

THE SYNERGY BETWEEN CF AND THE LOCAL USERS, PATHWAY TOWARDS EXCELLENT CONSERVATION PRACTICE.

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Community forestry system has been started from Nepal to manage the easy supply of grass, firewood, wood and forest products needed by the local community. This community forest system has been expanded and developed not only in Nepal, but all over the world. When the community forest campaign has passed four decades, more than 22 thousand 266 community forest consumer groups have been formed in Nepal, in which 29 lakh 7 thousand 871 households have been organized and 22 lakh 37 thousand 670 hectares of forest area is under the protection of community forest. What is clear from this data is that the campaign to protect, enhance and utilize forests through community forests in Nepal is bringing about a big and positive change in forest protection. In addition, by protecting biological diversity, herbs, etc., local development has also been supported.

Before the establishment of community forests, 39.6 percent of the total land area was forested, and the practice of protecting and promoting forests has been developed through the activism of local communities. After the transfer of forests to communities, this area has increased to 47 percent. The growth and expansion of Nepal's forest area is a historical achievement of community forestry and it is also a vivid proof of the meaningful participation of local communities in forestry.

Tulsipur Sub-Metropolitan Ward No. 8 Batolpur, the empty land of Patukhola Bagar is now registered as a Mayalu community forest. After 28 households of Tharu community of Batolpur started by planting and growing the bagar of Patukhola, today there are 71 households in this community forest spread over 36 hectares. In the initial stage, the people around them used to joke about what they had done. According to Pravin Choudhary, president of Mayalu Community Forest, consumers used to have to go far to get the necessary wood, firewood and grass, nowadays it has become very easy. In the same way, the history of protection of Srijana Mahila Community Forest on the banks of Batolpura Bhamke river is similar to that of Mayalu Community Forest and it is protected in lauro palo system, President Sharma Kumari Chaudhary said.

Similarly, Baibang Women's Community Forest located in Dangisharan Rural Municipality Ward No. 4 of Dang District is a community forest led by women only. 30 years ago, the banks of the Babai River were barren and flat, but today they are green. At the initial stage, with the help of various organizations, the sisters and brothers of the village organized a tree planting program. With the campaign to

beautify Nanga Dada and plains, the committee has moved forward rapidly and currently, in the community forest spread over 13 hectares, various species of trees and birds can be seen in abundance. There are about 216 households in the forest and it is very easy for firewood today.

According to Kamala Khadka, the president of the forest group, today the community forest has not only been completed in a natural way, but also financially. In the beginning, even the forest watchers were forced to pay their salaries, but today they have collected about 7 lakhs. The money which has been used by the consumer through Ghumtikosh.

30 years ago, a big fair used to be held at Shubhkoti hill in Tulsipur sub-metropolitan ward number 18, Manikapur. There is now a dense forest on the same hill where the fair is held. Jwala Poudel, the former president of the community forest, said that there are plants such as harro, barro, amla, khair, mango, tik, kaiyo etc. in the forest. Residents of Shubhkoti Community Forest with an area of seven hectares have been consuming wood, firewood and grass after registering with the forest office.

More than 5,000 saplings have been planted in Pakre Community Forest in Tulsipur sub-metropolitan city-19. Muralidhar KC, President of Community Forests, said that more than 4,000 of the plants planted are in the condition of consuming grass, fruit, wood and firewood. He said that before the community forest registration, the vacant area was about 8 hectares, but now only one hectare is vacant for planting. Raksha Kafle, Secretary of the Local Forest Federation Tulsipur, said that as plantations are increasing in vacant areas and community forests, drinking water sources are being protected. Nepal's community forest program has become a model school in the world today. Most of the forest area transferred to the community is in the middle hills and the least forest area is in Terai. Because, the expansion and development of community forest has been more in the central hilly area, while the Terai forest is under the control of the Ministry of Forestry and Land Conservation. There is no development and expansion of forests in Terai. What this shows is that there is no alternative to community-based community forestry to control the growth, development and erosion of the forest area.

Therefore, as many forest areas as the future destination community can protect, all of them should be transferred to the community itself. It is necessary to raise the dignity of community forests to a higher level in order to move forward on the path of economic prosperity by establishing forest-based enterprises through sustainable management of forests.

