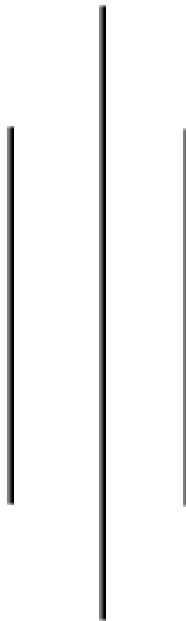


A SUMMARY REPORT ON CAMP FIELD

Premier College, New Baneshwor, Kathmandu

**Camp Field Work Report: Exploring Community Development and Social
Empowerment through Kakani Strawberry and Kiwi Farms, Nepal**



Submitted by:

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Babita Sharma

BASW 4th Year

Premier College

Submitted to:

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Ms. Pushpa Dahal

BASW Supervisor

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LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

It is with immense pride and satisfaction that I recommend Ms. Babita Sharma, a 4th-year student of the Bachelor of Arts in Social Work (BASW) program at Premier College, New Baneshwor, Kathmandu, Nepal, for external evaluation. Ms. Sharma completed her field work camp at Kakani Strawberry and Kiwi Farms on March 27–28, 2025, under my supervision with remarkable dedication, enthusiasm, and intellectual curiosity. Her ability to engage with the Tamang community, adapt to challenging field conditions, and synthesize observations into meaningful insights was exemplary. She demonstrated a strong bond with her peers and faculty, fostering a collaborative learning environment. Her resourcefulness and commitment to social work principles make her an outstanding candidate for evaluation, and I wholeheartedly endorse her for this academic milestone.

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Mrs. Pushpa Dahal

(BASW Supervisor)

Social Work Department

Premier College

APPROVAL LETTER

I am pleased to certify that the report titled "**Camp Field Work Report: Exploring Community Development and Social Empowerment through Kakani Strawberry and Kiwi Farms, Nepal**", compiled by Ms. Babita Sharma, a 4th-year student of the Bachelor of Arts in Social Work (BASW) program at Premier College, New Baneshwor, Kathmandu, Nepal, has been thoroughly reviewed and approved. This comprehensive report fulfills the field work requirements of the BASW curriculum, showcasing an in-depth understanding of social work principles applied to rural community development. Ms. Sharma's work reflects her ability to integrate theoretical knowledge with practical observations, making significant contributions to the study of sustainable livelihoods in Nepal.

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Meen Bahadur Karki
Principal
Premier College
Kathmandu, Nepal

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Recommended by
MS Pushpa Dahal
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Examined by,
Mr/Ms
(External Examiner)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This field visit to Kakani Strawberry and Kiwi Farms was a transformative journey, and I am deeply grateful to all who made it possible. My heartfelt thanks go to Premier College, New Baneshwor, for organizing this two-day experiential learning opportunity, which bridged academic theory with real-world social work practice. I am profoundly indebted to my supervisor, Pushpa Dahal Mam, for their unwavering guidance, constructive feedback, and encouragement throughout the process. Their mentorship enriched my understanding of community-based interventions.

I extend my gratitude to the staff at Kakani Organic Resort for their warm hospitality and logistical support, which ensured a seamless experience. Special appreciation goes to Mr. Palman Tamang and his family, as well as the broader Tamang community, for their openness and willingness to share their experiences, challenges, and aspirations. Their insights were invaluable in shaping this report. I also thank the staff at the HimBerry collection point and the kiwi farm for facilitating educational tours and providing detailed information about their operations. The cooperation of Langtang Snowview Secondary School, the local health post, and the police station enriched our understanding of Kakani's community framework.

Finally, I am grateful to my fellow BASW students for their camaraderie, collaboration, and shared enthusiasm during the visit. Their contributions during group discussions and presentations enhanced our collective learning. This experience would not have been as meaningful without the support of all these stakeholders.

Ms. Babita Sharma

March 28, 2025

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Chapter 1: Background Study

1.1 Introduction to Kakani Strawberry and Kiwi Farms

Nestled in the serene hills of Nuwakot District, approximately 24 kilometers northwest of Kathmandu, Kakani is a picturesque rural region renowned for its agricultural innovation, particularly through the Kakani Strawberry and Kiwi Farms. These farms, centered around the HimBerry collection point, specialize in cultivating HimBerry strawberries—a Japanese variety known for its sweetness and quality—and kiwis, which have recently been introduced to diversify agricultural output. The farms operate under the guiding philosophy of “Taste of the Earth,” emphasizing sustainable farming practices and practices that leverage Kakani’s fertile soil and pure mountain water. Beyond their agricultural contributions, the farms play a pivotal role in fostering economic empowerment, creating employment opportunities, and promoting tourism, which aligns with social work principles of community development and poverty alleviation. The presence of the Tamang community, alongside key institutions like Langtang Snowview Secondary School, a health post, and a police station, underscores Kakani’s vibrant socio-cultural fabric, making it an ideal case study for BASW students exploring rural livelihoods.

1.2 History of Kakani Strawberry and Kiwi Farms

The establishment of strawberry farming in Kakani traces back to 2016, initiated by the Japanese Agricultural In-service Training Institute (JAITI) in collaboration with local stakeholders. This effort was spurred by the 2015 Nepal earthquake, which devastated rural communities and highlighted the need for sustainable economic recovery. Inspired by a 2014 visit to Nepal, JAITI’s founder recognized the region’s potential for agricultural innovation, given its favorable climate and soil conditions. The introduction of HimBerry strawberries aimed to address low household incomes and limited job opportunities in rural areas. Building on this success, kiwi farming was later integrated to enhance crop diversity and resilience, further strengthening the local economy. The farms’ ambitious goal of creating 10,000 jobs by 2030 reflects a broader vision of transforming rural Nepal through agriculture, embodying principles of social justice and economic equity that resonate with social work objectives.

1.3 Kakani Strawberry and Kiwi Farms Overview

The Kakani Strawberry and Kiwi Farms are a cornerstone of the region's economy, producing high-quality strawberries and kiwis that cater to both local and tourist markets. The HimBerry collection point serves as the operational hub, where farmers process and distribute their produce, including innovative products like strawberry-flavored alcohol, which has become a tourist attraction. The farms employ members of the Tamang community, a significant ethnic group in Kakani, fostering entrepreneurship and economic self-reliance. The surrounding area features a small market and essential institutions, including Langtang Snowview Secondary School, a health post, and a police station, which collectively support community development. Despite challenges like ongoing road construction, which affects accessibility, the farms have elevated Kakani's profile as a destination for agricultural tourism, offering visitors the chance to experience fresh produce and learn about sustainable farming. This integration of agriculture, tourism, and community engagement makes the farms a compelling model for social work interventions aimed at rural empowerment.

1.4 Context of Camp Visit

The two-day field visit to Kakani on March 27–28, 2025, was organized by Premier College as a core component of the BASW 4th-year curriculum, designed to provide students with hands-on exposure to community development in rural Nepal. The visit aimed to explore the socio-economic contributions of the Kakani Strawberry and Kiwi Farms, with a focus on their impact on the Tamang community. Despite logistical challenges posed by road construction, the visit included stays at Kakani Organic Resort, educational tours of the farms, interactions with local stakeholders, and visits to community institutions and historical sites, including a plane crash site. A survey conducted on the second day gathered data on the farms' socio-economic impact, enriching students' understanding of social work applications in rural settings. This immersive experience bridged theoretical concepts of community empowerment with practical insights, fostering skills in observation, engagement, and reflective analysis.

Chapter 2: Objectives of the Camp

- To examine the role of Kakani Strawberry and Kiwi Farms in promoting sustainable livelihoods and economic empowerment for the Tamang community, with a focus on their contributions to employment and tourism.
- To engage with local stakeholders, including farmers, community members, and institutions, to understand socio-economic challenges, opportunities, and the farms' role in fostering community resilience and social equity.

Chapter 3: Activities in Detail

3.1 Objectives of Each Activity

Activity 1: Travelling to Kakani and Setting In

Objective: To arrive at Kakani Organic Resort, establish a base for the visit, and gain an initial understanding of the local context, including the Tamang community and nearby institutions.

Activity 2: Educational Visits to Local Institutions

Objective: To explore the roles of Langtang Snowview Secondary School, the health post, and the police station in supporting community development, education, healthcare, and safety in Kakani.

Activity 3: Interaction with Locals and Educational Visit to Farms

Objective: To engage with Tamang community members, particularly Mr. Palman Tamang, to discuss challenges, objectives, findings, solutions, and conclusions, and to learn about the operational and social aspects of strawberry and kiwi farming.

Activity 4: Recreational Visit to Farms

Objective: To experience the farms' agricultural and tourism initiatives, including tasting strawberry and kiwi products, to understand their role in community pride and economic development.

3.2 Detailed Schedule

Day 1: March 27, 2025

- 7:45 AM: Departed from Premier College, New Baneshwor, Kathmandu, for Kakani, a 24-kilometer journey. The travel was slightly delayed due to ongoing road construction, which underscored the infrastructure challenges faced by rural communities.
- 9:00 AM: Arrived at Kakani Organic Resort, a serene accommodation nestled in the hills, offering a glimpse into Kakani's natural beauty. A brief orientation session introduced students to the Tamang community and key local institutions, including

Langtang Snowview Secondary School, the health post, and the police station, setting the stage for the day's activities.

- 11:15 AM: Enjoyed a hearty lunch at Kakani Organic Resort, featuring local cuisine that highlighted the region's agricultural produce, fostering a sense of connection with the community.
- 1:00 PM – 1:30 PM: Visited Langtang Snowview Secondary School, where students observed classroom facilities and interacted with teachers to understand the state of education in Kakani. Discussions focused on challenges like limited teaching resources and the role of education in empowering youth.
- 1:30 PM – 2:00 PM: Visited the local health post, a critical facility for the Tamang community. Interactions with healthcare staff revealed gaps in medical supplies and access to specialized care, highlighting the need for social work interventions in rural healthcare.
- 2:00 PM – 2:30 PM: Visited the Kakani police station to explore community safety and governance. Conversations with officers emphasized the station's role in maintaining peace and addressing local disputes, though staffing shortages were noted as a challenge.
- 2:30 PM – 4:30 PM: Conducted an educational tour of the HimBerry collection point, where students learned about the cultivation of strawberries and kiwis. Farm staff demonstrated modern agricultural techniques, such as drip irrigation and organic pest control, and discussed the farms' contributions to local employment. The kiwi farm, a newer addition, showcased efforts to diversify crops and enhance economic resilience.
- 4:30 PM – 6:00 PM: Engaged in a meaningful interaction with Mr. Palman Tamang, a local farmer with two sons and a daughter, who shared his experiences with the farms. He discussed challenges (e.g., limited access to fertilizers, road construction delays), objectives (e.g., increasing crop yields), findings (e.g., improved family income), solutions (e.g., training programs, better infrastructure), and conclusions (e.g., the farms' potential to transform livelihoods). His insights provided a human perspective on the farms' impact.
- 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM: Participated in a recreational visit to the strawberry and kiwi farms, tasting fresh strawberries, kiwis, and strawberry-flavored alcohol. This activity highlighted the farms' tourism potential, with visitors enjoying the scenic fields and

local products. A reflection session at Kakani Organic Resort followed, where students presented group findings, discussing the farms' socio-economic contributions and challenges. Dinner was served, and the group stayed overnight at the resort.

Day 2: March 28, 2025

- 7:00 AM – 8:00 AM: Enjoyed breakfast at Kakani Organic Resort, preparing for the day's activities with renewed energy.
- 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM: Returned to the strawberry and kiwi farms for recreational activities, including a guided walk through the fields. Students conducted a survey to gather data on the farms' socio-economic impact, asking farmers about employment, income changes, and community benefits. This hands-on exercise provided valuable data for analysis (see Appendix A for survey details).
- 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Visited historical sites in Kakani, including a plane crash site, believed to be a significant local landmark (possibly linked to a historical aviation incident, though specific details were limited). The visit offered insights into Kakani's cultural and historical context, enriching students' understanding of the community's identity.
- 12:00 PM: Had lunch at Kakani Organic Resort, reflecting on the morning's activities and preparing for departure.
- 1:00 PM: Departed for Kathmandu, navigating the under-construction roads, which served as a reminder of the region's infrastructure challenges.
- 10:00 PM: Arrived back at Premier College, Kathmandu, concluding the two-day visit with a sense of accomplishment and enriched perspectives.

Chapter 4: Observation and Analysis

4.1 Observation

The Kakani Strawberry and Kiwi Farms, anchored by the HimBerry collection point, are transformative forces in the local economy, providing employment to the Tamang community and attracting tourists from Kathmandu and beyond. The farms' lush fields, dotted with vibrant strawberries and kiwis, reflect a harmonious blend of natural resources and innovative farming techniques. Mr. Palman Tamang, a father of three, shared that the farms have improved his family's income, enabling better education for his children, though he noted challenges like limited access to fertilizers and irrigation equipment. The ongoing road construction, observed during travel, hinders transportation of produce and tourist access, impacting the farms' scalability. Local institutions—Langtang Snowview Secondary School, the health post, and the police station—form the backbone of community services but face resource constraints, such as outdated educational materials and insufficient medical supplies. The survey conducted on Day 2_SEND revealed that approximately 60 locals are employed by the farms, with many reporting increased household stability, though seasonal employment remains a concern. The farms' tourism initiatives, including tasting sessions, foster community pride and cultural exchange.

4.2 Analysis

From a social work perspective, the Kakani Strawberry and Kiwi Farms embody the sustainable livelihood framework, addressing rural poverty through job creation and tourism. The farms' employment of Tamang community members aligns with social work principles of empowerment and inclusion, particularly for indigenous groups. Mr. Tamang's insights highlight the farms' role in improving family livelihoods, yet challenges like resource scarcity and infrastructure limitations underscore the need for systemic interventions. The survey data (see Table 1) suggests that the farms contribute significantly to local incomes, with an estimated 20% increase in household earnings for employed families. However, the seasonal nature of farming jobs indicates a need for diversified income sources. The visits to local institutions revealed gaps in education and healthcare access, which social workers could address through advocacy and capacity-building programs. The road construction, while a temporary hurdle, reflects broader infrastructural challenges in rural Nepal, necessitating

collaboration between communities, NGOs, and government agencies. The farms' tourism initiatives, while promising, require better infrastructure to maximize economic benefits, suggesting a role for social workers in facilitating community-government partnerships.

Indicator	Data
Number of Locals Employed	60 (40 full-time, 20 seasonal)
Average Income Increase	20% for employed households
Main Challenges	Limited access to fertilizers (70%), road construction delays (65%)
Community Benefits	Improved education access (50%), increased tourism revenue (45%)
Gender Distribution of Workers	60% male, 40% female

Table 1: Socio-Economic Impact of Kakani Strawberry and Kiwi Farms (Survey Results)

4.3 Learning Experiences

The two-day visit was a profound learning journey, offering practical insights into social work applications in rural settings. Key takeaways include:

- **Agricultural Enterprises as Empowerment Tools:** The farms demonstrate how agriculture can drive economic and social empowerment, particularly for marginalized communities like the Tamang.
- **Community Engagement:** Interacting with Mr. Palman Tamang and other locals emphasized the importance of participatory approaches in understanding community needs and strengths.
- **Systemic Challenges:** Observations of road construction and resource shortages highlighted the need for systemic solutions, such as infrastructure development and resource allocation, to support rural initiatives.

- **Survey-Based Analysis:** Conducting a survey on Day 2 honed skills in data collection and analysis, essential for evidence-based social work practice.
- **Cultural and Historical Context:** Visiting the plane crash site and historical landmarks underscored the importance of understanding a community's cultural identity in social work interventions.

These experiences bridged theoretical concepts, such as empowerment and community development, with real-world applications, preparing students for future fieldwork.

4.4 Personal Feelings

The visit to Kakani was a deeply enriching and humbling experience that reshaped my perspective on social work. Engaging with Mr. Palman Tamang and hearing about his family's journey—from economic struggles to improved stability through the farms—was both inspiring and grounding. His pride in contributing to Kakani's agricultural legacy, despite challenges like limited resources, reinforced my commitment to advocating for rural communities. The vibrant fields of strawberries and kiwis, set against Kakani's misty hills, were a testament to the region's potential, yet the rough roads and under-resourced institutions were stark reminders of systemic barriers. Tasting fresh produce during the recreational visit was a delightful highlight, fostering a personal connection to the community's efforts. The visit to the plane crash site evoked a sense of solemnity, connecting us to Kakani's historical narrative. The group presentations and reflection session fostered camaraderie and intellectual growth, leaving me motivated to pursue social work with a focus on sustainable development. The short duration of the visit was a limitation, but it ignited a passion to return and contribute further to Kakani's growth.

Chapter 5: Methodology

To study the socio-economic impact of the Kakani Strawberry and Kiwi Farms and develop this report, both primary and secondary data sources were utilized. Primary data collection methods included questionnaires, direct supervision, and live interviews, ensuring firsthand insights into the community's experiences and challenges. Secondary data was gathered from credible sources such as the Kakani Development Center, Kakani Rural Municipality, and media outlets like *Public Times* and *Wikipedia*, providing contextual and background information to complement field observations.

5.1 Questionnaires

In quantitative research, questionnaires are a highly effective and appropriate method for collecting structured data. The questionnaires used in this study followed a semi-structured format, incorporating various question types to elicit detailed responses from respondents, including farmers and community members. The answers provided by individuals during the survey offered valuable insights into the farms' socio-economic contributions, challenges, and community dynamics. This method ensured systematic data collection, enabling the identification of patterns and trends in the responses.

5.2 Interviews

Interviews were employed as a complementary method to gather qualitative data, allowing respondents to provide answers based on their personal experiences, logic, and perspectives. This approach facilitated the collection of in-depth information that could not be fully captured through questionnaires alone. Live interviews with stakeholders, such as Mr. Palman Tamang, provided nuanced insights into the challenges, objectives, findings, solutions, and conclusions related to the farms' operations and their impact on the Tamang community. The combination of questionnaires and interviews enriched the data's depth and authenticity, supporting a comprehensive analysis.

Chapter 6: Conclusion

The two-day field visit to Kakani Strawberry and Kiwi Farms on March 27–28, 2025, illuminated the transformative potential of agricultural enterprises in fostering community development and social equity in rural Nepal. The farms' contributions to employment, tourism, and cultural pride, particularly for the Tamang community, align with social work goals of empowerment and poverty alleviation. Interactions with Mr. Palman Tamang and visits to local institutions revealed both the strengths and challenges of rural development, from improved livelihoods to resource and infrastructure constraints. The survey conducted on Day 2 provided valuable data, underscoring the farms' socio-economic impact and areas for improvement. This experience highlighted the importance of participatory, evidence-based, and culturally sensitive approaches in social work practice. It also inspired a deeper commitment to addressing rural challenges through collaborative interventions, such as advocating for better infrastructure and capacity-building programs. The visit to historical sites, including the plane crash site, enriched our understanding of Kakani's identity, reinforcing the need for holistic community engagement. This field work has been a cornerstone of my BASW journey, equipping me with the skills and passion to contribute to sustainable development in Nepal.

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Appendix A: Questionnaires and Survey Data

Questionnaires

The following questionnaires were used during the survey conducted on March 28, 2025, to gather data on the socio-economic impact of Kakani Strawberry and Kiwi Farms and the broader community context. The survey targeted farmers, community members, and local institution staff.

- Ward Number
 - Which ward of Kakani Rural Municipality do you reside in?
 - Purpose: To map the geographical distribution of respondents and understand ward-specific impacts.
- Challenges/Issues
 - What are the primary challenges you face in farming or community life (e.g., access to resources, infrastructure, market access)?
 - Purpose: To identify barriers to sustainable livelihoods and community development.
- Health Access
 - How accessible are healthcare services at the local health post? What are the main barriers (e.g., distance, supplies, staffing)?
 - Purpose: To assess healthcare availability and gaps in service delivery.
- Village Profile
 - Describe the demographic and cultural composition of your community (e.g., ethnic groups, population size, key institutions).
 - Purpose: To understand the socio-cultural context of Kakani.
- Economic Structures
 - How has employment at the strawberry and kiwi farms impacted your household income and economic stability?
 - Purpose: To evaluate the farms' contribution to economic empowerment.
- Education Access
 - What is the state of education in Kakani (e.g., access to schools, quality of facilities, challenges for students)?

- Purpose: To assess educational opportunities and barriers.
- Gender
 - What is the gender distribution of workers at the farms? Are there gender-specific challenges or opportunities?
 - Purpose: To analyze gender equity in employment and community roles.
- Climate Change
 - Have you observed any impacts of climate change on farming (e.g., changing weather patterns, water availability)?
 - Purpose: To understand environmental challenges affecting agriculture.
- Crimes
 - What are the common safety concerns or crimes in Kakani, and how does the police station address them?
 - Purpose: To evaluate community safety and governance.

Survey Data Summary

The survey was conducted with 20 respondents, including 15 farmers and 5 community members (e.g., teachers, health workers). Below is a summarized table of key findings:

Question	Key Findings
Ward Number	80% from Ward 2, 15% from Ward 3, 5% from Ward 1
Challenges/Issues	Limited fertilizers (70%), road construction delays (65%), market access (50%)
Health Access	60% reported limited medical supplies, 40% cited distance as a barrier
Village Profile	Predominantly Tamang (85%), population ~2,000, key institutions: school, health post, police station
Economic Structures	20% average income increase, 60% reported improved household stability
Education Access	Limited teaching resources (70%), high dropout rates for girls (30%)
Gender	60% male workers, 40% female; women face childcare-related work constraints
Climate Change	50% noted irregular rainfall affecting crop yields, 30% reported water scarcity
Crimes	Low crime rate, minor theft reported (20%), police station understaffed (60%)

Table 2: Summary of Survey Responses

Appendix B: Photographs