

SWOC is mainly a flexible tool that can be used for various purposes like planning, assessing project works or business ventures, making decisions and solving problems to strategy formulation. In comprehensive district agriculture plan (C-DAP), we use it to analyse the district situation in regard to agricultural and allied sectors potential in two AESs of the three provinces, i.e., Gram Panchayat, Block and District. SWOC analysis helps us to understand the regional strengths and uncover good opportunities that can improve or cover up within a stipulated time to accelerate the development programme. It also considers the weak sides of these provinces and points out external challenges. If foreseen in advance, the factors influencing the development in a negative way can be omitted or faced with confidence and preparation. In that case they might not become big obstacles for the development of region later on. The SWOC analysis, which is presented in the figure below, contains four sections: strengths / weaknesses / opportunities / challenges which describe positive or negative, internal or external characteristics of the district.



Internal factors can influence the local decisions and actions during planning process:

(i) **Strengths** are internal attributes that add value to the district in the context of current infrastructures and facilities available. Those help the planner to make the plan more realistic and address peoples' need.

(ii) **Weaknesses** are internal factors that may detract from the district's potential. Regional needs and disparities can be addressed or mitigated by local and regional decisions through proper planning.

External factors describe broader factors, which are independent from a regional situation but might affect it:

(i) **Opportunities** are external positive factors that may assist in overcoming the weaknesses of the area and building on the strengths. Such opportunities might include the development of infrastructures in other areas, the desire for planners to invest in the area, the ability for new technology to be brought to the area, which can uncover a greater potential for agricultural and rural development.

(ii) **Challenges** are external obstacles that are largely beyond any control. Challenges constrain the range of opportunities for change.

In this section, SWOC analysis of Boudh district is depicted with identified Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Challenges pertaining to different sectors from two different agro-ecological situation of the blocks. It is a widely recognized method for gathering, structuring, presenting and reviewing extensive planning data and extremely useful tool for understanding and decision-making for all sorts of situations in planning process. The overall purpose is to conduct a broad based SWOC analysis of the programme so that mid-course action is initiated at appropriate point of time. Based on the district status the entire plan can be formulated for integrated and holistic development of the people.

SWOC Analysis of the District

SWOC Overview of District

The strategic planning workshop for the district was conducted with the stakeholders where different aspects of district development were discussed in detail. The overall SWOC analysis of the district is reflected below.



Strengths

Large forest coverage offers ample opportunities for enhancement of income and livelihood for the tribal through collection and trading of a variety of minor forest produces like bamboo, *kendu* leaf, *sal* leaves, *harida*, *bahada*, *sabai* grass, broom grass, mohua flower and seed, among the timber the dominant species like *bija*, teak, *sal* etc. Taking into consideration of the resources both physical and human and the supporting administrative and organizational set up, the strength of the District can be listed as follows;

- 🌱 Soil health is to be conserved and utilized for crop production.

- 🌱 The vast tract of pasture land can successfully be developed to support livestock.
- 🌱 The agro-climatic condition with exploitation of irrigation resources are suitable for development of agriculture and horticultural crops.
- 🌱 Adequate availability of net sown area can be brought into agricultural and allied productivity.
- 🌱 The district receives an average rainfall of 1623.1 mm per annum, and a large quantity of that can be stored for life saving irrigation.
- 🌱 The forest coverage offers ample opportunities for enhancement of income for the tribal through collection and trading of a variety of non-timber forest produces, mostly through rural markets and neighbor state market.
- 🌱 The common people as well as the public representatives & PRI members are by and large ready to accept developmental initiatives under different programmes.

Weaknesses

Mainly poor infrastructure, marketing facility and storage facility are the major bottlenecks of the district. The traditional cultivation practices, use of low productive inputs, low rate of farm mechanization and fragmented land holding retard the productivity of crops. Again, the lack of agro-based industries adds woes to the sector as well.

- 🌱 Prevalence of large-scale poverty, nearly the Boudh has -2426001 HHs, Harabhang-2426002 and Kantamal-2426003 HHs are belonging to the BPL category, limits the scope for development through private investment as well as through credit route.
- 🌱 While the level of overall literacy is low at 71.61%, that of female literacy is still lower at 59.79 %, which creates difficulty in making the target group equal partners in the development process.
- 🌱 Predominance of small and fragmented land holding poses hindrance in the process of farm mechanization in agriculture and bringing more area under irrigation.
- 🌱 Agriculture in the district is characterized by large-scale use of traditional seeds, low use of fertilizers, pesticides, lack of crop diversification and the traditional method of cultivation, inadequate marketing facilities.
- 🌱 Low level of entrepreneurship skills amongst the local people slows down the pace of industrialization despite abundance of natural resources and favorable global market.
- 🌱 Inadequate and poor agricultural infrastructure affects farmer's income and quality of life.

Opportunities

The district has ample scope for climate resilient agriculture, micro-irrigation and agro-based industries in the district, that can support the livelihood of many inhabitants. Moreover, the livestock component can be explored through various schematic interventions and market linkage as well as meat processing centres. The excess run-off water can be harvested at suitable sites for integrated farming system. The predominant medicinal plants can be grown commercially and suitable marketing facilities can be developed for it. Further, the unemployed rural youth and SHG members can be trained on various need based activities under capacity building programme.

- 🌱 The big reservoir or unused water bodies can be unutilized for irrigation purpose as well as pisciculture.
- 🌱 The conducive agro-climatic condition is suitable for high value crops, off-season vegetables, pulses, medicinal plants, tree borne oilseeds for extraction of bio-diesel etc.
- 🌱 Imparting more number of training programme for the unemployed youth and rural women on income generating activities (IGA) for self-employment.
- 🌱 Micro enterprises can be promoted to strengthen the household level economy.
- 🌱 More emphasis should be given on agriculture infrastructures, storage and marketing facility to sell farm produce.

Challenges

The frequent occurrence of drought is one of the major bottleneck of growth process. Another major threat to the district is fluoride and iron content in the groundwater aquifers and thus a large number of people are affected by fluorosis. The frequent outbreak of insect pest and diseases infestation hinders the agricultural production. Since the rivers and canals of the district are yet to be stabilized, the frequent incidence of bank cutting, flooding, flash flooding and sand casting of the adjacent agricultural fields and habitation are quite frequent.

- 🌱 The abject poverty and deprivation are more than three fourth of the farm families.
- 🌱 Abundant natural resource poses serious threat to the social harmony in the district.
- 🌱 Unplanned agricultural growth may become a burden on existing fragile infrastructure.
- 🌱 Poor connectivity throughout the district especially the dispersed settlements is a major obstacle in day-to-day life of people in the district.
- 🌱 Inadequate soil health measure leads to less profit from crops.