



Agro-Tourism in Nepal: An Analysis of Ilam District

Lok Nath Dulal^{1*}, Ph. D, Rohit Kumar Shrestha², Ph. D, Pashupati Neupane³, Ph. D, Raju Malla⁴, M Phil,
Suraj Bhattarai⁵, Bhavuk Raj Neupane⁶, Arjun KC⁷

^{1*}Associate Prof. Central Department of Nepalese History, Culture and Archaeology, TU, Nepal dulaloknath@gmail.com

²Associate Prof. TU. Faculty of Management, Padmakanya M. Campus, rohitshrestha92@gmail.com

³Assistant Prof. Central Department of Nepalese History, Culture and Archaeology, TU, Nepal pashupatinyau@gmail.com

⁴Assistant Prof. TU. Department of Population Studies, Padmakanya M. Campus, mallaraju707@gmail.com

⁵Assistant Prof. TU. Department of Sociology, M.M.A. Campus, Biratnagar, bhattaraisurajpk@gmail.com

⁶Assistant Prof. TU. Department of Economics, Nepal Commerce Campus, bhavuk.neupane@ncc.tu.edu.np

⁷Teaching Assistant TU. Department of Sociology, Padmakanya M. Campus, arjunkc946@gmail.com

Citation: Lok Nath Dulal, et.al (2024), Agro-Tourism In Nepal: An Analysis Of Ilam District, Educational Administration: Theory and Practice, 30(10), 242-253

Doi: 10.53555/kuey.v30i10.8079

ARTICLE INFO

ABSTRACT

Visiting a working farm or other agricultural, horticultural, or agro-business operations for fun, education, or to participate in farm activities is known as agro-tourism. Now it is gradually developing as one of the alternative forms of tourism in the world. Today in the countries like USA, Europe, Israel, china and Brazil agro- tourism is well established and marketed. Likewise, at present, Nepal is searching new tourism products for extending the stay of tourists as an alternative form. In this regards, agro tourism can help to some extent as this country in agricultural based with lot of attractions and destinations for promoting this sector. This is a perfect time to search and identify beautiful agricultural landscape, agro-biodiversity and different farming practices in Nepal suitable and potential to integrating tourism. Ilam is widely identified for tea garden and tea production. Apart from that, Ilam is known for its six main cash crops, Aalu, Alainchi, Akabare Khursani, Olan, and Amriso, which all begin with the same vowel sound in Nepali. Thus, it is also known as the district of '6' as. Ilam is also famous for the festivals Asar 15 and Ropai jatra which are directly related to agro activities, they can also be developed as important tourism products. In this case, Ilam has the potential to grow into a significant agro-tourism destination in Nepal because of a number of factors related to agricultural activity. But lacking of proper studies it can't utilize its potentiality adequately; it is its huge research problem and gap which has been addressed through this study.

Key Words: Agro-tourism, agro-tourism in Ilam, destinations and products, possibility of agro- tourism, tourism activities

Introduction

Today, in the world agro-tourism is being developed as one of the alternative forms of tourism. This type of tourism is based on agricultural activities or operation, also known as agro- tourism or farm house tourism (Dangol, 2008, p. 91). It is comparable to ecotourism in many instances; however ecotourism places greater emphasis on natural landscapes, whilst agro-tourism concentrates more on cultural landscapes. In general, "agro-tourism" and "agro-ecotourism" are interchangeable terms (Vasistha, 2008, p. 2). Understanding as an important alternative form of tourism, Nepal is gradually developing agro tourism in global tourism markets. Due to agro based economy, Nepal has plenty of potentiality of enhancement of agro-tourism in the different parts of the country including Ilam district.

Ilam is situated roughly 675 kilometers away from Nepal's capital, Kathmandu. The Limbu dialect gives rise to the phrase Ilam, where Li denotes twisted and Lam indicates road (Dulal, 2017, pp. 31-32). Geographically, it is a hilly district spanning an area of 1703 square kilometers and rising from 610 meters to 3679 meters above sea level. It is located between 26°42' and 27° 8' north latitude and 87°42' and 88° 7' east longitude. It travels across this Himalayan region from Terai to the higher hill belt (Rai, 2063, pp. 49-51). In this regard Dulal (2022, p. 123-124) mentions that:

Ilam is regarded as the Queen of Hills of Nepal. Because of its charming scenery, along with a perennial view of greenery and enhancing scenes of nature, it might be addressed as the same adjectives. No doubt, it is the richest in its natural assets. The visitors must visit *Ilam* to enjoy with its natural beauty. Hills, covered with green tea-gardens, wonderful rivers, waterfalls, ponds, caves, the views of sun rising and the sun setting, snowy mountains, beautiful and romantic sceneries, and so on are the natural tourism products of *Ilam*. On the solid platform of above mentioned natural heritages, *Ilam* could be welcomed and attracted thousands of local and international tourists every day in a season.

The district territory extends from north *Panchthar* to *Jhapa* district in the south, along with the Indian district of Darjeeling. To the east and west, respectively, are the districts of *Dhankuta* and *Morang* in Nepal (Dulal, 2017, p. 32). It has a subtropical climate that is generally cool, dry, and wet in the summer and hot and humid in the winter (NTB, 2008, p. 5). *Sunmai*, *Deumai*, *Jogmai*, and *Puwamai* are the districts' four principal rivers. As a result, the district of four rivers is sometimes referred to as *Charkhola* (Dulal, 2013, p. 78). It is also referred to as the "land of endangered red panda species," which draws a lot of scholars who come to study rare birds and the red panda as well. In this respect Dulal (2022, p. 111) identifies *Ilam* as follows:

Ilam is known by different names such as "Queen of the Hills" and "City of Beautiful tea Garden," District of Greenery Hill, "Capital of Agro- tourism," Home of Red Panda," District of *Charkhola* (four rivers)," "District of Six Cash Crops," "District of Sunrise and Sunset," Heterogeneous Cultural Park," "City of colorful Wooden Houses." Apart from the cultural beauty, it provides opportunities to observe natural heritage to the visitors.

In order to create new, lucrative markets for agricultural goods and services as well as to offer travel experiences to a sizable regional consumer, agro-tourism is a hybrid idea that combines aspects of two intricate industries: agriculture and travel/tourism. Nowadays, agro-tourism is commonly understood as a means of protecting agricultural resources (Ceballos, Lascrain, 1996) and providing the farming community with financial and social advantages (Hron & Srnec, 2004).

Nepal is renowned for being an agricultural nation and a popular travel destination worldwide. Because of its diverse agricultural practices, varying climates, and natural beauty, it is a unique location for agro-tourism. Other names for agro-tourism include agricultural tourism, agro-tourism, agri-ecotourism, farm tourism, farm-based tourism, vacation farms, and farm stays. It is one of the newest forms of tourism in the world (Kokko, 2011). The majority of alternative tourism strategies, such as agro-tourism, have a strong connection to the rural economy and, consequently, to rural development. The relationship between socioeconomic development and tourism in rural areas is facilitated by this alternative tourism, which also opens up new (Kaini, 2019, p. 53).

There are several especial agro-based activities continuously practicing through the ages in Nepal. Thus, these types of activities can be tie off with tourism and can develop as agro-tourism destinations. In *Kaski* district, one village on agro production is the main slogan, which has been applied in the different villages for the enhancement of agro-based tourism activities in the district since last two years (Sharma, 2067, p. 9). Likewise, *Chitwan*, *Rupandehi* and *Kotbari* of *Kaski* district of western Nepal as the potential destination for this types of tourism promotion (Dangol, 2008, p. 98). Besides it, agricultural farms like *Pakhribash* of *Dhankuta*, *Tarahara* farm of *Sunsari*, *Lumle* of *Kaski*, *Sisauli* farm of *Morang* as the important agro-based tourism destinations in Nepal.

For agro based tourism destination *Ilam* might be the most important one. It is widely identified for tea garden and tea production centre. The following villages are well-known for their tea gardens: *Kanyam*, *Sri Antu*, *Fikkal*, *Panchkanya*, *Pashupatinagar*, *Irautar*, *Samalbung*, *Maipokhari*, *Sangrumba*, *Mangalbare*, *Jitpur*, *Sankhejung*, *Fuatappu*, *Phakaphoka*, and *Ilam*. It is also known for its six main cash crops, *Aalu*, *Alainchi*, *Akabare*, *Olan*, and *Amriso*, which all begin with the same vowel sound in Nepali.

Owing to a number of factors related to agricultural activity, *Ilam* has the potential to become as a significant Nepali destination for agro-tourism. But, lack of proper scientific and systematic studies and researches, *Ilam* can still not utilize its potentiality adequately that is identified as a huge research problem and gap in the field of academia. Therefore, for fulfilling the research gaps and addressing the problems this paper entitled *Agro-tourism in Nepal: An Analysis of Ilam District* has been prepared.

Research Problems and Gaps

Ilam is a lovely district that is adorned with tea gardens and the other six cash crops; as such, it has the potential to become a major agro-tourism destination in Nepal. While some studies have been done from the perspectives of tourists and tourism, there hasn't been a thorough investigation and study of *Ilam* from the perspective of an agro-tourism destination, which is a research gap and issue that this paper attempts to address. To that end, it poses the following two research gaps: what are the main products of the *Ilam* district? and to what extent are agro activities thought to be responsible for the promotion of tourism in the site?

Research Objectives

Obviously, the two main objectives of this study have been fulfilled: the general goal was to review the geographical description, geological condition, and tourism status; the specific objectives are to explore the

important products of the *Ilam* district's agro-tourism and to analyze at the role of agro activities in promoting agro-tourism as an alternative form of tourism in the area.

Review of Literatures

Through the tourists and tourism perspectives specially about *Ilam*, there are some studies such as Dulal (2011) *Agro-Tourism: an Analysis of History and Practices*, (2013) *Folk dance: A Cultural Tourism Product of Ilam District*, (2017) *Folk dance an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Nepal: A Case Study of Ilam District*, (2022) *The Role of Natural Heritage for the Promotion of Tourism in Ilam*, (2063) Chinari, (2064) Chinari, Paryatan Bisesanka, Ghimire (2063) *Antuo Ko Gramin Paryatan ka Chunauti Haru*, Gurung (2063) Chiyako Chintan Chautari, Baral, R. (2063) *Kasari Bhayo Ilamma Paryatan Bikash*, (2064) *Ilam ka Paryatakiya Sthalharu*, Chapagain (2019) *Number of tourists up by 42.06% in Ilam*, Khanal (2064) *Ilamako Paryatakiya Sthal Jhyaupokhari*, Sapkota (2064) *Potentiality of Eco-tourism in Ilam* have already been conducted and reviewed in this paper for generating information about natural heritages of study areas.

Finally, the previously stated literatures are quite beneficial for this study project. However, very few of them have researched agro-tourism in *Ilam*, and many have failed to examine and emphasize the contribution of agro activities to the promotion of tourism in the specific location. Even though these literatures haven't been able to fully investigate the concerns, they are nonetheless very useful in producing theoretical knowledge and conceptual concepts about agro-tourism and tourism in general.

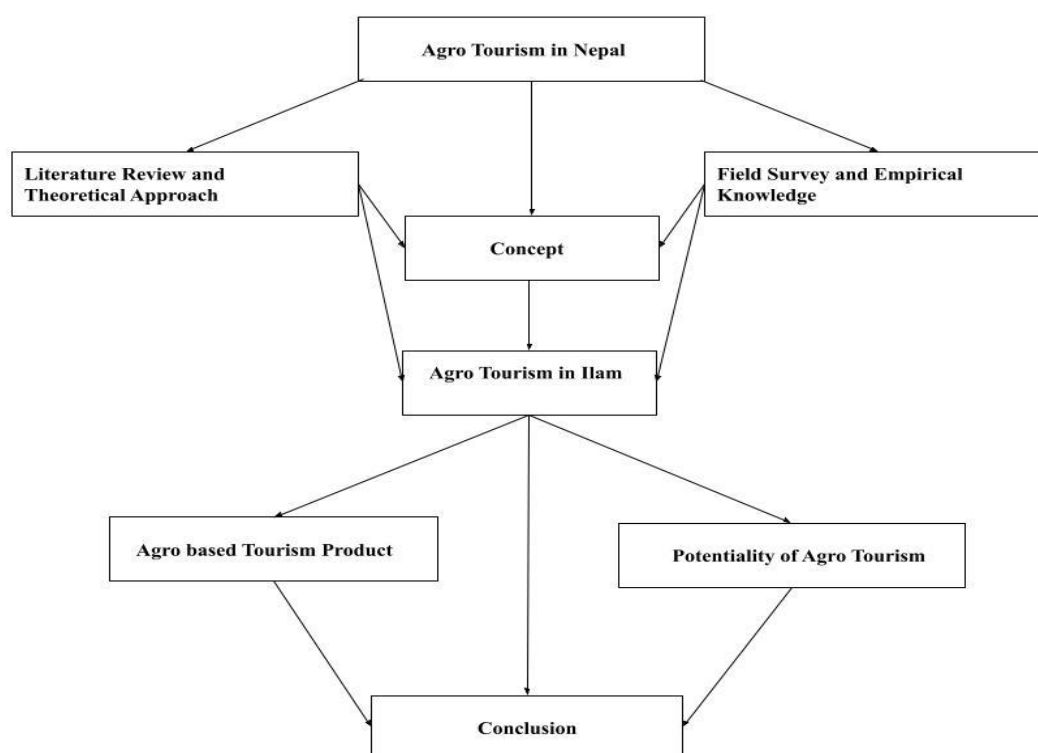
Research Methods and Materials

The fieldwork that served as the basis for this article was done in both 2008 and 2018. The fieldwork has taken a total of two weeks to complete. Researchers have been using a descriptive study design in the interim. Through published and unpublished literature, the secondary data was produced. Similarly, general observation, interviews, and questionnaire instruments and procedures were used in the field survey to gather primary data. Fifty locals and twenty-five visitors, four of whom were foreign tourists were chosen as the primary informants for the field survey in order to complete the questionnaire.

Conceptual Framework

This research aims to investigate the important role that agro-tourism goods have in promoting tourism in the *Ilam* district, in addition to identifying and documenting the items. In order to address the aforementioned research gaps and issues and to meet the established objectives, the following conceptual framework has been applied in the preparation of this paper:

Fig. 1: Conceptual Framework



Source: Developed by researchers

Ilam holds several agro tourism products within its small territories. As a result, *Ilam* is steadily rising to prominence among Nepal's major agro-tourism destinations. However, interested parties haven't been able to fully realize its potential up until now. How to utilize its potentiality? is a question which still not address due to lake of proper analytical researches. Hence, understanding the issue as a research gap and question, this research paper has been prepared for fulfilling the above-mentioned queries by using the conceptual framework mentioned above.

Findings and Discussion

Both primary and secondary data were used to write this paper. The approaches of observation and interviewing have been used as the main tools and procedures for gathering primary data. On the basis of research objectives such as to explore the significant agro tourism products of *Ilam* district and to examine the role of agro activities for the promotion of agro tourism as an alternative form of tourism in *Ilam*, researchers have asked questions such as what are the major agro based tourism products of *Ilam*? And how far they are considered responsible for the promotion of agro tourism? to the respondents during the field work. Finally, after completing field survey and analyzing the primary data and secondary information, the findings and discussions have been presented through the following sub-headings such as concept of agro-tourism, major agro-tourism destinations and products in Nepal, agro-based tourism products of *Ilam*, potentiality of agro- tourism in *Ilam*, accommodations and facilities available in *Ilam* in chronological order. Thus, it is expected and believes that this research work has been considered as an innovative and very functional study in the field of agro tourism in Nepal.

Concept of Agro-Tourism

Agro-tourism can encourage regional development provided the tourist attractions raise the standard of living for the local populace. The rural populace itself has to have acknowledged agro biodiversity as significant and deserving of protection for it to be guaranteed that it also contributes to diversity conservation. Agro-tourism in the strict sense is not the only kind of rural tourism; additional types include ethno-tourism, project tourism, health tourism, historical tourism, cultural tourism, and adventure tourism. In general, "agro-tourism" and "agro-ecotourism" are interchangeable terms. In this circumstance Dangol (2008, p. 91) writes that:

Agro-tourism is one of the alternative forms of tourism, which capitalizes on the rural cultures as a tourist's attraction. This form of tourism is based on agricultural activities or operation, also known as agro- tourism or farm tourism. It is commonly defined as the act of visiting a working farm or any agricultural, horticultural or agro- business operation for the purposes of enjoyment, education or active involvement in the activities of the farm operators. Agro- tourism is well established and marketed in countries like USA, Europe, Israel, china and Brazil. The tours operators are using different types of agricultural activities or products as tourism attraction. The word agro- eco tourism encompasses agro- tourism and ecotourism.

Farmers have created a vast array of livestock breeds and crop plant kinds and variants on every continent. They have modified both plants and animals to satisfy their ever-evolving breeding goals, including new locations and climates, diverse uses, and personal preferences. This has produced a breed or variety that is appropriate for almost every type of terrain. The emergence of different, small-scale cultural landscapes coexisted with the proliferation of unique management styles. In this respect Vasistha (2008, p. 2) mentions that:

In many cases it is similar to ecotourism though ecotourism emphasizes natural landscapes while agro-tourism focuses more on cultural landscapes. In agro-tourism a native person or the resident of the area can offer tours to their agriculture farm and sheds to allow a person to view them growing, harvesting and processing locally grown foods which the tourists would not find in their own country. In other sense, agro-tourism is also very helpful to sustainable development as it works as an alternative to harmful practices like slough and burn farming, destruction of rain forest, dynamite fishing, among others.

It is a business venture that brings in additional revenue for the owner while operating as a functioning farm, ranch, or agricultural facility and is done for the delight of guests (Kaini, 2019, p. 54). Activities that are either directly or indirectly related to agricultural activities that could be referred to as agro-tourism include fishing, hunting, studying wildlife, riding horses or ponies, learning experiences (cannery tours, cooking classes, or wine tasting), entertainment (harvesting festivals, camping), hospitality services (farm stays, guided tours, catering), and on-farm direct sales (u-pick operations or roadside stands).

This trend has reversed in the last 150 years, with a decline in diversity and a rise in monocultures and homogeneity in specialized agriculture. However, throughout this process, important genetic traits are lost, such as robustness or high fertility, disease resistance, or pest resistance. Preserving traditional breeds and variants is the best strategy to stop the genetic erosion process. Agro-tourism is one way to provide farmers with incentives for in situ conservation, nevertheless. This strategy has the benefit that rural areas are well-liked vacation and excursion spots, especially for their cultural landscapes that still offer a window into the past (Dulal, 2011, p. 68).

The *Lüneburger Heide*, or *Lüneburg Heathlands*, is but one illustration. The *Heidschnuck* sheep, a longstanding feature of the environment, are one of the main draws for city inhabitants visiting the Northern

German *Heathlands*, which are situated between the three cities of Hamburg, Bremen, and Hanover. The sheep still graze on the *Heathland* hills because they keep the forest at bay, even though sheep herding here has long since become unprofitable. The heath will disappear along with the tourists if the sheep do. They now come to enjoy the local *heathland* honey, buckwheat cake, and *Heidschnuck* roasts in addition to the scenery. An essential economic pillar for the entire area is agro-tourism.

The symbiotic relationship between the local inhabitants and the heath and the *Heidschnuck* sheep was crucial for their survival in previous ages, when *Heathland* farmers struggled to make ends meet on the limited sandy soils. The only sheep breed that could withstand the sparse forage was this incredibly robust one. Because there was no chance of better nutrition, no effort was made to enhance the breed for a very long time. When styles changed and tourists started to value the nature, the *Heathland's* flora and animals initially became a draw for tourists. As a matter of fact, people tended to fear the heath as a "wild" and "barren" environment until well into the 19th century (<http://www.gtz.de>).

An effective agro-tourism strategy can support the in-situ preservation of genetic resources found in plants and animals. Therefore, more work must be done to find intriguing plant and animal types and investigate their potential for agro-tourism in poor and transitional economies. Gathering traditional information about the upkeep and use of these breeds and types is also necessary. This is essential for the long-term preservation of diversity in addition to helping to increase public awareness of the importance of agro-biodiversity (<http://www.gtz.de>).

Major Agro-tourism Destinations and Products in Nepal

Previously the global tourism industry used to be guided by 4 S i.e. sun, sand, sea and sex (Shakya, 2008, p. 39). On this regard, pilgrimage, sports, sex and agro-based tourism might be the new alternative forms of tourism in the context of Nepal. Among them, sex tourism is directly related with the social and humanitarian norms and values, so, without doing research and investigation we could not advocate for and against of the issue. Similarly the necessity and the importance of the sex tourism could not be measured without any study. Thus, the issue must be the meter of research and investigation. Besides it, the pilgrimage tourism has already been started, whereas, the remaining two are still waiting their commencement in the field of tourism. In this context, researcher is tried to search the possibility of agro-based tourism in Nepal through the article.

At present, tourism industry of Nepal is searching new tourism products for extending the stay of tourists. In this regards, agro tourism can help to some extent as this country in agricultural based with lot of attractions and destinations for promoting this sector. This is a perfect time to search and identify beautiful agricultural landscape, agro-biodiversity and different farming practices in Nepal suitable and potential to integrating tourism. It helps to generate additional income of the farming communities, if we can properly marketing it as tourism products in global tourism markets.

There is some evidence of organic farming occurring in rural areas. The organic agro-tourism model shares many traits with conventional agro-tourism businesses, with the exception that it places a greater emphasis on environmental and natural resource preservation as well as health. It is the upcoming phenomenon in the world travel market. By declaring our tourism regions organic, we can invite high-end guests from all over the world here. As the farming technique in the rural areas of Nepal is already organic by default and so, we only need to brand it and promote it efficiently in the worldwide market. Numerous varieties of organic products are still available around the nation (Kaini, 2019, p. 61).

The people are vehemently participating in promotion of agro tourism in *Kaski* district. One village on agro production is the main slogan, which has been applied in the different villages for the enhancement of agro - based tourism activities in the district since last two years. Especially, from the lake side of *Leknath* Municipality to *Panchbhaiya*, *Sundaridanda*, *Hansapur* and *Thumki* VDCs have already implemented the policy of single agro production in village as the occupation fish farming, buffalo farming, bee keeping, orange and coffee farming (Sharma, 2067, p. 9). For organic items, the Department of Agriculture lists several locations, including *Bajura* Sea buckthorn juice, *Dolpa*, apples, *humla* beans, olive oil, *Ilam* organic tea, Number of Beans *Marsi* rice, walnuts, buckwheat, *Manang* apples, Mustang apples, and *Tanahun* Hill lemon Mandarin orange jackfruit *Tarai* lentils with black gram Fern Yam (Kaini, 2019, p. 61).

The scientific planning of agro-ecotourism is very important for its further development and promotion in Nepal. A series of in depth research needs to be conducted to identify and explore unique agricultural resources and attractions. Some authors have discussed *Chitwan*, *Rupandehi* and *Kotbari* of *Kaski* district of western Nepal as the potential destination for this types of tourism promotion (Dangol, 2008, p. 98)

Besides it, there can develop the agricultural farms like *Pakhriribash* of *Dhankuta*, *Tarahara* farm of *Sunsari*, *Lumle* of *Kaski*, *Sisauli* farm of *Uralabari*, *Morang* as the important agro-based tourism destination in Nepal. *Morang* district can be taken as the possible agro-based tourism destination in Nepal. The district is one of the greatest storehouses of granary in Nepal. The available land and agricultural activities can be utilized for the development and extension of agro tourism centre of the district. Similarly, the fish farms here can be the important sites for the agro tourism destination. Recently, former Senior Director of Nepal Tourism Board *Subhash Niraula* has established farm house tourism center in *Uralabari*, *Morang*. According to him, he wishes to make this farm house as a model of such type of tourism destination in Nepal. He wants to develop this center i.e. *Kamat* as an agricultural museum (Dulal, 2011, 71).

Sisauli farm a newly established center for complete experience of farm house tourism in Nepal. It has established in 2007, which is not complete, is going to be construction process. The owner of the farm house said the farm is to be extended within 15 *bighas* of its territories (Interview- Sangeeta Niraula). It is perceived that in *Sisauli* farm, there is a plan for the production of organic item by using tradition method, fertilizer and style along with the marketing inside the farm. Likewise, there is a plan of preservation of the agricultural equipment like plough, yoke, spade, oxen cart, traditional mill, grinding stone, sickle, and tradition hearth. They are planed to be displayed. The farm can be developed as the observation center for the living, non-living and the tangible and intangible cultural heritage (Interview-Subhash Niraula). The farm is located about 52 km from the *Biratnagar* the headquarter city of Morang, also 1 Km. away from *Mahendra* Highway in the southern part. And it is linked with the motor able road.

The farm has nicely celebrated *Bethi Mohatsav* in 15 *Ashad* 2068. This columnist has also involved in the *Bethi Mohatsav* now it is called *Ropai Jatra* i.e. plantation ceremony this year. In totality there is a great potentiality for the development from agro-tourism in Morang district from this farm. Thus, there is a necessity of a everyone's concern for the establishment and development of the such type of farms in the other parts of the country.

Similarly, *Janakpurdham*, *Phewa laka* and *Beganash* Lake in *Pokhara Kaski* attract the visitors for the fishing activities. In this context, we can also use tea garden as well as cattle farming, ginger, cardamom, farming of *Ilam* district, as the important agro- tourism products of Nepal. It is not fully satisfactory stage; so, the government, stakeholder and concerned authorities should mobilize their resources for identification of potential destination and resources of the country.

In this context, different academic institutions, NTB and NGO are thinking about agro- tourism promotion as the new product for Nepal. On this regards, traditional crops varieties, traditional food diversity, different agricultural practices and activities like bee keeping, silkworm rearing, organic farming, agricultural museum, a variety of agriculture related festivals, songs, dances and dramas, fishing, livestock farming, agricultural tools, traditional agricultural knowledge, agro-based domestic industry and so on can be included as the new agro-based tourism products of the country .

Agro-based Tourism Products of Ilam

The three main expenses that must be considered when starting an agro-tourism farm are establishment, property, and production expenditures. The price of buying property, creating fences, building structures, installing water tanks, enforcing laws, supplying electricity, building inner roadways, and other related expenses are all considered establishment costs. Expenses that need to be covered even in the event that the farm produces no items are known as property costs. It is required to pay taxes and other fees, paint the building, and fix any damage. Even in the absence of agricultural output or agro-tourism, the owner must still pay property costs. This cost comprises both the cost of agricultural production and agro-tourism (Kaini, 2019, p. 57). Agro-tourism farm management strategies are displayed in the table below:

Table 1: Ways of Managing Agro-tourism Farm

S. N.	Actions	Aspects of Conducting or Supervising Activities
1	Use of Land	A portion of the land should be used for agriculture (livestock and crops), while the remainder should be used for tourist (restaurants, car parks, shops on the farm, therapy, etc.).
2	Production structure	Agriculture promotes balanced agricultural development, crop and livestock diversity, and agro-tourism.
3	Method of manufacture	Tourists are encouraged to engage in the agricultural production process, which follows local practices.
4	The degree of output	large-scale production, environmental preservation, ideally through organic farming, and best use of the agro-tourism region.
5	The product market	Overproduction sold on the market, and production within the farm for its own tourism reasons.
6	Source of income and its meaning	Agriculture and tourism, or just tourism; the definition of tourism is based on its percentage of total revenue.
7	Social actions	Making use of folk customs.

(Sznajder & Przezbórska, 2004)

Agro-tourism is a type of tourism that has a direct connection to agriculture, as stated by the National Tourism Policy. The main characteristics of agro-tourism are a farm or household-led business as a source of income, educational activities that highlight and explain aspects of agricultural lifestyle, rural tourism that is fully integrated with agro-tourism, and potential customers who are interested in farming and agricultural products (Kaini, 2019, p. 60).

Regarding its bio-cultural richness, scenic surroundings, and thriving professionalism in agriculture, particularly in the cash crop industry, *Ilam* is among the wealthiest districts in Nepal. During the field survey researcher has requested to the local people for providing their perceptions on the base of priorities regarding

the agro based tourism products of *Ilam* district. In this respect the priorities based perception of local respondents have found as below:

Table 2: Opinion of local people towards the agro based tourism products

S. N.	Agro based tourism products	Level of Priority	Favorable Seasons	Potential Activities
1.	Tea farming	45	All seasons	planting, raring, plucking, tea producing, sightseeing, purchasing
2.	Paddy farming	39	June, July, August, October, November, December	planting, raring, harvesting, sightseeing
3.	Animal husbandry & Bees farming	35	All seasons	raring, breeding, honey hunting, observing, purchasing
4.	Orange and orange family fruits farms	32	October, November, December, January, February	planting, raring, picking, sightseeing, purchasing
5	Potato Farms	23	January and February	planting, raring, harvesting, sight seeing
6	Silkworm Farming	19	All seasons	planting, raring, harvesting, sightseeing, purchasing
7	Cardamom Farming	12	April to May and August to October	planting, raring, harvesting, sightseeing, purchasing
8	Ginger Farms, <i>Akabare</i> Farming and <i>Amriso</i> farms	11	All seasons	planting, raring, harvesting, sightseeing, purchasing

Source: Field Survey, 2018.

The degree of locals' priority for agriculturally based tourism items during *Ilam*'s favorable seasons is displayed in Table 2. According to their assessment, the data in the table shows that, out of the 50 respondents, tea growing was given a maximum of 45 priorities when it came to creating an all-year-round agro-tourism destination. Thereafter, 39 for paddy farming in June, July, August, October, November, December; 35 for animal husbandry and bees farming as all seasons, 32 for orange and orange family fruits farms in October, November, December, January, February; 23 for potato farms, 19 for silkworm farming, 12 for cardamom farming, and 11 for ginger farms, *akabare* farming and *amriso* farms.

The most well-known district in Nepal for tea cultivation is *Ilam*. It is also known as the "district of '6" because it is well-known for having six important cash crops, which are all named after vowel sounds that begin with the same in Nepali. These crops are potato, cardamom, ginger, red round chill, milk, and broom grass, and their respective names in Nepali are *Aalu*, *Alainchi*, *Akabare Khursani*, *Olan*, and *Amriso*. Therefore, *Asar 15*, *Ropai jatra* as well as the following agricultural farms and sites are considered as the significant agro-based tourism products of *Ilam* district.

Tea farming: Tea farming is the important cash crop of *Ilam* district. *Jhapa* and *Ilam* district of Nepal are famous for its tea product. Among them, still *Ilam* is considered much more popular for orthodox tea than the *Jhapa*. Near about 4 thousand hectares land of the *Ilam* district is nicely covered by the tea farms. Tea farming in Nepal has started through the *Ilam* district in 1993 A.D. *Kanyam*, *Shriantu*, *Fikkal*, *Panchakanya*, *Pasupatinagar*, *Irautar*, *Samalbung*, *Maipokhari*, *Sangrumba*, *Mangalbare*, *Jitpur*, *Sankhejunj*, *Fuatappa*, *Phakaphoka*, these villages, and *Ilam* Municipality are considered as the famous places for tea farming. There are six and seven tea reproduction industries in the eastern part of the *Jogamai* River. Similarly, in *Maipokhari*, *Jitpur*, *Mangalbare* and *Sangkhejung* there are four tea reproduction industries as well. Altogether there are fourteen tea reproduction centers with in *Ilam* district (Gurung, 2063, pp. 77-79). Whatever the case, *Ilam* has the potential to become a popular agro-tourism destination in Nepal because of its stunning tea gardens and tea reproduction businesses. Tourist could visit in this destination not only for the planting, raring, plucking, tea producing, sightseeing, purchasing for the purpose of research and investigation about tea and other else.

Paddy farming: As per the tea farming and production *Ilam* is also famous for paddy plantation and harvesting. Peasants of *Ilam* seemed busy in the months of June, July and August for plantation whereas, on the months of October, November and December for harvesting of their paddy. There is potentiality to involve the tourists for planting, raring, harvesting, sightseeing activities during the above mentioned seasons.

Silkworm Farming (Sericulture): Silkworm farms are considered as the agro-based tourism asset of *Ilam* district. *Namsaling*, *Godaka*, *Sanrumba*, *Laxmi*, *Chisapani*, *Soyak*, *Siddhithumka*, *Danabari*, *Mahamai*, *Kanyamm*, *Kolbung*, *Samalbung*, *Chulachuli* and *Sakphara* these fourteen villages and *Ilam* municipality are famous for Silkworm farming. Through this, about 1.7 millions farmers have taken advantage in the fiscal year 059\60. For the agro-based tourism promotion Silkworm farming sites can be

the attractive destination of *Ilam*, if it is properly managed, utilized and published where tourist can get opportunities of planting, raring, harvesting, sightseeing and purchasing.

Cardamom Farming: *Alaichi* i.e. cardamom is an important one for agro based tourism product in *Ilam*. Now in *Ilam* 2750 hector land is being utilized as the cardamom farming in different parts of the district whereby, the total 1092 metric tons cardamom is taking production which helps to generate 22 cores and 7.6 million Rupees as the benefit to the farmers. Basically regarding cardamom farming *Jamuna*, *Pyang*, *Soyang*, *Chamaita* and *Aamachok* villages are well considered as the agro- based tourist destination of *Ilam* district where tourist can get opportunities of planting, raring, harvesting, sightseeing and purchasing.

Akabare Khursani (Red round chilly) Farming: Among the major crops, *Akabare khursani* i.e. Red round chilly is considered one of the important agro products of *Ilam*. For the red round chilly farms the villages such as *Soyang*, *Dhuseni*, *Eaktappa*, *Ivang*, *Gorkhe*, *Nayabazar*, *Jogamai*, *Sulubung* are quite famous. About 70 hectors of land has been utilizing for the red round chilly farms. By which 245 metric ton chilly is taken to the markets which generate 24 million Rupees in every years. Thus, the above mentioned villages can be developed as the agro -based tourism destinations for involving planting, raring, harvesting, sightseeing, purchasing activities to the tourists.

Ginger Farms: Ginger i.e. *Aduwa* is another cash crop of *Ilam*. The villages like *Soyang*, *Dhuseni*, *Eaktappa*, *Ivang*, *Gorkhe*, *Nayabazar*, *Jogamai*, *Sulubung* are considered quite famous for the ginger farms. The total 2131 hectors land has been using as the ginger farms in *Ilam*. Through this about 298335 metric ton ginger is produced which helps to generate 29 million Rupees in a fiscal year. So the particular villages where the ginger farms are established, they can be promoted as the important agro -based tourism destination for conducting planting, raring, harvesting, sightseeing, purchasing activities to the tourists.

Potato Farms: *Ilam* is also famous for *Aalu* i.e. potato production. Out of total land, 6606 hectors is utilizing for the potato farming. By which 84897 metric ton potato is produced, this helps to generate 67 crors 91 lakhs 76 thousand money as the total income in every year (Karna, 2060, p. 17). Therefore, potato farming sites can also be developed as agro-based tourism destination for conducting planting, raring, harvesting, sightseeing, purchasing activities to the tourists.

Amriso (broom grass) farms: *Amriso* or broom grass is the major cash crops of *Ilam* district. For the *Amliso* farming the villages such as *Soyang*, *Dusen*, *Eaktappa*, *Lvang*, *Gorkhe*, *Nayabazar*, *Jogamai*, *Salubung* are recognized quite famous sites in *Ilam*. Thus, the sites mentioned above can also be developed as agro-based tourism destination to involving to the tourists for conducting different activities like planting, raring, harvesting, sightseeing, and purchasing.

Orange and orange family fruits farms: *Ilam* is also famous for the orange and orange family fruits production. Especially, *Barbote*, *Soyang* *Namasaling*, *Sumbek Pyanka*, *Soyak* and *Jirmale* villages and *Ilam* municipality are famous for orange and orange family fruits productions within *Ilam* district. Through the 255 hectors of land, the total 1785 metric ton fruits have produced, which helped to generate 2 crors 14 lakhs 20 thousand money as the total income in 2059\60 fiscal year (Karna, 2060, p. 17.) Thus, these sites mentioned above can be developed as an agro-based tourism destination where tourists can involve to carryout planting, raring, picking, sightseeing, and purchasing activities.

Animal husbandry (Cattle farm) and Bees farming: Animal husbandry and bees farming is another asset of attraction of *Ilam* district. Cow farming, pig and goat farming are the important occupational farms of the district. The villages such as *Maipokhari*, *Mangalabure*, *Panchakanya*, *Fikkal* and *Ilam* Municipality are considered important farm sites for cow farming. According to the statistics *Ilam* district can produce 1,50,000 lot milk in every day. There are five chilling centre's and seven dairy plants in *Ilam* district. *Dudhachisan* centre of *Biblyate*, *Puwakhola*, *Fikkal*, *Teendhare*, *Kuttidanda* and *chija utpadan Kendra Ramke*, *chija utpadan Kendra Raske*, *Kanchanjangha chija utpadan Kendra*, *yati chija utpadan kandra pashupatinagar*, cottage *chija utpadan Kendra Shiantia* and *himal chija utpadan kandra Baudhadham* are the mentionable chilling centers and dairy plants of *Ilam* district. Similarly *Chamaita*, *Barbote* as well as *Ilam* Municipality are known important one for pig farming, whereas, the villages *Chulachuli*, *Danabari*, *Kanyam*, *Siddhithurnka*, *Gitapur*, *Sangrumba*, *Soyang* are considered important sites for goat farming. Likewise, the villages mentioned above are recognized as the pocket areas for bees farming.

As the tourism point of view the chilling centers and dairy plants are properly utilized and communicated in national and international level, no doubt, *Ilam* might be developed as the research and investigation centre to the interested scholars as well as general visitors, too. Thus, the above mentioned villages can also be developed as agro-based tourism destination to involving to the tourists for conducting planting, raring, harvesting, honey hunting, sightseeing, and purchasing activities.

Potentiality of Agro- Tourism in Ilam

An account of *Ilam* and *Maipokhari* can be found in the great Hindu sacred scripture *Srimadbhagawat Geeta*, which aids in determining the historical background and significance of these locations. According to the description, *Ilam* and *Maipokhari* were well-known and visited sacred sites from very early times as well as today. It is also stated that numerous holy saints made various visits at various times. Later on, it is also mentioned that in 1949–50 BS, *Swamy Somesworananda* traveled from *Godawal*, India. Notable examples of *Ilam*'s tourist efforts include the journey of *Maha Prabhu Kapilananda* from *Sworgadwori* in 1947 CE

and the visit of *Balaguru*, India in 1998 BS (Dulal, 2022, p. 122). In this respect Dulal (2022, p. 122) further mentions that:

It is believed that before the unification process of *Prithivi Narayan Shah* there was no any tourism activity in this region. There had been some tourism activities in *Ilam* during the unification process of Nepal. After the Treaty of *Sugauli*, the famous Botanist, Sir Joseph Hooker had travelled from Kathmandu in to the *Ilam* as well as Darjeeling of India. Likewise, the event concerned to *H.A. Old-Fild*, a famous scholar, who had visited *Ilam* and *Dhankuta* as part of his field work which is considered as an important event for the tourism in *Ilam*.

In 1958 BS, the *Rana Priminister Deva Samsher* also traveled to *Ilam* accompanied by five female attendants. Following the 2007 BS public revolt for democracy, Nepal was formally opened to foreigners. At the same time, *Mrigendra Samsher* of the *Gorkha Parishad*, President of the Nepali Congress, *Matrika Prashad Koirala*, and Home Minister *B.P. Koirala* set out for the *Ilam* region. On this regards, the visit of the extempore poet *Lekhanath Paudel*, the great poet *Laxmi Prashad Devkota*, as well as *Dharanidhar Koirala*, *Surya Prashad Gnyawali* and other senior litterateur for the literary conference of *Ashoj* 18-22 in 2009 BS at *Phakaphok* is known as the another fruitful effort for tourism development of *Ilam* (Dulal, 2022, p. 122). In this process the visit of King *Mahendra* in 2020 BS and Prince *Birendra* in 2028 B.S. is believed as a memorable series of events for the history of tourism in *Ilam* (Baral, 2063, pp. 84 -85).

During the previous fiscal year, there was a 42.6 percent increase in the number of tourists visiting the hilly eastern area of *Ilam*. The number of tourists entering through *Jhapa* has been sharply rising, according to the Tourist Information Center, which is situated in *Jarekalash*, between the districts of *Ilam* and *Jhapa*. The information center states that 134,077 tourists a 40,000 increase visited *Ilam* during the 2018-19 fiscal year. Domestic tourists make up the majority of them (Chapagain, 2019). However, since many visitors fail to provide their information to the relevant authorities, the precise number of tourists visiting the district may exceed the figures stated above (Dulal, 2022, p. 123).

In addition to promoting health and environmental preservation, agro-tourism offers impoverished farmers, jobless young people, and women employment alternatives. For this reason, agro-tourism in particular and rural tourism in general have received increased attention in the Tourism Vision 2020, Tourism Policy 2007, and National Tourism Strategy Paper (2018–34). Nonetheless, there are other obstacles, including appropriate agro-tourism farm management, road accessibility, improved medical facilities, and evidence-based legislation concerning organic farming and agro-tourism promotion (Kaini, 2019, p. 53).

As a result, Nepal offers enormous potential for agro-tourism, which we can actually take use of all year long. Monsoon is typically regarded as off-season. We can actually invite tourists to enjoy the planting season if we can effectively implement agro-tourism. As an example, we may use *Ropai Jatra* to promote festivals like *Asar* 15. Likewise, harvesting seasons like rice harvesting, mango harvesting, tea plucking, orange picking, honey hunting, fishing and so on are considered note worthy agro-based activities for celebrating as the harvesting tourism mahotsav i.e. festivals. In addition to assisting guests in enjoying the event, these festivals and *mahotsav* provide them with the chance to familiarize themselves with rural areas, agricultural goods, customs, daily life, and the local and pristine environments and traditions. Many tourists travel to Germany each year purely to take advantage of the mud baths. We can boost agro-tourism activities and turn a profit if we can put together a nice package and advertise the plantation season (Vasistha, 2008, 2 July).

Said to be a sophisticated science that comprehends both global economics and human psychology, *Ilam*, the petite but stunning queen of the hills, is located in the far east of the country and is referred to as Nepal's "beautiful tea garden." It also boasts a substantial natural and cultural heritage site, making it one of the country's most visited tourist destinations. Similarly, *Ilam* is famous for its agro- products. There are many agro farms that have been established to produce the above mentioned crops. Can *Ilam* has possibility for develop as the agro- based tourism destination in Nepal? The question is still waiting for appropriate answer for a long time. Therefore, before carry any steps toward agro- based tourism it is also very much important to study its possibility whither it is useful and effective or not. Researcher asked a question to the respondents can *Ilam* became an agro- tourism destination? Out of 50 respondents, the majority have replied positively, the details are given in table.

Table 3: Opinion of local people towards possibility of Ilam for Agro Tourism destination

S. N.	Level of Opinion	Resp. No.	%
1.	Very high possibility	19	38
2.	High possibility	12	24
3.	Low possibility	9	18
4.	Not possibility	7	14
5	Not state	3	6
Total		50	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2018.

The level of view expressed by the locals about the potential promotion of *Ilam* as an agro-tourism destination is displayed in Table 3. According to the data in the table, out of the 50 respondents, the largest

number of 19 (38%) thought that *Ilam* had a very high potential for becoming a destination for agro-tourism. Conversely, the lowest three responders (6%) had no ideas about the matter. In a similar vein, 12 (24%) expressed a high chance of improving agro-tourism in *Ilam*, 9 (18%) suggested a low possibility, and the remaining 7 (14%), a no possibility.

Accommodations and Facilities Available in Ilam

The main hotels, lodges, resorts, and home stays in *Ilam* that offer lodging to guests are the *Padma* Lodge, Summit Hotel, *Chiyabari* Cottage, Hotel Green View, Green City Guest House, The Paradise Cottages, Panorama Hotel & Lodge, Hill Hoods Resort, Omega hotel & Lodge, *Hotal Darbar*, Almost Heaven Farms *Antu* Cottage, Mirage Resort and Hotel *Fikkal Kanyam* Inn, *Rinchen* Hotel & Lodge, *Habre's* Nest, *Singalila* Jungle Lodge, Hotel *Chamu*, *Kulung* Family Tea Farm, *Deurali* Hotel & Lodge, *Bidyasagar* Home Stay, *Dhotrey* Home Stay, *Gopal* Home Stay, *Chintapu* Home Stay, *Santi* Home Stay (Dulal, 2022, p. 120).

Other amenities like transportation, phone service, tour assistance, gift shops, and host families' friendliness are all thought to be crucial for boosting tourism. As a result, the degree of tourist satisfaction with accommodations and amenities has been quantified and examined in this article. The researcher discussed this topic with 25 visitors; four of them were foreign tourists—during the field survey. The answers listed below have been compiled.

Table 4: Opinion of tourists regarding the accommodations and facilities

S. N.	Accommodations and Facilities	Evaluation				Total
		Excellent	Good	Moderate	Not good	
1.	Hotel accommodation	3 (12%)	14(56%)	6(24%)	2(8%)	25
2.	Transportation facilities	7(28%)	8(32%)	6(24%)	4(16%)	25
3.	Communication services	13(52%)	6(24%)	4(16%)	2(8%)	25
4.	Guide service	4(16%)	9 (34%)	7(28%)	5(20%)	25
5	Hospitality	14(56%)	5(20%)	4 (16%)	2(8%)	25
6	Souvenir centre	4(16%)	4(16%)	11(44%)	6(24%)	25

Source: Field Survey, 2018; Dulal, 2022, p. 121.

The review of the various lodging options and amenities, including hotels and resorts, food catering, transit, communication services, tour services, souvenir shops, and host hospitality, is covered in Table 4. According to the statistics, of the 25 respondents, 14 (56%) said that their hotel accommodations were good, 6 (24%) said that they were moderate, 3 (12%) said that they were great, and 2 (8%) said that they were not good. Similarly, of the total respondents, 8 (32%) said that the transportation facility was good, 7 (28%) said that it was great, 6 (24%) said that it was intermediate, and 4 (16%) said that it was very good. Comparably, when asked about the respondents' communication services, 13 (52%) said they were great, 6 (24%) said they were good, 4 (16%) said they were average, and 2 (8%) said they were not good. As the same manner, about guide service, rest of the respondents 9(34%) good, 7 (28%) mention moderate 5 (20%) reply not good and 4 (16%) have responded excellent. Comparably, of those surveyed, 14 (56%) said they were exceptional at hospitality, 5 (20%) said they were good, 4 (16%) said they were average, and 2 (8%) said they were not so good. Similarly, of the remaining respondents, 11 (44%) mentioned moderate, 6 (24%) responded poorly, and 4 (16%) responded excellently and well. These responses are related to the souvenir center (Dulal, 2022, p. 121).

Conclusion

Agro-tourism is a type of travel that has a strong connection to the local agriculture industry. Obviously, this type of tourism is based on agro activities or operation. It is also known as farm house tourism. Visiting a functioning farm or any other agricultural, horticultural, or agro-business operation with the intention of taking pleasure in, learning from, or actively participating in the operations of the form operators is generally referred to as agro-tourism. In order to develop and promote agro-tourism destination to the *Ilam* and in Nepal, this paper suggests a variety of activities, such as garden visits, harvesting and farm stays, farm restaurants, leisure fishing, highway landscapes, agro-diversity conservation, and the marketing of locally produced organic. Finally, the above mentioned all the events are quite considered as the important activities for the tourist and tourism perspectives. Therefore, the present and future of agro tourism in *Ilam* is based on the above mentioned solid platform.

Nepal is potential destination for agro tourism in the world. But, it still could not utilize its potentiality properly. For the proper development of agro tourism the government of Nepal should manage more or less 3 thousands hectares land in each province for launching intensive traditional agro farming especially in *Terai* region and marketing that agro farms in global tourism markets as the agro tourism destinations. There should be made compulsion to use traditional technologies and tools for planting, rearing, harvesting and collecting the crops and should strictly prohibited to use modern technologies, tools and machines. By which the tourists can gate opportunities to observe and participate and to conduct researches with the traditional

technologies and tools as well as agro activities in the field that might be helped to attract the numerous visitors in the destination.

Implication

Within its small territory, *Ilam* is home to several valuable agro-tourism products, including tea, paddy, silkworm (sericulture), cardamom, ginger, potato, and *amriso* (broom grass) farms, as well as animal husbandry (cattle farm) and orange and orange family fruit farms. These elements, its native identity, main draws, perceptions, and authenticity, should be made widely available in travel markets. However, the data that is currently available on the number of visitors cannot guarantee that its potential will be fully utilized. Thus, in order to establish the location as a crucial hub for agro-tourism in Nepal, the government, relevant authorities, and stakeholders should design suitable strategies, policies, and programs based on the aforementioned indigenous identity. Given the circumstances, the researcher thinks that stakeholders, concerned authorities, and future planners could find this article to be helpful.

Acknowledgement

This paper entitled *Agro-tourism in Nepal: An Analysis of Ilam District* deals with the agro products and its significance for the promotion of agro tourism in *Ilam*. During the field study researchers have got plenty of supports from the local respondents and key informants therefore, we would like to extend sincere acknowledgement to them such as *Dharma Gautam*, Journalist; *Sita Ram Tiwari*, *Kul Raj Niraula*, Associate Prof., *Rajendra Kunwar*, teacher, *Kiran Lama*, hotelier of *Ilam* and other supporters for their valuable cooperation.

References

1. Baral, R. (2063). Kasari Bhayo Ilamma Paryatan Bikash, *Chinari*, Kirtipur: Ilameli Bidhyarthi Manch. pp. 84-85.
2. Baral, R. (2064). Ilam ka Paryatakiya Sthalharu, *Chinari*, Paryatan Bishesanka, Kirtipur: Ilameli Bidhyarthi Manch. pp. 124- 126.
3. Ceballos-Lascurain, H. (1996). *Tourism, ecotourism and protected areas*. Gland, Switzerland: International Union for Conservation of Nature.
4. Chapagain, B. (2019). Number of tourists up by 42.06% in Ilam. Republica, August 20, republica.nagariknetwork.com (retrieved 2/20/2021).
5. Dangol, D. R. (2008). Agro Ecotourism in Nepal: concept, scope, experiences and status, *Reading in Rural Tourism*. Kathmandu: Sunlight Publication (Student Book).
6. Dulal, L. N. (2011). Agro-Tourism; An Analysis of History and Practices. *Voice of Bajra*. Kathmandu: Bajra International College, 1 (1): 67-73.
7. Dulal, L. N. (2013). Folk Dance: A Cultural Tourism Product of the Ilam District. *Voice of Bajra*, (Barsa-2, Anka- 1), Kathmandu: Bajra Int'L College. pp. 78-83.
8. Dulal, L.N. (2017) Folk dance an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Nepal: A Case Study of Ilam District. *International Journal for Social Development* (vol. 5, issue-1). Ranchi, India: Institute for Social Development and Research. pp. 23-39.
9. Dulal, L. N. (2022). The Role of Natural Heritage for the Promotion of Tourism in Ilam. *Molung Educational Frontier*. <https://doi.org/10.3126/mef.v12i01.45907>, June 2022, 12(01),104-126.
10. Gadtaula, M. P. (2063). Jasbire Vanjyang ko Bibidhata. *Chinari*, Kirtipur: Ilameli Bidhyarthi Manch, pp.123-124.
11. Ghimire, D. (2063). Antuo Ko Gramin Paryatan ka Chunaute Haru, *Chinari*, Kirtipur: Ilameli Bidhyarthi Manch, pp. 155-156.
12. Gurung, N. (2063). Chiyako Chintan Chautari, *Chinari*, Paryatan Bishesanka, Kirtipur: Ilameli Bidhyarthi Manch, pp. 77- 79.
13. Hron, J., & Srnec, K. (2004). *Agro-tourism in the context with the rural development*. Czech, Prague: University of Life Sciences.
14. <http://www.gtz.de>, Retrieved 11th Oct. 2008.
15. I B M (2063). *Chinari*, Kirtipur: Ilameli Bidhyarthi Manch.
16. I B M (2064). *Chinari, Paryatan Bishesanka*, Kirtipur: Ilameli Bidhyarthi Manch.
17. Kaini M. (2019). Agro-tourism in Nepal: A Rural Development Perspective. *Nepalese Journal of Development and Rural Studies*, Central Department of Rural Development Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur, Vol. 16, pp. 53-65. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3126/njdrs.v16i0.31571>
18. Karna, S. L. (2060). Ilam Gillama Sanchalita Krishi Karyakramka Upalabdhi, *Ilam Gilla Bikash Samachar*, 17 DDC, Ilam.

19. Khanal, P. (2064). Ilamako Paryatakiya Sthal Jhyaupokhari, *Chinari, Paryatan Bishesanka*, Kirtipur: Ilameli Bidhyarthi Manch, pp. 100 - 101.
20. Kokko, A. (2011). *An exploration of agri tourism: Topics, literature and areas for future research*.
21. NTB (2008). *Tourism Products of Nepal*. Kathmandu: Nepal Tourism Board.
22. Rai, S. (2063). Ilam Jillako Bhaugarvik Banawat, *Chinari*, Kirtipur: Ilameli Bidhyarthi Manch, pp. 48-51.
23. Sapkota, T. (2064). Potentiality of Eco-tourism in Ilam. *Chinari, Paryatan Bishesanka*, Kirtipur: Ilameli Bidhyarthi Manch, pp. 82-84.
24. Shakya, K. (2008). Tourism Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow, *Reading in Rural Tourism*. Kathmandu: Sunlight Publication (Student Book).
25. Sharma, J. (2063). Shri Antu Nepal ho, Mechi Kholako Uddgam Sthal Lalikharka Hoina, *Chinari*, Kirtipur: Ilameli Bidhyarthi Manch, pp. 36-39.
26. Sharma, S. (2010). Krishi Paryatan Badauna Jutte Gaule, Kantipur Dainik Barsa -18, Anka - 207, Bhadra-28, 2067.
27. Sznajder, M., & Przebórska, L. (2004). Identification of rural and agri-tourism products and services, *Roczniki Akademii Rolniczej WPoznaniu-Ccclix*, 165-177. Poznań: Cieszkowski Agricultural University.
28. Vasistha, B. (2008). Agro Tourism From Culture to Agriculture, The Kathmandu Post, July-2.