AGRARIAN STRUCTURES AND DISTRIBUTIVE OUTCOMES

A Study of Community Forestry in Nepal

A thesis submitted by

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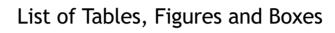
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Aama Samuha Mother's group formed for sectoral development

purposes

Ailani Common property land forcibly occupied by landless

migrants for shelter and for cultivation

Agnirekha Fire line, involves digging around the forest

Ban Forest, jungle

Bari Non-irrigated terraced land

Bhari A local measurement of head load; one bhari weighs

approximately 30 kg for fodder and 40 kg for fuel

wood

Bigha Unit of land measurement used in the Terai. One bigha

is equivalent to 0.67 hectares of land

Birta A land grant awarded by the King or ruler to a certain

deserving group of people

Bista Patron client relationships between artisans and the

higher caste groups. The artisans serve the higher

caste and refer to them Bistas

Bote Majhi An indigenous ethnic group (fisher folk) in the Terai

Brahmin Priests and high caste group in the Hindu caste

hierarchy

Chhetri A warrior high caste group in Hindu caste hierarchy

Dalit Political connotation used to denote the lowest strata

of the Hindu caste hierarchy and so-called

untouchables

Damai Tailors, so-called untouchables

Dashain The great Hindu festival Village, settlement cluster

Gitti Kutne Stone crushers

Ghar Home

Haat bazar A local weekly/fortnightly market

Inar A well (water well)

Glossary xvii

Jahan Husband or wife; family members

Janajati Indigenous ethnic groups

Jyotish Mantra Horoscope verses

Kami Blacksmiths, so called untouchables

Khar Thatching material
Khet Terraced irrigated land
Kulo A small irrigation channel
Muluki Ain Civil Code of Nepal

Newar An indigenous ethnic group about half of whom are

Buddhists and half Hindus. They are popularly known

as business community

Niguro Fern shoot used as vegetables

Numbari Registered land

Panchayat Local administrative and political unit during

Panchayat regime, similar to a Village Development

Committee today

Perma A mutual labour exchange in the community

Pewa Private property of a woman/girl

Rana An influential Chhetri family who ruled Nepal for 104

years (1846-1951). Shah kings were celebrities during

this period

Rojiroti Work for bread and butter

Ropani A unit of land measurement used in the hills, one

ropani is equivalent to 0.051 hectares

Shorea robusta, a timber species common in lower belt

of Nepal

Samiti Executive committee of a community based

organisation. Executive committee of Forest User

Group is commonly known as Samiti

Sarki Cobblers, so-called untouchables Sukumbasi Squatters, illegal immigrants

Tamang An indigenous ethnic group originated from the hills

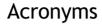
Terai Lower plain belt of Nepal

Tharu An indigenous ethnic group originated from the Terai

Thekka A form of land lease

Tole A Nepali term to define a settlement cluster or hamlet Ward Smallest administrative unit. Nine wards make up a

Village Development Committee (VDC)



ADB Agricultural Development Bank

BISEP-ST Bio-diversity Sector Programme for Siwalik and Terai

CA Constituent Assembly

CBO Community Based Organization
CBS Central Bureau of Statistics

CF Community Forest/ Community Forestry

CPA Comprehensive Peace Accord CPR Common Property Resource

CPRM Common Property Resource Management

DFID Department for International Development, UK
DFO District Forest Officer District Forest Officer

DFSP District Forest Strategic Plan

DOF Department of Forests

DSCO Department of Soil Conservation

EC Executive Committee

FECOFUN Federation of Community Forestry Users, Nepal

FSCC Forest Sector Co-ordination Committee

FUG Forest User Group GA General Assembly

GDP Gross Domestic Product

GEWG Gender and Equity Working Group

GON Government of Nepal

HMG/N His Majesty's Government of Nepal LFP Livelihoods and Forestry Programme

LSGA Local Self-Government Act

MFSC Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation NACFP Nepal Australia Community Forestry Project

NACRMLP Nepal Australia Community Resource Management and

Livelihood Project

NGO Non-governmental Organization NPC National Planning Commission Acronyms xix

NWC	National Women's Commission
ODG	Overseas Development Group, UK

OP Operational Plan
P&E Poor and Excluded

PPSI Pro-Poor and Social Inclusion

RP Range Post

SFDP Small Farmer Development Programme

SPA Seven Party Alliance

VDC Village Development Committee

WC Ward Committee

Abstract

Explanations of the limited achievements of common property resource management (CPRM) organizations in securing equitable distributive outcomes at local levels are insufficient because they have insufficient understanding of the influence of the community structures in which they operate. Taking the example of community forestry strategy in Nepal, and comparing the outcomes of forest user groups in the distinctly varied locations of hills and plains (Terai), this study provides a detailed empirical exploration of local-level structures, relationships and processes that result in inequitable distributive outcomes.

The study uses comparative case study methods. It proposes a shift in emphasis away from the 'unitary' model of community and exclusive focus on access to forest products as the major incentive for people to become involved in forest management. Instead, it suggests a focus on the complexities and variations in agrarian communities in terms of internal differentiation, and of forest and non-forest (i.e., economic and political) incentives derived from user groups in order to adequately explain the distributive outcomes of these organizations.

The study demonstrates that the communities in which user groups function are diverse and internally differentiated. It is argued that economic and political structures and social institutions set the context for individual and group behaviour. How economic and social groups act and behave is shaped in large part by local-level structures and institutions that are characterized by exploitation, exclusion and unequal access to resources, opportunities and voices. The complexities of formal rules and the mechanisms of user groups are guided by informal rules, mechanisms and processes embedded in the way people relate to each other in differentiated communities.

Highlighting the pivotal contrasts between the hill and Terai communities, this study demonstrates that powerful underlying structures operate in agrarian communities to benefit certain classes and groups. At the household level, differential access to benefits from community forestry is greater in communities with a high degree of economic and social differentiation.

Abstract xxi

The influence of gender relations is more visible in a community with less economic differentiation. Macro-level structures and processes by which policies are developed and implemented also reflect the same local-level realities of exclusion, exploitation and unequal power relations that favour some class, caste and/or gender. The study thus raises questions about the usefulness of highlighting the role of 'communities' for equitable distributive outcomes when wider macroeconomic and political factors do not encourage a transformation of unequal power relations in the communities.

Keywords: common property resources (CPR), community forestry (CF), equity and access (EA), participatory exclusion (PE), forest resource use, distributive outcomes, Nepal

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