

**APPLYING ADAPTIVE COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT  
IN NEPAL: SILVICULTURE DEMONSTRATION PLOT  
PERSPECTIVE**

**A CASE STUDY OF NURENI CHISAPANI COMMUNITY  
FOREST USER GROUP, MAKWANPUR, CENTRAL NEPAL**

**RAJENDRA MAN SINGH BHANDARI**

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**APPLYING ADAPTIVE COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT IN NEPAL:  
SILVICULTURE DEMONSTRATION PLOT PERSPECTIVES****RAJENDRA MAN SINGH BHANDARI 4837458 ENRM / M****M.Sc. (NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT)****THESIS ADVISORS: SANSANEE CHOOWAEW, PhD (ENVIRONMENTAL  
PLANNING,), RAYWADEE ROACHANAKANAN, PhD (ECOLOGY, EVOLUTION AND  
SYSTEMATIC), KULVADEE KANSUNTISUKMONGKOL, PhD, (ECOLOGY)****ABSTRACT**

Community forestry is a major and prioritized forestry program in Nepal. Finding an appropriate forest management approach to increase the production of forest products to sustain the livelihood of local people and conservation of forest resources is the dire need of community forest users groups (CFUG). Limited understanding of forest ecosystem dynamics and ever changing social goals and values of community are constraints for sustainable management of community forest resources. This work presents the overall role of a silviculture demonstration plot (SDP) for achieving appropriate forest management. The study examines the similarities and contrasts of SDP management procedures with adaptive management processes, forest conditions after the implementation of SDP activities, and major stakeholders' perception towards SDP.

Both qualitative and quantitative methods were used to collect and analyse the data. A meeting was held with CFUG committee members and forest officials to identify the potential key informants. 31 key informants were selected from CFUG and government forest officials for key informants interview and focus group discussion (FGD). A checklist was used for the conduction of FGD among the 11 key informants to explore the SDP management procedures. 31 key informants were interviewed in five different groups by using a semi structured questionnaire to measure the perception on SDP. Likert scale was used to analyse the result of perception. Sample plots were measured to find out the changes that had occurred in forest conditions in SDP.

The result indicated that SDP management procedures have several similarities with adaptive management processes. The effect of management activities in SDP forest condition was found noteworthy to understand the small scale disturbance on forest vegetation. Major stakeholders considered the SDP as a learning site for forest management methods and to understand the forest stand dynamics as well as community complexities.

The SDP approach in community forest management is a practical approach to generate information about the forest stand dynamic and to encourage discussion among users and government forest officials on forest management and community issues. For CFUG, SDP is an effective means of learning from the application of management options in a small area of forest.

**KEYWORDS: ADAPTIVE FOREST MANAGEMENT / FOREST USERS GROUP /  
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FOREST CONDITION / MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE/ PERCEPTIONS**

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