



# SAMBAD

No.34

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF IIDS  
December 2013



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Nepal has witnessed second constituent assembly elections in as many as six years. The first constituent assembly failed to promulgate a new constitution as political parties couldn't reach a consensus on the form of federalism that is best suited for the country. This led to the dissolution of the first constituent assembly and fresh election to Constituent Assembly was sought.

The Constituent Assembly Election- 2070 saw Nepalese people turning out in record numbers to vote with a total turnout of 70%. People's mandate to the political parties is clear. They seek formation of a new constitution and economic development in the country. They have had enough of political uncertainty that has hindered the economic development of the country. Nepali Congress has won the maximum no. of seats with CPN-UML bagging the second position. Unified Maoist Party has been pushed to the third position this time. It is highly imperative that all these parties work together to bring about the much needed positive change in Nepal. The constitution must ensure rights of all the people and should never pit one Nepalese against the other. Lessons should be learned from the political imbroglio that lingered on for six continuous years before the second election.

2013 has been a mixed year for IIDS. The institute successfully launched Nepal Economic Outlook 2012-13, which has been widely appreciated by the policy makers, researchers as well as other users. IIDS has also been successful in undertaking few large studies funded by UNDP, TAF and other donors.

In 2014, IIDS will be working on a number of new studies, focusing mainly on agricultural inputs policies, climate resilience agriculture, natural resource management, poverty reduction, gender issues etc. The institute has begun working on its flagship publication, Nepal Economic Outlook 2013-14 which is expected to be launched in May 2014. The institute will also be starting working paper series on important policy areas, besides the policy briefs which are being published since last two years.

With this note, the IIDS family is pleased to bring forward the 34<sup>th</sup> edition of SAMBAD.

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## Seminar

Consultation workshop on Agricultural Inputs and Policy was jointly organized by IFPRI, IIDS and USAID on June 9, 2013 at Hotel Annapurna, Kathmandu. The main objective of the workshop was to update on status of agriculture inputs (seeds and fertilizers) and policies in Nepal. The experts from various organizations participated in the program.

IIDS launched “**Nepal Economic Outlook 2012-13**” on July 7, 2013. The event was attended by the board members, staffs, various renowned economists, agriculturists, media and IIDS staffs. The IIDS study projected that in 2013 the inflation and budget deficit will remain around 9.75 percent and 12.43 percent respectively where as economic growth will be around 3.6 percent.

## Staff Participations

Dr. Bishnu Dev Pant participated in Asia Think Tank Summit in Tokyo organized by the University of Pennsylvania which took place at Asian Development Bank Institute from June 12-14, 2013. He presented a paper on “Think Tanks, Civil Societies and Policy Advice in Asia: Past, Present and Future”

Messrs. Manbar S. Khadka, Nandakaji Budhathoki and Binod Shrestha participated at 14<sup>th</sup> Annual GDN Conference on “Inequality, Social Protection and Inclusive Growth” held in Manila, The Phillipines from June 19-21, 2013. Mr. Khadka presented a paper on “Global Financial Crisis and Nepalese Economy” at the conference.

Messrs. Khadka and Budhathoki attended the GINI coordination meeting on June 30, 2013 in Bangkok.

Dr. Pant participated in a Workshop on Monitoring and Evaluation Policy Forum organized by NPC and UNICEF on September 11, 2013 at Hotel Everest, Kathmandu.

Messrs. Khadka and Shrestha participated in the Inception Workshop on “Building Statistical Capacity for Quality Food Security and Nutrition Information in Support of Better Informed Policies” organized by FAO on September 24, 2013 at Everest Hotel, Kathmandu.

Dr. Pant participated and presented a paper “Role of Inputs in Agriculture Transformation in Nepal: Policy Issues and Options” to the International Conference on Agricultural Transformation in Asia: Policy Options for Food and Nutrition Security in as part of IFPRI's Regional Strategies Analysis and Knowledge Support Systems in Asia (ReSAKSS-Asia) in Siem Reap, Cambodia from September 25-27, 2013.

Dr. Pant participated in “Policy Dialogue on Regional Cooperation, Inclusive Development and Nepal's LDC Graduation Strategy” organized by United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific-South and South-West Asia Office (ESCAP-SSWA), National Planning Commission, Nepal and The Nepal Economic Association held on September 30, 2013 at Hotel Everest, Kathmandu.

Dr. Pant and Mr. Khadka participated in IFPRI consultation workshop on “Policy Research and Strategy Support for Agricultural Development and Food Security in Nepal” (IFPRI: Policy Assistance Program) which was held on December 23, 2013 at Hotel Annapurna, Kathmandu.

## New appointments- 2013

**Mr. Santosh Gartaula** was appointed as a Research Assistant from December, 2013. He has completed MA in Economics from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India.

## Internships

**Mr. Sanjeev Poudel** worked as an intern for one and half months. He has completed Bachelors in Development Studies from Kathmandu University. He was also enrolled for summer internship for MA Sustainable Development Practice (SDP) Programme of TERI University.

**Ms. Natasha Kafle** worked as an intern for three months. She has completed Bachelor's of Arts, Economic Honors from Christ University, Bangalore, India.

**Ms. Divya Ghimire** has been working as an Intern from December, 2013. She is currently enrolled in her Masters II<sup>nd</sup> year degree in Environmental Science from Golden Gate International College, Purano

Baneswor, Kathmandu. She is doing her thesis entitled Economic Evaluation of Beeshazari Wetland, Chitwan, Nepal.

**Mr. Sujan Neupane** has been working as an Intern from December, 2013. He is studying B.Sc in Statistics at Amrit Science Campus (ASCOL), Kathmandu.

**Ms. Reshina Subedi** has been working as an Intern from December, 2013. She is currently enrolled in Management faculty at intermediate level at Modern Kanya Multiple College, Bhimsengola, Kathmandu.

**Mr. Sudir Joshi** has been working as an Intern from December, 2013. He is currently enrolled in intermediate level at Classic College International, Pingla Marg, Kathmandu.

#### Ongoing Projects:

#### **Baseline Perception Survey for UNDAF (2013-2017)**

This is 4 year project funded by UNDP. The goal of UNDAF 2013-2017 is to contribute to significant positive changes in the lives of all people in Nepal, with particular attention to those vulnerable groups identified in the country analysis. The purpose is to establish the baseline values for perception indicators of the UNDAF M and E Matrix by conducting a household survey representative at the national level.

#### **Baseline Survey on Peace and Security in 18 districts for Conflict Prevention Program**

This is a 9 month long study which covers 18 districts across Nepal's five development regions for collaborative work on peace, security and gender. This project has been jointly implemented by UNDP and UN Women Nepal Conflict Prevention Program (CPP). The project is at its initial phase of training the enumerators for field survey.

#### **Bilateral and Regional Trade Agreement in South Asia: An Outline on Implication of Trade Agreements in Nepal**

This is a year long project signed under the South Asia Network of Economic Research Institute (SANEI). The project is currently in the initial phase of the development. The objective is to study the implication of Bilateral and Regional Trade

Agreements (BRTA) of Nepal in relation to South Asian countries.

#### **Local Governance Action Research**

This project has been conducted by IIDS in conjunction with The Asia Foundation for a period of nine months. The action research is being implemented in five municipalities: Dharan-Sunsari, Dhulikhel-Kavre, Byas-Tanahun, Narayan-Dailekh, and Bhim Dutta-Kanchanpur. This project will complete by end of December 2013.

#### **Poverty Alleviation Projects in Kapilvastu District**

IIDS has been implementing the Poverty Alleviation Program in the partnership with the Poverty Alleviation Fund (PAF) for assisting in the social, economic and physical development of the *Dalits*, indigenous people, muslims and women by helping them realize their intrinsic self-reliance capacity and identifying their needs through the process of social mobilization. It is an ongoing program benefiting about 3643 households covering 161 community organizations of Kapilvastu district.

#### **Tax Policy and Enterprise Development in South Asia**

IIDS had signed a three -year contract with Governance Institutes Network International (GINI) to conduct a study on tax policy and Enterprise Development in South Asia with financial support from IDRC, Canada. Second year final technical Research Report has been submitted. This project is expected to be completed by end of 2014.

#### **Business Expectation Climate Survey of Nepal III (BECS)**

This project is being jointly conducted by IIDS and The Asia Foundation and the survey is performed every six months. This study aims to inform, educate and assist Nepali business community and policy makers. The third survey will be conducted in January 2014.

## **Completed Projects:**

### **Business Expectation Climate Survey of Nepal II (BECS)**

This project was jointly conducted by IIDS and The Asia Foundation and the survey is performed every six months. The second survey was completed and the report was submitted on October 2013.

### **Project Evaluation of Reducing Poverty in Nepal, through innovative and equitable carbon financing mechanism, focused on avoided deforestation and forest degradation Phase I and II**

This project was funded by WWF, Finland which sheds light upon the two phase projects (2009 and 2011) ending in 2013 focusing on TAL(Terai Arc Landscape) and SHL(Sacred Himalayan Landscape). Its aim is to determine the relevance and fulfillment of objectives, development efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability of the REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) project. This report was submitted in November, 2013.

### **Gender Responsive Recovery of Sustainable Peace**

This project was funded by UN Women. The objective of the project was to generate baseline data on selected indicators. Baseline survey was conducted in three districts covering about 900 conflict affected households and women. Final report on this study was submitted to UN Women on June, 2013.

### **Building Construction**

IIDS has initiated to construct a two and a half storey office building that will add 3000 sq. ft. of space to its main building creating new facilities including a modern library, meeting halls comprising conference and training facilities. The foundation of the new building was led by IIDS Board Chairman Dr. Mohan Man Sainju on October, 2013. This building is expected to be completed by August, 2014.

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Climate change is widespread global phenomenon in the recent years. Both developing and developed countries of the world are undoubtedly affected by climate vulnerabilities. However, the severity of climate change impact is considered to be more on developing countries since large majority of poor and marginalized group of people dependent on agriculture and lacks financial and technical capabilities to respond climate variability. Nepal is more susceptible to geological and climate related disaster due to the varied topography and social vulnerability. Flashflood, soil erosion, landslides, droughts etc. have been continuously observed across the country and has affected livelihood of people. In the recent years, Nepalese farmers are suffering from longer and frequent droughts, erratic rainfall pattern, storms, and thunderstorms.

Agriculture is the mainstay of Nepalese economy, which is highly vulnerable to the climate change in the recent years. Agriculture, forestry and fisheries is estimated to contribute 35.1% of gross domestic product (MOF/Nepal, 2011/12) and considered to be the major sources of employment. According to the Nepal labor Force Survey (NLFS) 2008, there are 73.9 % Nepalese workers engaged in agriculture sector. Despite that Nepal is struggling with food shortages. According to report of Ministry of Agriculture of Nepal hill and mountain regions have food deficit of -14% and -19% respectively in 2008, while low land terrain also known as food pocket of Nepal had food surplus of 11%. It is reported that agricultural productivity in Nepal is declining, more flowering and poor fruiting in the fruits and vegetables, reduced production from on-farm activities, explosion of pest and insect in crops, erosion of fertile top soil, reduction in working hours for agriculture, shift to use hybrid seeds, increasing workload of women and children and increasing trends of seasonal migration as a result of climate change. As shown in the table given below, large areas of crops land have been affected by landslides, floods, inundations and land cuttings.

### **Cereals affected by natural disasters (In hectares)**

<b>Cereals</b>	<b>FY 2007</b>	<b>FY 2008</b>	<b>FY 2009</b>	<b>FY 2010</b>
Paddy	88800	30873	92000	567
Maize	4271	549	1700	563
Millet	1451	3.2	0	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>94522</b>	<b>31425.2</b>	<b>93700</b>	<b>1143</b>

**Source:** Economic Survey 2011, Ministry of Finance.

To lessen the impact of climate change on agricultural sector, suitable adaptation and mitigation plans need to be adopted both by government and private sector at local level. Adaptation refers to adjustments to the ecological-socio-economic systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli, their effects or impacts. Broadly, adaptation can be grouped into four categories; it consists of (1) technological developments, (2) government programs and insurance, (3) farm level practices and (4) farm financial management.

There are several factors responsible to hinder the climate change adaptation in agriculture sector. Lack of awareness is one of them, which is mainly attributed by low level of education in farming

community. Lack of local level physical and financial capabilities is another responsible factor. Despite being affected by climate change, farmers could not apply adaptation and mitigation techniques due to lack of physical and financial constraints at local level. Government of Nepal (GON) has formulated National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA), Local Adaptation Plan of Action (LAPA), Climate Change Policy (CCP) 2011 etc which is basically dealing with climate related issues at local and national level. CCP has suggested two adaptation and mitigation approaches both at local and national Level and recommended following adaptation strategies at local level consists of providing better irrigation facilities, soil and watershed conservation, reinstating water reservoirs, cultivating crop resistant crops, community based disaster risk reduction mechanisms, capacity building etc. However these plans and policies have not being effectively implemented due to lack of funds, technical capacities, weak coordination of government authorities and lack of awareness of people about climate change.

With careful planning and formulating reliable strategies such as educating people through seminars, workshop, training to those dependent on agriculture, technology transfer to local people to tackle with climate change, proper research and dissemination of finding to local people, forecasting climatic data and sharing information with people might help the farmers to take proactive measures against climate change. At the same time, subsidizing agricultural inputs and agricultural investment, provision of crop insurance in government plan and policies will help farmers to practice different adaptation strategies.

To conclude, complete control of all the climate change impact on agricultural sector is impossible but with proper planning and changing human attitude towards climate change helps to slower the climate change vulnerabilities in agricultural sector. To reduce the climate change impact on agricultural sectors, efficient and feasible measures such as integrated pest management, improved crop varieties, using hybrid seeds, proper water and land management, and proper coordination among stakeholders, developing climate forecasting system, develop agro-chemical to reduce damages of pest and diseases in crops could be possible solutions to minimize climate change impact in agriculture sector of Nepal.



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\* Mr. Budhathoki is an economist at IIDS.

# A Brief Note on Exit Strategy for PAF Program

- Madhu Maharjan\*

The Institute for Integrated Development Studies (IIDS) has been implementing the Poverty Alleviation Program in partnership with Poverty Alleviation Fund (PAF) in Kapilvastu district. After seven years of program implementation in Kapilvastu district, the community members have directly or indirectly benefited from completed sub projects on income generation, infrastructure development and capacity building. The members from different castes and ethnicities have been empowered economically and socially after being involved in the program. The program's impact on community is clearly visible.

Now that the objectives of the program have been more or less met, the project cannot continue forever. On the other hand there is a need to sustain the gains of the project. However, the PAF has not specified the exit policy of the program yet. In this context, some of the pertinent strategies must be addressed prior to hand over of the program to any stakeholders. The strategies such as strengthening networks/COs/Cooperative, developing pocket areas, establishing market linkage, creating operation and maintenance fund should be considered for sustaining and institutionalizing the program in long-run. This brief note discusses about some of the activities that will have to be adopted by all partner organizations to achieve the ideal stage for program phase out within the timeframe of three years (2012/13-2014/15):

- Capacitate the executive members of cooperative on leadership as well as accounting skills and provide exposure visits.
- Build good relationship and coordination with Division Cooperative Office for preparing relevant documents needed for cooperative registration.
- Develop good linkages with DDC, VDC, Agriculture, Veterinary, Small cottage industries and other stakeholders for capacity building trainings.
- Provide logistic support to newly registered cooperatives (like furniture, space for office set-up).
- Develop pocket areas given the potentiality of the VDCs (such as goat farming, collection of milk etc).
- Develop market for vegetable collection centers (construction of shade for collecting vegetables in crossroads).
- Collect savings, interest rates and shareholders and share *kittas* and other income related activities in cooperatives in a regular basis.
- Develop and execute strong mechanism of monitoring and evaluation system.
- Prepare financial guidelines, make records/accounts clear, updated and transparent.
- Prepare second tier leadership and encourage members to be shareholders in cooperative.
- Graduate the matured COs in each VDCs.

- Strengthen the cooperatives through recruiting parallel motivators/local social mobilizers, imparting capacity building training like cooperative camp and account keeping in double entry system.
- Create sufficient fund of operation and maintenance fund to sustain small infrastructure development activities.
- Link the entrepreneur groups with market channels of vendors, itinerant traders, wholesalers and retailers properly.
- Link the cooperative with Nepal Rastra Bank for getting its self-reliant fund.
- Broadcast best agricultural practices through FM radios or print media.
- Disseminate reports like social audit, financial audit, financial and physical reports and annual progress report to the stakeholders regularly.
- Allocate certain funds for distance monitoring for couple of years.

The best option for the exit policy is to convert the federation of community organizations into cooperative. The cooperatives can be strengthened through the adoption of aforementioned strategies/activities by all partners prior to hand over of the program to any stakeholders. Basically, for a three-year time period, each partner organization has strictly adopted and executed the activities so that registered cooperatives have gained sense of ownership. The strong mechanism of monitoring and evaluation system should be practiced so as to keep the program in right direction. The financial transaction mechanisms should be transparent and be strictly followed. The roles and responsibilities should be made clear among the partners for effective execution of the cooperatives. The cooperatives then become capable to systematize as well as institutionalize the programs in a sustained manner. Eventually, the respective cooperatives can be graduated out of PAF and operated based on their respective articles.




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\* Mr. Maharjan is a program officer at IIDS.

-*Manbar Khadka\**

The second election to Constituent Assembly (CA) has been successfully conducted amid various speculations that the election might get halted at the last hour. Such uncertainties persisted mainly due to denunciation and refusal to participate in the election process by the Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist and its fringe parties. Despite their denunciation and obstruction, a free and fair election has been successfully conducted across the country. With the given amount of resources, both the Government of Nepal and the Election Commission of Nepal have done their level best to ensure free and fair election. Nonetheless, some irregularities have surfaced in some constituencies. These allegations must be examined thoroughly by the concerned regulatory body. This will ensure trust in the election system of the country.

Various factors have played roles in shaping the outcomes of the second election to constituent assembly. Nepalese politicians made promises of socio-economic development that they have failed to keep up time and again. Moreover, various issues on federalism and secularism emerged as contentious topics over the past few years. And the Nepalese people were divided whether or not to support secularism and federalism based on single caste/or ethnicity. After the conclusion of the second election to CA, the biggest party of Nepal, Unified Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) was relegated to the third position while the Nepali Congress and the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) bagged first and second positions respectively. Looking at the results of the second election to CA, political analysts and experts are of the opinion that the outcomes of this election are manifestations of such divisive thoughts among the Nepalese citizens.

One issue has clearly emerged out of the results of CA election that the Nepalese people have voted for the attainment of peace and stability in the country. They have voted for an overall economic development in the country. Presently, the Nepalese economy is in a shambles. Young people have been migrating mainly to Arab countries in search of employment, and consequently the agricultural sector is facing labour shortages due to out-migration of youth.

It is the economic empowerment of women, marginalized communities and disadvantaged groups that the Nepalese citizens need desperately. It is the economic development of the country that the Nepalese people need at this hour. Had economic priorities not been sidelined by the previous governments, their parties would have once again emerged victorious in this election.

As such, the political parties need to take lessons from the outcomes of this election. The major winning political parties must form a consensus government and work towards drafting a new constitution that addresses the general sentiments and concerns of the Nepalese people. The constitution must be drafted and delivered within a year. After the drafting of the constitution, the government must prioritize economic agenda and work towards uplifting the socio-economic status of the Nepalese economy.



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\* Mr. Khadka is an economist at IIDS.

## Introduction

Community forestry (CF) is a policy meant for the benefit of the poor by bringing about social changes and establishing efficient institutions at the local level (Adhikari, 2011)<sup>1</sup>. Community forest intimately involves local people in forestry activity (FAO, 1978)<sup>2</sup>. Forests have historically taken a central place in local livelihood practices and national development in Nepal as rural livelihoods as well as state revenues are dependent on forest resources (Ojha *et al.*, 2009)<sup>3</sup>.

In Nepal, Community Forestry program was initiated in 1978 with an enactment of forestry legislation. The Government of Nepal implemented first national level community forestry project in 1980, covering 29 hill districts. In order to manage the forests, the country adopted Community Forestry Program (CFP) following the 25 years master plan for forestry sector in 1988 and after that, Forest Act and Regulation came in 1993 which legislated Community Forestry policy in Nepal (Pokharel, 2005)<sup>4</sup>. Today there are 17,685 Community Forest User Groups. Community forestry has benefitted 2,177,858 households and at present 35 percent of the population of Nepal is involved in community forestry management program. The main purpose of the formation of Nepal community forestry regime to achieve sustainable management of forest resources by converting accessible national forests into community forests on a phase wise manner (DOF, 2013)<sup>5</sup>. Evaluation on ecological condition of forest and socio economic status of users determines the sustainable achievement for forest management, which is a growing concern.

## Methodology

The Sustainability Assessment Study was carried out in Godawari Kunda Community Forest (GKCF) (147-hectare area), Lalitpur district, Central Nepal in 2012 to understand the ecology of forests and social strata of the area. The forest type is sub-tropical broad leaved forest. The study was conducted by using criteria and indicators given by the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) for sustainable forest management assessment.

Participatory Resource Assessment (PRA) tools such as questionnaire survey, key informant interviews and focus group discussions were used for socio-economic data, and ecological data were collected through forest inventory. Random sampling was applied for questionnaire survey to extract information on socio economic condition of the residents and random nested quadrat method for forest inventory. Forest inventory was also done comprising 16 plots in total, 4 plots in each four blocks of community forest. Data were analyzed using SPSS and Microsoft Excel. For the socio-economic and ecological sustainability, three and four criteria were observed respectively.

<sup>1</sup> Adhikari, U., 2011. *Women in Forest Management: A Case Study of Dharapani Women Community Forest Bharatpokhari VDC, Kaski, Nepal*, MSc Thesis. School of Development and Social Engineering, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Pokhara University, Pokhara, Nepal

<sup>2</sup> FAO, 1978. Forestry for Local Development. Forestry paper 7, Food and Agriculture Organization, Rome, Italy.

<sup>3</sup> Ojha, H., Persha, L., Chhatre, A., 2009. Community Forestry in Nepal: A policy innovation for local livelihoods and food security. International Forestry resources and Institutions Program, School of Natural Resources and Environment, University of Michigan, US

<sup>4</sup> Pokharel, R., 2005. A Local on Indicators of Successful Forestry Program: A case of Nepal's Kaski district, Forestry Journal of Institute of Forestry, Tribhuvan University, Pokhara, Nepal. 13. pp.29-34

<sup>5</sup> <http://dof.gov.np/division/community-forest-division/community-forestry>

## Result

Major dominant species were *Castanopsis tribuloides*, *Quercus glauca* and *Schima wallichii*. Godawari Kunda community forest was considered sustainable forest on the basis of criteria and indicators and analysis of sustainable fuel wood yield. The demand of the households was less than the supply due to which there was a sustainable supply of resources. Majority of the households use Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) and electricity as major energy sources. The regeneration pattern, crown cover percentage, species diversity, knowledge towards silvicultural operation and availability of water resources showed that Godawari Kunda Community forest is improving and highly conducive towards sustainable forest management. There was a sustainable supply (154736 kg/yr for fuelwood and 18219 kg/ha for fodder) to the demand of fuel wood (149200 kg/yr) and fodder (17700 kg/yr). Intentional forest fires, less awareness in biodiversity conservation and environment protection, illegal activities, open boundary problems, solid waste problem and lack of timber species were the major issues in the study area.

Majority of the respondents were involved in agriculture and service. They had a high literacy rate of 79.2 % and relied mainly on LPG as an energy source. Maximum number of respondents (91.7%) agreed that the forest condition is good in terms of resources availability and forest quality. Key major improvement needed in GKCF were information sharing mechanism, increasing number of forest guard, fire control measures, fencing, grazing and awareness. Scientific forest management practices have been practiced today and locals and forest guards have been trained and made aware on this.

The density and diversity index of GKCF showed that forest is dense and highly diverse. The most dominant and frequent species were *Castanopsis tribuloides*, followed by *Quercus glauca*, *Schima wallichii* and *Castanopsis indica*. Forest was found to be in good condition in terms of high regeneration of tree species and it was well stocked except Block 1 due to anthropogenic activities since it was easily accessible. The analysis of overall socio-economic and ecological condition by using criteria and indicators as well by vegetation analysis showed that the forest condition is good and sustainable.

## Conclusion

Godawari Kunda Community forest is a good example of sustainably managed forest. More research and study of sustainability assessment of community forest should be done so that the comparison between forests could be done. Major forest management activities carried out in GKCF are forest product collection, implementing IGAs (Income Generation Activities), thinning and pruning, weeding etc. Majority of the users participate in forest management activities and maximum respondents agreed that the forest condition is good in terms of forest condition and resource availability. GKCF exhibits that active and sustainably managed forest leads to better livelihood helping poverty alleviation, including skill and capacity building, prioritizing the upliftment of *dalit* and marginalized groups.



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\* Ms. Pathak is a research associate at IIDS.

In Nepal, there is a compelling ground for taking on an Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) approach to manage its river basins. Nepal possesses more than 6000 rivers, 74% of them stretches out within the country and the remaining transboundary rivers is shared with India. In the face of having feasible hydro potential of 45,610 MW, we face long hours of blackouts daily. The urbanization is clearly linked to the river systems as the direct impacts are evident in the form of disposal of untreated liquid/solid waste, sand mining, physical encroachment, river jacketing for roads/business, etc. There is plethora of issues faced by the rivers. Most rivers reveal common characteristics: high seasonal flow variability between the monsoon and dry seasons; risks from water induced disasters and deteriorating water quality. In future, water shortages are likely to intensify in urban river basins more than in the others due to pressures of demand, deteriorating water quality, inadequate storage, and rising disputes in water allocation. The development of Nepal's water resources can be utilized to produce hydroelectricity, equip the irrigation sector and meet the domestic and industrial demands. There are increasing calls for river management to provide solution of current and predicted conflicts in water resources utilization. A systematic and synergetic effort to conserve and restore river system has to be initiated for successfully to restore the river.

Rivers in Nepal have very high flow in monsoon season (June- September) and low flow in dry seasons (October-March) which has an effect on Nepal's economy, employment and poverty, as 80 percent of the population is engaged in agriculture. Agriculture has long been based on subsistence farming depending upon rainfall. During dry season, approximately 80% of the river flow is diverted for domestic use leaving very little flow for irrigation and for other sectors. There is not only a need for technological development in the field of water/irrigation and hydropower but also for the use of water assessment and market-based approaches to water management. The governance of rivers has been limited to only few stakeholders; public sector, international agencies and NGOs so far. At present, although there are increasing number of organizations working for the conservation and management of the rivers, it is necessary to re-look at the management of this vital resource. There should be proper coordination amongst the agencies and their programs and reconciliation of contradictory water policies is requisite to alleviate problems related to water resource management in the rivers.

The potential challenge for rivers in Nepal is to implement IWRM by developing and supporting River Basin Organizations (RBO's). Nepal has successfully embarked on IWRM principle which is necessary for accommodating multi-sectoral water demands and to optimize utilization of the available water resource. RBOs has been implemented in three major river systems of Nepal; Koshi, Narayani, and Karnali. West Rapti River Basin Organizations and Koshi River Basin Management Program under Koshi River Basin Management Strategy have implemented the two pilot projects in Dudh Koshi and Indrawati sub basins. More of such RBOs' implementation and innovation will be required to meet future demands. RBOs with efficient governance mechanism along with having innovative resource planning, implementation, and monitoring of strategies, specifying clear legal mandates, defined management roles and responsibilities, and sufficient financial and human resources is the way forward.

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\* Ms. Pradhan is a research associate at IIDS.

## Glimpses of Various Seminars



Dr. Bishnu Dev Pant, Executive Director, IIDS interacting in the Workshop



Dr. Mohan Man Sainju during the Book Launching of Nepal Economic Outlook 2012-13



Panelist on IFPRI Consultation Workshop at Hotel Annapurna



Mr. Manbar S. Khadka addressing at 14th annual GDN conference held in Manila

### *Published by*

Publication & Documentation Unit, Institute for Integrated Development Studies (IIDS)

*Edited by:* POOJA PATHAK

*Designed by:* GOVINDA GHIMIRE



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