

**ANNOTATED  
BIBLIOGRAPHY  
ON FOOD SOVEREIGNTY  
IN NEPAL**



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## **ON FOOD SOVEREIGNTY IN NEPAL**

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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

Food, water, and air are the basic and foremost things that everyone needs for their survival. Soil, sunlight, and fire are also important for living creatures. The Mother Earth has provided all these things for all creatures; and human being have utilized them properly. Mostly nature, including the sun, has provided these things for easy survival of all the creatures on earth. However, the issues of food sovereignty, access to water, ecosystem preservation, agro-ecological biodiversity, climate-resilient agro-production, migration, and conflict have emerged as central themes in latest debate and discourse nationally and internationally.

Here, food security is the topic of focus and description and analysis from ethno-centric or human-centric perspective. Human beings need food in broader perspective, but what is more crucial is the type of food and the quality of food they consume. They have various food needs—cereals, food-grains, vegetable, lentil, oilseed, spices, and fruits. These are essential and inalienable components for living. Human beings also eat meat of different animals and birds that are also vital for their health.

The right to food sovereignty (Article 36) has been enshrined in the Constitution of Nepal, 2015 as one of the fundamental rights. The easy availability or easy access of food would mitigate conflicts and migration as well as support restoring and establishing peace and



harmony in nations and the world. Thus, right to food is not only a basic and inevitable right but also assumes great socio-political significance.

Food sovereignty has been a prominent topic of debate in Nepal since the process of drafting of the Constitution by the Constituent Assembly (CA) I, from 2007 onwards. This debate gained key momentum during CA II, and it was ultimately enshrined in the Constitution. The Constitution has made the provision of guaranteeing food security for everyone—‘right to get protection from the risk of food scarcity’ and ‘right to food sovereignty’. The terms ‘food security’ and ‘food sovereignty’ are not interchangeable; food sovereignty encompasses a broader perspective within which food security fits is situated. There are couple of Acts in Nepal focused on food sovereignty. The Right to Food and Food Sovereignty Act, 2075 BS (2018), Food Act, 2023 BS (1967), and Food Hygiene and Quality Act, 2081 BS (2024) have guaranteed the right to food and food sovereignty of the people equally. The Food Hygiene and Quality Act, 2081 BS (2024) has been a milestone for ensuring food hygiene and quality control so as to protect the people/consumer from unhygienic and inconsumable food.

A common problem faced by aspiring researchers, students, intellectuals, and activists is the lack of accessible reference materials on food sovereignty. On the one hand, there is significant gap in the easy availability of relevant literature; and on the other, there is limited information and guidance about existing resources. To address this gap, this preliminary bibliography designed to initiate further scholarly engagement on food sovereignty aims to explore the topic and provides a bibliography with a brief annotation for aspiring researchers, professors, intellectuals, right to food (RtF) activists, and students of agriculture and food technology.

The outcome of this research is the ***Annotated Bibliographies on Food Sovereignty in Nepal*** at hand with an adequate research and reference materials related to food security and sovereignty, including conceptual contributions on food sovereignty and interrelated issues of climate change and migration and a few seminal studies from other countries. The basic focus of this exploration has been directed to the literature written by Nepali writers on food security and/or food sovereignty as well as foreign writers/authors writing about Nepali context and food environment, its impact on peacebuilding or potential for fueling conflicts, and pull/push factors for migration as well as climate resilience. Besides being useful to researchers, this research is expected to advance further policy advocacy initiatives and support formulating further relevant policy on it at national and sub-national level.

## 1.2 Purpose/Objectives

This research aims to provide a comprehensive bibliography on food sovereignty; food security and agriculture production and food cycle-related literature with brief annotations. Brief synopsis of each source material in an annotated version taking from abstract and other content has been prepared. Additionally, brief background, introduction, problem statement, purpose, research methodology, finding research trends, its impact of and on food sovereignty, especially focusing to food security and right to food (RtF), as well as on agro-products, have been described and analyzed. The specific objectives of the research are to:

- a) Prepare a comprehensive bibliography with a brief annotation of literature on food sovereignty, food security and right to food (RtF) published in Nepal either by the Nepali experts/researchers/activists or foreign author(s) writing on food security and sovereignty;
- b) Provide a brief background, introduction, and statement of problem, limitation, and purpose, and research methodology, findings/trend of each journal article, book, report, and newspaper article to serve as a starting point for research work.

### 1.3 Methodology

This research primarily employs an empirical approach. This involved desk review and internet search for relevant references/materials. It included exploring and collecting both softcopy and hardcopy of key works such as books, research articles, and opinion pieces of the *Kantipur* national daily (particularly from the constitution-drafting period) as well as recent articles of *The Kathmandu Post* daily. In addition, research/study reports were gathered from relevant UN and Government of Nepal's line agencies such as Ministry for Agriculture and Livestock Development at Federal Government; Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Food Program (WFP). Office visits were conducted to collect some of these materials along with selected studies from Martin Chautari. The main ideas and objectives of the works were noted, followed by drafting and editing. Only publicly available works have been included in the bibliography. The bibliographies have been presented in chronological order.

## 1.4 Toward a Bibliography on Food Sovereignty in Nepal

Right to food (RtF) movement in Nepal began to emerge before the constitution-drafting process by CA-I that began in 2008 and was finally completed in 2015 by CA II. The issue had already been raised from around 2007 itself, and the formal establishment of the Food First Information and Action Network (FIAN) Nepal in 2008 played a key role in effectively raising the issue of food security and food sovereignty.

Many of the working papers and journal articles collected in this bibliography were published between 1996 to 2015. For instance, Mahesh Kumar Agrawal presented a paper on ‘Status of Trade, Sustainable Development and Gender Issues in Nepal’ in the Pre-UNCTAD Expert Workshop organized from 12-13 July 1999 in Geneva, representing the Nepal Chamber of Commerce. His paper touched on the status of agriculture, tourism, and trade as well as poverty, and contributed to raising global awareness on these issues.

Similarly, C. J. Garforth, Y. B. Malla, R. P. Neupane, and B. H. Pandit co-authored the article ‘Socioeconomic Factors and Agro-Forestry Improvements in the Hills of Nepal’, published in *Mountain Research and Development*, in August 1999. The article examines the interlinked issues of poverty, rural livelihoods, and land management in hillside environments. The article emphasizes that trees, crops, and livestock are integral parts of the complex farming systems on Nepal’s hillsides and that any strategy for soil-fertility improvement needs to take account of the interactions between these components, both on private farmland and communal forest and grazing areas.

In a more recent paper, Robert Fuller and Alex Zahnd published ‘Solar Greenhouse Technology for Food Security: A Case Study of Humla District, NW Nepal’ in November 2012 in *Mountain Research*

*and Development.* The article claims that the food security is a significant issue for many people who live in remote mountain areas around the world. Most of these people are also poor because of the lack of opportunity to earn cash. Malnutrition is common because the harsh climate restricts production and access to fresh food. The paper makes the case that while simple conventional greenhouses can provide some improvement of growing conditions, the benefits are limited because of the high heat losses from these structures.

Krishna Prasad Pant, in his article 'Climate Change and Food Security in Nepal' in *The Journal of Agriculture and Environment* in June 2012, discusses how climate change is posing a threat on present and future food security in low-income countries, but highlights that the actual effect of the climate change on food security is not known. Using secondary data from government sources, the article examines the effects of climate change on food security in Nepal in the context of policies of commercialization.

Organizations such as WFP and FAO have been long active in Nepal, working under the broader UN framework on food security and to reduce poverty and address food insecurity. Other various organizations are also working in Nepal to combat food insecurity and poverty. Many authors including ex-government officials have contributed to the discourse on food security, climate justice, as well as migration, and thus contributing to peace-building, mitigating conflict for the long run. Most recent literatures focus on migration as well as impact of climate change on the issue of food security in Nepal.

## CHAPTER II

# ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

### 2.1 Journal Articles on Food Sovereignty

#### i. **Sustainable Agriculture: Impacts on Food Production and Challenges for Food Security**

Pretty, Jules N., John Thompson, and Fiona Hinchcliffe.  
1996. *Gatekeeper Series No. 60*. International Institute for  
Environment and Development. <https://www.iied.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/migrate/6106IIED.pdf>.

This joint article by Pretty, Thompson, and Hinchcliffe provides an overview of five competing schools of thought on agriculture and food security and focuses on the sustainable intensification of agriculture. Sustainable intensification of agriculture is known to offer significant opportunities to improve food production. Here, for the first time, data from some 63 sustainable agriculture projects and programs have been drawn together to illustrate what can be achieved. These share some common characteristics, with resource-conserving technologies and farmer-centered participatory approaches central to the process. The analysis indicates that at least 1.1 million farmers in rain-fed areas have made the transition to sustainable agriculture. Most of these farmers have made substantial improvements to their per hectare crop yields, many more than doubling yields. An important part of this new evidence is that sustainable agriculture can also enhance people's ability to acquire food and contribute to the regeneration of rural economies. There are



important lessons for agricultural projects and programs. The paper concludes by prioritizing seven immediate investments needed for enhancing productivity and environmental sustainability; and seven more investments needed for ensuring that these help support entitlements for food security.

**Keywords:** *food security, sustainable agriculture, rural economies, investments*

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**ii. Status of Trade, Sustainable Development and Gender Issues in Nepal**

Agrawal, Mahesh Kumar. 1999. *Papers prepared in support of the themes discussed at the Pre-UNCTAD X Expert Workshop on Trade, Sustainable Development and Gender (Geneva, 12-13 July 1999)*. New York and Geneva: United Nations. 435-443.

This paper is the part of presentation on behalf of Nepal by Mahesh Kumar Agrawal, President, Nepal Chamber of Commerce, Kathmandu, at United Nations Conference on Trade and Development-UNCTAD. Agrawal has highlighted Nepal's development policy and resources and their important and positive impact on agriculture, hydroelectric power, tourism, trade, industrial sector but also need for foreign investment in view of poverty in Nepal and issues of gender and development and concludes with recommendations for national-, regional-, and international-level partnerships. It concludes with the logic that the potential benefits to Nepal of stimulating the entrepreneurial activities of women are considered to be very strong and, in order to promote actively the extent and quality of women's entrepreneurship, recommendations are suggested for implementation at national and regional levels. In view of the challenges and potentialities for sustainable development to reduce widespread poverty as reviewed in this paper, a number of issues need to be tackled urgently for which UNCTAD could assist in

identifying appropriate modalities for consultation and action, both at the intergovernmental and the private-sector levels, and that could also enhance the vital contribution which women can make to the economy and society.

**Keywords:** *poverty, gender, agriculture, investment, sustainable development*

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**iii. Socioeconomic Factors and Agro-Forestry Improvements in the Hills of Nepal**

Garforth, C.J, Y.B. Malla, R.P. Neopane, and B.H. Pandit.  
1999. *Mountain Research and Development* 19(3): 273-278.  
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/25164033>.

This article illustrates the socio-economic factors and agro-forestry improvements in the hills of Nepal. Most research relating to agro-forestry in the hills of Nepal has focused on a relatively narrow range of bio-physical issues and problems. The purpose of the paper is to provide information that will guide decision-making by farmers, government departments, and development agencies on the selection, design, and implementation of agro-forestry interventions. However, these decisions are made not only on the basis of biophysical information but within complex social, economic, and institutional environments. Trees, crops, and livestock are integral parts of the complex farming systems on Nepal's hillsides. Any strategy for soil fertility improvement will take account of the interactions between these components, both on private farmland and common property and in public-access forest and grazing areas. This requires a less restricted definition of the scope of agro-forestry than has often been applied previously. Agro-forestry can contribute to soil fertility improvement through increasing the quality and quantity of fodder and hence livestock manure, providing biomass for composting, and slowing the loss of nutrients through runoff. Socio-economic contextual factors that influence the introduction of

agro-forestry innovations include the distribution and fragmentation of landholding, the relative importance of agriculture in household livelihoods, and the gender division of labor and management responsibilities within households. This article adopts qualitative research design and applies desk review and library research method. The article focuses on livelihoods and socio-economic factors—access to resources, household livelihood strategy, gender division of labor and management responsibilities, intra-household allocation of income and farm product, technology adaptation, and informal research by farmers, knowledge and its distribution, communication, and implication for the conduct of agro-forestry research. The article argues that the formal education and entry into public sector research and extension institutions are based on traditional disciplinary lines. It also suggests, ‘scientists are trained in either agriculture or forestry and have little opportunity to develop the skills and experience needed to engage in the interdisciplinary field of agro-forestry’. It concludes that there is also a general lack of socio-economic study within agriculture and forestry curricula. Field-based projects in which students learn actively from members of rural households and communities provide an excellent opportunity for integrating the study of crop, livestock, and tree production within an overall appreciation of the socio-economic factors that help to shape household decisions.

**Keywords:** *agro-forestry improvement, socio-economic factors, training*

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**iv. Efficiency of Timber Production in Community and Private Forestry in Nepal**

Sakurai, Takeshi, Santosh Rayamajhi, Ridish K. Pokharel, and Keijiro Otsuka. 2004. *Environment and Development Economics* 9(4): 539-561. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/44379457>.

This is a joint article of the forestry experts from Nepal and Japan. It deals basically with two hypotheses: (1) collective community management is more efficient than private management for the protection of timber trees; and (2) collective community management is less efficient than private management for the management of the timber trees. Dang District in the Mid- Western Development Region in Nepal was the site for this study. There are a large number of natural *sal* (*Shorea robusta*) forests in this district. Although natural forests are officially owned by the government, the government has been handing over their use rights to communities since the late 1980s, provided that the work plan was submitted and approved. This study compares the management performance of timber production among three management systems in Nepal: private forestry, community forestry with collective management, and community forestry with centralized management. While collective management relies entirely on community labor for the whole management, centralized management uses community labor for the protection of forests and hired labor for silvicultural operations, for example, weeding, pruning, and thinning. It argues that collective community management is less costly for the protection of planted trees but allocates less labor for the management of trees than private management.

**Keywords:** *community forestry, timber production, private forestry*

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**v. Gender, Work and Household Food Security**

Chaudhary, Neetu and D. Parthasarathy. 2007. *Economic and Political Weekly* 42(6): 523-531. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/4419237>.

This research-based article has sought to explore the household roles of men and female of Ashta and Umra villages of Nanded district of Maharashtra, India. The article is mainly focused on the women's role in food security. As mentioned in section four of the article,

crops grown in these two villages are less female labor-intensive not in comparison with the male labor use in these crops but as compared to female labor use in crops like paddy, wheat, maize, etc., grown in other parts of the country. Therefore, female contribution to farm work and hence household food security could actually be much higher in those parts than the values concluded for the rural areas under the study. Quantification of female contribution to food security using the methodology developed in this paper is one of the several ways to understand women's role in the same. The fact that women are 'key' to food security despite being engulfed by severe resource constraints and lack of independence underscores the need for greater access and control over resources for them. It has applied qualitative and quantitative research techniques equally. A combination of participatory rural appraisal and household surveys based on the standardized questionnaire were used to gather information. The article argues that '[f]inally the policy interventions vis-a-vis food security ought to be women-centric and must recognize woman's indispensable role in household food security. There needs to be a special focus on the role of women as separate from that of the whole community'.

**Keywords:** *women's role, household food security*

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**vi. Processes of Internal and International Migration from Chitwan, Nepal**

Bohra, Pratikshya and Douglas S. Massey. 2009. *The International Migration Review* 43(3): 621-651. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/20681723>.

The authors highlight the processes of internal and international migration from Chitwan district, Nepal. The study examines which factors predict internal and international migration from Chitwan, a flat valley located in the south-central region of Nepal, seeking to measure the effect of theoretically specified variables such as human

capital, social capital, physical capital, and neighborhood socio-economic conditions while controlling for demographic variables. The research has adopted data from the Chitwan Valley Family Study to estimate a series of discrete-time event history models of first and repeat migration to three competing destinations: other locations within Chitwan, other districts within Nepal, and places outside of Nepal. Internal and especially international migration from Nepal have been little studied over the years, and despite recent changes, there is general lack of baseline statistical analyses for earlier periods. In order to remedy this situation, the researchers make use of unusually rich and detailed data from a 1996 survey of individuals, households, and neighborhoods conducted in Nepal's Chitwan Valley. The results support hypotheses derived from neoclassical economics, the theory of new economics of migration, social capital theory, and cumulative causation theory. The results underscore the need for a synthetic theoretical model that incorporates factors operating at the individual, household, and community levels. The use of multiple explanatory models yields a clearer picture of the forces driving internal and international migration from rural districts in developing nations such as Nepal.

**Keywords:** *migration drivers, internal migration, international migration*

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**vii. Women and Gendered Politics of Food**

Shiva, Bandana. 2009. *Philosophical Topics* 37(2): 17-32.  
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/43154554>.

In this article, Bandana Shiva refers to Malthusian theory and suggests that there is a natural tendency for population growth to surpass that of all possible means of production, mainly in land and, in turn, in food output. In fact, while the former grows geometrically, the latter increases arithmetically. Progress can play a role in increasing land productivity, but Malthus emphasizes that its rate

‘is slow and hesitant’. As a result, a growing share of the population would be subject to miserable hunger. In this context, death is regarded as the only factor capable of rebuilding the equilibrium between the population and resources. From seed to table, the food chain is gendered. When seeds and food are in women’s hands, seeds reproduce and multiply freely, food is shared freely and respected. However, women’s seed and food economy has been discounted as ‘productive work’. Women’s seed and food knowledge has been discounted as knowledge. Globalization has led to the transfer of seed and food from women’s hands to corporate hands. Seed is now patented and genetically engineered. It is treated as the creation and ‘property’ of corporations like Monsanto. Renewable seed becomes nonrenewable. Sharing and saving seed becomes a crime. Diversity, nourished by centuries of women’s breeding, disappears and with it the culture and natural evolution that is embodied in the diversity is lost forever. Food, too, is transformed in corporate hands. It is no longer our nourishment; it becomes a commodity.

**Keywords:** *women, seed, globalization*

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**viii. Trade Liberalization and Food Security in Nepal**

Pyakuryal, Bishwambher, Devesh Roy, and Y.B. Thapa. 2010. *Food Policy* 35(1): 20-31. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0306919209001080>.

This is a very crucial contribution by the authors, which includes senior economist Dr Bishwambhar Pyakuryal. Among South Asian countries, Nepal liberalized most extensively during the 1980s and 1990s on both domestic and external fronts. In South Asia, Nepal has the lowest per capita income, highest dependence of population on agriculture, and second highest poverty rate. At the same time, Nepal has the lowest average tariffs in South Asia and has taken several steps to downsize its public food distribution system and remove a host of agricultural subsidies. The outcomes from these policy

reforms in Nepal are mixed. Aggregate indicators of food sufficiency and security (per capita food availability, extent of malnourishment) show improvement in Nepal since liberalization. Relative to other South Asian countries, Nepal is doing better on some indicators, like extent of undernourished population, while on other indicators, like stunting of children, Nepal is actually doing the worst. More importantly, the gains from liberalization across regions in Nepal have been uneven. The reason for such an uneven outcome is lack of complementary policies from the government that would lead to spatial integration of markets (e.g., the creation of physical and marketing infrastructure). Liberalization has in effect reinforced the ex-ante hierarchy across regions in Nepal. The paper then reviews the role and reform of the Nepal Food Corporation within this broader context.

**Keywords:** *trade liberalization, food security, nutrition, poverty, income*

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**ix. Food Sovereignty: A New Rights Framework for Food and Nature**

Whittman, Hannah. 2011. *Environment and Society* 2: 87-105.  
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/43296988>.

Foods sovereignty, as a critical alternative to the concept of food security, is broadly defined as the right of local peoples to control their own food systems, including markets, ecological resources, food cultures, and production modes. This article reviews the origins of the concept of food sovereignty and its theoretical and methodological development as an alternative approach to food security, building on a growing interdisciplinary literature on food sovereignty in the social and agro-ecological sciences. Specific elements of food sovereignty examined include food regimes, rights-based and citizenship approaches to food and food sovereignty, and the substantive concerns of advocates for this alternative paradigm, including a new



trade regime, agrarian reform, a shift to agro-ecological production practices, attention to gender relations and equity, and the protection of intellectual and indigenous property rights. It argues that the key challenge of theorizing food sovereignty lies in the problem of understanding the 'diversity in unity'. Food sovereignty actions and movements are vibrant, regionally, geographically, politically, and practically diverse, making generalizations difficult about what food sovereignty is or will be in a definitional sense.

**Keywords:** *agrarian citizenship, agro-ecology, food regimes, food security, food sovereignty, right to food*

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**x. Solar Greenhouse Technology for Food Security: A Case Study of Humla District NW Nepal**

Fuller, Robert and Alex Zahnd. 2012. *Mountain Research and Development* 32(4): 411-419. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/mounresedeve.32.4.411>.

This is case study of remote Humla district of Nepal, a mountainous district of north-west Nepal prone to food insecurity. This article describes the experiences of a nongovernmental organization that has been introducing community- and family-owned solar greenhouses into the remote villages of Humla. Solar greenhouses for community or family use offer a real prospect for improved food security and nutrition and, in some cases income generation, for people living in remote mountain areas. The article focuses on food security which is a significant issue for many people who live in remote mountain areas around the world. As most of the mountain people are also poor because of the lack of opportunity to earn cash income, malnutrition is common there as harsh climate restricts production and access to food in the region. The article also highlights that the simple conventional greenhouses can provide some improvement of growing conditions, benefiting a small number of people. This article primarily uses field observation and lived experiences of

the authors and Fuller's measurement of various indicators of the thermal performance of the HARS greenhouse in the winter months (November 2006 – March 2007) and uses some of these data to validate a simulation model of the greenhouse. Measured hourly values of greenhouse soil temperature, internal air temperature, and relative humidity were compared with model predictions based on measured climatic data for one week in November. The validated model was then used to investigate options to improve the thermal performance of the greenhouse. The measurements showed that, in mid-January, during the night time, the subsurface soil temperatures within the greenhouse were approximately 7–9 degree C warmer than at a similar soil level outside. The article examines the report of Secretary General of the United Nations Assembly in its introduction and covers various sub-topics, such as food security, health and poverty, solar greenhouse in remote mountain areas, solar greenhouses in Humla, technical performances, economic evaluation, and community acceptance. The overall outcome of introducing solar greenhouses into the isolated villages of Humla confirms the results of other programs promoting this technology to people living in the mountainous regions of the developing world. Solar greenhouses can be financially viable, assuming most of the materials can be obtained free of charge or at very low cost, and the greenhouse is built in partnership with the owner or the community.

**Keywords:** *greenhouse, mountains, solar energy, food security, northwest Nepal*

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**xi. Climate Change and Food Security in Nepal**

Pant, Krishna Prasad. 2012. *The Journal of Agriculture and Environment* 13: 9-19. <https://doi.org/10.3126/aej.v13i0.7582>.

This is a technical paper that has applied the methodology of literature review and secondary data analysis relating to the climate change and food security in addition to the national policies

relating to the food security directly and indirectly. Statistical and econometric techniques are also used to quantify the results. Climate change is posing a threat on present and future food security in low-income countries. But the actual effect of the climate change on food security is not known. Time-series secondary data were obtained from publications of then Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MoAC) and Department of Hydrology and Meteorology. Food production data for national level and Kapilvastu district were obtained from MoAC. Thus, using secondary data reported by the government, the paper examines the effects of climate change on food security in Nepal in the context of policies of commercialization of farm production. The results are discussed at global, national, household, and individual levels, empirically and qualitatively. The results suggest that a rise in minimum temperature decreases the productivity of rice, increasing threat of food insecurity. The paper suggests some policy measures for improving food security situation in the country and opens up some areas for further research.

**Keywords:** *agriculture, climate change, commercialization, food security*

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**xii. Defining and Achieving Freedom from Hunger: A Right-based Approach**

Ghimire, Saurav. 2013. *Kathmandu School of Law Review* 3: 54-64. <https://kslreview.org/index.php/kslr/article/view/1017>.

This article is based on mainly two myths: (1) there is no sufficient food produced in the world to feed everyone, there are too many people to feed; and (2) hunger is caused by famine and natural disasters which cannot be controlled by people. This article adopts qualitative research approach with the desk review and library research method. It introduces the notions of 'freedom', 'freedom from want', 'freedom from hunger' and dissections the myths of

hunger, relating it to right to food vs distribution of food—availability, accessibility, and adequacy. The article draws attention to the fact that the freedom from hunger is a precondition to exercise other freedoms. However, it should not be misunderstood as distribution of food for free to every citizen. It does mean that the government should create suitable environment: social, economic, and political, which facilitate people to earn the required food. Nevertheless, the government should also come forward to distribute food in case of emergencies and famines when extreme hunger is prevalent. Due regard must be given to cultural acceptability. Right to be free from hunger is part of customary international law. Despite the presence of numerous international instruments and some national guidelines, Nepal has failed to ensure food security to its people. Insufficient implementation of agrarian reform objectives and failure to coordinate food security policies and programs between the capital, regions, districts, and government ministries is one of the many problems. The article concludes that peace cannot exist where the hunger prevails as the former signifies not merely the absence of armed conflict but the establishment of human rights for all people, and no human right is worth anything to a starving person. That is why the freedom from hunger is fundamental to live as a human being and is a necessary part of right to life.

**Keywords:** *freedom from hunger, peace, food security*

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- xiii. **Lived Experiences of Street-Based Female Sex Workers in Kathmandu: Implications for Health Intervention Strategies**  
Basnyat, Iccha. 2014. *Culture, Health and Sexuality* 16(9): 1040-1051. DOI: [10.1080/13691058.2014.922620](https://doi.org/10.1080/13691058.2014.922620).

This research article is based on the lived experiences of street-based female sex workers in Kathmandu and its implication for health intervention strategies. The lived experiences of women sex workers illustrate that sex work is frequently a manifestation of limited

access to education, resources, and jobs due to violence, oppression, and patriarchy. However, for some Nepali sex workers, sex work is a viable form of work that provides food and shelter for their families and allows fulfillment of their duties as mothers. The study was conducted between May and June 2011 in collaboration with a non-profit organization called the Community Action Center (CAC), which operates a voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) clinic in Bhaktapur, about 15 kilometers from Kathmandu. Interviews were conducted in Nepali and lasted between 45 and 90 minutes each. A total of 35 women were interviewed, resulting in 42 recorded hours. The interviews took place in a closed office with only the interviewer and a female sex worker present. Thematic analysis was undertaken following line-by-line open coding, which allowed ideas, meanings, and concepts to emerge from the codes. The findings revealed three themes: (1) surviving through sex work, (2) financial security in sex work, and (3) surviving sex work stigma. This study highlights that sex workers' limited access and fear of using health services and the inadequacy of stressing only condom negotiation and limiting partners as HIV and STI prevention approaches. Sex workers such as those interviewed in this study prioritize family survival over their own health, such that a discussion about what to choose when faced with limited opportunities needs to become part of future health intervention.

***Keywords: female sex work, mothering, food and shelter, intervention strategies***

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**xiv. Food Sovereignty: Convergence and Contradictions, Conditions and Challenges**

Alonso-Fradejas, Alberto, Saturnino M. Borrás Jr, Todd Holmes, Eric Holt-Gimenez, and Martha Jane Robbins. 2015. *Third World Quarterly* 36(3): 431-448. DOI: 10.1080/01436597.2015.1023567.

This article entitled ‘Food Sovereignty: Convergence and Contradictions, Conditions and Challenges’ introduces this special edition of the journal on food sovereignty. It frames the collection in relation to a broader political and intellectual initiative that aims to deepen academic discussions on food sovereignty. This article argues that food sovereignty, as an alternative food system and a global social movement, has constantly evolved since its launch by the international agrarian movement. Building upon previous and parallel initiatives in ‘engaged academic research’ and following the tradition of ‘critical dialogue’ among activists and academics, the article has identified four key themes, all focusing on the contradictions, dilemmas, and challenges confronting future research: (1) dynamics within and between social groups in rural and urban, global North–South contexts, (2) flex crops and commodities, market insertion, and long-distance trade, (3) territorial restructuring, land, and food sovereignty and (4) the localization problematique. It concludes that the future research challenges remain at international, national, and local scales, as well as at the links between them, while emphasizing the continuing relevance of a critical dialogue between food sovereignty activists and engaged scholars.

**Keywords:** *food sovereignty, food justice, agrarian justice, environmental justice and sovereignty, transnational agrarian*

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**xv. Human Rights and Collective Emancipation: The Politics of Food Sovereignty**

Dunford, Robin. 2015. *Review of International Studies* 41(2): 239-261. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/24564261>.

The article develops contextually grounded accounts of emancipation in general, and notions of collective rights-based emancipation in particular, by identifying a form of emancipatory politics in which collectives demand rights for themselves. The article develops the idea of collective rights-based emancipation by focusing on the practices

of two related social movements, the Landless Workers Movement (MST) and la Via Campesina. The MST and Via Campesina seek to replace existing rights to 'food security' with a human right to 'food sovereignty'. While food security agendas emphasize the role of international governance agencies in providing food on behalf of others, food sovereignty is secured by peasant social movements themselves. This article adopts the desk review and library research techniques as the key to its methodology. The article further highlights the practices of active citizenship and democratic organizational structures, built through the grassroots and transnational struggles through which peasants raise their demand for human rights are vital in enacting rights to food sovereignty. The article draws the conclusion that the importance of collective action in securing rights-based emancipation, Ruth Blakeley's framework (2013) helps overcome a tendency within Critical Security Studies to focus on the dialogic involvement of individuals in the communicative sphere as the key to emancipation. However, it also argues that unless emancipation performed on behalf of victims is supplemented with a focus on cases where agents are able to pursue a collective politics of emancipation on their own behalf, there is a danger that another tendency toward focusing on the emancipation of powerless victims might be reinforced. In different contexts, like that of food security, these elitist tendencies can work to reinforce and reproduce dependence.

**Keywords:** *Critical Security Studies, emancipatory politics, food sovereignty, social movements*

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**xvi. Globalizing Asia and the Politics of Food Security**

Pant, Girijesh. 2015. *World Affairs: The Journal of International Issues* 19(2): 24-43. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.2307/48505230>.

This article is all about the politics of food security in the Asian

Region. It explores Asian food economy and food security and the need to restructure the food regime. It is based on theoretical review and experiences of Asian region. Growing populations and rising middle classes have put the food economy under pressure, especially in Asia where the agricultural sector has been increasingly integrated with the global value chain. Policies widening economic inequality also manifest in the alienation and marginalization of small farmers. Asia is now a major food importer and hence highly vulnerable to international financial crises and abrupt changes in staple food prices, mostly caused by speculators. The food crisis of 2007–2008 unfolded another dimension of the food security agenda. World attention was drawn to the fact that many states had started investing in land overseas to ensure food imports. Financially rich countries faced with food deficits have bought land in poor countries to ensure the food supply chain together with investing in cultivation for biofuel. The rationale being that this would augment global food supplies, check price rises as well as contribute to the economies of poor countries. This article advocates the decentralized empowerment of food producers to break the hegemony of the new liberal regime and suggests that Asian and other developing nations' pool resources to achieve food autonomy, while protecting the environment through shared local knowledge system and technology.

**Keywords:** *food security, food regime, global value chain, decentralized empowerment*

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**xvii. Edible Forest? Rethinking Nepal's Forest Governance in the Era of Food Insecurity**

Adhikari, J., H. Ojha, and B. Bhattarai. 2016. *The International Forestry Review* 18(3): 265-279. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/44132643>.

This article entitled 'Edible Forest: Rethinking Nepal's Forest Governance in the Era of Food Insecurity' explains about the forest



governance and its relation with food in/security. Globally food security is escalating due to a variety of contextual factors, including low food production, the inequitable distribution of arable land resources, rapid increase in food prices and fluctuations in food availability, increased reliance on energy-dense and meat-based diet as well as imported food. This paper draws on three complementary methods of research: (1) field research conducted by the authors in eight districts of Nepal (Pyuthan, Rolpa, Rupandehi, Kaski, Lamjung, Nawalparasi, Kavrepalanchowk, and Dolakha), (2) review of available evidence, both published and grey literature, on the role of Nepal's community forestry to food security, and (3) a critical analysis of relevant forest and agricultural policies in Nepal. The article explores the linkage between forest and food security in the context of Nepal that is informed by their field research and existing policy analysis. This paper has analyzed how forest is linked to food security in Nepal and, in doing so, also identified barriers and opportunities to link forest more effectively with the system of food production and access. Drawing on the review of literature as well as field research insights from eight districts in Nepal, the analysis presented here shows that there are opportunities for strengthening this linkage, but several policy-related hurdles stand in the way.

**Keywords:** *forest, food security, agriculture, governance, forest policies*

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**xviii. Farmers Perceptions of and Adaptations to Changing Climate in the Melamchi Valley of Nepal**

Sujakhu, Nani Maiya, Sailesh Ranjitkar, Rabin Raj Niraula, Bharat K. Pokharel, Dietrich Schmidt-Vogt, and Jianchu Xu. 2016. *Mountain Research and Development* 36(1): 15-30.  
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/mounresedeve.36.1.15>.

This article explored the farmers' perceptions of and adaptations to changing climate in the Melamchi valley of Nepal. Findings of the

Nepal's National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA) to climate change indicate that Nepal is highly vulnerable to climate change and variability. Knowledge of farmers' perceptions of and adaptations to climate change is important to inform policies addressing the risk of climate change to farmers. The study was conducted in Melamchi valley from February–July 2013. This case study explored those issues in the Melamchi valley of Nepal through a survey of 365 household heads (37 female and 328 male) of 30 to 80 years age and focused group discussion in six communities using a Community-Based Risk Screening Tool–Adaptation and Livelihoods (CRiSTAL) questionnaire that explored local perceptions of climate change and variability, the frequency and magnitude of climate-related hazards in the last 20 years, their impacts on livelihoods, and current responses. Quantitative descriptive statistics were supplemented by qualitative information in the form of participants' narratives about their experiences. Analysis of climate trends in the study area for 1979–2009 showed that mean annual temperatures rose by 1.02 degrees C and the frequency of drought increased measurably after 2003. The research revealed that farmers' strategies for adaptation to changes are mostly related to socio-economic drivers and to some extent to climatic factors. Existing opportunities to cope with changes relate mostly to non-climatic variables such as available resources, government policy, labor supply, market conditions, and property rights; therefore, these variables need to be considered during adaptation planning.

**Keywords:** *climate change, farmers' perceptions, coping strategies*

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- xix. The Effects of Migration on Livelihood, Land Management and Vulnerability to Natural Disaster in the Harpan Watershed in Western Nepal**  
Jaquet, Stephanie, Gitta Shrestha, Thomas Kohler,  
and Gudrun Schwilch. 2016. *Mountain Research and*

*Development* 36(4): 494-505. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/mounresedeve.36.4.494>.

The article claims '[m]igration is increasing in the middle hills of Nepal, and it has diverse consequences for the people remaining behind, their livelihoods, and the way they manage their land'. This study has explored the complex and inter-related effects of migration on land and people in the Harpan watershed, Kaski district, western Nepal. The survey has applied DFID's 1999 Sustainable Livelihood Framework as an analytical framework. Data collection mainly relied on qualitative methods and review of reports and literatures. Surveys and focus group discussions were used to explore the reasons for decisions on land management and migration. In addition, remote sensing and fieldwork were used to map the extent of land abandonment. The study found that almost three quarters of the households have at least 1 migrant member receiving on average USD 206 per month in remittances. Remittances were used mainly for food and goods and to a much lesser extent for agriculture. In addition to international migration, substantial migration occurs within the area. The article claims that once livelihoods permit, whole families choose to migrate to market areas, from uphill to downhill communities. This has led to land abandonment and an increase in forest cover in the upper part of the watershed and has also increased pressure on the land and exposure to flooding in the lower part.

**Keywords:** *migration, land management, livelihoods, left-behind population, land use*

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- xx. **Transforming the Lives of Mountain Women Through the Himalayan Nettle Value Chain: A Case Study from Darchula, Far West Nepal**  
Adhikari, Lipy, Anu Joshi Shrestha, Tashi Dorji, Eileen Lemke, and Bijay Raj Subedee. 2018. *Mountain Research*

*and Development* 38(1): 4-13. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/90020666>.

This research-based case study from Darchula district deals with the lives of mountain women who transform their lives by following through the Himalayan nettle value chain. It is the case of Naugad Rural Municipality (RM), a remote RM in the mountains of far-west Nepal with poor accessibility and limited economic opportunities, especially for women and marginalized communities. Promotion of the natural resource-based value chain for *allo* (the Himalayan nettle, *Girardinia diversifolia*) was identified as an innovative livelihood strategy by the local community. Value chain development started in 2014. The methodology was based on the modified value chain analysis framework, which emphasizes inclusiveness and mountain specificity and follows the guidance for pro-poor value chain development with a focus on gender mainstreaming. The paper conducts situation analysis and value chain selection, including description of the private sector's involvement, impact assessment, result and discussion—skills and trust development, improved processing techniques and value addition, socio-economic transformation, especially for women, scalability and sustainability of the value chain, and conclusion. It argues that the value chain development in Naugad demonstrated a successful model for women's empowerment through collective action. Local women have become active members of the *allo* enterprise and are increasing financial security at the household level by selling *allo* products in different forms. The project identified good practices using environmentally friendly and energy-efficient technologies and methods that minimize the use of external inputs such as chemicals and fuelwood.

**Keywords:** *allo, Himalayan nettle, Girardinia diversifolia, mountain women, sustainable livelihoods, value chain, private sector*

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**xxi. Nutrition and Food Security in Nepal: A Narrative Review of Policies**

Adhikari, N., Mukesh Adhikari, Namuna Shrestha, Priza Pradhananga, Bikram Paudel, Saurya Dhungel, Prakash Chandra Joshi, Nocolle Ide, Guna Nidhi Sharma, and Archana Shrestha. 2023. *Nutrition Reviews* 81(12): 1612-1625. <https://doi.org/10.1093/nutrit/nuad025>.

This is a narrative review of policies on nutrition and food security in Nepal dealing with the policy review, analysis and exploration about nutrition and food security. In the past few decades, the Nepali government has endorsed several nutritional policies, strategies, and guidelines. Given the lack of a comprehensive review of such policy documents, this review aims to describe the nutrition and food security policies and understand the existing policy gaps in Nepal. A desk review was conducted using a framework method that helps identify the relevant themes and interpret data based on those themes. The method consisted of inclusion and exclusion criteria, data extraction, data analysis too. A total of 30 policy documents were reviewed. Most policies have focused on undernutrition; only a few have addressed overnutrition and diet-related noncommunicable diseases. The narrative review identified nutrition intervention, food system, quality control, training, nutrition education, nutrition governance, monitoring and evaluation, food security and food system, capacity building of human resources as the major focus of the policy documents reviewed and also provides the strengths and limitations of the review and conclusions. The contents of each document reviewed were manually extracted in a spreadsheet stratified by the themes, and the findings were summarized for the respective themes. Although nutritional improvement should cover a wide range of interventions, Nepal has primarily focused on short-term interventions. More importantly, most policies lacked a clear mechanism to effectively implement and monitor progress. Therefore, concerned stakeholders should address these gaps in the existing

policy landscape so that Nepal can have sustainable food and nutrition systems to fulfill the current and future needs of Nepali citizens.

**Keywords:** *nutritional policies, nutritional governance, food security, food system, nutrition education, sustainable food*

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**xxii. Agriculture and Food Security under Climate Change in Nepal**

Daniele Bacchiola. 2017. *Advances on Plant and Agricultural Research* 6(6): 00237. DOI: [10.15406/apar.2017.06.00237](https://doi.org/10.15406/apar.2017.06.00237).

This article focuses on agriculture and food security in the context of climate change in Nepal. Agriculture is heavily impacted worldwide by climate change, and yield reduction may result in the decline of food security, especially in mountainous areas. Nepal is amongst the poorest countries worldwide, and its varied topography and social vulnerability make the country particularly susceptible to climate change. In turn, Nepal has low adaptive capacity to respond to the variability due to climate change. Small-scale (average 0.7 ha), subsistence agriculture is the mainstay of Nepal's economy, employing 78% of work force, and contributing nearly 36% of Nepal's GDP. Only 27% of agricultural land has access to irrigation, whereas the great part of arable land is rain-fed. Recent climate change in Nepal has demonstrably impacted crop productivity. The question, thus, arises whether present and perspective climate change will negatively impact agriculture, and food security. The article states that the effect of recent climate change in Nepal includes rapid temperature increase, erratic rainfall pattern, decreased length of winter, and increased frequency and length of droughts. By analyzing literature on ongoing and future climate change effects on agriculture, the article also focuses on potential impact on crops and food security while highlighting water management issues as well.

**Keywords:** *climate change impacts, crop yield, food security*

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**xxiii. Seasonal Migration and Livelihood Resilience in the Face of Climate Change in Nepal**

Gautam, Yograj. 2017. *Mountain Research and Development* 37(4): 436-445. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/90016609>.

This journal article deals with seasonal migration from Humla district and its consequences to the farmers, minimizing the negative impact on the local labor supply while supplementing household income through remittances. This research adopts the quantitative and qualitative research methodology by collecting the data from three villages, i.e., Bargaun, Sarkeedeu and Kalika. Thakuri, 'low-caste' Dalits, and ethnic Lama have been taken as the demographic samples. This is based on a 5-week pilot survey. Focus group discussions were conducted in October and December 2013 and April and June 2014 for which preliminary information were gained from the pilot survey; a checklist for focus group discussion and questionnaire for a household socio-economic survey were developed. The article draws the conclusion that with regard to the relevance of climate change for migration decisions, the finding of this study is similar to that of others that have suggested that climate change is not necessarily the most significant factor in migration, even in areas where climate change impacts are acute. Nevertheless, climate variability and change are widely felt in Humla. Institutional and technological innovation for the development of agriculture is the most important pathway for food security and livelihood resilience in subsistence farming communities. To this end, the value of migration lies in the monetary and social remittances that enable local farmers to invest in agricultural technology and innovation, ultimately resulting in farming systems that are more resilient to environmental changes. The result suggests that rather than climate change impacts, structural poverty is the root cause of migration, such that men from poor household with small landholding and high food insecurity, mainly belonging to low-caste groups, migrate for work during the winter.

**Keywords:** *climate change, migration drivers, seasonal migration, remittances*

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**xxiv. Food Security in Rural Uganda: Assessing Latent Effects of Microfinance in Pre-Participation**

Meador, John and Andrew Fritz. 2017. *Development in Practice* 27(3): 340-353. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.2307/48538601>.

This article assesses the effects of microfinance in food security, using data from a group of Ugandan women from two rural villages: Bulike and Kaliro. Approximately 130 in-person questionnaires were completed over the summer of 2013. Statistical modeling techniques are used to shed light on the variability of access to food and additional income. Microfinance organizations (MFOs) have been an integral part of international development efforts in the Global South since the early 1980s. Microfinance is often characterized by providing impoverished women microloans (generally around USD 20) to start small businesses. The path model indicates that the variables social capital, empowerment, and collective action do positively influence participants' food security. The study argues that the relatively low variance of the standardized coefficients to one another suggests that they each have a similar measurable impact on food security; one predictor does not drastically improve food security compared to others. This finding is congruent with the literature on MFOs, and it indicates part of the reason MFOs are so successful; in that, they have been found to have an impact on factors that create food security in rural developing regions; food security is statistically influenced by access to additional income. In addition, testing the three latent residual effects of MFOs on food security, the model suggests that women who have access to additional income will have greater food security.

**Keywords:** *microfinance impacts, food security, social capital, empowerment, collective action*

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**xxv. Food Sovereignty under WTO: Unfulfilled Promise of Buenos Aires**

Sharma, Sachin Kumar and Abhijit Das. 2017. *Economic and Political Weekly* 52(52): 16-20. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/26699154>.

This short article based on the literature review of the related text and research works on food sovereignty under World Trade Organization (WTO) deals with its constraining provisions and impacts on policies in developing countries. The interim solution to the problem of whether to allow public stockholding of food stocks for food security purposed in the WTO was arrived at during the Bali Ministerial Conference held in 2013 and subsequently by the General Council of the WTO in November 2014. However, the commitment to agree to a permanent solution by the 11th Ministerial Conference in Buenos Aires in 2017 did not materialize. The United States and some other members reneged on their commitment to finding a permanent solution, effectively undermining the WTO itself. Developing country members have to persist for a permanent solution. As member countries were not able to find a permanent solution at the 11th Ministerial Conference, provisions related to the Peace Clause under the Bali and Nairobi Ministerial Conferences will continue to be applicable. It was India's strong stand on food security in 2014, when it refused to ratify the Trade Facilitation Agreement due to lack of progress on work related to finding a permanent solution, that led to the perpetual Peace Clause for developing countries.

**Keywords:** *food sovereignty, World Trade Organization*

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**xxvi. Hungry for Equality: A Longitudinal Analysis of Women's Legal Rights and Food Security in Developing Countries**

Bhandari, Aarushi and Rebekah Burroway. 2018. *The Sociology Quarterly* 59(3): 424-448. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00380253.2018.1479199>.

This journal article deals with women's rights and food security with different perspectives and theories. Access to food is one of the most basic human needs, yet undernourishment remains one of the greatest barriers to health and development in the Global South. The entitlement approach to hunger maintains that the real issue is not the overall availability of food, but access to it. This paper specifically highlights the access failures of women by focusing on how gender-based stratification limits command over food, even in light of existing food supply. Going beyond traditionally used indicators of gender inequality, it examines how women's legal rights affect the depth of hunger in developing countries. In a first-time longitudinal study of its kind, the article uses the '50 Years of Women's Legal Rights' historical dataset from the World Bank to measure changes in women's property rights and constitutional rights from 1990 to 2010. A two-way fixed effects regression analysis of 42 low- and middle-income nations demonstrates that improving women's rights is associated with lower levels of hunger over time, even controlling for the food supply, economic development, and other relevant variables. The results suggest that improvements in women's property rights and constitutional rights, independently and combined with one another, are important for ensuring food security in developing countries. Guaranteed equality and non-discrimination clauses in national constitutions are documented symbols of nations' intent to adhere to universal standards for all human rights, including women's rights.

**Keywords:** *development, global and transnational sociology, sex and gender*

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**xxvii. Regional Variation of Food Security in Nepal**

Bhandari, Prem. 2018. *Dhaulagiri Journal of Sociology and Anthropology* 12: 1-10. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3126/dsaj.v12i0.22174>.

This paper examines the regional variation in household food security in Nepal. Specifically, it examines the variation in household-level food security with particular reference to newly formed provinces as per the 2015 Constitution of the country, three ecological regions and rural-urban locations of households. It has used the nationally representative data from 2011 Nepal Demographic Health Survey to investigate the issue. Using both descriptive as well as multivariate analysis, the paper shows that there is regional variation in overall food security in Nepal. The data utilized in this study comes from household questionnaire that collected household-level information including the food security status of a household from 10,826 households. Of particular interest this study, this data contains information on household-level food security status reported by a household member by geographic regions—three ecological regions (mountain, hill, and Tarai), rural-urban, and by district. The findings show that food security is a problem of rural households. Moreover, food security status of households also significantly varies by province. Households living in Karnali and Sudurpaschim Provinces located in the western part of Nepal are more food insecure as compared to those living in other provinces. However, interestingly, quantity of intake was not a major issue in all the three ecological regions. All three domains were important for households that live in rural areas as well as those living in provinces other than those in Karnali and Sudurpaschim Provinces. These findings provide a macro-level snapshot of food security situation of Nepal and are deemed important for the newly formed federal and provincial governments for food policy framing.

**Keywords:** *access, food security, regional variation, Nepal*

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**xxviii. After the Road Came: Insights into the Nexus of Food Security and Malnutrition in Northwestern Nepal**

Grocke, Michelle Ursula and Kimber Haddix McKay. 2018.  
*Mountain Research and Development* 38(4): 288-298.  
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/26869933>.

This article deals with the different insights into the nexus of food security in upper Humla. It is the outcome of 10-month ethnographic fieldwork between August 2014-June 2015 in two Tibetan-speaking Buddhist villages of upper Humla. They were chosen because of their similarity, aside from the fact that one lies directly beside the new road while the other is far from it. The article engages with the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025 and the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development call on all countries and stakeholders to work together to prevent all forms of malnutrition by 2030. In Nepal, these considerations are at the forefront of the country's Sustainable Development Goals. To aid in this effort, this article presents a case study from the mountainous Humla District, Nepal, that was designed to better understand how the arrivals of the first road in this area is affecting food security and nutritional status and how these two variables are interrelated. Data from participant observation, interviews, the Household Food Insecurity Access Scale questionnaire, and a region-specific food frequency questionnaire suggest that while the road provides more reliable access to market-sourced food than before, villagers' intake of many micronutrients remains below recommended levels, as most of the market-purchased foods are nutrient-poor. This study provides an analytical framework to better understand the nexus of food security and nutrition and offers the evidence-based recommendations for decreasing food insecurity and malnutrition in mountainous regions, which help achieve the goal of preventing all forms of malnutrition by 2030.

**Keywords:** *poverty, vulnerability, food security, interdisciplinary approaches; transdisciplinary approaches, nutrition*

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**xxix. Roles and Contributions of Community Seed Banks in Climate Adaptation in Nepal**

Maharjan, Shree and Keshav Maharjan. 2018. *Development in Practice* 28(2): 292-302.

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.2307/48538700>.

This article illustrates that community seed banks are an effective local institution to conserve quality seeds, to strengthen farmers' accessibility to social seed networks, and improve agro-biodiversity and food security. This article analyzes the prospects and challenges of community seed banks in climate change contexts. It finds that community seed banks serve as sources of climate-resilient seeds to flourish in local climates and improve community resilience. Community seed banks provide landraces for participatory crop improvement to develop resistant varieties to improve quality and productivity. They also strengthen participatory seed exchange to cope with climate adversity.

**Keyword:** *environment, climate change, food security, community seed bank*

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**xxx. Socio-Economic Impact of Undeclared Blockade of India on Nepal**

Pant, Bhuwaneshwor. 2018. *Research Nepal Journal of Development Studies* 1(1): 18-27.  
<https://doi.org/10.3126/rnjds.v1i1.21270>.

This article deals with an important issue of the brutal unofficial or undeclared blockade of 2015 from Indian side. The article highlights background and the chronology of blockade, socio-economic impacts, noting it as unacceptable form of Indian diplomacy. Diplomacy is getting thing done without speaking or telling nastiest words in nicest manner. What had happened in southern border of Nepal? What was Indian's role? The study attempts to find out the reason of undeclared blockade of 2015 and identify the socio-economic impact of this blockade imposed during the dark days following the great 2015 earthquake in Nepal. Can a neighbor do so? India did it but did not speak a single word. The study has been conducted to analyze the impacts of the blockade. The author argues that India tried to minimize the Chinese communist influences in Nepal but the move

was wrong. So Nepali citizens cast their vote to elect communist parties with full majority. Indian policy was concentrated on causing instability in Nepal. Nepali diplomacy proved to be ineffective to put pressure on Indian government for amending the Sugauli Treaty of 1814 and the Treaty of 1950 as well as addressing controversy over Kalapani, Susta and Lipulek. At the time of election, all the political parties raised the issue against India as KP Oli did and successfully won the election. The pain of blockade is not forgotten in the name of improving bilateral relations.

**Keywords:** *Nepal-India relations, socio-economic impacts, blockade*

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**xxxi. Traditional Crops for Household Food Security and Factors Associated with On-Farm Diversity in the Mountains of Nepal**

Gauchan, D., B.K. Joshi, S. Sthapit, and D. Jarvis. 2020. *The Journal of Agriculture and Environment* 21: 31-43.  
<https://doi.org/10.3126/aej.v21i0.38440>.

This article deals with the various socioeconomic status such as farm size, family size, market distance influencing cultivation and maintenance of crop diversity in mountain regions of Nepal. The study used sample household survey combined with participatory rural appraisals and field trials to generate information on mountain agro-ecosystems of Jumla and Humla (western Nepal), Lamjung (central Nepal), and Dolakha (eastern Nepal) districts. A total of 328 farm households were surveyed in 2014-15, covering one village development committee (VDC) in each of the districts. The survey using proportionate random sampling covered 72 to 90 farm households from Chhippra, Hanku, Ghanpokhara, and Jugu VDCs respectively in Humla, Jumla, Lamjung, and Dolakha districts. Tobit regression model was used to assess factors driving household decisions to allocate area for production and maintenance of on-farm diversity. The article argues that the traditional crops play an

important role in household food security and livelihood needs of mountain communities, while at the same time safeguarding crop biodiversity for future generations. Farm maintenance of crop diversity was related to household food sufficiency level of traditional crops. Factors influencing on-farm crop diversity and household food security varied with the crops, and mainly related with farmers' age, family size, farm size, agro-ecosystems and market factor.

**Keywords:** *crop biodiversity, food security, traditional crops, mountain agro-ecosystems*

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**xxxii. Food Supply Chain Disruptions and Resilience Under the Stress of COVID-19: Evidence from Nepal**

Khanal, Saugat, Padam Bahadur Paudel, Jeevan Lamichhane, and Alagathurai Ajanthan. 2020. *Acta Scientific Agriculture* 4(7): 158-166.

This article deals with the situation of Nepal during the COVID-19 period and nation-wide lockdowns as well as demand side and supply side of the food chain. When the world wrestles with humanitarian and economic crises, supply chains are encounter idiosyncratic challenges globally. The COVID-19 impacted most of the international sectors; the food supply chain was squeezed more severely than before. The article applies the qualitative research techniques and desk review and literature review as well as internet search and direct observation. Secondary sources of information are used for studying the food supply disruptions and resilience. The article highlights that the natural production sector was not disturbed (though new cycle might face heavy crash), resulting in surplus of perishable items in farms, but lack of smooth supply forced producers to destroy tons edible food products. The food supply chain is a complex web with a number of stakeholders. The article looks at phases of lockdown and effects in supply and demand: Phase 1 (first 30 days of country lockdown), Phase 2 (30-55 days of lockdown), Phase 3 (last 55-75

days of lockdown). The article draws the conclusion that though the stocks of cereal were at satisfactory level, its stock in future will be depleted resulting from the disruptions in the food supply chain. Supply of agric-inputs was severely affected. Developing countries and low-income countries are most vulnerable to the impact of disruptions in the supply chain. Supply chain resilience has drained the curiosity of local to multinational companies and policymakers in remodeling the chain.

**Keywords:** *COVID-19, food system, resilience, supply chain disruptions*

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**xxxiii. Food System and Water-Energy-Biodiversity Nexus in Nepal: A Review**

Subedi, Roshan, Madhav Karki, and Dinesh Panday. 2020.

*Agronomy* 10(8): 1129.

<https://doi.org/10.3390/agronomy10081129>.

This article is a review of the food system and water–energy–biodiversity nexus in Nepal. Regarding the situation of Nepal’s food system, the authors present the findings of several relevant papers on the Nepal’s food system and various grey literature, discussion papers, workshop proceedings, and authors’ insight and their experiences in the sector. The article claims that the water, energy, and biodiversity are essential components for building a sustainable food system in a developing country like Nepal. Green revolution technologies and the package of practices largely ignored the role of ecosystem services, leaving a large population of small farmers’ food- and nutrition-insecure. Biodiversity, especially agro-biodiversity, is in decline and this vital cross-cutting element is less discussed and interlinked in the nexus literature. The interlinking of food system with water–energy–biodiversity nexus, therefore, is essential to achieve a resilient food system. It ensures the vital structures and functions of the ecosystem on which it is dependent



are well protected in the face of increasing socio-economic and climatic stresses. This paper reviews the food system of Nepal through the lens of the food–water–energy–biodiversity (FWEB) nexus to develop a more robust food system framework. Improvement in the food system requires the building of synergy and complementary among the components of FWEB nexus. This framework can be useful in addressing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 1, 2, 3, 6, 13, and 15) and can also be used as a tool for food system planning based on a broader nexus.

**Keywords:** *biodiversity, energy, food system, agro-ecological system*

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**xxxiv. From the Field to Dining Table: Pesticide Residues**

GC, Y.D. and B.R. Palikhe. 2021. *The Journal of Agriculture and Environment* 22: 1-16. <https://doi.org/10.3126/aej.v22i0.46781>.

This article talks about pesticide residues present in food items. This review article aims to present an overview of pesticide residue, focusing from the field to dining table and on the impact on human health. This study also covers an information campaign regarding pesticide use and food safety for farmers and consumers. The methodology is based on previous research, relevant studies, published and unpublished sources and authors' own experiences. Food is a more basic need of human being than shelter and clothing. The public is concerned about the presence of pesticide residues in foods. Pesticide residues in foods, farmers' exposure to pesticides, and environmental pollution are serious concerns in Nepal. Risks from pesticides are high because of the lack of knowledge of farmers, limited training and awareness on the safe production of food crops, the absence of an effective code of practices, alternatives to chemical pesticide and inadequate residue monitoring. Increasing awareness regarding good nutrition through quality food is creating a rise in

the demand for vegetables and fruits and other crops. Despite great demand for safe vegetables, the supply of vegetables labeled as safe or organic is still limited. As growers are in a hurry to sell their produce, they do not wait or abide by the waiting period. As a result, the pesticide residues, left to variable extent in the food materials after harvesting, are beyond the control of consumer and have deleterious effect on human health. The article concludes that the consumer must think twice before eating veggies and biting into fruits. Pesticides in the field do show up on our dinner plates or onto our kitchen tables. Information, education, and communication should be strengthened to raise awareness about proper use of pesticides and its safety measures. So there is an urgent need to analyze the marketable produce and to generate awareness among farmers and consumers. Training manuals/guides should be in simple language, easy to understand, and clearly illustrated.

**Keywords:** *consumer, farmer, human health risk, pesticide residues, vegetables*

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**xxxv. Nepal Food Systems Policy Actions**

Care. 2022. CARE. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep54785>

This PowerPoint presentation is based on the action report of CARE Nepal. It has highlighted some of the crucial things related to food security and policy actions. In support of the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit, the UN Special Envoy invited all sectors of society to share their perspectives and solutions via a global dialogue process. Dialogues were conducted around the world, both before and after the Summit, effectively crowdsourcing sustainable solutions to strengthen local and global food systems. CARE Nepal engaged in the dialogue process by connecting marginalized communities in food systems to program and policy conversations happening locally, nationally, and globally. This document reports on the findings from the dialogues held in Nepal and highlights the key policy takeaways

for the Country Offices to advocate to their governments to achieve food systems transformation. There is a need for inclusive and participatory policies and laws that focus on local and provincial level needs and realize the implementation of the Right to Food and Food Sovereignty Act, 2075 BS (2018 CE). The presentation argues that despite local government recognition of agriculture as a leading sector, most agencies have not fully internalized either the Right to Food Act or the Food Sovereignty Act. Even those ministries which have implemented portions of these Acts, the process has lacked inclusivity and failed to recognize the significant contributions of small-holder farmers to the country's food system. The provisions have failed to integrate the protection of land, water, animals, and the people whose livelihoods rely on food systems.

**Keywords:** *food security, policy actions, food systems*

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**xxxvi. Policies and Perspectives of Food Health and Safety in Nepal: Is Nepal Ready?**

Koirala, Niranjana. 2022. *eFood* 4(1): e56. <https://doi.org/10.1002/efd2.56>.

This two-pager 'Correspondence' highlights that the health status, life expectancy, and food security is increasing in Nepal. Hundreds of programs and projects have been launched to ensure the dietary and nutritional safety for the people. Special rules and regulations have been implemented for street foods and drinks. The food inspectors and lay observers are busy visiting restaurants, hotels, cafes, food markets, and so forth to create more awareness and provide safety guidelines and report to the concerned authorities in case of false representations and adulterations. There is a need to educate and organize awareness programs and seminars for the businessmen, hotel and restaurant owners, farmers, teachers, students, and concern stakeholders conducted by the local government, provincial government, and registered NGOs and INGOs.

**Keywords:** *food safety, awareness, food hygiene, nutrition*

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**xxxvii. Determinants of Farmers' Participation in Banana Insurance in Chitwan District, Nepal**

Timilsina, S., M. Khanal, R. Pradhan, A. Bhattarai, and M. Sapkota. 2022. *The Journal of Agriculture and Environment* 23(1): 1-13. <https://doi.org/10.3126/aej.v23i1.46844>.

The article deals with status of banana cultivation, membership of cooperatives, and awareness about the agriculture insurance and perception of farmers about the necessity of crop insurance, agriculture extension services, etc. Chitwan district was purposively selected for collecting the primary data collection by using semi-structured interview schedule, key informant interviews. Since Kalika and Ratnanagar Municipalities had higher insurance adopters, they were also purposively selected. The household data were collected in the month of September 2019. The logit model was used to identify the factors affecting the adoption of banana insurance policy among farmers. A total of 80 households who have adopted banana insurance policy and same numbers of households who have not adopted the banana insurance policy were selected to collect the primary data. The findings revealed that socio-economic and demographic factors such as area under banana cultivation, membership of cooperatives, awareness about the insurance scheme, perception about the importance of crop insurance, access to extension services, and age of banana orchard had significant effect on the adoption of banana insurance policy. It is necessary to raise awareness about agriculture insurance and their importance through government agencies, I/NGOs, insurance companies, and farmers' organization.

**Keywords:** *banana insurance, agriculture insurance, cooperatives*

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**xxxviii. Analysis of Resource Use Efficiency and Profitability of Wheat Production in Kailali District, Nepal**

Bam, Rajendra, Ganesh Mahara, Kapil Khanal, Rishiram Kattel, and Suman Bhattarai. 2023. *The Journal of Agriculture and Environment* 24: 11-21. <https://www.nepjol.info/index.php/AEJ/article/view/57885/43274>.

This article presents the findings of a study done in 2021 in the Kailari Rural Municipality, Gauriganga Municipality, Godawari Municipality, and Dhangadhi Sub-metropolitan city of Kailali district to analyze the economics of wheat production. A total of 200 samples (50 from each location) were selected by using a simple random sampling technique. The findings reveal that most respondents (91%) had agriculture as a primary occupation. The area under wheat (*Triticum aestivum*) cultivation per household was 0.6 hectare with no significant difference between super zone of the Prime Minister Agriculture Modernization Project and non-super zone areas. The average production per household was 1814.5 kg whereas the yield was 3.3 mt/ha. The average cost of production was NRs 64,526.62 per hectare and the benefit-cost ratio of wheat production was found to be 1.492. The Cobb-Douglas function showed that fertilizer, pesticide, land preparation, Irrigation, and threshing costs were significant contributing factors to wheat production. The returns to scale was found to be 0.261. An index of severity was constructed to study the problems of wheat production in the study area. Weed infestation, lack of fertilizers, and insect pests were found to be the three major problems. The benefit-cost ratio of 1.492 indicates wheat is a profitable crop in the area, and thus wheat cultivation needs to be promoted. The article argues that the chemical fertilizers and land preparation showed negative contribution to production, which shows the need to decrease fertilizers use and decrease the number of tillage, opening a door for conservation agriculture. Increase in thresher use showed positive effect on production which hints towards achieving efficiency through mechanization.

**Keywords:** *benefit-cost ratio, Cobb-Douglas production function, resource, returns to scale, Prime Minister Agriculture Modernization Project*

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**xxxix. Food Safety Awareness, Food Policies, and Gender: A Review and Empirical Example from Nepal**

Khanal, Aditya Raj, Rita K. Gurung, Ram Hari Timilsina, and Saroj Raj Paudel. 2023. *Nepal Public Policy Review* 3(1): 169-193. <https://doi.org/10.59552/nppr.v3i1.62>.

This research-based article basically describes hunger and malnutrition as the critical challenges for developing countries. Access to sufficient safe and nutritious food is the key factor in addressing food security, health, and nutritional goals. Food safety and security are vital components of sustainable food systems. This study aims to review the relationship between food safety and food security, sustainable food systems, awareness, and food policies in Nepal, while also discussing the potential roles of women in these areas. Furthermore, this empirical examination presents findings based on primary survey data from 604 consumer households in five major metropolitan areas of Nepal, particularly focusing on gender differences in food safety awareness and purchase of fresh produce. Overall findings suggest that the basic food safety practices and the enforcement of regulations have been overlooked in Nepal. Moreover, the study also underscores the potential roles women could play in enhancing awareness of safer fresh produce systems and safer food consumption. Its basic insight is to fully harness the potential of women as effective initiators, implementers, and promoters of enhancing food safety and sustainable food systems. It is crucial to encourage their involvement in food-related activities, leadership, and management and entrepreneurship.

**Keywords:** *safer food, fresh produce, vegetables and fruits, urban households, women's roles*

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**xl. Agricultural Policies and Practices: A Pathways for Transformation**

Neupane Sharma, Hari, Bikram Acharya, Pradeep Wagle, and Buddhi Raj Gyawali. 2023. *Nepal Public Policy Review* 3(1): v-vi. <https://doi.org/10.59552/nppr.v3i1.67>.

Agriculture has been a cornerstone of human civilization for thousands of years, providing food and other essential resources to sustain our societies. However, now, there are unprecedented challenges that threaten the very foundations of agricultural systems. Climate change, resource depletion, and population growth are just a few of the issues that demand urgent attention from policymakers and practitioners alike. Further, the growing population, climate change, the recent COVID-19 pandemic, the Ukraine-Russia war, and the depreciation of national currencies have disrupted the global food supply chain and increased food prices and food insecurity in many countries, including Nepal. The Nepali agriculture sector alone contributed employment opportunities for more than 60% of the population with a 23.9% share in total value added of the national economy. Though the majority of farmers in Nepal are engaged in the agriculture sector, there is still a dominance of traditional and subsistence agriculture and the country's agricultural production is not enough to feed its population. The continued rise in import bills and volume of food products in recent years has been a major challenge for the country. Addressing these constraints warrants consortia of efforts from the government, nonprofits, and private sectors to promote sustainable and regenerative agricultural concepts and practices that align with local farm attributes and the agro-ecological environment. It was in this context that a symposium was organized from 6-7 January 2023 and the editors of the special edition of the journal provide a background to the papers published in this issue. The symposium highlighted the importance of partnerships and collaborations in driving transformational change. The papers discussed the potential of public-private partnerships, multi-stakeholder platforms, and

other forms of collaboration to leverage resources, share knowledge, and scale up innovative solutions.

**Keywords:** *agricultural policies, climate change, food supply chain*

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**xli. Food Security in Nepal: How fair is it from Gender Dimension?**

Shrestha, Tejman. 2023. *Far Western University Law*

*Journal* 1(1): 82-98. [https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=4910294](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=4910294).

This research article explores the issues of right to food; right to food in major international human rights instruments and efforts to realize all human rights to all; law, culture, and food insecurity prevalence; and Nepal's progress in its fight against food insecurity. Securing adequate food both in terms of good health and culture has been a crucial issue both in underdeveloped and developed countries. Food insecurity is not only prevalent in the poor countries, but it has also equally serious even in the highly developed countries where women are more vulnerable than men. In a society like Nepal, women have treated differently often in a discriminating way, compromising the women's autonomy to exercise the human right to food as well. Though Nepal has constitutionally guaranteed equality between the sexes and right to food for all as a fundamental right, still food insecurity exists and food insecurity prevalence is higher in women than in men. Food security has been provided in international human rights law as it has been explicitly spelled out in the instruments such as UDHR, ICESCR, CEDAW, and CRC conventions. For translating their rights into real life, adoption of such policy and program in national level and implementation are a must. Nepal has initiated in materializing the commitments it has made in the international instruments. Incorporation of right to food security in the Constitution of Nepal has been an exemplary effort of Nepal. Considering the specific characteristic of women, CEDAW has provided certain rights to women.



**Keywords:** *food security, gender, constitutional obligation*

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**xlii. Market, Transportation Infrastructure, and Food Prices in Nepal**

Shively, Gerald and Ganesh Thapa. 2024. *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* 99(3): 660-682. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/26155892>.

This article by Gerald Shively and Ganesh Thapa talks about market, transportation infrastructure, and food prices in Nepal. Using data about transportation infrastructure and food markets in Nepal over the period 2002 to 2010 and combining them with monthly price data from 37 local and regional markets and 7 Indian border markets, the authors use a series of autoregressive models to study price determination, spatial and temporal price transmission, and price variance. They account for district-level agricultural production, correcting for bi-directional causality between output and prices using ground station rainfall data. In addition, to test hypotheses regarding the importance of transportation infrastructure, they incorporate information on road and bridge density and fuel costs. For both rice and wheat, they find strong evidence of local price inter-temporal carryover and very weak evidence of price transmission from regional, central, and border markets to local markets, suggesting very low degrees of market integration. Fuel costs are positively correlated with food prices, and road and bridge density are negatively correlated with prices. There is evidence of asymmetric effects: positive price shocks are correlated with higher subsequent price volatility compared with negative price shocks of similar magnitude. Roads and bridges are important for moderating price levels and price volatility in Nepal's rice and wheat markets, which explains roughly half of the spatial and temporal variation in price mark-ups between regional and local markets.

**Keywords:** *transportation, food prices, markets, rice, wheat*

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## 2.2 Legal Cases and Verdict on Food Security

### i. **Mandamus Ruling of 5 Jestha 2067 BS (19 May 2010)**

Supreme Court of Nepal. 2012. In *Some Decisions of The Supreme Court of Nepal, Volume 4*, 284-308, edited by Lohit Chandra Shah and Bhim Nath Ghimire. Kathmandu: Supreme Court of Nepal. Also available at: [https://supremecourt.gov.np/web/assets/downloads/judgements/WRIT\\_NO\\_149.pdf](https://supremecourt.gov.np/web/assets/downloads/judgements/WRIT_NO_149.pdf).

Mandamus Order in the Case of Advocate Prakashmani Sharma, a resident of Kathmandu district, KMC Ward No. 14, Kuleshwor; Rama Panta Kharel, a resident of Kathmandu district, KMC Ward No. 33, Gyanehswor; Sharmila Shrestha, a resident of Sakhu, Pukulachi VDC Ward No. 8, Kuleshwor; Kabita Pandey, a resident of Kathmandu district, KMC Ward No. 34, Banehswor; Basanta Adhikari, a resident of Kathmandu district, KMC Ward No. 35, Banehswor on Behalf of Pro Public (Janahit Samrakshan Forum) and for their own as well as Advocate Dinesh Tripathi, resident of Rupandehi district, Madhubani VDC Ward No. 5 on his own VS the Office of the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers, Writ No. 0149 of the year 2065 BS (2008 CE). Mandamus Ruling, 5 Jestha 2067 BS (19 May 2010).

A writ petition (No. 0149 of the year 2065 BS [2008 CE]) was registered by Advocates Prakash Mani Sharma, Rama Panta Kharel, Sharmila Shrestha, Kabita Pandey, Basanta Adhikari on behalf of Pro Public and for their own as well as Advocate Dinesh Tripathi on his own against the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers (OPMCM), Government of Nepal (GoN); Ministry of Commerce and Supplies, GoN; Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperative (GoN); General Manager, Nepal Food Corporation, Singha Durbar Plaza; Board of Directors, Nepal Food Corporation, Singha Durbar Plaza.

A mandamus ruling on food security was issued by the Supreme

Court of Nepal under Joint Bench of Justices Balaram KC and Bharat Raj Upreti on 5 Jestha 2067 BS (19 May 2010) on the Public Interest Litigation Writ No. 0149 of the year 2065 BS (2008 CE) registered by Advocates Prakash Mani Sharma, Rama Panta Kharel, Sharmila Shrestha, Kabita Pandey, Basanta Adhikari on behalf of Pro-public and for their own as well as Advocate Dinesh Tripathy on his own against Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers (OPMCM), GoN; Ministry of Commerce and Supplies, GoN; Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperative, GoN; General Manager, Nepal Food Corporation, Singha Durbar Plaza; Board of Directors, Nepal Food Corporation, Singha Durbar Plaza. The mandamus ruling states that the litigators have appealed for the mandamus on food security as food, shelter, clothes, health, and employment are the basic human rights of all the citizen/people and the Interim Constitution of Nepal (2007) guarantees the Right to Food Sovereignty as a fundamental rights under Article 18 as well as a right to life with dignity as conceptualized by Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR 1948) and based on their litigation, the verdict has been issued. 'This is the constitutional obligation that the state should provide food to any places where food scarcity prevails due to the natural disasters, dry season, heavy rainfall, and to creating an environment to easily supply the food with subsidized rate to the people'. The Court issued the directive order in the name of the respondents.

***Keywords: mandamus, food security, basic human rights, constitutional provisions***

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**ii. 2073 Writ no. 071-OW-0257 SC Order**

2073 Writ no. 071-OW-0257 SC Order. Joshi, Dipakraj and Devendra Gopal Shrestha, Judges of Supreme Court. 2073. Order in Writ no. 071-WO-0257.

A writ petition was registered by Advocate Raju Prasad Chapagain on behalf of JuRI-Nepal; Dr Sarbaraj Khadka, Dailekh, of Food First

Information and Network (FIAN Nepal); Advocate Bishnu Prasad Pokhrel, JuRI-Nepal for the joint petition against Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers (OPMCM), Government of Nepal; Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Government of Nepal; Ministry for Federal Affair and Local Development, Government of Nepal; Department of women and Children, Harihar Bhawan, Lalitpur; and Central Children Welfare Committee, Harihar Bhawan, Lalitpur, demanding for the mandamus as according to Articles 32 and 107(2) of the Interim Constitution 2007.

The Supreme Court issued the order based on the opinion resolving the questions: a) Is it fundamental rights that state whether should be fulfilling the rights of neglected, helpless, people with disability whether it is physical or mental (children, pregnant, women, and elderly) to provide with food and shelter? b) Whether the state does have their data of the citizens excluded of practicing feeding and shelter? And what provisions have been made on the part of state to feed them and providing them with shelter? c) Whether the Government of Nepal has duties and liability to provide them with food and shelter when it has been a signatory party to major human rights conventions, covenants, and protocols? d) Is it adequate provision on the social security program that to the most at-risk people to guaranteeing the social justice? The Supreme Court has concluded that the state should be guaranteeing the rights to dignity of the people who have to live in their bitter and meager condition that the state will have to face the big question from the social justice lens. The Order has referred to the provisions of the international conventions and covenants as well as protocols, i.e., Optional Protocols on Disability, 2006; International Covenants on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1966; International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights, 1966; International Conventions on the Rights of the Children, 1989; International Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 1979; and ordered to the Government of Nepal to adopt

protective measures for the helpless street children, woman, and elderly in five points.

**Keywords:** *Supreme Court order, fundamental rights, social security, vulnerable population*

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## 2.3 Books and Book Chapters on Food Security in Nepal

### i. **Livelihood Insecurity and Social Conflict in Nepal.**

Upreti, Bishnu Raj and Ulrike Müller-Böker. 2010.  
Kathmandu: South Asia Regional Coordination Office, Swiss  
National Centre of Competitive in Research (NCCR) North-  
South. <https://doi.org/10.5167/uzh-33888>.

Nepali society, historically organized as hierarchical, discriminatory, and feudal mindset, has lived through 10 years of armed conflict—a conflict that stimulated the quest for access to development and questioned stereotypical power relations and practices of social exclusion. After more than 240 years of rule by the monarchy and the Rana regime, Nepal is now a federal democratic republic and is in the process of transforming into an inclusive, decentralized modern state. However, livelihood insecurity and social conflict are still manifest in contemporary Nepal. The country is undergoing enormous societal change and is in the process of negotiating the future form of the country through the drafting of a new constitution. There is widespread discrimination based on sex, caste, ethnicity, and religion; discriminated groups are raising their voices and some segments of the Nepali elite are expressing concern. To resolve these issues and achieve peace and stability requires visionary leadership, democratic practices, and the protection of human rights and social justice, as well as economic development and political stability, which are major challenges for the coming years. These factors will determine people's livelihood options in the 'New Nepal'. As more than 30.9% of the total population of Nepal lives below the poverty line, it is a tremendous challenge to initiate inclusive development for poor and disadvantaged groups. Hence, a proper analysis of the livelihood complexity of poor people and the structural and proximate causes of livelihood insecurity is necessary to address these challenges in order to

strengthen achievements made so far and guide the change process in a positive and sustainable direction.

**Keywords:** *livelihood insecurity, discrimination, transformation, societal change*

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**ii. Small Area Estimation of Food Insecurity and Undernutrition in Nepal**

Haslett, Stephen, Geoffrey Jones, Maris Isidro, and Alison Sefton. 2014. Kathmandu: Central Bureau of Statistics, National Planning Commissions Secretariat, World Food Programme, UNICEF, and World Bank. <https://un.info.np/Net/NeoDocs/View/7646>.

This book is published by Government of Nepal, National Planning Commission with the support of World Bank Group, World Food Programme, and UNICEF. It has covered various aspects of measures of food insecurity data such as district-wise and malnutrition under the age of 5. Small area estimates of food poverty and undernutrition in Nepal are produced at *Ilaka* level by combining survey data with auxiliary data derived from the 2011 National Population and Housing Census. A model for predicting log average per capita household food expenditure is estimated from the 2010/11 Nepal Living Standards Survey (NLSS) III, based on the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) calculation of food expenditure in each of the households sampled in the NLSS. The model is applied to household-level census data to estimate food poverty prevalence, gap, and severity. NLSS III is used to derive estimates of caloric intake in the form of kilocalories consumed for each sampled household; these were converted to per-adult-equivalent (pae) values and a survey-based model for kilocalorie consumption pae is also applied to household-level census data to predict kilocalorie consumption pae for each household. It is interesting to note that the estimates derived from calorie intake, height-for-age, weight-for-age, and weight-for-height also had

acceptably small standard errors down to *Ilaka* level, even though the predictive models for these variables had lower *R* values than for log average per capita household food expenditure. The lower *R*<sup>2</sup> values for the child-level regression models in part reflect the additional level of variation (children within households) in comparison with the model for log average per capita household food expenditure. Smaller *R* is also more acceptable if the large unexplained variation is truly random across households or individuals, with little or no cluster-level variation.

**Keywords:** *poverty, food requirements, malnutrition, food shortage, food supply, right to food*

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**iii. Statistical Information on Nepalese Agriculture (2014/2015)**

Ministry of Agricultural Development, Government of Nepal. 2015. Kathmandu: Government of Nepal Ministry of Agricultural Development. [https://giwmscdntwo.gov.np/media/pdf\\_upload/STATISTICAL-INFORMATION-ON-NEPALESE-AGRICULTURE-2071-72%20\(1\)\\_vd2vnnpn.pdf](https://giwmscdntwo.gov.np/media/pdf_upload/STATISTICAL-INFORMATION-ON-NEPALESE-AGRICULTURE-2071-72%20(1)_vd2vnnpn.pdf).

This book presents the overall agricultural statistical information of the year 2071/72 BS (2014/15). It presents data on land use, area, and production of cereal and cash crops and pulses and fruits. It has also covered the estimation of micro (district)-level statistics on cereal crops, cash crops, pulses, livestock, poultry, fishery, and horticulture. Other data include available statistics on population, irrigation, inputs, credit, prices, edible cereal grain production, and requirement (food security aspects), released crop varieties, export and import of some agriculture commodities, meteorological information, etc., in order to provide relevant information on Nepali agriculture. It is anticipated that this report will be useful especially to those who are involved in planning, research, and overall economic development of the country.



**Keywords:** *agriculture statistics, agricultural export and import, population*

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**iv. Eradicating Hunger: Rebuilding Food Regime**

BK, Dr. Man Bahadur. 2017. Kathmandu: Ekta Books Pvt. Ltd.

This book entitled *Eradicating Hunger: Rebuilding Food Regime* deals with the status of hunger in relation to Dalits and marginalized community of Nepal. The author argues that the reform in agriculture and land distribution, promoting responsible investment in agriculture and food system, i.e., community financing, especially to small farm-holder, is the required policy intervention. There is larger slot of population in developing countries who do not have adequate purchasing power even if the food commodities are available in the market. Excessive price volatility, which may be the result of supply-side variability, also poses social and political challenges to national authorities. If not controlled in time, it may escalate the economic crisis similar to 2008. So the state should have a regular mechanism to address such volatility. The crux of the food security is based on the food system governance which is dominated by the corporate regime. Widening disparity has been the result of liberal capitalism that promoted corporate regime even in food system governance. It has not only damaged the local food system but made food supply difficult. So building the local food regime in food system is the demand of the La Campesina and other national movements. It would save the world from carbon emission, enhance community resilience, create green jobs, and promote cultural-friendly realization of right to food and food sovereignty through a local food system. It can be done through ensuring entitlement to and representation of local peasants, especially the deprived ones, i.e., small farm-holders and vulnerable groups. For that, it needs protective measures to local peasants, especially the deprived ones, in order to rebuild local food regime. It has been conceptually called the protective liberalism along with liberal socialism. However, it must stand on the transformative

democracy. Nepal has been restructured on federal base which is conceptually a system of building peace.

**Keywords:** *food regime, hunger, community resilience, marginalized community*

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**v. Seeds without Borders Initiative for Enhanced Food and Nutrition Security in South Asia**

Gauchan, Devendra and Bal Krishna Joshi 2019. In *Seeds Without Borders Initiative in South Asia: Current Status and Future Directions*, 139-161, edited by Pradyumna Raj Pandey, Humnath Bhandari and S.M. Bokhtiar. [https://giwmscdntwo.gov.np/media/app/public/75/posts/1685027418\\_40.pdf](https://giwmscdntwo.gov.np/media/app/public/75/posts/1685027418_40.pdf).

This book chapter argues that the exchange and use of seeds across countries and communities are important for ensuring national and global food and nutrition security, poverty alleviation and adaptation to the changing climate. Seeds Without Borders Initiatives (SWBI) initiated in South Asia is important to share and exchange seeds beyond the borders in similar agro-ecologies to promote enhanced and least-cost access to new improved varieties of crops to small-holder farmers. This chapter aims to document the rationale, concept, key concerns, issues and status for promoting SWBI in South Asia based on literature review, consultation meetings, workshops, and experiences of the authors working in South Asia. Some good initiatives have already been made since 2011 with the start of Protocol of Discussion (POD), namely Dhaka Agreement 2013, followed by Kathmandu Agreement in 2014 and Siem Reap Agreement in 2017. In addition, the process for the establishment of SAARC Seed Bank (2010) and other some regional collaborations have been initiated. SWBI is important in reducing time lags of variety development and dissemination in similar agro-ecologies in the member countries and maximize efficient use of resources to address climate-induced stresses and food and nutrition security needs. However, there are several constraints to access,

exchange, and share seeds and planting materials across the countries in South Asia. Increased developments of intellectual property right (IPR) regimes and access legislation recently have put restrictions on access to germplasm between and among the countries. The adoption of Protocols for SWBI, including revision and harmonization of seed policy, legislations, and access and material transfer agreements, are essential to facilitate inter-country sharing and exchange of common crop varieties important for food and nutrition security. The paper concludes that considering the high incidence of food insecurity and poverty and vulnerability of South Asian countries to climate change and natural disaster, there is a need of strengthening regional cooperation in relation to the sharing, conservation, use and exchange of crop genetic resources for ensuring food and nutrition security. SWBI is one of the important platforms for strengthening regional collaboration and facilitating germplasm exchange in South Asia.

**Keywords:** *seed exchange, regional cooperation, policy harmonization, seed trade, South Asia*

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**vi. Food Security Atlas of Nepal**

National Planning Commission, Government of Nepal, and World Food Programme. 2019. Kathmandu: National Planning Commission, Government of Nepal, and World Food Programme. [https://giwmscdnone.gov.np/media/app/public/56/posts/1684475007\\_83.pdf](https://giwmscdnone.gov.np/media/app/public/56/posts/1684475007_83.pdf).

This, the second iteration of the Food Security Atlas of Nepal, was produced by the National Planning Commission (NPC) in collaboration with the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP). The book/atlas has presented the exact scenario of the food security in Nepal with geographical and ethnicity-wise bases. The Atlas comprises of 11 chapters: (1) Food Security: a 4-dimensional framework; (2) Food Security Policy Architecture in Nepal; (3) Overview of Food Security in Nepal; (4) Nepal's People; (5) Agriculture in Nepal; (6) Nutrition

and Health; (7) Access and Roads; (8) Migration and Remittances; (9) Climate and Natural Hazards; (10) Household Food Insecurity and Coping Strategies; and (11) Addressing Food Security. Much like its preceding edition, this Atlas introduces food security and nutrition situation in Nepal through a multi-sectoral lens, leaning on geospatial analysis, but also on detailed graphs and poignant images, to highlight the drivers and consequences of food insecurity in Nepal. The country's progress in this area is also noted, and the policy orientation of the opening and closing chapters underscores how Nepal can build on its successes to make zero hunger a reality.

**Keywords:** *food security, mapping, drivers and consequences of insecurity, nutrition*

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**vii. State of Food Security in Nepal: Addressing Concerns of Productivity and Climate Change**

Pandey, Posh Raj. 2020. In *Regional Cooperation for Sustainable Food Security in South Asia*, 183-210, edited by Nagesh Kumar and Joseph George. New York and Oxon, UK: Routledge.

South Asia has high stakes in the global fight against hunger within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with the unattained responsibility of uplifting the largest concentration of undernourished people in the world. About 277 million people were reported to have suffered from hunger in the sub-region in 2017, accounting for one-third of the world's food-deprived population. One in every three children affected by stunted growth due to poor nutritional intake belongs to South Asia. Adverse health conditions inflicted by malnourishment at early stages often last a lifetime, with serious implications for human resource development of the subregion. South Asia is also reported to have one of the highest incidences of what is referred to as hidden hunger or micronutrient deficiencies. As the numbers stack up, they leave no doubt as to the severity of food insecurity prevalent in the subregion. Food insecurity

in South Asia continues to be unacceptably high despite notable progress made during last two decades. The subregion came close to achieving the MDGs (Millennium Development Goals) target of halving the proportion of undernourished people by 2015 from 1990 levels, bringing the figure down to about 16% from its baseline of 24%. In absolute terms, during the ten-year period from 2005 to 2015, the headcount of undernourished in the subregion reduced by 55 million to reach 284 million, registering an overall decline by 16.2%. However, this decline had been much sharper in proportional terms, considering that the overall population grew by 15.1% during the same period.

**Keywords:** *food insecurity, productivity, climate change, undernourishment, hidden hunger*

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**viii. Statistical Year Book: World Food and Agriculture 2023**

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). 2023. Rome: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc8166en>.

This Statistical Year Book 2023 has highlighted the economic dimensions of agriculture; production, trade, and prices of commodities; food security and nutrition; sustainability and environmental aspect of agriculture under separate chapters. Each chapter draws on the latest available data to describe through text and charts the trends since the early 2000s. As data on each topic are produced according to different schedules and with different methods and sources, the latest year available can change between sections. It is a global report which has topic of country definitions and classification, aggregation, and data presentation conventions included. One important aspect is the attention given to the impact of disasters on agriculture.

**Keywords:** *agricultural sector, agricultural resources, food security, food supply, agricultural statistics, disasters*

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## 2.4 Dedicated Reports/Briefs

### i. **Universal Periodic Review: Violations of the Right to Food in Nepal**

Submission by FIAN International to United Nations

Universal Periodic Review. July 2010.

<https://upr-info.org/sites/default/files/documents/2013-09/fianfoodfirstinformationactionnetworkeng.pdf>.

The aim of the report is to draw attention to the wide range of stakeholders on right to food violations and food access in Nepal. Many of these problems have existed for quite some time; some surfaced as early as 1970s. Yet they have not been met with any solutions thus far. However, the International Human Rights treaties and other international law sources recognizing the right to food the state of Nepal has committed to, as well as its Interim Constitution, which was adopted in 2007, obligate the government to adopt measures to realize the right to adequate food in these cases. On 14 May 1991, Nepal ratified the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). In addition, Nepal has also ratified all other treaties, relevant to the Right to Food, such as the International Covenant in Civil and Political Rights, the Convention for the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women or the Convention on the Rights of the Child and adopted the FAO Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security. Nepal's official respect for its citizen's right to food is also enshrined in the country's Interim Constitution. The Constitution also carries a number of provisions that are indirectly relevant to deal with the food crises, including legal basis to combat discrimination in the access to resources needed for the realization of the right to adequate food. The provisions in the constitution as well as the country's ratification of all major international instruments recognizing the right to food demonstrate that officially the state of Nepal is doing a

lot to ensure its citizens' right to food. However, the actual situation in Nepal frequently differs from the country's theoretical and official foundation. It means the structures have not been implemented in order to get impact in the effective realization of the right to adequate food of Nepal citizens. This submission presents case studies where these rights have not been respected, leading to situations of hunger, and provides recommendations to the Government of Nepal on mitigating such situations.

**Keywords:** *Universal Periodic Review, right to food, discrimination, constitutional provisions, treaty obligations*

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**ii.      Securing Food Future in the Asia-Pacific: Human  
          Securitising Regional Framework**

Elliott, Lorraine. 2011. *Policy Brief No. 8*. S. Rajaratnam  
School of International Studies. [http://www.jstor.com/stable/  
resrep17168](http://www.jstor.com/stable/resrep17168).

This policy brief in its introduction highlights about the global food crisis of 2007-2008, which drew attention to the importance of food security as a regional challenge for the Asia-Pacific. Regional strategies to achieve food security have recognized the need to provide immediate remedial support to alleviate hunger and restore livelihoods, to enhance capacity to anticipate food uncertainties, and to strengthen resilience to the impacts of future food disasters. The policy brief has touched upon The Rome Principles for Sustainable Global Food Security, adopted at the 2009 World Food Summit, that called for a 'twin-track' approach that would 'tackle hunger for the most vulnerable' in the short term and develop medium- and longer-term program to 'eliminate the root causes of hunger and poverty, including through the progressive realization of the right to adequate food'. It is based on desk review and library research as a methodological tool. The author focuses on the policy responses including improving agricultural marketing system, improving the

human capacity aspects of agriculture, improving the agricultural management practices, addressing the income and financial aspects of food production, regional responses, human securitizing regional food security frameworks. The author draws the conclusion that the burgeoning number of regional frameworks will not be able to guarantee food security if they rely on top-down decision-making and technical responses that overlook the concerns of the most vulnerable people. Food security frameworks, and the policies and strategies that they establish, need to be engaged with, and responsive to, the vulnerabilities and security needs of local communities, require inclusive strategies and transparent institutions as a whole.

**Keywords:** *food crisis, food security, regional frameworks, Rome Principles for Sustainable Global Food Security*

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**iii. Parallel Report: The Right to Adequate Food of Women in Nepal: Combined Fourth and Fifth Periodic Report of States Parties, Submitted to CEDAW's 49th Session**

Food First Information and Action Network (FIAN). 2011. Kathmandu: Food First Information and Action Network (FIAN) Nepal. [https://www.wocan.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/right\\_to\\_food\\_and\\_women\\_with\\_fian\\_nepal.pdf](https://www.wocan.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/right_to_food_and_women_with_fian_nepal.pdf).

The very concerning situation of hunger and malnutrition of women worldwide motivated the FIAN International to include the issue of gender and women's right to food as a cross-cutting issue in its strategic plan and make it a priority in its interventions. In this context, this parallel report analyzes the real situation of women in Nepal, based on the case work experience of FIAN Nepal vis-à-vis policies and legal framework. This report has been divided into three parts: (1) a brief background part, with brief scenario of the national situation of the right to adequate food in Nepal, and the international



and national applicable legal framework on the right to adequate food, (2) analysis of the situation of the right to adequate food of women in particular and (3) conclusions and recommendations.

**Keywords:** *Women, gender, right to food, hunger, malnutrition, parallel report, CEDAW*

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**iv. Nepal Thematic Report on Food Security and Nutrition, 2013**

National Planning Commission/Central Bureau of Statistics. March 2013. Kathmandu: National Planning Commission.  
<https://neksap.org.np/uploaded/resources/Publications-and-Research/Reports/Nepal%20Thematic%20Report%20Food%20Security%20%20Nutrition%202013.pdf>.

This is the synopsis report prepared based on the finding of the Nepal Living Standards Survey (NLSS) 2010/11. It updates the status of food security and nutrition in Nepal and analyzes key food security trends over the past 15 years. The NLSS 2010/11 covered 5988 households and included anthropometric data collected from approximately 2500 preschool children under 60 months of age. The NLSS 2010/11 is the third of its kind in Nepal (following surveys undertaken in 1995/96 and 2003/04) and represents a comprehensive and reliable source of information on the status of national and regional food security and the nutritional status of the population. Findings from the NLSS highlight significant socio-economic changes that are altering Nepal's national food security and nutrition landscape: (1) urbanization and remittance income have become drivers of poverty reduction and improved nutrition and food security; (2) households are now less dependent on self-production and more dependent on purchased food to meet their consumption needs than they have been previously; (3) population growth and changing consumption patterns are increasing demand for food at a time when agricultural growth has stagnated and urbanization is increasing; (4) food prices

have increased significantly in recent years despite improvements in rural road infrastructure and reduced transportation costs to some rural areas; (5) there have been improvements in chronic undernutrition (stunting), although the prevalence is still quite high, with over half of all children stunted by the time that they reach two years of age; and (6) acute undernutrition (wasting) has remained practically unchanged at a critical level of almost 15%, which is a concern. Over the past 15 years, Nepal has made significant gains in poverty reduction, from a rate of 40% in 1995/96 to 25% in 2010/11. This has been matched by a corresponding reduction in the proportion of the population experiencing hunger and chronic undernutrition. In spite of the progress made, some households are falling behind, and amongst some of the poorest households, there is evidence that vulnerability may have increased in recent years.

**Keywords:** *Nepal Living Standards Survey (NLSS), poverty reduction, food security, undernutrition*

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**v. Discourses of Food Security**

Koc, Mustafa. 2013. In *Accumulations, Crises, Struggles: Capital and Labour in Contemporary Capitalism*, 245-265, edited by B. Karaagac. Berlin/London: LIT Verlag.  
[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/261704132\\_Discourses\\_of\\_Food\\_Security](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/261704132_Discourses_of_Food_Security).

The book chapter by Mustafa Koc has been very crucial for aspirant researchers on food security. He claims, '[a]s an essential for human life, food has also been one of the key commodities' in capitalist economies. Food has played a very important role during the primitive accumulation process in earlier phases of capitalism; it has been a key instrument of 'development' in nation-building phases of many emerging states; it has been fundamental in the transfer of rural surplus labor to the dominant domestic and international ruling classes; and it has been vital for the reproduction of labor. Since the

early 1970s, the discourse of ‘food security’ defined the conditions of food provisioning in modern capitalist societies and legitimized social inequalities in access to means of production and food. Despite its wide use, food security has been a rather confusing concept with multiple definitions, and different priorities that kept changing over time. The book chapter concludes that the global food system is organized according to the principles of efficiency, productivity and profitability. Concerns about safety, social justice, local and regional development, and national sovereignty are only important as far as they do not become a categorical threat to the reproduction of labor, and to the conditions of accumulation. Periodic problems that are associated with the food system, such as the farm crisis, hunger and malnutrition and obesity epidemic are not anomalies but are reproduced by structures and institutions of the modern food system.

***Keywords: food security, capitalism, development, national sovereignty, reproduction of labor***

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**vi. Regional Cooperation for Strengthening National Food Security Strategies in South Asia: A Policy Agenda**

UN Economic and Social Commission on Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP). 2013. New Delhi: South and South-West Asia Office (SSWA) Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

<https://repository.unescap.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/e47a393e-3213-4dab-9d13-8aa424fc588b/content>.

This paper, prepared by UN ESCAP, South and South-West Asia Office, is based on the report of the ESCAP-SSWA South Asia Policy Dialogue on Regional cooperation for Strengthening National Food Security Strategies, organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, South and South-West Asia Office (ESCAP-SSWA) held in New Delhi, on 13 and 14 August 2013. Senior government officials, international food policy experts,

civil society, and other representatives discussed key challenges to national food security policies and opportunities that South Asian member states could pursue to increase regional cooperation for food security. This paper summarizes the highlights of the discussion at the event and the key conclusions and recommendations. A key achievement was the identification of a ten-point agenda for regional cooperation for food security that will be prioritized and implemented as a mandate of ESCAP-SSWA and its work in the subregion.

**Keywords:** *food security, regional cooperation, South Asia, hunger*

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**vii. The Discussion Paper on The SAARC Food Bank for Food Security in South Asia**

Panta, Krishna Prasad. 2014. *Discussion Paper 18*.

Kathmandu: South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE).

<https://sawtee.org/publications/DiscussionPaper18.pdf>.

Integration of food markets among South Asian countries is necessary to ensure food security, and social and economic stability in South Asia. Cooperation among member countries of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) is necessary to achieve such an integration. The SAARC Food Bank, established in 2007 as a successor of the non-operational SAARC Food Reserve, can be hugely beneficial to address food insecurity in South Asia, but it is yet to be operationalized. The Bank is particularly important for those SAARC member countries which are net food importers, and those with high risk of fluctuations in production owing to natural calamities. The non-operationalization of the SAARC Food Bank is attributed to structural flaws, along with allocation of insufficient food and procedural difficulties. The structural flaws of the Food Bank include impractical triggers and ambiguous governance mechanism. The volume of food earmarked for the Food Bank is also insufficient to meet food requirements during food shortages

and emergencies, especially for larger countries. Procedural difficulties emerge mainly due to the absence of an established pricing mechanism, poor transportation system, and inefficient distribution systems. Besides, lack of adequate information-sharing and low mutual inter-dependence in trade are also the contributing factors that have impeded the functioning of the Food Bank. First and foremost is increasing the size of the Food Bank. Also, members should keep the stock of food set aside for the SAARC Food Bank at locations closer to other members countries. This would help in quick delivery of food and in reduction of transportation costs. Decision-making and price-setting processes should be simplified to minimize procedural difficulties. In addition, The SAARC Food Bank Board and Nodal Points in member countries should be strengthened by providing them with clear mandate and secretariat services. The Board needs to clearly define an emergency situation and the level of food deficit that would entail accessing food from the SAARC Food Bank. It needs to authorize the Nodal Points of the member countries to decide and use food grains from its own reserve when necessary, using a food check mechanism.

**Keywords:** *SAARC Food Bank, food market, food insecurity, information sharing, inter-dependence*

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**viii. Climate Change and Food Security: Risks and Responses**

Food and Agriculture Organization. 2015. Rome: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/a4fd8ac5-4582-4a66-91b0-55abf642a400/content>.

This report highlights and underscores the risks to food security not only because the available food does not reach the right people but that in future this is likely to be affected by climate change as well. The report reads, '[i]n spite of the considerable progress made during the last several decades in reducing hunger, as of 2015 almost 800 million

people are chronically undernourished. An estimated 161 million children under five years are stunted. At the same time, 500 million people are obese'. It asserts that two billion people lack the essential micronutrients they need to lead healthy lives. FAO estimates that to satisfy the growing demand driven by population growth and dietary changes, food production will have to increase by 60% by 2050. It is not enough to have sufficient food produced globally to meet demand, enough food is produced globally now but there are still almost 800 million hungry people, but that everybody has access to it, in the right quantity and quality, all the time. According to the United Nations, in 2015, there are still 836 million people in the world living in extreme poverty (less than USD 1.25/day). And according to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), at least 70% of the very poor live in rural areas, most of them depending partly (or completely) on agriculture for their livelihoods. It is estimated that 500 million small-holder farms in the developing world are supporting almost 2 billion people, and in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, these small farms produce about 80% of the food consumed. Climate change threatens to reverse the progress made so far in the fight against hunger and malnutrition. As highlighted by the latest assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate change (IPCC), climate change augments and intensifies risks to food security for the most vulnerable countries and populations. Four out of the eight key risks induced by climate change identified by IPCC AR5 have direct consequences for food security: 'Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life'. This definition gives rise to four dimensions of food security: availability of food, accessibility (economically and physically), utilization (the way it is used and assimilated by the human body) and stability of these three dimensions.

**Keywords:** *climate change, agricultural sector, agro-ecosystems, food security, disaster risk management, resilience*

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- ix. **Written Contribution to the Universal Periodic Review—  
Situation of the Right to Food and Nutrition in Nepal**  
Submission by FIAN International. 23 March 2015. [https://  
upr-info.org/sites/default/files/documents/2015-10/fian\\_  
nepal\\_upr23\\_npl\\_e\\_main.pdf](https://upr-info.org/sites/default/files/documents/2015-10/fian_nepal_upr23_npl_e_main.pdf).

The report highlights the situation of right to food and nutrition in Nepal. Nepal has ratified most of the international human rights treaties. Nepal adopted the FAO Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security (Right to Food Guidelines) and the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGLT). Nepal has also ratified ILO Convention 169 and has adopted the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The lack of enjoyment of the right to adequate food and nutrition remains a critical issue in Nepal. Poverty heavily hampers households' efforts to achieve food and nutrition security. Nepal lags behind in terms of basic nutritional indicators, and undernutrition remains a challenge. Amongst children under the age of 5 years, 41% are stunted (low height for age), 29% are underweight, and 11% wasted (too thin for height), whereas about 16% population has been stated as undernourished. Micronutrient deficiencies are also seen to be higher with 46% children between age of 6 and 59 months suffering from anemia. The prevalence of stunting in the hills and mountains of Mid-western and Far-western regions is higher with the figure above 60%. Noting that the recommendations of the UPR 2011 concerning the right to food and nutrition remain largely unimplemented and highlighting several cases of legal noncompliance in this regard, the recommendation consists of adopting a comprehensive national strategy to ensure food and nutrition security for all, methodologies to identify groups suffering from violations of the human right to adequate food and nutrition and its causes. It also suggests that to create achievable and disaggregated benchmarks to monitor progress, expedite the

implementation of the previous recommendations, and invite, as a matter of priority, the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food to visit Nepal, adopt all necessary measures to guarantee the access to natural and productive resources, ensure priority for the most disadvantaged and marginalized groups in the policies and strategies on access to resources, ensure that indigenous and other communities feeding themselves from forests and fisheries are not evicted from their territories and prevented from accessing natural resources among others.

**Keywords:** *Universal Periodic Review, right to food, malnutrition, natural resources*

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**ix. Strengthening Social Justice to Address Intersecting Inequalities in Post-2015**

Arauco, Veronica Paz, Haris Gazdar, Paula Hevia-Pacheco, Naila Kabeer, Amanda Lenhardt, Syeda Quratulain Masood, Haider Naqvi, Nandini Nayak, Andrew Norton, Nidhi Sadana Sabharwal, Elisa Scalise, Andrew Shepherd, Deepak Thapa, Sukhadeo Thorat, D. Hien Tran, Leandro Vergara-Camus, Tassew Woldehanna, and Chiara Mariotti. 2014. *Report*. London: Overseas Development Institute. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep50551>.

This report builds on Kabeer's 2010 work to address the significance of deep identity-based forms of exclusion, which constrain the life chances of affected social groups. Those most likely to be left out of development progress are the groups in the population whose economic deficits intersect with culturally devalued identities, locational disadvantage, and lack of political representation. The most enduring forms of identity-based inequalities are ascribed from birth such as race, caste, and ethnicity, which persist over generations. The compounding quality of this form of disadvantage is captured by the term 'intersecting inequalities'. The sustained success in tackling



intersecting inequalities at the country level derives from a range of factors, which pertain more to social and political mobilization for goals of social justice than they do to technocratic details of aid or policy formulation. Politics matters for this but so do social norms and cultural values. It gives the key messages that the people most likely to be left behind by development are those facing intersecting inequalities, or economic deficits intersecting with discrimination and exclusion on the grounds of identity and locational disadvantage; the experience of seven countries (Brazil, Ecuador, Bolivia, India, Ethiopia, Pakistan and Nepal) shows that key ingredients for addressing intersecting inequalities are: social movements demanding changes in the 'rules of the game'; political trajectories and processes of constitutional change that facilitate and actualize these changes; social guarantees, opportunity enhancements, and developmental affirmative actions as well as specific policies and programs which show commitment to reduce intersecting inequalities over time; and the post-2015 agenda can help establish global norms which will support and encourage mobilization to tackle intersecting inequalities, including a strong commitment to universal quality basic services, and the development of country specific frameworks of targets and indicators monitoring intersecting inequalities. The experiences and the successes of the countries reviewed in this report suggest that there are a small number of 'key ingredients' required to address intersecting inequalities, including social mobilization, political change, constitutional reforms, increased political participation in pluri-national states, a combination of universal and targeted or affirmative action especially in the policy field, and further mobilization around the implementation of rights and guarantees.

**Keywords:** *intersecting inequalities, identity-based exclusion, locational disadvantages, social mobilization, political mobilization*

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- x. **The Food and Nutrition Security: A Status Report of Nepal**  
Regmi, Hem Raj. 2016. Presented at the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics (APCAS 26), Thimpu, Bhutan, 15-19 February 2016. [https://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/ess/documents/apcas26/presentations/APCAS-16-6.4.4\\_-\\_Nepal\\_-\\_Food\\_Security.pdf](https://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/ess/documents/apcas26/presentations/APCAS-16-6.4.4_-_Nepal_-_Food_Security.pdf).

This presentation gives a snapshot of Nepal's agriculture sector and Nepal's Food security in Nepal and its related policies, strategies, and practices. It also highlights the methodology adopted by the Ministry of Agriculture Development on measuring food security and data generation and analysis using products details on food balance sheet and ADePT/FSM 4. It concludes with lessons learned and the way forward.

**Keywords:** *food security, nutrition security, food balance sheet*

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- xi. **Nepal: Sources of Growth in Agriculture for Poverty Reduction and Shared Prosperity**  
World Bank Group. 2016. *Report No ACS18679*. Washington, DC: The World Bank. <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/464681499870177588/pdf/Final-Report-Nepal-Sources-of-Growth-in-Agriculture-for-Poverty-Reduction-and-Shared-Prosperity.pdf>.

This report underscores the fact agriculture is the backbone of poverty reduction in Nepal, contributing around 35% to GDP, yet characterized by volatility. Remittances, while essential, largely support consumption, with only 1.2% invested in productive rural assets, not towards agricultural growth. The report identifies four primary drivers of agricultural income: yield increases, expanded cultivation area, price shifts, and diversification into higher-value crops. The report is organized into six chapters: it explores drivers

and constraints to growth, evaluates public input expenditures like seed and fertilizer, studies export-oriented chains such as ginger, and concludes with policy and investment recommendations. One of the main recommendations is to prioritize broad-based agricultural productivity growth by developing and disseminating climate-resilient, nutritious technologies and strengthening agricultural extension systems. Additional proposals include adopting smart input subsidy systems like e-vouchers, enhancing WTO's Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) compliance infrastructure, and building regulatory capacity. Overall, the report underscores the need to shift from consumption-driven growth to productivity-led transformation for inclusive and sustainable agricultural development.

**Keywords:** *poverty reduction, agricultural productivity, climate resilience*

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- xii. **The Future of Food and Agriculture: Trends and Challenges.** Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). 2017. Rome: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/2e90c833-8e84-46f2-a675-ea2d7afa4e24/content>.

The report has analyzed the trends and challenges of food and agriculture, which have caused both hope and concern. Much progress has been made in reducing hunger and poverty and improving food security and nutrition. Gains in productivity and technological advances have contributed to more efficient resource use and improved food safety. But major concerns persist. Some 795 million people still suffer from hunger, and more than two billion from either micronutrient deficiencies or forms of over-nourishment. In addition, global food security could be in jeopardy, due to mounting pressures on natural resources and to climate change, both of which threaten the sustainability of food systems at large. Planetary boundaries may well be surpassed if current trends continue. The

world's population is expected to grow to almost 10 billion by 2050, boosting agricultural demand, in a scenario of modest economic growth, by some 50% compared to 2013. Income growth in low- and middle-income countries would hasten a dietary transition towards higher consumption of meat, fruits, and vegetables, relative to that of cereals, requiring commensurate shifts in output and adding pressure on natural resources. The decline in the share of agriculture in total production and employment is taking place at different speeds and poses different challenges across regions. Although agricultural investments and technological innovations are boosting productivity, growth of yields has slowed to rates that are too low for comfort. Food losses and waste claim a significant proportion of agricultural output, and reducing them would lessen the need for production increases. However, the needed acceleration in productivity growth is hampered by the degradation of natural resources, the loss of biodiversity, and the spread of transboundary pests and diseases of plants and animals, some of which are becoming resistant to antimicrobials. Satisfying increased demands on agriculture with existing farming practices is likely to lead to more intense competition for natural resources, increased greenhouse gas emissions, and further deforestation and land degradation.

**Keywords:** *sustainable agricultural development, poverty reduction, consumption*

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**xiii. SAARC Food Bank (SFB), Institutional Architecture and Issues of Operationalization**

Rahaman, Mustafizur, Estiaque Bari, and Sherajum Monira Farin. 2017. *CPD Working Paper 113*. Dhaka: Centre for Policy Dialogue.

<https://cpd.org.bd/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/cpd-working-paper-113-saarc-food-bank-sfb-institutional-architecture-and-issues-of-operationalisation.pdf>.

In view of the need for an appropriate institutional architecture to address the food security concerns in South Asia, issues of proper operationalization of the SAARC Food Bank (SFB) have assumed critical importance in the current context. This paper examines the various provisions that guide the functioning of the SFB and identifies the underlying reasons why this regional arrangement has failed to deliver the expected results. The paper comes up with concrete recommendations to raise the efficacy of the SFB in order for it to service its mandate. These include a proposed formula for critical thresholds that define food emergency situation, modalities for distribution of food from the SFB, maintenance of the food stock and ensuring quality of the reserves, derestriction of trade in foodgrains, putting in place a dispute settlement mechanism and options for institutional tie-ups.

**Keywords:** *SAARC, SAARC Food Bank, food security*

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**xiv. Sustainable Food Systems: Concept and Framework**

Hanh Nguyen. 2018. Rome: Food and Agricultural Organization of United Nations. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/b620989c-407b-4caf-a152-f790f55fec71/content>.

This framework has elaborated about the concept on food security and sustainable food system. It has addressed some of the crucial questions, i.e., What is sustainable food system? Why take a food system approach? How is the food system structured? What is sustainable food system development? And Theory of change and development programme, practical implication for FAO's work as well as how a food system approach can contribute to FAO's core activity areas with crystal clear framework.

**Keywords:** *sustainable food systems, FAO*

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**xv.      SDG Localization through Integration of Climate Change in Agricultural Planning and Budgeting at the National and Sub-national Levels**

Government of Nepal, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development. 2018. *Policy Brief*. Kathmandu: Government of Nepal Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development.

The policy brief is prepared on the bases of natural disasters, its cause of climate change, and its impact to the agricultural sector so as to aid in agricultural planning and budgeting at the national and sub-national level. It was also prepared for showing the exact scenario of status of climate change in agricultural planning and budgeting to localize the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Agriculture contributes about one-third of Nepal's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and employs about two-thirds of the population directly or indirectly. Agriculture being highly vulnerable to climate change experiences far-reaching impacts with implications on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 1: Food Security, Nutrition and Hunger and Other SDGs. Since these impacts directly affect the livelihoods of a large number of people depending upon agriculture, it is important to integrate climate change in agriculture plans at all levels of government—local, provincial, and federal. As Nepal moves forward with implementation of Climate Change Financing Framework (CCFF) and its future roadmap to address climate impacts in a systemic manner, the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development remains committed to further work on the roadmap to make the agriculture sector climate resilient and be able to maintain agricultural productivity in the long run. This commitment along with the promise of taking the national efforts down to the sub-national levels under the federal governance system has to be further aligned with SDG-based planning and monitoring.

**Keywords:** *climate change, sustainable agriculture, development planning, disasters, sustainable development*

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**xviii. Innovative Agricultural Technologies in South Asia**

Nasreen Sultana, Fatema Nasrin Jahan, and S.M. Bokhtiar (editors). 2018. Dhaka: SAARC Agriculture Centre. <https://www.sac.org.bd/archives/publications/Innovative%20Agricultural%20Technologies.pdf>.

This book contains the papers and proceedings of the regional Expert Consultation on Formulation of Enabling Policy Recommendations and Project Concept for Popularization of Innovative Agricultural Technologies in South Asia held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, from 29-31 October 2018, jointly organized by the SAARC Agriculture Centre and Institute of Policy Dialogue of Sri Lanka with the support of Winrock International and Access Agriculture. Country papers were presentation by the expert representing their respective governments. Other experts selected for technical paper presentation were in their personal capacities. The papers included in this volume highlight and document the innovative agricultural technologies and practices of each of the SAARC countries.

**Keywords:** *agriculture, innovative technologies, SAARC*

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**xix. Right to Food in Nepal: An Analysis of the Right to Food and Food Sovereignty Act 2018**

Amnesty International Nepal. 2019. London: Amnesty International Ltd. <https://www.amnesty.org/ar/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/ASA3101302019ENGLISH.pdf>.

The report has specifically highlighted right to food in Nepal in relation to the Right to Food and Food Sovereignty Act, 2018. Its conclusion correctly points to the fact that the enactment of the Right to Food and Food Sovereignty Act, 2018 is an important step forward towards making the right to food a reality. The Act contains several affirmative provisions such as the provisions that require identification of food-insecure households, protect farmers' rights,

formulate food plans and take steps to penalize actions that may impair access to minimum essential food. Implementation of such provisions should be given a high priority including by raising public awareness, formulating necessary rules/regulations and a national food plan in consultation with the stakeholders.

**Keywords:** *right to food, farmers' rights, essential foods, regulations*

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**xx.      Written Contribution to the Universal Periodic Review—  
Situation of the Right to Adequate Food and Nutrition in  
Nepal**

Submission by FIAN Nepal. 2020. [https://fiannepal.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/FIAN\\_Nepal\\_UPR\\_Report.pdf](https://fiannepal.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/FIAN_Nepal_UPR_Report.pdf).

Nepal has ratified most of the international human rights treaties and adopted most of the UN Declarations. The Constitution of Nepal, 2015 guarantees the right to food and food sovereignty under its fundamental rights. The Right to Food and Food Sovereignty Act, 2018 is promulgated and other Acts , sectoral laws/frameworks such as section 8 and sub-section 3 of Act Relating to Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2074 (2017) , section 7 and sub-section 2 of National Park and Wildlife Conservation Act, 2029 (5th amendment) action plans, programs, and strategies support people's right to adequate food focusing, especially on marginalized communities and groups of Nepal. Yet poverty and lack of enjoyment of the right to adequate food and nutrition remain a critical issue in Nepal, as highlighted by case studies in this submission. It has recommended to the Government of Nepal to fully implement previous (2015) UPR recommendations: formulating a comprehensive national action plan and especially implement at local level, relevant to the human right to adequate food and nutrition; the government should ratify the optional protocol of ICESCR and formulate an appropriate mechanism to



implement it from local to federal levels; the government should implement the Right to Food and Food Sovereignty Act, 2018 and related policy/plan/programs to ensure food and nutrition security for all, particularly targeting the vulnerable, marginalized, and disadvantaged communities and groups of society; the government should improve the mechanisms and methodologies to identify and legally recognize indigenous peoples to facilitate their access to natural resources and government schemes; the government should ensure that indigenous and other communities feeding themselves from forests and fisheries are not dispossessed from their territories and prevented from accessing natural resources; the government should implement people's fundamental right to shelter, especially focusing on earthquake-affected people; the government should ensure the access to government health and nutrition services and facilities especially for Dalit women living with HIV/AIDS.

**Keywords:** *Universal Periodic Review, right to food, food security, nutrition, poverty, discrimination*

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**xxi. Nepal's Agrifood System: Structure and Drivers of Transformation**

Diao, Xinshen, Mia Ellis, Peixun Fang, Karl Pauw, Angga Pradesha, and James Thurlow. 2023. *Country Brief 12*. Washington, DC: International Food Policy Research Institute. <http://www.jstor.com/stable/resrep52104>.

This is a country brief jointly published by International Food Policy Research Institute, Initiative on Foresight and Initiative on National Policies and Strategies. Nepal experienced annual economic growth of 5% between 2009 and 2019, which combined with a relatively slow population growth rate of 1.4%, the living standards of most Nepali's improved during this period allowed Nepal to graduate in 2019 from a low-income country to a lower-middle-income country. Nepal's economy, however, was severely affected by the COVID-19

pandemic, with GDP declining by 2.4% in 2020 and growing only modestly in 2021. The agrifood system (AFS), however, did not grow fast, achieving only a 3.2% annual growth rate between 2009 and 2019. This slow growth resulted in a decline in the off-farm share of the AFS between 2009 and 2019, while the primary agricultural share of total GDP fell only modestly. The primary agricultural employment share, however, declined rapidly from 46.1% in 2009 to 29.7% in 2019. In this brief, rather than examining all components of Nepal's AFS, the authors have narrower focus. First, they measured its size, structure and historical contribution to economic growth and transformation through a data-driven exercise; second, they used the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Rural Investment and Policy Analysis (RIAPA) model (2023) to assess the effectiveness of the AFS growth in promoting multiple development outcomes in Nepal. The brief claims that the structural change in the broader economy that accompanied Nepal's rapid economic growth was not echoed by a similar structural change in the country's agrifood system, causing a lack of transformation in Nepal's AFS. Almost all the growth in Nepal's AFS between 2009 and 2019 was contributed by less-traded value chains (77.9%); the robust contribution from this group is explained by both its large initial size and its above-average growth rate.

**Keywords:** *agrifood system (AFS), agricultural growth, developmental outcome*

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**xxii. Right to Food: Learning and Exchange Report, 10-19 February 2024, Nepal**

FIAN Nepal Civil Society Platform. 2024.

<https://pelumassociationrs.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Right-to-Learning-and-Exchange-Report-with-pictures.pdf>.

This report documents the learning and exchange visits between FIAN Nepal and members of Participatory Ecological Land Use

Management (PELUM) Association, a regional network of 280 civil society organizations in 12 countries in Africa, between 10-19 February 2024 to field sites in various districts in Nepal. The team was divided into groups to cover larger number of cases. They visited small farmers and places affected by industries, national parks, and landlessness. At the end of the meeting, they issued a joint statement that ‘call for the immediate and comprehensive implementation of the Right to Food Guidelines with due consideration and application of advances of the normative and legal framework on the human right to adequate food and nutrition made since their adoption in 2004’. It calls on governments to strengthen their commitment ‘towards the realization of the right to food and nutrition and to end hunger and malnutrition, by incorporating international human rights provisions into national legislation, regulations, policies and programs... uphold their obligations regarding the realization of the human right to food and nutrition by implementing the guidelines and taking decisive actions to end hunger and malnutrition’.

**Keywords:** *right to food, learning and exchange, PELUM, malnutrition*

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**xxiii. Agriculture Development Strategy (ADS)/Joint Sector Review (JSR), Fifth Annual Report.**

Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Government of Nepal. 2024. Kathmandu: Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Government of Nepal.

[https://giwmscdntwo.gov.np/media/pdf\\_upload/ADS%20JSR%20Fifth%20Annual%20Report\\_ynbffe.pdf](https://giwmscdntwo.gov.np/media/pdf_upload/ADS%20JSR%20Fifth%20Annual%20Report_ynbffe.pdf).

The Joint Sector Review (JSR) is a policy instrument to promote mutual accountability for Nepal’s agriculture sector development. After being implemented for the last five years, the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MoALD) acknowledges

that the JSR mechanism has proven to be a viable institutional structure for periodic review of agriculture sector performance. The fifth annual sector review, which is also the fifth annual JSR progress review, has assessed progress of the third and fourth annual sector review recommendations and the resulting action plans of the third and fourth annual JSR meetings; initiatives taken to broaden stakeholder consultations for the annual sector review; achievements against Agriculture Development Strategy (ADS) implementation plan and indicators; analysis of issues that are posing challenges to sector performance; and recommendations and actions for MOALD, provincial agriculture ministries, and development partners to incorporate in their annual programs for fiscal year (FY) 2024/25.

**Keywords:** *Agriculture Development Strategy, Joint Sector Review (JSR), agriculture sector performance*

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**xxiv. mVAM Market Update of Nepal #25**

United Nations World Food Programme. 2024. Kathmandu: World Food Programme. <https://reliefweb.int/node/4076198>.

This report highlights market status update of most essential food prices in Nepal during May 2024. World Food Programme Nepal regularly monitors and conducts market surveys using the mobile Vulnerability Assessment and Mapping (mVAM) method. This market survey was conducted in the fourth week of May 2024 across the country, aimed at monitoring the prices of food and non-food commodities and assessing the impact of global market and supply chain disruptions. In May 2024, 35 traders from 32 districts were interviewed through telephone and face-to-face interviews. The information assessed includes availability of food and non-food items, demand and supply, transportation costs, demand for and wage rates for unskilled labor, retail prices of basic food items, etc. Food availability and markets monitored showed sufficient availability of food and non-food commodities, as reported by more than 91%

of traders, a decrease of 8% from the previous month. Over 79% of traders reported medium level of demand for food commodities, and 91% medium demand for non-food commodities, compared to 77 and 90%, respectively, in April 2024. It reports that high demand for food was reported by nearly 21% of traders, mainly in the Karnali mountain and hill districts, a decrease of 11% from April 2024 while nearly 6% of traders reported high demand for non-food items. Likewise, it argues that the purchasing power of daily wage laborers increased across the mountain and Tarai regions compared to May 2024; however, it remains slightly low in the hills compared to April 2024. Overall purchasing power remains low, particularly in areas with a higher prevalence of food insecurity.

**Keywords:** *market survey, food prices, purchasing power, food availability*

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## 2.5 Act/Laws and Theses on Food Sovereignty and Right to Food

### i. **The Right to Food and Food Sovereignty Act, 2075 BS**

Government of Nepal. 2018. <https://www.lawcommission.gov.np/content/12757/12757-the-right-to-food-and-food-sov>.

The Act has 8 chapters and 47 sections. It was authenticated by President Bidhyadevi Bhandari on 18 September 2018 (2075.6.2) after the endorsement and submission by the Federal Parliament of Nepal. It has properly provisioned and systematized the right to food issue with its preamble and in its various chapters: Right to Food and Protection from Food Insecurity—respect, protection and fulfillment of the right to food, prevention and control of famine, identification of targeted household, to provide food for free and concessional price, to prescribe standards of nutritious element of food, emergency food and nutrition security, food crisis zone may be declared, to give priority to local food; Protection and Promotion of Food Sovereignty; Implementation of Right to Food; Availability, Supply and Distribution System of Food; National Food Council, Provincial Food Council and Local Food Coordination Committee; Offences and Punishment and Miscellaneous; and Miscellaneous.

**Keywords:** *Right to Food and Food Sovereignty Act, food security, food sovereignty*

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### ii. **The Right to Food: From Law to Practice: Lessons from the Nepalese Experience, 2007-2016**

Pingsdorf, Julia. 2016. Master's thesis submitted to the Department of Political Science, Law, and International Studies, School in Economic and International Law, Univesita Degli Studi Di Padova, Padua, Italy.

From the abstract: This dissertation focuses on the situation of

the right to adequate food in Nepal. The starting point are the constitutional recognition of the right to food sovereignty in this country's Interim Constitution of 2007, and the inclusion of the rights to food, food security and food sovereignty in the 2015 Constitution of Nepal. The general objective is to describe and assess the relevance and limits of the legal recognition of this right. In order to do so, the dissertation is structured around the identification of structural, process, and outcome indicators that allow for the description of the legal and institutional framework for the right to food in Nepal; for the identification of steps taken towards the realization of this right; and finally for the analysis of changes in the right to food situation during the analyzed time period.

**Keywords:** *right to food, Interim Constitution of 2007, 2015 Constitution of Nepal, food security, food sovereignty*

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- iii. **Right to Food in Global Pandemic: Status of Food Security in the Phase of COVID 19: A Case Study of Daily Wage Workers Residing in Samakhushi, Kathmandu, Nepal**  
Thapaliya, Sugam. 2021. Master's thesis submitted to the Faculty of Landscape and Society, Norwegian University of Life Sciences, As, Norway. <https://nmbu.brage.unit.no/nmbu-xmlui/handle/11250/2835580>.

From the abstract: The outbreak of COVID-19, followed by the lockdown imposed by the government to contain its spread, has brought Nepal to a standstill. As most of the economic activities have slowed down, food security amongst the vulnerable groups who fundamentally rely on daily wage to fulfill their day-to-day food needs are in a state of jeopardy. The rights-based approach argues that despite there being enough resources available around the world to ensure food security, the inequalities and policies of food security prevent the achievement of food security. Therefore, these advocates of a rights-based approach seek appropriate laws and policies to

ensure the right of every human being. This research aims to study the consequences of COVID-19 on food security amongst the poor, and the government's and NGOs' food security measures, and the media and NGOs response to these through the lens of rights-based approach between 24 March 2020 (when the first lockdown was introduced by the government) and 20 May 2021. This research identified that the status of food security amongst the daily wage workers in Kathmandu in the phase of COVID-19 is deteriorating because the restrictions imposed to contain the virus resulted in weakening the already shaken foundation of food security amongst the vulnerable. The poor food accessibility amongst the daily wage workers was a result of loss of jobs, affecting their purchasing power, the high price of food commodities, disruption of other sources of income, and fear of infection. Further, inadequate food availability and poor food utilization too were the factors contributing to food insecurity amongst the respondents. The food security response ordinance promulgated by the government barely touches upon the food security principles, very few implementations have been done by the government regarding food security in the phase of COVID-19. In contrast, a wide range of NGOs has come forward to provide food relief to the poor. This research paints a clear picture regarding the poor operationalization of the rights-based approach to food security in Nepal. It has underscored the fact that the Government of Nepal was not prepared and its poor response has resulted in a food security crisis in Nepal.

**Keywords:** *COVID-19, vulnerable population, food security, rights-based approach, government response*

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## 2.6 Article/Opinion on Food Security in Daily Newspaper

### 1. *Kathmandu Post* English Daily—Article/Opinion on Food Security

- i. Bhattarai, Anil. 2014. “Measure for Measure.” *The Kathmandu Post*, January 15.
- ii. Dixit, Kanak Mani. 2014. “Job Security in the Gulf.” *The Kathmandu Post*, January 17.
- iii. Adhikari, Kamalesh. 2014. “Tentacled Tactics.” *The Kathmandu Post*, January 22.
- iv. Rajbanshi, Saloman. 2014. “Economy First.” *The Kathmandu Post*, February 12.
- v. Geelan, Kirsten. 2014. “A Daal-Bbhat Issue.” *The Kathmandu Post*, February 16.
- vi. Pradhan, Kabindra. 2014. “Seeds of Change.” *The Kathmandu Post*, February 17.
- vii. Rana, Pranaya SJB. 2014. “Migration as Metaphor.” *The Kathmandu Post*, February 26.
- viii. Bisht, Suman. 2014. “Burgeoning Burdens.” *The Kathmandu Post*, March 7.
- ix. Bhattarai, Arun. 2014. “Bringing It Back Home.” *The Kathmandu Post*, March 11.
- x. Bista, Jyoti. 2014. “A Fight for Food.” *The Kathmandu Post*, March 16.
- xi. Ghimire, LS. 2014. “Making Poverty History.” *The Kathmandu Post*, March 19.

### 2. *Kantipur* National Daily [in Nepali]

- i. Bhattarai, Anil. 2071 BS. “Mausami Sankatka Sanket” [Indication of Climate Crisis]. *Kantipur Daily*, 5 Baisakh.
- ii. Kunwar, Suraj. 2071 BS. “Kishan Byabasayi Bandai” [Farmers Turning Entrepreneur]. *Kantipur Daily*, 6 Baisakh.

- iii. Pandey, Surendra. 2071 BS. "Kasari Garne Krishiko Byabasayikaran?" [How to Commercialize Agriculture?]. *Kantipur Daily*, 9 Baisakh.
- iv. Karmacharya, Suman. 2071 BS. "Krishi Hamro Prathamikta" [Agriculture our prioritization]. *Kantipur Daily*, 11 Baisakh.
- v. Dahal, Keshav. 2071 BS. "Bhuinka Manchheka Sana Khushi" [Small Happiness of Vulnerable People]. *Kantipur Daily*, 17 Baisakh.
- vi. GC, Yubakdhaj. 2071 BS. "Krishi Prabidhikko Khancho" [Necessity of Agriculture Technicians]. *Kantipur Daily*, 21 Jestha.
- vii. Dangal, Prem. 2071 BS. "Banki Chha Samanti Utpadan Paddhati" [Still There Is Feudal Production System]. *Kantipur Daily*, 30 Jestha.
- viii. Kunwar, Suraj. 2071 BS. "Mano Falaudai, Muri Besaudai" [Producing Kilos, Purchasing Tons]. *Kantipur Daily*, 15 Ashar.
- ix. Bhattarai, Dhrubaraj. 2071 BS. "Bisadiko Jokhim" [Threats of Insecticides]. *Kantipur Daily*, 13 Shrawan.
- x. Paudel, Mahadev Prasad. 2071 BS. "Krishi Bimaakaa Chunaui" [Challenges of Agricultural Insurance]. *Kantipur Daily*, 31 Shrawan.
- xi. Deuja, Jagat. 2071 BS. "Sambidhanma Bhumisudhar" [Land Reform in Constitution]. *Kantipur Daily*, 27 Bhadra.
- xii. Pandey, Aatmaram. 2071 BS. "Bajurako Betha" [Trouble of Bajura]. *Kantipur Daily*, 14 Ashoj.
- xiii. Dahal, Keshab. 2071 BS. "Rajnitiko Aankhama Napareko Bhumisudhar" [Political Indifference in Land Reform]. *Kantipur Daily*, 18 Kartik.
- xiv. Bhandari, Akhanda. 2071 BS. "Hareklai Bhumi" [Land for Everyone]. *Kantipur Daily*, 1 Mangsir.
- xv. Paudyal, Jeevan. 2071 BS. "Krishima Chahiyako Fyujan" [Necessary Fusion in Agriculture]. *Kantipur Daily*, 9 Paus.
- xvi. Sharma, Navin. 2071 BS. "Krishi Kshetra Nabanesamma

- Bandaina Nepal” [Nepal Can’t Prosper without Prioritizing Agriculture Sector]. *Kantipur Daily*, 18 Paus.
- xvii. Bhattarai, Dhruvaraj. 2071 BS. “Krishi School Abashyak” [Need of Agriculture School]. *Kantipur Daily*, 21 Paus.
- xviii. Sharma, Navin. 2071 BS. “Organic Versus Rasayanik Kheti” [Organic vs Chemical Farming]. *Kantipur Daily*, 1 Falgun.
- xix. Kunwar, Suraj. 2071 BS. “Krishima Chhalang” [Leap in Agriculture]. *Kantipur Daily*, 7 Falgun.
- xx. Adhikari, Santosh. 2071 BS. “Jasle Krishima Bhabisya Dekhe” [Who Saw the Future in Agriculture]. *Kantipur Daily*, 7 Falgun.
- xxi. Thapa, Govinda Bahadur. 2071 BS. “Sanghiyata, Madhesh Ra Bhumisudhar” [Federalism, Madhesh and Land Reform]. *Kantipur Daily*, 12 Falgun.
- xxii. Chandrakishor. 2071 BS. “Garibisanga Najodiyako Niti” [Policy Not Linked to Poverty]. *Kantipur Daily*, 14 Falgun.
- xxiii. Roka, Hari. 2071 BS. “Bhoko Hunuko Peeda” [Sufferings of Being Hungry]. *Kantipur Daily*, 28 Falgun.
- xiv. GC, Yubakdhoj. 2071 BS. “Jaibik Bishadiko Khancho” [Need of Organic Pesticides]. *Kantipur Daily*, 29 Falgun.
- xv. Adhikari, Chandrasekhar. 2072 BS. “Sansarbara Rahat Aayo, Piditle Payanan” [Relief Package Came from Around the World, But Victims Didn’t Get]. *Kantipur Daily*, 16 Baisakh.
- xvi. Baskota, Pratima. 2072 BS. “Samanwaya Abhable Rahat Pugen” [Relief Didn’t Reach Due to Lack of Coordination]. *Kantipur Daily*, 16 Baisakh.
- xvii. Rathaur, Hariharsingh. 2072 BS. “Aspatalka Ghaitele Khana Payanan” [Injured People Couldn’t Get Food in Hospital]. *Kantipur Daily*, 16 Baisakh.
- xviii. Adhikari, Nagendra. 2072 BS. “Rahat Sankalanma Jute Sanghsantha: Rahatma Pani Daliya Bhagbanda” [Organizations Collecting Relief: There is Political Party-wise Share even in Relief]. *Kantipur Daily*, 16 Baisakh.
- xxix. Bal, Phulman. 2072 BS. “Sarkar Pani ta Deu!” [Government,

- please just give water!"]. *Kantipur Daily*, 17 Baisakh. [*Photo of Chandraman Tamang appealing for water nearby*].
- xxx. Lohani, Prakash Chandra. 2072 BS. "Mahabhukampako Peeda Ra Rahatko Prashna" [Sufferings of Mega-earthquake and the Question of Relief]. *Kantipur Daily*, 17 Baisakh.
- xxxi. Chaudhary, Raju. 2072 BS. "Wholesalemai Dobbar Mulya" [Double Price Even in Wholesale]. *Kantipur Daily*, 17 Baisakh.
- xxxii. Subedi, Pratima. 2072 BS. "Chamal Ra Paalko Aasha" [Expectation of Rice and Tent]. *Kantipur Daily*, 19 Baisakh.
- xxxiii. Bhandari, Akhanda. 2072 BS. "Khana deu Sarkar" [Feed Us Dear Government!]. *Kantipur Daily*, 21 Baisakh.
- xxxiv. Dhital, Maina. 2072 BS. "Kisanlai Bewasta Nagara" [Don't BE Indifferent to Farmers]. *Kantipur Daily*, 1 Jestha.
- xxxv. Manandhar, Rajendra. 2072 BS. "Rahat Dui Mana Chamal" [One Kg Rice as Relief]. *Kantipur Daily*, 3 Jestha. [*Photo of receiving nominal relief in her shawl--70-years-old Aaitimaya Thami, who has 3 sons and 4 grandchildren, had nothing to eat, and she had arrived in Katuwachaur from Sundradevi-8, Dolakha*].
- xxxvi. Paudel, Krishna Prasad. 2072 BS. "Krishi Bikashka Lagi Naya Bahasko Khancho" [Necessity of New Discourse for Agriculture Development]. *Kantipur Daily*, 20 Jestha.
- xxxvii. Manandhar, Hirakaji. 2072 BS. "Bhukampa Piditlai Krishima Rahat" [Relief in Agriculture for Earthquake Victim]. *Kantipur Daily*, 22 Jestha.
- xxxviii. Paudel, Krishna Prasad. 2072 BS. "Khadya Suraksha ra Krishiko Sawal" [Food Security and Issue of Agriculture]. *Kantipur Daily*, 5 Shrawan.
- xxxix. Paudel, Krishna Prasad. 2072 BS. "Kamjor Krishi Bikash Rananiti" [Weak Agriculture Development Strategy]. *Kantipur Daily*, 15 Bhadra.
- xl. Pyakuryal, Bishwambher. 2072 BS. "Nakabandile Janmayaka Gair-Arthik Mudda" [Non-Economic Issue given Birth by

- Blockade]. *Kantipur Daily*, 19 Ashoj.
- xli. Amatya, Sumitra. 2072 BS. “Nakabandile Nimtyayako Aatmanirbhartako Sawal” [Self-sufficiency Issue Created by Blockade]. *Kantipur Daily*, 21 Ashoj.
- xlii. B.C, Ganga. 2072 BS. “Nakabandiko Marma Dashain” [Dashain in Trouble Due to Blockade]. *Kantipur Daily*, 23 Ashoj.
- xliii. Sharma, Janardan. 2072 BS. “Atmanirbhar Banaun, Rastra Bachaun” [Let’s Be Self-sufficient, Safe Nation]. *Kantipur Daily*, 24 Ashoj.
- xliv. Gautam, Sabitri. 2072 BS. “Bhansagharko Jhyalbata Nakabandi Niyalda” [Seeing Blockade from the Kitchen Window]. *Kantipur Daily*, 29 Ashoj.
- xlv. Bhandari, Akhanda and Raju Chaudhary. 2072 BS. “Abhabai Abhabko Dashain” [Dashain During Full of Scarcities]. *Kantipur Daily*, 30 Ashoj.
- xlvi. Bhattarai, Dhruvaraj. 2072 BS. “Krishi Mulya Sthirikaran Aayog Aabasyak” [Need of Agriculture Price Stabilization]. *Kantipur Daily*, 1 Kartik.
- xlvii. Bhattarai, Tikaram. 2072 BS. “Nakabandi Ra Sambhawit Paridrishyahu” [Blockade and Possible Scenarios]. *Kantipur Daily*, 24 Kartik.
- xlviii. Mandhar, Hirakaji. 2072 BS. “Krishiko Yogdan Nabhulaun” [Let’s not Forget Contribution of Agriculture]. *Kantipur Daily*, 4 Mangsir.





The *Annotated Bibliography on Food Sovereignty in Nepal* is a key outcome of Purak Asia's work in 2024/25. The bibliography presents annotations of journal articles, research papers, and books and book chapters that contribute to debates on food sovereignty at both national and international levels. The publication highlights the impact of climate change, resilience strategies, new narratives on food systems, and the links between food scarcity, migration, and conflict. It also contributes to reference material on food sovereignty and promotes its effective use, making it a valuable resource for students, researchers, and practitioners.