Analyzing the Linkages between Land Use Zoning and Food Availability in Nepalese Context

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SUMMARY

Land use zoning as a form of regulatory planning instruments for land use control has been applied for many years in most of the developed and also in developing countries. Land use planning is a major agenda of every developing country. According to National Planning Commission of Nepal, the necessity and importance of zoning as a land use planning instrument has been realized since 9th periodic plan 1996-2001. Although, Nepal is an agro based country, around 31% of households in Nepal facing inadequate food consumption levels and 40% have limited consumption of the required household. 70% of Nepal's rural households are deprived from enough food availability. Therefore, the land use policy formulated in 2015, has been driven by preserving agricultural land. Recently, the land use act of 2019 has been endorsed to implement land use planning through zoning. There have been various important activities from the Nepal government starting from the policy formulation until the policy implementation. However, there is a requirement to conduct study on how the various activities related to land use planning in linked with increasing the food availability in order to combat food security. Food availability is achieved when sufficient quantities of food are consistently available to all individuals within a country. Therefore, the aim set in this article is to investigate the detailed activities that have been carried out in various timelines for proper planning of land to combat food insecurity of the country. The paper describe the policy dimension, technical dimension, and organizational dimension in preparing land use zoning data base for the whole of Nepal. Then this paper focuses on analyzing the linkages between land use zoning data base and the status of the food availability component and only focuses on the availability pillar among the four pillars (availability, access, stability and utilization) of food security. The adopted methodology is a systematic analysis of available government documents and in-depth interviews with key informants. This paper also attempts to recommend the guideline that the Nepal government required to adopt for land use planning at local level to increase food availability at local level.

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