

## Foreword



Environmental problems in the green sector have emerged from unsustainable patterns of natural resource use, and dependence of about 85 per cent of the total population in meeting the energy demand, particularly through firewood, livestock and agricultural residues. Plants have an important role in conserving soil and water, minimising floods, landslides and loss of nutrient rich topsoil, and in improving habitat. However, many environmental problems have cropped up due to increased rate of forest depletion, cultivation in marginal lands, and haphazard use of agro-chemicals. All these also have a direct impact in the decline of agricultural production.

The Nepalese people and His Majesty's Government of Nepal (HMG/N) have understood the importance of conserving the forestry and agricultural sectors. Hence, people are encouraged to implement preventive and rehabilitative measures for the conservation of forests, wildlife, soil, and water through the implementation of, *inter alia*, the Master Plan for Forestry Sector, the Agricultural Perspective Plan and the National Conservation Strategy. HMG/N has introduced community user group concept through policy and legislation. The encouraging participation of the local users in forest management in the form of community forestry user groups (CFUGs) has prompted the government to introduce this approach for the management of buffer zones in the protected areas as well as for the management of irrigation water, and soil and water in the watersheds. At present, CFUGs, Buffer Zone Management User Groups, Water Users Association and Community Soil Conservation User Groups have demonstrated the utility of their role in natural resource management. Hence, Nepal will be continuing people's empowerment for resource conservation, and their sustainable use through the user group concept.

The Ministry of Population and Environment aims to provide the people updated information on environmental status each year. With a view to communicate about the environmental condition in the green sector, this *State of the Environment Report* (Agriculture and Forestry Sectors) has been published to enhance knowledge and encourage in expanding the implementation of environment-friendly activities to conserve our soil, water, plant and animals.

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Siddha Raj Ojha  
Minister