



RESEARCH ARTICLE

CURRENT STATUS OF COMMUNITY FORESTRY IN NEPAL

\*Bhattarai Binod

Tokyo University of Foreign Studies

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ABSTRACT

This Paper provides a brief introduction to the Community forest in Nepal and Present status of CF in Nepal. In this paper I will be divided in to two sections. The first section provides an introduction to the Nepalese Community forest context, which includes Forest History and tradition, geography and the current development status of the Community Forest in Nepal. The second section explains the present situation of the community forest, which includes the quantitative and qualitative expansion of the community forest development of the country. Community Forest development after 1990, Nepal has made remarkable progress, particularly with community user participation in community forest management. The final section explains the current problem and some recon

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INTRODUCTION

The small and land locked country of Nepal extended the highest peak in the world to the plain of the Terai. Nepal is a mountainous country, lies between China and India. Nepal lies between India to the south and Tibet, an autonomous region of China to the north. It lies between latitudes 26o 15' and 30o 30' north and longitudes 80o 00' and 88o 15' east. The total area of the country Nepal is 14.7 million hectares with the population of 26 million and 1.4 percent annual growth (CBS, 2011). Administratively, the country Nepal is divided into five development regions, fourteen zones, and seventy-five districts. Out of total population, 42.3 percent live in mid hill and more than 85.38 live in the rural areas (CBS 2011). Nepal is rural dominant country having more population in rural areas. People are living in rural areas majority of them are poor. Thought, the country has many resources but due to weak management, they are being wasted. Among them, the forest is one of the most essential natural resources available in rural Nepal.

"Community Forestry" was initially defined, by FAO in 1978, as "any situation which intimately involves local people in forestry activity. It embraces a spectrum of situation ranging from woodlots in areas which are short of wood and other forest production for local needs, thought the growing of tree at the farm level of provide cash crops and the processing of forest products at the household, artisan or small industry level to generate income, to the activities of forest dwelling communities" (FAO, 1978).

People and forest in Nepal have existed interdependent relationship for many years. The economy of Nepal largely depends on the use of its natural resource, and is dominated by the agrarian sector (CBS, 2001 cited in Acharya 2002). Dependency of rural population on forest is high for fuel wood, timber and fodder. Forest accounts 85.80% of the total energy consumption by the residence sector in the country (CBS, 2011). The rural people also have been involved in the collection, or harvesting, processing and making of different forest product since ancient times

The total energy consumption for Nepal was reported at 8616 tons of oil equivalent (TOE) in 2005. (MOF 2006). Almost 88% of this energy is obtained from traditional energy source such as fire wood, agriculture residues (Corn stalks, rice chaff, etc), and sun-dried cattle dung cakes. Of the total energy consumption in 2005, the share of house hold use was 90.3% followed by industrial (3.5%), commercial (1.6%) agriculture (0.8%) and other (0.2%) (MOF 2006) and this rate is being increased due to the population pressures on resources the land use situation of the country, forest comprises 37% (5.5 million hector), Sunblind and decrease forest 10.6% (1.56 million hector ), grass land 12% (1.75 million hector), cultivated land 21% (3.05 million hector), and other (including snow area ) 25% (3.69 million hector ) (master plan to forestry 1988/89) A forest survey taken in 1998 shows that there is now only 29% forest land of the total land and the some survey indicated that Terai land is decreasing at the rate of 1.31 percent annually. (Thapa *et. al* 2058: 52).

### Community Forestry – A General Overview

Community Forest is defined as a situation, which intimately involves local people in forestry activities (FAO 1978). Gilmour and Fisher (1991) have defined CF in terms of control and management of forest resources by the rural people who use them especially for domestic purposes and as an integral part of their farming systems. CF started in the late 1970s, when the development strategies of the 1950s and 1960s that focused on industrial development were being criticized for overlooking rural development and not meeting the basic needs of the rural poor (Warner 1997). Since then, it has been spreading over the world with different names but similar objectives. Malla (2001) reports some examples like Joint Forest Management in India, Social Forestry in Bangladesh, BC Forestry in Canada, Community Forestry in America, Social Forestry in China, Community Forestry in Nepal, and so on.

Community forestry program was launched in the late-1970 as part of an effort to curb the widely perceived crisis of the Himalayan forest degradation, when the government of Nepal came to the conclusion that active involvement of the local people in forest management was essential for forest conservation in the country. The term community in its broadest sense may refer to any group of persons united by a "Community of interest". In this sense a professional group, a residential unit, or a club or a voluntary association may all be referred to as communities. Forest is a biological community dominated by trees and other woody vegetation. Thus community forestry activities are aimed at providing direct benefits to rural people and that "the people" should have a substantial role in decision making. At this level that is as a statement about the philosophy behind community forestry, there is nothing wrong with the term (Gulmore and Fisher 1992). Community forestry is flourishing in Nepal, improving the livelihoods of rural households of communities, and nurturing democracy at the grassroots despite a prolonged insurgency and political upheavals. (Ojha and Pokhrel 2005 :)

During the 1970's, the recognition of Himalayan degradation as a serious environmental crisis (Eckholm 1976) increased pressure on international development institutions and donor governments to contribute to the conservation of the Himalayas. This led to a shift in the development discourse away from an emphasis on infrastructure and technology transfer toward environmental issues (Cameron 1998). Moreover, Nepal's strategic geopolitical situation (being located between China and India) and fragile environmental conditions attracted donors (Metz 1995). Who viewed forestry and the environment as the key elements of integrated conservation and development projects.

Several international agencies assisted the Nepalese Government in formulating the master plan for the forestry sector (MPFS), which recognized the need for local people's participation in the conservation and management of the country's forest resources. In 1989, as the master plan for the forestry sector was being finalized and formally adopted by the government, an ongoing movement against the panchayat system by the citizenry also culminated in the reinstatement of multiparty democracy in the country. The decisions of subsequent governments further strengthened the regulatory

framework of community-based forest plan for the forestry sector (MPFS).

Community forestry is one of the components of social forestry. Agro forestry, Agro-silvo pastoral system and private planning programs come under the umbrella term of social forestry (Vergera 1985). Describe the natural and potential role of social forestry. He opines on what ways, and to what extent can social forestry help to alleviate the acute socio-economic problems faced by many of the developing countries. In this potential role of social forestry, he mentioned in his paper the ecological aspects like site protection, economic aspects like income and wage and social benefits like higher quality of life.

The emerging of the concept of community forestry in the late 60's and early 70's parallel with the wider concern of development with basic community needs. FAO forest economist, Jack Westby is the stronger advocate of the community forestry. The community forestry was initially involves local people in forest activity. Community forestry refers the control and management of forestry resources by the rural people who are using them especially for domestic purpose and as an integral part of their farming system. (Fisher, 1991).

Villagers see community forestry or village forestry as the control management and use of forest resource. It seeks to increase the level of awareness of local people and actively involve them in all aspects of forestry activities. (Malla 1987)

Community forest has been defined "The control protection and management of local forest by local people or community known as user group." (Shrestha M, 1987)

Gerald Foley has also an opinion that over the past decade, farm and community forestry has emerged as one of the principal responses to the problems caused by the widespread loss of tree and forest cover in the developing world its aim is also help people to solve their own wood supply problem, meet their own needs and preserve the environment which they live by planting tree on their farms and around villagers (Foley 1984) This table No 1 shows main features of current community forestry in Nepal.

**Table No 1** Main Features of Current Community Forestry in Nepal

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The District Forest (DFO) officers were authorized to hand over national forest to the FUG, (Forest User Group) and their role is to mobilize users and provide technical assistance required to CF.
Any amount and any part of National Forest can be handed over to FUG as long as they are capable to manage property. However, land ownership remains with the state.
CF boundaries can be cross over administrative boundaries such as district boundaries. In that case, FUG can apply for DFO in either district.
As a difference from previous Panchayat Forest Rule and Panchayat Protected Forest Rule, FUGs are not required to share their benefit from forest management with government. FUG can use surplus funds in any kinds of activities for community development.
FUGs are autonomous and corporate institution.
FUGs can punish any members who break their rules in the operational plan, but they cannot punish anyone who is not a member of their FUG.
Informing the DFO can amend operational plan. In this case, approval of DFO is not necessary.
DFO can take CF back from FUGs if they operate against their operational plan. However, once the problem is solved, CF gives back to FUG.

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Source: HMG (1993,1995)

The most significant regulatory development in support of community forestry was the enactment of the forest Act 1993 by the first elected parliament after the 1990 movement for democracy. The 1993 forest Act guaranteed the rights of local people in forest management (MFSC 1995), as briefly summarized in Table No: 2. Nepal became the world's first country to enact such radical forest legislation, allowing local communities to take full control of government forest patches under a community forestry program (Malla. 1997; Kumar 2002). Meanwhile, international agencies continued to support the process of reorienting government forestry officials the work as facilitators of community based forest management and away from their traditional policing roles (Gronow and Shrestha 1991).

**Table No 2** CFUG right as per the forest Act (1993) and Forest Regulation (1995)

<p>➤ <b>Right to self –governance</b></p> <p>Communities have right to form a Community Forest Group (CFUG) as per their willingness, capacity, and customary rights. Community forest boundaries will not to restrict to existing administrative or political boundaries. Government can dismantle the CFUG if the latter found to engage in large-scale deforestation but it is the duty of the government to reconstitute the CFUG. CFUG can elect, select or change executive committee anytime. CFUGs can punish members who break their rules. CFUGs can amend or revise their constitution any time.</p>
<p>➤ <b>Right to forest management and utilization</b></p> <p>There is no limit to the forest area that can be handed over to communities. CFUGs can make optimal use of their forest by growing cash crops together with forest crops. CFUGs can mortgage their standing forest products with financial institution to obtain loans. CFUGs can utilize their funds for any propose (but 25% of income from forest must be spent in forest development). CFUGs can freely fix prices and market their forest produce. CFUGs can establish enterprises and make profits. CFUGs can seek support from any organization. CFUGs can raise funds by various forestry and non-forestry means with all income going to group funds with no requirement for sharing financial revenues with government. CFUGs can invest in any areas, persons or development activities according to the decision of CFUG assembly.</p>

Source: Pokharel et al. (2008): Forest Act; Forest Regulation 1995.

Fig no 1 shows process of Community Forest formation.



**Figure No 1** Process of Community Forest Formation

Source: Department of forest (DOF) Nepal Government.

Detail of tenure Certification Process in Nepal is as follows The Forest Regulation (1995) and CF Development Guideline (2009) describe the CF handover process:

- Written request to District Forest Office (DFO) by interested forest users to manage their accessible forest

- they have been traditionally using as Community Forest (CF)
- With technical and other forms of support from DFO, CFUG formation and preparation of CFUG constitution by forest users
- Application to DFO by CFUG for registration
- Registration of CFUG by DFO and issuance of CFUG registration certificate
- With support of DFO, preparation of Operational Plan (OP) of CF by CFUG (includes survey, demarcation of forest area, forest inventory and calculation of annual increment)
- Submission of OP to DFO by CFUG for approval 7. Approval of OP by DFO and issuance of CF handover certificate

Details of requirements for development, submission and approval of community forest management plan in Nepal are as flows. Forest Rules (1995) provide scope for CFUGs to prepare their Operation Plans (OPs). The OPs define forest conditions, management activities and determine the annual allowable cut for timber and fuelwood. The OPs are prepared in line with the CF Inventory Guidelines (2004). Forest Rules (1995) stipulate that a District Forest Office (DFO) needs to conduct a field verification of the OP before approving and handing over the forest to a CFUG. The DFO can also suggest to amending the OP if they feel it is necessary. Upon approval, they issue a certificate to the CFUG with a bond to the effect that the CFUG will comply with the conditions that are prescribed.

**Forest Calcification**

Five categories of forest are recognized in Nepal. These are as flows

- Government managed forest
- Leasehold forest
- Religious forest
- Protection forest and
- Community forest.

Table depicts categories of forest, their management objectives and agencies responsible for their management. Among these forest categories, CF has received the highest priority with in the forest sector, because large numbers of people are directly involved in this forest category (Iversen *et al.*, 2006; Thoms, 2008).

**Table 3** Forest classification, management objectives and responsible institutions

Forest category	Management objectives	Responsible agencies
Government managed	Production of forest production	Government
Leasehold	Rehabilitation of forest production of forest products	Leasehold group, industries
Religious	Protection of religious site	Religious institutions
Protected	Protection of wildlife, biodiversity and environment	Government
Community	Production of forest products and multiple purpose use	Forest user group

**Over View of Forest Management in Nepal'**

Forest is directly related with the nation's development. It plays crucial role for the livingstandard of people. By knowing this

fact, since the civilization different effort have been made for its protection but in Nepalese context efforts made by the government can be summarized in the following chronological ways.

#### **Before 1951 A. D**

Little is known about the forest before the unification of Nepal. There were not any provision for the protection and management of forest except the code of Gurkhas king Ram shah. (A. D. 1606-1636). The different code i.e. 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> codes of king Ram shah (A. D. 1606-1636) dealt with maintaining "Gauchor", planting trees along the provision of fines for those guilty of cutting trees (Gautam,1993).

Since the unification of the modern Nepal, shows little interest on managing the forest,because,"The Gurkhas" rules functionaries. They may be provisions of land ground i.e. "birta" and "Jagir" to the individuals in return of the religious social purposes. These types of land grants were mostly the land and forest of the Terai. Land used policy in the hill was designed to encourage the conversions of land from forest to agricultural used in order to increase the tax base (Gilmour, 1998).

In the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century while the "Ranas" become the defector rules, the forest of Terai exploited. But in 1854 "Janga Bahadur Rana" promulgated as a civil code knows as "Muluki Ain". There was a provision of fines for those who chop the trees. There were also some provisions like not to convert the forest in to agricultural land not to let animal graze in to the forest.

Scientific management of forest was also imitated by the "Ranas" rules prime minister Chandra Shamsheer in 1910 assigned "Basudev Sharma" to demarcate the area of western Terai by realizing and important of forestry development was established to control land manage the forest administration. Thus, we can conclude that till 1951 there were little effort made for the management and protection of the forest from the government level.

#### **After 1951 A.D**

The scientific management of forestry is begun only after the 1951. During this period various explicit measure were taken by the state to manage and utilize forest. The private forest nationalization of 1957 is one of the first endeavors of the state. This limited the area of private forest and forest were categorized as private and national forest. All private forest greater than one hector in the Terai were nationalized without compensation. As a result people reacted by destroying their forest. The "Birta" abolition in 1957 is another endeavor in the management of the forest.

In 1959 the ministry of forestry was established to look after the forest activities of the country. After the political change in 1960 the "Forest Act 1961" was promulgated. This act ranked protection of forest as more important than providing access to forest by local population. (Graner, 1997). The main aim of this act was to prevent local people from exerting the forest. In 1981 "The timber corporation" was established to utilize timber from the resettlement area in the Terai.

The government has formulated the forestry preservation act 1967 by prescribing the penalties. This act strengthened the role of forest department and its officials. The state thought control oriented legislature sought to solve the illegal forest activities but those act those act were not effective as it was only the weaker section of the section of the society that were brought under the law. (Fisher, 1991)

In 1978 the government did real change in forest policy indented with two new categories. The Panchayat forest and Panchayat protected forest and leasehold forest rules. They were intended to involve local communities and private in the management forestry. In 1980 the department of present as scheme knows as "Community forestry development project" in the hills area on expectation of full participation of local people in preserving and managing forest by themselves.

Forest act 1983 was acted by law make the community forestry management activities easier. It delegates the prober of handily over the community forestry to the district forest officer instead of regional director. The forest user group has right to manage. Conserve protect utilize the handed over community forestry according to their approved forest management operational plan (Regmi, 2000). In 1988 master plan for forestry sector was completed. A lot more effort was under regarding to the effective management and preservation of forest in the Panchayat system but partial success was obtained.

After the restoration of democracy in 1990 the forest act 1993 was promulgated. But it becomes effective only after the approval of forest regulation in 1995. (Gyawali and Kopen, 2004). This forest act classified all the forest in to two groups as: (1) Government forest and (2) Private forest. Private forest is the forest that is planted and conserved by an individual under the current law the government forest include government manage forest, protected forest, lease hold forest, community forest and religious forest. The government manage forest mean a national forest manage by HMG/N. (NG/N)

At last, from the above mentionable matter, we can say that after the "Ranas Regime" of the establishment of democracy the government has formulated various acts for the forest management. Different concepts were introduced in the acts and different provisions were also made. But all were not able to act in effective ways.

#### **Concept of People Participation**

Participation has become one of the most widely used worlds for different program me in different ways. There is various definitions given by various author and some of them are noted below.

- For some author, "Being a member of voluntary Organizations participation"
- Other has interpreted, "Participation as in terms of monitory, material."
- Some other defines, "Participation as in terms of monitory, material and labor contribution."
- Cohen and Uphoff (1997) have defined, "Participation as involvement of the people in the decision making process implementing program, sharing benefits of development program me and their involvement in effort to evaluate such program".

People participation as a concept has gain remarkable currency in recent years. This is mainly because of its symbolic power as a glossy cover to make plants, program and project attractive. Besides endorsing people participation is one good way to assert the legitimacy of a program or project today when there is so much talked about empowering the local people and decentralization. People’s participation has been taken as a means by the government agencies and the project alike for achieving their goals. (Chhetri, 1992)

Participatory management of often seen as an appropriate solution to reduce degradation. It has thought that granting properly rights over the local commons would ensure the equitable and sustainable use of environment resources. When the responsibility of allocating natural resources is delegated to local organization communities tends to appropriate forestry program. So this program is one of the best ways of economic and environment activities thought the proper management of local resources of forest. (Adhikari, 2003:1)

Community participation is process in which people are encouraged realizing that they themselves have the abilities energies and some of the resources to make initiatives to improve their lives. This approach being fulfilled thought community forestry project, which requires the community participation. (Donald and Rai 1922:278)

In community forestry peoples participation means user must protect and manage the forest and consume the forest resources that is timber, fuel wood, fodder and other possible produce on the basic of equality and equity.

The willingness to participate in community forestry clear varied depending on the nature of the activities (Decision making, forest protection, forest development and forest utilization). In each activity different groups of people were found to be participating at different levels and for different resources. (Malla, Jackson and Ingtas, 1989) The principle aim of community forestry is to involve people in all stages from decision making to harvesting, so it is the mostessential features of community forestry.

**Conceptual Framework**

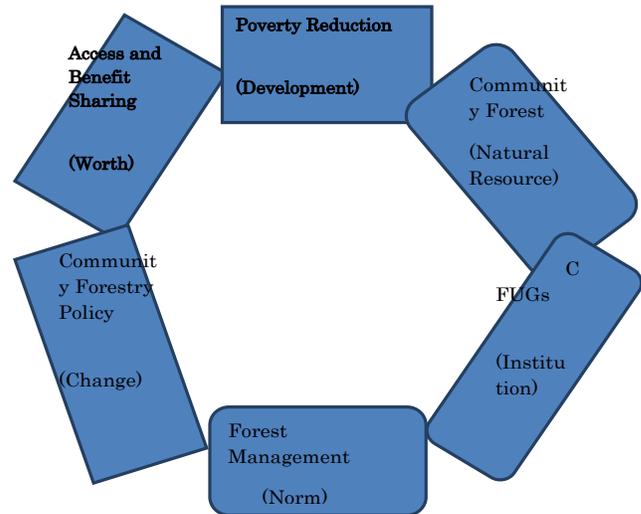
Local people are primary managers and users of forest product. Low level of their participation has created the problem in protection and management of forest products in terms of grass, fodder, fuel wood and leaflet. In this way participation to the production and management of community forestry from very beginning.

Some independent variables can be found to minimize women’s participation in community forestry system. Social and cultural factors are highly influence to women’s participation. At the same time education level of women and lack of skills are supporting factors to bypass their involvement of CF system.

This conceptual framework of Mobilization of Natural resources development by Yogo (2005) has been used. It consists of three factors: “Resources”, “Institution” and “Norm”. Natural resources (community forest) are base of local development, and ilization, and an Institution asCFUG acts as the user of the resources. The CFUG acts as the user of

the resources. The CFUG will be based on the “Norm” such as forest Management Rules for sustainable use of resources.

Community forest provides the produces the produce as value such as timber, fuel, food, as well as and in-direct benefit from the forest to pathway to peripheral populations. Likewise the community forest policy can make changes in the status of CFUG and “forest Management” rule take adapted at national level. Overall, these factors supposedly contribute to “poverty reduction”.



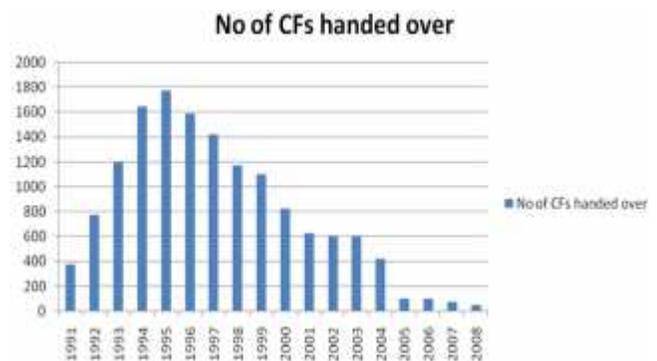
**Figure No 2** Conceptual Framework of Mobilization of Community Forestry to Poverty Reduction

Source: Author’s modification from Yogo 2005 Development Study p. 70

This study is intended to find out the other specific reason to minimize rural people’s participation in CF system especially in the forum of decision making namely in general assembly and executive committee

**Status of Community Forest**

The Community forest program was first implemented during the 1990s; the hand-over rate was high. Figure 1 depicts hand – over of Community Forest from 1991 to 2008. A considerable number of Community forests were handed over to community between 1994 and 1997, possibly because a new forest Act was promulgated in 1993 with provisions for more user rights.



**Figure No 3** Number of CFs handed over between 1991 to 2008.

Source: Dof (2009)

Nearly 1.5 million people are involved in Community Forests and the figure is increasing day by day since only 20 percent of the total potential Community Forests have been handed over to

the 14,439 CFUGs (CFD 2010). The potential Community Forests area is 5.5 million ha and only 1.23 million ha have been handed over to Forest Users' Groups, and these groups comprise 35% of the total population (26million) of the country.

**Table 5** Status of Community Forestry in Nepal

<b>Total land area of Nepal</b>	<b>14.7 million ha</b>
Total forest area	5.5 million ha
Potential community forest area	3.5 million ha
Forest area under community forestry	1.23 million ha or 22% of total Forest area
Total number of CFUGs	14439
Women-headed CFUGs	805
Total number of households'	1.66 million or 33% of Total households

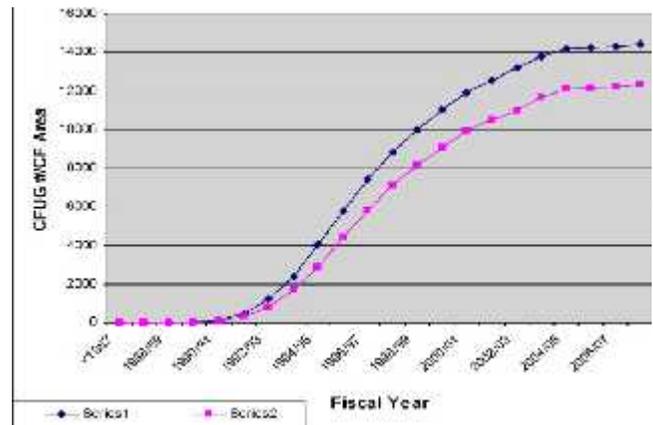
(Source: Gautam 2010)

The goals and objectives of Community Forestry will vary according to the individual needs and aspirations, whether it is a developed or a developing country. In developing countries, the aim is to meet the basic needs of the communities such as fuel-wood, fodder, grass building materials, medicines, and food. Whereas, the goal of Community Forestry in developed countries is to strengthen community stability including reducing unemployment, by enhancing sustained economic benefits from forestry. Therefore, there are many reasons to increase people's participation in forest.

In the past many governments have failed to manage forests, keeping the forests in state control. The rationale behind the provision of the Community Forestry and the CFUGs in Nepal was the consequences of the Government's incapability to conserve the forest and biodiversity effectively through its bureaucratic systems. In 1957, the Government nationalized virtually all forests and placing them under the legal authority of Forest Department. As a result, people gradually lost all of their traditional right over the forests and were deprived from getting their subsistence needs of forest products.

Resentment against nationalization contributed to unregulated extraction, creating conflict between villagers and DOF staffs (SPRINGATE *et al.* 2003). This distancing of people from resources management led to wanton destruction of forests in Nepal (GILMOUR and FISHER 1997). Therefore, Community Forestry began as an attempt by governments and aid agencies to provide an alternative way for forest departments to manage forests, that is, through including local people (GILMOUR and FISHER 1997)

Even though the hand over rate of CFs is declining, the accumulated area and the number of CFs have increased substantially from 1991 to 2008. Some figures related to CFs are shown in table 4. Out of a total area of 5.5 million hectares, 2 million hectares are categorized as potential CFs and the remaining 3.5 million hectares are categorized as leasehold forest and government managed forest. Twenty two percent of Nepal's forest area has been handed over as CF. Up until 2009, 14,569 forest patches have been handed over to communities. Approximately 1.67 million households, which constitutes about 35% of the total population, are involved in CFM (DoF, 2009)



**Figure 4** Handing over CF over time

Source: Department of forest (DOF) Nepal Government.

### Status of Community Forestry in Nepal

#### Contribution of Community Forestry on Rural Livelihoods

Forest resources play a crucial role in rural livelihoods in Nepal and elsewhere in the developing countries (DEV *et al.* 2003; UPRETI, B. 2002; MALLA 1997; GILMOUR and FISHER 1991; MAHAT *et al.* 1987). The forest resources directly fulfil forest related subsistence needs of women, poor and backward people as well as commercial needs of well-off people (UPRETI, B. 2002; MALLA 2005). The recent studies show that the Community Forestry in Nepal has contributed to the improvement of forest condition and people's livelihoods mainly in two ways: Capital formation in rural communities and policy and governance reform of various organisations and agencies (POKHAREL and NURSE, 2004). The Community Forestry is oriented towards the development of natural capital (e.g; Good forest conditions), physical capital (e.g; schools, roads, temple), financial capital (E.g.; CFUG fund), human capital (e.g.; reoriented forestry staff, higher education of forestry staff, capable CFUG member), and social capital (e.g.; building CFUG as local elected body, and FECOFUN) (Dev *et al.* 2003). These capital or assets produced by Community Forestry are playing the crucial role in the rural development and development of the livelihoods asset. Some previous studies carried out by Forest Action team in 2003 on "Impact of Community Forestry on livelihoods in the Middle Hills of Nepal" described the Community Forestry's impacts on livelihoods of the local people. They suggested two major types of impacts: Direct Impacts: Change in the levels and security of forest products and benefit flows (through the improvements to the forest resources and / or improved tenure right) Indirect Impacts: An indirect benefit comprises all those benefits that come from the institutional development of the community based forest management system or the institutional system of Community Forestry. These benefits include improved social capital for collective planning and action; support for community infrastructure and development activities; household livelihood/ income generation opportunities (including credit facilities) and finally improved human capital. There are many evidences, which show that the forest conditions and flow of forest products have improved through Community Forestry (ACHARYA 2004). Increased forest product flows are due to improve of forest conditions (Natural capital), and changed

entitlements to use it (DEV *et al.* 2003). Since natural capital is the term used for the natural resource stocks from which resource flows and services useful for livelihoods are derived (DFID 1998). Many evidences show that Community Forestry has contributed to the development of social capital in rural as well as in the urban part of Nepal through the set of social relationships (SHEPHERD and GILL 1999). The CFUGs create a new social forum, with the potential for local-level development planning, improved social support structure and social cohesion (DEV *et al.* 2003). It has been reported that Community Forestry process has increased social cohesion, which has enhanced social capital, of those who have been powerless, left in isolation and excluded from mainstream of social and political processes. For, example, NSCFP (2003) reported that the participation of women in the committee has increased from 19% in 1996 to 30% in 2003 in the project area (POKHAREL 2004). The CFUGs have created a network through their federation from village level to the district and to the central level: FECOFUN is the observable example of the development of social capital through Community Forestry in Nepal. Similarly, the investments of Community Forestry fund in the village or community level have led to improve village level infrastructure, are the source of physical capital in the grassroots' level (DEV *et al.* 2003). Since the physical capital comprises the basic infrastructure and producer goods needed to support livelihoods. The CFUGs have carried out many community development activities on their own by using group funds or through volunteer work (POKHAREL and NURSE 2004). Construction of village trails, small bridge, community building, schools and temples, drinking water supply, village road construction, village electrification, trail making are examples of physical capital created through the Community Forestry program in Nepal. The group fund generated from the sale of the forest products, levies and outside grants are the financial capital created through Community Forestry (POKHAREL and NURSE 2004). Substantial amount of funds have been generated from Community Forestry, for example in the year 2002/03, the CFUG from Banke, Bardia, Kailali and Dhading districts generated a total amount of Rs. 30,9000(US\$ 412,000) from forest products sale, membership fees and penalties (CARE 2003). Table 2:2 provides the information on income and expenditure of CFUGs in Nepal. Data shows that the CFUGs of Terai region alone have contributed to 46.5 percent of the total income of the CFUGs, while CFUGs in Middle Hills and High Mountains have contributed 48 29 percent and 6 percent respectively. The amount of income and expenditure presented in the table is an example of financial capital generated from Community Forestry.

**Table No 6** Income and expenditure of CFUGs in Nepal

Region	No. of FUGs	Total income in Nepali rupees	Total expenditure
Middle Hil	9353(73.5%)	85112000(47.8%)	43407000(35.9%)
High Mountain	2456(19.3%)	10070000(5.7%)	4532000(3.7%)
Terai/Inner Terai	916(7.2%)	82898000(46.5%)	72950000(60.3%)
Total	12725	178080000	120889000

Also, through the Community Forestry program, a number of training, workshops and exposure visits have been conducted by government and non-government organizations and individuals at the community level, for enhancing knowledge and skills related to forest silviculture, community

development, organizational management and leadership development ( POKHAREL and NURSE 2003). Report from NSCFP supported districts for Community Forestry show that more than five thousand community members have participated in various workshops, trainings and seminars over a six –year period. Data show that 13 government staff have received a long term scholarship for higher studies; 312 community members (of which 149 are female) have received scholarship for schools and post school education, and a total of 1,184 staff members of government and non-government organizations have received short term training and study tours (POKHAREL and NURSE 2003). These types of activities carried out by governmental and non-governmental organization in the rural level, enhance the capabilities of the people and raise the level of awareness.

## CONCLUSION

From this study we can drawout real sketch our Nepalese society where almost all the population depends upon agrarian society. Their day to day activity are agriculture, livestock, wage labor in golf countries even America, Europe and other developed country, similarly the participation in communal activity affected by age group mostly dominant by 30-40 years age group. Even thought there were different strata of respondent literate, illiterate age group and male female and so on. The level of education status seems not encouraging because most of the respondents are literate rather than educated. Women participation in executivecommittee is very low. People's participation on group meeting during the presentation of operation plan is low; most of the local people are not familiar with the executive committee member.

Based on the general finding of study and focus on questionnaire the following recommendations have been proposed. More extensive awareness program should be conducted by district forest officer to make local people as active user. Women's representation is very low in the executive committee so, it is necessary to encourage them to hold responsible post. User group is involving only to protect the forest. They have no knowledge about effective forest management. So, some special training should be provided by concerned personal. There are some obstacles such as big family, poor educational status, poor economic status, gender basic, occupation and other should be minimized. Some factors, which encourage local people to participation in community forestry, should be fostered. Special provision should be made is operational plan about local people's in community forestry and local people's representation in committee. Government should also be made special provision local people's participation in community forestry related policy plan and program. NGO/INGOS and development agencies, which are working in the field of community forestry, should promote local people to participate in such program.

## Abbreviation

- CBS : Central Bureau of Statistic
- CF : Community Forestry
- CFUG : Community Forest User Group
- DDC : District Development Committee
- DFO : District Forest Office
- FAO : Food and Agriculture Organization
- FUG: Forest User's Group

- G.N : Government of Nepal
- INGOs: International Non Government Organization
- MPFS : Master Plan for Forestry Sector
- NGO: Non Government Organization
- NPC: National Planning Commission
- PF : Panchayat Forest
- PPF : Panchyat Protected Forest
- VDC : Village Development Committee

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