

This special issue on 'sustainable agriculture and food security' examines diverse aspects of agriculture policies and practices in Nepal. There is an increased appreciation of 'food' as a crucial product for life, not only an economic commodity, and that it is closely associated with sustainable farming and food sovereignty. Current agricultural modernizing policies, have narrowly conceived agriculture as purely an economic sector. Accordingly, agricultural system as a whole has been obliterated and farmers are losing control on farming. At the same time ecosystem is losing resilient capacity to produce healthy food. In this context, sustainable agriculture can be seen as a way out. Sustainable agriculture combines science and art in producing food, fiber, and other products while enriching the ecosystem. This means producing healthy food without compromising the future generation's ability to produce food and critical ecosystem services. However, globalization has affected Nepal's agricultural sector in unique way. The corporate control has just been started, especially by introducing hybrid seeds and chemical fertilizer. Migration of youths to overseas labour markets has resulted labour scarcity in farms. How far this process is helping or hindering the sustainable agriculture has been the main theme taken by most articles in this issue of the journal. Especially, the first three articles take up this theme.

Article by Sunam highlights challenges of rising food import and declining domestic production. He examines the question of land and farming, which also mirrors recent socio-economic changes mainly triggered by migration. While foreign labour migration has benefited those households through remittances, processes of commodification of land and subsequent dispossession have posed critical threats to food security, especially of the poor. Similarly, Paudel and colleagues in their article demonstrate the pervasiveness of land abandonment in the Nepalese hills. They reveal three key reasons relating to ecological (like climate change), socio-economic (migration) and cultural (low esteem of farmers) factors in driving land abandonment in Nepal. The third paper by Tamang *et al.* highlights feminization of agriculture. The consequences are disproportionate burden on women, little financial benefits and increased social recognition. Likewise, the paper by Adhikari looks at how corporate control is growing in Nepal's seed sector as more and more hybrid and Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) seeds are entering into the market. The paper argues in favour of seed sovereignty in promoting sustainable agriculture.

Three other papers in the journal deal with alternative ways in farming that could help improve the livelihood of people, especially marginal ones. In their article, Kafle and Dahal demonstrate how the community fish farming through a co-operative could benefit marginalized people. They suggest that with technical empowerment and social mobilization, the marginalized communities become able to increase income by utilizing natural lakes. It implies that policies that empower communities and facilitate them may help enhance food security through underutilized water resources.

Pandit *et al.* investigate the impacts of agroforestry systems on improving people's livelihoods and delivering biodiversity conservation. It reveals that the practice of agroforestry system has changed considerably over time leading to increased number of agroforestry species with positive impact on livelihoods. Finally, Dahal analyses the system of rice intensification (SRI) and highlights its potential in enhancing rice productivity and therefore food security.

The articles contained in this journal certainly add value to the present discussions on sustainable agriculture in Nepal. Moreover, they have important policy relevance. Accordingly, they could very well be beneficial for researchers as well as policy makers. As always, we encourage readers to provide us feedback and comments on the content of the papers as well as in areas of design and formatting of this journal.