

Karma Tempa 2011: Analysis of People's Participation in Subsidized Rural Timber Allotment Policy towards Sustainable Forest Management at Sarpang *Dzongkhag*, Bhutan. Master of Science (Tropical Forestry), Major Field: Tropical Forestry, Interdisciplinary Graduate Program. Thesis Advisor: Assistant Professor Monton Jamroenprucksas, Ph.D. 137 pages.

This research was aimed at investigating level of people's participation in current forest management under subsidized rural timber allotment (SRTA) policy. It was also assessed on their willingness to participate in community forests for sustainable forest management in Bhutan.

Sample for the study consisted of 248 households at Dekiling *geog* (block) under Sarpang *Dzongkhag* (district). Qualitative data was collected from focus group and key stakeholder's meetings. It was analyzed using PRA tools, SWOT analysis, problem-tree and force-field analysis. Quantitative data was collected through structured questionnaires and analyzed with Statistical Program for Social Science.

Around 87 percent of the respondents revealed no participation in forest management under SRTA policy. Statistical test as well as the perceptions of different categories of people also confirmed lack of people's participation in local forest management. On the other hand, 89 percent of the households felt the current local forests cannot be sustainable at all. Thus, present level of people's participation could be a threat for sustainable forest management. The attitude of people on sustainability of forests ($\chi^2 = 14.514$, $p < 0.024$) indicated uncertainty in future rural timber supply. However, about 88% of the total households responded positively for future participation in local forest management. There is a possibility of transforming current "resource users" into "resource managers".

Student's signature

Thesis Advisor's signature