

## **EMPLOYING INTENSIVE DATA PLOTS TECHNIQUE FOR UNDERSTANDING FARMERS' MANAGEMENT OF LANDRACES ON-FARM**

**R.B. Rana, R.K. Tiwari and P. Chaudhary**

Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development (LI-BIRD)  
P.O. Box No. 324, Pokhara, Nepal  
Tel/fax: 977-61-26834  
E-mail: [rllibird@mos.com.np](mailto:rllibird@mos.com.np)

Understanding of farmers' decision-making regarding the choice of and preferential treatment of varieties require detailed monitoring of the farmers' management practices including their resource base. Employing intensive data plots techniques, monitoring of 66 farm plots belonging to 34 farmers in different agro-ecological domains was completed on pilot scale at Begnas ecosite, Kaski. The results suggest that farmers' decisions regarding deployment of landraces to specific agro-ecological domain were predetermined by their in-depth knowledge on suitability of landraces to specific domains. Human managed factors such as seed rate, amount of FYM and chemical fertiliser applied, time of transplanting, weeding, irrigation, harvesting and storage for *Mansara* and *Ekle* landraces differed across households. For instance, seed rate and chemical fertiliser application significantly differed across wealth categories with resource-poor households applying higher amount, whereas for FYM application resource-medium households applied higher amount. The seed rate, amount of FYM and chemical fertiliser applied for *Mansara* was relatively higher than that applied for *Ekle*. The economics of producing these two landraces suggests that the return generated is positive even when different factors of production were included in cost, which is generally not practised while analysing subsistence-oriented production. The monetary value converted from grain and straw yield by cultivating *Ekle* was much higher than *Mansara*, which goes on to explain farmers' decision on differential area planted to landraces.