AN EVALUATION OF INDIGENOUS TECHNIQUE OF TERRACE IMPROVEMENT IN PAUNDI KHOLA WATERSHED OF LAMJUNG DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

The study was carried out in Paundi Khola Watershed in Lamjung district was selected as study area. Different biophysical and land husbandry practices were recorded through field observation. Questionnaire and group discussions were also undertaken to acquire more information. Descriptive method, Correlation analysis and other simple statistical tools were used to perform the data analysis.

It was found that the terrace dimensions possess correlation with the slope degrees. Outward-sloped terrace were the common ones in higher slope classes. Very less bund plantation was observed in the irrigated fields. Paddy was the most preferred crop type until the irrigation facility was available. In the deep seated slides people used to continue paddy cultivation by maintaining the terraces temporarily until the land was completely ruined. The type of terraces adopted and the type of crops raised were not in line with the slope and irrigation facility. Paddy cultivation in unstable slopes without proper irrigation and drainage system was the cause of slumping and landslides.

Progressive conversion of outward sloped terraces into level or reverse sloped terraces is recommended to reduce surface erosion. Plantation of improved varieties of grasses in the bunds and risers should be encouraged while discouraging scraping of riser surface. Landuse planning should be done according to land capability classes. Deficit of trees to support hill farming system should be fulfilled through afforestation and reforestation activities. Planting of fodder trees in the marginal lands may obviously reduce pressure in the existing forests.