't have land enough to join their hands and mouths. Most of the money minded rich people of Nepal migrate to big cities. Poor villagers own few acres of land far from house and near to the jungle and that also not enough to feed them for even three month. Lal Bahadur BK said, "Especially we dalit own very less fertile land. And that is also nearby sloppy areas and dark jungles."

By the result, farmers are searching other alternative as income generating sources leaving old traditional profession; agriculture. They don't do this willingly but it's their compulsion as food necessity of family cannot be met with crops produced on few acres of land. Dilmaya of Simle added that it was the compulsion to leave land barren because of not having enough workers. Rich people don't have labor and farmers who want to toil don't have land ownership. There is potential for increasing farm production three to four-fold through land and agrarian reform (NPC,1998). So, proper policy program to transfer agricultural land from unskilled to skilled farmers through effective land reform program may be a important instrument to alleviate poverty and disparity. That's why land is used for other purposes like celebrating marriage ceremony, playing football, volleyball etc.

5.8 Climate Being Opponent of Agriculture

There is no possibility of farming without rainwater. So, farmers need to wait favorable weather for cultivation. Nepal covers less fertile land and that land is also deprived of regular irrigation facilities. So, only one hope is on rainwater. At present world is facing different problems due to global warming like acid rain, heavy rain, drought etc. Soil loss and nutrient depletion due to rainfall erosion are very high, particularly in the rain fed marginal land and the degraded grazing lands in hills. The losses of soil organic matter and nutrients are threatening the sustainability of agriculture (Thapa, 1990). Farmer in survey areas are facing many problems. Unfavorable environmental condition has resulted delay in agricultural activities like they sow seeds but cannot sprout out because of untimed rainfall.

Narendra Panta showed his dissatisfaction towards uncertain rainfall which destroy crops. When season is favorable from time of plantation to harvestation then only farmers can have sweet output. Unfavorable environment has very bad impacts on agriculture. Similarly the research conducted on different geographical regions in Nepal conducted by Chapagain & Gentle (2015) have shown that the chain of water hazards such as drought and erratic rainfall causing loss of crops, livestock, income and employment which ultimately causes human migration. Decrease in agricultural productivity farm size and inadequate income opportunities are reported as key reasons for rural-urban migration in hill of Nepal. Radhika Aryal also agree with Pant saying hailstone, storm and floods destroy fruits of hard works.

Crops are destroyed by unexpected heavy rainfall, hailstone, landslides etc. Main reason behind this is global warming. At present, farmers are facing many problems like heavy wind breaks plants whereas heavy rain fall destroys buds and flowers so; farmers are unable to find to make solution over such natural calamities. Farmers grow crops with large investment; shed their sweat and blood but its easily destroyed by such natural disasters so farmers are losing their interest on this field. Despite of hard work and investment people are being unable to sustain their village life. Many villagers have problems to joint their hand to mouth. That's why this profession has been challenging day by day which has increased percentage of land abandonment in Nepal. VDC secretary of Pelkachour gives the solution to overcome abovementioned problem. Encouraging farmers to do agriculture and livestock is very important.

5.9 Political Instability and Social Problem

Nepal ran through long year of conflict between government and Maoist by the result of which many citizens faced many problems. Mass of people died. Many people flew to Gulf countries. To get rid of political problems many people migrated to big cities in search of other alternative for their survival leaving their traditional profession agriculture. More than 70,000 people were displaced during the 10-years conflict (1996-2006) between the Government of Nepal (GON) and the Unified Communist Party of Nepal(Maoist). Internally displaced children and women are particularly vulnerable to trafficking, sexual exploitation and child labor (IDMC, 2010). Dil Maya Gurung said, “Many people who left village during Maoist, civil war and conflicts are still living in city areas.” In my opinions, most of all the areas faced problems created by conflicts, same is with this area. Only handful number of people are found returning to village and engaged in agriculture.

People do not prefer to invest remittance on agriculture because future of this profession is still vague for Nepal is facing political instability. Even private organizations aren't lured for investment because of instability. That's why there is decrement in food production. A number of factors explain the weak growth performance of agricultural over the past two decades. During the 12- year conflict that concluded in 2006 had adverse effects on the agricultural sector. Hundreds of thousands of rural households left land behind and moved to the cities mostly Kathmandu Valley; other moved abroad. These movement of rural population resulted in a situation of labour and investment scarcity in rural areas.(ADS, 2014) Land is being used for other purposes, misused or left barren. Though people are heading towards modern ways of living people are still practicing blind beliefs, deep rooted social problems like untouchability and different social discrimination. So called high cast, rich people suppress people having low standard of life and so called lower cast people.

In addition to above problems Jiwan Thapa adds the problem of migration of lonely women, widow and children as they cannot bear discrimination of societies. Here we can still find many social problems. Gender discrimination that don't let female to plough the field, participate in different socio-cultural activities together with problems related to widow and single women have obliged many villagers to leave their village and migrate to cities where they don't have to be the prey of

discrimination. Even family and social disputes have been the reason to migrate. Ultimately this results in land abandonment.

5.10 Fragmentation Pushing the Farmland toward Underutilization

At this area, large acres of land owned by ancestors are fragmented gradually. Family could make large output, cultivating on large acres of land when there wasn't land subdivisions. Before some decades, many families were dependent on agriculture for their survival. At present; fewer families are dependent on agriculture. Main reason of land fragmentation is land divisions among sons in a family. When a land is divided among family members, each member are given small piece of land. To combat the food shortage caused by small size and traditional practices, off employment opportunities are the main contributing factors. (Humi, 2000) Larger the family members larger will be the land divisions. Larger the divisions, lesser part of land is used for the cultivation. Usually, some piece of land has their use for making place to dispose cow dung (Bhakari), place to maintain sanitary ,etc . Family size may expand but acres of land owned remains as it was before. In one hand, crops and vegetables cultivated on small piece of land cannot fulfill food demand of a family on the other hand, farmers have obligation to seek other ways of survival and this convert cultivable land into barren.

While observing some statistical data, one can still determine that farming in rural Nepal is still significant. People living in rural part of the country still dependent on agricultural activities for economical engagement. "The rural households in the mid hills derive significant part of their livelihood from farm activities (51 per cent), non-farming (33 per cent and remittances (16 per cent)." (Poudel, 2014) If majority of people are engaged in agriculture yet not managing to fulfill for them then there must be some problem regarding the pattern of agriculture. There has to be more study on it to identify and solve. Only engaging in agriculture might not be sufficient as statistics of Nepal shows but there are many dimensions to be considered to improve more as per expectation. That's why, farmers are in dilemma. Dilmaya Gurung said, "More children more pieces of land is there." Rajesh Rana said, "property fragmentation or division is neither enough to the elder son or the younger son." there are many villagers engaging in other labour works quitting this old traditional field , agriculture .Some villagers have planted turmeric , oranges etc otherwise most piece of land can be seen converted into grassy land.

5.11 Low Prestige Occupation: Farming

*Shramko pashina dana dibya dana jutauchha
bijko aka manale lakhaulakh tulyauchha
matoma pashina pokhi matomai phulchha jivan
biswako birko nimti dharatiko pahilo dhan
(Kishan-poem: Daiwagyaraj Nyaupane)*

As stated above in the poem, farmers are very important person on the land. Other people can survive when they produce vegetables, fruits and crops. Main purpose of farmers is to live and help other to survive on this earth with their hard working. People engaged in other profession are not directly connected to this traditional profession agriculture but they also survive with the food produce by farmers. When farmers don't work automatically there rise problem of food scarcity. Roughly 25 per cent of household income source in both hills and tarai came from non-farm sources, notably from wages and salaries, pensions and remittances. In 1980, a study conducted by the National Planning Commission estimated that 35 per cent of total household income in rural Nepal came from non-farm and off-farm earnings. (Maharjan et al. , 2012)

Whenever there remains food scarcity even elite family are compelled to suffer for there is no point in having richness than food supply in their families. Farmers have to work hard without caring scorching sun, heavy rainfall, hot temperature etc. farmers go to land for farming while other seek for shelter during heavy rainfall. Animal husbandry has become compulsory to increase productivity. Larger the numbers of domestic animal higher will be the amount of animal dung which can be used as organic fertilizer. That's why agriculture and animal husbandry are supplementary to each other. Farmers need to collect fodders, grass, and water to feed reared animals. Farmers are the only one who doesn't get chance to rest for they spend more time for caring their animals than themselves.

Farmers who live and help others to live working hard don't live prestigious life. People of this area think that this profession is of illiterate and innocent people. it is regarded as a profession which is adopted after being disqualified to other profession. People think as last alternative source to save their face. People having higher academic qualification hesitate to return back to farming. This is because they feel humiliation. Teacher of Manakamana Secondary School, Budhiman Thapa said,

“Although people are educated they feel shame to engage in agriculture. There is fear that person will be criticized if engaged in agriculture after acquiring higher education.”

People want to make their survival in city areas even by doing labor-intensive works. Such trend in this area has reach at its top. It’s my own perception that I feel shame to do my ancestor farming job or my family work because I am educated. Unfortunately I prefer to work or being employed in capital under a low compensation under a shadow narrow minded people. Agriculture is supposed as low standard work. So, people are also judge in the same way. Social prestige is not gained involving in agriculture. As far as possible, people want to quit this and make their livelihood with other income generating skills. It is regarded as unpleasant profession giving less output with very hard work. Governmental jobs, Indian army, foreign works have fascinated people since they have high social values. Agriculture is regarded as untidy profession as people have to work with mud, carry manure, and take care of animals like pig, cow, buffalo, goat, ox etc without saying rainfall and sun.

5.12 Land Eagerly Waiting: Modernization

In this area, rarely we find scientific and modern technologies being used. ways adopted by forefathers are still popular. Even different types of crops aren’t cultivated, same crops are preferred. VDC secretary Shreekanta Aryal Said, "Farmers are still cultivating in traditional method. That’s why there is no remarkable growth of production. However, they do hard works. So, huge disappointment has covered most of the farmers in the survey area. Lacks of irrigation facility compel farmers to be dependent on rainfall. Therefore, farmers can plant only in rainy season. Every year, rate of production is being gradually decreased because of delay in agricultural advancement.

Soil test, use of required amount of manure, improved seeds, use of scientific technology play major role in enhancing productivity but in this survey area, I didn’t find any one of it. Farmers are still following traditional, cultural ways. People aren’t aware of seasonal production. Different sorts of minor measure to be followed to mitigate problems related to agriculture are still unknown to innocent villagers. The traditional practice of small-scale subsistence farming is not generating adequate income to meet household demand. (Paudel et al. 2012) CDO of Syangja district, Mahesh Battarai said, “Modernization in agriculture could be the best alternative to increase productivity and stop the agricultural land abandonment.”Chairman of

Tulsichour Aama Samuha, Harimaya Gurung said, “For the development of farmers and agriculture, farmers’ training, hybrid seed, storage house and market place play vital role.”

Table 5.3: Adaptation of Modernization on Farming

S.N.	Particulars	Percentage
1.	Land access to irrigation facility	12%
2.	Farmers participation (training, seminar)	7%
3.	Farmers using agricultural loan	16%
4.	Use of improved seeds	14%
5.	Use of traditional tools	81%
6.	Use of pesticides	23%
7.	Facility of storage	9%
8.	Agricultural assurance	2%
9.	Facility of market and transportation	45%

Source : Field Survey, 2074

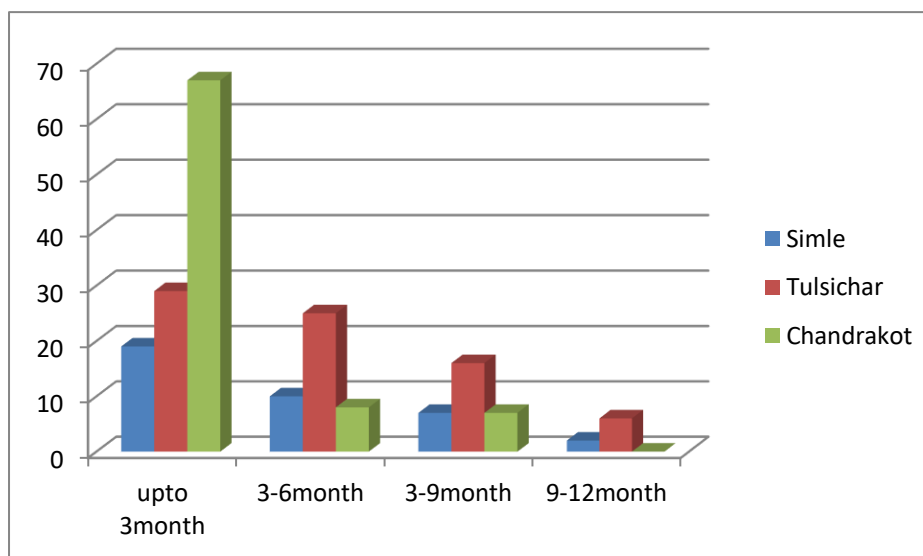


Fig 5.4 Produced Food Consumption Scale from Farmland

This has resulted to bear more harm in production. People interested to invest in agriculture are still back due to lack of enough capital. Even they are not believed heavy loan that’s why many interested are forced to weaken their vision and will power. Decentralized system of ‘integrated land use planning’ is lacking: Local bodies like DDC should be able to develop land use plans for the district in

consultation with all stakeholders. But there is no practice of this system. Lack of this system means low production and productivity, lack of employment and adverse impact on the poor. (Bhatta et al, 2009) Many people of this area are distracted as village lacks good road facility, market nearby village, store and many more discomforts. This is why land turns barren.

CHAPTER- VI: PRACTICE OF LAND ABANDONMENT, TRANSFORMATIVE, UNDER UTILIZATION, FOOD SECURITY

6.1 Village: Living Place of only Poor

Before some decades, even barren sloppy lands used to give green natural view due to cultivation. Every farmland used to be cultivated. Farmer used to even use some land

nearby jungle to fulfill the food demand of big family. That's why land which is not fertile and distant from villages was also used. Population increment in villages has made them face difficulties to collect woods and fodders. Woods required for cooking foods and kudos for domestic animals is rarely found at present. It was because of deforestation. But the condition is inversed right now.

At present, fertile land is converting into barren land. Land where farmers cultivated maize, soya bean, millet, wheat, potato etc. can be found converted into grassy land. Forest as well as grassy land is spreading their area as there are very few people living in a village. Dil maya Gurung said, "Before it was hard to find woods but at present no one cares when woods get rotten. Gradually, village is emptied because of migration of people in search of cozy life and different opportunities. Lal Bahadur BK said that people making good money don't like to live in village rather they prefer city life. Mainly, male go to Gulf countries to earn money so we barely find male to plough field. It's very difficult to find male so trend of leaving land without farm is increasing every year.

Youth in foreign land send remittances. In village, aged people, female and small children are living. Radhika Aryal Said that those who could not go to foreign country or could not recruit in army were only living in village. likewise another villager Narendra Panta also show his support to Radhika Aryal saying that neither he can go city area due to lack of money nor can be survived living in village. Active manpower are in other land. Those who are in villages cannot work in field because of their age. They should take care of small children. That's why; land is used for other purposes. Youth are highly attracted because of currencies. If this keeps on taking place future is going to be adversely effected.

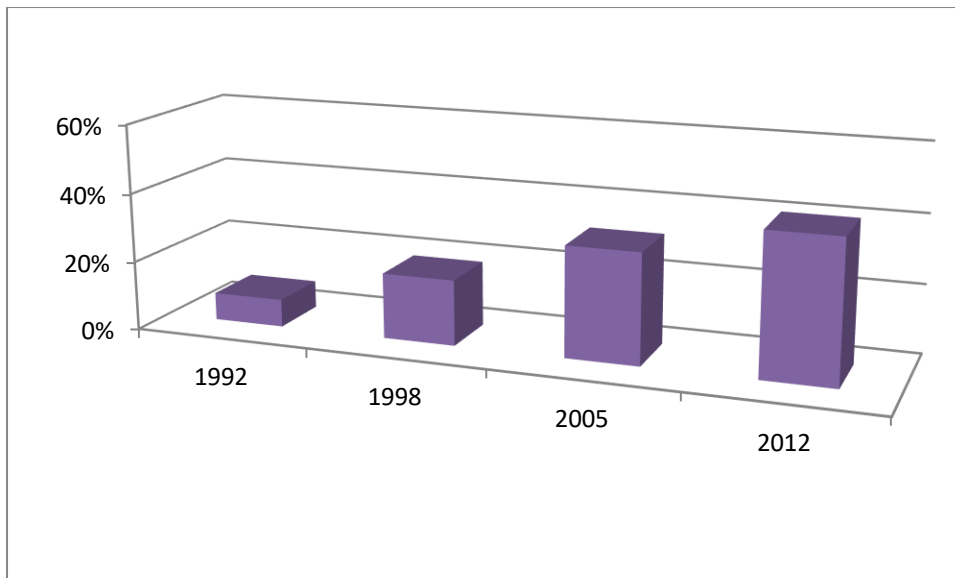


Fig 6.1: Trend of Migration

6.2 The Signification/ Value of Land are Being Decreased

Though population of Nepal is increasing but still people engaged in agricultural activities is shrinking continuously (Poudel, 2010). Above mentioned issue has also been observed in Syangja district. As a result, our forefathers' effort and time put for maintaining agricultural purpose have been wasted or ignored by not utilizing land properly. Our forefathers had put lot of effort to prepare terrace structure for agricultural purpose to slop areas of this hilly region. And, those forefathers lived with dedication and satisfaction by producing crops from terrace fields.

Amount of production in village has intensified in such a way that land has reach to the verge of abandonment. Such land is losing their significance. Output is very uncertain with hard labour though people spend more time and labour on it. Farmers are very worried because they don't get enough production though they have spent everything. Farmers prefer to work on daily wages than to labour hard on unfertile land which cannot feed them properly. Farmers don't use less fertile land in one hand but in other hand, land far from settlement areas also nearby jungle which demand more security from wild animals and birds, hard labour from poor and weak farmers are also left uncultivated at present. In survey area, land is abandon because of its sloppy topography. If land is abandoned in this way most assuredly Jagat Gurung said that this area would convert into deep and dark forest. Amount of production in village has intensified in such a way that land has reach to the verge of abandonment.

Such land is losing their significance. Output is very uncertain with hard labour though people spend more time and labour on it.

Farmers are very worried because they don't get enough production though they have spent everything. Farmers prefer to work on daily wages than to labour hard on unfertile land which cannot feed them properly. Narendra Pant of Simle said that farmers were being too much discouraged due to less fertility of the land resulting less production. Again he added that farmer were not able even to fulfill their basic needs. This is why this profession has kept farmer in dilemma. Farmers don't use less fertile land in one hand but in other hand, land far from settlement areas also nearby jungle which demand more security from wild animals and birds, hard labour from poor and weak farmers are also left uncultivated at present. In survey area, land is abandon because of its sloppy topography.

6.3 Keeping Land Barren as a Competition between Villagers

The research conducted by Paudel et al., (2012) has concluded that approximately one third of agricultural land i.e. around 33% across the mid hills of Nepal had already abandoned. Trend of conversion of land for other purposes is found increased by some decades. Road constructed from Bagalthok to Pelkachaur that connects main highway facilitated well off family to migrate in city area.

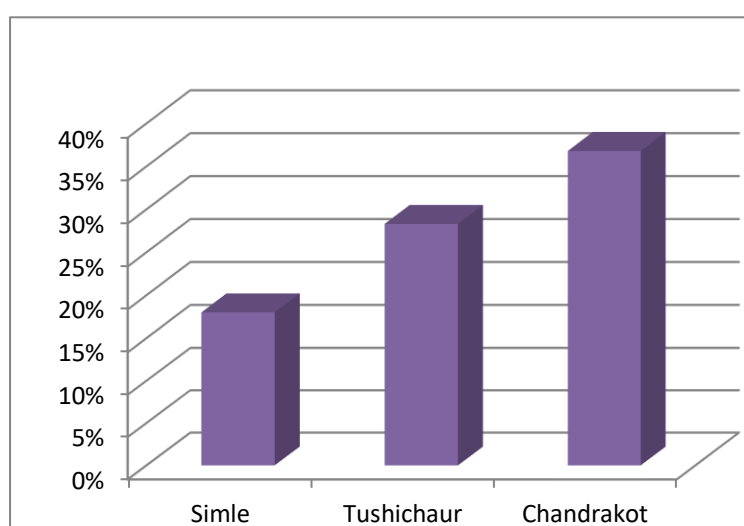


Fig 6.2: Transformation of Cereal Land into Bush and Forest

There are so many changes in norms and values in one hand but in other hand people heading toward materialistic want to change their way of survival. This is why, very few people are engaged in this profession at present. Ful maya Magar of Tulsichaur shared the problem of keeping land barren as a competition between villagers so imitation is playing vital role in rapid abandonment cereal land in the survey area. People don't want to eat maize, wheat, millet, barley, etc. instead they are attracted by tongue pleasuring rice. So, cultivation of maize, wheat have been decreased by high percentage. Some are leaving their country for currencies, some for opportunities and some are surviving with daily wages.

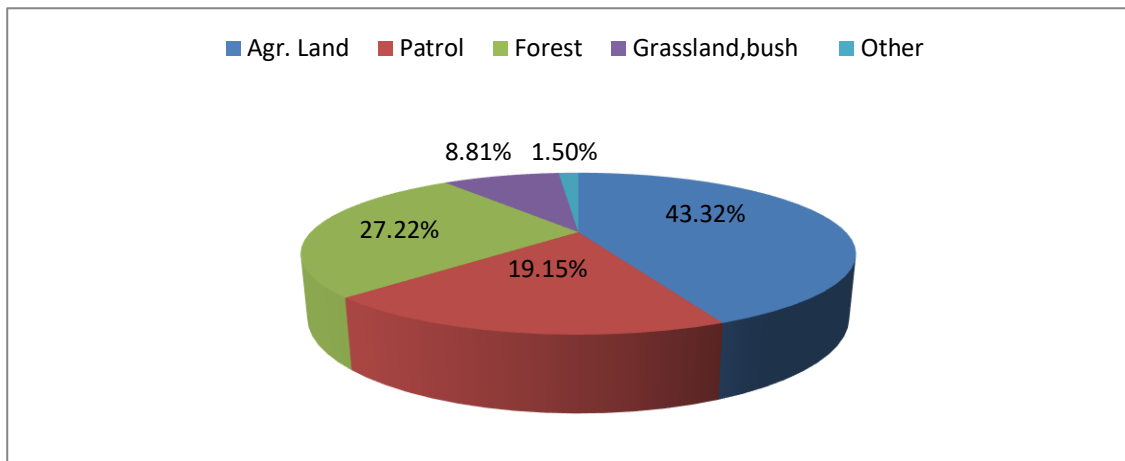
There are so limited concerns have been put in this burning and worrisome issue. "Since agricultural land and underutilization and abandonment of agricultural land is a recent phenomenon, which though is happening very rapidly, there has been no comprehensive study on the issue yet."(Poudel, 2014) It is obvious to be several factors for abandoning land for forming resulting scarcity of food production and supply. "... Socioeconomic changes in rural landscape, particularly outmigration, have been observed as the biggest triggering factor."(Poudel, 2014) Similar to Poudel's finding, almost all villager are abandoning their land in my survey area too. Some internal competitions and bitterness in village is also the reason why a family quit their traditional job and goes in well facilitated areas. People don't want their coming generation involve in agriculture as most of the people look at such family engaged in agriculture with different eyes and also such family overhear other talking that they could not progress in life. So as far as possible, people don't want to engage in agriculture at least for the betterment of coming generation. As a results, land abandonment intensity has reached at its peak.

6.4 Encouraging Land Abandonment

A study conducted by Malla (1992) in three Village Development Community (VDC) of Kavre, shows that land abandonment, mainly that of *Bari* (unirrigated) land, is around 7.5 per cent. In all cases, agriculture lands, mainly distant, less fertile and close to forest areas, have been abandoned. As it is, in the study area many farmers have abandoned the land that used to be maize and millet field. On average, two-third of *Bari* (*Bari* is upland, rain fed and less fertile as compared to *Khet*, and one to more two seasonal crops are grown. *Khet* is mainly a paddy field, usually well irrigated,

fertile and productive land where two to three crops can be cultivated a year.) and one-third of *Khet* land have been abandoned. Most of abandoned *Bari* are close to the forestland, less fertile, far from the human settlements, require more labour to prepare field, and supply inputs, weeding and other farm practices.

Fig 6.3: Land Cover Pattern of VDC



This area lies in Himalayan region of Nepal. Farmers make farming land by maintain slopy and stony land. Most of the land of this area is covered with rocks sloppy lands and deep forest. Land made up of layer of hill need to wait seasonal rain fall. When there is no seasonal rainfall then there occur many difficulties. Farmers grow mainly wheat, maize, soybean, potato, etc. once a year. As there is no regular irrigation facility because of land structure, it's not enough to feed whole year with less production, land nearby hill need to bear risk of landslides, soil erosion and other disasters. This is one of the reasons of less production in survey area. Lower part of the region called '*Beshi*' contains more fertility. So, almost all farmers prefer to agriculture on such productive land in comparison to land created at upper region.



Fig 6.4: Abandoned Land Nature/ Topography

6.5 Very few or more Land Ownership is worst for Farming

In terms of land abandonment by types of farmer (Figure 6.5), poor households have abandoned more land (41 per cent) than rich and ultra poor. It is primarily because poor households have marginal lands usually far from their homes. As cultivating such land is no more profitable, people prefer to engage in wage labour that provides cash for which they are desperate. According to farmers, returns on investment of labour and other inputs from agricultural production of these marginal lands are low.

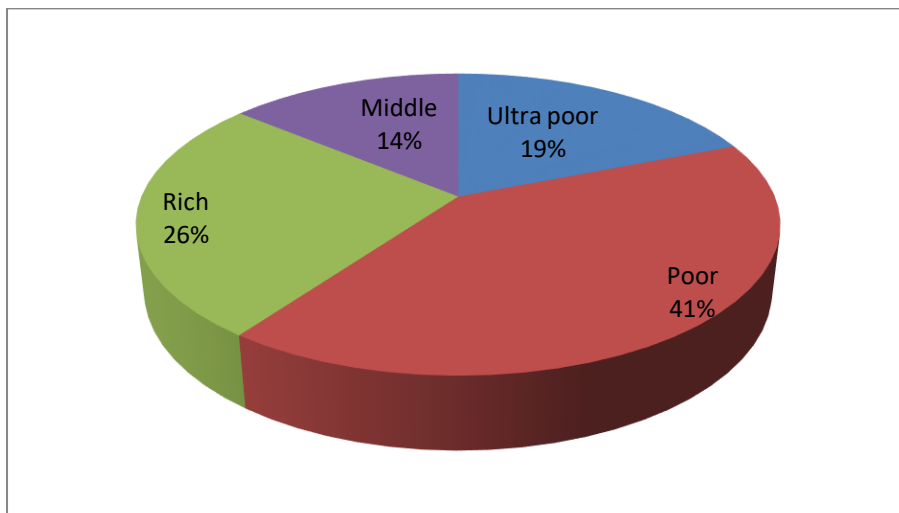


Fig 6.5: Agricultural Land Abandoned by Wealth Category

In the survey area, big family has own less area of land farm whereas small family own large area. People of small size family are mainly “well to do” as they have government job, higher education. Many farmers have strong financial position for their sons are Indian and British army. Such financial don’t have compulsion to work on land as they buy many products from market to make their survival. So, large land area remains uncultivated and gets turned into barren and grassy land. Lal Bahadur B.K. mentioned, “As survival is sustain by remittance. Why do people need to work in field?” Jiwan Thapa Magar said, “We have grown old doing this job and youngster rusted to cities now, who will do the work, here.”

Farmers who have less farmland face many difficulties to make their survival possible. So, they seek other profession which can make their financial status good. If isn’t desire but compulsion. If they work on field they cannot survive. If they don’t work, land remains barren. So, many farmers are in dilemma. Suryadhaj Thapa said, “More people are abandoning farming land as they are unable to solve hand to mouth

problems with the small piece of land.” I found families owning either very less or very large area of land leaving their agricultural profession at present.

6.6 Silver Lining on Black Cloud

Agriculture is not crucial for living rather it is related providing life to other dimensions as indicated by (Poudel, 2014) that “Land has a complicated and multi-dimensional relationship with socioeconomic phenomena.” Our economic, social, cultural aspects are also dependent in land where we exploit for producing foods and living purpose. Up to the date our life has been dependent on foods which are produced from farming. Human evaluation and its progress have been depending on it as it has offered for us.

Though there is high trend of abandoning land, some very active farmers have taken it as a opportunity as we say, “Every cloud has silver lining, they found many chances on such unpleasant/ bitter truth. Before some years, many villagers used to keep large number of domestic animals. That’s why, there was problem of woods, fodder but today very less people are engaged in animal husbandry. Due to this, there is more availability of fodder in a village. This is the reason why some farmers are interested in animal husbandry. Jagat Bahadur Pun who worked two years Saudi Arab and three year in Malaysia said, “Today can earn double than I earned in Gulf. It's far better to make more earning being a master in our own country than being slave in Gulf.” He is engaged in goat keeping for seven years. He is owner of 107 goats. He uses his own land as well as neighbors’ abandoned land for grazing. Villagers of this area more interested in cash crops. Orange, lemon, alaichi, coffee, etc. have favorable environment such crops can be planted on bushy area, sloppy land. That’s why farmers earn make more money with less effort. There are some villagers who have earned nearby two lakhs annually with oranges farming. But there are only few villagers who grab opportunity.

Table 6.1: Condition of Commercial Agriculture

Nature of Commercial Agriculture	Total No. of Family		
	Tulsichaur	Simle	Chandrakot
Goat Keeping	2	-	3
Orange Farming	4	2	2
Alaechi Farming	-	5	3
Coffee Farming	3	1	-
Animal Husbandry	1	4	1
Vegetable farming	3	-	2

Source : Field Survey, 2074

6.7 Land Abandonment: No Choice but Obligation

Farmers are still practicing old-traditional way of farming. Many equipments and modern technologies have been developed. However, villagers are unknown about it. Soil fertility decline has been one of the main reasons for poor agricultural growth in Nepal in recent decades. Mid hill region has been worst hit by this problem because of its fragile geomorphology, steep topography and intense human pressure on land and forest resources. (Neupane et al, 2001). Government is launching many agricultural training to bring positive changes in the field of agriculture. Nepal Government has invested huge amount of capital to modernize traditional way of farming. However, I haven't found any training being launched in this area when traditional way of farming is continued for longer period of time. There we cannot see any sign of growth in production.

Gopal Thapa Magar said, "It's not our choice it's our obligation to abandon farming as working for twelve months and still is not enough for three months fulfilling our need." Farmers haven't got any idea of testing land for plantation of crops. If we plant particular crops on its own season and land, there we can make more production. Farmers are still unknown of such skill and idea. When traditional way of agriculture keep on getting regularity, it is obvious that production cannot be as expected. Smallholders are frequently struggling to improve their farming business but somehow, they are back again to practice the subsistence nature of work. (MCNP, 2014). Jagat Bahadur Gurung said, "To fulfill the demand of modern lifestyle there is increment in the mentality of the people to find the alternative beyond agriculture." Radhika Aryal said, "We feel separated as our neighbors are abandoning the farming land rapid."

Either farmers use some land for than purposes or abandon it when they don't get awaited result. Especially, farmers who own less acres of land come under this category. Farmers are obliged to face problems of Global warming. They cannot start farming on time. Rainfall is very uncertain. Crops are also destroyed by uninvited guest like heavy rainfall, wind, hailstone, etc. Forest is being deep and dark as time passes away. This create threat of wild animal among villagers that's why, farmers seek other opportunities for sewing their future of upcoming generation.

6.8 Time Brought Transformation in Field

At present, many areas of land are being rapidly for other purposes. People are practicing such a agricultural practices that require less effort and less investment. When farmers cultivate food crops, they have to work hard under scorching sun, heavy rainfall. However farmers don't get output equivalent to their applied effort. Farmers get problem of manpower when they cultivate food crops. That's why, nowadays farmers have changed the way they practice agriculture.

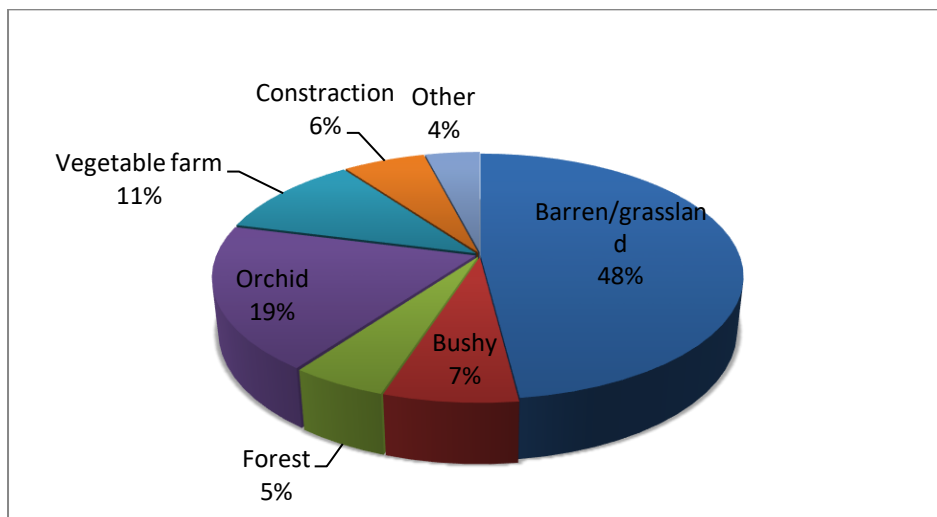


Fig 6.6: Transforming scale of cereal land

Growth rate of cereal crops was low, even though there was some improvement in the production to cash crops. Yields of the major crops like paddy, maize and wheat has remained stagnated even though there is some improvement but this was not at par with population growth rates. As a result, Nepal is facing food crisis in recent times. (Thapa 2001) Farmers prefer to plant guava, alaichi, lemon, oranges, etc. as it can be done with

less nurture and less investment. In this way, land is transformed into orchid. Lal Bahadur B.K. said, "Few lemon, orange and guava were implanted in the field. So, fields are not seen useless and we get the seasonable fruit as well." Beside this, I found large areas converted into grassy land. Some villagers used to collect woods and fodders from deep dark jungle fighting for life. Raju Mall Thakuri of Simle said, "Forests and bushes are being expanded due to agricultural land abandonment. Therefore, villagers are facing challenges to protect their domestic pets like goats, hens, calf etc." At higher elevations, forest had increased at the cost of agriculture at the shrub/grass. (Khanal & Watanabe, 2006). Today, such problem has perished. Few villagers have planted some fodders on their land to feed domestic animals.

CHAPTER-VII: CONSEQUENCE OF LAND ABANDONMENT, TRANSFORMATIVE, UNDER UTILIZATION AND FOOD SECURITY

7.1 Food Scarcity at Local Level

Particularly, farming has been a challenging issue not at local or national level but also at international level. Most of the literatures have shown worrisome scenario of the world regarding framing process done so far to meet the need and expectation at present and for the future as well. Among of them, (Dhakal, 2007) states indicating at global level, “Governments have been warned of the danger of world famine, both by the official reports of the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization and publication by scientist.” Imbalance between food production and supply consequence is global problem at the moment. Hence, indication is concerned to be graver towards mitigating the problem from all sectors.

Similarly, food scarcity and access to it have further evidences to be accounted for “more than half the world’s population goes to bed hungry every night No country is producing enough. I believe we cannot have stable conditions in the world while there are millions of empty stomachs.” (Southwell, 1950). This is not only national problem rather international concern and there are several causes behind of inviting bleak world scenario. Trend of land abandonment has rapidly increased. This has resulted less production of food. Production at local level must go proportionately along with increasing population. But, the situation is Population is increasing every year at high rate. But annual food production at local level is in decreasing rate. Jagat Bdr Gurung of Tulsichaur said, “in our times we had to wait either marriage ceremony or festivals to eat paddy rice but now all the times people take paddy rice.”

Food reversed today. Villagers used to sell agricultural products in nearby market but food requirement is fulfilled with the products purchased from market. Villagers like to purchase rice, flour and many more things from market. If there is shortage in market then villager is obvious to suffer from famine. Pabitra ThapaMagar of Simle said, “Decrement in production of millet and maize has increased import of rice .” There are many who purchase to satisfy their taste. Even villagers are obvious to suffer scarcity of vegetables and fruits. Gopal K.C. of Chandrakot said “when there

was production on land all types of crops were taken whether tongue pleasuring or not . if supply of rice is stopped , hunger will hunt.”

7.2 Expanding the Infestation of Poverty

Agriculture is the traditional way of survival of people living in this area. Our ancestors made this profession only one way of their survival. They worshipped this job. Ancestors lived healthy life with the consumption of healthy food. Progress and lifestyle land direct connection to land. At present, people think this profession as one of the hard to their progress. Land is given no importance by today's generation. In terms of Millennium Development Goals (MDG), Nepal seems able to achieve the target of reducing the poverty, but it is still far behind meeting the targets of reducing hunger and malnutrition. (CBS, 2009) That's why, villagers are giving up this profession and engaging in other works like labour at daily wages. We find very few people being economically better with labour almost all people are facing many problems. Lal bahadur B.K. of Chandrakot said, it would be far better if labour works were found regularly sometimes work gets stopped. Because of this it's very hard to survival.”

In one hand, one should live under suppression and order of master and in other hand, one cannot earn more than allocated salary. There is no point in working hard under masters' instructions. Only masters become richer and richer but one who works live a life full of suffering and scarcity. Poor people condition is same as before. Lack of job opportunities, less income with hardworking has created confusions. There is compulsion to serve masters, make them happy otherwise there lies risk of losing job. Only one person mainly, father has to work on basis of daily other family members in agriculture. But, labour work when done by only one member in a family, obviously there very few chances members have to face many crisis. Radhika Aryal of Simle said, “one who goes to gulf countries taking loan at high interest return home being physically damaged. Sometimes people do not get work and lose their life .these all miserable situation make family members more depressed and economically weak.” Money earned on daily wages basis is enough for some day only. Children suffer from malnutrition. They cannot get education children don't get medical care on right time. When diseases reach at its adverse conditions then only they are taken to hospital. So, family problem is really breath taking one. There is no saving on labour work. Only rich/ masters are being strong poor workers have no hope. Dil Maya

Gurung of Simle said, "There is always worry for today's earning is enough for only today if children get sick money won't be there to cure them. Everything needs to be purchased as there are no productions as everything is expensive"

7.3 Increasing Confusions on Use of Land among Farmers

Gopal KC of Chandrakot said, "There is no output from our field as we do work hard. But, what can we do? We can give up farming easily which field had been made greenish with cereal crops by our ancients." Agriculture is at risk because of lack of manpower and decrement in food production. Nowadays, villagers are living through much confusion. If they cultivate on their field, produced food is not sufficient more than six month in a year for fulfillment their food demand of family. If not, there is huge fear happens more trouble in their livelihood. Indicating this kind of dilemma

Naresh Bohora said, "*Nakhau bhane din variko shikar, khau bhane dhyakkai kancha bauko anuhar.*"

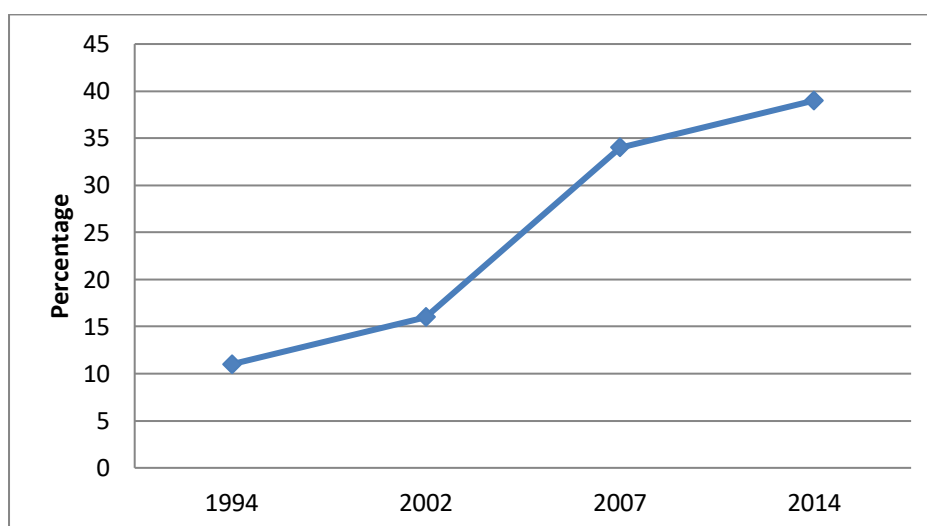


Fig 7.1: Trend of Land Abandonment

Neighbors have migrated to big cities abandoning traditional agriculture. Some have worked on daily ways. Many people have moved to Gulf countries. Those who are working on daily wages have poor economic condition. If they adopt their traditional profession there it becomes very very hard to meet their requirements. Villagers are in dilemma whether to abandon land or to seek other job because both types of people are living miserable life. Jagat Bahadur Gurung said, "Nowadays, there is no obligation to go very dangerous and difficulty place for collecting grass and fodder." Farmers are worried of their future. If they abandon and, they cannot meet

their requirements and if not then they may be alone in a village as other are migrating. So, villagers are in confusion.

7.4 Deserted Human Settlement

Land abandonment has tremendous impact on food security and local livelihood in areas already suffering from mass poverty and food deficit (Khanal et al. 2006). Equally, if agricultural land is left unutilized, it will have several negative consequences for the fragile mountain ecology, particularly on the hill slope processes where hill slopes have been terraced and managed for centuries through massive input of family labour (Jodha, 1992).

Day by day, villagers are migrating to other well developed areas in search of job opportunities, higher education, etc. this has decreased population of a village. Elite families prefer to live in city areas. Density of population is decreasing day by day. So, we find less cultural events conducted in a village. Socio-cultural aspect is also in danger condition. Villager nearby jungle need to face many problems like attack of wild animals, dacoit, and etc. government isn't developing infrastructures in isolated villages. Many schools have been merged to meet require number of students in the survey area. Therefore village is isolated because of these many reasons.

7.5 Negative Impact on Overall national Food Production

Agriculture- the backbone of Nepalese economy- is going through a massive transition mainly caused by changing population dynamic in rural areas as there as there is a shortage of farm labour due to male outmigration and increased feminization of agriculture. (Upreti, 2008). Nepal is agricultural country. Almost all people of this country are engaged in agriculture. At present, many people are abandoning land and following other sources of income. Land are left barren at present. Nepal used to export many products before some decades but at present, Nepal has increased its food dependency on other countries. Agriculture plays vital role not only at Pelkachaur but also of nation's GDP has been affected. CDO of Syangja district, Mahesh Battarai Said, that agrobased products are decreasing per years. Whereas,remittance is in hike.

There are many evidences that suggest that there is decline in the performance of agricultural sector. These are seen in the decline in the production of food and

productivity of land, shortage of food, and decline in the contribution of agricultural sector to the economy as a whole. (Thapa,2001). Since land is used for other purposes, it has affected food production. Agricultural products and other facilities are maintained with huge expenditure of nation's economy on import. Therefore, food scarcity, famine, malnutrition and economic crisis are major hot problems of Nepal.

And, consequences can be very grave at local, national to global levels. "Since agriculture economic is the backbone of the country, this will have far-reaching consequences on food and nutrition security, poverty reduction, socioeconomic development and suitable agro-ecology." (Bear, 1992 Shreekanta Aryal said, "As our country is a agricultural based country, and if the farmers start leaving farming in the same rate than there will be a huge loss on the art of GDP." Importance of farming and food for us and problems which are surrounded in farming local to international levels will help me to identify the issue and areas to cover my research. Especially, national level scenario on farming discussed in literatures will be worthy for context setting and my overall research process.

7.6 Less Productivity call more Complexity

Many plans and policies are made for increment of agricultural products in Nepal but not yet found implemented effectively. Many efforts have been made so as to make modernize and bring scientific changes in this profession but none of the efforts have worked on the survey area. There are several aspects to be considered in farming to be more effective and productive. Particularly, nature of soil has determining role for farming that has to be carried out or crops which are produced. "Differences in soil, climate and topography, within local areas at least, were not highly critical under the low pressure methods they used. A large share of their production was for home use." (Barnes,1958) Pattern of farming have to be well balanced among these aspects as every aspect is key for food production. So, it is essential to recon those aspects in farming process in scientific manner. Furthermore, "Physical, social and economic controls on agriculture embrace a number of variables, eg, site, location, labour, capital etc. Each of which may modify the resource value of soil" (Cruickshank,1977).

There have been some joint efforts to mitigate the challenges occurring in land utilization for increasing productivity at international level in the countries. For

instance, in US, “the joint efforts of farmers, scientists, and industries in developing and adopting new technology have produced the outstanding progress that has been made in agriculture in this country” (Squires, 1998). Som Bahadur Gurung said, “As the lack of scarcity of labours and decreasing fertility of and as brought biggest challenge to stop transforming of cereal land.” Similarly, role of NGOs and INGOs remain quite influential for improving agricultural patterns as “Occupational status of the people is changed toward profitable way, involvement of the people in business... People are taking benefit from livestock, farming, fruit and vegetable cultivation. Similarly, they are starting cash crops cultivation.” (Bear,1992). This improvement indicates some of the efforts carried out by organization working in the sectors of agricultural so that livelihood of the people can be improved by increasing productivity.

In these days, uses of modern scientific knowledge and technology in agricultural activities have helped for improving overall agricultural patterns in developed countries. “If the soil, the people, the skills modern science and economic resources can be brought into proper relationship, an efficient agriculture can supply the food and clothing” (Page,1958). Farmers are compelled to satisfy with less production made with huge investment. So, daily livelihood has become very hard. It is 100% sure that many fertile lands will be abandoned in coming years if any steps not forwarded quickly for increment of agricultural production. Chairman of Deurali Youth Club, Raju Thakuri said, “Farmers are more dissatisfied due to the low return therefore they are seeking for alternative for this occupation.” In this regard, proper management of those aspects related with probable improvements in agriculture in maintaining demand and supply for the population. But all the time, this scenario might be just opposite as (Sadhu and Mahajan, 1985) argues that “due to lack of farm inputs and in the absence of progressive farm practices, farmers do not operate their land intensively and this results in underemployment on the farm”. VDC secretary Shreekanta Aryal suggests, "Soil test must be done and need to implant the soil and climate favorable crops for increment of products. Whatever food crops or cash crops it is." Hence, there is not only concern of lack of arable land rather ways of utilizing the land is also crucial, country like Nepal.

CHAPTER- VIII: SUMMARY MAJOR FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Summary

The Causes of Agricultural Land Abandonment, Transforming and Under Utility

According to studies, among the factors that brought change in the use of agricultural land, foreign employment was found to be the main reason. In the hope of good opportunity and money, the young generation are investing their time and hard work in Gulf countries like Saudi, Qatar, Kuwait, Dubai and also in developed countries like India, Malaysia, Japan and Korea. The lands of villager are abandoned due to scarcity of appropriate manpower and this rate is increasing. There is a remarkable increase in the youth population who go abroad to do all types of work but hesitate to pursue their ancient and traditional occupation i.e., agriculture.

Due to the awareness provided by media communication and technology, the local people are more attracted towards higher education. As the colleges and universities providing higher education are far from villages, the locals are compelled to migrate to city areas. After getting higher education, the tendency of returning back to their birthplace and pursuing career there is very less. The agricultural practice that has been going on since decades and generations is in critical condition right now. There is lack of youth and manpower in villages who could work as farmers, ploughers, labourers, carpenters etc due to foreign employment and higher education. In the present time, only women, children and elderly people are habituated in the survey area. Among 10 young, 8 are found to leave the village for job opportunities. The remaining youth or men are not continuing agriculture as their main occupation. Not only men, also women are found to immigrate as domestic workers. The rate of this is high. Lack of appropriate job and salary, tragedy of not being with family are the main problems of people who immigrated due to this reason, the active youth there is no expected outcome abroad.

The infrastructures like ungravelled road, electricity, drinking water etc has made the locals facility oriented consumption oriented rather than production oriented. Also, due to facilities such as television in each house, mobile phones and road networks

that connect to headquarters and big cities like Pokhara, Butwal and Kathmandu, there is a huge change in lifestyle of local people here.

There is no remarkable increase in the amount of income but due to increment in consumption means, income and expenditure is being a challenge to locals. The populations who used to depend on barley, millet, maize, soybean that are grown in their field are now attracted to readymade food items. Imported rice, noodles, biscuits, bread and imported drinking items has been major food here. Consumption of tasty and unhealthy food rather than healthy and fresh food is also increasing. Not only food, but there is also change in dress codes of the locals who are being facility oriented these days. Due to nearer roads and communication network, the trend of copying the lifestyle of city dwellers and foreigners are increasing. These factors have a great impact on agricultural sector of the survey area.

Due to modern lifestyle, the needs and wants of people have increased. It seems like there is no future to meet necessities of present needs by agriculture alone. Therefore, for a qualitative and facilitative life, farmers search other job opportunities. As a result, the occupation to grow food crops has been neglected. The roads of most wards of this VDC are connected to highway of cities and the locals have started to work at industries, factories and also as waged labourers. Also, people opting for government job, business, Indian and British Army etc is increasing. According to locals, due to involvement in other occupations, the earning sent to family members by people working abroad is somehow enough to manage expenditures and hard work in the field of agriculture is not required.

In the past, there was a trend of fulfilling needs by taking loans, assisting each other in respective work or exchanging various crops produced in the fields. They could somehow manage a living. In the present context, money the economy has been a major requirement for every household needs like education, health, transport, and drinking water and other social services or facilities. Absence of expected outcome, patience for a longer period etc are some major drawbacks of agriculture as occupation.

As income is important in daily life, the people of this area are attracted towards quick generating work. The two factors that are responsible for agricultural land abandonment and transforming are traditional way of agriculture and decline in

productivity. Though the survey area has a long history in agricultural process but till now there isn't any strong process carried on by local and government level in development of agriculture. The farmers are showing lack of interest in agriculture because of lack of productivity despite of their hard work. The present record shows that the farmers of the survey area have not utilized the modern technology of farming.

The difficulties faced by the farmers are scarce of workers to work in the field and high demand of money by them. The farmers complain that in farming the investment is high compared to the result or outcome. The reason for maximum abandonment of land which is seen in most area is due to irregular distribution of land which is also found in the survey area. The farmers are compelled to abandon their land because of lack of labour, land and manpower.

Looking at the nature of abandonment and transforming of the agricultural land we can find that the farmers rely on rain water for farming due to lack of irrigation facilities. The local people in that area said that they can cultivate the land three times annually if there are irrigation facilities. The targeted abandonment lands are near the forest area and also the land that are far from the human settlement. It is difficult to cultivate forest area because of animals and birds. Similarly the people who work on the land that is far from human settlement face problem of labour, time and investment.

According to the study conducted on agricultural land abandonment and transforming the fertile land that is near to the human settlement is also changing into pasture land. The political instability, Maoist revolution, domestic and social conflict, injustice resulted to migration which also leads to land abandonment.

The Practice of Agricultural Land Abandonment, Transforming and Under Utilized

The scarcity of food is one of the prominent problems in the world. There is a fall in productivity due to population growth and utilization of agricultural land for various purposes. But in survey area there is lack of both human settlement and utilization of land. Due to the migration of the active members of the society, there is lack of manpower in agriculture and also lack of help, support and co-operation in the

neighborhood when required. There are only children, elder people and few women living in the society. Due to the lack of workers or people the land has been abandoned and transformed drastically. The social and cultural norms, that forbid women to plough the field also emphasis to land abandonment. Foreign employment has also helped to decline agriculture occupation as the income send by foreign can fulfill the basic needs. So, the local show less interest in agriculture. Before a decade, there used to be skilled manpower who used to utilize the abandoned and turn into cultivated land.

There used to be plenty of labourer in the village but now the condition is exactly opposite. The land which used to make the people independent and which helped them to sustain their life is left abandoned due to lack of manpower. The people do not want to take agriculture occupation for a long term as they believe it gives fewer outcomes despite of hard labour. Therefore, in the present context, the people started taking the agriculture occupation as a simple and low grade job as their perception for agriculture has been totally changed.

Youth are not interested to involve themselves in agriculture profession. High qualified learners fear themselves to involve in this field due to conservative society. People believe that only un-skilled manpower class this profession. It has reflected negative impression of people who are involved in it.

The agricultural field which were used for growing different varieties of crops such as maize, millet, wheat are now only used for growing only limited crops which require less manpower and less time to cultivated it. Only certain part of agricultural land are used maintain the fertility of the soil. Besides, growing vegetables, the farmers nowadays are more interested in horticulture. They grow varieties of fruits as well such as oranges, lemon, guava etc. These areas farmers are switching more in to horticulture. Farmers are benefitted a lot by this fruit cultivation. As less effort and limited labuorers are enough than vegetable farming, farmers like to grow more amounts of fruits.

This areas' farmer have been farming on their agricultural land since their ancestor time. They are hoping some agricultural development. Annual agriculture won't be able to fulfill the needs f people. they are only sufficient for two or three months. The land is not much cultivable and infertile. It is very much difficult for the people to run

their daily livelihood. The people of this area are living in very miserable condition. People are more involved in animal husbandry than agriculture. The main reasons for people to involve in animal husbandry are there are more pastureland in which animals can be grazed, unutilized lands of forest are also being used for animal husbandry. These people involved in animal husbandry are living better quality of life. They are earning much from dairy products. People are easily running their livelihood. Even the people who stayed foreign countries for long period of time, are now returning their own land are involved in animal husbandry. They are happy to spent theist time with their family members and work with them together.

The agricultural land are abandoned and are used for other purposes the main reasons for abandonment are marginal land, less fertile and far from human settlement. Even the land s owners are sacrificing their land ass it is not enough to fulfill the demands of food of family members. On other aspects, people are utilizing such abandoned land in to productive sector. People are benefitted a lot by cultivating commercial crops such as *Alaechi*, *Coffee*, *Suntala* etc. it has positively affected in their socio-economic and financial aspects too. In this place where irrigation facilities are possible, people are cultivating cauliflower, tomato, potato etc.

The Consequences of Agricultural Land Abandonment, Transforming and Under Utilized

Food is one of the basic needs of people. It is daily staple food so production and availability of this is much important and can earn profit. Before some decade people of this area involved in agriculture, production volume was more and there was no need of importing foods from other regions. The VDC was almost independent on food, the surplus product, people used to sell in the market. The additional profit they would use in buying the vegetables, spent saving. Due to increasing number of land abandonment, shortages of foods can be seen. Most of food demands are fulfilled by importing from other regions. Shortages of food have lead to malnutrition among people and other food deficiency problems.

Even in the world people are suffering from hunger starvation and malnutrition. Rapid population growth and land transformation are the main causes for it. Such cases can also be faced in same scenario. Before food items that were not locally cultivated were imported. But situation has changed with the decline in production of local crops

like millet and maize, the locals are compelled to import rice. They are inclining towards fast and easily available junk food. Most of the people are buying food items as there is decline in production. Retailers bring the goods from far off towns and remote village markets. As a result goods are expensive and there is unavailability of desired goods.

Lack of employment opportunities compel locals to go for foreign employment they are bounded to be away from their family, relatives, society and motherland in their youth, the fruitful age. Their payment in foreign land, as wage worker is not satisfactory. Foreign land, as wage workers is not satisfactory. Foreign labours every month send their earning to their family as remittances, which is unable to meet the three ends of the family. the remittance is neither saved nor invested in productive sector or used as capital.

Most of the youths are frustrated thinking about their uncertain future. Uncertainty in job and nightmare of old age haunts them. Less profitable farming has resulted in shifting of agricultural occupation to others apart from few families who are able to establish their life; most of the people who have shifted to other occupations are still living under poverty line. Agricultural lands are being abandoned mainly by the household whose family members have out-migrated land abandonment has tremendous impact on food scarcity and local livelihood in areas already suffering from mass poverty. The government has to take some immediate steps to overcome the challenges of agricultural land abandonment. As it is showing several negative consequences on social and cultural values as well as for the fragile mountain ecology.

Some locals opine that development in transportation, communication, electricity, and other sectors have become curse for agricultural sector rather than becoming a bridge to improve its productivity. Agricultural productivity is declining as farmers are getting themselves busy with mobiles, televisions and computers. Low food self-sufficiency causes dependency on import. Uncertainty of import cereal results in shortage of food. On the other hand replacement of local food products, with various low quality imported food, has increased health hazards. Lack of balanced- diet educational growth of children.

The trend of land abandonment can have adverse effect in GDP of Nepal, as agriculture sector accounts for more than 33% of GDP. Abandonment of low fertility land bear the forest area has increased bushy land providing easy access to wild animals and birds. There are frequent events of depredation of agricultural crops by wild animals and birds. So, the earlier farmers who have shifted their occupations as wage- workers in other sectors ate more satisfied. As they are away from the several challenges of agricultural sector like low productivity, high instability, shocks due to climate, natural calamities etc.

On the other hand, land transformation has provided easy availability of fodder, litter and timber wood to the villager. It minimized threat of wild animals and falling out downhill while fetching them from far off hills and forest. Even in the village, we can find the exemplary ex-farmers who have established themselves as successful person in other occupations.

8. 2 Conclusion

Farmers play vital role to complete all the works of agriculture. Agriculture needs farmers for cultivation, harvest and for storage of products. To plough field, carry fertilizers, sow seeds, provide different nurtures to baby plants need skilled, semi skilled farmers. There is like drought of workers in a village. At present we find only small kids, female and aged people. Female are supposed to do only household works. They spend their most of the time in taking care of elderly and young people. Children are inactive for any agricultural tasks. That's why village is suffering the great lack of workers in this village .Male having been attracted towards Indian and British army since the time of their ancestors. Youth feels proud to serve as Indian s& British army because of handsome salary. We can find heavy mass of youth who went to be British army for lots of money can be earned without having more academic qualification Educational migration is another form of migration in the survey area. People are found giving higher importance to higher education because of close connection with city area through m. communication and transportation.. Even, youth give up their study and work in factories, public vehicles, construction, etc. Those who complete their university studies satisfy themselves doing even minor jobs living in big cities. So, I didn't find people returning to village and giving continuity to agriculture.

When we look at the condition of abandoned land we can find most of them nearby jungle, having less fertility. Land far from residential areas requires more labor, time and investment. Despite of more investment, farmers get very less production. Farmers toil under sun and rainfall but wild animals, birds destroy crops before farmers reach their land for collection of crops. So farmer's investment goes in vain. Farmers should give security to land for protecting them from different wild animals and birds. Therefore, investment on land is very high. Lack of irrigation facilities is also one of the reasons of land abandonment. There is rapid increment in use of chemical fertilizers because compost manure made after decomposition of cow dung's and other degrading materials is not used as before. Many villagers are giving up animal husbandry at present. Production is high at first year by the use of chemical fertilizers but it kills the fertility of land. So farmers are supposed to face many problems in upcoming years. Very few families own large acres of fertile land whereas many families have less acres of fertile land. It is very unpleasant condition that large fertile land owned by rich people cannot come into use whereas poor family cannot use their labor as they have less acres of fertile land. Rich people who own large fertile land don't have any obligation to engage in agriculture. So, land is left barren. Most of the money minded rich people of Nepal migrate to big cities. Poor villagers own few acres of land far from house and near to the jungle and that also not enough to feed them for even three months. In this way, land is being used for other purposes. Farmers are leaving their traditional land unwillingly for fulfilling the food demand of a family. By the result, farmers are searching other alternative as income generating sources leaving old traditional profession; agriculture. Rich people don't have to labor and farmers who want to toil don't have land ownership. That's why land is used for other purposes like celebrating marriage ceremony, playing football, volleyball etc.

Unfavorable environment has very bad impacts on agriculture. Crops are destroyed by unexpected heavy rainfall, hailstone, landslides etc. Main reason behind this is global warming. At present, farmers are facing many problems like heavy wind breaks plants whereas heavy rain fall destroys buds and flowers so, farmers are unable to find to make solution over such natural calamities. Farmers grow crops with large investment; shed their sweat and blood but it's easily destroyed by such natural disasters so farmers are losing their interest on this field. Farmers who live and help others to live working hard don't live prestigious life. People of this area think that

this profession is of illiterate and innocent people. It is regarded as a profession which is adopted after being disqualified to other profession. People think as last alternative source to save their face. People having higher academic qualification hesitate to return back to farming. This is because they feel humiliation. Educated People want to make their survival in city areas even by doing labor-intensive works.

Farmers need money immediately when someone is to be admitted to the hospital. Farmers need money to admit their children in school. Farmers rush to get the return on labor. Thus, the abandonment of its occupation of the inhabitants of the agricultural wage labor, construction work, heavy to bear, for the business profession is found. Such work needed to return immediately to come and lucrative returns on each transaction. . Though people are heading towards modern ways of living people are still practicing blind beliefs, deep rooted social problems like Water tight system and different social discrimination. So called high cast, rich people suppress people having low standard of life and so called lower cast people. Here we can still find many social problems. Gender discrimination that don't let female to plough the field, participate in different socio-cultural activities together with problems related to widow and single women have obliged many villagers to leave their village and migrate to cities where they don't have to be the prey of discrimination. Even family and social disputes have become one of the reasons to migrate. Even different types of crops aren't cultivated, same crops are preferred. Lack of irrigation facility compels farmers to be dependent on rainfall. Therefore, farmers can plant only in rainy season. Every year, rate of production is being gradually decreased because of delay in agricultural advancement. Soil test, use of required amount of manure, improved seeds, use of scientific technology play major role in enhancing productivity. Yet, I don't find any training provided in this area. In course of long time, land is fragmented. Main reason of land fragmentation is land divisions among sons in a family. When a land is divided among family members, each member is given small piece of land. Before fragmentation, same land was used for fulfilling the food demand of a family. Usually a family has three members in a family. Same land is divided into three or four parts when family members get separated. Some piece of land has their use for making place to dispose cow dung's (Bhakaro), to maintain sanitary , for constructing physical structure.

Many farmers are working on daily wages .Those who are working on daily wages have poor economic condition. If they adopt their traditional profession there it

becomes very hard to meet their requirements. Villagers are in dilemma whether to abandon land or to seek other job because both types of people are living miserable life. Farmers are worried of their future. If they abandon land, they cannot meet their requirements and if not then they may be alone in a village as other are migrating. So, villagers are in great confusion. Traditional and cultural aspects of a society is also in danger because of the migration of respected elderly people . Many plans and policies have been made for proper management of agriculture in a scientific way but no effects can be seen in this survey area.

Remittance has been major source of survival for the people living in the village. But that remittance has not been used for any agricultural development. Political instability has become major problem for investing remittance in agriculture. Economically strong family migrates to city areas. At present, there is electricity supply in this ward. So, people are using computer, mobile and many more electronic appliances. Productive time is spent on playing mobile and computer. There is influence of western culture on traditional cultures, living style Population is increasing every year at high rate. But annual food production at local level is in decreasing rate. Even villagers are obvious to suffer scarcity of vegetables and fruits. Though there is high trend of abandoning land, some very active farmers have taken it as a opportunity. At present, it is very easy to feed domestic animals. We can find much grassy land because of land abandonment. Migrants sell their land at low price so there is good opportunity for pig rearing, poultry farming, and animal husbandry. Farmers making enough profits are in increasing number. Farmers have earned utilizing land for lemon, orange and alaichi, etc. plantation.

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ANNEXES

ANNEX-1 Interview Schedule

'Current Practice' on farming

A case study of Pelkachaur VDC.

Researcher:-YogendraGurung , Tribhuwan Central University, Kirtipur

1. General Introduction:-

Name of the household head..... occupation.....

Religion.....

Name of the respondent..... Ethnicity/Caste.....

Description of family:-.....

Total family members:-

2) Description of family:-

SN	Sex	Age	Marital status	Education	Occupation	Remarks
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						

3. What is the main livelihood source of your family?

- Agriculture Wage Labour
 Government Job Private Job
 Business

4. What is the area of your land in which the cereal farming activities are being conducted?

SN	Description	Khet (Ropani)	Bari (Ropani)	Total	Skip
1)	Self				
2)	Rent				

5. How much do you earn and invest for this farming annually?

- (i) Invest (ii) Earn

6. Can be fulfilled the family demand of food from field?

.....

7. Do you stock the food production for next year?

- (i) Yes (ii) No

8. Which crops have been cultivated currently in the field?

.....

9. What are these different in production between before and now?

.....

10. Are you satisfied with this farming?

- Highly Satisfied Satisfied Not satisfied

11. Have you produced seeds yourself or borrowed qualitative seeds and fertilizer?

.....

12. Have you participated in any training?

- (i) Yes (ii) No

13. If yes, how much training have you participated in? Mention the type of trainings.

.....

14. Have you been participation any observation tour?

- (i) Yes (ii) No

15. If yes in which places you visit?

.....

16. What are the major problems of cereal cultivated farmers?

.....

17. is your part of cereal land abandoned ?

- (i) Yes (ii) No

18. If yes, what is the area abandoned ?

.....

19. In your view, what is the factor that cereal land are abandoned in this area?

.....

20. What are positive and negative consequences of land abandonment?

.....
.....

21. What will be done for betterment of cereal cultivated farmers?

.....

22. Do you want to give suggestions for other farmers who want to keep continue in this cereal farming?

.....
.....

23. Do you want to give suggestions for us?

.....

Thanks for your Co-operation

ANNEX-2 Checklist for Focus Group Discussion

1. Condition of Agricultural land.
2. Changes of cultivation trend
3. Satisfaction level of present occupation.
4. Expectation from NGO' INGO's and Gov sector.
5. Drivers of transforming agricultural land.
6. Socioeconomic changes of survey area.
7. Impact of infrastructural development in agriculture
8. Efforts done for the improvement in agricultural sector
9. Problems/ Obstacles of cereal cultivation.
10. Trends of land abandonment and underutilized.

ANNEX-3 Name List of Key Informants

S.N	Name	Institutions	Designation
1.	Mahesh Bhattarai	District Development Committee, Syangja	Local Development Adhikari
2.	Tej Prasad Dawadi	Agriculture Development Committee, Syangja	Senior Officer
3.	ShreekantaAryal	V.D.C. office Pelkachaur	V.D.C. Secretary
4.	BuddhimanThapa	Manakamana Secondary School, Pelkachaur	Teacher
5.	HarimayaGurung	Sahara Mother Group Tulsichaur	Chairman
6.	BadrinathKafle	HamroKinaraPasal	Shopkeeper
7.	SabitriBohora	Leader Farmer Association	Co-ordinator
8.	ShaktimanGurung	Pelkachaur V.D.C.	Ex-vice Chairman

ANNEX- 4 Name List of Focus Group participants:

1. Surya DhojThapa (Pelkachaur VDC)
2. Man Bahadur Tamang (Simle,elder)
3. Raju Mall Thakuri (Deurali Youth Club, Chandrakot)
4. SaritaSapkota
5. DhanBdrGurung
6. SomBahadur B.K.
7. RajashRana
8. SunmatiGurung
9. Chadra Prasad Poudel