

## 学位論文要旨 Dissertation Abstract

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学位論文題目 :

Title of Dissertation

Development and Role of Agricultural Cooperatives in Nepal  
-A Case Study of Chitwan and Makawanpur District-  
(ネパールにおける農業協同組合の展開と役割  
-チトワンとマカワンペル地域を事例として-)

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This study entitled “**Development and Role of Agricultural Cooperatives in Nepal. A Case Study of Chitwan and Makawanpur District**” is based on primary and secondary data collection dated February and March, 2014. The objective of this study was to find out the development of cooperative in Nepal and roles of agricultural cooperative on smallholder farm producers.

Cooperative is not a new system in Nepal society. Before 1950, various informal institutions have been established in Nepal such as *Parma, Guthi, Dhikuri and Dharma Bhakari*, which help to develop the concept of cooperation. The modern history of cooperative development began in Nepal after the establishment of department of cooperative in 1953. The first cooperative started in Nepal was Rapti valley development project which was started in 1957. The cooperative movement is found to be started only after the arrival of democracy in 1990. The democratic government enacted the cooperative Act 1992 and cooperative rules 1993. After declaration of Republic, Government of Nepal establishment of a separate Ministry of Cooperatives and poverty alleviation and issuance of National Cooperative policy in 2012. The cooperative sector is growing very fast and at present there are 31,177 primary cooperatives up to mid-June, 2015 (MOPCA, 2015) operating through the country. Out of this 7,095 (24.03%) were Agriculture cooperatives having more than 587,251 members. Contribution by cooperative sector assumed to be 3% percent of national GDP. More than 52,003 thousand Nepali citizens are directly employed in cooperative business (MOCPA, 2015).

This research was conducted in Makawanpur and Chitawan district of Nepal situated

about 160 KM west from capital city Kathmandu. Two cooperatives from Makwanpur district and two cooperative from Chitwan district were selected. A total 100 cooperative members and 48 committee members were interviewed during the survey. Most of the members (57%) and committee members (64.58%) are male and have the member of family between 2 to 4. A simple majority of the members (42%) are literate, 35.42% committee members possess secondary level education and 20.83% committee members possess collage level education with agriculture as a main occupation 72% and 84.62% respectively. 28% members have the average annual income of NRs. 41,000-60,000, 52% committee members have the average annual income of NRs 41,000-60,000. The entrepreneurship pattern of the members changed after involvement of the cooperatives. The shifting trend from traditional subsistence farming to commercial farming helped to increase saving, housing status, employment situation of the respondents and standard of life was improved due to the intervention of agriculture cooperatives.

Also, the study has found that, cooperatives play the role of mediator between traders and farmers with higher bargaining power than individual farmers. They are also beneficial in reducing marketing costs by reducing transportation cost and commission costs. Cooperative marketing also shortens the marketing channel. This study showed that 80% farmers of the study area sell their produce through cooperatives. Cooperative members who were affiliated with the cooperative market channel they were sales their produce on a higher price than other market channels. Similarly, marketing cost reduced due to zero transportation cost and less commission cost.

Key words: Cooperative, Development, establishment, Agriculture, Smallholders, family, Marketing, vegetables, production