

“Challenges of Land Use in Nepal and Way forward “

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SUMMARY

Nepal is a land-locked country located between big nations India and China. More than 70 percent of total 27 million people in Nepal are directly or indirectly dependent on land as their basic means of livelihood. However, lack of farm commercialization has limited the contribution of agriculture at one-third of the total Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the country. One of the many more challenges in macroeconomic field /area facing by our country is land management at a current political unrest situation. Due to the political liquid and translational period, neither our country has been able to increase GDP as the government expected nor, Government has made progress in agriculture business, tourism sector, industrial situation, monetary policy and investment policy.

The scarce land in Nepal has been threatened from different phenomenon. Issue of land has been always a political issue in Nepal as more than 50,000-100,000 people are still landless and different political parties are using them as a ‘vote bank’ in every election for parliaments to local bodies.

On the other hand increasing population, land slide, soil erosion and rapidly growing urbanization across the country have posed a huge challenge to the management of land in the tiny Himalayan nation-- Nepal. Land in the hilly remote areas are increasingly becoming fallow and deserted due to rapid migration to urban areas where land is also under growing pressure of over population which has ultimately led to the encroachment of public land to shrinkage of arable land on the back of increasing urbanization and development of development infrastructure.

Squeezing volume of land due to above mentioned reasons has emerged as the threats to not only land management but also the food security in Nepal which , despite the agricultural country, is still dependent on import of food from neighboring India to fulfill supply deficit amid growing demands for food.

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Increasing migration of youths from rural farm land to urban areas within the countries and international labor destinations is another challenge in managing the land for agriculture commercialization in the country. Despite the fact, there were raft of measures were taken through polices and laws to ensure the proper land management in Nepal, scientific land use is still far cry.

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