

Banko Janakari

A Journal of Forestry Information for Nepal

Banko Janakari: status and way forward

The Forest Research and Training Centre (FRTC) has a long history in forestry research in Nepal. The end-users (planners, decision makers, and managers of government/community forests, researchers and so on) won't be informed about the research and survey outcomes unless those are published and disseminated to them. So, the publication of those research findings via its own scientific open access journal *Banko Janakari* (BJ) has been regularly published by the FRTC, under the Ministry of Forests and Environment since 1987 when this organization used to be in the name of Forest Survey and Research Office (FSRO, directly under the then Department of Forests, Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation).

Banko Janakari, a journal of forestry information for Nepal, is an internationally recognized peer-reviewed journal (in English), which publishes the forestry and environment-related research articles. It aims to communicate scientific information and latest development in forestry researches to the national and international forestry stakeholders as well as scientific community. The genesis of the nomenclature of this Journal is quite historical; the name "*Banko Janakari*" for this Journal was approved through the consensus amongst a significant number of foresters and others concerned with forests and environment at its initial stage. The Nepali name of the Journal literally means "information about forests" in English. It has been recognized as a "Two Star Journal" in Nepal. Initially indexed in NepJol, it has been recently listed in "Elsevier's Scopus", the largest abstract and citation database of peer-reviewed literature.

There are defined rules and regulations regarding the publication of any forestry or environment-related article in the BJ; the FRTC has published a Publication Manual for the purpose. The submitted manuscripts are first screened by its Managing Editor, and if they are found to have covered the scope of the Journal, these are sent to the relevant national and/or international experts listed in the roster through its Editorial Board. Despite the rigorous review, the journal endeavors to keep the decision duration relatively short.

The articles so submitted are accepted only after the approval from the experts along with their comments and suggestions for improvement. Initially, only the articles related with the organization's forestry research and survey activities used to be published in this Journal. Later on, the articles from outside, mainly from the university graduates and faculty members, have also been considered for publication after recommendations from the related competent reviewers.

The students pursuing PhD degree courses in various fields of Forestry and Environment from the Nepalese Universities must fulfill the requirements of publishing at least three scientific articles (based on their field-data) in any internationally recognized peer-reviewed scientific journal. BJ has largely served these students in fulfilling their requirements. Moreover, the foreign students studying such courses at the universities in their own countries or abroad can also be attracted for getting their articles published in BJ. For this purpose, the present BJ Editorial Board which is composed of mostly the Nepalese members except a few from other countries of the Asian continent needs to be restructured so as to include some from other continents as its members. Undoubtedly, it will enhance the standard and broad spectrum of the Board as well as fulfill the requirements of the international practices of peer-reviewed scientific publications. Besides, the articles to be published in BJ need to be improved in every aspect, including scientific writing and subject coverage. Similarly, the articles prepared on the basis of the research and studies conducted outside Nepal should also be considered for publication in this Journal.

The BJ has established itself as the leading and one of the most reputed journals of forestry sector in Nepal. The challenges exist to maintain its high reputation and upscale its visibility to international scientific community as well.

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Banko Janakari