

**Role of Commercial Vegetable Farming in Rural Poverty Reduction:
A Case Study of Chitlang Area in Makawanpur**

by

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Recommendation Letter

It is with great pleasure that I recommend the thesis entitled Role of Commercial Vegetable Farming in Rural Poverty Reduction: A Case Study of Chitlang Area in Makawanpur, completed by Mr. Kulendra Pokharel under my supervision, for evaluation and approval by the Examination Committee.

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Approval Letter

This is to certify that the thesis submitted by Mr. Kulendra Pokharel titled Role of Commercial Vegetable Farming in Rural Reduction: A Case Study of Chitlang Area in Makawanpur has been approved by the Department in the prescribed format of the Faculty of the Humanities and Social Sciences.

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Abstract

The present study, based on field level data from the Chitlang VDC (Vegetable Production Pocket Area) of Makawanpur district Nepal, attempts to assess the role of commercial vegetable farming in rural poverty reduction. The specific objectives are to assess the socio-economic status of the commercial vegetable farming, analyze the change in socio-economic conditions of farmers and suggest ways to improve the role of commercial vegetable farming in rural poverty reduction.

From this VDC, 50 households were taken as sample households. For this study, primary data were collected through semi-structured interview with sampled respondents, farmer's group discussion, field visit and observation along with some secondary data. The findings of the study are mostly based on the primary data.

From this study, it is found that the socio-economic condition of commercial vegetable growers is changed positively. Nearly 90 percent of the respondents reported that the rate of child dropout from school education is decreased. Their children's education is progressive. Situation of health and sanitation is improved. Among the sample households 78 present households drink pipeline water, which was only 14 percent before vegetable farming. Before vegetable farming, 48 percent respondents household were found not using toilet. But after vegetable farming all respondent's households were found with toilet facility. After commercial vegetable farming, respondent's annual income is increased. After vegetable farming, 40 percent respondent earn Rs. 60,000 to 80,000 annually which was only 6 percent before. Regarding the gender division of labor, women's workload is reduced. After commercialization in vegetable farming, problem of food insufficiency is solved among the vegetable farmer's households. From this study, it is found that the living standard of the farmers in the study area is uplifted.

Although many positive changes have been brought by commercial vegetable farming, there are some problems and constraints facing it. Most of the farmers of this area are using heavy doses of chemical fertilizers and pesticides for immediate high returns. Farmers have hardly realized the adverse effects of the chemicals on the environment and public health. The trend of using heavy amounts of chemical fertilizers and pesticides should be controlled to ensure sustainable development in the area. Therefore, it is essential that the farmers who are involved in commercial vegetable farming need training and vegetable farming education. This study, therefore, also makes suggestions for policy, programmes and interventions for the promotion of commercial vegetable farming in the study area in particular.

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ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
APP	Agricultural Perspective Plan
APROSC	Agricultural Projects Services Center
AVRDC	Asian Vegetable Research and Development Center
CBS	Central Bureau of Statistics
CSRC	Community Self Reliance Center
DADO	District Agriculture Development Office
GDFC	Goat Development Firm, Chitlang
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
Ha	Hectare
IRDP	Integrated Rural Development Programme
Mt.	Metric Ton
NARC	National Agriculture Research Council
NPC	National Planning Commission
PAC	Pakhribas Agriculture Center
PAP	Poverty Alleviation Programmes
RADP	Remote Area Development Programme
SAAPE	The South Alliance on Poverty Eradication
SFDP	Small Farmer Development Programme
VDC	Village Development Committee

WB

World Bank