

2.1 Agriculture

Land is a principal resource of Nepal and constitutes about 97 per cent of the total area. Agricultural activities are limited to private land. As an agro-based country, over 80 per cent of the total population are engaged in agricultural production, particularly cereals and cash crops, livestock rearing, pulse and vegetable growing, horticulture, and fishery development. Agriculture is the first priority sector of development since the initiation of planned development in the mid-1950s.

The Terai and inner valleys are suitable for agricultural production. Agriculture production largely depends upon the health of the soil and/or presence of nutrients both macro and micro-nutrients. Availability of these nutrients to agricultural crops is decreasing due to soil erosion, landslide, flood, and sedimentation or siltation. Furthermore, agricultural land is also affected by acidification, alkalinity, salinity, and inappropriate use of agro-chemicals.