

Socio-economy governs peoples' dependency on forests

A study on fuelwood dependency of buffer zone people of the Shivapuri Watershed and Wildlife Reserve has indicated that, despite restrictions, the people are compelled to use the park resources. Forty percent of the fuelwood source is fulfilled by the reserve whereas 58 percent was covered by the private plantations.

distance, but the socio-economic conditions and ethnicity of the local people that govern the collection of fuel wood most. The Magar, Tamang and Newar who constitute more than 70 percent of the households surveyed, are the one who consume more energy for preparing local wine and certain food stuff. Brahmin,

own woodlots which is very useful to meet the surplus need.

Landless, marginal and small land holders who are deprived of other alternatives have higher dependency on common property resource. Such dependency could be minimised only through the income generating



Lower socio-economic condition compels selling of fuelwood as a means of income. Even the junior member of the family has to give hands on it. Wood security is another aspect that these people have always to think of.

The national and the community forests have negligible contributions. Interestingly, the distance which is often cited as the obstacle to collect fuelwood, has been disproved by the present research. It is not the

Chhetries who are comparatively better off, have small family size, are less dependent on park's fuelwood. This is for the reason that, these people own comparatively larger landholding and have therefore, their

activities.

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Pests attack sissoo in the Terai

Looking at the failure of sissoo in the terai plains, the sissoo entrepreneurs are regretting these days, as to why they desperately planted this species. The reason - trees aged around three years or above are ultimately dying from the root decay which is coupled with stem borer insects.

The way sissoo was gaining popularity for plantation amongst the farmers, the author, with his simple understanding that monoculture often brings about problems, had



indicated towards the possible enigma of sissoo plantation areas of the Terai.

And, as soon as the first problem in sissoo which was due to defoliating insects, were reported at the Forest Research and Survey Centre from the East Rapti Irrigation Project areas of Chitwan District during 1995/96, the centre with the financial assistance of the then Forest Research Project, came into action to counteract defoliation. The Centre recruited an entomologist and studied the problem. The study out-put helped