

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 General Background

Nepal is an agrarian country where more than 65.6% people are engaged in agriculture. Agriculture is the main source of livelihood for human beings from ancient period of time. More than 40% gross domestic production (GDP) is obtained from the agricultural sector (NPC, 2001). Nepal's total population is about 23 million out of this about fifty percent is the women's population. However the productivity of the food crops has remained stagnate and is even declining in some cases despite greater emphasis and efforts placed on the agriculture in almost all development plans. Farming is a labor-intensive work and both men and women have their contribution in production. But, women the excluded section plays major roles in various farm activities which is important not only due to their presence in large number but also because of the variety of activities performed solely in farming. Further more, increasing migration of male family members of subsidiary occupation and education had further added extra task to the farming women. This migration has feminized the agriculture system and the numbers of female headed households have been increasing. In Nepal, like in other developing countries, the status of women is low. Male dominated family system provides very little scope for the females to assert their identity. They are marginalized from economic and social opportunities due to illiteracy, poverty and conservative social taboos (www.unescape.org.) The major concern of today is how to maintain equality and justice in the distribution of benefit from developmental activities among men and women and how to create an environment from equal participation of men and women in family decision –making process in agricultural development.

Of the total landholdings females own only 8.1% and the average size of land is just two thirds that of an average male holding. Only 4% of the households have female ownership of both house and land. Marital status has determines female's asses to land & other property (NHDR2004:55). While in the case of agricultural land, the women ownership is hardly 4.4%. Regarding the land holdings, as high as 81% women own less than one hector of land (NPC 10'th plan), although women have little assess to resources, they start working as an early age and in return get little property, i.e. dowry in their marriage time, they devote their whole.

Agriculture, livestock, poultry, manufacturing and trade etc are major economic activities for Nepalese people. Agriculture is the pre-dominant economic activities generating employment for 81% of the total economically active population for their livelihood and remaining 19% are engaged in manufacturing, trade, business service and other non agricultural activities (Mandal 2005:46,47).

The crucial and important contribution of women to food security in developing countries is widely recognized. In most developing countries, rural –women are the mainstay of small-scale agriculture, the farm labor force and day to day family substance. Yet rural women are faced in the number of constraints. They have more difficulties than men in gaining access to land, credit and extension service. Development interventions to improve the economic roles of women have also limited success. Recently, the over riding concern of such interventions of rural women remained one of welfare and home economics program, mainly through women specific projects or women's responsibilities, participation and priorities in their specific local conditions, constraining the achievement of the objectives of the program, or leading to negative effects on the women and families (Das,1995) Although there is a wide diversity in household estimated that significant proportion of women in developing countries of women in developing countries spent up to

two-thirds of their time in traditional agriculture and marketing. Their working hours tend to exceed those of men. Women in rural areas grow at least 50% of the world's food. They work in all aspects of cultivation, including, planting, thinning, weeding, applying fertilizer and harvest activities and in livestock production. (Ibid, 1995)

It is almost more than two decades that the country has started giving consideration in addressing women's concern in its development endeavor. For the first time, sixth five year plan (1985-90) stated the need to integrate the women in development planning. The seventh plan women's role in general and women farmers in particular, has been accorded the priority. The government showed its commitment to the equal and meaningful participation of women in the development programs. Women farmer development division (WFDD) was established in 1992 as an apex body to look after the policy related matters concerning women farmers in the ministry of agriculture and co-operatives.

The role and responsibilities of women in the household depends on the composition of the household, social cultural and economic background. Within this context, the level of education, social norm, employment status influences the decision-making power of women.

This study deals with four key components. These four components are interrelated to each other in the context of Nepal. Agriculture is progressively recognized to feminism but female decision-making power is less appreciative. Male dominated decisions are highly practiced in Nepalese agrarian society that indicated that there is not equal and equitable relation between men and women in terms of socio-economic and cultural roles and status. Women decisions as well as involvement in vegetable farming is higher than men that is due to their high experience, knowledge and continuity of agriculture activities. Gender discrimination activities, oppression, subordination, difference and unequal atmosphere make to Nepalese society. Gender, a

burning issues, is the most important concern in any types of arena whether in agriculture development or in forest or irrigation or in infrastructure.

Nepalese agriculture is becoming progressively feminized (Thapalaya, 2001). Looking at the pattern of time allocation by gender in the selected districts, it is obvious that women, on an average, work four hours more than men both in agriculturally busy- season is 46.42 hours (Uprety, 2004). Similarly 96 percent women have been involved in agricultural work i.e. weeding, seed preparation, land preparation, digging, harvesting, transplanting, planting, manuring and fertilizer application etc where a little portion of men are involved in agricultural work such as planting from preparation. The livelihood of people maintained from sale distribution and share of the income obtained from the vegetable farming and services as well as in the capacity building. It draws upon the management of five different capitals: natural capital, social capital, financial capital, physical capital and human capital. Sustainable livelihood through the use of forest resources depends largely upon the socio-economic characteristics of the user's group. Participation in management of common property resources is a key to a collective action; However participation is dependent upon socio-economic condition of FUGs because Nepal's social structure is still based on caste system, gender, wealth etc with prevalent discrimination .Do the elites and wealthier villagers tend to dominate the decision-making process? It is leading to neglect the needs of poorer sections, which are assumed to be investigated. Whether section of the FUG often has access and their livelihood is not so directly dependent on access to vegetable products, DAGs face particular difficulties as the main source for the a key input into their livelihood is closed (Paudel, 2002) cited from the contribution of community forestry on livelihood of poor and disadvantaged group.

However the domestic chores as well as agricultural work done by women are not considered in the national income estimation. Women access to economic resources and control over. It is less because of legal discriminatory property

rights. The difference between average income ratio between men and women is 1:0.39. It is our fact that women work high but their income is very low. But it is difficult to say that they freely enjoy with this and it upraises their status in practical and Hindu dominated Nepalese society.

Kelkar (1987) stated that 'women continue to play a major productive role outside their work in the home as peasant cultivators or as agricultural laborers. There is history of institutionalized women subordination in Nepal as well as Asian countries .The ideal tradition family/kinship system was patriarchal, partifocal and organized around men authority. Women occupied an extremely low status .A vast majority of them lacked economic independence. In our patriarchal Hindu dominated society, Manu mandates for instance, women were required to function within the framework of three obedience: "Before marriage, obey your father, after marriage obey your husband. After your husband dies, obey your son."

Women are becoming the main cultivators, food producers and on farm income earners but they also continue to play their traditional roles in households activities .Yet research has revealed that women are under represented in administrative and other roles, their importance is not recognized, and their specific needs, interests and expertise are largely neglected in agricultural and rural development (Songet.al.2006:134) Given the fact that women are playing crucial roles but still have an inferior status in many respects. This study is focused in many areas. Like gender aspects women empowerment, and access of women in income and women's contribution in the household economy. Gender issues have been placed in centre in all aspects of this study. This research is carried on the sociological point of view.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Nepalese economy is largely characterized by distinguished unemployment and farming with limited prospects for modernization and commercialization of agriculture, Nepal's recent (2004) entry into the WTO and SAFTA marked, an important event in this period of change and is likely to accelerate the trends.

Agriculture perspective plan (APP) has also accorded gender issue a higher priority and recognized it as one of the important implementation strategies. One of its objectives is to bring women into the mainstream of agriculture growth.

Poverty alleviation was the sole objective of the ninth's and tenth plan. The implementation of the agricultural perspective plan (APP) was the major means to alleviate wide spread poverty in rural areas. But the improvements in the status of women couldn't be achieved, because of the traditional outlooks to the society towards women did not improve, It is because of the traditional outlooks to the society towards women did not improve as expected, neither expected improvement in legal framework had introduced in the gender discrimination. The government investment in some areas of social sector remained low the emergence of competitive atmosphere in economic activities emerged due to globalization and limited access of women to the new technologies development and their utilization are also the contributing factors for such situation. Majority of women workers (over 70%) are confined to self-employed, unpaid low skill jobs because of their lack of education and training opportunities, the bases of their employers and limited mobility. They have also begun moving into small business and self employment ventures, looking for salaried jobs, in this process, they are increasingly migrating to towns and cities for employment ventures, looking for salaried jobs the range of cottage industries, such as carpet-weaving, textile and handicrafts, as well as vending. Petty trade, brewing and vegetable selling (NHDR2004). Although

women have a lot of problems as mentioned above; this study also investigates women problems in commercial vegetable farming.

Now a day's awareness and motive towards cash crop cultivation and economic activities among the farmers have remarkably increased. Many farmers have also commercialized their farming like vegetable production. It helps rural women in utilizing the local resources and spare time to earn cash income. Thus, it is necessary to integrate empowered them socially and economically. Farmers in the urban are responding by shifting their crops to vegetables that have a higher market value. For example, in the past study area, potato and cucumber were cultivated for home consumption only. Now, the potato and cucumber fields are expanding. So that some of the crop can be sold. Productions of tomato, cauliflower, cabbage, radish, leafs etc are also increasing .In the same vein, the workload of women also have been increasing day by day.

Although Vegetable farming is not new topic but commercialization of farming is new topic and its impact of women's livelihood is really important and measurable. It is sure that it increases the workload of women but it is not sure. Actually, they are benefited. In the urban fringes where agriculture is the occupation for the livelihood and source of cash income, vegetable gardening appears as one of the productive enterprises for cash generation and is considered as cash crops. Vegetable growers get higher profit vegetable farming compared to that of cereals crops other economic activities. A study (Kunwar 2001) concluded that more women than men are active in vegetable production and selling purpose. But it is difficult to say, women and men are equally benefited. Were women equally and freely enjoying benefit? How was their access to income generation whether the activity upraises their status whether it empowers them or not .The specific research questions are as follows:

-) Who is in commercial farming?
-) Where do women spend income earned from commercial vegetable farming?
-) Who control the income from vegetable farming?
-) What is an impact of commercial vegetable farming enhanced by women on household economy?
-) What were the changes in women's livelihood brought up by commercial farming?
-) To what extent, women were empowered after the commercialization of vegetable farming?
-) What is the major problem faced by women in commercial farming?

1.3 Research Objectives

The general objective of this study is to analyze and explore the position and assess of women's involvement in the commercial vegetable farming. The specific objective of this study are as follows:

-) To access the livelihood of women involved in commercial vegetable farming.
-) To study the condition of decision -making of women farmers within the family and outside the family (community).
-) To access the role of commercial vegetable farming in women's empowerment.
-) To analyze the problem faced by women in commercial farming.

1.4 Rationale of the Study

The one of the main objective of Nepal agriculture perspective plan (APP) is to transform the subsistence in to a commercial one through diversification and

widespread realization of comparative advantage. Thus, there is considerable need for research that deliberately involves women in every aspect of research that deliberately by relating to their specific socio-economic condition. Women play a vital role in the production of all high value commodities, most notably in Seri-culture, vegetables, ginger and vegetable seeds. Prior to assessing gender impact of APP, this section has assessed how the APP viewed the gender. For this, the study has first brought together gender concerns of inputs and outputs.

The gender issues have become an interest and hot cake to the sociologists, politicians, planners, social workers, feminist and even everyone in the world as well as Nepal in order to balance & integrate women & men in development.

This study will focus Nepalese women's condition within commercial vegetable cultivation. Nowadays awareness and motive towards cash crop cultivation and economic activities among the farmers have remarkably increased. Many farmers have also commercialized their subsistence farming like vegetable production. It helps rural women in utilization the local resources and spare cash income. Thus, it is necessary to investigate. Whether it empowered the social and economic status of women. Farmers in the urban – fringes are responding by shifting their crops to vegetables that have a higher market value. For example, in the past study area, Potato and cucumber were cultivated for home consumption only. Now-a-days potato and cucumber fields are expanding .So that some of the crop can be sold. Production of tomato, cauliflower, cabbage, radish, leafs etc are also increasing. In the same, the workloads of women also have been increasing day by day. Nepalese economy is largely characterized by disguised un-employment and substance farming with limited prospects for modernization and commercialization of agriculture, Nepal's (2004) entry into WTO marked an important event of change and is likely accelerate the trends.

This study provides the evidence of women' participation in commercial vegetable farming and also able to portrait real figure of the study area. It is expected that this study may also be useful for future research and researcher to carry out of sociological studies on the issues concerned with gender perspective. The study will be useful to planners and policy makers. Similarly the finding will be helpful in providing some information needed by agencies and NGOs\ INGOs concerned with similar problems. The study will contribute to the improvement of commercial vegetable farming as a whole.

1.5 Definition of Terms

Commercial Vegetable Farming

Farming of vegetables for selling purpose or market or income generation. It is not only for home consumption but also sale and earn money as a business.

Women's Participation

Women's participation in vegetable farming is the involvement of women members of household in cultivation and marketing processes or women's involvement in commercial vegetable farming.

Women's Empowerment

Women's empowerment, as defined by a group of women activist in south Asia, means, "a process where in the powerless and disempowered gain a greater share of control over resources and decision -making." Even more specifically, it is "the process by which women gain greater control over material and intellectual resources, and challenge the ideology of patriarchy and gender based discrimination against women in all intuitions and structures of society (Batliwala1996, cited in Sheathe and Hachhethu 2002:4). The concept also incorporates the meaning as women making choices to improve their well being and that of their families and communities too.

Decision –Making

This study take decision-making as women's decision -making power regarding choices of vegetable selling places, quantity to sale, use and investment of income, decision-making role in both household as well as community level.

Access

As a crucial means to a number of important ends (control over purchable commodities), income has great significance in any accounting of economic capabilities and hence empowerment of people.

Livelihood: The dictionary meaning of term livelihood refers as "living or source of revenue "or socio-economic condition livelihood comprises the capital (i, e Physical, financial, natural, human)

Poor : The actual definition of the poor is a household is conspired poor when its income is below a certain level and its members are there by deprived of the material and other conditions necessary for proper participation in the society in which they live (Engbersen,1999)

DAG's: The actual definition of the DAG is "A group of people who are religiously, culturally, socially and economically oppressed, who could belong to different language and ethnic groups " (CARE, Nepal, 1996). But in this study DAG's refer to ethnic groups like Kami, Damai, sunar,sarki.

Farm Work: work related to the crop farming only i.e. seed selection, weeding, sowing, threshing, planting, transplanting, fertilizer application, irrigation, harvesting, grain storage, and farm preparation etc.

Household Work: This refers to domestic activities being performed by women farmer such as cooking, washing, water fodder collection, and caring children.

1.6 Limitation of the Study

This study aims to analyze women farmers' participation in commercial farming, to explore the women access over income generation and to analyze the role of commercial vegetable farming in women's empowerment. No study can be free from limitation and this study is not 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 Sociology and Anthropology. This study is based on small sample thus the finding may not be generalized to the national level.
-) Only active women 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 women vegetable farmers in ward no 1,2,3,9 from Sardikhola VDC 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 from Machhapuchare and 1 to 9 from Ghachowk 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 women respondents from that VDC's who involve in commercial vegetable farming.
-) Limitation of time.

1.7 Organization of the Study

This dissertations report is divided into eight chapter .The first chapter discusses the introduction of the study including statement of the problems, research, objectives, definition of terms, limitation of the study and rational of the study. Pertinent literature has been reviewed in chapter two. This chapter deal about theoretical overview, gender perspectives, feminist perspective, the

feminist thinking, GAD framework, status of Nepal women, vegetable and agriculture, empirical studies on commercial vegetable farming women's empowerment and conceptual framework.

The research methods use including the rationale for the selection of the study site, research design, nature and sources of data, sampling procedure, pre-testing, data collection technique, problems of fieldwork, validity and reliability, and method of data analysis and presentation have been discussed in the third chapter. The fourth chapter presents the basic information about socio-economic and demographic background of the study area. The fifth chapter deals about women's participation in commercial vegetable farming in study site including division of household chores and women's workload. The sixth chapter examines the women's livelihood, income generation, including domestic chores and women's workload. The sixth chapters examine the women's access to income generation, including expenditure of women, family members /relative' attitude and benefits besides financial. This chapter also discusses about women's empowerment and major problems faced by women farmers in commercial vegetable farming. In the last chapter summary, conclusion, major findings and recommendation are presented.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Theoretical-Overview

The situation of women in developing country like Nepal is much worst than in the developed ones. Still at the beginning of 21st century, due to conservatism, tradition, illiteracy, ignorance, poverty and superstitions, women have been treated as second-class citizens. They have less prestige, power and privileges than their male counterparts in the society (Upreti, 1988).

Status of women is an important factor, which affects the socio-economic development of a country. As we know that status is not a fixed rigid concept, it changes with time. So the status of women also changes with time. Status has been defined in different ways. As cited by the population monograph- the United Nations has given the definition of women's status as "The conjunction of position a women occupies as a worker, students, wife, mother of the power and prestige attached to these positions and of the rights and duties she is expected to exercise" (CBS, 1987).

The paper has used the gender and development GAD framework in its discussion and analysis. The existing literature shows that the women in development WID approach prior to the emergence of GAD approach in the 1980s. The primary focus of the WID approach was on the inclusion/integration of women in the development projects embedded with the objective for making more efficient. But the GAD approach attempted to address inequalities in the social roles of men and women vis-à-vis development. It has also linked the productive and reproductive roles of women with the assumption that the social construction of the these roles primarily triggers the oppression of the women. Understandably, gender is the system of

socially ascribed roles and relationship between men and women, which are determined not by biology but by social, political, and economic context. Given the fact that gender roles are learned, they can change over time (Moser 1989, Seed 1991 and Regmi, 2000).

Sociologist proposes dozens of important theories and ask thousands of questions (Regmi 2003:40), but this study will be carried out under the theoretical framework of gender perspectives, which is new and an appropriate approach to analyze culture and society in the context of sociology.

Basically sex is biologically defined, where as gender is socially defined. Thus sex refers to the biological fact that a person is either man or women. Gender refers to the biological fact that a person i.e. either man or women. Gender refers to socially learned traits associated with, and expected of, to be a men or women (Giele1988: cited in Regmi2003:130). Therefore to be a man or women is a matter of sex, but to be masculine or famine is a matter of gender and attitudes, such as mannerisms. Style of dress and activity preference (Regmi, 2003:40).

Gender refers to the societies distinguish men and women and assign them social roles. It is used as an analytical tool to understand social realities with regard to women and men (Bhasin 2003:40).

According to Hindu code Manu Smirti the first discourse, it has been stated that both men and women originated from god, men come out from one of half of this beings and women the other half. However a lot of discriminations had been made between men and women in a Manu Smirti age.

On the other hand "gods rejoice where women are worshiped "because Mahakali, Maha-laxmi and Maha-Saraswati are worshiped as incarnation of women and symbols of power. According to Manu, "however useless he may be a womanizer and bastard, the women must worship her husband as God "Thus women are traditionally deprived in our society.

Giddings's (2001) stated that in general, sociologists use the term sex to refer to the anatomical and physiological differences that define men and women's bodies. Gender, by contrast, concerns the psychological, social and cultural differences between men and women. Gender is linked to socially constructed notions of masculinity and femininity; it is not necessarily a direct product of an individual's biological sex.

Gender differences are not biologically determined; they are culturally produced. According to Magil (2003), gender differences between men and women are caused by the psychological and social development of individuals within a society.

Women and men may be physically different, but this does not mean that they are therefore innately different from each other. It is society and culture, which has decided that men and women possess different traits and attitudes. V. Geetha said that gender is an aspect of our everyday lives as well as a social, economic and cultural category that subsumes and re-writes the meaning of human sex, the fact of being masculine and feminine (Geeta, 2002)

2.2 Women Participation in work

Women and the Workplace

The socio-economic status of women in Nepal is very poor. While 81.3% of the total population are dependent on agriculture, women constitute 45.2% of the country's total economically active population. Labor participation of Nepalese women is the highest among SAARC countries (61.04%), despite their significant contribution to the economy, women constitute the major group of disadvantaged people in Nepal (UNICEF 1995:2).

According to a study by Acharya and Bennett on the status of women in Nepal (1979-81) women spend on the average of 9.91 hours per day in domestic farm

labour as opposed to 5.68 hours per day for men. Rural women generate more of the total household income the men 50% of the total income is contributed by women as compared to 44% by men and 6% children.

The aggregate data from this study depict women's contribution to the heavily focused on farm and domestic activities: 86% of all domestic work and 57% in subsistence agricultural activities. Their total contribution to the household income remains at 50% as opposed to only 44% for males and 6% for children between the ages of 10 to 14 (UNICEF 1992:91-92).

According to Shrestha "Nepalese society which regards male members as an asset and those not object to women entering the labour market but expects to receive her traditional domestic role equally" (Shrestha 1982:5).

Women have always been given a secondary position on that of man in our traditional society. She is seen as a good housekeeper, and a good mother this shows that women had a very limited role to perform in the traditional society. However, in the modern times, especially in the urban areas, women have to perform dual role i.e. to take care of the whole household activities and to work outside the home for extra income to support the family (Upreti, 1988:13).

According to Pradhan, (1979) women have been traditionally regarded primarily as consumers and not producers. It is only with the advent of the 1970 that they have been regarded as a global resource for development and social changes. Women's limited role in the society reflects the secondary role given to them in the household nexus, which forms the deep core of almost all social relationships in traditional societies like Nepal.

More and more Nepalese women are entering into job market to day either because economic necessity or in search of new career if one looks into the

occupational distribution of families from 1971 to 1991 census, one would find a considerable increase in the proportion of women employed in services, professional and technical and sales services.

For majority of population in pre-industrial societies (many people in the developing world), productive activities of household were not separate. Production was carried on either in the home or nearby all the members of the family participated in work. Women often had considerable influences within the household as a result of their importance of economic processes, even if they were excluded from the male realm of politics and warfare. Wives of craftsmen and farmers often kept business accounts and windows quite commonly owned and managed businesses.

Much of this changed with the separation of the workplace from the home has brought about by the development of modern industry. The movement of production in mechanized factories was probably the largest single factor. Individuals hired specifically for the tasks did work at the machine's pace, so employers gradually began to contract workers as individuals rather than families.

With time and progress of industrialization, an increasing division was established between home and workplace. The idea of separate spheres- public and private became entrenched in popular attitudes. Men, by merit of their employment outside the home, spent more time in public realm and become more involved in local affairs, politics and market. Women came to be associated with 'domestic' values and with responsible for tasks such as childcare, maintaining the home and preparing the food for the family. The idea women's place is in a home 'had different implications for women at varying levels in society. Affluent women enjoyed the services of maids, nurses and domestic servant's. The burden for poorer women, who had to cope with the

household chores as well as engaging in industrial work to supplement their husband's income.

Rates of employment of women outside the home, for all classes were quite low until entering in to the 20th centuries. Even as late 1910, in Britain, more than one third of gainful employed women were maids or house servants. The female labor force consisted mainly of young single women, whose wages, when they worked in factories or offices, were often sent by their employers direct to their parents. Once married, they generally withdrew from the labor force and concentrated on family obligations. (Giden; 2001)

2.3 Some International Processes for Women Empowerment and Gender Equality

International conferences, summits and declarations are conscious on women's empowerment and some programs were announced to improve women's status.

- a. The United Nations Charter was the first international treaty to enunciate the principle of equality in specific terms. It reaffirmed fundamental human rights, the dignity and worth of human person, equal right of men and women, fundamental freedom for all without distinction as to race, sex, language and religion.
- b. The International declaration of human rights (1984). The principle of equality and non-discrimination was formulated as central theme of declaration.
- c. **Basic Women's Right Documents:**
 - i. **CEDAW:** In 1981 U.N. general assembly adopted the convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). It is the first legally binding international treaty in which state assumes the duty to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women.

- ii. International Conference on Women:** In 1971 the U.N. General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming 1975 International Women's Year (IWY) to be devoted to intensified action with a view promoting equality between men and women, to ensuring the full integration of women in the total development effort and increasing the contribution of women to the strengthen of world piece (U.N. 1976). In 1975 the General Assembly proclaimed 1976-85 as UN decade for women: Equality, Development and peace. The IWY, the decade for women and four women's international conferences (Mexico 1975, Nairobi-1980, Copenhegan-1985, Beijing-1995) so far were all inspired by the desire to end discrimination against women and to ensure their equal participation in society.
- iii) The Vienna Declaration:** The conference in human right held in Vienna in June 1993, express deep concern about the various forms of Discriminations and violence to which women continue to be exposed all over the world and dealt extensively with the equal status and human rights of women in its conducting declaration.
- iv) ICPD plan of action:** The Cairo consensus also placed great emphasis on development, education and employment but its greatest effect derived from the priority given to gender equality and new prospective of the family planning.
- All major partners of international development community, multilateral and bilateral, have established priorities an specific policy guidelines to consider women as key-socio-economic actor to development and subsequently have placed the gender concerns in their assistance strategies as the integral component of respective co-operation frameworks.

2.4 Related Studies on Commercial Vegetable Farming and Women's Livelihood

Kawamura (2000) pointed out that vegetable farmers derive their livelihoods mostly from NR-based activities with a narrower range of income sources, specializing in vegetable farming. They do not only operate large-scale farming of marketable vegetables such as tomato and on higher income from it, but are also able to utilize land more profitably. They use higher proportions of their land for vegetable farming, but they still maintain larger food crop areas and grater food crop areas and greater food crop production and sufficiency. These strategies are considered to have been possible due to their higher status of assets and more advantaged access to them.

Uphadaya (2004) stated that majority of activities pertaining to vegetable farming under drip irrigation areas (Three village of Palpa District of western Nepal) is carried out by women. Men's involvement is relatively limited. Data show that a total of 186 hours of labor is required for vegetable production in dry season, in which women's contribution is significantly higher (86%). The total mean hours used for irrigation in vegetable production is the highest (80 hours) in comparison with other activities. Interestingly, activities like harvesting, weeding, fertilizer application and marketing are completely dominated by women. Women spent a total of 328 hours per annum for vegetable farming while men spent only 44 hours. Nepal remains one of the lowest ranking countries in terms of gender-related development indicator (GDI), which clearly illustrate the gender inequality prevalent in the country. It is also evident that those countries that are lower achievers in GDI are predominantly represented under low-income food deficient countries (LIFDC) and so is the case of Nepal.

Narko and Kikhi (2060 studied about the women vegetable vendors under the title "Strengthening Market Linkages for women vegetable vendors: Experience from kohima, Nagaland, India." Here they observed that 90 to 95

percent of the vendors were women. Women looked after the management, cultivation, harvesting and processing of the crops, although men sometimes helped to bring their products to the local markets. Although some goods are sold in bulk to regular vendors, others were sold directly to consumers on a temporary site. As a result of their role in trade, women achieved a certain control over household decision-making. Most of the income was used to buy essential commodities.

Singh et al. (2006) had published their work under the title "Enhancing farmers marketing capacity and strengthening the local seed system. Action research for the conservation and used of Agro-biodiversity in Bara District, Nepal". They concluded that social and gender issues are important to be considered in agriculture research, policy and extension activities, especially in a country like Nepal where the majority of the population depends on agriculture. The challenge of bridging the gap between the improved local field experience and policymaking remains. Their works aims to make a small contribution on this, but more efforts are required by researchers, extensions and policy makers alike.

Concluding Remarks: In this research various literatures have been reviewed. These literatures point out only change in women's livelihood due to be commercial vegetable farming. It concludes that various research studies have been made in the area of gender situation and discrimination between male and female. It is important to study that whether the farming women are suffering from the discrimination in our patriarchy society or not.

In fact only the discussed about gender situation, the CVF major problem. It is very important to investigate and find out the condition of the gender situation in the case of women's commercial vegetable farming and marketing activities women in the country, which can play vital role to solve the problem of gender discrimination in our society and whole world.

2.5 Conceptual Framework

The main focus of study is to analyze the women's involvement in commercial vegetable farming and its impact to them. To fulfill this study is concentrated on the following variables, in short the conceptual framework of this study is as follow.

The study is concerned with the gender role in land preparation, manure carrying, chemical fertilizer application, seed system, planting, weeding, irrigation, insecticides spraying, harvesting, and marketing, these activities improve farmer's household economy. When women farmers actively involve in this farming and marketing, their access in and control over income generation from vegetable selling is increased. The study also concerned with the women workload and role of women's farmers, which is investigated within the social, economic and gender context of women's life style as a whole. Women involvement on these activities increased their mobility, expose in society, increased marketing and organizational activities. This also makes them self-confidence and independent too. The increment in family income has an impact on health, nutrition, education and conjugal life. Women's participation in vegetable farming and marketing builds their awareness toward organizational and communal activities. Likewise, these activities have effects on decision-making power in household as well as in community. These also induce power and awareness, training and capacity building, political awareness and bargaining power, which ultimately lead them to empowerment and upraise the livelihood of women.

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study mainly focuses among the women commercial vegetable farmers in the Sardikhola, Ghachowk and Machhapuchare VDC. The study is designed to obtain information on their position and their access over income generation. Therefore, this study follow a broad framework and was trying to apply a more holistic approach to fulfill its objective. This section discusses research methods employed to accomplish the study objectives.

3.1 Research Design

The major emphasis in this study is to analyze and explore the position and access of women involving in the commercial vegetable farming. It analyze women's livelihood due to commercial vegetable farming. To explore the women's access to role of commercial farming in women's empowerment. Considering this work, exploratory research design was used to understand the access of women in income generation and their empowerment. Descriptive research design was used to describe women's participation in commercial vegetable farming and their livelihood. Similarly, it was also used to socio-cultural situation of women vegetable farming

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

According to the data provided by the of MCDAF –Nepal (a yearly report of 2065) above 100 household's women are engaged in commercial vegetable farming using approximately 1 ropanies and more than 1 ropanies of land of each. Thus the universe of the study will be 100 households. Firstly the number of households in the universe will be listed an 50 households are purposively selected. Household selected as the elements of sample and was taken as unit of analysis.

Table 3.1: Sample Size According to VDC

V.D.C	Number of Respondent	Percentage
Ghachowk	17	34.0
Machapuchre	14	28.0
Sardikhola	19	38.0
Total	50	100.00

Source : Field Survey, 2065

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 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 50 sampled women vegetable farmers (active women members of households) 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 (43 questions) were used. This is the main techniques.

iii) Case Study Method:-Separate case studies with the participant carried out. In this study 2 women respondents (Devemaya Gurung and Radha Pokharel) 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 village ex-vice chairperson of Ghachowk, Sardikhola, Paralegal and mother's group, Leader farmers DLGSP's staff, technical support staff of Sardikhola VDC, J.T.A and chairperson of different women groups.

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 problem faced by the women farmers and the sole objectives of this study. Two focus Group Discussion (FGD) sessions were held with non-samples women vegetable farmers including JT, JTA and representative of VDC's, DADO Kaski etc.

3.5 Pre-Testing

To ensure that tools were properly designed, they were pre-tested in the area with the neighboring VDC Purenchoor. Necessary changes were made and interview schedule were finalized for administration to the women commercial vegetables farmers.

3.6 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. Some case studies included in thesis report. 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.

3.7 Problems of Fieldwork

During the fieldwork, researcher faced few problems; it was a peak agricultural season. So it became very difficult to meet women farmer in their homes. So it took long time to visit and revisit them. Even after I meet them, they were not ready to response to questions because they thought that they know nothing and recommended me to take interview to their male counterparts. They were reluctant to tell their problems and their men counterparts. It indicate the psychology of men dominant practical society. 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 came 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 already have worked in this place for 2 years. So I didn't bear other kind of problem.

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 Sardikhola VDC Ward no 1 to 9 from Ghachowk and 1 to 5 from Machhapuchare VDC. The population of entire district 3,80,527(CBS, 2001) Out of which 4800 population of Sardikhola VDC, 3500 population from Ghachowk VDC and 2800 from Machhapuchare VDC live respectively. The study area is situated (village profile, 2003). The research site is selected purposively. These VDC's are situated at 1300 meters about the sea level. Topographically the study area is both plain and hilly area. The study site represents low hill and river basin environment in the western hills.

The Bhurjung Khola and Ghachowk Besi is fertile land on the bank of Sardikhola and Gandaki River. In the study site, besides abroad job subsistence farming is one of the main sources of the livelihood. Sardikhola is boarded east from Purenchour VDC, southwest from Ghachowk and Machhapuchre VDC and north from Parcha VDC. Ghachowk VDC is boarded east from Lahachowk VDC, southwest from Rivan VDC and north from Machhapuchare VDC. Machhapuchare VDC is boarded east from Ghachowk VDC; west from Rivan

VDC, north from Mount Machhapuchare is located. According to village profile 2058, the main caste/ethnic compositions are Brahmin, Chhetri, Gurung, Newer, Magar, Tamang and B.K., Pariyer, Nepali etc.

This is the largest area of production amongst other areas of Kaski where vegetable and tomato cultivation have been grown from 20 years till to date. That's why I selected this site for study. Some study area concluded that more women than men are active in vegetables production and selling purpose. Most of the men are going abroad in that area. Thus the selection of study area was very suitable and useful for studying women farmers

Bagar to Kharpani a famous highway, which was completed in 2007 which connects study area to Pokhara city. It has brought new opportunities to export fresh vegetables to urban areas. At the same time, massive influences of materials and information due to road have contributed to the increased economic and social development of this area. It has experienced development of vegetable farming since 1995. The facility of selling production is good due to this road. The women farmers can have easily access to necessary inputs.

Pokhara agricultural product market (PAPM), locally known as Mandi is a whole sale market built in a 2.5 hector area by the small Market development Project and financed by UN capital Development FUND. The market officially started in operation in May 2000, but informally started several months before. PAPM is also providing new market channels to farmer in the study areas now exported to Pokhara and other urban areas through PAPM. Many women farmers also started to adopt and expand this farming because of Drip program, Sardikhola Irrigation project which is made By ACAP. Both men and women farmers in the study area have benefited a lot from the vegetables and production.

Most of the houses are outside cemented and inside red soil with stone and cement and cornet roof. Transportation facilities are available to Ghachowk and Machhapuchare VDC in to gravelling road over the Bridge of Mardi River.

Having good motarable road in Sardikhola, the facilities of Telephone, mobiles, drinking water, electricity etc are also available. Cable televisions are also remained from Bhurgankhola besides Ghachowk and Machhapuchare can be easily accessible by bus and taxis from Pokhara. Mountains are situated at the northern side of this VDC. Specially most of the Gurungs live on the hilly area. There are mainly Gurung, Pun Magar, some Chhhetri; Brahmin live at Machhapuchare VDC.

4.2 Social Organization

There are various social organizations NGO's /INGO's work on Sardikhola, Ghachowk and Machhapuchre VDC. "Conservation Education and extension program ACAP" implement conservation education at grade 7 & 8 on Machhapuchre Secondary School wards no 1- Sardikhola. 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 (KMTNC Annual report 2001)

Nepalese societies have many religions, languages and diversified cultural features. There are more than 40 religious societies (Sapkota 2061:160.) .In Sardikhola & Machhapuchre, 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 there festival by conducting Mela of Kharpani. For this mela there are one kimbandati, 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 gathering and worshiped there at Maga- Sanskriti. Similarly another attraction of that place was very hot spring. Many people go there for bathing in order to treatment for various skin diseases. These warm ponds follows under Seti River within four month and rest 8-month continuous supply of warm water from it. This popular warm water pond is situated at the junction of Machhapuchre and Sardikhola VDC. For presentation and popularity of these places Sayapatri Youth Club of Chaura -9 Sardikhola worked from 2051 B.S.

4.3 Climate

Sardikhola, Ghachwok and Machhapuchare 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's are covered by small mountains, ridges, valley, small streams and warm pounds.

Formation of this VDC is at slope in upper past. 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 24⁰C on August and lowest temperature found within range 5 degree C at January For average records of temperature within range of 14 degree C .the average rainfall is recorded at (180mm) from above data, it seems the climate of study area is medium neither hot nor cold, which is broadly Smithson.

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. The collected data of the composition of caste/ethnicity has been shown is the figure 4.1 below.

Table 4.1: Percentage Distribution of Respondents by Caste/ethnic Groups

Caste/Ethnicity	Number of Respondent	Percentage
Brahmin	17	34.0
Chhetri	6	12.0
Tamang	5	10.0
Magar	10	20.0
Gurung	10	20.0
B.K.	2	4.0
Total	50	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2065

Fig. 4.2: Percentage Distribution of Respondents by Caste/ethnic Groups

According to the above figure 4.2 the majority of (34%) is occupied by Brahmin followed by Gurung and Magar each by 20% respectively than by Chhetri .It is 12%. Similarly Tamang has negligible 10% and the least is 4% by B.K in the study area. The demography of the above figure represents mixed ethnic society ranging from 34% of the Brahmins to the 4% of B.K

4.5 Food Consumption

When household food distribution **n**utrient 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 left over food. During loan periods is particular, the consumption of vegetables and pulses are reduced. 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 indicates not only that overall food availability including that of women has improved due to their farming,

but that this improvement is in part because of the access of commercial vegetable farming has given women to income.

Respondents & key informants reported that their food consumption habits were changed. They used half vegetables and half stapes foods (50-50) for their meal in or time. They share their food in their family in equal basis since vegetable production has increased normal vegetable intake; it has positive impact in nutrition. With the help of vegetable production, not only these women have become financially strong but also are able to secure their own and family's nutritional intakes.

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. All the respondent were Hindus. Here the researcher tried to survey about the religious composition of the respondents the fact gathered clearly shows almost all the 50 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 sprits 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

Table 4.2: Education Level of Respondent

Caste/Ethnicity	Literate	Illiterate	Under S.L.C	SLC Passed	I.A. Above	Total (%)
B.K.	-	2	2	-	-	4 (100)
Tamang	4	2	4	-	-	10(100)
Chhetri	2	2	2	4	2	12 (100)
Magar	6	10	2	2	-	20 (100)
Gurung	8	6	6	-	-	20 (100)
Brahmin	14	4	6	6	4	34 (100)

Source: Field Survey, 2065

Above table exhibits the facts that the education level of women respondents was higher than national level. They were deprived of access to higher-level education. According to their caste/ethnic composition Brahmin women were more literate among other caste women. Among total number of literacy of Brahmin women only 14 percent are literate, 4 percent illiterate, 6 percent under SLC, and 4 percent studied I.A. and above level. Similarly 20 percent gurung were literate, 6% percent illiterate, 6% percent under SLC, in study area

among this other caste Magar women were 6 percent literate, 10 percent illiterate, 2 percent under SLC in the study area. Similarly, 2 percent Chhetri women were literate, 2 percent illiterate, 2 percent were under SLC in this area. Similarly 4% Tamang women were literate, 2% illiterate, 4% SLC pass. Amongst other cast women so called Dalit B.K. women are 2 percent are illiterate and 2 percent are under SLC in this area.

This data clearly shows that Brahmin, Tamang and Magar women were leading education level in this area Brahmin women were most sensitive in education than other caste women similarly Gurung and Magar women were follow Brahmin women.

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's 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 household's women rearing 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.

Table 4.3 : Occupational Structure of the household heads

Occupational Structure	Number of Respondent	Percentage
Only Farming	20	40.0
Abroad	19	38.0
Farming +Job	10	20.0
Business	2	4.0
Total	50	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2065

Maximum numbers of the respondents reported the fact that 40% of the households are engaged in the subsistence farming. Where as 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 is the peak period of agricultural activities. When the demand of laborer is high. They do so because of the disguised employment in their traditional work.

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. To be more clear the researcher had demonstrate the collected of family size.

The structure of the family plays an important role in the women's 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.

Table 4.4: Types of Family

Family Structure	Number of Respondent	Percentage
Joint	15	30.0
Nuclear	35	70.0
Total	50	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2065

The table 4.5 above illustrates clearly that 7%percent of the respondents from the field survey had reported that they lived is the nuclear family, where as 30% of the total respondents had reported that they live us joint 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 consultant their old age and family members while replying before and after ranking questions and some other information.

Table 4.5: Age Composition of the Respondents.

Age	Number of Respondent	Percentage
16-20	1	2.0
21-30	13	26.0
31-40	21	42
41-50	7	14
51-60	3	6.0
61and Above	5	10.0
Total	50	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2065

Fig 4.3 : Age Composition of the Respondents

Table 4.2 below clearly demonstrates about the percentage distribution of the household members. The largest parentage of household members (42%) was found is the age group of 31-40 years. Followed by 26% where the age group of (21-30) falls. Likewise, the least group of respondents were from 51-60(6%) and 61 above (10%)as well as 16-20(2%)respectively.

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.

Marital status makes the difference in women's status. It is through the marriage that women change their status of daughter to daughter in law. It also changes the women's role and increases the duties and workload of the women.

Table 4.6 : Marital Status of the Respondents

Marital Status	Number of Respondent	Percentage
Married	44	88.0
Unmarried	6	12.0
Total	50	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2065

The table 4.6 below reveals these fact majority of respondents in the study area were found married which can be proved by the collected data that 88% respondents are married. Among the 12% of the respondents are unmarried. From the above data it can be noticed that most of the married couple are very interested in the commercial farming in the study area, it may be because of being comfortable due to division of labor at the time of work.

CHAPTER V

WOMEN'S INVOLVEMENT IN COMMERCIAL VEGETABLE FARMING

5.1 Period of Engagement in Commercial Vegetable Farming

The main vegetable crops grown in the study site are potato, tomato, cucumber, cauliflower, cabbage, radish, leafs, bottle gourd, beans etc. Period of engagement in commercial vegetable farming ranged from a minimum 2years to maximum 20 years ago.

Table 5.1: Period of engagement in commercial Vegetable farming by Duration (years)

Period (in year)	Number of HHs	Percentage
1-5	25	50.00
6-10	12	24.00
11-20	13	26.00
Total	50	100.00

Source : Field Survey, 2065

Fig. 5.1: Period of Engagement in Commercial Vegetable Farming by Duration (years)

50 percent of the respondents said that they started commercial vegetable farming between 1 to 5 years ago. 20.00 percent of the respondent started this activity before 6-10 years ago, 26.00% of them started 11-20 years. This information indicates that this occupation is very sound and good occupation especially in urban fringe. Women respondents who have no land or small land for commercial vegetable farming for help marketing system. They earned only a little cash from commercial vegetable farming.

5.2 Types of Vegetable Farming

There are three types of seasonal vegetable viz. winter vegetables, spring vegetables and summer vegetables grown at study site. Generally broad leaf mustard, radish, pumpkin, cabbage, cauliflower, potato etc. are mostly grown in the winter as well as spring seasons. In summer season sponge gourd, chilly, pumpkin, etc are commonly grown. Tomato, cucumber, cauliflower, cabbage, were main off-seasonal vegetables grown in study site

Table 5.2: Types of Vegetables Farming

Types of Vegetables	Number of Respondent	Percent
Seasonal	9	18.00
Off-Seasonal	41	82.00
Total	50	100.00

Source : Field Survey, 2065

Majority of the respondents cultivated off-season vegetable i.e tomato, cauliflower, cabbage, cucumber, etc. 82% of them agreed with the statement that income from off-seasonal vegetables is higher than that of seasonal vegetables. The fig 9 reveals the fact that vast majority of the respondents are attracted to the off seasonal vegetable farming

So far as the agricultural crop-cycle and vegetable cycle is concerned there basically two types of vegetable farming. To be more specifically first are

seasonal vegetables and second are off-seasonal vegetable. Within the seasonal vegetables three times come namely winter vegetables, spring vegetables commonly grown at the study site. Off-seasonal vegetable farming are highly emphasized in the study site where almost majority of the respondents 82% practiced this one cucumber, radish, cabbage, tomato, cauliflower, baronial etc are usually grown with major priority in the study site. Comparatively eligible 18% respondents are engaged is the seasonal vegetable farming.

5.3 Women's Involvement in Commercial Vegetable Farming.

Majority (60%) of the respondent reported that women themselves are involved as the key person who involved actively throughout the years in vegetable farming. Similarly about 22% of the women said that both wife and husband equally contributed the agricultural activities through the year. While very few 18% of the women respondents told that other family members in the house involved in the commercial vegetable farming.

Table 5.3: Key Person Involved in Commercial Vegetable Farming

Involved Main Person	Number of Respondent	Percentage
Self	33	66.0
Both (Husband +Wife)	11	22.0
Other	6	12.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2065

5.4 Women's Workload

This chapter deals with the analysis of women's involvement in commercial vegetable farming. Further this chapter includes many other relevant issues like satisfaction with commercial vegetable farming. Types of vegetable farming, consultation regarding seeds, fertilizers & diseases and market management for the products.

Women carryout majority of activities pertaining to commercial vegetable farming in the study area. Men's involvement is relatively limited. The average time spend by women respondents in commercial vegetable faming 5 hrs and a minimum 1 to a maximum 10 hrs per day. Only 12% respondents spend 1 to 3 hrs per day. Interestingly, activities like manure carrying and dispersing chemical fertilizer application, seeds, planting, weeding and marketing and done by women. Women's time spent in other agricultural activities and household activities has been counted in these working hours.

Table 5.4: Working hours of Women in Commercial Vegetable

Working hours	Number of HHs	Percent
1 to 3 hours	6	12%
4 to 7 hours	20	40%
8 to 10 hours	24	48%

Source: Field Survey 2065

5.5 Satisfaction with Commercial Vegetable Farming

The illustrates the fact that 14% of the respondents who were heavily involved tin the commercial vegetable farming were highly satisfied by their business of farming. Here the level of satisfaction is compared is there order which is revealed. Similarly the largest numbers of 76% respondents were simply satisfied by their present profession. On the other hand very few 4% of the respondents they were not satisfied through their occupation of commercial vegetable farming.

Table 5.5 : Satisfaction with Commercial Vegetable

Satisfaction Level	Number of Respondent	Percent
Highly Satisfaction	7	14.0
Satisfied	38	76.0
Not Satisfied	5	10.0
Total	50	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2065

5.6 Land Utilized in Commercial Vegetable Farming

Land, in fact taken as the free gift of nature like water, air, etc. But, later on due to the possession of land as the means of private property. Anyway, land is considered as the main resource of production where the crops and vegetables are grown as per the demand. In the study site uniformity was not maintained in the case of using same size of land for cultivation purpose. Majority of the respondents 38% used 1-3 ropani of land for the cultivation of vegetable follow comparatively by 4-6 ropani land used by 62% of the respondents respectively.

Table 5.6: Land Utilized by Commercial Vegetable Farming

Utilized Land	Number of Respondent	Percent
1-3 Ropani	19	38.0
4-6 Ropani	31	62.0
Total	50	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2065

5.7 Process and Division of Work in Commercial Vegetable Farming

In study site still used wooden plough and spade as tools for land preparation. Some time, they use tractors too but only a few numbers of farmers. Irrigation is made possible by making small cannel/kulo from main cannel. Manu-ring is one of the most important things for growing vegetables and other crops well.

Most of the farmers in the study site use compoust manure, buffalo and cow fertilizer for growing vegetables better. Most of them used poultry manure (suli) for potato cultivation which was imported from Narayanghat, Chitwan District because of high demand of vegetable. Only men members of the household brought this manure by truck or Tractor. The women headed household were forced to buy in high rate poultry manure from their neighbor because being as women it is not suitable task for them to bring poultry manure far from the house. This clearly shows that there still exists unequal gender division of labor in some cases.

Women farmers usually buy their seeds from local market. Most of them reported that seeds seller who did not provide them improved seed easily cheated them. Some of the women farmers used their own and plant. Women farmers of the study area were fully independent in the seed for potato only. Most of them keep their potato in cold store in Pokhara city.

In study site there is still gender inequality in wage labor between men and women. Men work as a hoer and get 350 with one time meal and breakfast in a day. But, women work as a Khetali (weeding, planting) and being as women, she gets only 130 with only breakfast in a day. These data shows that there is gender inequality still exist in Nepal. Most of the women farmers reported that there is very difficult to get men wage laborers and they need heartily request to them for wage laboring. Most of the hired men labors were employed in land preparation and making plastic tunnel for tomato. Plastic tunnel making activities were highly dominated by men.

The majority of the respondents, Key informants and focus group discussion participants agreed with the statement that participation of women in vegetable farming and marketing is greater than that of men. Thus, women participation in commercial vegetable farming is very high. Majority of them play a vital role in marketing and market related decision-making. Women play a predominate role in almost all activities. The study revealed that women extensively contributed to vegetable farming and marketing. The total work

done by women in commercial vegetable farming and marketing. The total work done by women in commercial vegetable farming production is significantly higher than those of done by their male counterparts.

**Table. 5.7 : Division of Work according to Agricultural Activities
(in Percentage)**

Agricultural activities	Person involved				Total
	Women	Men	Both	Women+wage laborers	
Land Preparation	60.00%	20.00	70.00%	25.6*	100.0
Manure carrying	75.00%	13%	40.00%	15.8	100.0
Chemical fertilizer application	70.00%	21.00%	60.00%	-	100.0
Seeds	60.00%	20.0%	30.00%	-	100.0
Planting	85%	10.00%	40.00%	4.6	100.0
Weeding	80.00%	5.00%	35.00%	5.3	100.0
Irrigation	50.00%	40.00%	50.00%	6.9	100.0
Harvesting	40.00%	10.00%	60.00%	8.4	100.0
Marketing	60.00%	20%	35.00%	9.8	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2065

Interestingly, activities like manure carrying and dispersing (75.00, chemical fertilizer application 70.00%, planting (85.00%, weeding 81.00%, an marketing (60.00%), harvesting 40.00%, Irrigation 50.00%, seeds 60.00% are done by women. In addition, activities like land preparation, (70.00%), and harvesting (60.00%), are done both by women and men. Men mostly did irrigation activity because it was very easy and less time consuming task in study site due to various irrigation facilities. Activities like chemical fertilizer application 60.00% and seeds 30.00% were done by both men an women, which also needs more consciousness. This also indicates that women are still left behind many cases. Table also shows that the increasing trend of hire labor used. Most of the hired laborers were employed in land preparation, 25.6%, carrying manure 15.8%, wedding 5.3%, Irrigation 6.9%, harvesting 8.4%, Marketing 9.8% etc. Some women farmers exchange their labor. It takes place with neighbors and friends, living in the community. They call this labour exchange system as 'Parma'. But major source of labour for all households of the study site. In

fact, with the exception of land preparation and perhaps irrigation, women were found to play the dominant role in all aspects of the production and marketing process. Therefore, we can conclude that the women participation in commercial vegetable farming activities was very high their men counterparts in almost all activities.

5.8 Market Management for the Products

Transportation is the main facility, which directly or indirectly affects in the village economy. Most of the people at the study site are engaged in agriculture and vegetable farming as well. In order to flourish this sector the provision of transportation and irrigation is the most.

Modern civilization leaves millions of people in a situation where under normal conditions. They cannot grow vegetables or they find it preferable to buy their supplies to meet these needs the commercial vegetable business has grown up with its local gardens (work 1997 cited in Kunwar 2001). Now a days, in study site, vegetable cultivators appear as one of the productive enterprises. The study site lies near Pokhara and is linked by Kharpani Bagar Highway, which also links this site with other places of Pokhara city.

Due to well transportation facility, most of the customers i.e. retailers and wholesalers come to village to buy their product. Almost all women farmers 68 percent mostly sell their product in their own house and only 32 percent of the respondents sell their product outside the home i.e. Pokhara, Pokhara agricultural product market (Mandi), most of them sell their product in Mandi in Pokhara.

Table 5.8 : Market Management for the Products

Market Place	Number of Respondent	Percent
Own community	34	68.0
Mandi/ Pokhara	16	32
Total	50	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2065

Due to transportation facility, some of the customer both retailers and wholesaler's frequently come to the study site to buy their product. A largest number of women respondents usually sold their vegetable products in their own community and in local area like collection centre, small merchant etc. where the women respondents told that they sold their products in Pokhara, Pokhara Agricultural products market (Mandi).

5.9 Frequency of Sale

The vegetable cultivated needs to be sold in the market as soon as possible because they are the perishable things, which can't be kept fresh for longer time. Keeping this into considerations the vegetable grower of the study sells their products as soon as possible by the table presented below reveals the frequency of sale of the vegetable produced at the study site.

Table 5.9: Frequency of Sale

Frequency of sale	Number of Respondent	Percent
Daily	8	16%
Twice/thrice of week	21	42%
Weekly	17	34%
Once in a season	4	8%
Total	50	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2065

Fig. 5.2: Frequency of Sale

According to the above Fig. 5.2 it is clearly seen that they sale their vegetable production in the regular frequency per day. The great majority 42% of the respondents told that they sold their products twice or thrice in the week at the market either in home or outside the home. Where as 34% second largest majority admitted with the fact that they sold their products usually once in a week. But 8% of the respondents which is the least percentage reported they sold their vegetable production once in every season.

5.10 Consultation Regarding Seeds, Fertilizer Diseases

For the better vegetable production it is necessary to have the knowledge about the selection of seeds, fertilizer and types of diseases those troubles in the different kind of vegetables.

Table 5.10 : Consultation Regarding seeds, Fertilizer Diseases

Consultation	Number of Respondent	Percentage
JTA officials	14	28.0
DADO	19	38.0
Local group	7	14.0
Private aggravates	10	20.0
Total	50	100.0

Source : Field Survey, 2065

Majority of the respondents (38%) reported that they consulted with the technician of DADO. Similarly another 28% respondents said that they got the suggestions from J.T.A. officials followed 20% of the respondents fold that they had the consultations with the private agrovate. Lastly very few of the respondents reported tat they openly discuss with the local group people to the solution of those problems.

CHAPTER VI

ASSESSMENT OF WOMEN'S VEGETABLE FARMING AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

This chapter includes the assessment of women's livelihood and their economic activities performed in their day-to-day life. After they involved in commercial vegetable farming. This chapter begins with the description of investment and income from C.V.F. and ends with family members and other attitude towards women vegetable farmers. This chapter focuses to analyze the noticeable change in the livelihood of women after their involvement in commercial Vegetable Farming.

6.1 Investments and Income from C.V.F (Annually)

C.V.F. is the easiest means, which can enhance the village economy of Nepal. Economic status is an important and determining component of social, cultural change and development. Positive changes in economy, health, education and women's status are regarded as the hallmarks of social development of a country Table 6.1 below shows investment pattern in commercial vegetable farming and annuals income from accrued vegetable farming among the population of sampled household's in the study area.

Table 6.1 Investment in Income from the Vegetable (In annually)

Investment in Vegetable Farming (Annually)(000)			Income from vegetable farming (Annually) (000)		
Investment	H.H.S	Percent	Income	H.H.S.	Percent
1-10	16	32	1-25	14	28
10-20	13	26	25-50	16	32
20-30	9	18	50-75	12	24
30-40	7	14	75-100	4	8
40-50	5	10	100-125	2	4
Total	50	100%		50	100%

Source: Field Survey 2065

The annual investment in commercial vegetable farming of sampled household ranged from 2 to 50 thousand where, as annual income from vegetable farming is 2 to 125 thousand. The average annual investment in study site is 25 thousand and average income is 62.5 thousands. The highest percent of the households 32% invested 1000 to 10 thousand followed by by 26% invested less than Rs. 30-40 thousands and only 10% responded invested above Rs. 100 to 125 thousand annually in vegetable farming. The highest percent 32% of the households earned 25 to 50 thousand annually followed by 28% households earned Rs. 1 to 25 thousand and 8% respondent earned 75 to 1 million rupees. At least 4% respondent earned 1 million earned annually. The value of vegetable consumed by the respondent household and labour used the commercial vegetable farming have not been included in this calculation.

6.2 Independent to the Saving

In fact, Nepal is a patriarchal society where the supremacy of male is seen in every aspects of socio-economic life of Nepalese society. In many cases ownership of the land and property is achieved by male in larger number than that of female. Due to the impact of male domination their influences and activities is seen mostly in the day-to-day economic affairs of their life.

Fig. 6.1: Independent to the Saving Money from C.V.F

The figure 6.1 has made the fact crystal clear that vast majority of the women farmer respondents 59% are dependent to use their saving from farming. In other word they are not free to utilize and handle the money, which they have accumulated through their hard labor and incessant efforts. On the contrary to this only 41% of the respondents reported that they almost independent to make the use of money as according to there will and interest.

6.3 Noticeable Change in Livelihood after Involvement in C.V.F.

In the study demonstrated that commercial vegetable farming had a significant changes in women vegetable farmers. They have a lot of changed at many goods as soon as they involved in C.V.F. Some of their changes are judged in term of monetary value while other are invaluable southing as their name, fame, self teem, self dignity etc which they have considered as invaluable and insacent changes in their life. There have been positive changes in the economic status health condition education situation and position of women in study site Table

Table. 6.2: Noticeable Change in Livelihood after Involvement in C.V.F.

Noticeable change	Number of Respondent	Percent
Bio- gas installation	4	8
Toilet Construction	8	16
Management of home	17	34
Made shelter for cow& goat	12	24
Other	9	18
Total	50	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2065

Fig. 6.2 : Noticeable Change in Livelihood after Involvement in C.V.F.

The table 6.3 above status clearly that 8% of the respondents have planted biogas at their house as the alternative source of energy through application they can felt more comfortableness. While 16% reported the facts that they have constructed toilet at their home for hygienic environment through the money they achieved and saved from the vegetable farming, where as a considerable amount of 34% respondent told that they have well managed and reconditioned their house. Similarly 24% another largest number told that they constructed the seltzer for cow and goat. At lastly 18% of them narrated that they have utilized their saving in other works like buying utensils, decorating things, jewelers and in the investment of their children education.

6.4 Accumulation of Savings

A vast majority of the respondents 59% of the respondents told that they have saved some amount of money as a surplus after fulfilling the economic demand of their day-to-day life. While, on the country to this very few number of respondents (41%) responded that the money they earned from the vegetable farming is enough to their daily basic needs .On the other hand out of 59%

respondent who have managed to save some money for future purpose .34% of them told that they have accumulated saving amount of the Saving & credit groups. While 6% of the respondents reported that the accumulated saving amount in Agricultural Development bank. Here 58% a huge number of respondents told that they accumulated in the co-operative bank and very lest 12% respondent that they saved their money by themselves at home.

Table 6.3 : Accumulation of Savings

Accumulation	Number of Respondent	Percent
Group	12	24.0
Agriculture Bank	3	6.0
Co-operative	29	58.0
Home	6	12.0
Total	50	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2065

Fig. 6.3: Accumulation of Savings

6.5 Withdrawal of Loans

So far as the village economy of Nepal is concerned the money is not equally accumulated in every individual, rather it is found highly accumulated in some elite or rich person of the community .So, in this regard farmer needs some small or larger amount of money for the investment in C.V.F, obviously in this situation they need to borrow money and heavily depend on the loan. Provided by the elite groups of community but in the contemporary situation this trend has been gradually shifted to some other alternatives like saving/credit groups and co-operatives etc, which is clearly shown in the fig (6.2) illustrated below.

Table 6.4 : Withdrawal of Loans

Loan	Number of Respondent	Percent
Elite Group/Friend	7	14.0
Group	16	32.0
Co-operative	13	26.0
Finance	9	18.0
ADB	5	10.0
Total	50	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2065

Fig. 6.4: Withdrawal of Loans

According to the table 6.5 very least 5 respondents have told that they had practice the loan system of A.D.B. While on the contrary to this majority of the respondents 32% told that they are still habituated to withdrawal the loan from the saving groups of their society. And 26% of the respondents told that they get the loan from co-operative bank located near by their village. Most of the respondents told that through banking system is more trouble some to withdraw the loan by keeping the mortgage of their property paper at bank which they are lacking to put in the Bank. At last 14% respondent still habituated to loan from elite group or friends/ neighbours etc.

6.6 Family Members, Neighbor and others Attitude toward Women Vegetable Farmers

Previously, in study site, vegetable farming and marketing activities were regarded as low level occupation. But, now, attitudes of community people towards this occupation were very positive because it is very suitable and profitable business in urban fringe.

The table 6.3 presents the fact that 48% of the respondents reported that their family members neighbors, relatives and other attitudes towards them is very positive involvements in the commercial vegetable farming. On the other hand 26% of the female respondents expressed the fact that their family members and other's attitudes towards them is quite encouraging and energizing. Their family member and relatives also encouraged and supported them a lot. While very few of the respondents 16% reported their family members and other's attitudes towards them is just neutral for their direct participation in commercial vegetable farming.

Table 6.5 : Communal Attitudes towards Women Vegetable Farmers

Level of Attitude	Number of Respondent	Percent
Positive	24	48.0
Encouraging	13	26.0
Neutral	8	16.0
Total	50	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2065

Fig. 6.5 : Communal Attitudes towards Women Vegetable Farmers

6.7 Major achievements after involvement in C.V.F.

In the study site farmer respondents narrated that they have achieved a lot of things as soon as they involved in C.V.F. Some of their achievements are judged in term of monetary value while other are invaluable as their name, fame, self teem, self-dignity etc which have considered as invaluable achievements in their life. The fig 6.1 below unfolds such major achievement, which they have achieved after their involvement in C.V.F.

Table 6.6 : Major Achievements after Involvement in C.V.F

Major Achievement	Number of Respondent	Percent
Social Prestige	11	22.0
Economic Prosperity	12	24.0
Self Dependent	27	54.0
Total	50	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2065

Fig. 6.6: Major Achievements after Involvement in C.V.F

Majority of the respondents 54% were found to be fully self-dependent which they proudly shared that it is the greatest and major achievement we have made in our life. These group of women enthusiastically told that we are no longer burden to our husband rather we support in the family affairs. Another largest group of 24% respondents stated that they achieved economic prosperity as the vital achievements in their life. They were quite pleased to say that they have helped to manage their house economically. Where as 22% reported that they have achieved social prestige, all these achievements acquired from the respondents exhibit the fact that they are quite satisfied to have their own status and place economic sector of homely affairs and prestige in their social sector.

CHAPTER-VII

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND AWARENESS

The main particular objective of this study was to assess the role of commercial vegetable farming. This chapter encompasses all the components appeared in the women empowerment. This chapter also deals about women's involvement in village activities, decision-making, training and the major problems faced by women farmer in commercial vegetable farming.

In general, empowerment is considered to be the process through which one achieves the knowledge, skills and awareness through which different sources to empower one self in the day-to-day life. Here women empowerment has been judged on the basis of their engagement on the commercial vegetable farming and the capacity building activities given to them.

The centrality of the notion of empowerment is located in the dynamics of the legitimate sharing, redistribution and of power .In the sociological sense of Max Weber, power is one's capacity to have control over other's and as such, when this capacity, when the capacity to control is legitimized it becomes authority.

The social status of women and their ability to negotiate for better options at village and households levels depends on the terms on which they have access to resources, such on land credit, new skills and information and channels of decision making in their own-right.

Women should be empowered by enhancing their skills, knowledge and access to information technology.(Platform for Action &the Beijing development)

Achieving the goal of equal participation of women and men in decision – making will provide a balance that more accurately reflects the composition of society and is needed in order to strengthen democracy and provide its proper functioning

7.1 Training Received

Training is considered as the main tool and technique to make an individual more empowered and skillful. Once women are involved in vegetable farming they feel more convenient to deal with the problems regarding vegetable affiliated diverse and market management and so on. The fact about their involvements in training or not.

Table 7.1: Training Received

Training	Number of Respondent	Percent
Involved	29	58.0
Not Involved	21	42
Total	50	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2065

The table 7.1 demonstrates the fact that only 42% of the female respondents were involved directly in the training program, which enhance their capacity and skills. Where as the largest number 58% of the respondents were not having the chance of participating in such kind of training organized and run by various sources. Most of the respondents who were not involved in such kind of training told restlessly that they were not even informed intentionally about the training which was likely to take place.

7.2 Decision Making

Nepal is, although labour and land allocation are grounded in cultural construction of rights and responsibilities, income distribution is largely governed by patriarchal ideologies favoring men prerogatives. But this occupation provides an opportunity to generate income for rural women. This eventually helps them in terms of capacity building and decision making at both household and community level. In other world male dominancy is seen in every sphere of human, social, cultural and economic life. But, so far as

commercial vegetable farming occupation is concerned. People have more or less contributed in farming to some extent. Majorities of farming decision makers are minority in both categories of farmers. More than three quarters of vegetable farmers are men less than a quarter women. However, only slightly more than half of non-vegetable farmers are men and less than women. However, only slightly more than women. It implies that men favoring decision makers are more likely to run commercial vegetable farmers than those women ones. It can be considered that this is due to gender difference in the hills of Nepal which allows men to have more decision making power on matters which involve risk and a large sum of money such as commercial vegetable farming (Kaumare 2000). Before adopting this occupation, most of the women farmers in the study site did not have any income source. Now they have not only access to financial resources but ask control over it. Because they hold the purse strings and expose in society, they command greater bargaining power in both household and community level decision-making. Data shows that before adopting this farming women were not much consulted by their male counterparts when deciding to household and community level. But now, in constraints to Kaumuras (2000) conclusion, women in study site are being increasingly consulted by their men counterparts before making a decision both in household and community level.

Table 7.2: Decision-making on Selling Vegetable by Gender

Decision Making	Number of Respondent	Percent
Self	41	82.0
Both	6	12.0
Husband	3	6.0
Total	50	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2065

Fig 7.1: Decision Making on Selling Vegetable by Gender

According to the fig. Illustrated above exhibits the fact that a considerable 82% of the women vegetable farmers respondents reported that they themselves and organized choose the place and fix the rate for selling the vegetable to be sold in the desired place like co-operative. On the other hand, 6 % of them told that they make the decision in regard of above mentioned activities relating to vegetable farming.12% respondents told that self and husband have decided to sell the vegetable. Their men counterparts make only 6% of the decisions. Thus, the level of decision making of women is very high in study site.

Table. 7.3 : Decision Making on Selling Vegetable

Increase Decision making on household	Number of Respondent	Percent
As usual	5	10.00
Moderately	30	60.00
Highly increased	15	30.00
Total	50	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2065

The table shows that men have started to consult their women counterparts before making decisions. Amongst 3 0% of the respondents agreed with the statement that after adopting his occupation, their household decision making power was highly increased while majority of the respondents 60.00 % agreed that their household decision making power has increased moderately. Only

10% of the respondents mentioned that their decision making power was not increased. Therefore, we can conclude that the commercial vegetable farming activities has helped to increase women decision-making power.

7.3 Affiliated to Groups/Institutions

The community members have strongly realized the fact that they need to organize them and work in a group. They realized that those farmers who do not belong to any groups and therefore have less opportunity to build social network and participating any programmers such as credit facilities, technical skill training etc. In case of participation mainly men are involved in various intuitional activities. But, after the incessant continuation of various awareness and awaking campaign and program the level of women's involvement in institution sector has been increased which is related in the table 7.3

Table 7.4: Affiliated to Groups/Institution

Affiliation	Number of Respondent	Percent
Affiliated	36	72.0
Not affiliated	14	28
Total	50	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2065

The table 7.4 demonstrates the fact that higher percentage of 72% respondents told that they are actively and regularly involved in the various kind of intuitions and organization in order to enhance them self and their occupation and their community as a whole. On the other hand comparatively very few 28% of respondents told that they did not involved in any kind of intuition and organization as a whole.

7.4 Empowerment and Awareness

Empowerment enhances the ability and quality of person in different sector. The person is empowered if he or she becomes independence in the concerned sector. Awareness, enlightenment and frequent training are the bases for paying towards empowerment .In other words, empowerment and awareness are two inseparable entities they go hand in hand and he in order to mark the process of empowerment and awareness various data have been analyzed and presented here under table 7.3.mentione earlier made it clear that 82% i.e. vast majority of the women are independent to make the decision regarding their occupation which supports us to observe the level of their empowerment which is very high. On other hand huge number of respondents responds that they are independent to make use of earned income independently. This is also supporting evidence of empowerment.

Table 7.5: Empowerment and Awareness on Commercial Vegetable Farming

Empower	Number of Respyndent	Percent
Yes	42	84.0
No	8	16.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2065

The table 7.5 displays the facts that a vast majority 84% of women respondents are independent through commercial vegetable farming where as very less 16% are not empowered through commercial vegetable farming. Most of the women respondents told that they have utilized the saving achieved from commercial vegetable farming in different productive sectors. It also increased their social prestige, decision making power, group and intuitional activities, exposure visit and marketing activities and finally leading them towards empowerment Case study box-1

7.5 Women in Politics

Despite the growing acceptance of the importance of the full participation of women in decision making bodies at all levels, a gap between de jure and de facto equality persists. There is a lack of appropriate representation of women in political and public life in almost all countries in the world. This fact is rather alarming in Nepal where the participation of women in political and public life is very minimal. Traditionally assigned gender roles limit women's choices in education and careers. It compels them to assume the burden of household responsibilities. The negative attitude towards women's involvement in the public activities on one hand and the double burden of work in and outside the house on the other has negated active participation of Nepali women in public and political fields (FWLD, 2003). But in study site, the table shows the women's participation in village level politics is increased.

Table no 7.6: Increase women participation in political Activities

Level of participation	Number of Respondents	Percent
Highly	5	10.00
Moderately	30	60.00
As usual	15	30.00
Total	50	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2065

Table 7.6 presents the participation of women in politics. In study site, data suggest in comparison to other activities, women participation in political activities is minimal. However majority of the respondents (60.00%) reported that the women participation in political movements (The election of contusion Assembly) has been increased moderately. 5% reported that it highly increased in political activities and 30% reported that it upraises the women's involvement in political activities as usual. It was found that women in study site actively took part as their male counterparts Not only they raised their 19

days political Movements II in 2062-2063 B.S. Not only raise their political party's flag but also they raised their voice against dictatorship of monarchy. They also took part in every kind of village level meetings and raised their voiced.

7.6 Major Problems Faced by Women Farmer in Commercial Vegetable Farming

Majority of the people involved in agricultural sector are heavily dependent on the traditional tools and techniques .In spite of scientific advancement they are bound to depend on monsoon for irrigation water.

Table 7.7: Major Problems faced by Women Vegetable Farming

Problems	Number of Respondent	Percent
Technical problems	18	36
Lack of transportation	9	18
Lack of irrigation	11	22
Lack of Training	5	10
Lack of market	7	14
Total	50	100

Source: Field Survey, 2065

Fig. 7.2: Major problems faced by women Vegetable Farming

Table no 7.2 Presents various problems faced by women farmer in commercial vegetable farming. According to the above table different problems faced by women farmers have been exposed 36%, which is, considerable amount have been shared that they are facing technical problems .In the absence of technical assistance they are suffering from various problems regarding commercial vegetable farming. Similarly 18% of them reported that although they are located in the village near by the Pokhara city, they are suffering from the traditional facility .In addition to that 22% of the women farmers reported that they are suffering from irrigation problems .On the other hand 10% told that the absence of proper agricultural training they are suffering a lot for e.g. lack of proper knowledge about use of chemical fertilizer and spraying insecticides have negative aspects on their health. 14% of them told that in the absence proper and well facilitated market they are bound to sell their products in the cheaper price.

CHAPTER VIII

SUMMARY MAJOR FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

From the analysis and discussion of above information, the summary, conclusion and recommendations /suggestions were deduced and are presented as follows.

8.1 Summary

This study covers only ward no 1,2,3,9 of Sardikhola, Ward no 1 to 9 from Ghachowk and 1 to 5 from Machhapuchare VDC, a famous tourism place, Kaski, Nepal. The population of entire district 3,80,527(CBS, 2001) Out of which 4800 population of Sardikhola VDC, 3500 population from Ghocwk VDC and 2800 from Machhapuchare VDC (village profile, 2003). These VDC's are situated at 1300 meters about the see level. Topographically the study area is both plain and hilly area. Production of vegetable has been increased with the construction of Sardikhola irrigation project. High demand of vegetable in local area and Pokhara city, has slightly encouraged in the vegetable farming such as tomato cultivation in plastic tunnel and implementing Go's and NGO's have also contributed in its rapid development. Women have been able to uplift the economic and social status by selling the vegetable production as compared to the previous situation. Increase in total family income had a positive impact on health, education, nutrition and livelihood.

The majority of the respondents are Bhramin34% followed by Chhetri 12%, Tamang 10%, Magar20%, Gurung20% and B.K. 4%. Dalit women were found to be the most deprived group in the area. Among the six caste women, the problems are more serious among Dalit women. Most of them have small or no. If cultivated land is remained, they didn't have encouraged anyone. It encourages someone who lacks of land, capital for investment. Their choices

are extremely limited, both by lack of assets and powerlessness to negotiate with both formal and informal institutions. All the respondents speak Nepali language. The main source of livelihood in study area is agriculture. The household heads main occupation was agriculture. Almost 38% respondents reported that their household head's occupation was only farming, 37% reported that their occupation was abroad 20 % reported that their household heads engage in governmental and non governmental job and few of them (4%) told kind of business were done.

Period of engagement in commercial vegetable farming by respondents ranged from a minimum 2years to maximum 20years ago.14.0%. of the respondents were fully satisfied with their commercial vegetable farming activities and76%. Respondents were satisfied to some extent. This information indicates that this occupation is very sound and good occupation for rural and half -literate women, especially in urban fringes. Out of 50 respondents 82% percent of the respondents cultivated off-seasonal vegetables. All of them agreed with the statement that income from off-seasonal vegetable is higher than seasonal vegetables. Vast majority of the respondents70% agreed with the statement that they were full time farmers 76% percent of the respondents mentioned that they were key person involved in commercial vegetable farming activities herself.

In study site, there is still gender inequality in wage labor between men and women. Men worked as a bause (hoer) and get 350 with one time meal and breakfast in a day where as women worked as a khetali (weeding, planting) and being as women, she gets only 13 with only breakfast in a day. The average time spent by women respondents in commercial vegetable farming is minimum Spend 2 hours to maximum 8hours per day for vegetable farming. Also women farmers were able to manage healthy and balanced food for family consumption.

Majority of the respondents, key informants agreed with the statements the participation of the women in vegetable farming and marketing is greater than that of men. Thus, women participation in commercial vegetable farming is very high. Majority of them play a vital role in marketing and market related decision-making. Women play a pre-dominant role in almost in all activities. The study revealed that women extensively contributed to vegetable farming and marketing. The total work done by women in commercial vegetable production is significantly higher than those done by their male counterparts. Women had played a major role in manure carrying and dispersing, chemical fertilizer application seeding, planting, weeding and marketing. Women and men both involve equally in land preparation and harvesting.

Previously, men rarely helped their women in household's chores but men co-operation have increased in domestic chores after adopting this farming. The preparation of food as a monopoly for women in all communities of Nepal including studied area, now in study site men also prepare food for their family and help in all activities. Majority of the respondents reported that their husband help them in household's chores. The scenario has been changed after adopting this occupation. Women have a cash earner and take part in other activities in the community. Data suggest that men have started to consult their female counterparts before making a decision to some extent; these changes have brought changes in gender division of labor. Majority of the respondents explained that their workload had been increased because of commercial vegetable farming. Data carry out triple work responsibilities such as productive reproductive and commercial work. In other hand, quantitative and qualitative data suggest that their workload has been decreased slightly in household's chores. Women's have played a major role in manure carrying and dispersing (60.00%), chemical fertilizer application (70%) seeding (60%), planting (76.00%), and marketing 60.00% activities. women and men both involve equally in land preparation and harvesting. Thus, this data indicates

Women's role has been diverted from productive as well as cash earnings work in some extent. Less drudgery and time saving rarely reported as benefits of commercial vegetable farming. Women have collectively utilized their time to carry out innovative works, such as forming self-help groups and co-operative, saving –credit groups, livestock raising groups in study site. This kind of innovation will help illiterate rural women to move forward; aware their rights and realizing their potentials and raise voice wherever necessary. Unpaid women laborers have become commercial vegetable producers. Women who used to stay at a home during the off-season of farming have effectively utilized in income generating activities such as vegetable production. Income generation had a positive impact on the investment in food, clothing, medicine, education and livestock. This implies that women have successfully broadened their roles and responsibilities from those of domestic to productive.

The annual investment in commercial vegetable farming among sampled household ranged from minimum 1000 to maximum 150,000 thousand where as annual profit from vegetable farming is 1700 to maximum 80,000 thousand. The study shows that majority of the respondents kept money earned from vegetable selling. Majority of the respondents (25households) mentioned that they have own ownership in saved money. In the case of control over income and 25 Percent of them jointly controlled over it with their male counterparts. Earned money was spent on different household's members. This farming had created employment for women and men. Some of the women have successfully demonstrated that the landless can also be involved in agricultural activities like vegetable production and also able to earn more cash income. The income from vegetable selling was mainly spent on food, clothing, medicine, education, housing, purchasing land etc.

Majority of the respondents 54% were found fully independent to spend money earned from vegetable selling and 40% Percent of the respondents were found

in dependent to some extent. Majority of the respondents (27 respondent) spent money for themselves and women members of the households on the clothes and ornament, medicine, education, traveling/visit, cosmetics etc. Due to this farming, women vegetable farmers' production and marketing skills and knowledge has been increased. The trend of vegetable consumption increased among the farmers after adopting this occupation. This farming has also brought improvement in their cereal crops production because of maximum use of poultry manure in their land.

They have become cash earners and independents. It has also reduced women's dependency to men. Before adopting this farming, women were not much consulted by men while making household and community level decisions. But, now men have started to consult their female counterparts before making a decision both in household and community level. Their involvements in decision making on selling vegetables is very high. Almost 92% percent of the respondents had received different kinds of training. Likewise, compared to so-called low caste Dalit women, majority of the high cast community, more domestic violence exists in so-called low caste community than the high caste community.

Many respondents 72% were engaged in farmer's organizations/groups. Vast majority of them 16% were affiliated to saving –credit groups and some of them (32%) were engaged in co-operative ltd. and saving/credit facility became vary easier to women. Family members and relative's attitudes towards women involvements in commercial vegetable farming activities are very positive. They became self-reliant. They were satisfied with their occupation. They took part in every kind of village level meetings and raise their voices. Due to commercial vegetable farming, domestic violence against women had been decreased in study site. Some of the respondents who used to send their children to government schools are now sending them better of schools due to increased income from vegetable selling. The income from vegetable selling

was mainly spent on different household's activities by mutual understanding of household members. This farming has increased women access to and control over resource. It has also increased social prestige, decision-making power, group and intuitional activities, exposure visit and marketing activities. These, in aggregate, have empowered them significantly. Although women farmers of the study site faced many problems viz, lack of technical knowledge how, lack of men co-operation in farm, lack of improved seeds and fertilizer.

8.2 Major Findings

On the basis of results and discussion of the study the following major findings were derived.

-) The rural setting is typical with all the households followed Hinduism. They speak Nepali language as well as own mother language They were 34% Brahmin, 12% Chhetri, 20% Tamang, 20% Magar, 10% Gurung and 4% Dalit.
-) The main source of Occupation was agriculture as well as abroad job, business and GO's/NGO's job.
-) The average time provided by individual female contributed minimum 1 hrs to maximum 10 hours per day.
-) The average time provided by individual female contributed minimum 1 hrs to maximum 10 hours per day.
-) Area of land ranged from 1 to 6 ropani, it's per area.
-) Women's have played a major role in manure carrying an, dispersing (60.00%) chemical fertilizer application (70%) seeding (60%), planting (76.00%) marketing 60.00%. Planting 85.00%, weeding 80.00%, Irrigation 50.00%, Harvesting 40.00%, and Marketing 60.00% in study site.

-) The government, NGO, INGO's had significant playing roles for providing subsidies for seeds, fertilizer and equipments.
-) Period of engagement in commercial vegetable farming by respondents ranged from a minimum 2 years to maximum 20 years.
-) Only 14% respondents were fully satisfied, 76% satisfied and 6% respondents were unsatisfied with their commercial vegetable farming.
-) Vast majority of the respondents 70% agreed with the statement that they were full time farmers.
-) In study site, there is still gender inequality in wage labor between men and women. Men worked as a bause and get 350 with one time meal and breakfast in a day where women worked as a khhetali and being as women, she gets only 130 with only breakfast in a day.
-) The total work done by women in commercial vegetable production is significantly higher than those done by their male counterparts.
-) Women's role has been diverted form household work in some extent.
-) Women have collectively utilized their time to carry out innovative works, 72% respondents were engaged in many kind of organization, and self- help groups.
-) The annual investment in commercial vegetable farming among sampled ranged minimum 1000 to maximum 50000 thousand where as annual profit from vegetable farming is 1000 to maximum 125,000 thousand in year.
-) Majority of the respondents 50% mentioned that they have own ownership in saved money in the case of control over income and 50% jointly controlled over it with their male counterparts.

-) Vast majority of the respondents spent money for own family of the households on clothes and ornament, medicine, education, traveling etc.
-) Due to this farming, women farmers production and marketing skills has been increased.
-) Due to commercial vegetable farming, domestic violence against women had been decreased.
-) This farming has increased women access to and control over resources .It has also increased social prestige, decision-making power, group institutional activities, exposure visit marketing activities and so on these, in aggregate have empowered them significantly.
-) Amongst 92% respondent had received different kind of agricultural trainings.
-) Commercial vegetable farming has also brought improvement in their cereal crops production because of maximum use of poultry manure in their land.
-) In the study site, women farmers faced many kinds of problems viz, lack of advance technical knowledge, lack of improved seeds and fertilizer, lack of agricultural road, lack of market and so on.

8.3 Conclusion

This study demonstrated that commercial vegetable farming had a significant positive impact on women farmers. Women participation in commercial vegetable farming activities is very high than their male counterparts in almost all activities. Women carry out majority of the activities pertaining to commercial vegetable farming in studied area. Men's involvements are relatively limited. Women are able to contribute for the betterment of their

family both socially and economically. They have been only contributed to domestic duties but also earned money for the support of their families. Due to the lack of proper land, dalit women were expected regularly to seek paid work for the support of their families. There have been positive changes in the economic status, health condition, education situation and the position of women in the study site. This farming has helped to raise women's status, health condition, education condition and the position of women in the study site. This farming has helped to raise women's status in the society through the social and economic empowerment. This occupation provides an opportunity to generate income for rural women. This eventually helps them in terms of capacity building and decision-making at both household and community levels. Women in the study site, now, can raise their voice and opinions clearly. Women ownership and control over saved money was very resonance in study site. They have gained social prestige from vegetable production. Women position in decision-making and other activities in their household and community have become sound.

Previously, the women farmers have to ask for money and their husband for fulfill their needs. But now they became independent themselves due to their high participation in vegetable farming and marketing processes. Now, women farmers living conditions have been improved. The increased income level of the women had changed the lifestyle and thinking pattern. The self-help saving groups and mother groups provide a platform to women for sharing experiences, making plans, increase social network, improve self-esteem, raise confidence and ultimately empower them. Solving problems through collective actions became a kind of activity that the women favored most. Particularly in terms of curbing gambling and alcoholism, regulating domestic violence, undertaking the improvement of trails, roads and drinking water facilities, temple and public cold setting place. (Dharmasala) building and marijuana (Gaga) destroying programs. Marijuana destroying programs have

become popular initiatives recognizing local as well as national level. This has raised their status in family, community and village life.

There was high competition in vegetable growing and marketing activities among women farmers in study site. Women have more frequent contacts with a wider range of sources of information, which ultimately increase their awareness. Benefits brought out by commercial vegetable farming have triggered positive developments in the economic condition, education situation, health condition and the up-liftment of women's status.

A greater participation of women in commercial vegetable production has increased food security, including improved access to, and control over resources. Since women are more involved in vegetable farming and marketing. They have access to the cash generated from the vegetable selling. This improves their bargaining power and decision-making roles in household and village. Their participation in meetings and interactions among various agencies and groups has helped them build their capabilities. It has increased social prestige, decision-making power, group and intuitional activities, exposure visit and marketing activities were ultimately empowered them. The women who used to be shy talking with outsider are now found bargaining and selling their products in the market. This is obviously a positive situation. Therefore, we can conclude that women were empowered socially, technically and economically through the commercial vegetable farming activities.

Among the five casts women, the problems are more serious among Dalit women. Most of them have small or no land for cultivation of vegetable. In comparing to so-called high caste women, so-called low caste women have earned only 20,000 thousands annually. Dalit women choices are extremely limited, both by the lack of assets and powerlessness to negotiate with both formal and informal intuitions. They had a less access in training and

organizations than that of Brahmin and Chhetri women. In sum, women in high caste i.e. Brahmin and chhetri are more empowered and improve their livelihood than the women in so-called low caste i.e.; Dalit.

8.4 Recommendations/Suggestions

Based on the findings of the study, following recommendations /suggestions are made:

-) As the study revealed problems of commercial vegetable farming viz; lack of technical knowledge, they should be given technical, operational and management trainings for vegetable cultivation. Co-operation of men should be increased.
-) Women farmers are not properly aware of harmful pesticides and fertilizers and the gradual disowning traditional fertilizer and insecticides have brought previously unknown disease in the studied site Use of chemical fertilizer and harmful pesticides should be reduced and use of compost and other farmers made fertilizer should be increased.
-) JT.JTA and other field staff of GO's and NGO's sectors should provide technical and pesticides suggestions.
-) Information, education and communication are very important to increase awareness among women. So awareness raising and social strengthening activities are necessary to encourage creativity, initiatives and to develop entrepreneurship among them. Non-formal education women's right and legal awareness classes should be run in suitable time for adult women to make them literate and facilitate them marketing and empowerment.

- J Women farmers want to visit different vegetable growing areas in different parts of the country to improve their knowledge, skill and capacity. So field visit /exposure visit programs should be organized by NGO's sectors. Dalit and economically improvised ones should be included in such visit programs.

- J Gender sensitive programs and seminar, skill development training and programs should be launched and access of Dalit women should be increase in these program.

- J Dalit women need special concern for their livelihood and empowerment. So, skill development and cash earning programs should be launched in their community. The landowner should be encouraged to provide land for landless farmers, especially dalit women farmers in potato farming time.

- J Women farmers, especially Dalit and economically improvised ones should be provided cheap loan to encourage and inspire them for growing a large amount of vegetable crops. It helps to improve their livelihood and uplift their social status.

- J The community members have strongly realized the fact that they need to organize and work in a group. However, their abilities related to leadership and developing relationship with different line agencies and other organizations are minimal. Therefore, the organizational capacity of these farmers and groups should be bolstered through appropriate training packages such as organizational and leadership development.

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ANNEX-1

Interview Schedule

Commercial Vegetable farming and women's Livelihood.

A case study of Sardikhola, Ghachock and Machhapuchare VDC.

Researcher:- Laxmi Thapa, Prithivi Narayan Campus, Pokhara.

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						

S.N	Questions	Answers	Skip
3	When did you start commercial vegetable farming?years ago.	
4	From which type of vegetable did you earned more?	1) Seasonal 2) Off-seasonal	

What is the area of your land in which the commercial vegetable farming activities are being conducted?

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

6	How much do you earn and invest for this farming annually?	1) Invest..... 2) Earn.....	Skip
7	Are you satisfied with this farming?	1) Highly Satisfied 2) Satisfied 3) Not satisfied	
8)	How is your workload after adopting this commercial vegetable farming?	1) Highly increased 2) Increased 3) Decreased	
9)	Who is the main person who grows?	1) Self 2) Other member of family	
10)	Do you help from your family members?	1) Too much help. 2) Helped	

		3) Not helped.	
--	--	----------------	--

S.N	Description	Personal involvement			
		Women	Men	Both	Wage laborers
1	Land preparation				
2	Manure carrying				
3	Seeding and plantation				
4	Harvesting & marketing				

11) Who does what in commercial vegetable farming?

12)	What is your marketing system?	1) Sell-self. 2) Sell middleman	
13)	What is the main market?	1) Pokhara 2) Village. 3) Others	
14)	Frequency of sale.	1) Daily 2) Twice of week 3) Weekly 4) Once in a season.	

15	From which aggrovate you borrowed qualitative seeds and fertilizer?	
16	Have you participated in any trainings?	1)Yes 2) No	
17	If yes, how many trainings have you participated in? Mention the type of trainings.	1)One 2) Two 3).....	
18)	Have you been participating any observation tour?	1)Yes 2) No	
19)	If yes in which places you visit?	
20)	Are you in member of any social groups/organizations?	1)Yes 2)No	
21)	If yes, mention the types of your groups/ organizations.		
22)	In which position have you received?	1).....2)	
23)	Who keep the money earned from the sale of production?	1)women 2) Men	
24)	Do you save this money?	1) Yes 2) No	26
25)	If yes, where do you save?		
26	Are you free to spend your income Earned from commercial vegetable	1) Fully independent 2) To some extent	

	farming?	3) Fully dependent	
27	Where do you spend money earned from vegetable selling from yourself and especially For women members of your family?	1)Clothes/Ornaments 2) Cosmetics 3) others	
28	What is the attitude of your relatives and family members over your engagement in this farming?	1) Very positive 2) Neutral. 3) Negative	
29)	What is the attitude of your community members over your engagement in this farming?	1) Very positive 2) Neutral. 3) Negative	
30	Where did you receives new message about Vegetable farming?	1) Newspaper 2) T.V. 3) Friend 4) development workers 5) Neighbors	
31	Did this farming make women self – reliant?	1)Yes 2)No	
32	Is there any change in women participation in village’s institutions /groups and intuitional role after adopting this commercial vegetable farming?	1) Highly increased 2)Moderately Increased 3) As usual	

33	According to your view, in which part you saw the changes of livelihood?	1) Social part 2) Economic part 3) Others	
34	How is your decision-making power after adopting this commercial vegetable farming?	1) Highly increased 2) Moderately Increased 3) As usual	
35	What did you spend for lodging/ fording at the part of income from vegetable farming?	1) Whole of income. 2) half of income 3) one of income	
36	Have you any change your home structure after engage your farming?	1) Yes 2) No	→38
37	If yes, which structure are changed?	1)..... 2).....	

38) What type of school or college you sent your children?

SN	Gender	Before commercial vegetable farming		After commercial vegetable farming	
		Government	Private	Government	Private
1					

2					
3					

39) Is there any kind of other benefit without cash income?

40) What are the major achievements/good things of your family after adopting this commercial vegetable farming?

41) What are the major problems of commercial vegetable farmers?

42) What will be done for betterment of women commercial vegetable farmers?

43) Do you want to give suggestions for other women farmers who want to join in this Commercial vegetable farming?

44) Do you want to give suggestions for us?

Thanks for your Co-operation

Annex-2

Checklist for FGD

1. Land holding of commercial farming.

2. Drawback of subsistence level farming.
3. Present status of commercial vegetable farming.
4. Relation between women marketing and commercial vegetable farming and drawback of using modern technologies in farming.
5. Women exposure in society (women in outside the home, ie, marketing, observation, travels and exposure visits.)
6. Women in making decision (inside and outside the home)
7. Women engagement and status in organizations.
8. Women and education.
9. Domestic violence
10. Satisfaction level of present occupation.
11. Expectation from NGO' INGO's and Gov sector.
12. Duration of involvement in CVF.
13. Major changes in their household structures due to the CVF.
14. Women farmers talking style, dress-up , behavioural changes and their livelihood and overall status.

FGD participants

1. Ganga Acharaya(VDC resetative,Sardikhola VDC)
2. Man Bahadur Tamang

ANNEX -3

GROUP A

1. Ganga Acharya (Sardikhola VDC)
2. Man Bahadur Tamang
3. Lila Raj Pageni (DADO Kaski)
4. Harka Tamang
5. Kanya Tamang
6. Deve Acharya
7. Deve maya Gurung
8. Sita Mizar

Group B.

1. Danader Acharya
2. Durgadevi Acharya
3. Khetimaya Gurung
4. Kesh Kumari Gurung
5. Laxmi K.C.
6. Saradha Lamsal
7. Tara Adhikari
8. Krishna Kumari Pokharel

ANNEX-4

Name List of Key Informants

S.N	Name	Institutions	Designation
1.	Mohan Poudel	V.D.C. office Shardikhola	V.D.C. Secretary
2.	<i>ARJUN BHANDARI</i>	V.D.C. office Machhapuchre	<i>TECHNICIAN V.D.C. OFFICE</i>
3.	<i>HARI DATTA LAMSAL</i>	V.D.C. office Ghachowk	Chair Person Ghachowk Co- operative Ltd.
4.	<i>BISHNU MAYA ACHARYA</i>	Shardikhola Co- operative	Chair Person
5.	<i>NANA SHREE TAMANG</i>	Kotkasari Mothers Group	Chair Person
6.	<i>MAN BAHADUR TAMANG</i>	Shardikhola Health Post	Staff
7.	<i>MINA SUBEDI</i>	Leader Farmer Association	Co-ordinator
8.	<i>AASH KUMAR GURUNG</i>	Sahara Co-operative Ltd. Machhapuchre	Chair Person

1 to 3 hours	12
4 to 7 hours	40
8 to 10 hours	48

Seasonal	18
Off-Seasonal	82

Highly Satisfaction	14
Satisfied	76
Not Satisfied	10

1-3 Ropani	38
4-6 Ropani	60

JTA officials	28
DADO	38
Local group	14
Private aggravates	20

Self	66
Both (Husband +Wife)	22
Other	12

	Women	Man	Both
Land preparation	17	9	74
Chemical fertilizer application	58	20	22
Seeds	61	12	27
Planting	73	5	22
Irrigation	31	38	41
Insecticide spraying	29	24	47
Harvesting	23	16	61
Marketing	62	9	29

Home	68
Outside home	32

Daily	16
Twice/thrice of week	42
Weekly	34
Once in a season	8

	Investment		Income
1,000-10,000	32	1,000-25,000	28
10,000-20,000	26	25,000-50,000	32
20,000-30,000	18	50,000-75,000	24
30,000-40,000	14	75,000-100,000	8
40,000-50,000	10	100000-1,25,000	4

Income

1,000-25,000	28
25,000-50,000	32
50,000-75,000	24
75,000-100,000	8
100000-1,25,000	4

Group	24
Agriculture Bank	6
Co-operative	58
Home	12

Elite Group	14
Group	32
Co-operative	26

Finance	18
ADB	10

Dependent	58
Independent	42

Bio- gas planted	8
Construction toilet	16
Management of home	34
Made shelter for cow& goat	24

Other	18
-------	----

Aforementioned Point	2
Social Prestige	20
Economic Prosperity	24
Self Dependent	54

Positive	48
Encourazing	26
Neutral	16

Involved

58

Not Involved	42
--------------	----

Self	82
Both	12
Husband	6

Involved	72
Not Involved	28

Yes	84
No	16

Technical problems	36
Lack of transportation	18
Lack of irrigation	22
Lack of Training	10
Lack of market	14

1 to 5	50
6 to 10	24
11 to 20	26

As usual	10
Moderately	60
Highly increased	30

Highly	10
Moderately	60
As usual	30

Own community	68
Mandi/pokhara	32

