

ABSTRACT

The study was to make the parallel connections between the agriculture and land use development policies for enhancing peri urban agriculture. It examined the agricultural activities carried out in the peri urban areas and explored the values of sellers and buyers for the valley's grown vegetables in the Kathmandu Valley. It being the epitome place for research with the immense influence of urbanization including rural migration and has the ever increasing demand of the vegetable produces.

This study began with the interviews of peri urban farmers further classifying it into different units of analysis under the single case study research method. Sellers and buyers were interviewed using 'snow ball sampling' linking farmers' livelihood with market and buyers' preferences. The findings from multilevel interviews were used to draw policy formulation considering sustainable development.

The diversity of farmers was in terms of land ownership, income, area, etc. Bhaktapur district comprised almost 90% of native farmers growing vegetables for business since the beginning of the settlement. Kathmandu and Lalitpur district comprised more than 60% of farmers from the urban and rural areas. The findings showed PUA's prospective in KV due to the urban infrastructure and market. However, first sustainability of PUA required financially stable livelihood of farmers. The study revealed weak market mechanism where farmers were 'price taker' than being 'price maker'. Further, there were no policies that supported farmers' right and preserved fertile agriculture land.

As a part of policy strengthening strategies, the business farmers of KV needs to be strengthened by establishing CBOs. It can serve as a medium to improve access to input, services and market. Such organizations including farmers initiated cooperatives help negotiate bargain power across the market value chain and strengthen their voice in policy making. They help incorporate UA in long range planning efforts, rural territorial development to leverage poverty reduction among the rural farmers and bring sustainability in agriculture. Also encouraging growing near living could be a part of mandatory landscape for the new development. From the study the sustainable livelihood strategies of the peri urban farmers includes agricultural intensification as well as diversification of employment and income sources to suggest policy formulation and achieve sustainable development from PUA in KV.

Keywords: Urbanization, Peri urban agriculture, Farmers, Market, Policy, Kathmandu Valley.
