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Tourism, Ecotourism and Agritourism

Dr. Durga Dutta Poudel

August 21, 2004

Tourism is a business in which lodging, entertainment, and other facilities are provided to the tourists. Tourism, ecotourism, and agritourism are some of the common forms of tourism. This article presents basic concepts of these types of tourism.

As tourists, people travel across the mountains, oceans, or continents to visit places, to experience new activities, and to satisfy their curiosities. For many countries tourism is a major source of foreign exchange and has been regarded as an engine of economic development. These countries have made significant investment on facilities such as roads, information centers, attraction sites, tourism promotion, and manpower development. Hotel chains and established restaurants typically provide Lodging and entertainment for tourists, and tours are conducted by established agencies. Organized tours, visiting historical sites, museums, picture galleries, mansions, castles, palaces, sightseeing cruises; casinos; and visiting beaches are some of the examples of conventional tourism. Conventional tourism has been successful in bringing foreign exchange, generating employment opportunities, and fostering international brotherhood and friendships. The impact of conventional tourism on the environment, culture, and society, however, has not always been very positive, and local communities have not been able to always reap as many benefits from conventional tourism as would be desired.

Ecotourism, which is also known as 'nature tourism', developed with a view of offering benefits to the local community, investing some of its income on training local people, and environmental protection. Ecotourism allows tourists to enjoy culture and nature while they impart least impact on the environment. Eco-based camping and tours, trekking tours, animal holidays, cultural tours, birdwatching, fishing and hunting, horseback riding, and several forms of "discover and experience tours" around the world, are some examples of ecotourism. Since local people are involved in managing tours, and the products that the tourists consume come from the local farms, some of the income generated from ecotourism reaches the local people. Wastes generated in ecotourism sites are either disposed properly in the sites or are brought back to the cities where landfills or dumping sites are available.

Agritourism is a subset of ecotourism in which tourists visit farms and often stay there for family holidays and outdoor activities. Farms involved in agritourism may offer outdoor recreational activities such as fishing, hunting, horseback riding, and farm walking. Educational learning experience such as cooking, canning, and entertainment such as harvest festivals and planting festivals may be included in agritourism packages. Petting zoos, guided tours, u-pick operations are additional agritourism activities. Visitors enjoy seeing farm animals such as ponies, pigs, goats, sheep, or chickens. Activities such as milking cow, hay baling, and feeding animals are enjoyed by every visitor, especially, children. Visitors enjoy the

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peaceful, country style and spectacular sunsets and sun rises at the farm. These farms may offer facilities for children play, BBQ grill, swimming pool and observation decks. Through agritourism, farms get their chance to obtain supplemental income that enhances farm sustainability. Farm rentals, holiday apartment rentals, and bed and breakfast are some of the examples of agritourism. Tourism is a growing business across the globe, and it is exciting to visit new places, meet new people, learn more about our mother nature, experience agricultural production activities, and explore forests and vast lands across the world. With the advent of new technologies such as Internet, TV, global position systems, fast travel, etc. tourism is increasingly becoming an integral part of modern life. To enhance sustainable tourism, appropriate tourism management strategies and policies including monetary gains, tourists' satisfaction, food safety, security, hygiene, hospitality and a balance on cross-culture is needed. An emerging practice on some of the rural communities around the world is to lease hunting and/or fishing rights to individuals or provide hunting and/or fishing access on a daily basis. Therefore, the rural community has a basis for entertaining so-called "non-consumptive" agritourists but this form of tourism is yet to be developed.

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This section contains a mirrored and partially illegible scan of the NepaliPost.com website interface. It includes a header with the site name in Nepali, a navigation menu with items like 'Home', 'About Us', 'Contact Us', 'Privacy Policy', 'Terms and Conditions', and 'Sitemap'. The main content area features a large, faded title 'Nepali Post' and a circular logo. Below the logo, there is a section titled 'Download Nepali Fonts for PC: Kannpur, Preethi, Sagarmatha, Help Download Fonts'. The footer area contains a table with columns for 'Month' and 'Year', and a date '2004'. The text is mostly inverted and difficult to read due to the scanning process.