

SHORT COMMUNICATION

Impact of the market price information system on the sustainable provision of non-timber forest products in Western Nepal

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ABSTRACT

The present study was carried out in Dolpa, Salyan, and Banke districts of Nepal to determine the function of MPIS in NTFP distribution among usufructs and long-term sustainable NTFP management. Vegetables, Fruits, fish, nuts, medicinal herbs, gum, lac, resins, essences, and a variety of barks and fibers including Rattans, Bamboo and other grasses and palms are all considered NTFP. Because they serve various purposes, people gather and sell these items. Usufructs must be aware of the market and price of NTFPs in order to conserve the forest and cultivate and harvest non-timber forest products on time. The exploratory research design and cross-sectional descriptive served as the foundation for the investigation. Data from 466 respondents was gathered using a mixed strategy. The respondents were chosen by straightforward random selection procedure, as well as the data was gathered using a structured questionnaire survey. According to the analysis, MPIS performed terribly when it came to benefit sharing and NTFP sustainable management. Since the Market Price Information System (MPIS) provides usufructs with information on the price and market of NTFP, the study's goal is to determine how well MPIS works in Nepal for benefit sharing and sustainable NTFP management. Fewer people were urged to participate in the NTFPs sustainable management, and even fewer profited from learning about their prices. As a result, this study has created and suggests the MPIS process for sustainable NTFP management in order to significantly enhance the current market price information system and inform buyers, usufructs, and other stakeholders about expanding their access to formal channels for NTFP management.

Keywords: Market-Price Information System (MPIS), NTFP (Non-timber forest Products), Sustainable Management, Usufructs, CFUGs (Community Forest User Group)

Plants or plant parts that are deemed valuable enough for consumption or commercial purposes to motivate their removal from the forests are known as Non-timber Forest products, or NTFPs. Plants and their derivatives are utilized for fuel, food, fodder and storage, biochemical and medicinal purposes. Additionally, animals such as fish, birds, and reptiles are utilized for their feathers and food (Adepoju and Salau, 2007). NTFPs can be produced in forest plantations and agroforestry projects, or they can be collected from the trees outside of forests or in the wild (Carr *et al.*, 2008). Because of its high cultural and economic value in developing nations, Non-timber forest products or NTFPs are becoming more and more important (Inglehart and Baker, 2001). When it came to the effect of industry growth on regional sustainability, researchers discovered that non-timber forest products were significantly reducing household poverty and improving the livelihoods and food security of locals (Schunko *et al.*, 2019; Thanh *et al.*, 2020; Taghouti, *et al.*, 2021). For rural residents, NTFPs are significant sources of employment and income, and some are even traded internationally (Akinnifesi *et al.*, 2005).

NTFPs include nuts, vegetables, medicinal plants, fish and game, essences, resins, and a variety of barks and fibers like rattans, bamboo, and a host of other grasses and palms that are used for various purposes. Consequently, people collect and sell them (Rawal and Kumar, 2020). The gathering of NTFPs is a significant economic activity in almost every tropical nations. NTFP processing and collecting provide excellent work opportunities for millions of individuals throughout Asia Pacific. In India, over 7.5 million people work part-time as collectors of Tendu (*Diospyrus melanoxylon*) leaves, with another 3 million processing the leaves to Bidi. NTFPs have a large market in Nepal, India, and other nations. In Nepal, there are around 700 plant species of medicinal value, of which 238 are utilized actively and 100 are marketed. The Government of Nepal has

prioritized 30 species, 12 of which are for commercial production and market promotion (Banjade and Paudel, 2008). NTFPs are becoming increasingly popular in national and worldwide markets since they are key constituents in a variety of herbal cosmetics, herbal teas, foods, and medications. According to a 1995 survey of NTFP producers, traders, and processors working from the country's eastern border to the mid-western town of Nepalgunj, 100 entrepreneurs handled 42 thousand tons of over 100 distinct NTFP commodities, amounting to USD 26 million (Banjade and Paudel, 2008). The management of NTFP has received growing attention in recent years. NTFPs are given a high priority in Nepal's forest policy and overall development plans. In general, intermediaries have control over price information. The mistrust and non-transparent nature of the pricing reporting process, controlled by a few dominant purchasers in pricing and marketing, and the production of irregularity in demand from the ultimate buyers/processors are impeding the utilization of NTFP resources (Bhatta, and Rawal, 2001). The current unsustainable collecting practices, which are generally unregulated, are the result of not just the collectors' lack of awareness of the plants and their environment, but also of inadequate price information transmission. The primary goal of NTFP collectors is to obtain accurate market and pricing information. The Interim Plan of Government of Nepal also recognizes that Nepal doesn't have sufficient knowledge of NTFPs to use them as a significant means for reducing poverty. As a result, action research plans are chosen for programs to get more knowledge about conservation, advancement of cultivation technology, promotion and marketing of high-value NTFPs (Banjade and Paudel, 2008). To overcome this gap, the current study recommends the most effective use of the Market Price Information System (MPIS) for long-term NTFP management in the western Nepali districts of Dolpa, Salyan, and Banke. The current study aims to assess the MPIS's strengths, shortcomings, opportunities, and

threats. The study advised revisions and adjustments for replicating and implementing the current MPIS in additional Nepalese districts.

The study was carried out in Banke, Salyan, and Dolpa districts (Nepal), which represent the three geographical layers: hill, mountain, and plain region in year 2017-18 & 2018-19 during the research from Mewar University, Gangrar, Chittorgarh, Rajasthan, India. During the investigation, 466 respondents were picked for the survey using a simple random sample procedure. The study looked at usufructs' awareness and access to MPIS of NTFPs, present MPIS practice, MPIS efficacy, and the difficulties and opportunities for equitable distribution of NTFPs across usufructs. The cross-sectional study design was used, and the data was collected and analyzed quantitatively. The questionnaire was meant to identify important obstacles and impediments to fair usufruct distribution, and some observation and discussion were conducted in parallel to learn about the real practice of MPIS and its usefulness in the practice of usufructs in sustainable NTFP management.

Evaluate users' knowledge and accessibility to MPIS

Market price information system (MPIS) is more technical issue; basically, developed in online system. In this context, it is not so easy to access on MPIS and its use for the people who are living in the rural areas. There is need of internet facility and adequate knowledge of internet search among the usufructs to collect the information regarding MPIS. In relations to the MPIS of NTFP, the study was measured the knowledge and accessibility of usufructs on MPIS in Nepalese context.

Name of NTFPs that was produced or sold by Usufructs

This research was conducted in three districts, Dolpa, Salyan and Banke where all 27 NTFPs is being produced and traded. Among these NTFPs Timur is being produced and traded by highest proportion of the respondents (50.9%) followed by Mentha (34.3%), Chamomile (10.1%), Aduwa

(8.4%), Rittha (6.2%), Lemon Grass (3.9%) and other listed NTFPs is also being produced and traded but in less amount.

Timur (85.9%), Aduwa (13%) and Rittha (10.7%) are the most produced and traded NTFPs in Salyan while in case of Banke, Mentha (88.3%), Chamomile (26.1%) and Lemon Grass (10%) are the most produced and traded NTFPs. In case of Dolpa, 68.8 produced Gucchi Chyau followed by 56.3% produced Kunti. 50% of Dolpa also reported that they produced Jatamasi and 43.8% produced Kurilo. 14 out of 15 retailers reportedly said they trade Aduwa and 12 out of 15 retailers were found to trade Timur (Table 1). Sundriyal *et al.* (2004) reported that *Spondias axillaris* was sold in highest quantity and more retailers were also involved in business of species *Machilus edulis*, *Diplazium esculentum*, *Eleagnus latifolia*, *Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*, and *Baccaurea sapida* as edible wild plant. Saha and Sundriy (2012) also concluded that the 76 NTFPs species sold in the market in the form of plant parts and processed product in the highest quantity. Few other species such as *Juglans regia* (135 kg @ Rs. 10–15 kg⁻¹), *Diplanzium esculentum* (124 kg @ Rs. 5 bundle⁻¹) were sold commonly in Bomdila market.

We are living in the age of communication, so people can obtain information quickly from one location to another. People use internet media to get information quickly, yet not everyone has equal access to online media or communication opportunities. In such cases, they contact their friends, neighbours, or any relevant office and personally visit to obtain the information.

In regard to NTFP information, forest user groups were questioned on information sources. All kinds of producers and consumers have the same issue of not knowing the true cost of a commodity or service. The actual farmers and producers are not receiving the true price for their commodities due to misinformation about the market pricing. According to statistics in

Table 2, 63.3% of people in total learned about the NTFP MPIS from a friend. A small percentage of respondents (10.1%) mentioned the name of a government office as a source of information, while 56.9% obtained information from the CFUG.

MPIS encourages participation in NTFPs' sustainable initiatives

From the standpoint of protecting NTFP, particularly herbal plants, and increasing usufruct revenue, sustainable management of NTFP is crucial. Herbal plants are one of the many natural resources found in Nepal. The introduction of MPIS promotes responders to handle the NTFPs sustainably, as shown in Table 3. 20.2 per cent of respondents were encouraged to direct NTFP seeding, followed by "encourage me to establish nursery of NTFPs" (12.7%), "encourage me to conservation/enrichment of natural seedlings and plants" (5.6%), "encourage me to conservation/enrichment of NTFPs and other tree species" (3.3%), "encourage me to plant the seedlings in appropriate places of the community forest" (4.7%), "encourage me to protect the NTFPs during the community forest cleaning operation" (1.8%), "encourage me to use appropriate technology during harvesting" (1.8%), and "provides information on the right time of the harvesting adopted (different parts of the day or season)" (2.2%), encouraged me to use acceptable harvesting equipment (.7%), "provided proper drying techniques (not under direct sun or fire)" (1.3%), and "encouraged me to use appropriate and safe place of storing" (1.1%). The majority of respondents who stated that the MPIS's launch had inspired them in some ways were CFUG members and those from Banke. Nobody feels that MPIS is effective in NTFP administration and benefit sharing in the Dolpa district. The results of the finding were supported by Rawal and Kumar (2020), who observed and recommended the need to establish the effective MPIS for sustainable management of NTFPs.

MPIS made it simple to obtain NTFP pricing information

Table 4 shows the respondents' opinions regarding whether the MPIS's launch has made it easier for them to obtain NTFPS pricing information. Of the total respondents, only 2.6% responded "Yes." Regarding Banke, Salyan, and Dolpa, 93.9 per cent, 99.6 per cent, and 100 per cent of the respondents, respectively, stated that the MPIS's launch makes it difficult for them to obtain NTFP pricing information, while no retailer feels that the MPIS's introduction has made it simple for them. A similar result was reported by Rawal and Kumar (2020) also revealed that MPIS is useful for getting the information for judicious prices of NTFP.

The necessity of NTFP's MPIS sustainability

For rural residents who are more reliant on the forest for their income, NTFPs have proved essential. The significance of NTFP for people's livelihoods has also been demonstrated in earlier literature. NTFPs, including as fuel wood, medicinal plants, wild edible crops, building materials, etc., are essential to daily livelihood activities, particularly for tribal people, according to Sarmah *et al.* (2006). Forests, including non-timber forest products (NTFPs), are an important source of food, economic, social, ecological, and cultural values for those who depend on them in rural tropical areas (Sardeshpande and Shackleton, 2019; Kazungu *et al.*, 2020; Shackleton and de Vos, 2022; Chervier *et al.*, 2024). According to the current analysis, one of the consistent revenue streams for forest users is NTFP. While there is no efficient MPIS for NTFP, the income from NTFP is used to handle the basic requirements of rural communities. In general, residents of high-lying areas like Dolpa are far removed from MPIS and other trustworthy information sources. Because buyers, particularly middlemen, set the price, they were receiving a very low price for their NTFP. Thus, in the Nepalese context, the study has recognized the necessity of maintaining the MPIS of NTFP. According to a study by Shit and Pati (2012), NTFPs—a type of forest resource—are crucial for preserving the socioeconomic and ecological

safety net of forest inhabitants. According to their research, practically every forest inhabitant depends in one way or another on forest products other than lumber. It is also noted that 63% of people who live in forests rely on them for their financial well-being.

By increasing MPIS's efficacy, the current study has demonstrated the necessity of NTFP management that is sustainable. Usufructs must have a thorough understanding of NTFP cultivation, harvesting, and distribution in order to manage the crop effectively and maintain it over time. In order to effectively administer the NTFPs, the usufructs have reported a few social and technological issues. They discussed some of the obstacles to the sustainable management of NTFPs, including the absence of a market system for setting prices, the dominance of middlemen and traders, the inaccessibility of large markets, the lack of awareness of NTFP prices, the lack of appropriate knowledge of NTFPs, the inaccessibility of MPIS, water scarcity, low market prices, etc. Therefore, the Nepali government should concentrate on finding solutions to these issues. Every participant in the key informant interview and questionnaire survey acknowledged the significance and impact of NTFP on rural residents' socioeconomic standing. Respondents thought that the information provided by several groups, like the Asian

Network on Sustainable Agriculture and Bio-resources (ANSAB) and the Jadibuti Association of Nepal (JABAN), was insufficient and untrustworthy. When the MPIS was introduced, 91.2% of respondents claimed that market price information was opaque. For the sustainable management of NTFPs and to boost the access of buyers, usufructs, and other stakeholders to formal channels, the current market price information system needs to be greatly improved.

Based on analysis of quantitative and qualitative data, it found that current practice of MPIS is not effective. Still, there was negotiation process to determine the price of NTFPs. Basically, in the rural setting where people are yet to have facilities and infrastructure, communication and transportation. Especially in Dolpa district, the access to information, similarly, information system was weak than the Salyan and Banke districts because of its difficult geographical setting. Thus, the results show that the existing MPIS for NTFPs have not been so effective to provide the market price information to usufruct. Moreover, it has also not been a reliable source of information because very few usufructs believed on price list published in the website of existing MPIS. Thus, this study has developed the process of sustainable management of NTFP through MPIS as follows:

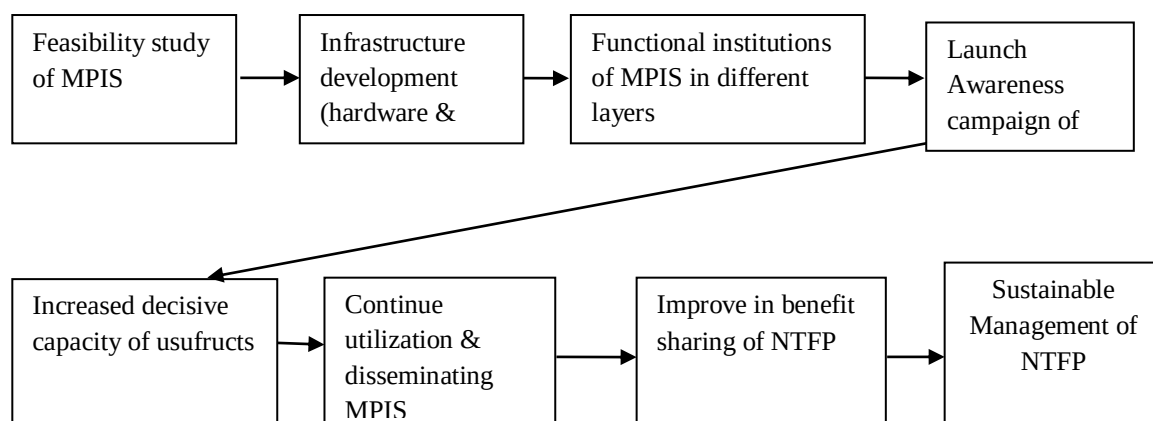


Figure: Process of sustainable management of NTFP through MPIS

One powerful tool of modern technology that may quickly and effectively gather and distribute pricing and market information for

specific items is the market price information system. For rural residents, non-timber forest products constitute a reliable source of

income over the long term. The majority of the High Mountain and hill inhabitants rely on forest products as a source of income. For them, the forest products are valuable since they may be utilized both as food for everyday consumption and as medicine to treat a variety of illnesses. Therefore, it is vitally crucial to manage, distribute, and sustain them properly. The study examined the function of MPIS in long-term sustainable management of NTFP and benefit sharing of usufructs. Geographic context and variety must be taken into account in this case. The essential infrastructure, including the hardware and software, should be constructed based on the findings of the feasibility study. From an economic and technological standpoint, this is a crucial time for the country, thus it requires a sufficient budget as well as experienced personnel to carry out the task efficiently and on schedule.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT

The author declare that he has no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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Table 1: Name of NTFPs that was produced or sold by Usufructs

Types of NTFPs	Total		District						Type of Respondent				Gender			
			Banke		Salyan		Dolpa		CFUG Member		Retailer		Female		Male	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
A. Please tell me the name of NTFPs that you produce or sell																
<i>Zanthoxylum piperitum</i> (Timur)	237	50.9	5	2.8	232	85.9	0	0	225	50.0	12	75.0	70	42.4	167	55.5
<i>Mentha piperita</i> (Mentha)	160	34.3	159	88.3	1	.4	0	0	156	34.7	4	25.0	68	41.2	92	30.6
<i>Matricaria chamomilla</i> L. (Camomole)	47	10.1	47	26.1	0	0	0	0	43	9.6	4	25.0	19	11.5	28	9.3
<i>Zingiber officinale Roscoe</i> (Aaduwa)	39	8.4	4	2.2	35	13.0	0	0	25	5.6	14	87.5	4	2.4	35	11.6
<i>Sapindus mukorossi</i> (Ritha)	29	6.2	0	0	29	10.7	0	0	28	6.2	1	6.3	9	5.5	20	6.6
<i>Asparagus racemosus</i> (Kurilo)	18	3.9	9	5.0	2	.7	7	43.8	11	2.4	7	43.8	6	3.6	12	4.0
<i>Cymbopogon flexuosus</i> (Lemon Grass)	18	3.9	18	10.0	0	0	0	0	14	3.1	4	25.0	10	6.1	8	2.7
<i>Aconitum heterophyllum</i> (Attish)	14	3.0	6	3.3	5	1.9	3	18.8	2	.4	12	75.0	4	2.4	10	3.3
<i>Aconitum heterophyllum</i> (Jatamasi)	14	3.0	4	2.2	2	.7	8	50.0	8	1.8	6	37.5	5	3.0	9	3.0
<i>Emblica officinalis</i> (Amala)	13	2.8	7	3.9	6	2.2	0	0	4	.9	9	56.3	1	.6	12	4.0
<i>Morchella esculenta</i> (L.) (Gucchi Chyau)	12	2.6	1	.6	0	0	11	68.8	10	2.2	2	12.5	7	4.2	5	1.7
<i>Picorrhiza kurroa</i> (Kutni)	11	2.4	1	.6	1	.4	9	56.3	8	1.8	3	18.8	5	3.0	6	2.0
<i>Sapindus trifolatus</i> (Sutho)	11	2.4	0	0	11	4.1	0	0	3	.7	8	50.0	1	.6	10	3.3
<i>Swertia Chirayita</i> (Chiraita)	9	1.9	0	0	3	1.1	6	37.5	7	1.6	2	12.5	3	1.8	6	2.0
<i>Thymus himalayicus</i> (Sithaila)	9	1.9	1	.6	3	1.1	5	31.3	8	1.8	1	6.3	5	3.0	4	1.3
<i>Rheum australe</i> Padam (Chal)	7	1.5	1	.6	1	.4	5	31.3	4	.9	3	18.8	2	1.2	5	1.7
<i>Cymbopogon martini</i> (Palmonora)	7	1.5	0	0	1	.4	6	37.5	6	1.3	1	6.3	6	3.6	1	.3
<i>Acorus calamus</i> (Bhojho)	6	1.3	2	1.1	3	1.1	1	6.3	1	.2	5	31.3	2	1.2	4	1.3
<i>Cinnamomum glaucescens</i> (Sughandha Kokila)	6	1.3	1	.6	2	.7	3	18.8	4	.9	2	12.5	1	.6	5	1.7
<i>Cinnamomum zeylanicum</i> (Dalchini)	5	1.1	1	.6	4	1.5	0	0	0	0	5	31.3	1	.6	4	1.3
<i>Senegalia rugata</i> (Sikakai)	5	1.1	1	.6	0	0	4	25.0	4	.9	1	6.3	0	0	5	1.7
<i>Parnassia nubicola</i> (Nirmashi)	4	.9	0	0	0	0	4	25.0	3	.7	1	6.3	4	2.4	0	0
<i>Bergenia ligulata</i> (Pakhan Bed)	4	.9	2	1.1	2	.7	0	0	0	0	4	25.0	0	0	4	1.3
<i>Berberis aristata</i> (Daruhalidi)	3	.6	0	0	3	1.1	0	0	0	0	3	18.8	1	.6	2	.7
<i>Machilus odoratissima</i> (Kaulo cover)	3	.6	0	0	0	0	3	18.8	3	.7	0	0	3	1.8	0	0
<i>Paris polyphylla</i> (Satuwa)	3	.6	0	0	0	0	3	18.8	3	.7	0	0	3	1.8	0	0

<i>Butea monosperma</i> (Paltis)	3	.6	0	0	0	0	3	18.8	3	.7	0	0	3	1.8	0	0
<i>Pistacia integerrima</i> (Kakarsinghi)	2	.4	0	0	2	.7	0	0	0	0	2	12.5	1	.6	1	.3
<i>Ficus religiosa</i> (Pipal)	2	.4	2	1.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	12.5	0	0	2	.7
<i>Asparagus racemosus</i> (SatuwaJara)	2	.4	0	0	1	.4	1	6.3	0	0	2	12.5	1	.6	1	.3
<i>Valeriana jatamansi</i> Jones (Sugandhawal)	2	.4	0	0	0	0	2	12.5	2	.4	0	0	1	.6	1	.3
<i>Ophiocordyceps sinensis</i> (Yarsagumba)	2	.4	0	0	0	0	2	12.5	2	.4	0	0	2	1.2	0	0
<i>Dactylorhiza hatagirea</i> (Panchaunle)	2	.4	0	0	0	0	2	12.5	2	.4	0	0	2	1.2	0	0
<i>Garcinia pedunculata</i> (Amalbed)	1	.2	1	.6	0	0	-	-	1	.2	0	0	0	0	1	.3
<i>Ephedra gerardiana</i> (Somlata)	1	.2	0	0	0	0	1	6.3	1	.2	0	0	0	0	1	.3
<i>Mimosa rubicaulis</i> (Sajaige)	1	.2	0	0	0	0	1	6.3	1	.2	0	0	1	.6	0	0

Source: Field Survey, 2017-18 N = Number of respondents

Source of NTFP MPIS information

Table 2: Information Source for MPIS of NTFPs

Source of Information of MPIS NTFPs	Total		District						Type of Respondent				Gender			
			Banke		Salyan		Dolpa		CFUG Member		Retailer		Female		Male	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Friends	295	63.3	60	33.3	223	82.6	12	75.0	283	62.9	12	75.0	95	57.6	200	66.4
Community Forest User Groups (CFUG)	265	56.9	153	85.0	107	39.6	5	31.3	264	58.7	1	6.3	107	64.8	158	52.5
Government office	47	10.1	1	.6	43	15.9	3	18.8	43	9.6	4	25.0	11	6.7	36	12.0
NGO staff	31	6.7	15	8.3	15	5.6	1	6.3	29	6.4	2	12.5	10	6.1	21	7.0
Newspapers/magazines	20	4.3	15	8.3	5	1.9	0	0	16	3.6	4	25.0	7	4.2	13	4.3
Radio	16	3.4	9	5.0	6	2.2	1	6.3	5	1.1	11	68.8	3	1.8	13	4.3
Wholesale business man	16	3.4	3	1.7	10	3.7	3	18.8	8	1.8	8	50.0	2	1.2	14	4.7
From CFUG president	7	1.5	4	2.2	0	0	3	18.8	7	1.6	0	0	3	1.8	4	1.3
Internet/ website	3	.6	1	.6	2	.7	0	0	0	0	3	18.8	0	0	3	1.0
From India	2	.4	2	1.1	0	0	0	0	1	.2	1	6.3	0	0	2	.7
Posters/Brochures/Factsheets	1	.2	1	.6	0	0	0	0	1	.2	0	0	1	.6	0	0

Source: Field Survey, 2017-18 N = Number of respondents

Table 3: Encouraged to participate in NTFPs' sustainable activities by MPIS

Encouraged by MPIS to involve in sustainable activities of NTFPs	Total		District						Type of Respondent				Gender			
			Banke		Salyan		Dolpa		CFUG Member		Retailer		Female		Male	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Encourage me to direct seeding of the NTFP	92	20.2	88	48.9	4	1.1	0	0	90	20.5	2	13.3	42	26.9	50	16.7
Encourage me to establish Nursery of NTFP	57	12.7	57	31.7	0	0	0	0	55	12.6	2	13.3	24	15.4	33	11.2
Encourage me to conservation/enrichment of natural seedlings and plants	25	5.6	25	13.9	0	0	0	0	25	5.7	0	0	11	7.1	14	4.8
Encourage me to conservation/enrichment of NTFPs and other tree species	15	3.3	15	8.3	0	0	0	0	15	3.4	0	0	6	3.8	9	3.1
Encourage me to plantation of the seedlings in appropriate places of the community forest	21	4.7	21	11.7	0	0	0	0	21	4.8	0	0	11	7.1	10	3.4
Encourage me to safe guard the NTFPs during the cleaning operation of community forest	8	1.8	8	4.4	0	0	0	0	8	1.8	0	0	5	3.2	3	1.0
Encourage me to used appropriate technology during harvesting	8	1.8	8	4.4	0	0	0	0	8	1.8	0	0	3	1.9	5	1.7
Provides information on right time of the harvesting adopted (different parts of the day or season)	10	2.2	10	5.6	0	0	0	0	10	2.3	0	0	5	3.2	5	1.7
Provided right techniques of drying (not under direct sun or fire)	6	1.3	6	3.3	0	0	0	0	6	1.4	0	0	2	1.3	4	1.4
Encourage me to use appropriate tools of harvesting were used	3	.7	3	1.7	0	0	0	0	3	.7	0	0	1	.6	2	.7
Encourage me to use appropriate and safe place of storing	5	1.1	5	2.8	0	0	0	0	5	1.2	0	0	2	1.3	3	1.0

Source: Field Survey, 2017-18 N = Number of respondents

Table 4. MPIS made it simple to obtain NTFP pricing information.

Made easiness to get the price information of NTFPs by MPIS		District			Type of Respondent		Gender		Total
		Banke	Salyan	Dolpa	CFUG Member	Retailer	Female	Male	
Yes	N	11	1	0	12	0	7	5	12
	%	6.1%	.4%	0.0%	2.7%	0.0%	4.2%	1.7%	2.6%
No	N	169	269	16	438	16	158	296	454
	%	93.9%	99.6%	100.0%	97.3%	100.0%	95.8%	98.3%	97.4%
Total	N	180	270	16	450	16	165	301	466
	%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: Field Survey, 2017-18 N = Number of respondents