

**Contribution of Community Forestry in Rural
Development**
**("A Case Study of Community Forestry of Nawalaparasi
District")**

A Thesis submitted to Central Department of Rural Development in
partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts
in Rural Development

By

Udaya Bahadur Paudyal

T.U. Reg. No. 36- 026472

Exam Roll No.2700

To

Tribhuvan University

Central Department of Rural Development

Faculty of Humanities and social sciences

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

Jan, 2011

**Contribution of Community Forestry in Rural
Development
("A Case Study of Community Forestry of Nawalaparasi
District")**

A Thesis submitted to Central Department of Rural Development in
partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts
in Rural Development

By

Udaya Bahadur Paudyal

T.U. Reg. No. 36- 026472

Exam Roll No.2700

To

Tribhuvan University

Central Department of Rural Development

Faculty of Humanities and social sciences

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

Jan, 2011

RECOMMENDATION LETTER

This dissertation entitled "*Contribution of community forestry in rural development.: A Case Study of community forestry of Nawalparasi district*" has been prepared by Udaya Bahadur Paudyal under my supervision and guidance. This work is the outcome of his own intensive and independent research work and has been prepared in the format as required by the faculty. I hereby recommend this thesis for approval and acceptance.

Prof. Dr. Mangala shrestha
(Supervisor)

Central Department of Rural Development

APPROVAL LETTER

This Thesis entitled "*Contribution of community forestry in rural development. A Case Study of community forestry of Nawalparasi district*". Submitted by Udaya Bahadur Paudyal has been accepted as partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in Rural Development.

Approved by

Prof. Dr. Pradeep Kumar Khadka
(Head of Department)

Prof. Dr. Jagannath Shrestha
(External Examiner)

Prof. Dr. Mangala shrestha
(Internal Examiner)

Abstract

Major chunks of National forest in Nepal are being increasingly handed over as community forest to fulfill the basic needs of forest products along with income and employment to the rural people. With changing context, community forest has broadened itself as important activity for rural Development. The need of identifying rural development through community forestry with emphasizing the employment opportunity, researcher has chosen this study topic **"Contribution of community forestry in rural development"** in Nawalparasi district. Five CFUGs were purposively selected for this study as study site.

Focus group discussion, face-to face interview and study of relevant secondary literature were the basic tools to gather the information. Both qualitative as well as quantitative data were used to draw the conclusion. Quantitative data were analyzed with the help of computer, Excel 1998.

Majority (83 %) of respondents had agricultural occupation. Land holdings has positive correlation with well-being status in agrarian society, thus it was tried to find out the landholdings of the respondent. The majority of the respondents had possessed medium level landholdings (0.33 to 1.6 ha) size. Livestock rearing practices was changing towards stall-feeding system from conventional open grazing system after the handover the forest patches as community forestry. It has created positive impact on regeneration in community forest. Alternative energy was found at initial stage in the study area. Only 19 % respondents have installed Bio-gas plant for cooking purpose. This figure indicates that, there is great potentiality of bio-gas installation. Some forest management activities were practiced in CFUGs but they were still passively managed with strict protection. The resources were underutilized. Neither, the forest operational plan was positive towards

active forest management nor the users were aware about the importance of active forest management for sustainable benefit. Recently, some NTFP promotion activities were introduced in 3 selected CFs, but the users were facing the problem of selling their products due to weak marketing linkage.

More than 50 percent respondents attain meeting rarely and 56 % respondents responded that the forest products were distributed as needed. It means that the distribution system was according to decision of executive members.

This study reveals that community forestry has remarkable contribution in livelihood assets generation but the assets were not equitably accessible to the poor people. The disparity of poor in human, financial, and social assets were identified.

The recommendations for user group level are equitable benefit sharing system should be adopted during the distribution of forest products and group fund, and It is very important to include poor, women and other disadvantaged members in the decision making position of CFUGs. Similarly at the district level; technical support for active forest management needs to be provided through DFO and/or other partner organizations. NTFP cultivation should be promoted with sufficient technical knowledge and well-established marketing mechanism should be improved in district level. Identification and promotion of viable forest based enterprises needs to be established in a way that provide sustainable benefits to the poor users.

Acknowledgements

I express my profound gratitude and thanks to my supervisor prof.Dr. Mangala Shrestha, whose untiring help, constant encouragement, brotherly guidance and practical suggestions invigorated and inspired me to accomplish this research. Her patience, understanding and overwhelming commitment to my work are deeply appreciated.

I am also thankful to, Mr. Shrikanta Adhikari for his invaluable time and fruitful suggestions. Mr. Sudil Gopal Acharya for his contribution while writing the thesis. Dr. Nagendra Prasad Yadav provided critical suggestions in the research. Similarly, I am thankful to Mr. Krishna Prasad Gyawali who provided me invaluable suggestion in thesis writing.

I am obliged to Mr Vijaya N Shrestha, Program Manager, LFP and Mr Ramu Subedi , Deputy Program Manager, LFP for their encouragement to complete the research. I would like to thanks Mr. R.B Shrestha, Area Programme coordinator and Shankar Paudel, Deputy Area Coordinator, LFP Terai regional office for his co-operation and providing moral supports in this research. Similarly, I am equally grateful to DFO Nawalparasi and Mr. Lal Bahadur Kurmi, AFO Nawalparasi for providing necessary information and support during my research period.

I would like to acknowledge the co-operation Mr. Ramesh Maskey Communication and monitoring Officer, LFP for his support in computer designing. I would like to express my sincere thanks to Ms. Bhumisara Ale Magar, Mr. Achyut Khanal, Ms. Surya Chaudhari, Ms. Tulasa Kandel, Ms. Mina BK, and Mr. Binod Pariyar for upporting me in collecting field data.

My parents, and all family members whose desire to educate me made them struggle hard for their entire life have always been and will remain my

constant source of inspiration, love and dedication. My beloved wife Mrs. Jyoti Paudyal has always helped me during entire study. I have no words to express my heartfelt thanks and gratitude to them.

Last but not least, my special thanks go to the respondents for their patience and understanding for giving information. This study is dedicated to them who have given their dedication for the conservation of forest for future generation.

Udaya Bahadur Paudyal

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Recommendation Letter	i
Approval Letter	ii
Abstract	iii
Acknowledgement	v
Table of Content	vii
List of Table	xii
List of Figure	xiii
Abbreviation	xiv

CHAPTER –ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1	Background of the study	1
1.2	Statement of the Problem	5
1.3	Objectives of the Study	9
1.4	Rationale of the Study	9
1.5	Limitation of the Study	10
1.6	Organization of the Study	11

CHAPTER -TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1	Historical Background of Forest Management in Nepal	12
2.2	The Concept of Community Forestry	15
2.3	Community Forestry in Nepal (Historical Perspective)	18
2.4	Policy and Regulatory Environment of Community Forestry	20
2.4.1	CF related Provision in the Constitution of the Kingdom of Nepal 1990	20
2.4.2	Master Plan for the Forestry Sector	21
2.4.3	Forest Act 1993	23

2.4.4	Forest Regulations and Other Statutory Provisions	24
2.4.5	Community Forestry Development Process	25
2.4.5.1	Identification Phase	25
2.4.5.2	Forest User Group Formation Phase	26
2.4.5.3	Operational Plan Preparation Phase	26
2.4.5.4	Implementation Phase	26
2.4.5.5	Review and Revision Phase	27
2.5	People's Participation in Forest Resource Management	27
2.6	Potential Benefits of Income Generation through Community Forestry	29
2.7	Poor and Poverty	31
2.8	Sustainable Livelihood Approaches	33
2.9	Rural Development through Community Forestry	35
2.10	Achievements and Challenges of Community Forestry in Nepal	38

CHAPTER -THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1	Research Design	43
3.2.	Rationale of the selecting Study Area	43
3.3	Nature and sources of Data	44
3.4	Population and Sample Selection for Household Survey	45
3.5	Data Collection Techniques	45
3.4.1	Primary Data Collection Techniques	45
3.4.2	Secondary Data Collection Techniques	47
3.5	Data Analysis and Presentation	48

CHAPTER - FOUR
PHYSICAL SETTING OF NAWALPARASIDISTRICT

4.1	Land Use of Nawalparasi District	50
4.2	The Community Forestry in Nawalparasi District	51
4.3	Community Forestry Handover Trends in Nawalparasi District	51
4.4	Selected CFUG	52
4.4.1	Binai Community Forest User Group	52
4.4.2	Sunedri Community Forest User Group	53
4.4.3	Lower Arkhala Community Forest User Group	55
4.4.4	Upper Arkhala Community Forest User Group	56
4.4.5	Aurahiya Community Forest User Group	56

CHAPTER -FIVE
DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

5.1	Socio-Demographic Characteristic of the Respondents	58
5.1.1	Respondents by Sex	58
5.1.2	Ethnic Composition of Respondents	59
5.1.3	Age of the Respondents	59
5.1.4	Family Size of the Respondents	60
5.2	Livelihood Strategy	60
5.2.1	Occupation of Respondents	61
5.2.2	Landholdings of the Respondents	61
5.2.3	Livestock Rearing Practices	62
5.2.4	Energy Using System	63
5.2.5	Forest Management Activities	64
5.2.6	NTFP Management Activities	65
5.3	Livelihood Assets	65

5.3.1	Natural Assets	66
5.3.1.1	Condition of the Forest before Hand Over	66
5.3.1.2	Condition of CF after Handover	66
5.3.2	Financial Assets	67
5.3.2.1	Situation of Group Fund	68
5.3.2.2	Income Sources	68
5.3.3	Physical Assets	70
5.3.3.1	Infrastructure Created through CF Fund	70
5.3.4	Social Assets	70
5.3.4.1	Participation in Meeting	70
5.3.4.2	Frequencies of Attain Meeting	71
5.3.5	Human Assets	71
5.3.5.1	Educational Level of the respondents	72
5.3.5.2	Knowledge about the CFUG Rule	72
5.3.5.3	Participation in Awareness Program	73
5.3.5.4	Type of Awareness program	73
5.3.5.5	Participation in Income Based Training	73
5.4	Access to the Assets	74
5.4.1	Access in Natural Assets	74
5.4.1.1	Benefit Sharing System	74
5.4.1.2	Provision for Poor	75
5.4.2	Access in Human Assets	75
5.4.2.1	Access in Awareness Training	75
5.4.2.2	Access in Income Based Training	77
5.4.3	Access in Physical Assets	77
5.4.4	Access in Financial Assets	78
5.4.4.1	Know about the Fund	78
5.4.5	Access in Social Assets	78
5.4.5.1	Membership	79

5.5	Employment Generation	79
5.5.1	Employment generation Activity	79
5.5.2	Permanent Employment	80
5.5.3	Temporary Employment	80
5.5.4	Employment in Gender Perspective	81
5.5.5	Future Potentiality	82
5.5.5.1	Forest Based Industries	82
5.5.5.2	Forest Products Sale outside of the CFUG	82
5.5.5.3	NTFP Cultivation & Processing	82

CHAPTER-SIX

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

6.1	Summary	83
6.2	Conclusion	85
6.3	Recommendation	88

References

Annex-A

Annex-B

Annex-C

LIST OF TABLE

Table 2.1 :	Status of Community Forestry in Nepal, 2008	39
Table 3.1:	Sampled Respondents	46
Table 5.1:	Ethnicity of the Respondents	60
Table 5.2:	Age of the Respondents	61
Table 5.3:	Occupation of the Respondents	63
Table 5.4:	Change in Livestock Rearing Practices	65
Table 5.5:	Condition Changed after Handover	68
Table 5.6:	Major Income Source of CFUG	69
Table 5.7:	Major Source of Expenses of CFUG	70
Table 5.8:	Respondents Knowledge about the CFUG Rule	73
Table 5.9:	Benefit Sharing System	75
Table 5.10:	Awareness program with respect to Wellbeing Rank	77
Table 5.11:	Access in Income Based Training	78
Table 5.12:	Knowledge about the group fund	79
Table 5.13:	Permanent Employment	81
Table 5.14:	Temporary Employment in FY 2063/64	82

LIST OF FIGURE

Figure 2.1 :	Chamber's interpretation of poverty (1983)	33
Figure 2.2:	Sustainable livelihood/ conceptual framework adopted from DFID, 2001	35
Figure 4. 3:	Community Forest Handover Trends in Nawalparasi	53
Figure 5.1:	Respondents by Sex	59
Figure 5.2:	Family Size of the Respondents	62
Figure 5.3:	Land holdings of the Respondents	64
Figure 5.4:	Energy Using System	66
Figure 5.5:	Forest Management Activities	66
Figure 5.6:	Frequencies of Attain Meeting	72
Figure 5.7:	Educational Level of Respondents	73
Fig. 6.1:	Summery of Linkage between Community Forestry and Rural Development	88

ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AFO	Assistant Forest Officer
CBS	Central Bureau of Statistic
CF	Community Forest
CFUG	Community Forest User Group
CFUGC	Community Forest Users Group Committee
DAG	Disadvantaged Group
DDC	District Development Committee
DFID	Department of International Development
DFO	District Forest Office
DoF	Department of Forest
ed.	Edited
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FP	Forest Products
FUG	Forest User Group
HA.	Hectare
HH	Household
HMG/N	His Majesty's Government (Former Name of Government of Nepal)
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
LFP	Livelihood & Forestry Program
MPFS	Master Plan for Forestry Sector
NACFP	Nepal Australia Community Forestry Project
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NPC	National Planning Commission
NTFP	Non Timber Forest Product
OP	Operational Plan

SL	Sustainable Livelihoods
SLC	School Leaving Certificate
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
USA	United State of America
VDC	Village Development Committee

