

2.1.2 The State

Soil loss is one of the major causes of decline in agriculture production. Estimates indicate about 5-10, 5-15, and 20-200 tonnes/ha/year of soil loss from well-managed paddy terraces, well-managed maize terraces, and poorly-managed sloping terraces respectively (CBS, 1998). Out of 9,827 farmland soils analysed in F.Y. 1998/99, 48.2 per cent had low, and 40.2 per cent has medium level nitrogen content. Similarly, 64 per cent of the 7,520 soil samples analysed showed low organic matter content. Only, 35 per cent of the total samples showed low potassium content. These nutrients are major nutrients for plant growth (DOA, 2000). This indicates the low level of nutrients in Nepal's farmland soils, which impacts negatively on crop production.