

# SMALLHOLDER LANDSCAPES

## Understanding Land Use Practices and Dynamics of Change

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# LANDSCAPE RESEARCH in the field of Rural Development

## PECA: Understanding landscape changes

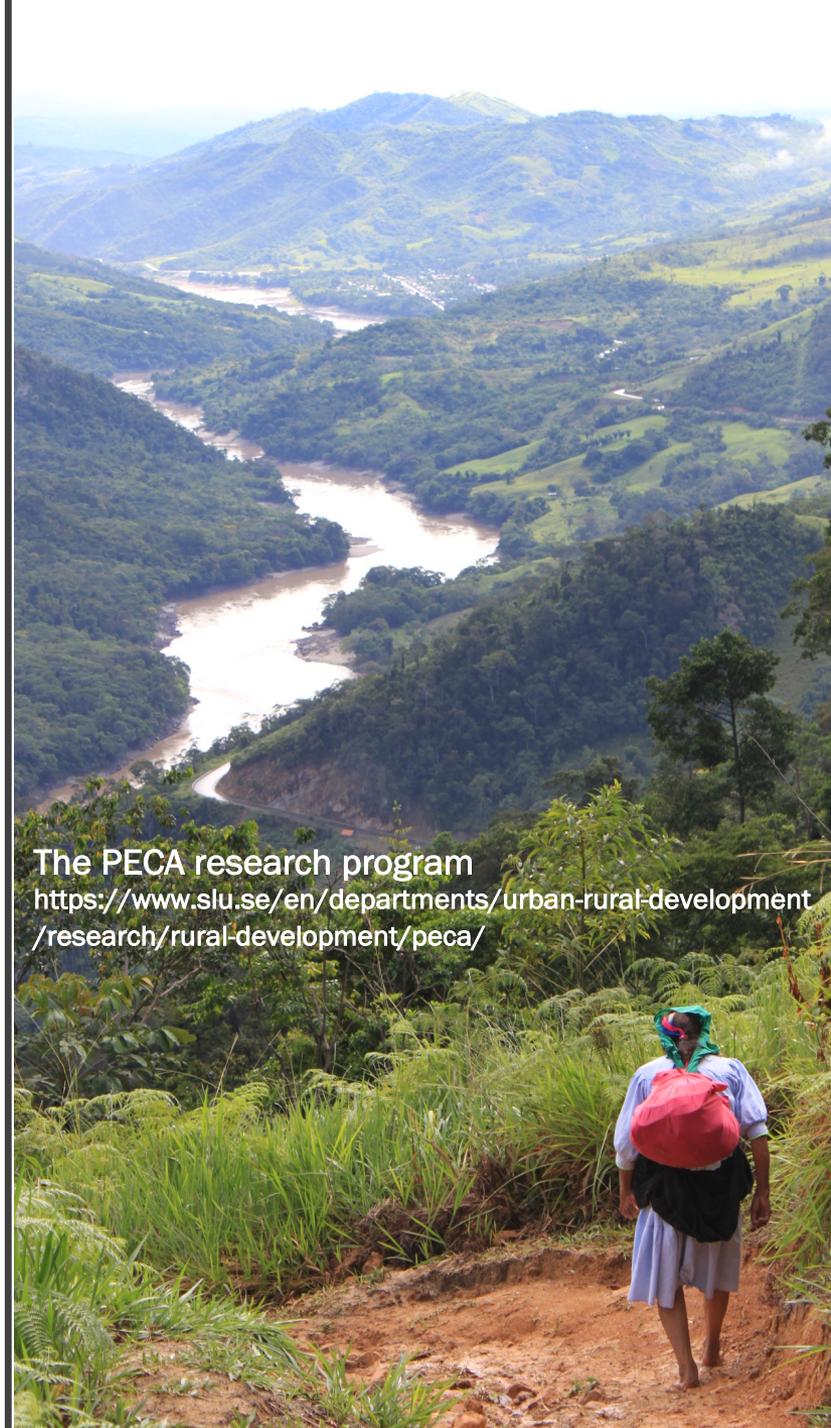
- The changing role of agriculture and forests in rural livelihoods
- *How do agrarian change and forest transition happens in practice?*
- The role of state and international programs/interventions in shaping future land uses
- Increasing mobility and limited rural labour
- Local risk management strategies in a changing climate
- Smallholder motivations for long term land investments

## Point of entry: understanding local land uses

- The multi-functionality of local landscapes
- Integrated land uses
- What are seen as (non) legible land uses? And by whom?
- Who lives where and use what in the landscape? Social relationships and power dynamics

## Developing research designs

that capture social differentiated land uses in relation to geographical variability within a landscape



The PECA research program

<https://www.slu.se/en/departments/urban-rural-development/research/rural-development/peca/>

# NEPAL – UNDERSTANDING LAND USE PRACTICE



Community forestry

International labour migration

Climate change

*Bajho jagga* - land abandonment



1. In a first step we do group interviews with village leaders where we explore village history

# THE PATCHES APPROACH



Group interviews on:  
local history, village characteristics  
and livelihood and land use changes

Transect walk



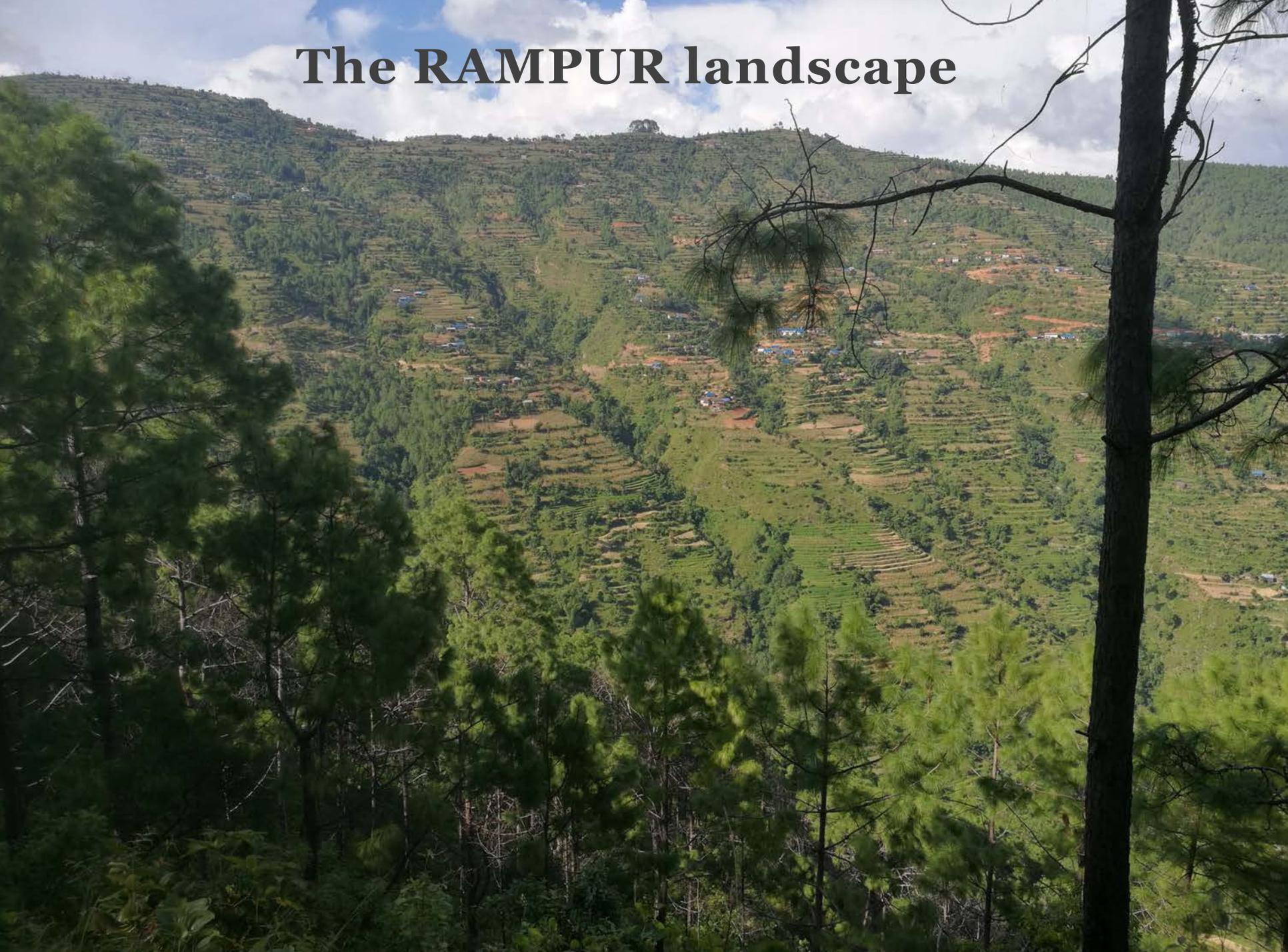


Group discussions on land use and scoring exercises with different social groups

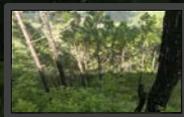


Semi-structured household interviews

# The RAMPUR landscape



# The RAMPUR landscape



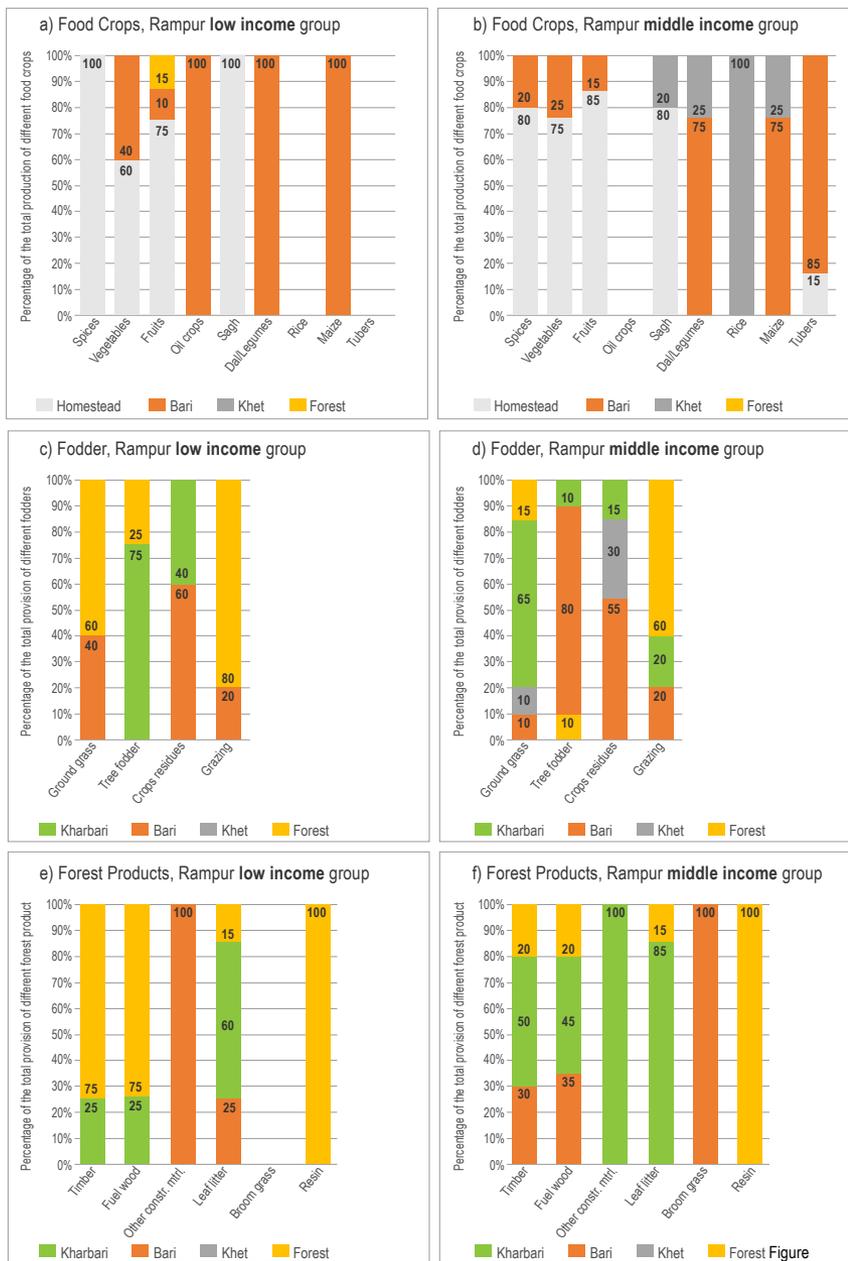


Figure 3. The estimated proportion of different food crops, feeds, fuel wood and timber harvested in different land use patches in Rampur.

# LAND USE DYNAMICS IN RAMPUR

Decreasing land holdings

High level of out-migration

Lack of farm labour, minimising labour input

Change in livestock practices

Intensification on the best land

Extensive use of marginal land

Drought



# Where does this lead?

## Understanding unruly landscapes

- Different forms of transition and intensification happens at the same time
- Who/what defines legible land use?



## The importance of subsistence production

## The role of perennial vegetation in farm land?

- A long term investment in land productivity?
- A climate change adaptation strategy?



## What is secondary about secondary forests?

- How can we rethink forest landscapes?





**Thank you!**

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