

**An Assessment of Institutional Strengthening Process of
Community Forest User Group for Sustainable
Forest Management”**

*“A Case Study of Shree Jan Jyoti Community Forest User Group”
of Sarlahi District*

A Thesis

**Submitted to the Central Department of Rural Department
For the Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the
Master’s Degree of Arts in Rural Development**

BY

Punam Dhungel

Exam Roll No:-281112/2066

Regd. No: 6-2-38-2148-2001

**Central Department of rural Development
Faculty of Humanities and Social Science
Tribhuvan University
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TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY
त्रिभुवन विश्वविद्यालय
CENTRAL DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
ग्रामीण विकास केन्द्रीय विभाग

विभागीय प्रमुखको कार्यालय
कीर्तिपुर, काठमाडौं, नेपाल ।
Office of the Head of Department
Kirtipur, Kathmandu, Nepal.

Ref.No. :

Date मिति
Date: 2068-5-8

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

The Thesis entitled "*Institutional Strengthening Process of Community Forest User Group for Sustainable Forest Management*" is prepared by Punam Dhungel under my guidance and supervision in partial fulfillment for the requirement of the Master of Arts in Rural Development. I, therefore, recommended this thesis for final approval and acceptance to the evaluation committee

.....

Ramesh Neupane

Supervisor

Central Department for Rural Development

Tribhuvan University

Kirtipur, Kathmandu, Nepal



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Office of the Head of Department
Kirtipur, Kathmandu, Nepal.

Ref No.

Date मिति २०६५-५-१५

EVALUATION SHEET

This thesis entitled "Institutional Strengthening Process of Community Forest User Group for Sustainable Forest Management" has been accepted as a work of Mrs. Punam Dhungel for the partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Master Degree of Arts in Rural Development.

.....
Prof. Dr. Pradeep Kumar Khadka
Department Chief

.....
External Examiner

.....
Ramesh Neupane
Supervisor

Date:

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28th August, 2011

ABSTRACT

The Thesis entitled "Institutional Strengthening Process of Community Forest User Group for Sustainable Forest Management" is a study done in Shree Jana Jyoti Community Forest User Group (CFUG) in Sarlahi District. The general objective of the study was to assess the institutional strengthening of CFUG for sustainable Community Forest (CF) management. The specific objectives of the study were to identify the present structural and functional arrangement of CFUG and to sketch the level of participation in both Community Forest User Committee (CFUC) and CFUG with respect to caste, sex and economic status and to find out the fund mobilization process.

Data collection was primarily done by visiting the field and making the individual contact with the CFUG and CFUC members from the different strata. Among the 354 Households 118 Households (one-third of total) respondents were selected using simple random technique considering that respondents are from all ethnic group. The selected sample was questioned about the prospects, situation people involvement and their interest on community forest conservation. Likewise, different tools of Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) such as Semi-Structured Interview (SSI), Household Survey, Focus Group Discussions and Direct Observation were applied during the study.

The finding of the study shows that among 354 households of Shree Jana Jyoti CFUG 239 HHs (67%) were from Brahmin/Chhetri representing the majority while 7 HHs(2%) are from dalit community indicating the least. The economic condition of people of the study area is quite good as major portion of the households fall in middle class family. Because of sound economic condition many households can afford for the education of their children, hence the literacy rate in this area is found to be good i.e 72.10%.

The representation of Dalit community is not satisfactory (only one) in the old users committee. Despite the significant number of women seen in the old user's committee, their role in decision making is not significant. However, the people representation from remaining groups is satisfactory. In the newly formed CFUC, the participation of dalit has been maintained at 7% while the numbers of women stand 57%. Likewise, women's role was extremely limited to the physical work e.g. nursery construction, forest product harvesting and collection, plantation, fencing but they are not involved in the decision making e.g. nursery site selection, how much and what to harvest, where and what to plant etc. Mobilization of fund for different purposes and selection of forest management activities were limited to the men. Hence it is recommended to apply the participatory approach in decision making irrespective of sex, caste and ethnicity.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

APO	Assistant Program Officer
CBO	Community Based Organization
CF	Community Forest
CFOP	Community Forestry Operational Plan
CFUC	Community Forest User Committee
CFUG	Community Forest User Group
DFO	District Forest officer
HH	Household
IGA	Income Generation Activities
LGP	Local Government Program
SJJCFUG	Shree Jan Jyoti Community Forest User Group
NARMSAP	Natural Resource Management Sector Assistance Programme
NF	National Forest
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
NTFP	Non Timber Forest Product
PF	Private Forest
RD	Regional Director
REDP	Rural Energy Development Program
RPO	Regional Program Office
RTEC	Regional Training and Extension Centre
UNDP	United Nations Development Program