

percent out of total) were practising intercropping with maize. Maintaining any form of plant cover reduces nutrient losses in the eroded soil materials. Intercropping in maize helps to protect the soil as it covers the ground and reduces the weed infestation [1].

Table 3: Situation of intercropping in maize

	Intercropping in maize	No intercropping in maize
Lamahi municipality	2.9%	97.1%
Rapti rural municipality	25.9%	74.1%

4. CONCLUSION

From this study, it can be concluded that in overall, the soil fertility status of the study area is poor and approaching towards alkalinity losing its productivity. Moreover, the maize yield of the area was found low compared to attainable yield. Use of minor quantity of organic manure (FYM, poultry manure, and green manure), use of chemical fertilizers, inclusion of legume crops in cropping system and use of nutrients carried down from the forest and villages in the first spring flood were some soil nutrient management activities adopted in the study area with little knowledge on sustainable soil management practices. So, for enhancing the efficacy of the maize production and soil fertility knowledge, future research strategy should be built based on the soil fertility status of the farm and some interventions is necessary to develop appropriate relation between soil nutrient status and maize production. This shows that the provision of training related to sustainable soil management practices and scientific use of both organic and inorganic fertilizers based on soil testing result is the prime need of the farmers for the sustainability of the system.

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