CHAPTER 5

**LAND USE AND AGRICULTURE**

Agricultural practices have changed tremendously over the years. Until a decade ago, agriculture was practiced on a subsistence basis. Whatever was produced on the farm was consumed having little or no marketable surplus. The farm production was supplemented by keeping different kinds of domestic animals such as cattle for draught and milking purpose, chicken for eggs and pigs for meat etc.

However, nowadays, owing to the improved network of road accessibility and transportation in the country, increasing number of farms are shifting from subsistence-based farming to commercial agriculture. Strategies to increase livestock and crop production include intensifying farm mechanization, land development and fallow land reversion, introducing climate and disaster resilient crop varieties, mitigating human wildlife conflict through adoption of innovative technologies, promoting value addition and Renewal Natural Resources (RNR) enterprise development, and etc.

In order to fulfill the aspiration of food security and self-sufficiency in the country, it is imperative to use the coherent RNR statistics that will provide realistic picture of country’s food situation. The availability of RNR statistics also serves as the basis for making evidence based programs and policy decisions.

Presented in this chapter therefore include statistics on agricultural area, quantity of crop produced and livestock population and production, inputs distributed and its price, etc.