



*Celebrating*  
**10**  
*years of Service*  
*Excellence*



## In this issue:

- Message from the President and ED
- Editor's words
- A journey of a decade
- NDRI chronology
- Ongoing projects
- Projects in the pipeline
- New faces at NDRI
- Flashback 2013-14



## Message from the President

NDRI has been working with its mission to conduct research in the areas of climate change, ecology, environment, agriculture, food security, public health, employment, transportation and the like. Research in the areas is targeted to benefit the people, government and the world community which are the stakeholders of the harmony and disharmony in the concerned areas. In order to meet the goals we have been cooperating with national and international agencies and organizations with similar missions. It is a matter of glory that within ten years of its inception NDRI has successfully earned goodwill of its partner and donor agencies. I feel that the credit of our success stories should go to our active and qualified research assistants, supervising scientists, the office staff, and the partner institutions, which have joined hands and tried their level best to make our missions a reality. We hope we could strengthen and extend our mission in the days to come. ■

**Prof. Madhav Pd. Pokharel, PhD**

## Message from the Executive Director

The fact of the interconnection of Research & Development was overlooked in the past development history of most of the developing countries and Nepal is no exception. Consequently, Nepal is not in a position to state where we are and where we want to be in a decade or two in its development lane. In this critical juncture, Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI) was established about a decade ago with the view to advocate the need of research and conduct exemplary research applications in development. In the short span of time, NDRI has measured good mileage with sizeable projects in diverse disciplines as Natural Resource Management, Water Resources, Natural Disaster Management, Public Health, etc. NDRI also emphasizes in dissemination of research output, applications and impact measurement from the beneficiaries after implementation, for which we have adapted the culture of interaction through regular seminars, workshop, feedback collection and publication both in national and international arena.

NDRI has proved itself as a platform for knowledge generation, professional practices, and capacity building for all those who want to contribute for the positive social transformation and are guided by research. The achievement of NDRI so far has been widely acknowledged by the Nepal Government, Non-government organizations, both national and international. We do believe in collective efforts of individual, group and institutions for the synergetic output that would navigate us to our vision: policy research and implication for sustainable development. We invite all collaborators both national and international who have interest common to NDRI. We are bringing this Newsletter in your hand to update our endeavors for your critical constructive suggestions.

Thank you! ■

**Jaya Kr. Gurung, PhD**



# EDITORIAL

Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI) is an independent, non-partisan and non-profit institution, established in 2004 by an interdisciplinary team of individuals with highest academic degrees and wide range of experiences. NDRI aims to address the contemporary policy challenges, such as the gaps between policy and practice, and to influence public policy through rigorous scientific research for the benefit of the policy makers and general public. Since its establishment, NDRI has been working to create opportunities for research, dialogue and collaboration and to strengthen the communication and partnership between the policymakers, academia, experts and local communities.

The focal working areas of NDRI are; policy analysis on national economy, infrastructure policy and planning, poverty reduction, sustainable

livelihoods and Climate change, agriculture and natural resources. In the coming year NDRI will facilitate to capacity building of young professional and local communities who would work on contemporary policy research. It is believed that NDRI will be an important hub for the long term knowledge generation in research and academic activities on contemporary issues related to economic development and social advancement and become a Centre of Excellence for quality research, education and development.

This is the first issue of NDRI newsletter and consecutive newsletters will be published half yearly from now onward. It aims to introduce NDRI itself and disseminate its research activities and its achievement. This issue highlights key research activities conducted up to date and update of other endeavors. ■

## DREAM COMES TRUE: A JOURNEY OF A DECADE

29 March, 2014

I was in a short mission to Janakpur. In fact, the destination was Dhabauli, a magnificent Terai Village located 25 km away of Janakpur Municipality. A team of six researchers was working in Dhabauli for the last one week. It took us nearly two hours to reach there as of muddy and wobbly nature of the road. It was not unusual to find Terai relatively hotter than Kathmandu in this season but we were also greeted by thick plumes of wind enriched with dust particles. The activity was part of a formative research aimed at knowing the root-causes behind the inertia leading to not let the anticipated changes on the behaviors and attitudes of key stakeholders like mothers, adolescent and children. The issues at stake were child marriage, hand washing, infant care and corporate punishment. I was very happy to take a note that Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI) was taking a lead in providing such services of carrying out field level research studies to various agencies. The public consultation activity in Dhabauli was a part of the formative research.

A flash back of memories rolled in my mind. After spending significant duration of our careers in foreign lands, seven of us started NDRI in 2004. We had a vision of establishing a Think Tank for Nepal which would essentially become a close partner to the economic development of Nepal. Establishing an organization from the scratch was a tough job. Nonetheless, the efforts put by the founding members, employees and the well wishers paid off well and NDRI has turned itself to be a healthy and prosperous child of 10 years

now. It has also turned itself to be a platform for young researchers, development practitioners, policy makers and academicians. Many of the young graduates have attended their first job interviews in NDRI, a dozens of them have received their first salaries in NDRI, and many of them have been able to offer gifts to their parents which were purchased with their first income provided by NDRI. Its alumni body has grown over 500 now. Many of the researchers and managerial staff who worked in NDRI were able to join organizations like UN, World Bank and other International Agencies.

On the other hand, the decade long experience has clearly spelled out that realizing the dream of a firm Think Tank Institute will take some more time. There are many untapped avenues in the field of Policy research and recommendation of policy prescriptions. I firmly believe that NDRI has created a solid foundation to accommodate a superstructure addressing these issues in future.

On the way back to Janakpur, I called the Administration Assistant and asked her how many NDRI researchers were working in the field on that day.

She said she would take a look on the documents and let me know the information as soon as possible. Two message came through mobile and Facebook which read "We are currently working in 13 districts and 72 researchers have been mobilized, sir!"

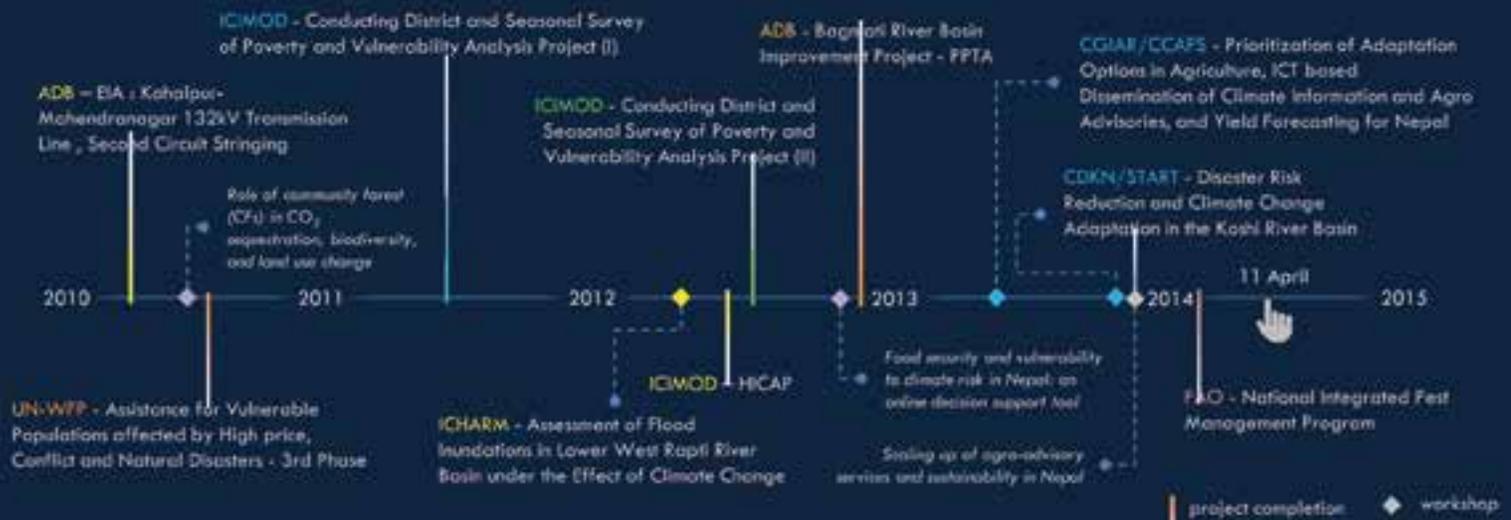
With that answer, I did not have any problems in visualizing the milestones NDRI would set in another decade. ■



Nawa Raj  
Khatiwada,  
D. Eng

**"We are currently working in 13 districts and 72 researchers have been mobilized, sir!"**

# NDRI CHRONOLOGY (2010 onwards)



## Ongoing Projects

NDRI has been working on a UNICEF funded project **Conducting Formative Research to Guide UNICEF's Comprehensive Communication for Development (C4D)** since January this year. It is a five month effort covering the districts of Dolpa in the mountains, Baitadi in the hills and Dhanusa in Terai. The expected outcome of this undertaking are documentation of information regarding the behavior and social norms across a diverse socio-cultural environment and practical recommendations for guiding the formulation of the comprehensive and specific C4D interventions.

We are also currently involved in a UNFPA assignment - **Conducting a Facility Based Assessment for Reproductive Health Commodities and Services**. The task had started at the end of 2013 and is expected to be completed in May this year. The work covered almost 1500 clients in 188 facilities in 37 districts over the nation. So far a baseline has been established in terms of availability and stock out of RH commodities including

contraceptives. It is anticipated that the results will identify key issues related to provision of quality family planning services at public sector health facilities across the country.

The UNDP consignment, **Baseline Survey for Electoral Support Project (ESP)**, is in its final phase. Since its kickoff on November of last year, work has been carried out in 26 districts covering all three ecological belts and five development regions. The project aims to measure level of public's knowledge and awareness of elections and electoral processes and measure professional and institutional capacity of the ECN.

We have also recently been eventful in the baseline survey for **Action Research on how to improve Agriculture Extension Services - a joint research with ICIMOD and J-PAL**. It is a 2 year 5 months project that commenced from August 2013 and aims to cover 168 VDCs of ten mid hill districts, two in each development region. This research is expected to achieve its goals by a baseline survey, followed by on-farm monitoring and follow-up surveys at the end. ■

Comprehensive Assessment for Probabilistic Risk Analysis (CAPRA) in Koshi river basin - World Bank (NDRI – DHI Singapore Joint Venture)

National Adaptation Prioritization in Nepal, CCAFS/CGIAR

## Projects in the Pipeline

Scaling Up Climate Services for Farmers of Africa and South Asia : Weather Based Agro Advisory – USAID

Consultant Service to Conduct Baseline Survey of Fish Subsector, Feed Intervention in Nepal - SAMARTH-NMDP/DFID

## Upcoming Event

The theme, sustainable wastewater and resource recovery, deserves a critical and timely forum for bringing together scholars, leaders, and practitioners to discuss research and practice impacting wastewater sustainability. IWA in partnership with KU, IIT-Kanpur, HIT-China and NDRI are organizing IWA Specialist Conference on **Global Challenges: Sustainable Wastewater Treatment and Resource Recovery** from 26 to 30 October this year in Kathmandu. NDRI is occupied as the secretariat for this international event. More information can be obtained at the event's website - [iwa2014nepal.org](http://iwa2014nepal.org) ■

## New faces at NDRI

"I joined NDRI to savor the joy of life working with young researchers and my old friends and to serve the needy people through research, learning and sharing of knowledge and wisdom."  
- Dr. Hari Dahal, former Secretary (GoN)



"I found the team of NDRI to be highly reputed and committed to the ground breaking research that impacts practice. I admire NDRI's teamwork to solve problems and deliver high quality research results on time regardless of the size of the project."  
- Dr. Rabita Mulmi Shrestha

# FLASHBACK @ 2013-14

## DSDS Summit 2014

A delegation led by Dr. Laxmi Pd Devkota, Senior Research Scientist shared the research finding of the recently accomplished project *Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation* in the *Koshi River Basin in Nepal*, in the *Delhi Sustainable Development Summit (DSDS)*, 10th -12th February 2014. Other two members of the delegation included Dr. Jaya Kr. Gurung, Executive Director and Dr. Manjeshwori Singh, Coordinator Gender and Livelihood Division.

The event was organized by CDKN/START Learning Forum with the purpose to share, interpret and synthesize research findings; to collaboratively identify further research priorities; and to devise strategies for enhancing communication between science, policy and practice. The scientific communities attending the conference highly appreciated the research in the Koshi Basin and encouraged sharing the findings through publications. The manuscripts preparation is in progress.



## Institutions and policies for scaling-out climate smart agriculture

In order to explore opportunities for south-south learning in planning, financing, partnerships and implementation related to institutions and policies in climate smart agriculture and to strengthen the capacity of CCAFS partners in prioritization tools and planning processes to support agricultural adaptation planning and investments, the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) organized a workshop on *'Institutions and policies for scaling-out climate smart agriculture'* in Colombo, Sri Lanka, from **2nd to 3rd December 2013** followed by a workshop on prioritization tools for adaptation planning from **4th to 5th December 2013**.

These workshops were attended by leading national and international experts from research, industry, and policy planning from various regions. As a collaborative research partner of CGIAR / CCAFS, NDRI's founder member **Dr. Punya Pd. Regmi** and research associates **Mr. Dhiraj Raj Gyawali** and **Mr. Nagendra Bastakoti** attended the workshops. **Mr. Puroshottam Ghimire**, Joint Secretary from National Planning Commission of Nepal (NPC) and Mr. Pitamber Sigdel from the Annapurna Post Daily completed the roster of other invitees from Nepal.

## Gender Training and Strategizing Workshop

NDRI Members, Prof. **Dr. Punya Prasad Regmi** and **Dr. Manjeshwori Singh** participated the **Gender Training and Strategizing Workshop**, held at World Agro-forestry Centre in Nairobi, Kenya from 22-25 October 2013. The workshop was conducted by CCAFS /CGIAR and it aimed at supporting the gender research of the public, NGO and CGIAR partners by reviewing research tools available through CCAFS and its partners. The workshop further focused on helping CGIAR partners develop and/or improve their gender research strategies.



## Foresight Sustainable Urban Planning Training Program

Research Associate Snehalata Sainjoo attended the **Foresight Sustainable Urban Planning Training Program** conducted by the International Urban Training Center (IUTC) in support of UN Habitat, in the Gangwon Province, South Korea, from 8th -17th July, 2013.



## AGRO PORTAL

In October of 2013, Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI) in collaboration with Nepal Agriculture Research Association (NARC) and Department of Hydro-meteorology (DHM) undertook initiation to transfer appropriate knowledge and technologies to the farmers helping them to sustain their farming activities in response to the climate change by launching Agro Portal. Agro-portal is a hub, specially designed to bring all the information related to agriculture together in one place from diverse sources. The portal can be accessed through NDRI's website [www.ndri.org.np/agroportal](http://www.ndri.org.np/agroportal)

## CRAFT: CCAFS's Regional Agricultural Forecasting Toolkit

As a part of CCAFS/ NDRI's research on the Crop Yield Forecasting in Nepal, researchers Dr. Lal Pd. Amgain and Mr. Dhiraj Raj Gyawali attended the Training Workshop on launch of **CRAFT: CCAFS's Regional Agricultural Forecasting Toolkit** from 9th to 11th May at Hotel Siddharth in New Delhi. Mr. Hem Raj Regmi, Under Secretary (MoAD) and Dr. Anand Gautam (NARC) were other notable invitees from Nepal. The workshop was hosted by CCAFS South Asia and focused on formal hands-on training on CRAFT and formulation of research proposal and its implementation.

