

# Abandonment of Agriculture Land in Nepal: An overview of drivers and consequences

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## SUMMARY

Land abandonment is a growing phenomenon in Nepal, shaped by diverse socio-economic, demographic, and environmental dynamics. This review paper synthesizes existing literature to provide a comprehensive understanding of the patterns, drivers, and implications of land abandonment in the country from a land administration perspective. Key factors influencing abandonment include rural outmigration, declining agricultural profitability, labor shortages, and land tenure complexities, compounded by climate change and urbanization. The review explores the consequences of land abandonment, such as biodiversity restoration, soil degradation, altered hydrological cycles, and socio-economic disparities. It also highlights regional variations, with abandonment patterns differing significantly across Nepal's mountainous, hilly, and Terai regions. Opportunities arising from abandoned lands, such as potential for ecological conservation, agroforestry, and sustainable rewilding, are discussed alongside challenges related to food security and rural development. The paper identifies research gaps and calls for integrative policies and adaptive land management strategies to address the multifaceted impacts of land abandonment. This review contributes to a holistic understanding of land-use dynamics, offering insights for sustainable development in Nepal

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