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INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF GRADUATE RESEARCH AND REVIEW

ISSN: 2467-9283

Indexing & Abstracting

Open Academic Journals Index (OAJI), InfoBase Index, Cosmos, etc.

Vol-2, Issue-3 (August, 2016)



Full text of this paper can be downloaded online at www.ijgr.org

Attitude of Farmers on Open Border Agriculture Market of Belhiya Border of Rupandehi, Nepal

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Abstract

Dependency of farmers on neighbor country on border side was studied at Belhiya border, Rupandehi. 60 samples were collected in total, 30 from Nepal (Phulpur) and 30 from India (Keuteliya) and survey was conducted with the face to face interview of the respondents. The collected data was analyzed through statistical package system. In descriptive statistics frequency, mean, standard deviation was used to analyze the data. The major dependency of Nepalese respondents on India were found to be seed, fertilizers, pesticides, fuel, market, machinery tools, labour, livestock feed, medicine for livestock, etc. However, the dependency of Indian respondents on Nepal was found to be very low. Insecurity was major problem faced by Nepalese respondent and Indian respondent. Market facility, low cost of input, fertilizer and pesticide facility were major beneficiaries for Nepalese respondent. Similarly, market facility and children study were major beneficiaries for Indian respondent.

Key words: Farmers; Market; Belhiya border; Agriculture market

Introduction

Nepal is a small mountainous land locked country in South Asia in-between China in north and India in south, east and west located between latitudes of 26°22' N to 30°27' N and longitudes of 80°04' E to 88°12' E (Bhujaraj *et al.*, 2007). Nepal borders with India to the east, south and west; whereas China lies to the north of the Nepal. (GoN, 2014)

Nepal's border with India measures 1,690 kilometers. The border between Nepal and India was demarcated only after the Anglo-Nepal War of 1814-16. The border between Nepal and India was separated by river towards east and west. South border was demarcated by land, village, and forest. In many places, the home of a person fell in one country whereas the agricultural land was on the other side of the border. The actual scientific demarcation of Nepal-India boundary started during the topographical survey of the whole of Nepal carried out by the Survey of India in 1926-27 (Jha, 1993).

Since time immemorial, Nepal has been maintaining an open border system with India, which facilitates the free-flow of people from one country to another resulting in many advantages as well as limitations. Nepal being a least developed country is highly dependent on its immediate neighbors like India and China in many ways. As such, there is no need of passport or visa formalities.

There are 23 checkpoints for trade purposes. The nationals of one country can enter into the other country through the border not merely through the checkpoints but through any other point. But foreign nationals require both an entry and exit visa and they must cross over the border through either of six immigration points, which include Banbasa,

Dhangadhi, Nepalgunj, Bhairahawa, Birgunj and Kakarbhitta.

Socio-cultural similarities on either side of the international border, a universal phenomenon, are more pronounced in the case of Nepal-India border. Such ties have been enhanced due to open border with no restrictions on the movement of people on either side. Social and cultural similarities do exist along the Nepal China boundary as well but more prominent in the case of Nepal India border where people have easier access and interaction. Ethnic and linguistic similarities exist along the Nepal-India border both in the south plains and hills in the east and west. The open border has naturally promoted social and cultural interaction among the nationals of both sides through matrimonial relationship as well.

The open border has economically benefited the nationals inhabiting both sides of the border. Those engaged in agriculture have economically benefited from the sale and purchase of agriculture and livestock products in hat bazaars taking place regularly in different places on either side. The increasing urbanization and growth of towns in the terai and along the border inside Nepal has resulted in large inflow of goods from India to Nepal. The open border has provided employment to the people on both sides in the transport sector as well.

Open border is one of the major issues often discussed for its advantages and limitations. Such markets are therefore needed to be studied so as to analyze whether it would be advantageous for the local people. Literatures show that Nepal has negative trade balance with India and open border market in such situation must be analyzed for its possible improvements. It is important to do such study so as to assess impact of such border market which would further

serve for ideas for types of productions and policies for Nepalese producers.

Each and every farmers of Nepal are India oriented for their field and livestock requirements. Also Indian of boarder side is dependent on Nepal for different aspects of farm level requirements. Due to which different benefits are gained by farmer of both side of boarder although different problems are arises due to open boarder.

Broad objectives

To identify the attitude on open border agriculture market of Belhiya border Rupandehi, Nepal.

Specific objectives:

- To know about the effects of open boarder among boarder side people.
- To identify the dependency of Nepalese farmers on India.
- To identify the dependency of Indian farmers on Nepal.

Every day large mass of people deals across the border for their livelihoods without many obstacles at boarders. Socio economic, cultural, religious activities have similarities between two people of both sides. Farmers of Nepal are dependents on India for availability of seed, fertilizer, machinery tools, livestock feed and other daily requirements which are available at low rate in compare to Nepalese market. Also Indian farmers are dependent on Nepal for different aspects of agricultural requirements such as labor, field for rent, organic fertilizer and daily wage labor work at agriculture field. Findings of this study are helpful for making policies related to the marketing

behavior, management and the sustainability of the ongoing market. This study also point out inter- linkage between the buyers and the sellers so as to understand the supply of the market and satisfaction level of the consumer.

The study finds out the socio economic impacts on the people through the study of the relationship between the buyers and the sellers, marketing system, pricing mechanism, and different marketing problems.

In spite of its scope there are various limitations of the study. For instance, the research was carried out mostly on the basis of respondents whose information may not be exact. Moreover, the study is not extensive in terms of reviewing every study available. It has also not been able to cover a wide range of stakeholders due to limitation of time and money.

Methods and Methodology

The sample survey research design was used for this study. It includes the site selection, research design, sample selection, pretesting of questionnaire, sources of information, data collection and analysis of data.

Site Selection

Belhiya border is one of the most important open borders between Nepal and India. So the Study was carried out in range of 7 kilometers from border line of Nepal and India. In Nepal, Phulpur and in India, Keutaliya were chosen to collect the data through questionnaire survey. Most of the agricultural inputs have been exchanged from this border, as it is nearer to Sunauli border which is the second largest trading border of Nepal next to Birgunj border (Fig. 1).

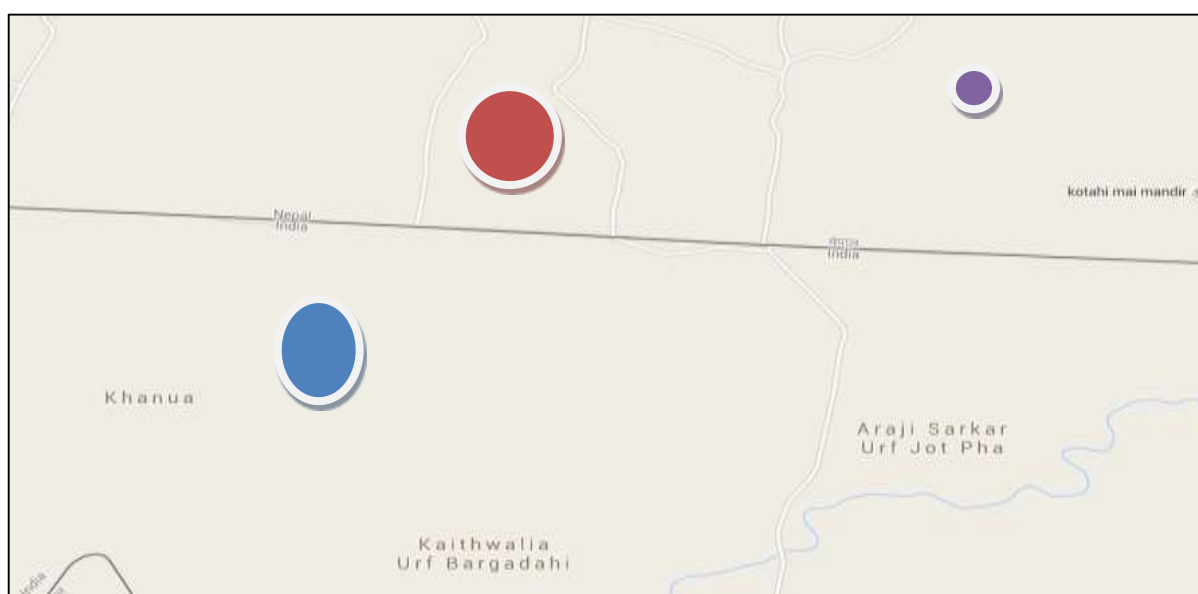


Fig. 1: Map of Belhiya Border Rupandehi, Nepal (Source: Google Map, 2016)

Research design

The Descriptive survey research design was carried out to explore and describe the effects of open border on agriculture. Both quantitative and qualitative data were used to explain the effectiveness of study. Through structured survey questionnaire the information such as major crops and livestock with their dependency due to open border, problem and beneficiaries due to open border were mainly collected.

Sample selection

The population was made up of all the farmers of open border area. Two localities Phulpur (Nepal) and Keutaliya (India) were used to collect the data. Farmers were selected by using simple random sampling. Sixty samples were collected in total, thirty from Nepal and thirty from India.

Pre-Testing of Questionnaire

Pre-testing of questionnaire was done prior to the survey with 6 respondents. Farmers depending upon the open border in Meudihawa (Specially in border side), Siddharthanagar of 6 respondents were used for checking the effectiveness and applicability of questions on questionnaire schedule which were not included in the study.

Sources of Information

Sample respondents through questionnaire in farmer groups were the primary sources of information. Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), District Agriculture Development Office (DADO), National Agriculture Research Council (NARC), Governmental Organizations, community Based Organizations were used for secondary information source.

Interview Schedule Design

For this a coordination scheme was prepared in relation with the objectives of the study. Based on the co-ordination schema in interview schedule different variables were included. Open ended, closed ended and structured interview was used for the information collection.

Techniques of Data Collection

The reliable and meaningful data was collected by face to face interview, observation and informal interaction from household head. Secondary information was collected from published and unpublished literature of DADO, NARC and MOA.

Methods and Techniques of Data Analysis

After the data had been collected from questionnaire, the questionnaire was coded, tabulated and analyzed using the descriptive tools like frequency, percentage, mean, standard deviation. The descriptive statistics were used to describe the respondents' socio-economic characters such as gender, ethnicity and secondary occupation. The analysis was carried out with the help of statistical package known as SPSS (Version 16.00) and MS-excel programs. The score of dependency on each item were tabulated after analyzing the frequencies in SPSS data entry.

Results and Discussion

The results obtained from the field survey are analyzed and presented in this section with the help of tables and figures.

Socio-economic Characteristics of farmers

Sex

Sex gives the number of male and female respondent farmer present in the society. Sex will also help us know the involvement level of male and female in agriculture. The sampled respondents were majorly male and few female. However, the numbers of male respondents were greater in India than in Nepal.

Table 1: Gender Distribution of study area

Gender	Frequency (Nepal)	Frequency (India)
Female	11 (36.70)	3 (10.00)
Male	19 (63.30)	27 (90.00)

Source: Survey, 2016 (Figure in parenthesis indicates percentage)

The Table 1 shows the distribution of gender of respondents. The result shows that percentage of female respondents was more in Nepal than India. However, majority of respondents were male in both cases.

Ethnicity

Ethnicity provides data of different ethnic group present in the Nepal and Indian Border Society. Mainly madhesi, dalit, janajati, and Brahmin ethnic groups of Nepalese people are involved in agriculture at study area. Majority of farmers from Nepal were Madhesi and least were Dalit. All the farmers from India were Madhesi at study area (Fig. 2).

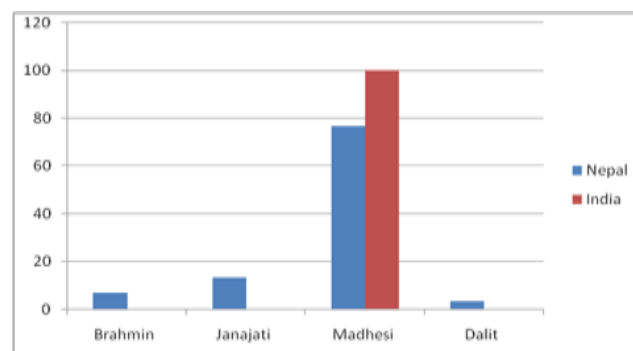


Fig 2: Ethnicity of Boarder side Farmers

Secondary Occupation

Agriculture is known as primary occupation and other occupation than agriculture is known as secondary occupation. Secondary source of job holding was recorded in the study. Secondary occupation of most of the sampled respondents from Nepal was none followed by business and least was government job. Secondary occupation of most of the sampled respondents from India was remittance and least was none. It shows that most of the Nepalese farmers are solely dependent on agriculture and the least number of Indian farmers are solely dependent on agriculture (Fig. 3).

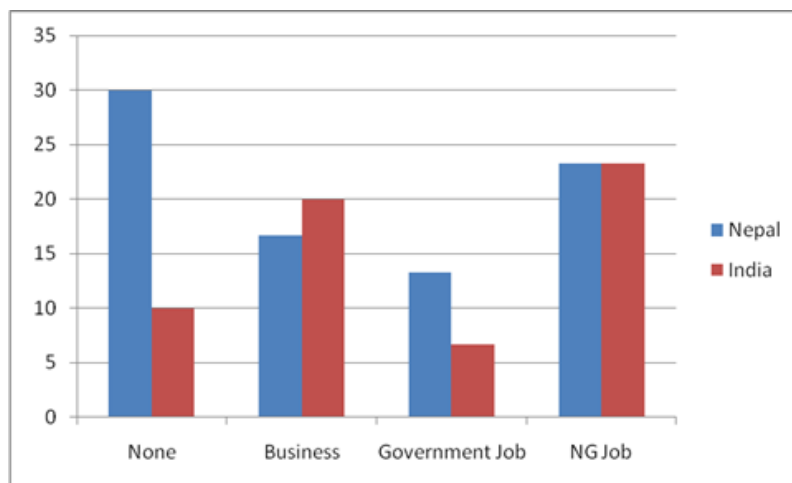


Fig 3: Secondary occupation of Nepalese and Indian Farmers

Table 2: Different socioeconomic attributes of farmers

Particulars	Nepal		India	
	Mean (N=30)	SD	Mean (N=30)	SD
No. of Schooling	4.40	3.39	3.27	3.107
No. of Family Member	7.77	2.26	9.93	3.619
Income source				
Agriculture	4196.66	3386.22	2348.27	1001.29
Livestock	2770.83	2381.72	1877.77	725.01
Total Income	14890.00	9067.27	12143.33	6735.06
Land				
Own total land	2.89	1.98	4.80	3.65
Tenancy total land	2.27	1.16	4.26	3.03
Total land	3.79	2.12	7.19	4.90

Source: Survey, 2016 (Figure in parenthesis indicates percentage)

Education, Family Size, Income and Landholding

It was found that the average number of schooling from Nepal was 4.40 (i.e. 5 years) and from India was 3.27 (i.e. 4 years). Average family size of respondent farmers from Nepal was 7.77 and India was 9.93. Average income from Nepalese respondents was NRs. 14890.00 per month and Indian respondents was NRs. 12143.33 per month. Average income of Nepalese respondents from agriculture and livestock was NRs. 4196.6667 and NRs. 2770.8333 respectively. Highest income from Nepalese respondents was from remittance i.e. NRs. 17,200. Average income of Indian respondents from agriculture and livestock was NRs. 1877.7778 respectively. Average land (own+ tenancy) of Nepalese and Indian farmers was 3.79 bighas and 7.19 bighas respectively. It was found that average tenancy land of Indian Farmers was greater than that of Nepalese farmers. Average irrigated land of Nepalese and Indian respondents was 1.53 and 2.51 bighas respectively (Table 2).

Major Vegetables cultivated in Nepal and Indian Border

Potato, tomato, garlic, cauliflower, leafy vegetable and cauliflower are cultivated in study area of Nepal whereas potato, garlic, leafy vegetable, cucurbits and bean are cultivated in study area of India. Major vegetable cultivated by Nepalese respondents was potato followed by tomato and leafy vegetable. Major vegetable cultivated by Indian

respondents was bean and leafy vegetable followed by potato. Cucurbits and bean weren't cultivated in Nepal whereas tomato and cauliflower weren't cultivated in India (Table 3).

Table 3: Major Vegetables cultivated in Nepal and Indian Border

Vegetables	Frequency (Nepal)	Frequency (India)
Potato	14 (46.70)	17 (56.70)
Tomato	10 (33.33)	0 (0.00)
Garlic	7 (23.30)	12 (40.00)
Cauliflower	8 (26.70)	0 (0.00)
Leafy vegetable	9 (30.00)	18 (60.00)
Cucurbits	0 (0.00)	13 (43.30)
Bean	0 (0.00)	18 (60.00)

Source: Survey, 2016 (Figure in parenthesis indicates percentage)

Major crops cultivated in Nepal and Indian Border

Rice, wheat, mustard and chickpea are cultivated in study area of Nepal whereas rice, wheat, maize, mustard and pigeon Pea are cultivated in study area of India. Major crops cultivated were rice, which was cultivated by 100 percent farmer and was followed by wheat (96.70 percent) in Nepalese context. Maize and pigeon pea weren't cultivated by Nepalese farmer in study area. Major crops cultivated by

Indian respondents were rice followed by wheat. Chickpea wasn't cultivated by Indian farmer (Table 4).

Table 4: Major Crops cultivated in Nepal and Indian Border

Cereals	Frequency(Nepal)	Frequency(India)
Rice	30 (100.00)	29 (96.70)
Wheat	29 (96.70)	25 (83.30)
Maize	0 (0.00)	12 (40.00)
Mustard	18 (60.00)	17 (56.70)
Chickpea	12 (40.00)	0 (0.00)
Pigeonpea	0 (0.00)	11 (36.70)

Source: Survey, 2016 (Figure in parenthesis indicates percentage)

Major fruits cultivated in Nepal and Indian Border

Table 5 shows that Mango, litchi, guava and banana are cultivated in area of Nepal and India. Major fruit cultivated by Nepalese and Indian respondents were mango and guava respectively. Least fruit cultivated by Nepalese and Indian respondents were litchi and banana respectively. It is found that mango is popular in study area.

Table 5: Major fruits cultivated in Nepal and Indian Border

Fruits	Frequency (Nepal)	Frequency (India)
Mango	23 (76.70)	20 (66.70)
Litchi	4 (13.30)	17 (56.70)
Guava	8 (26.70)	23 (76.70)
Banana	6 (20.00)	16 (53.30)

Source: Survey, 2016 (Figure in parenthesis indicates percentage)

Major livestock reared in Nepal and Indian Border Side

Cow, buffalo, poultry and sheep/goat are major livestock reared in study area. Major livestock reared by Nepalese and Indian respondents was buffalo and least livestock reared by Nepalese and Indian respondents were poultry and cow respectively. It is also found that cow rearing is more popular in study area of Nepal than in India (Table 6).

Table 6: Major livestock reared in Nepal and Indian Border Side

Livestock	Frequency(Nepal)	Frequency(India)
Cow	14 (46.70)	5 (56.70)
Buffalo	17 (56.70)	24 (80.00)
Poultry	3 (10.00)	11 (36.70)
Sheep/Goat	7 (23.30)	10 (33.30)

Source: Survey, 2016 (Figure in parenthesis indicates percentage)

Dependency of Nepalese Respondents for Agriculture

Major Nepalese respondents were always dependent on seed followed by organic and inorganic fertilizer. Frequency of Nepalese respondents who sometimes depend on Indian border was highest on pesticides and market and lowest in machinery tools. Frequency of Nepalese respondents who never depend on Indian border was highest on machinery tools and lowest in inorganic fertilizer (Table 7).

Table 7: Dependency of Nepalese Respondents for Agriculture

Dependency	Frequency		
	Always	Sometimes	Never
Labor	3 (10.00)	18 (60.00)	9 (30.00)
Machinery tools	1 (3.30)	4 (13.30)	25 (83.30)
Seed	6 (20.00)	22 (73.30)	2 (6.70)
Organic fertilizer	4 (13.30)	19 (63.30)	7 (23.30)
Inorganic fertilizer	4 (13.30)	26 (86.70)	0 (0.00)
Pesticides	1 (3.30)	27 (90.00)	2 (6.70)
Fuel	0 (0.00)	26 (86.70)	4 (13.30)
Market	1 (3.30)	27 (90.00)	2 (6.70)

Source: Survey, 2016 (Figure in parenthesis indicates percentage)

Dependency of Nepalese Respondents for Livestock

Frequency of Nepalese respondents who always depend on Indian border was highest on livestock feed and lowest in goat/sheep kid. Frequency of Nepalese respondents who sometimes depend on Indian border was highest on medicine for livestock and lowest on poultry chicks. Frequency of Nepalese respondents who never depend on Indian border was highest on poultry chicks and lowest on medicine for livestock (Table 8).

Table 8: Dependency of Nepalese Respondents for Livestock

Dependency	Frequency		
	Always	Sometimes	Never
Livestock feed	3 (10.00)	24 (80.00)	3 (10.00)
Cow Calves	1 (3.30)	22 (73.30)	7 (23.30)
Buffalo Calves	2 (6.70)	22 (73.30)	6 (24.00)
Goat/Sheep-Kid	0 (0.00)	23 (76.70)	7 (23.30)
Poultry Chicks	2 (6.70)	19 (63.30)	9 (30.00)
Medicine for livestock	1 (3.30)	27 (90.00)	2 (6.70)

Source: Survey, 2016 (Figure in parenthesis indicates percentage)

Dependency of Indian Respondents for Agriculture

Frequency of Indian respondents who always depend on Nepalese border was highest on seed and zero on inorganic fertilizer, pesticides and fuel. Frequency of Indian respondents who sometimes depend on Nepalese border was highest on labor and lowest on machinery tools. Frequency of Indian respondents who never depend on Nepalese border was highest on machinery tools and lowest on labor (Table 9).

Table 9: Dependency of Indian Respondents for Agriculture

Dependency	Frequency		
	Always	Sometimes	Never
Labor	1 (3.30)	5 (16.70)	24 (80.00)
Machinery tools	1 (3.30)	2 (16.70)	27 (90.00)
Seed	2 (6.70)	3 (10.00)	25 (83.30)
Organic fertilizer	1 (3.30)	4 (13.30)	25 (83.30)
Inorganic fertilizer	0 (0.00)	3 (10.00)	27 (90.00)
Pesticides	0 (0.00)	3 (10.00)	27 (90.00)
Fuel	0 (0.00)	4 (13.30)	26 (86.70)
Market	1 (3.30)	4 (13.30)	25 (83.30)

Source: Survey, 2016 (Figure in parenthesis indicates percentage)

Dependency of Indian Respondents for Livestock:

Frequency of Indian respondents who always depend on Nepalese border was highest on livestock feed, poultry chicks and medicine for livestock and lowest for cow calves and goat/sheep-kid. Frequency of Indian respondents who sometimes depend on Nepalese border was highest on buffalo calves, goat/sheep-kid and medicine for livestock and lowest on cow calves. Frequency of Indian respondents who never depend on Nepalese border was highest on cow calves and lowest on medicine for livestock (Table 10).

Table 10: Dependency of Indian Respondents for Livestock

Dependency	Frequency		
	Always	Sometimes	Never
Livestock feed	1 (3.30)	3 (10.00)	26 (86.70)
Cow Calves	0 (0.00)	2 (6.70)	28 (93.30)
Buffalo Calves	1 (3.30)	4 (13.30)	25 (83.30)
Goat/Sheep-Kid	0 (0.00)	4 (13.30)	26 (86.70)
Poultry Chicks	1 (3.30)	3 (10.00)	26 (86.70)
Medicine for livestock	1 (3.30)	4 (13.30)	25 (83.30)

Source: Survey, 2016 (Figure in parenthesis indicates percentage)

Problems due to open border

Insecurity was major problem faced by Nepalese respondent and Indian respondent. Money exchange and low product price problems weren't observed in Indian respondents. Human interference and crowd were least observed problems in Nepal (Table 11).

Beneficiaries due to open border

Market facility, low cost and fertilizer and pesticide facility were major beneficiaries for Nepalese respondent. Market facility and children study were major beneficiaries for Indian respondent. Fertilizer & pesticide facility, low cost and easy access beneficiaries weren't observed in Indian respondents (Table 12).

Table 11: Problems due to open border

Problems	Frequency (Nepal)	Frequency (India)
Insecurity	17 (56.70)	21 (70.00)
Black Market	7 (23.30)	7 (23.30)
Low product price	5 (16.70)	0 (0.00)
Human Interference	1 (3.30)	17 (56.70)
Crowd	1 (3.30)	16 (53.30)
Money Exchange	12 (40.00)	0 (0.00)

Source: Survey, 2016 (Figure in parenthesis indicates percentage)

Table 12: Beneficiaries due to open border

Beneficiaries	Frequency (Nepal)	Frequency (India)
Market Facility	30 (100.00)	21 (70.00)
Low cost	30 (100.00)	0 (0.00)
Fertilizer & pesticide facility	30 (100.00)	0 (0.00)
Pasture land	23 (76.70)	21 (70.00)
Easy access	25 (83.30)	0 (0.00)
Job Facility	0 (0.00)	19 (63.30)
Easy to work	0 (0.00)	18 (60.00)
Children study	0 (0.00)	21 (70.00)

Source: Survey, 2016 (Figure in parenthesis indicates percentage)

Agro vet distance

Average agro vet distance for Nepalese and Indian respondents were 4.00 km and 7.063 km respectively. It shows that Nepali farmers of study area have nearer access to the agrovets than in India.

Table 13: Agro vet distance

Km	Nepal		India	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
Agro vet distance	4.00	1.33	7.06	0.53

Source: Survey, 2016 (Figure in parenthesis indicates percentage)

Conclusion

India and China are two neighboring countries of Nepal, having open border with India in three sides. India Nepal boarder is open so each and every one of two countries have free movement on either side as easy passes.

The study was conducted in border side of Nepal (Phulpur village, Bhairahawa) and India (Keutaliya, UP India) in 2016 A.D. The main objective of this study was to identify the dependency of farmers on neighbor at India Nepal boarder side. Altogether 60 samples were taken for study, 30 of each border side. The survey study was used to collect the information about the dependency of farmers on neighbor at India Nepal border side. Primary information was collected from the face to face interview of the respondents and secondary information was collected from VDC, DADO, NARC, MOA and other related websites.

The collected data were incorporated in to the computer and analyzed by using software tools such as statistical packages

for social science (SPSS) and Excel program in the computer. The data were analyzed mainly by using descriptive statistics. In descriptive statistics, frequency, percentage, mean, standard deviation was used to analyze the data.

Male respondent (63.30 percent) were found higher than female respondents in study area of Nepal. Similarly, male respondent (90.00 percent) were also found higher than female respondent in study area of India. Majority of farmers from Nepal were Madhesi and all the farmers from India were Madhesi at study area.

Secondary occupation of most of the sampled respondents from Nepal was none followed by business and least was government job. Secondary occupation of most of the sampled respondents from India was remittance and least was none.

It was found that the average number of schooling from Nepal was 4.40 and from India was 3.27. Average family size of respondent farmers from Nepal was 7.77 and India was 9.93.

Average income from Nepalese respondents was NRs. 14890.00 per month and Indian respondents was NRs. 12143.33 per month. Average land (own+ tenancy) of Nepalese and Indian farmers was 3.79 bighas and 7.19 bighas respectively.

Major vegetable, fruit and cereal cultivated by Nepalese respondents were potato, mango and rice respectively. Major vegetable, fruit and cereal cultivated by Indian respondents were bean and leafy vegetable, guava and rice respectively. Major livestock reared by Nepalese and Indian respondents was buffalos followed by cow.

Most of the Nepalese farmers were found to depend on seed always whereas sometimes they were dependent on pesticides and market and those who were never dependent

on machinery tools was found to be highest. Major Nepalese farmers who always depend on livestock feed, sometimes depend on medicine for livestock and never depend on poultry chicks was found to be highest.

Major Indian farmers who always depend on seed, sometimes depend on labour, and never depend on machinery tools, inorganic fertilizers and pesticides was found to be highest. Major Indian farmers who always depend on livestock feed, sometimes depend on buffalo calves, and never depend on cow calves was found to be highest.

Insecurity was major problem faced by Nepalese respondent and Indian respondent. Market facility, low cost and fertilizer and pesticide facility were major beneficiaries for Nepalese respondent. Market facility and children study were major beneficiaries for Indian respondent. Average agro vet distance for Nepalese and Indian farmers were 4 km and nearly 7 km respectively.

From this study it is concluded that Nepal is more dependent on India for different agricultural activities inputs, livestock feeds and market facilities due to low rates. India is somehow dependent on Nepal for pastureland, labor requirement and land for rent at low rate. Insecurity was the main problem and market facilities are benefits gained by farmers at the boarder side for both the countries.

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