



Integrated watershed management: a case study of Kurung river watershed and Argali FMISs

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Nepal's rainfall pattern is dictated by the monsoon. Because of the uneven temporal distribution of precipitation due to monsoon, the importance of watershed management in conjunction of year-round irrigation is very high. However, this factor is not fully appreciated at the field level. Watershed management and irrigation management are deemed to be separate entities and practiced accordingly at present. This paper highlights the physical, environmental and institutional linkages between the Farmer Managed Irrigation System (FMIS) and the management practices of the related watershed areas with specific focus on the status of nearest community forests and the ensuing impacts on dependant irrigation systems, through a case study of Kurung River Watershed and Argali FMIS at Palpa district, a typical mid-hill erosion prone area of Nepal.

The intensity of the sediments deposition has greatly reduced after the management of forests as a community forestry program. Similarly, the problems like landslides, canal damages are less occurred in the irrigation systems. The watershed of the source of streams and rivers are also found in a better condition after the introduction of community forests. It is found that the better the watershed is managed, the better are the positive impacts on the irrigation systems. However, in spite of having great significant impacts on irrigation system due to good watershed management, an institutional linkage between the groups does not exist. This paper argues that the synergy in management practices that could be generated by co-opting the management of watershed and the management of the dependant irrigation system would help to integrate the two and provide increased production, productivity and sustainability by ensuring water availability throughout the year for the systems. This paper further suggests to pro-

mote a policy of integration through suitable institutional arrangements and advocacy so that the beneficiary is larger than the sum total of smaller benefited communities.