Sharma, Anuja Raj; Community Forest Division, Department of Forests
anuj128@gmail.com

Authors:
Title: Nepal's Community Forestry for Dualistic development and economic benefits

Community forestry development in Nepal has gradually evolved and expanded over a span of four decades. Initially the programme was designed to replant denuded hills in the rural areas with support from the local villagers. POLICY AND LEGAL changes were made once it was proved that vesting usufruct rights along with the power of decision making ensures participation of community in forest protection and management. So far 22,266 forest user groups are managing 2.24 million hectares of forest in Nepal and that has benefitted 2.9 million households. The FUGS have significantly contributed to reduce forest fires and illegal felling of trees. More than 70 percent of FUG committees have a minimum of 33 percent representation of women and disadvantaged group of people. Nepal government has also initiated to celebrate Community Forest Day at national level. Moreover, it has also established International centre for community Forestry Research at Thokarpa of Sindhupalchok district.

This paper examines the possible impact of community-based forestry practices on income distribution on dualistic development. Without spearheading a specific approach, the paper intends to garner a policy dialogue on the stylized and dualistic development approach. The paper proposes way forward options for further discussion to stimulate policy dialogue to revisit the role of community forestry in socioeconomic development of local communities in general and in particular to targeted communities.