



# THE CULTIVATION OF VEGETABLES IN THE CENTRAL HILLS AND MOUNTAINS OF NEPAL: IMPLICATIONS FOR POVERTY AND FOOD SECURITY

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- The vegetables and potato are the important crops in terms of nutrition and income in Nepal.
- These crops share about 7 percent of the total gross cropped area.
- The area and production of these crops is increasing in the recent years especially in the mountains and hills with the development of roads and marketing infrastructures.

## Objective

To identify the factors that determine the area allocation decision of farmers under vegetables and potato.

## Data Sources and Analytical Techniques

- 176 households from 5 districts of the hills and mountains of Central Development Region of Nepal.
- Data was collected during March to May 2004 for the crop year 2002/03.
- Tobit model- to identify the factors that determine the area allocation decision

## Result

- On an average, a household allocated 0.25 hectare area to these crops
- These crops contributed about 27 percent to the total cash income of the household
- About 7 percent of sampled household did not allocate any area for these crops .

### Determinants

- The education of the household head, nearness of the villages to the road heads and markets and the training imparted to farmers on vegetable crops have significant and positive effect on the area allocation .
- The area under the competing crops such as wheat during winter season and the maize during rainy season has negative significant effect on the vegetables' area allocation
- The farmers in these regions especially in the inaccessible areas still prioritize the cultivation of staple crops from the perspective of household food security

## Conclusion

The findings of this study have important implication for reducing poverty and strengthening food security. This can be achieved through developing and improving the roads and markets, strengthening the technical capability of the farmers by education and imparting trainings and strengthening existing extension services and network



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