



नेपाल विकास अनुसन्धान प्रतिष्ठान
वार्षिक प्रतिवेदन २०८१/८२

NEPAL DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH INSTITUTE

NDRI



ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2024/25





Regd. No: 1746/060/61, Lalitpur

SWC Regd. No: 16962

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Published by

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FOREWORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is my pleasure to present the Foreword for NDRI's Annual Report for 2024/25, a year that has been remarkable in many ways.

First and foremost, NDRI continued its research endeavours across diverse thematic areas, as reflected in this report. Our studies within the four core programs and two cross-cutting areas have generated evidence on both contemporary and emerging issues. With field research spanning more than fifty districts, this achievement underscores NDRI's commitment to research excellence rooted in local knowledge.

This year also marked significant progress in collaboration and knowledge exchange. NDRI strengthened partnerships with institutions in Nepal and abroad, participating in numerous events within the country and internationally, including India, Bangladesh, China, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Ghana, Zambia, Germany, Switzerland, Korea, and Pakistan. We were equally honoured to host distinguished researchers from Nepal and overseas, enriching our intellectual discourse.

Another milestone was the leadership transition. In February 2025, Dr. Shikha Thapa Magar assumed the role of Executive Director, succeeding Dr. Shankar Shrestha, whose dedicated leadership over the past three years has been invaluable. Capacity building remained a priority, with initiatives such as training on creating a Respectful Workplace Environment, affirming NDRI's commitment to fostering a professional and inclusive work culture.

Our belief in the transformative power of evidence continued to guide our efforts toward shaping evidence-based policies. A proud moment came in September 2024 when NDRI received the Policy Award from the Policy Research Institute, recognizing two decades of exemplary work. Our flagship publication with PRI, "Nepal's Journey Towards Zero Hunger: The Triple Challenge of Food Security, Food Self-Sufficiency, and Economic Prosperity," exemplifies this commitment.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all NDRI personnel, collaborating organisations, and experts in our network for their dedication to serving society through credible research.

Looking ahead, the future presents both challenges and opportunities. Nepal's expected graduation from LDC status, the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals milestone, the escalating climate crisis, and an increasingly unpredictable geopolitical landscape will demand resilience as well as innovative approaches. As we advance on this noble journey, I look forward to continued collaboration and commitment from all stakeholders in building a just and prosperous society, guided by sound, evidence-based policies and actions.



Krishna Pahari, PhD
President, NDRI

PREFACE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It is with immense gratitude and a profound sense of responsibility that I step into my role as the first female Executive Director of the Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI). I am deeply thankful to the NDRI family for embracing fresh perspectives and for the trust placed in me to lead. It is an honor to be part of an institution with such a rich legacy and a vibrant vision for the future.

This year, NDRI celebrates 22 years of impactful journey, a testament to relentless dedication and meaningful contributions to Nepal's development landscape. We are proud to have been recognized as one of Nepal's leading think tanks, receiving the prestigious **Niti Award** from the Policy Research Institute. This accolade reaffirms our commitment to rigorous, evidence-based research and policy influence.

NDRI's work spans critical sectors including agriculture, livelihood, food security, education, health, climate, water, environment, disaster resilience, GEDSI, and economic development. At our core, we are dedicated to generating actionable knowledge and fostering a dynamic platform for researchers-especially young, emerging voices from diverse backgrounds to contribute to national discourse.

Our reach and influence continue to grow through robust collaborations at both national and international levels. The active participation of NDRI personnel on global platforms fills us with pride and reinforces our role in shaping dialogues that transcend borders.

As we look ahead, NDRI is committed to pursuing growth with equity: focusing on real, grounded issues that matter to the people of Nepal. We aspire to be an inclusive platform that amplifies authentic national concerns, advocating tirelessly for transformative change. Through evidence-based research, policy recommendations, and strategic advocacy, we aim to contribute meaningfully to the nation's progress.

In the coming years, NDRI will strengthen its role as a vital knowledge partner, providing essential data, research, and evidence-driven solutions to support the government and stakeholders in advancing Nepal's sustainable economic development.

Together, let us continue to build a brighter, more equitable future for Nepal grounded in knowledge, driven by purpose, and united in action.

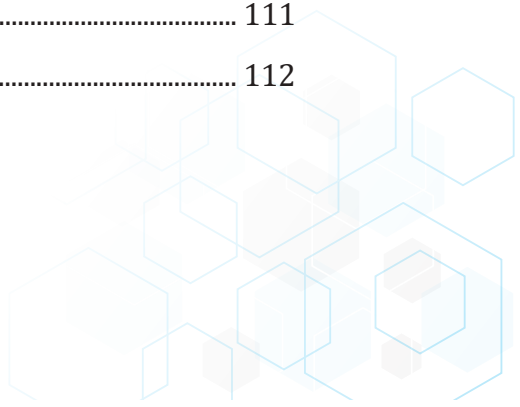


Shikha Thapa Magar, PhD
Executive Director



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ACRONYMS

AGM: Annual General Meeting
AI: Artificial Intelligence
BEP: Break-Even Point
CBOs: Community-based Organisations
CBIs: Cash-Based Interventions
CDMCs: Community Disaster Management Committees
CFC: Common Facility Centers
CFUGs: Community Forest User Groups
COFOG: Classification of the Functions of Government
COP: Conference of the Parties
CSO: Civil Society Organisation
CPD: Contemporary Policy Dialogue
CSNG: Covid-19 Support Network Group
DAC: Development Assistance Committee
DRR: Disaster Risk Reduction
EbA: Ecosystem-based Adaptation
ECR: Early Career Researcher
ECV: Environment and Culture Volunteer
EDFs: Enterprise Development Facilitators
EDI: Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion
E41: Evidence for Innovation
FEBA: Friends of Ecosystem-based Adaptation
FY: Fiscal Year
GBV: Gender-Based Violence
GCCH: Global Consortium on Climate and Health Education
GDP: Gross Domestic Product
GEDSI: Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion
GIS: Geographic Information System
GLO: Glacial Lake Observatory
GLOFs: Glacial Lake Outburst Floods
GLO-FHICC: Glacial Lake Observatory for Flood Hazards Impacted by Changing Climate
GPEP: Growth Potential Enterprises Promotion
HAND: Height Above Nearest Drainage
HEC RAS: Hydrologic Engineering Center's River Analysis System
IFAWET-5: International Forum on Asian Water Environment Technology
IPPAN: Independent Power Producers Association of Nepal
ISPs: Innovation Support Programmes
KII: Key Informant Interview
KYC: Know Your Customer
LAPA: Local Adaptation Plan of Action
LDOF: Landslide-induced Dam Outburst Floods

LDCRPs: Local Disaster and Climate Resilience Plans
MEDPA: Micro-Enterprise Development Programme for Poverty Alleviation
MSME: Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises
NAPA: National Adaptation Programme of Action
NbS: Nature-based solution
NCDs: Non-Communicable Diseases
NDC: Nationally Determined Commitment
NLSS: National Living Standards Survey
NNGWWW: Nepal National Glaciers Water and Weather Week
NST: Nuclear Science and Technology
NWCF: Nepal Water Conservation Foundation
NWMU: Northwest Minzu University
PDM: Post-Distribution Monitoring
PPP: Public-Private Partnerships
QMS: Quality Management System
RA: Research Associate
RAAJTHALI: Regional Action Junction for Trade, Heritage and Advantage Linkage Initiative
R&D: Research and Development
ROR: Run-of-river
RQs: Research Questions
RX1day: Maximum one-day Precipitation
SDGs: Sustainable Development Goals
SHP: School Health Programme
SSPs: Shared Socio-economic Pathways
SRA: Senior Research Associate
SWAT: Soil and Water Assessment Tool
SWOT: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats
THC: Tetrahydrocannabinol
UAVs: Unmanned Aerial Vehicles
UHC: Universal Health Coverage
VCA: Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment
WADAU: Water Availability, Demand, Access, and Usage
WDMCs: Ward Disaster Management Committees
WEAI: Women's Empowerment in Agricultural Index
WECS: Water and Energy Commission Secretariat
WEM: Water Engineering and Management
WRISTS: Wages, Rent, Interest, Supplies, Technology, and Supports
WRRB: West Rapti River Basin
YSEF: Youth and Small Entrepreneurs Self-Employment Fund

NDRI AT-A-GLANCE

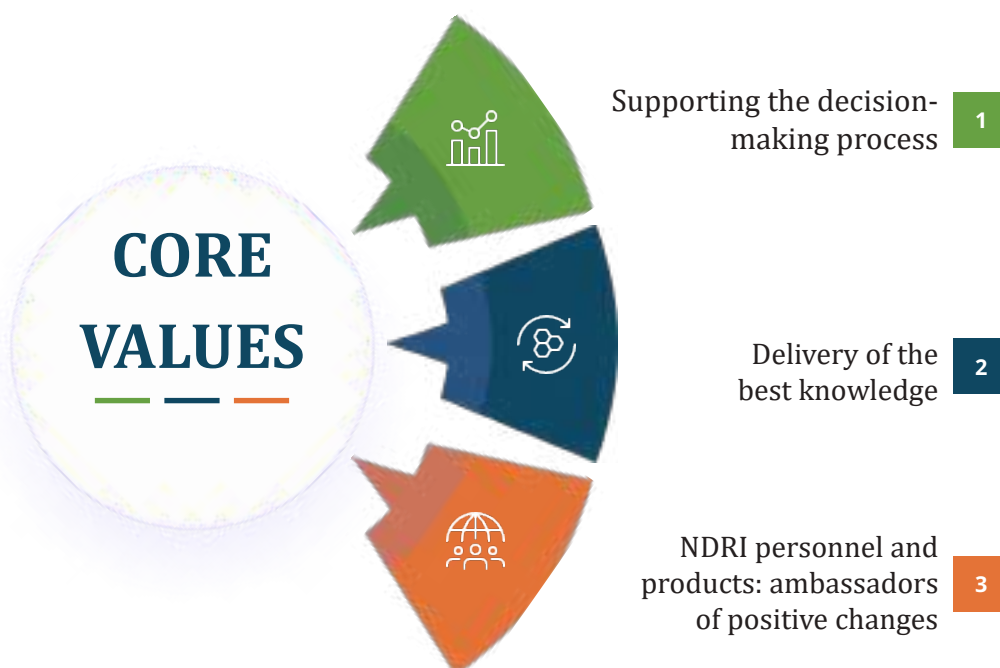
Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI) is an independent, non-profit institution that addresses contemporary and emerging challenges through quality research for evidence-based policy and programming. Established in 2004, NDRI comprises an interdisciplinary team of experts with the highest academic standings and a wealth of national and international experiences. NDRI focuses on creating opportunities for research, dialogue, and collaboration. NDRI has been able to strengthen the linkage between policymakers, academia, different national and international organisations, and a pool of experts. The beneficiaries of NDRI's activities include political bodies, government institutions, national and international organisations, universities, research institutes, and society at large.

NDRI works on four thematic areas: (i) Water and Climate; (ii) Livelihood and Food Security; (iii) Health, Education, and Environment; and (iv) Economic Development, and two cross-cutting areas: (a) Gender Equality and Social Inclusion and (b) Disaster Management.

Thematic Areas



With a multitude of activities across multiple sectors for more than two decades of existence, NDRI has now evolved as one of the leading think tanks in Nepal. NDRI believes in the power of evidence for social transformation and has been making relentless efforts to influence policies based on evidence from quality studies and research. Thus, NDRI is equally active in outreach, communications, and engagement with various stakeholders, including at the policy level. As a result of our dedicated work over the past two decades, NDRI has been the recipient of the prestigious 'Niti Samman 2081' (Policy Award/Honor 2024), awarded by the Policy Research Institute (PRI), the Government think tank of Nepal, in recognition of the 'invaluable contribution to Nepal's policy research ecosystem and evidence-based policy-making system through research, feedback, advocacy, and capacity building in various policy areas.

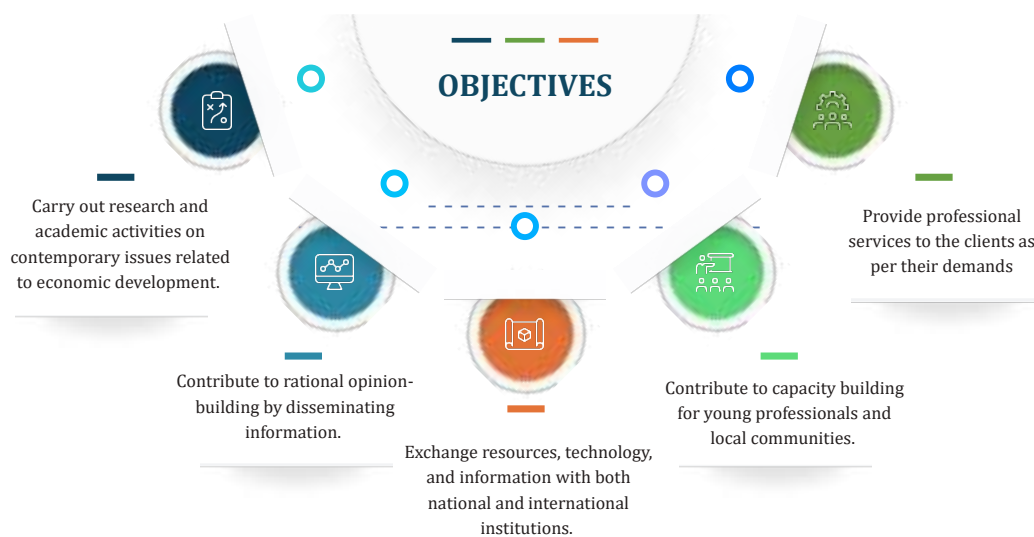


Mission

To provide substantive analytical inputs for policymaking on contemporary issues through rigorous research and dissemination of findings.

Vision

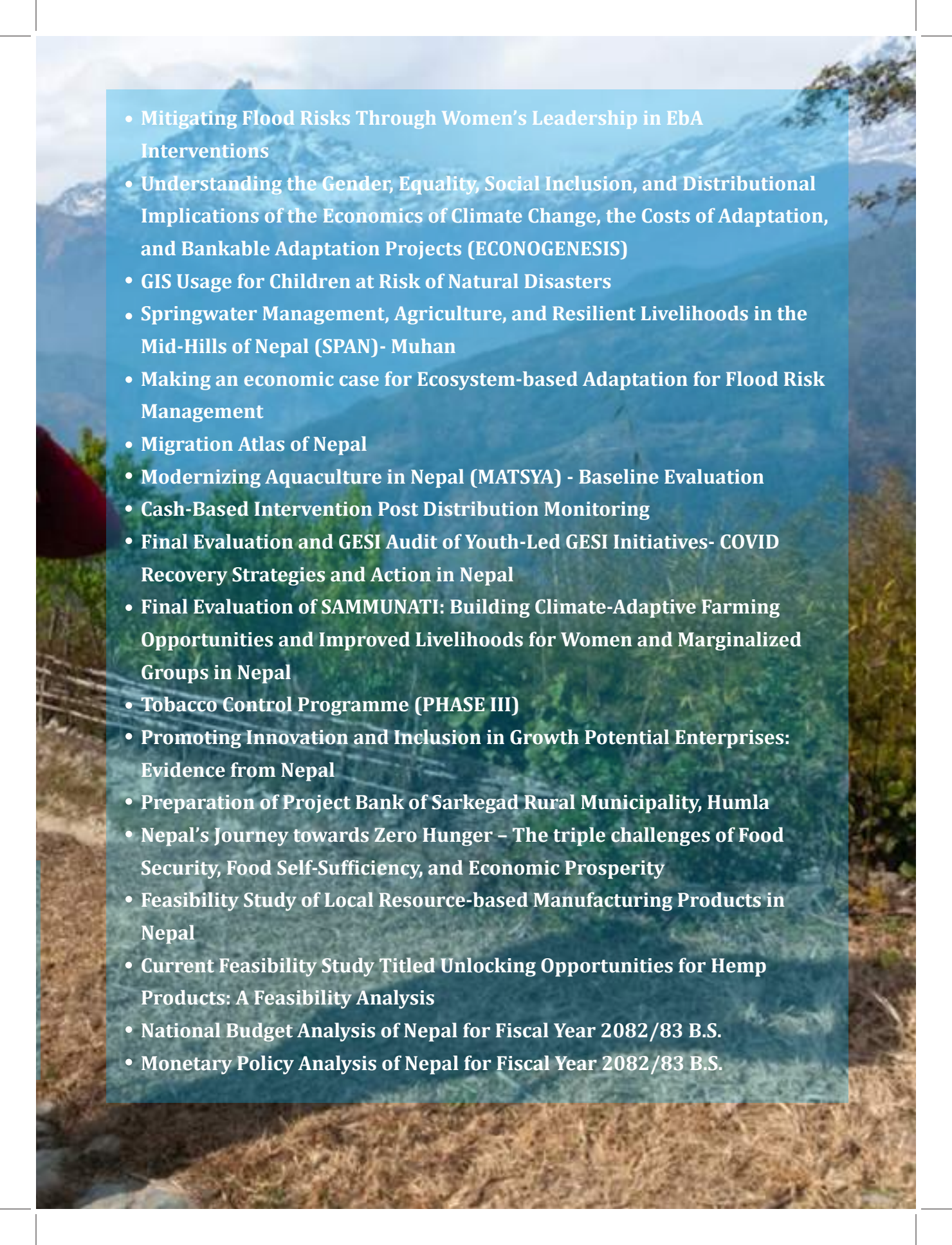
To become the center of excellence for quality research, education, and development.

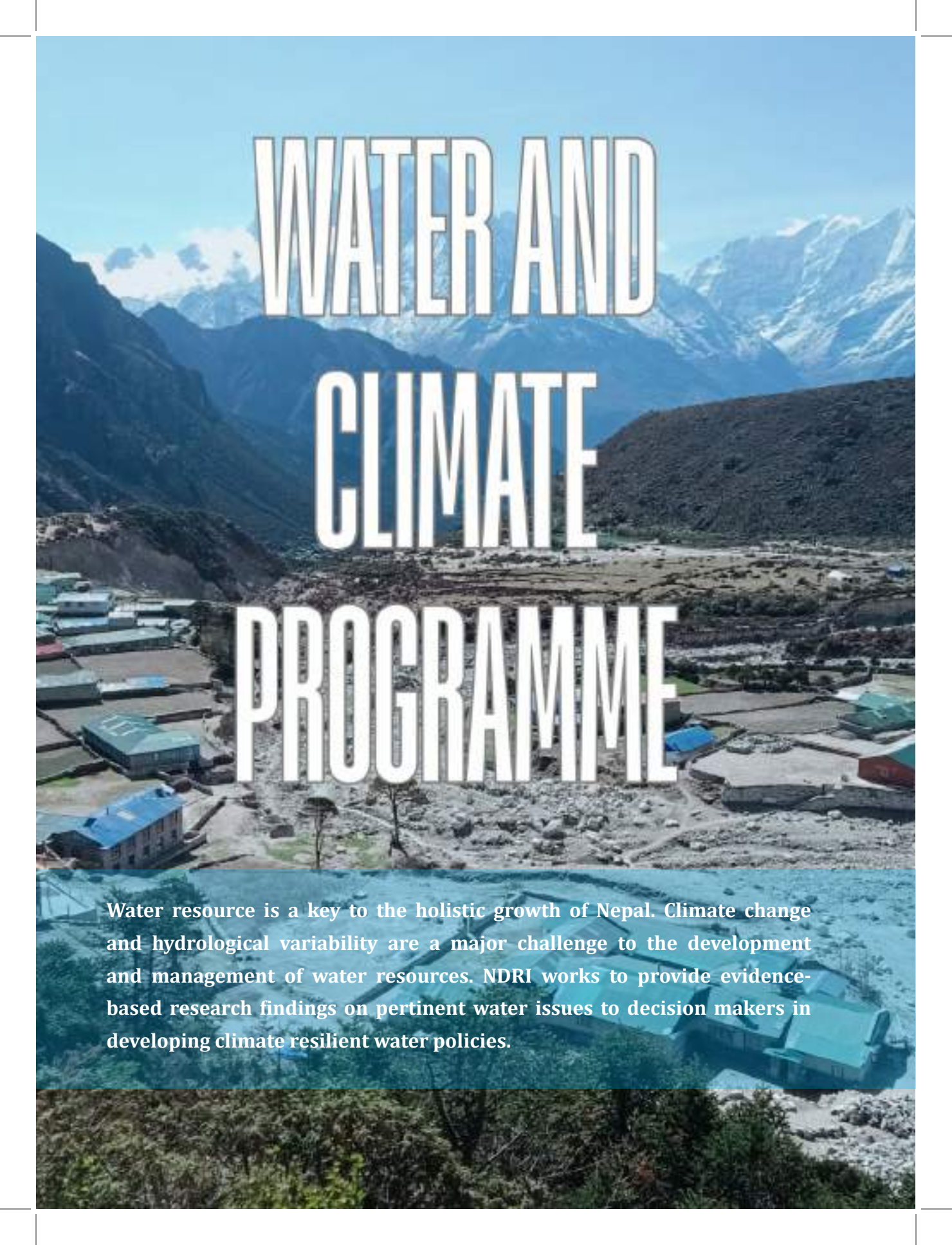


A person wearing a red long-sleeved shirt and a patterned sarong is walking away from the camera on a dirt path. They are carrying a large, round, woven basket on their back, which is secured with ropes. In the background, there are snow-capped mountains under a cloudy sky. A small blue and white building is visible on the left side of the path. Other people can be seen further down the path.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

A brief description of major projects undertaken by NDRI in the fiscal year 2024/25 in collaboration with various organizations is provided here. While the projects are listed under one of the four thematic areas, it is worth noting that many of them are interdisciplinary and, in fact, use expertise from different thematic programmes.

- 
- Mitigating Flood Risks Through Women's Leadership in EbA Interventions
 - Understanding the Gender, Equality, Social Inclusion, and Distributional Implications of the Economics of Climate Change, the Costs of Adaptation, and Bankable Adaptation Projects (ECONOGENESIS)
 - GIS Usage for Children at Risk of Natural Disasters
 - Springwater Management, Agriculture, and Resilient Livelihoods in the Mid-Hills of Nepal (SPAN)- Muhan
 - Making an economic case for Ecosystem-based Adaptation for Flood Risk Management
 - Migration Atlas of Nepal
 - Modernizing Aquaculture in Nepal (MATSYA) - Baseline Evaluation
 - Cash-Based Intervention Post Distribution Monitoring
 - Final Evaluation and GESI Audit of Youth-Led GESI Initiatives- COVID Recovery Strategies and Action in Nepal
 - Final Evaluation of SAMMUNATI: Building Climate-Adaptive Farming Opportunities and Improved Livelihoods for Women and Marginalized Groups in Nepal
 - Tobacco Control Programme (PHASE III)
 - Promoting Innovation and Inclusion in Growth Potential Enterprises: Evidence from Nepal
 - Preparation of Project Bank of Sarkegad Rural Municipality, Humla
 - Nepal's Journey towards Zero Hunger – The triple challenges of Food Security, Food Self-Sufficiency, and Economic Prosperity
 - Feasibility Study of Local Resource-based Manufacturing Products in Nepal
 - Current Feasibility Study Titled Unlocking Opportunities for Hemp Products: A Feasibility Analysis
 - National Budget Analysis of Nepal for Fiscal Year 2082/83 B.S.
 - Monetary Policy Analysis of Nepal for Fiscal Year 2082/83 B.S.

An aerial photograph of a mountainous region in Nepal. In the foreground, a small village with several buildings, including a prominent one with a blue roof, is visible. The middle ground shows a valley with some vegetation and a river or stream. In the background, steep, rugged mountains rise, with the highest peaks covered in snow and partially hidden by light clouds. The sky is a clear, pale blue.

WATER AND CLIMATE PROGRAMME

Water resource is a key to the holistic growth of Nepal. Climate change and hydrological variability are a major challenge to the development and management of water resources. NDRI works to provide evidence-based research findings on pertinent water issues to decision makers in developing climate resilient water policies.

Mitigating Flood Risks Through Women's Leadership in EbA Interventions

Research Team

Dr. Divas Bahadur Basnyat (Team Lead)

Dr. Manjeshwori Singh (GEDSI Expert)

Ms. Shreya Bajimaya

Mr. Girish Lamsal

Ms. Sophiya Shrestha

Mr. Pramit Ghimire

Mr. Pranav Karki

In collaboration with



Background

Nepal is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change threats and climate-induced hazards such as floods and landslides. It has been actively striving to address the challenges posed by climate change through green, climate-resilient, and inclusive development. Nepal has prepared the third Nationally Determined Commitment (NDC) in May 2025, the National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) in September 2010, and it has made a promising start in developing the Local Adaptation Plan of Action (LAPA) to implement adaptation actions at the local level and ensure integration of climate change adaptation into the local to national planning process. Integration of Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) into LAPAs, Local Disaster and Climate Resilience Plans (LDCRPs), and other disaster management and climate policies offers effective and sustainable solutions to address climate risks. Moreover, while women often participate in climate change adaptation initiatives, their leadership roles in decision-making, design, and implementation remain underrepresented and undervalued.

In this context, this project seeks to capture evidence of gender-responsive EbA measures from Nepal's experience, identify the hotspots for climate adaptation interventions, and co- create and prioritise EbA responses in partnership with women and indigenous communities. A key output is a Watershed Restoration Plan that integrates EbA and soft structural measures with a strong focus on flood risk reduction. It will serve as a practical guide for decision-makers and practitioners at the ward, municipal, basin, and national levels to understand watershed conditions, risks, and opportunities, while also helping to mobilise investments for improving watershed restoration in the short and long term. Complementing

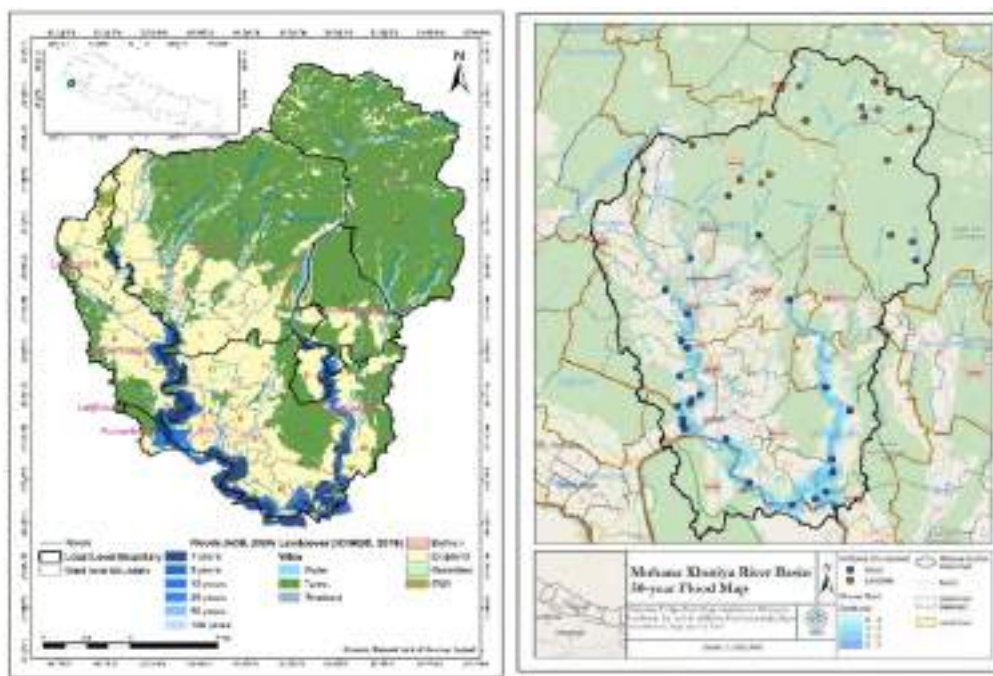
this, a Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) Action Plan will be co-created to strengthen women's leadership in the design, implementation, monitoring, maintenance, and benefit-sharing of EbA interventions.

Objective

The project aims to manage flood risk through the integration of gender-responsive EbA measures into the LAPA, LDCRPs, and other disaster management and climate policies of the Mohana-Khutiya river basin.

Study Area

The project area is the Mohana-Khutiya River Basin, which originates from the Chure hills and flows through the Terai. The basin lies in the far-western region of Nepal, covering an area of 702.4 sq.km. The basin lies in six rural and urban municipalities of Kailali and Kanchanpur districts, within the administrative boundary of Sudurpaschim Province. The municipalities are: Chure Rural Municipality, Dhangadhi Sub-metropolitan City, and Gauriganga, Godawari, Krishnapur, and Punarbas municipalities. The Mohana-Khutiya River Basin is one of the priority river basins for the flood risk management project implemented by the Government of Nepal through the Ministry of Energy, Water Resources, and Irrigation (MoEWRI).



Map 1: Mohana-Khutiya watershed

Key Activities

- ▶ **Inception Workshop:** An inception workshop was organised at the basin level in Dhangadhi Sub-metropolitan City, bringing together key stakeholders from government agencies and organisations working on disaster management. The workshop introduced the project's objectives, mapped ongoing disaster management efforts and policies, and explored opportunities for EbA interventions within the project area.
- ▶ **Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA):** A comprehensive VCA was conducted to assess community-level vulnerabilities and document existing adaptation practices for flood risk management. A total of 83 household surveys were carried out in flood-prone areas, complemented by 8 Focus Group Discussions in each municipality. Participatory tools such as community mapping, institutional network analysis, historical timelines, and problem tree analysis were applied to generate locally grounded insights.



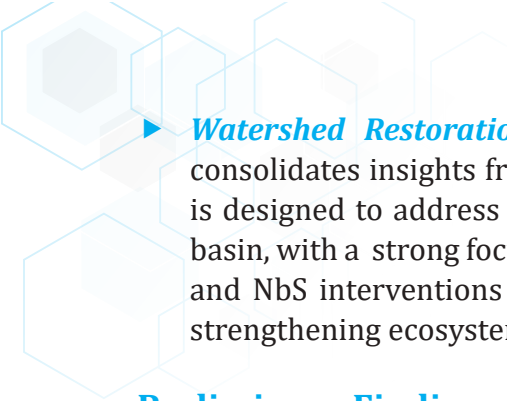
Photo 1: Female participation in the co-design workshop

- ▶ **Case Studies:** Case studies on EbA interventions for flood risk management were compiled, drawing lessons from both Nepal and international experiences to guide context-relevant planning.
- ▶ **Evaluation of EbA Interventions:** Nature-based solution (NbS) and EbA interventions in Nepal were identified and systematically assessed using the FEBA (Friends of Ecosystem- based Adaptation) criteria.

- ▶ **Co-Creation Workshops:** Six municipality-level co-creation workshops were convened, engaging Community Disaster Management Committees (CDMCs), Ward Disaster Management Committees (WDMCs), Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs), women's groups, and farmers' groups. These workshops provided a platform for identifying disaster hotspots, understanding existing community-based adaptation practices, assessing the feasibility of EbA measures, and collaboratively identifying locally appropriate strategies.
- ▶ **Co-Design Workshop:** A basin-level co-design workshop was organised to collaboratively develop a comprehensive Watershed Restoration Plan. The key objectives were to map areas for EbA implementation, develop an implementation roadmap, strengthen multi-level coordination and policy integration for effective adaptation, and ensure GESI and adequate resources for sustainable implementation. The workshop brought together local representatives and key stakeholders, ensuring that community perspectives and practical knowledge directly shaped the planning process.



Photo 2: Sugarcane farming as a flood resilience measure

- 
- ▶ **Watershed Restoration Plan:** The plan, currently under development, consolidates insights from both the co-creation and co-design workshops. It is designed to address the hazards and vulnerabilities identified across the basin, with a strong focus on flood risk management. The plan integrates EbA and NbS interventions aimed at reducing flood risks while simultaneously strengthening ecosystem resilience and community preparedness.

Preliminary Findings

Based on the VCA, co-creation and co-design workshops with stakeholders at community and local as well as provincial level, and case studies carried out to date, key preliminary findings are:

- ▶ Lower Basin municipalities (Dhangadhi and Godawari) are identified as the most vulnerable municipalities to floods in the basin.
- ▶ Actions in the upper basin municipalities are the main source of flooding and high sediment flow; therefore, some of the most effective mitigation measures must be implemented in these areas.
- ▶ Floods have disproportionate impacts on different groups, including women, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities.
- ▶ EbA is being practiced in various parts of the basin, but these initiatives remain fragmented and require greater integration and government support through a holistic approach.
- ▶ A suite of effective EbA practices has been identified for reducing flood risk, such as reforestation and afforestation, forest conservation and management measures, riparian buffer management, bioengineering measures for riverbank protection and slope stabilisation, urban greening, and flood-responsive farming.
- ▶ Ensuring economic incentives for the implementation of EbA measures is essential for long-term sustainability and for enhancing women's empowerment.
- ▶ Priorities outlined in local-level disaster management policies are not adequately reflected in implementation and annual plans due to insufficient budget allocation.
- ▶ Scaling successful models from proactive communities can contribute to more inclusive and effective flood risk mitigation strategies, including EbA measures.
- ▶ An integrated watershed restoration plan incorporating EbA measures and capitalizing on successful implementation models is essential.

Understanding the Gender, Equality, Social Inclusion, and Distributional Implications of the Economics of Climate Change, the Costs of Adaptation, and Bankable Adaptation Projects (ECONOGENESIS)

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In collaboration with



Background

Climate change will lead to impacts across a wide range of development outcomes with associated economic costs. These economic costs have direct implications for the economy but also include nonmarket impacts (social and environmental costs) that affect welfare and well-being. These economic costs of climate change, and the costs of adaptation, are projected to be disproportionately high in developing countries, and highest in relative terms for the most vulnerable in society. However, while there is growing evidence based on the economic costs of climate change, there is a major knowledge gap in the gender, equality, and social inclusion (GESI) dimensions, as well as the distributional breakdown of these costs. This proposed transdisciplinary research will help fill this gap by updating previous studies on the economic impacts of climate change and costs of adaptation in Nepal, and extending them to consider the gender, equality, social, and distributional implications in economic terms. Given the crucial role of adaptation in mitigating climate impacts over the next 20 years, the research will explore how these costs vary across different social groups to support gender and climate justice. Whilst there are increasing climate finance flows for adaptation, the estimated cost of adaptation is much higher, and there is a large adaptation finance gap. To bridge this gap, there will be a need to scale up public, private, and blended adaptation finance, involving new actors, new models, and new financial instruments. The project will assess the barriers to finance and use the results of the economic analysis to help develop bankable adaptation finance projects.

Objectives

The objective of the research is to provide new information on the economics of climate change, the costs of adaptation, and bankable adaptation finance projects, which include new knowledge on gender, equality, and social inclusion and distributional effects. This involves detailed work in Rwanda, Nepal, and Zanzibar, as well as a contribution at the global scale through the UNEP adaptation finance gap report.

The research has three specific objectives:

- ▶ To assess the gender, equality, social inclusion, and distributional implications of the economic costs of climate change
- ▶ To assess the costs of adaptation and analyse how these costs are distributed across women, girls, the socially excluded, and different social groups.
- ▶ To identify adaptation finance solutions for Nepal that support gender, equality, and social inclusion.

Methodology

The research will use a multi-level approach using different aggregation levels to build up lines of evidence on climate risks and adaptation responses at a variety of scales. It will also use an iterative risk management framework to analyze near-term adaptation responses, to enhance planning and investments that increase climate resilience. The research will use a co-creation framework to ensure improved demand and greater understanding of climate risks. This will increase the uptake in evidence-based decision-making. The overall method is shown below.

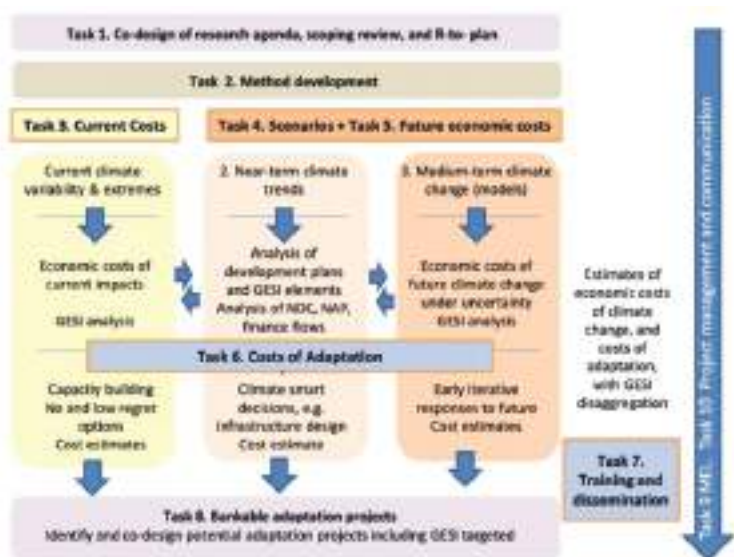


Figure 1: Flow chart describing the Methodology

Key Activities

- ▶ **Literature review:** A thorough and systematic review of various studies and government reports was undertaken to analyze the existing impacts of climate change across various sectors in Nepal. The report highlights current policies, prevailing adaptation and financing gaps that exist, and explores distributional implications across different gender and social groups.
- ▶ **Stakeholder mapping:** A stakeholder mapping and social network analysis of climate finance in Nepal was conducted to identify key actors, their responsibilities, and institutional roles. This exercise helped clarify the flow of climate finance and the authorities responsible for managing the different funds.
- ▶ **Local survey:** Fieldwork was carried out to assess the impacts of climate change, focusing on floods, droughts, and landslides. The team conducted structured surveys with 833 households and 45 in-depth interviews with community members, particularly vulnerable groups such as farmers, labourers, and people with disabilities. Additional key informant interviews were conducted with local governments, including representatives from disaster management, agriculture, and health sectors. Despite the recent political unrest (8-9 September 2025), surveys were successfully completed in 25 of the 33 planned municipalities across 19 districts. These efforts generated valuable insights into climate impacts (loss and damage) and ongoing adaptation practices in Nepal.

Preliminary Findings

The preliminary findings and results based on work carried out to date are:

- ▶ Stakeholders highlighted the need to assess the costs, benefits, and investment requirements of adaptation options, including differences across gender and social groups, and stressed identifying incentives to attract private sector investment in climate adaptation.
- ▶ For estimating the economic costs of climate change and adaptation, stakeholders identified Agriculture and Food Security, water-induced disasters (floods, landslides, drought, and heat), and health as priority sectors.
- ▶ A review of Nepal's climate change economics reveals that the disaster risks of climate change have increased significantly, which are felt across various sectors. Although policies exist to address some of the prevailing issues, evidence of effective implementation is limited, and a clear picture of Nepal's climate financing and adaptation finance flows is still lacking.

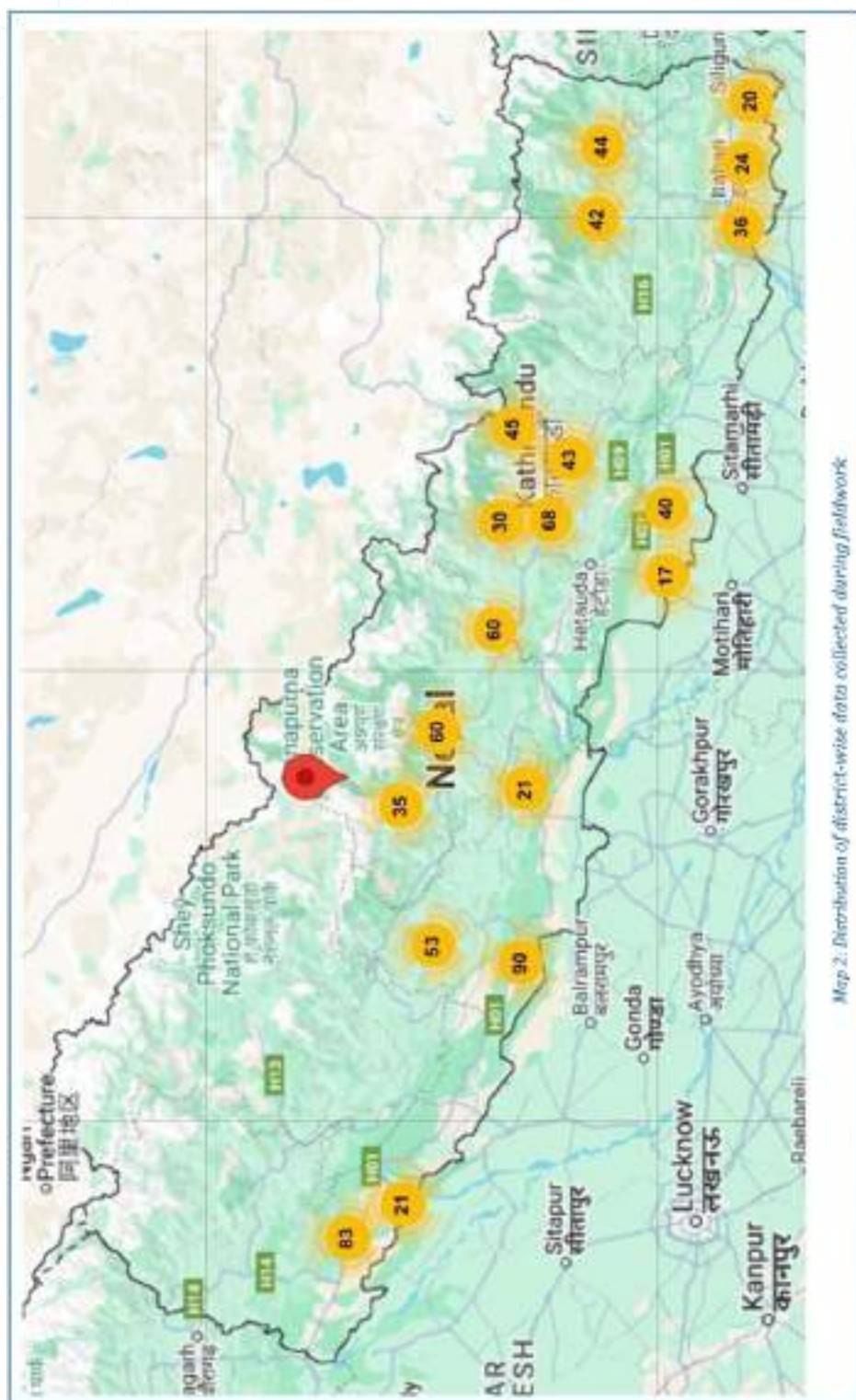
- ▶ The estimated costs of various climate-induced disasters vary considerably across the country. Existing post-disaster assessments often fail to capture full economic and non-economic losses, including loss of lives, livelihoods, cultural heritage, displacement, and long-term environmental and social impacts.
- ▶ Given Nepal's limited applications of adaptation measures, a precise understanding of what constitutes loss and damage is also missing. Adaptation measures have occurred in silos, with a wide disconnect in uptake and applications across different parts of the country.
- ▶ The frequency and intensity of extreme weather events have increased. Although data sources and estimation methods vary, floods have, on average, caused the largest amount of economic and non-economic losses since 2000.
- ▶ Many local-level practitioners and stakeholders still have little acumen for climate change-related issues and policies. However, that is slowly changing as local levels with the greatest exposure have begun to integrate disaster management into their annual budgets.



Photo 3: Field researcher engaged in an interview with a female community member.

What Next

- ▶ The ongoing ECONOGENESIS study aims to address some of these knowledge gaps. A nationally representative climate impact survey will estimate the economic and non-economic costs across disaster types and exposure levels and use household socioeconomic data to understand the differential impacts and vulnerabilities of climate-induced events.
- ▶ The survey will also map adaptation measures adopted by local governments and communities, helping identify priorities for developing bankable adaptation projects that go beyond relying on international climate finance.



GIS Usage for Children at Risk of Natural Disasters

Research Team

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In collaboration with



Background

Natural disasters pose significant threats to human lives, infrastructure, and economic development worldwide, causing billions of dollars in damage and affecting millions of people annually. UNISDR reported that between 1998 and 2017, disaster-affected countries reported direct economic losses of US\$2.9 trillion, with climate-related disasters accounting for 77% of these losses. Nepal experiences hundreds of landslide events annually, particularly during the monsoon season from June to September, resulting in significant casualties and economic losses that impede sustainable development efforts. Over the past decade, Nepal has experienced 3,082 deaths from monsoon-related natural disasters, with nearly 1,400 deaths specifically caused by landslides, affecting close to 12,500 families¹. Similarly, flood risk is severe in low-income countries like Nepal, where there is an urgent need for in-depth research, proactive measures, and effective mitigation strategies. River flood is the most common type of flood, causing the highest losses and damages from inundation and bank erosion that mainly affects the Terai region in the monsoon. Flash floods due to high-intensity rainfall in the mountains and the mid-hills generate high floods, and debris flows overtopping existing river channels, causing hazards to settlements and infrastructure such as bridges and roads. Rapid urbanisation with increasing impervious surfaces leads to pluvial floods when high-intensity rainfall generates surface runoff overwhelming the natural and man-made drainage and sewer systems, causing urban flooding. Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF) and Landslide-induced Dam Outburst Floods (LDOF) cause huge loss and damage to downstream communities and infrastructure. Children, the elderly, women, and other vulnerable groups are disproportionately affected and least prepared to respond to these hazards. Therefore, flood and landslide susceptibility mapping

¹ https://www.dw.com/en/nepal-how-monsoons-bring-rain-landslides-and-tragedy/a-69831217?utm_

is essential to identify high-risk zones and support evidence-based disaster risk reduction planning, benefiting children and vulnerable communities. Such mapping provides critical insights for policymakers, enabling proactive mitigation, resource allocation, and community preparedness.

Objectives

The objective of this project is to develop a data-driven model for landslide and flood susceptibility mapping for Nepal and a dashboard for showing the vulnerability of children due to disasters (landslide and flood).

Methodology

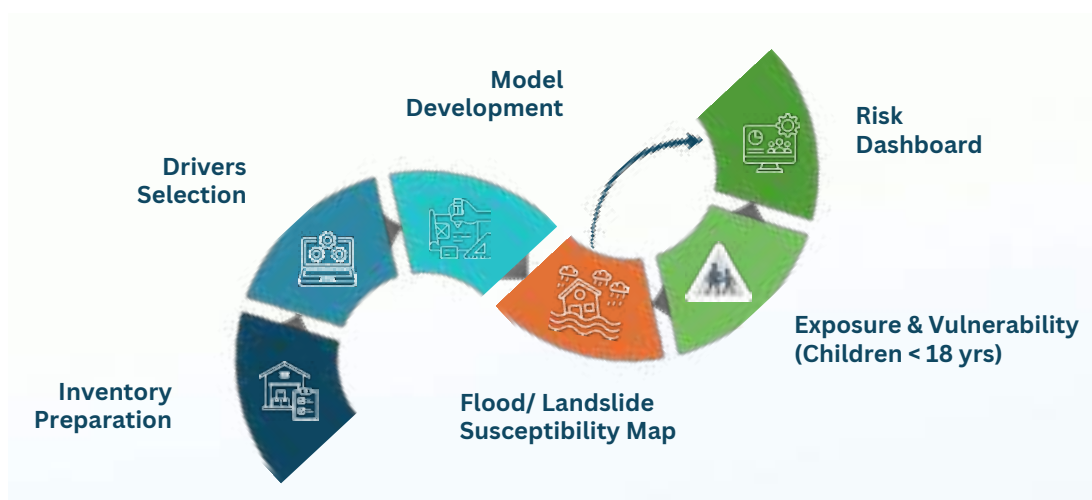


Figure 2: Methodological framework

Flood Susceptibility Mapping:

The first step is to prepare the inventory of the flooded areas using high-resolution Sentinel- 1 radar images and the global flood database, along with the Bipad portal data². The second step involves the identification of factors that have a certain relationship with flooding, based on previous studies. Using this inventory and the selected factors, machine learning models such as Random Forest and Extreme Gradient Boosting are trained. The flood susceptibility map obtained from the model, along with census data for children, is used to prepare a risk dashboard in Google Earth Engine (GEE) Apps.

² <https://bipadportal.gov.np/>

Landslide Susceptibility Mapping:

The first step is to prepare the inventory of the landslides using Sentinel-2 images and other databases, semi-automatically. The second step involves the identification of factors that have a certain relationship with landslides, based on past studies. Machine learning models, including Random Forest and Extreme Gradient Boosting, are trained using inventory and these factors. The landslide susceptibility map obtained from the model, along with census data for children, is used to prepare a risk dashboard in Google Earth Engine (GEE) Apps.

Key Activities

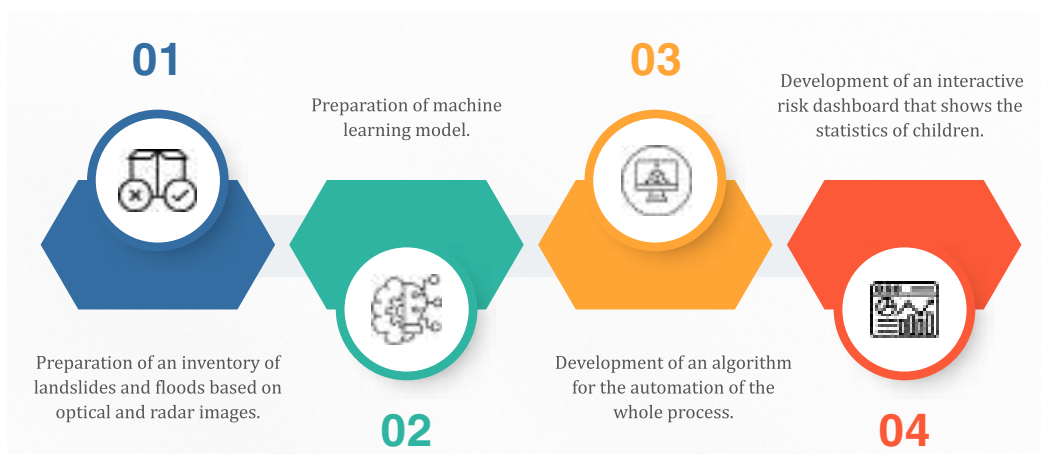


Figure 3: Key activities performed

Key Findings

- ▶ XGBoost and Random Forest models (machine learning) showed good performance for landslide and flood susceptibility mapping using various environmental and geological variables as key predictors.
- ▶ Interactive dashboards are prepared for floods³ and landslides⁴ susceptible areas that provide information on the number of children susceptible to flood and landslide risks.
- ▶ The dashboard provides vital information at the municipality and local level for disaster risk management authorities to plan and design flood and landslide risk mitigation and management targeting the most affected groups and communities.

³ <https://ee-disa.steranalysis7.projects.ea.rthe.nepa.gov/view/flood>

⁴ <https://ee-disa.steranalysis7.projects.ea.rthe.nepa.gov/view/landslide>

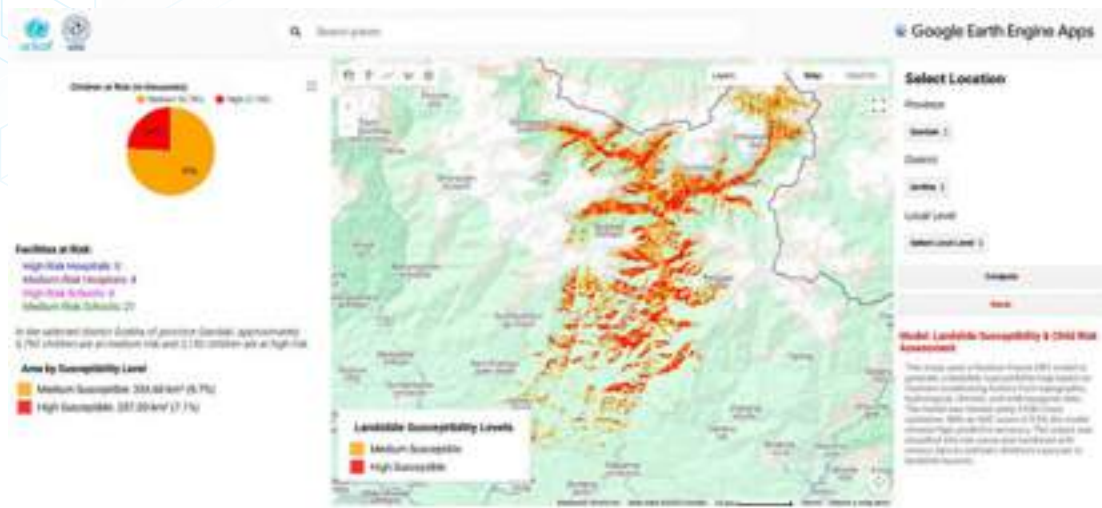


Figure 4: Landslide Dashboard⁵



Figure 5: Flood Dashboard⁶

⁵ <https://ee-d isasteranalysis7. project s. eart heng in e. app/vie w/lan dslide>

⁶ <https://ee-d isasteranalysis7. project s. eart heng in e. app/vie w/flo od>

Springwater Management, Agriculture, and Resilient Livelihoods in the Mid-Hills of Nepal (SPAN)- Muhan

Research Team

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Mr. Girish R. Lamsal

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In collaboration with



Background

The project Muhan is a four-year (2024 - 2028) development research project to generate interdisciplinary and holistic knowledge about spring water use, management, and control. Its linkages with livelihoods will empower communities and strengthen local water governance in the mid-hills of Nepal.

Spring water is essential in Nepal's mid-hills, supporting local communities, agriculture, livestock, municipalities, and businesses. These springs are not just water sources but hold cultural and ecological significance, sustaining delicate mountain ecosystems. In recent years, declining spring resources have raised serious developmental concerns, particularly affecting rural communities and women, who bear the primary responsibility



Photo 4: Spring discharge measurement at the study area

for household water collection. There is a significant opportunity for developmental research and capacity building focused on the complex interactions between spring water, climate change, hydrogeology, governance, drinking water supply, agriculture, and community livelihoods. A holistic, interdisciplinary approach

is urgently needed to understand the hydrogeological and socio-political drivers of this decline and to pilot solutions that improve water security, governance, and community resilience.

Objectives

The overarching aim is to support inclusive and resilient rural livelihoods in the mid-hills of Nepal through improved spring water management. It intends to achieve this by piloting socio-technical solutions, participatory learning, generating transdisciplinary knowledge, exploring governance options, building stakeholder capacity, and mainstreaming spring shed management into public policy and development planning.

Methodology

An integrative approach combining participatory learning, collaborative experimentation, evidence-informed policy dialogue and learning, and scientific communication will be adopted, putting the local community groups/spring water users and those who have a stake in spring shed management at the center of the process. The project activities will occur at three spatial scales: the spring shed, the water users' domain, and governance. NDRI is primarily responsible for biophysical investigation, which will be mainly on the spring shed scale.

The project employs a transdisciplinary, multi-scale research strategy addressing six core Research Questions (RQs):

- ▶ What are the hydrological and hydrogeological characteristics of mountain spring sheds and spring water availability?
- ▶ How does climate change impact spring water availability, and how are local communities adapting?
- ▶ What are the drivers of spring water availability, demand, access, and use (WADAU)? Who controls the water land-agriculture nexus, and how?
- ▶ How can spring water availability and access be improved for agriculture and livelihoods?
How can women and smallholders benefit equitably?
- ▶ What formal and informal institutions exist around spring water management, and how can they be improved to respond to socioeconomic and climatic drivers?
- ▶ How can federal/provincial/local policies and plans better support equitable and sustainable local spring water management?

The study area of the project is located in Kamalamai Municipality and Sunkoshi Rural Municipality of Sindhuli District in Bagmati Province. Kamalamai covers approximately 481.57 square kilometers and consists of 14 wards situated in the Sindhuli Valley along the Kamala River plain in the mid-hills' region. Sunkoshi Rural Municipality spans about 158.68 square kilometers and consists of 7 wards.



Map 3: Spring mapping on Kamalamai Municipality, Sindhuli.



Map 4: Spring mapping on Sunkoshi Rural Municipality, Sindhuli.

Key Activities

- ▶ A reconnaissance survey was conducted in the target municipalities to capture insights on spring water usage, climate risks, gender dynamics, and water-related conflicts. The survey also facilitated the selection of appropriate springs for further research based on the socio-governance and biophysical criteria selected.
- ▶ Inception workshop was held from 3-8 April 2025, following the formalisation of the partnerships outlined in the project document. Partners reflected on the inception-phase learning and survey, discussed and finalised various study approaches, implementation arrangements, and work plans, and prepared primary and secondary data collection arrangements, piloting ideas, and student research plans.
- ▶ Systematic mapping of springs was done in the two municipalities to identify and map springs, understand the physical, environmental, geological, and social characteristics of the springs, and inform intervention planning. A total of 244 springs were identified in the municipalities, with the majority being perennial (92%) and having a stable flow trend (59%). Most of the springs are in the Siwalik range, which has high recharge potential given the presence of sandstones and mudstones, which are highly porous rocks that support

spring emergence. Major challenges include the impact of landslides, erosion, and land-use change on 25% of the springs, as well as decreased discharge and pollution in the surrounding area.

- ▶ A web-enabled spring database/dashboard was developed where the spring inventory is maintained.
- ▶ Rain gauge stations are installed at four research sites, and data collectors from the local communities are employed for measuring daily rainfall and weekly spring discharge of long-term monitoring efforts.

Preliminary Findings

Based on the reconnaissance survey, consultation with stakeholders, and systematic mapping of springs in the two municipalities in Sindhuli District, some of the key preliminary findings are:

- ▶ A total of 244 springs were identified and systematically mapped – 172 in Kamalamai and 72 in Sunkoshi municipalities – and classified into spring types based on hydrogeological characteristics. The assessment revealed that a significant majority of these springs are perennial, although several are seasonal or intermittent in nature.
- ▶ Kamalamai Municipality shows a higher number and greater diversity of springs, mostly alluvial and depression springs, reflecting a more favorable and complex geological environment.
- ▶ Sunkoshi Rural Municipality is mainly dominated by fractured rock springs, indicating distinct tectonic and lithological influence on groundwater emergence.
- ▶ Discharge trends across both municipalities indicated that while many springs exhibit stable flow rates, a notable proportion are experiencing declining discharges. Several springs have already dried up, primarily due to land use changes and infrastructure development.
- ▶ Water quality analyses were conducted in situ using field testing kits, covering parameters such as pH, oxidation-reduction potential (ORP), electrical conductivity (EC), total dissolved solids (TDS), temperature, salinity, and specific gravity. The results demonstrated generally acceptable drinking water



Photo 5: Glimpse from the group discussion session during the workshop

standards, corroborated by community perception surveys in which most respondents considered spring water safe for consumption. Nevertheless, instances of turbidity and variable chemical readings emphasised the need for water quality management in select locations.

- ▶ Agriculture dominates land use in both municipalities, with households depending heavily on a mix of both irrigated and rainfed farming for their livelihood.
- ▶ The social dependency on these springs was significant. Approximately 58,000 individuals rely on these sources for domestic, agricultural, and livestock uses. Many of these users represent marginalised and economically vulnerable communities. Water treatment practices remain minimal, and much of the population uses spring water in an untreated form, although some employ boiling, filtration, or chlorination methods.
- ▶ Climate change is perceived as an exacerbating factor, with reported shifts in rainfall patterns and rising temperatures adversely impacting spring discharge reliability, particularly during dry seasons.
- ▶ From the identified springs in the study area, 7 springs were selected, using biophysical and social criteria, for detailed monitoring and piloting of future revival interventions.
- ▶ The analysis identified a range of threats impacting spring sustainability. Soil erosion and landslides were the most prevalent issues, followed by pollution, deforestation, changing land-use patterns, and unregulated infrastructure development. These factors are known to alter spring recharge areas and flow paths, thereby threatening long-term water security.
- ▶ Web-enabled Spring database has been developed that contains details of the data collected from the mapped 244 springs.



Figure 6: Interface of the Web-enabled spring database

Making an Economic Case for Ecosystem-based Adaptation for Flood Risk Management

Research Team

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Mr. Pranav Karki

In collaboration with



Background

Nepal is highly vulnerable to water-induced disasters, particularly floods, which have become increasingly frequent in recent years, causing significant loss of lives, property, and infrastructure. Various adaptation options, both structural and non-structural measures, are adopted to minimise the impacts of disasters. Among these, Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA), which focuses on maintaining and enhancing ecosystem services, offers a strong complement to conventional engineering solutions for reducing flood risks. However, the adoption of effective adaptation options based on empirical evidence of good adaptation practices and through systematic economic analysis is still limited. To address this gap, this study undertakes a valuation of EbA measures through analysis of benefits, costs, and potential impacts arising from the implementation of selected EbA approaches in the Mawa- Ratuwa River Basin of Nepal. The study will also identify and recommend appropriate and cost-efficient adaptation options for enhancing flood protection in the basin.

Objectives

To review and synthesise the state-of-the-art knowledge focusing on good practices of EbA carried out for flood risk reduction, focusing on the different physiographic regions of Nepal.

- ▶ To identify and curate appropriate EbA options and conduct valuation of selected EbA options for flood risk reduction in the Mawa-Ratuwa River Basin.
- ▶ To build an evidence base for developing an economic case for EbA for mainstreaming into national and local climate change policies.

Methodology

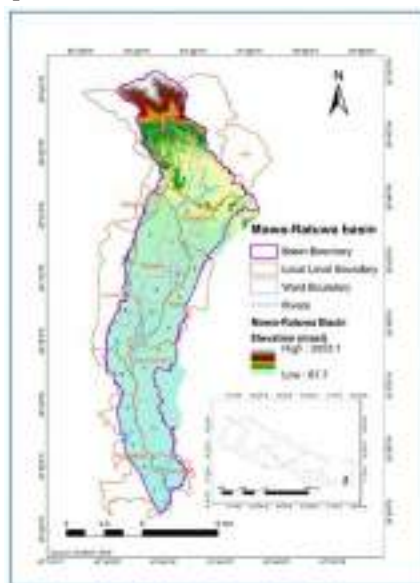
Stakeholder consultation, interviews, and focus group discussions with community people and relevant experts are done in addition to a literature review of disaster management and climate change-related articles, reports, policy, and other relevant documents. The research encompasses a comprehensive evaluation of selected EbA options. Benefit-cost analysis will be performed for the selected adaptation options. Using the information from secondary review and primary

data collected, the cost of implementation of the EbA approaches, the benefits derived from the ecosystem services, and the cost of avoided damages will be calculated. The cost of not pursuing any adaptation options and the cost of flood damage will also be computed. The Net Present Value, the Annualised Net Present Value, and the Benefit- Cost Ratio will also be calculated to aid in decision-making. A sensitivity analysis will also be performed to examine the effects on different time horizons and discount rates. Based on the outcomes of the Cost-Benefit Analysis, the study will make recommendations for mainstreaming appropriate and cost-effective adaptation options in national climate change policies.

The study focuses on the Mawa-Ratuwa River Basin, located in eastern Nepal and spanning an area of 413 sq. km. Originating from the Chure and Mahabharat ranges, the basin drains into the Terai plains. It covers eight urban and rural municipalities: Chulachuli, Damak, Gauradaha, Gaurigunj, Kamal, Miklajung, Ratuwamai, and Urlabari. Mawa-Ratuwa River Basin is one of the priority river basins for the flood risk management project implemented by the Government of Nepal through the Ministry of Energy, Water Resources, and Irrigation (MoEWRI).

Key Activities

- ▶ **Inception Workshop:** An inception workshop was carried out at basin level in Damak Municipality, Jhapa, involving pertinent stakeholders from government and other agencies working on disaster management in the basin. The workshop provided an overview of the project's objectives and gathered information about ongoing disaster management activities, policies and potential for EbA interventions within the project area.
- ▶ **Vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA):** VCA was carried out to understand vulnerabilities of different communities within the river basin and identify community-based adaptation measures adopted for flood risk management. Altogether, 79 household surveys were conducted in the flood-prone areas and 8 Focus Group Discussions, along with community mapping, institutional network analysis, historical timeline, and problem tree analysis were done in each municipality.

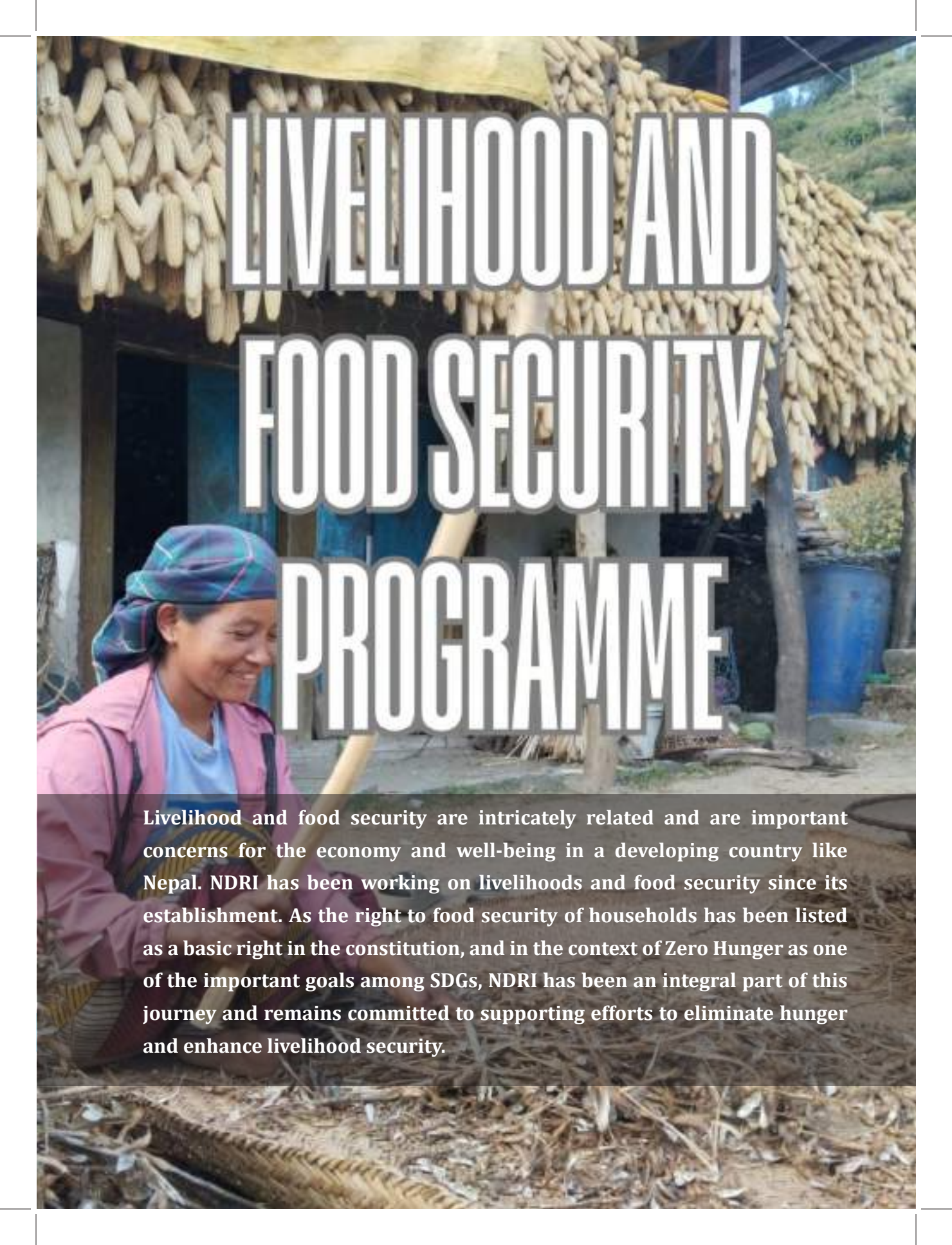


Map 5: Mawa-Ratuwa River Basin

- ▶ **Hydrological (SWAT) and Hydraulic Modeling (HEC RAS):** SWAT and HEC RAS were carried out to assess the flood risk impacts (benefits) with and without the EbA measures, and with and without climate change conditions, to quantify the benefits of these measures. Extreme rainfall events (Rx1day) were analyzed under both historical and projected climate conditions. The SWAT hydrological model was applied to the Mawa- Ratuwa basin for two scenarios: (i) Baseline conditions, reflecting current land use and climate, and (ii) Future conditions, incorporating Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) measures and planned structural interventions, with updated land use and parameter settings. In parallel, a hydraulic model was developed for the basin under two scenarios:
 - (i) Baseline case, referencing ADB's 2020 analysis to represent pre-EbA conditions, and
 - (ii) Future case, where EbA measures and structural interventions were integrated by adjusting the relevant hydraulic parameters.
- ▶ **Flood Risk Zonation:** Identified and categorised flood-prone areas based on inundation extent and severity from simulated flood scenarios.
- ▶ **Participation in the 48th and 49th Research and Training workshops:** Pranav Karki and Girish Lamsal participated in the 48th and 49th Research and Training workshops, respectively, organised by SANDEE, where the progress of research was presented.

Preliminary Findings

Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment indicates that the majority of the respondents have experienced frequent flood events in recent years, with at least one flooding event occurring each year. These events have significantly affected the livelihoods of the people, with respondents reporting substantial losses in agricultural production, reduced ability to work outside the home, and frequent disruptions to basic services. Collectively, these impacts have resulted in severe economic losses, including damage to houses, destruction of crops, loss of livestock, and reduced income. To address these risks, a watershed-based approach to flood risk reduction is needed. EbA interventions play a critical role in flood risk management, requiring integrated and holistic implementation across both upstream and downstream of the basin. Stakeholder consultations at community and local government levels, along with case studies, identified a suite of effective EbA practices for reducing flood risk. These include reforestation and afforestation, forest conservation and management, riparian buffer management, bioengineering measures for gully erosion control, riverbank protection, and slope stabilisation. For the economic assessment, these EbA options are being integrated into hydrological and hydraulic modelling to evaluate their effectiveness in reducing flood risk and to quantify their potential economic benefits.



LIVELIHOOD AND FOOD SECURITY PROGRAMME

Livelihood and food security are intricately related and are important concerns for the economy and well-being in a developing country like Nepal. NDRI has been working on livelihoods and food security since its establishment. As the right to food security of households has been listed as a basic right in the constitution, and in the context of Zero Hunger as one of the important goals among SDGs, NDRI has been an integral part of this journey and remains committed to supporting efforts to eliminate hunger and enhance livelihood security.

Migration Atlas of Nepal

Research Team

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In collaboration with



Background

Migration to foreign destinations or urban areas within the country has become a ubiquitous strategy for livelihood enhancement among a large share of Nepal's population. Data from the 2021 national census recorded almost 10 million migrant individuals compared to 10 years before, with almost a million being abroad. Work-related migrants make up 15 per cent of that number. Internal migration of households for work and other purposes has also led to rapid urbanisation, with the latest census data revealing that two-thirds of the population now live in urban areas. Data from the latest NLSS 2022/23 data shows that three out of four households in Nepal currently receive some type of remittance from a foreign country. A consolidated geographical picture of labour migration patterns across the country can help establish a platform to introduce differential and need-based policies. The Migration Atlas of Nepal aims to provide a comprehensive overview of key migration topics using available national and sub-national secondary data. It charts, maps, and analyses labour migration within and out of Nepal, linking these patterns to existing narratives and policies. The Atlas enhances understanding by mapping migration routes, corridors, and their intersection with livelihoods and food security.

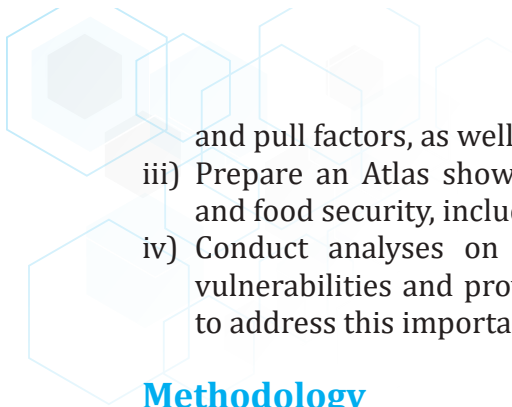
Objectives

The specific objectives of the Atlas are as follows:

- i) Analyze and present migration patterns and trends, together with associated sectors.
- ii) Gather national and subnational data on work-related migration, its relationship to livelihoods, and the factors influencing migration, including both push



Photo 6: Nepali migrant workers at the airport departure, highlighting the ongoing challenge of labour migration in Nepal.

- 
- and pull factors, as well as its impact on food security.
- iii) Prepare an Atlas showing migration's geographic distribution, livelihoods, and food security, including GIS-based maps, narratives, figures, and charts.
 - iv) Conduct analyses on factors contributing to migration and associated vulnerabilities and provide recommendations for policies and programmes to address this important issue.

Methodology

The following methodologies were used for this work:

- ▶ A literature review on Nepal's migration trends and related issues provided the foundation. Existing studies cover migration flows through extensive reports and present information in tabular or graphical forms but lack spatial and geographical representation.
- ▶ Descriptive analyses present the scale and magnitude of migration aspects, supported by literature-based narrative analysis for a better understanding. These methods generate GIS-based spatial and geographical variations.
- ▶ The findings from the analysis of data from different sources were triangulated to verify the findings for the convergence of evidence. These findings were also validated through a consultative stakeholder workshop with technical professionals engaged in various migration-centric research and policy aspects.

Key Activity

Following a comprehensive study, a draft version of the Atlas was presented at a consultative stakeholder workshop. This event brought together key technical stakeholders working on migration issues in Nepal to discuss and provide feedback on the proposed contents and structure of the Atlas. The workshop gathered relevant niche insights and avenues for further research based on the findings and key policy and situational challenges of the growing phenomenon of labour migration from Nepal.

Preliminary Conclusions

The Atlas highlights the various facets of Nepal's migration patterns. Migration decisions and their implications are deeply interconnected with several different topics, including but not limited to food security, agricultural outcomes and land utilisation, monetary and non-monetary gains, household and family dynamics, social perceptions, conflict, gender welfare, migrant rights, health and education outcomes, skill development, climate change and disaster events, and community and societal traditions. In this context, the Atlas identifies key migration dimensions that federal and local-level policymakers must carefully integrate into strategies for inclusive and sustainable development.

Modernizing Aquaculture in Nepal (MATSYA) - Baseline Evaluation

Research Team

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In collaboration with



Background

The Modernizing Aquaculture in Nepal (MATSYA) project, implemented by Lutheran World Relief (LWR) and funded by the US Department of Agriculture, aims to enhance aquaculture productivity and trade by improving farmers' access to quality inputs, services, and markets. It also promotes sustainable practices, strengthens institutional and research capacities, and expands the local trade of aquaculture products, including inputs, services, live fingerlings, and processed fish. The project targets 14,500 direct beneficiaries and expects to impact an additional 72,500 indirectly across 16 districts in 5 provinces. The project promotes the sustainable cultivation of four key fish species: carp, pangasius catfish (pangas), tilapia, and rainbow trout. Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI) was contracted as independent baseline evaluators for the project's initial benchmarking between December 2024 and July 2025.

Objectives

The baseline evaluation supports the MATSYA project goals by establishing evidence-based benchmarks and informing programme design. The specific objectives of the baseline study are to:

- ▶ Establish initial benchmarks for key Food for Progress performance indicators
- ▶ Provide a situational analysis of Nepal's aquaculture value chain
- ▶ Assess institutional capacity and market system dynamics
- ▶ Identify risks, constraints, and additional conditions that may influence project outcomes.

Methodology

The evaluation was based on quantitative and qualitative data collected from primary sources, including farmers, hatchery and nursery operators, cooperatives,

managers of the private sector (transporters, equipment providers, feed millers, community-based feed production units, live fish shop operators, buyers), and government staff of MoALD, NARC fisheries department, CFPCC, and various fish super zone and zone implementation units. 1,003 aquaculture farmers were surveyed across 16 districts of five provinces. Semi- structured interviews and KIIs were used to gather information from other value chain actors. The survey findings were triangulated with a broader desk review of various literature, government reports, and official statistics.

Key Findings

- ▶ Carp is produced by nearly 98% of the 1,003 fish farmers surveyed, remains the most dominant species. In 2024, the surveyed average carp production yield stood at 5.93 MT/Ha, driven by intensive polyculture practices in productive fish super zone districts like Bara and Dhanusa, as compared to the 5.37 MT/Ha national reported yield of the government in the 2023/2024 fiscal year.



Photo 7: A local fisherman engaged in fish harvesting from a pond

- ▶ Pangas farming is concentrated in Jhapa, Chitwan, Nawalpur, and Rupandehi, where it is favored for its low cost, high yield, and consumer preference. Pangas yield ranges from 19.4 MT/Ha to 21.3 MT/Ha.
- ▶ Total input costs per hectare of water surface area for fish farming vary by district but are largely driven by investments in fish feed (37.4%) and fish seed (27.4%), which make up the major share of expenses nationally.
- ▶ Around 55%, or 552 farmers, mostly male and non-smallholders, have adopted improved management practices like pest control and post-harvest handling, though awareness of formal food safety training is low.

- ▶ Access to credit remains limited among fish farmers, with only 23% reporting loan use. Borrowing is concentrated among non-smallholders and varies by districts and species.
- ▶ Only 29% of fish farmers received aquaculture training, as most rely on peer networks for information, with just 19% receiving any institutional support, with wide regional disparities.



Photo 8: Fish hatchery facility with concrete raceways for aquaculture production.

Conclusion

The overarching narrative among fish farmers is that fish farming is a highly lucrative business if proper input support and market infrastructure are in place. Traditional practices and knowledge gaps hinder productivity, quality, and profitability. Limited technical training affects farmers, hatchery operators, transporters, and feed producers. A weak institutional and regulatory environment hinders modernisation and standardisation. The baseline evaluation shows promising productivity and sales value of fish commodities. However, the project must address nuances and variations in farmer production levels.

Cash-Based Intervention Post Distribution Monitoring

Research Team

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In collaboration with



Background

NDRI, in collaboration with UNHCR Nepal, conducted a Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) survey to assess the outcomes of Cash-Based Interventions (CBIs). UNHCR Nepal has implemented CBIs to support refugees and asylum seekers across Koshi and Bagmati Provinces, providing financial assistance to address both immediate and long-term needs. These interventions include temporary allowances for vulnerable individuals, nutritional support for pregnant and lactating women, and education allowances for refugee children. By prioritizing cash over in-kind assistance, CBIs enhance protection, dignity, and self-reliance, enabling beneficiaries to make independent choices while also stimulating the local economy.

Objectives

The primary objective of the PDM survey was to evaluate the effectiveness, accessibility, and overall impact of cash assistance provided to refugees in Nepal. Specifically, the study assessed beneficiaries' awareness of the programme, household decision-making processes related to expenditure, sources of information, and the availability and use of feedback and complaint mechanisms.

Methodology

Quantitative information was collected from 281 refugees (155 Bhutanese refugees and 126 mandate refugees). This number was derived from a simple random sample approach based on a total of 2,523 cash-based intervention beneficiaries (the planned stratified random sample was not adopted due to low response rates).

Key Findings

- ▶ **Basic Needs Coverage:** About 76% of households were able to meet more than half of their basic needs, although 48% still resorted to negative coping mechanisms such as borrowing money or reducing essential expenditures.
- ▶ **Use of Cash Assistance:** The majority of cash was spent on education, food,

rent, and healthcare. Joint household decision-making was reported by 29.3% of respondents, while 95.2% indicated that no conflicts arose over the use of funds, suggesting participatory and harmonious spending patterns.

- ▶ **Market Access:** Around 37.4% of refugees had access to a market within 30 minutes of their residence, and 93.8% were able to find necessary items. However, rising market prices negatively impacted purchasing power, highlighting the importance of monitoring inflation.
- ▶ **Information and Feedback Channels:** UNHCR staff were identified as the main source of information (54.8%), followed by local leaders (16.1%), complaints desks (6.5%), and hotlines (5.4%). Only 4.3% of respondents were unaware of any reporting mechanism, indicating that the system is functional but could be further strengthened.



Photo 9: Glimpse from the focus group discussion

Conclusion

The PDM survey findings demonstrated that UNHCR's CBI programme has successfully reached its target population, with most beneficiaries receiving adequate information about the assistance. Household decision-making regarding fund utilisation is largely participatory, fostering harmonious spending practices. While refugees express trust in providing feedback, the actual use of formal complaint mechanisms remains low, suggesting potential barriers such as limited awareness or reluctance to engage. Overall satisfaction with the assistance is evident; however, improved communication strategies are needed to strengthen knowledge and utilisation of feedback and reporting channels.

Final Evaluation and GESI Audit of Youth-Led GESI Initiatives- COVID Recovery Strategies and Action in Nepal

Research Team

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Ms. Kabita Yadav

In collaboration with



Background

NDRI, in collaboration with OXFAM Nepal, conducted a final evaluation and GESI Audit of Youth-Led GESI Initiatives for COVID-19 Recovery Strategies and Action in Nepal project, implemented in Karnali and Sudurpaschim Provinces. The COVID-19 pandemic had a disproportionate impact on youth and women, exposing them to heightened socio-economic vulnerabilities and increased risks of gender-based violence (GBV). However, without access to collective action platforms and support mechanisms, their specific needs remained inadequately addressed in recovery strategies. The Youth-Led GESI Project bridged this gap by empowering young people—particularly young women—to become change agents and active contributors to the development process.

Objective

The primary objective of the final evaluation study was to evaluate the project's achievements against baseline data and assess its effectiveness, relevance, efficiency, sustainability, and impact in achieving socio-economic, political, and gender-related outcomes, with a focus on increasing youth participation and addressing gender-based violence in the post-COVID-19 context.

Methodology

The study employed a mixed-method approach, integrating both quantitative and qualitative data collection to comprehensively evaluate the project's performance by combining numerical data with in-depth insights from key stakeholders. A total of 383 beneficiaries were included in the study.

Key Findings

- ▶ **Youth Participation in Governance:** Awareness of youth roles in local planning reached 66.6%. Satisfaction with local-level planning rose sharply from 25% at baseline to 93.3% at endline.

- ▶ **Economic Empowerment:** Of 255 trained in financial literacy, 52.5% found it highly effective, and 44.7% reported notable skill gains. Grants supported youth-led businesses and income generation, with women benefiting most from leadership, life skills, and entrepreneurship opportunities.
- ▶ **Gender-Based Violence (GBV):** 32.6% reported GBV incidents. The most reported forms were physical assault (89.6%) and psychological abuse (76%). Nearly half (48.4%) noted improved knowledge of GBV after project trainings.
- ▶ **Child Marriage:** 53.5% of beneficiaries were married, with 87% before age 20. Early marriage was mainly linked to self-initiation and poverty.

Conclusion

The project has made significant strides in promoting gender equality, empowering youth, and enhancing the resilience of marginalised communities in underdeveloped regions. Despite challenges such as restrictive business policies and gaps in GESI implementation, the project effectively addressed systemic barriers and established sustainable structures for youth participation and governance. The project findings indicate that while awareness and engagement have improved, continued efforts are necessary to address deeply rooted social norms that hinder gender equality and inclusive governance. Strengthening community-based interventions, integrating youth-friendly services, and expanding financial and leadership training will be critical for ensuring the sustainability and long-term impact of the project's initiatives.



Photo 10: Group of locals participating in focus group discussion

Final Evaluation of SAMMUNATI: Building Climate-Adaptive Farming Opportunities and Improved Livelihoods for Women and Marginalised Groups in Nepal

Research Team

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In collaboration with

**Practical
ACTION**

Background

The SAMMUNATI: Building Climate Adaptive Farming Opportunities and Improved Livelihoods for Women and Marginalised Groups in Nepal project, implemented by Practical Action Nepal with the support of UK Aid, aimed to enhance the resilience and livelihoods of women and marginalised communities in the eight rural municipalities of Dang, Rolpa, and Rukum East districts in Lumbini Province of Nepal. This final evaluation



Photo 11: A local woman harvesting rice in the field.

assessed the project's achievements, effectiveness, and sustainability, providing valuable insights for future initiatives. The project's key goals were to increase agricultural production, improve market linkages, enhance entrepreneurial capacity, strengthen access to credit, and reduce drudgery while empowering women and marginalised groups. It employed a community-driven approach, focusing on inclusive development by integrating gender equality, disability, and social inclusion (GEDSI) principles.

Objectives

The specific objectives of the evaluation were as follows:

- To measure and evaluate the results (overall progress against the log frame indicators) of the project using the six OECD/DAC evaluation criteria (relevance, effectiveness, impact, coherence, efficiency, and sustainability) to promote accountability to stakeholders.

- ▶ To extract lessons learned and prepare recommendations to enhance the design, implementation, operation, and management of similar future projects.
- ▶ Develop an evaluation matrix with evaluation criteria, the related evaluation questions (and, where needed, sub-questions), the data sources required to answer the questions, the data collection, and data analysis methods.

Methodology

A mixed-method approach was used to evaluate the project. Individual surveys provided quantitative data, while focus group discussions, key informant interviews, in-depth interviews with people with disabilities, case studies, and direct observations contributed to the qualitative data. A stratified random sampling approach was used to ensure diverse group representation and capture variability across 8 targeted rural municipalities in Dang, Rolpa, and Rukum East districts. A total sample frame of 401 beneficiaries was identified, representing 6,024 project beneficiaries. Specific focus was given to women, marginalised groups, and people with disabilities to reflect the project's emphasis on gender equality, equity, and social inclusion.



Photo 12: Local Woman Gathering Fresh Cauliflower to Sell

Key Findings

- ▶ **Agricultural Productivity and Climate Resilience:** The project successfully promoted climate-adaptive farming practices such as crop diversification, organic farming, and climate-resilient seed varieties, leading to increased agricultural production and reduced vulnerability to climate change.
- ▶ **Market Linkages and Entrepreneurial Capacity:** The establishment of collection centers and linkages with traders, agro-vets, financial institutions, and local markets enhanced the marketability of farm products, boosting household incomes. Training in vocational skills, business development, and value chain promotion strengthened beneficiaries' entrepreneurial capacity.
- ▶ **Access to Credit:** Partnerships with local financial institutions, such as cooperatives, improved access to microfinance and credit services, enabling farmers to invest in climate-resilient farming technologies and practices.
- ▶ **Participation and Social Inclusion:** Women and marginalised groups reported increased participation in decision-making processes and access to resources, contributing to their socio-economic empowerment.
- ▶ **Reduction in Drudgery:** The introduction of improved tools and technologies reduced the physical labour required in farming, particularly for women.
- ▶ **The Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) analysis for the SAMMUNATI project** highlighted significant gender disparities in agricultural involvement and credit access. Only 20.3% of women were considered empowered, compared to 43.7% of men. Key contributors to women's disempowerment include limited access to credit (17.8%) and time poverty (50.9%).

Conclusion

The SAMMUNATI project has made significant strides in improving the climate resilience and livelihoods of women and marginalised groups in Lumbini Province. By addressing key challenges in agriculture, market access, and financial inclusion, the project laid the foundation for sustainable development. Further efforts are needed to institutionalise these gains and ensure long-term benefits for targeted communities. This evaluation highlights the transformative potential of integrating GESI-focused approaches in agricultural development and provides a roadmap for future initiatives to achieve inclusive and climate-resilient livelihoods.

HEALTH, EDUCATION AND ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Recognizing the interdependence of health, education, and environment, NDRI has established this thematic program to undertake comprehensive research activities in these critical areas. The research efforts within the programme are intricately designed to complement each other, showcasing NDRI's commitment to advancing understanding and progress in health, education, and the environment domains. NDRI actively provides research findings to policymakers and advocates for evidence-informed policies in these critical areas.

Tobacco Control Programme (PHASE III)

Research Team

Dr. Jaya Kumar Gurung (Team Lead)

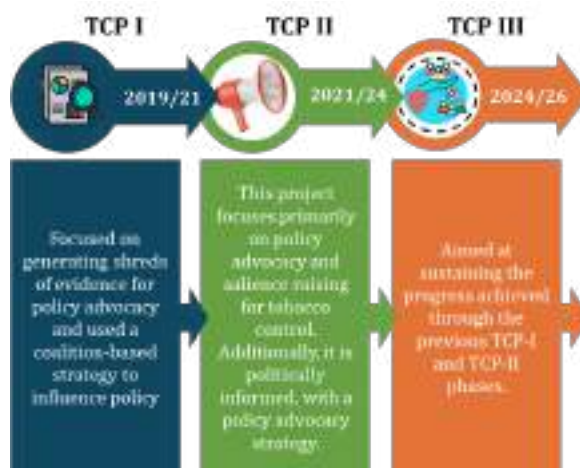
Mr. Parashar Khadka

In collaboration with



Background

The Tobacco Control Programme (TCP) is a collaborative initiative between NDRI and Kivu International, funded by Cancer Research UK. The programme focuses on generating locally tailored research on the economics of tobacco control and strengthening NDRI's capacity in this field. It uses this evidence to develop targeted policy advocacy strategies and build partnerships with key stakeholders in Nepal, aiming to jointly advance tobacco control efforts through coalition-driven policy influence and evidence-based advocacy. This approach has notably contributed to significant tobacco tax increases and stronger policy engagement in Nepal.



Objectives

The general objective of the programme is to achieve policy influence by substantially expanding and intensifying efforts to raise public and political salience through a “coalition- based” approach to policy advocacy.

The specific objectives include:

- ▶ Further increase the supply of quality policy-relevant, politically informed research outputs.
- ▶ Further deepening NDRI's networks with powerful government officials and politicians.
- ▶ Developing effective and context-appropriate policy influencing coalitions of influential partners.
- ▶ Capacity building for NDRI and other coalition partners.

Key Activities

- ▶ **Research and Evidence Generation:** The Tobacco Control Programme understands that strong research and evidence are crucial for successful tobacco control. Our team carries out studies to evaluate the health and economic consequences of tobacco use, examine tobacco industry marketing tactics, and measure the impact of different tobacco control policies in practice. This important research equips stakeholders with the necessary data and insights to create effective tobacco regulations, increase public awareness about the dangers of tobacco, and continuously improve strategies to lower tobacco use and exposure. By emphasizing evidence-based policymaking, we strive to enhance the effectiveness of tobacco control efforts.
- ▶ **Policy Advocacy:** Policy advocacy is a fundamental component of the Tobacco Control Programme's mission. We collaborate closely with policymakers, supplying them with detailed research and data to promote the adoption of stronger tobacco taxes, comprehensive smoke-free legislation, restrictions on tobacco advertising and promotion, and other evidence-based strategies to decrease tobacco use and safeguard public health. Every year on World No Tobacco Day, NDRI's Tobacco Control Program actively leads and participates in nationwide events aligned with the WHO theme, focusing on unveiling tobacco industry tactics. The programme organises targeted public health awareness sessions, engaging community groups on tobacco control policies, youth-specific marketing challenges, recent tobacco tax updates, and cessation services. Additionally, NDRI contributes to the national-level celebration at the National Health Training Center, collaborating with key health officials to highlight major milestones, including Nepal's distinguished achievement of full implementation of tobacco health warnings, strengthening the country's commitment to tobacco control.
- ▶ **Strengthening CSO Alliance Across Nepal:** NDRI is initiating the formation of an Anti- Tobacco Alliance by identifying and empowering community-based organisations (CBOs) across Nepal. NDRI provides capacity-building training, standardised educational materials, and supports CBOs in policy advocacy and resource mobilisation. It also facilitates effective communication and coordination among members while regularly monitoring the alliance's



Photo 13: Dr. Jaya K. Gurung, along with Dr. Krishna Pahari and Dr. Rudra Suwal, presenting a policy brief to the Finance Secretary of Nepal

impact. By 2025, NDRI successfully organised three virtual alliance webinars, strengthening collaboration among civil society organisations working on tobacco control. The programme aims to raise awareness, promote collective action, share best practices, strengthen the CBO network, foster collaboration, inspire new initiatives, and enhance advocacy efforts nationwide.

► **Enhancing School Health Programme (SHP) as a Public Health Activity:**



Photo 14: NDRI raising awareness among school-going students regarding Cancer caused by tobacco consumption

NDRI has been actively implementing the Tobacco Control School Health Programme in Lalitpur Metropolitan City since 2019. This programme focuses on educating adolescent students about the health risks of tobacco use, the economic costs, and relevant tobacco control laws. Through presentations, interactive sessions, and awareness activities, students are empowered to reject tobacco use and spread knowledge within their communities. Every year on World Cancer Day, February 4, the

team has been organizing a special school health event in collaboration with local ward representatives and schools to raise awareness about cancer prevention and the link between tobacco and cancer. This initiative strengthens the programme's aim to promote healthier lifestyles among young people, reduce tobacco consumption, and protect public health for future generations.

Preliminary Findings

The project generated strong evidence on the health and economic impacts of tobacco use, revealing persistent industry marketing tactics and highlighting areas where tobacco control policies need strengthening. Findings demonstrated the importance of evidence-based advocacy, supporting efforts to advance stronger tobacco taxation, smoke-free legislation, and advertising restrictions. It also helped strengthen civil society engagement by empowering community-based organisations through capacity-building and alliance-building initiatives. Additionally, evaluations of the School Health Programme showed increased awareness among students about the risks of tobacco use and its link to cancer, reinforcing youth involvement in prevention efforts. Overall, the project contributed to more informed policymaking, stronger advocacy networks, and improved public awareness nationwide.

A close-up photograph of a hand with red nail polish placing a coin on a stack of several other coins. The coins are stacked vertically, and the hand is positioned above them, with one finger resting on the top coin. The background is blurred, showing a light-colored surface.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The economic development programme of NDRI plays a pivotal role in promoting sustainable and inclusive economic development through its interdisciplinary approach, encompassing social, environmental, and economic factors. NDRI provides evidence-based research and policy recommendations, fostering informed policymaking and public discourse to drive long-term economic growth and sustainable development in Nepal.

Promoting Innovation and Inclusion in Growth Potential Enterprises: Evidence from Nepal

Research Team

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In collaboration with



Background

NDRI, in collaboration with the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada, is conducting a three-year research project titled “Promoting Innovation and Inclusion in Growth Potential Enterprises: Evidence from Nepal” from March 2023 to February 2026 under the IDRC’s Evidence for Innovation programme. The primary aim of this study is to evaluate the effectiveness of two government-initiated innovation support programmes (ISPs): Micro-Enterprise Development Programme for Poverty Alleviation (MEDPA), managed by the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, and Supplies (MoICS), and Youth and Small Entrepreneurs Self-Employment Fund (YSEF), managed by the YSEF Secretariat. It explores the genuine requirements of growth potential entrepreneurs, either supported or not supported by ISPs, and assesses whether and how the additional support services contribute to the growth of their business.

Objectives

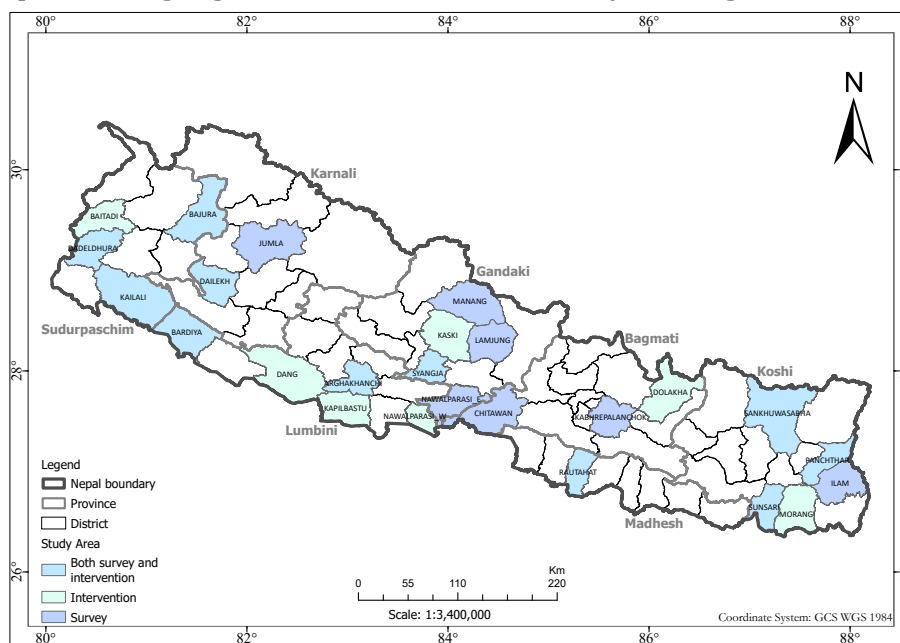
The specific aim of this study is to:

- ▶ Assess the impacts of two interventions- MEDPA and YSEF- to support the growth of the MSME sector in terms of employment generation, process improvement, product/market development, and sales growth.
- ▶ Implement a randomised controlled trial (causal comparative study) to assess the impact of intervention/ support services on the growth potential of MSMEs participating and/ or not participating in the MEDPA and YSEF programmes.
- ▶ Determine if the interventions of the MEDPA and YSEF programmes are reaching their intended beneficiaries (e.g., youth, women, entrepreneurs in low-income settings) and detail what could be done to bolster their equity, diversity, inclusion, and innovation outcomes; and
- ▶ Utilise the findings to inform the development of growth potential enterprises promotion (GPEP) policies and strategies for the promotion of business innovation ecosystems that support the enterprises in Nepal.

This study adopts a causal-comparative research design to evaluate differences in performance between enterprises supported by MEDPA and YSEF programmes and those operating independently. A mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative and quantitative tools, was used to assess multiple business dimensions. The methodology involved reviewing national policies and innovation support guidelines; administering surveys and conducting case studies with beneficiary and non-beneficiary enterprises; identifying growth-potential entrepreneurs from MEDPA, YSEF, and independent groups; and implementing targeted interventions for selected enterprises.

The survey design includes four participant groups: MEDPA, YSEF, Independent, and Experimental (intervention group), assessed across four phases: Baseline, Follow-up I, Follow-up II, and Endline. Repeated assessments allow both within-group and between-group comparisons, enabling the study to track changes over time and measure the long-term impact of interventions. This structure provides a rigorous basis for evaluating the effectiveness and sustainability of innovation support programmes and determining which approaches best foster enterprise growth.

This research project is being conducted across all seven provinces of the country. The map below highlights the areas where the study is being carried out.



Map 6: Study Area Map

Key Activities

The figure below outlines the activities the project has completed so far.



Figure 7: Key activities conducted are shown in timeline

Key Findings

This study has generated several key findings, which provide insights into the MSME landscape in Nepal, evaluate the performance of Innovation Support Programmes (ISPs), and assess the extent to which these programmes have benefited their intended beneficiaries. The following points summarise the key findings generated from the follow-up survey II conducted in March 2025.

- **Equity and inclusion:** MEDPA demonstrates strong gender and caste inclusivity, with 59.5% female participation and high representation of *Dalits*, *Janajati*, and *Madhesis*. YSEF shows higher male participation and stronger engagement with Brahmin/Chhetri groups. EDFs confirm that MEDPA has significantly empowered women through training, technology, and financial support, though socio-cultural barriers persist.
- **Enterprise characteristics:** Most ISPs supported enterprises are cottage or micro-scale, with limited formal registration (only 29.7% of MEDPA-supported enterprises are registered). A significant portion (49.1%) has been operating for over seven years, indicating resilience and sustainability.
- **Programme effectiveness:** YSEF outperforms MEDPA in profitability, market expansion, and product innovation. MEDPA excels in social mobilisation and inclusivity but lags in financial facilitation and technology support. Municipal leaders highlighted MEDPA's role in promoting homestays, eco-friendly



Photo 15: A beneficiary sewing using the machine supported by the project.

products, and agriculture-based enterprises, though challenges in market access and budget constraints remain.

- ▶ **Technology and innovation:** Manual technologies dominate; only 3-7% of enterprises use automated systems. Adoption of digital tools like social media marketing and online banking is moderate, but e-commerce engagement remains low. EDFs emphasised the importance of technology transfer and tailored training in enhancing women's productivity and confidence.
- ▶ **Market reach:** 74% of enterprises serve only local markets. Only 36.8% have plans for market expansion, indicating limited strategic growth planning. KIIs revealed that municipalities are promoting local products through fairs, Koseli Ghar, and homestays, but lack formal market linkage strategies.
- ▶ **Institutional and financial gaps:** Both programmes suffer from weak monitoring and follow-up: 49.5% of MEDPA and 66.8% of YSEF beneficiaries report inadequate monitoring and evaluation initiatives. The financial support mechanisms are poorly implemented, with 87% of YSEF beneficiaries reporting that they did not receive the promised subsidies on their loans.
- ▶ **Employment and social impact:** Employment generation remains limited, with only 20- 23% of enterprises reporting job creation. From the KIIs, EDFs noted significant improvements in household income, education, and health among women entrepreneurs, along with increased social recognition and leadership roles.
- ▶ **MSME Index:** The MSME Index (a composite of enterprise performance, sustainability, and innovation outcomes) shows that YSEF (2.67) and independent enterprises (2.66) outperform MEDPA (2.40). YSEF and independent entrepreneurs exhibit significantly higher MSME index scores, indicating better business outcomes, sales growth, and market reach. MEDPA's low MSME index (2.40) points to challenges in sustaining and growing enterprises despite inclusive programme policies. Key factors include poor access to financial services, low registration (29.7%), and limited technology adoption.
- ▶ **WRISTS Index:** The WRISTS (Wages, Rent, Interest, Supplies, Technology, and Supports) Index of YSEF (2.51) and MEDPA (2.48) beneficiaries indicate that their enterprises are ready and motivated to grow their business. Despite lower external support, independent entrepreneurs maintain resilience and innovation, though their WRISTS score (2.41) shows limitations in access to business supports.
- ▶ **Implement RAAJTHALI model:** To assess the local and regional strengths, enhance market access, and create an innovative network of identified strategic linkages, implement the **RAJTHALI** (Regional Action Junction for Trade, Heritage, and Advantage Linkage Initiative) model at the local level.

Preparation of Project Bank of Sarkegad Rural Municipality, Humla

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Ms. Salisha Raila

In collaboration with



Background

Sarkegad Rural Municipality, the second headquarters of Humla district, comprises eight wards: Jair, Rip, Unapani, Sanya, Gothi, Barai, Rodikot, and Radeu. This place is renowned as the Devpuri region. The municipality is home to diverse communities, including Chhetri, Thakuri, Thapaliya, Byasi, Dalit, and Bahun, with a total population of 10,688 and 2,205 households according to the 2078 B.S. national census. Sarkegad's administrative and commercial hub is located at Sarkegad Bazaar.

Following Nepal's federal restructuring, the municipality has actively sought to channel development initiatives into local priorities, long-term planning, and alignment with national policies. In collaboration with the NDRI, Sarkegad has prepared a project bank comprising 101 project initiatives spanning 16 thematic areas, including infrastructure, social development, economic growth, governance, education, health, agriculture, tourism, energy, and environment.

The project bank serves as a strategic tool for planning, investment facilitation, and alignment with policy and budgetary frameworks. Its preparation involved stakeholder consultations, ward-level assessments, data collection, feasibility analysis, and prioritisation workshops. By providing a structured roadmap for investment and development, the project bank aims to attract public, private, and development partner support, strengthen governance, and ensure that Sarkegad's development aspirations translate into tangible outcomes, fostering inclusive growth and long-term prosperity for the municipality and the broader Humla community.

Objectives

The following are the major objectives of this project:

- ▶ To support the preparation of development plans in line with the integrated development concept of Sarkegad Rural Municipality.
- ▶ To create a foundation for investment by the government, non-governmental, and private sectors from the upcoming budget onwards.
- ▶ To bring projects within policy, budgetary, and legal frameworks, ensuring a planned and organised development process.

Methodology

The Sarkegad Rural Municipality Project Bank was developed based on the concept of integrated development, emphasizing balanced economic, social, and environmental progress. The methodology followed the UN's Classification of the Functions of Government (COFOG) and the National Project Bank Guidelines (2076 B.S.) for project identification, appraisal, selection, and prioritisation. The process began with a workshop involving municipal officials, ward chairs, executive members, branch heads, and stakeholders to define criteria, priorities, and thematic areas. Projects were then shortlisted based on periodic plan priorities, ward-level plans, and local proposals. Data analysis, feasibility assessment, and detailed project profiling were conducted using standardised formats to ensure systematic and evidence-based inclusion in the project bank.

Key Activities

Stakeholder Consultation and Workshop



Photo 16: Dr. Deependra Rokaya presenting the report at the stakeholder consultation meeting

A participatory workshop was organised at the Sarkegad Rural Municipality office involving municipal officials, ward chairs, executive members, branch heads, and local stakeholders. The objective was to identify project criteria, priorities, and thematic areas aligned with integrated development principles. Discussions focused on community needs, local proposals, and alignment with municipal, provincial, and national development objectives. This activity ensured inclusivity, gathered diverse perspectives, and established the foundation for systematic project identification and prioritisation.

Key Findings

The preparation of the Sarkegad Rural Municipality Project Bank revealed several important insights. The municipality has diverse communities and crucial development needs that include critical sectors such as water, agriculture, tourism, ICT, hydropower, irrigation, and e-banking. Consultations and workshops demonstrated strong local interest in aligning development priorities with long-term planning and national policies. The report highlighted the community's demand for improved infrastructure, expanded economic opportunities, strengthened social services, and enhanced governance mechanisms. The development of 101 project concepts across 16 thematic areas shows a clear vision for integrated and inclusive development. Overall, the findings indicate that Sarkegad is well-positioned to mobilise public, private, and development partner investment through a structured, evidence-based project bank that supports sustainable and long-term growth for the municipality. The full report after completion was handed over to the Chair of Sarkegad Rural Municipality by the Executive Director of NDRI.



Photo 17: NDRI Executive Director handing over the report to the Chair of Sarkegad Rural Municipality



NDRI INITIATIVES

In addition to the projects funded by various organisations, NDRI also carries out a number of studies and research projects to address contemporary and emerging challenges. A description of such major activities is provided [here](#).

Nepal's Journey towards Zero Hunger – The triple challenges of Food Security, Food Self-Sufficiency, and Economic Prosperity

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In collaboration with



Background

Zero hunger is one of the most important among the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Indeed, it is not acceptable to have people suffer from hunger in this modern age. Governments throughout the world have committed to achieving Zero Hunger by 2030, under the United Nations Framework. The recent push to eliminate hunger by 2030 under the Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty reflects the high priority attached by the international community to eliminating hunger. Having a sound policy is especially important for Nepal currently, when the Government has been under increasing pressure to meet the aspirations of prosperity in line with the political transformation, as it is expecting to graduate from the Least Developed Country status in 2026, and is aspiring to be a middle-income country by 2030.

The report analyses and synthesises existing national and international data on food security and hunger in Nepal, drawing from diverse sources to provide a comprehensive assessment for understanding the current situation and trends. It identifies key gaps and challenges while offering strategic recommendations to strengthen Nepal's food security agenda and advance its global commitment to ending hunger. The report aims to accelerate Nepal's progress towards Zero Hunger and food self-sufficiency 2030 by highlighting actionable insights and policy directions.

Objectives

This study seeks to analyze Nepal's progress, identify key barriers, and provide actionable recommendations for policymakers and stakeholders in the journey toward Zero Hunger by 2030, focusing on the following objectives:

- ▶ Assess Nepal's progress toward achieving Zero Hunger by analyzing trends in food security, malnutrition, and dietary diversity.

- ▶ Examine key challenges hindering food security, including agricultural constraints, trade dependency, and climate risks.
- ▶ Evaluate the policy landscape, including existing food security programmes and their effectiveness.
- ▶ Provide actionable recommendations to accelerate Nepal's path toward food self-sufficiency and Zero Hunger by 2030.

Methodology

The report employs a multi-dimensional, evidence-based approach to assess food security at the national, regional, and household levels in Nepal. It categorises indicators under four dimensions of food security and uses a systematic evaluation of food security challenges, progress, and policy effectiveness. This comparative analysis assesses Nepal's standing in relation to global and regional benchmarks. Trend analysis is conducted to benchmark Nepal's food security against regional and global trends, evaluate progress in food security, and identify emerging challenges. Additionally, the report uses per capita food availability and poverty trends to trace out government policies such as the Agriculture Development Strategy (2015–2035) and the Right to

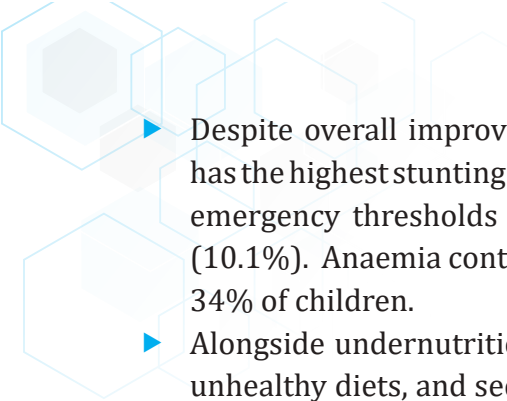
Food and Food Sovereignty Act (2018). This comprehensive approach ensures a well-rounded assessment of Nepal's food security landscape.



Photo 18: Drying food the traditional way on a Nepali nanglo

Preliminary Findings

- ▶ Households in Nepal are consuming more calories with greater dietary diversity, shifting from cereal-dominated diets (81% in 2003/04 to 54% in 2022/23) toward higher intake of oils, pulses, milk, vegetables, fruits, meat, and ready foods. This progress has coincided with a decline in poverty from 31% to 20%.

- 
- ▶ Despite overall improvements, disparities persist across provinces. Karnali has the highest stunting prevalence at 35.8%, while acute malnutrition is above emergency thresholds in Lumbini (16.2%) and remains high in Madhesh (10.1%). Anaemia continues to affect 43% of women of reproductive age and 34% of children.
 - ▶ Alongside undernutrition and micronutrient deficiencies, overconsumption, unhealthy diets, and sedentary lifestyles are fueling rising obesity, creating a triple burden of malnutrition.
 - ▶ Agricultural production is not keeping pace with demand, leaving Nepal dependent on food imports despite over 60% of the population engaged in farming. The economy remains fragile, with GDP per capita at USD 1,517, slower growth than neighbors, and heavy reliance on remittances, which make up a quarter of GDP.
 - ▶ Remittances, social protection, and improved services have supported food security, but rising fiscal pressure and weak foundations make achieving zero hunger and reducing stunting below 15% daunting challenges.

Conclusion

Nepal must address the triple challenges of food self-sufficiency, food security, and economic prosperity by boosting agricultural growth to 5–7% annually, reducing post-harvest losses, and expanding market access to become a net food exporter by 2030. Targeted efforts are needed to reduce stunting, acute malnutrition, and anemia, particularly in Karnali, Lumbini, Madhesh, and Sudur Paschim, with a life-cycle approach for stunting and short-term interventions for acute malnutrition. Strengthening and coordinating social protection and food systems, creating livelihoods within the country, and ensuring sustainable financing, through greater domestic allocation and smarter mobilisation of international resources, are critical to achieving Zero Hunger.

Feasibility Study of Local Resource-based Manufacturing Products in Nepal

Research Team

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Ms. Bipashwi Nepal

Ms. Prapti Shrestha

Dr. Shankar Shrestha



Background

Nepal's manufacturing sector plays a minimal role in the economy, contributing only a small portion to the national GDP and leading to a significant trade deficit due to heavy reliance on imports. Despite the potential for industrial growth to drive economic advancement, the sector faces challenges like low foreign investment, inadequate infrastructure, and resource scarcity. This study aims to address these issues by evaluating the feasibility of adding value to local products, from production to consumption. By identifying viable production processes and guiding informed investment decisions, the study seeks to revitalise Nepal's manufacturing sector, reduce trade imbalances, and promote sustainable economic growth.

Objectives

The general objective of this study is to conduct a comprehensive feasibility study of local resource-based manufacturing products in Nepal for informed production decision-making. The specific objectives are:

- ▶ To assess the availability of resources (capital, infrastructure, human resources) and the cost of production associated with the product.
- ▶ To assess the business environment related to the product.
- ▶ To provide a detailed picture to the investor regarding the viability of production.

Methodology

This study is based on both primary and secondary data in order to fulfill the objectives of the study. The study attempts to conduct a comprehensive desk review for the understanding of the related literature and the regulatory environment related to the production, sales, and export of the product. Similarly, consumer surveys with the help of a structured questionnaire are used for the understanding of consumer perception regarding the product. Furthermore, the study also attempts to conduct Key Informant Interviews (KII) with the stakeholders involved in the entire product life cycle in order to understand the entire business environment of the product. In this manner, the study attempts to understand whether production is viable or not. With the help of these methods, the study attempts to aid potential investors regarding the viability of the investment in the product, leading to informed and less risky investments.

Preliminary Findings

- ▶ Nepal realises only a third of its committed FDI, and overall FDI inflows remain far below those of other SAARC and ASEAN countries, resulting in a limited contribution to GDP.
- ▶ Weak systems for recording foreign investments and difficulties in repatriating profits undermine investor confidence.
- ▶ Bureaucratic hurdles, complex approval processes, and poor follow-up from the Department of Industries contribute to the non-materialisation of committed FDI.
- ▶ International assessments highlight negative perceptions of Nepal's business environment, including corruption, political interference, and administrative inefficiencies.
- ▶ High land costs, an ineffective judiciary, and non-functional one-stop service centers further discourage potential investors.
- ▶ Strengthening transparency, accountability, and consistent implementation of rules is essential for improving the investment climate.
- ▶ Nepal has strong FDI potential, but realizing it requires committed leadership, governance reforms, and innovative approaches such as BOT models.

Current Feasibility Study Titled Unlocking Opportunities for Hemp Products: A Feasibility Analysis

Research Team

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Ms. Bipashwi Nepal

Ms. Prapti Shrestha

Dr. Shankar Shrestha



Background

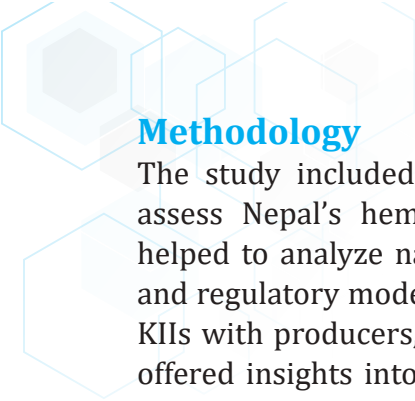
As a first step to the feasibility analysis of the local resource-based manufacturing in Nepal, NDRI is currently involved in the feasibility study of Hemp products. Hemp (*Cannabis sativa*) is a versatile and eco-friendly resource gaining attraction as a sustainable alternative to conventional materials like plastic and cotton. Despite its historical use in Nepal for textiles and other products, the sector faces challenges, including legal restrictions and infrastructure limitations. With the global industrial hemp market valued at USD 4.71 billion in 2019 and projected to grow annually by 15.8% by 2027, exploring hemp's potential in Nepal could significantly impact local economic development and reduce the country's trade imbalance.

Objectives

- ▶ To assess the availability of resources (capital, infrastructure, human resources, raw materials) and the cost and benefit associated with the production of the hemp product.
- ▶ To assess the internal and external business environment related to the production and sales of hemp.
- ▶ To assess the local and international market of hemp-related products, as well as the customer perception towards hemp products.
- ▶ To prepare a comprehensive report informing the investors regarding the viability and profitability of the investment.



Photo 19: Workers sewing at the hemp textile factory



Methodology

The study included a range of data collection methods to comprehensively assess Nepal's hemp industry. Thorough desk review and policy mapping helped to analyze national and international legal frameworks, market trends, and regulatory models, and to understand the existing policies governing hemp. KIIs with producers, processors, traders, policymakers, and sector associations offered insights into production challenges, supply chain dynamics, and policy barriers affecting hemp manufacturing, helping evaluate the internal and external factors shaping the industry. Additionally, a questionnaire survey was conducted to capture consumer behavior and perceptions of hemp products in Nepal. Data analysis involved transcribing and reviewing KII responses to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats, while survey data were presented through charts and tables to assess consumer attitudes and market potential.

Key Findings

The feasibility study highlights that the hemp industry in Nepal possesses significant strengths, including a diverse range of sustainable and environmentally friendly products made from locally available, inexpensive raw materials. Hemp offers strong, durable, and antimicrobial properties, with good profit margins and export potential, making it viable even with low initial investment. However, the sector faces internal weaknesses such as a lack of skilled labour, technology, machinery, effective marketing, and government support, along with high transportation costs and limited consumer awareness. Externally, there are strong opportunities due to growing domestic and international demand, potential collaborations, employment generation, and increasing government interest. Nonetheless, the industry also faces threats, including regulatory and legal challenges, competition from other natural fibers like cotton, shifting fashion trends, quality competition, and misconceptions regarding THC content, which may hinder growth if not addressed strategically.

Conclusion

Nepal's hemp textile industry has high growth potential due to favorable conditions and global demand for sustainable products. Achieving this requires clear regulations, modern infrastructure, farmer training, and strong market development through branding and partnerships. Inclusive commitment and financial support will help build a competitive, sustainable sector.

National Budget Analysis of Nepal for Fiscal Year 2082/83 B.S.

Research Team

Dr. Rudra Suwal (Team Lead)

Ms. Salisha Raila

Dr. Shikha Thapa Magar

Dr. Shankar Shrestha

Mr. Daya Shrestha



Background

NDRI conducted an independent analysis of Nepal's national budget for the FY 2082/83 B.S. This study critically examines the trends in public finance in Nepal, with a particular focus on the National Budget for FY 2082/83 B.S. It builds on the groundwork established by NDRI's National Budget Analysis Nepal from Fiscal Year 2068/69 to Fiscal Year 2080/81, followed by the National Budget Analysis of Nepal for the Fiscal Year 2081/82 B.S. In addition, this year's analysis for FY 2082/83 B.S. also assesses the extent to which the National Budget aligns with the Pre-budget Assessment for the fiscal year 2082/83 B.S. submitted by NDRI to the Ministry of Finance.

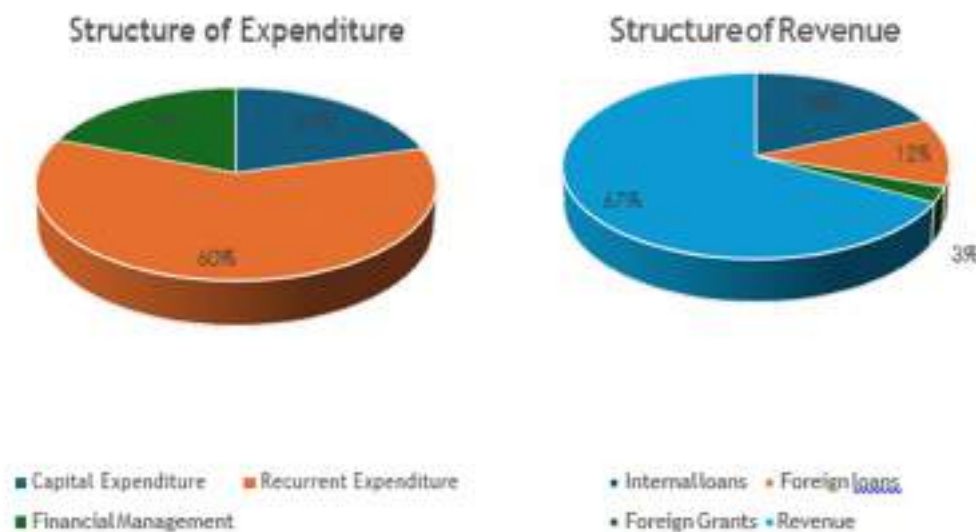


Figure 8: Diagram showing structures of expenditure and revenue

The National Budget Analysis of Nepal for Fiscal Year 2082/83 B.S. provides a comprehensive assessment of the country's fiscal and macroeconomic landscape,

revealing persistent structural challenges. Despite moderate economic recovery, Nepal continues to experience slow GDP growth, trade deficits, and inflationary pressures. The FY 2082/83 budget, amounting to NPR 19.64 Kharba, allocates 60% for recurrent expenditure, 21% for capital expenditure, and 19% for financial management, reflecting a consumption-driven fiscal structure with limited emphasis on productive investment. Although internal revenue is projected to cover about two-thirds of total spending, rising dependence on domestic and external borrowing has escalated the debt-to-GDP ratio to approximately 43%, raising concerns over fiscal sustainability.

Sectoral allocations indicate increasing expenditure on administrative functions and social security, while allocations for key development sectors such as education, health, and economic affairs have declined. The budget introduces some positive measures, including tax incentives for startups, green industries, and technology sectors; however, issues such as weak budget execution, low capital absorption, and inadequate prioritisation of infrastructure persist. The analysis underscores the need for Nepal to rebalance its fiscal structure by enhancing domestic revenue mobilisation, improving capital expenditure efficiency, strengthening governance, and fostering a production-oriented economy to ensure sustainable and inclusive growth.



Photo 20: A glimpse from the budget analysis press meet

Monetary Policy Analysis of Nepal for Fiscal Year 2082/83 B.S.

Research Team

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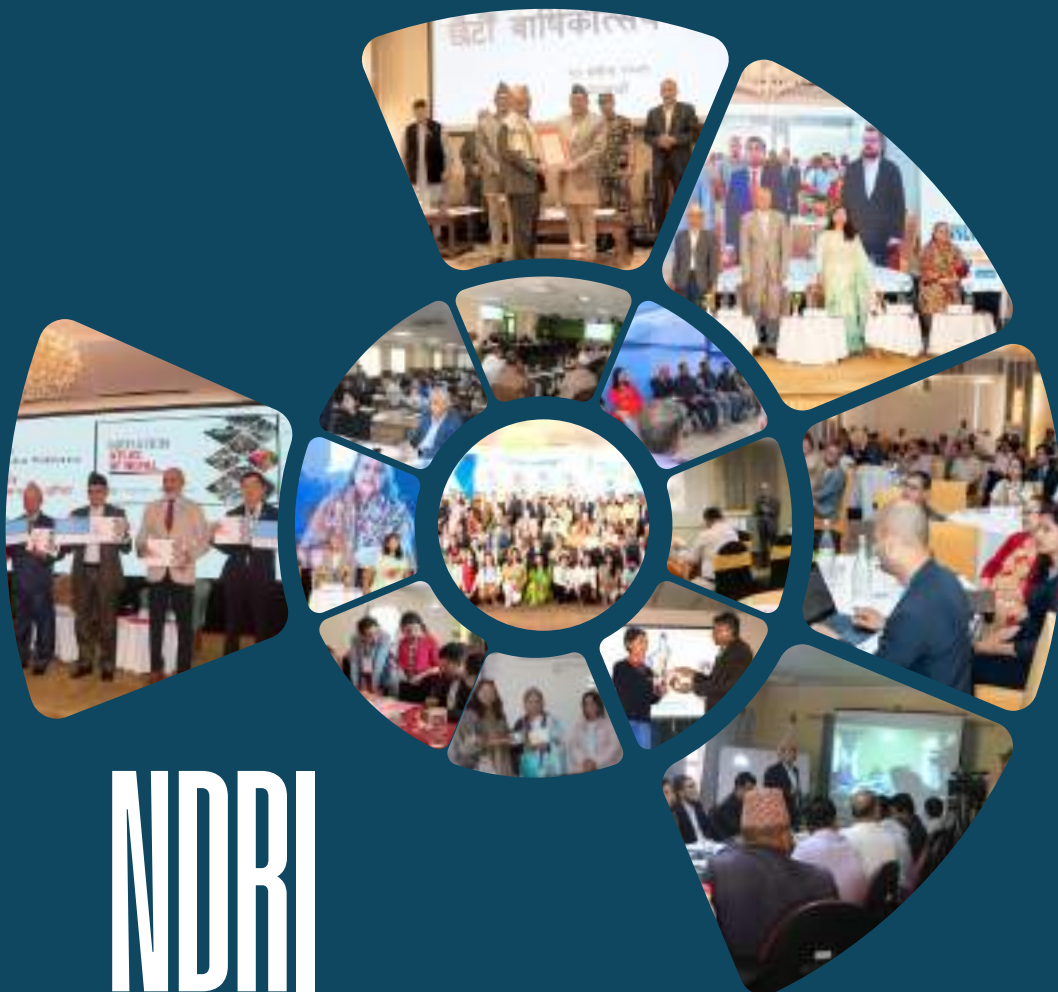
Background

NDRI conducted an independent analysis of Nepal's Monetary Policy for FY 2082/83 B.S. to assess its implications for macroeconomic stability, credit flow, financial sector governance, and private sector investment. Building on its earlier review of FY 2081/82 B.S. and the recent National Budget Analysis, the study links past implementation experiences with current fiscal priorities to offer practical insights for policymakers, researchers, and development partners.

The FY 2082/83 B.S. Monetary Policy takes a cautiously expansionary approach, lowering the interest rate corridor while keeping reserve ratios unchanged, to boost investment and domestic demand without compromising stability. It introduces incremental reforms such as restructuring working capital loans, easing provisioning, strengthening cooperative oversight, expanding digital KYC, and promoting credit access for SMEs, agriculture, and energy. However, challenges remain, including weak private sector confidence, speculative market activities, reliance on remittances, and slow capital expenditure. NDRI emphasises that the policy's success hinges on channeling liquidity into productive sectors, improving financial governance, and aligning monetary and fiscal measures to support meaningful economic recovery.

Conclusion

The FY 2082/83 monetary policy takes a cautious but supportive approach, easing interest rates to boost credit and investment while safeguarding gains in inflation control, reserves, and external stability. Although ample liquidity and strong macro indicators provide room for flexibility, weak private investment, rising NPLs, and structural inefficiencies remain key constraints. Moving forward, stronger coordination with fiscal policy, deeper structural reforms, and improved financial governance will be essential. By enhancing inclusion, strengthening regulation, and aligning with global standards, Nepal can use monetary stability as a foundation for productive investment, private-sector confidence, and sustainable growth in the post-LDC era.



NDRI EVENTS

NDRI's events and outreach activities focus on knowledge dissemination, policy dialogue, and stakeholder engagement. Through workshops, panel discussions, report launches, and collaborative forums, NDRI promotes research-based insights and strengthens its connection with diverse audiences.

NDRI Annual Lecture Series

NDRI celebrated its 22nd Annual Day on April 22, 2025, at Hotel Himalaya, Lalitpur, with over 120 participants, including ambassadors, government officials, academicians, development partners, and media representatives from diverse organisations. Meeting the event's objective to bring together key stakeholders to reflect on Nepal's development journey, sharing insights on promoting inclusive and resilient growth, and fostering dialogue on practical strategies for addressing emerging challenges. The event featured a powerful keynote lecture by Ms. Chandni Joshi, Gender, Rights, and Policy Specialist, on "Nepal's Pathway to Inclusive, Resilient Development in the Evolving National and International Context," which inspired a call for collective, evidence-based action for Nepal's future. Dr. Shikha Thapa Magar, Executive Director of NDRI, welcomed everyone, highlighting NDRI's journey over the past two decades and emphasizing the importance of collective efforts in driving Nepal's inclusive and resilient development forward.



Photo 21: Group photo with all the participants

Dr. Yuba Raj Khatriwada, Economic and Development Advisor to the Prime Minister of Nepal, attended as the Chief Guest. At the same time, Ms. Alice Akunga, UNICEF Representative and Acting UN Resident Coordinator, joined as Special Guest, both offering valuable insights on resilience, inclusivity, and sustainable development. In his closing remarks for the keynote session, Dr. Krishna Pahari, President of NDRI, reaffirmed the Institute's commitment to advancing research and policy advocacy for Nepal's inclusive and resilient development. Another highlight of the day was an engaging panel discussion on "Way Forward for Inclusive, Resilient, and Sustainable Future in the Shifting Global and Regional Landscape," chaired by Prof. Dr. Lekhnath Sharma, Executive Chairperson of Policy Research Institute (PRI), and moderated by Prof. Dr. Punya Prasad Regmi, Senior Research Specialist of NDRI. Esteemed panelists Prof. Ram Prasad Gyanwali, Ms. Sangeeta Rana Thapa, and Mr. Bishow Parajuli shared their expertise on economic growth, gender equality, and international cooperation. The event concluded with appreciation to all guests, speakers, and participants for making the event a success.

Contemporary Policy Dialogue

The “Covid-19 Support Network Group (CSNG)”, now renamed the Contemporary Policy Dialogue Series (CPD), is an independent virtual platform that began spontaneously and voluntarily following Nepal’s first COVID-19 lockdown on Chaitra 11, 2076 B.S. The platform was created to foster dialogue among a diverse group of Nepalis, both within the country and in the diaspora, on pressing issues faced at the federal, provincial, and local government levels, and to explore collaborative solutions to overcome these challenges.



Photo 22: Screenshot of the virtual participants from one of the episodes of CPD

Now known as the Contemporary Policy Dialogue Series (CPD), this initiative has expanded beyond COVID-19 to address a wide range of contemporary issues. The series is held every other Friday from 9:00 to 10:00 AM and is chaired by Er. Ganesh Shah, Hon’ble Former Minister of Environment, Science, and Technology. Participation is by invitation only, open to interested individuals and institutions, and is free of cost. Each session is moderated to ensure a well-structured and productive discussion. Two think tanks: Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI) and Resources Himalaya Foundation (RHF), voluntarily serve as the platform’s secretariat. We document each session and share summaries upon request with interested individuals and institutions.

Participants include individuals from diverse fields such as young researchers, academia, technocrats, bureaucrats, business leaders, and emerging professionals. Discussions have been broadly categorised into four themes: Science and Awareness, Research and Professional Involvement, Pandemic Management, and Policy. By November 2025, 230 episodes of this dialogue will have been completed, addressing numerous emerging and challenging issues.

Annual General Meeting

NDRI organised its 21st Annual General Meeting (AGM) on November 22, 2024, at Hotel Himalaya, Kupondole, Lalitpur. This milestone event served as a platform for reflection, celebration, and planning as the organisation brought together its members, staff, stakeholders, and esteemed guests to review the year's achievements and set a course for the future. The AGM commenced with a closed session in the morning, during which NDRI's general members gathered to review the yearly reports and assess the institute's overall status. This internal meeting fostered candid discussions about past accomplishments and strategies for continued growth, ensuring that the organisation remains aligned with its mission and goals. The public session started in the afternoon after the closed session and was marked by the participation of prominent dignitaries both in person and virtually. Notably, all seven founding members of NDRI came together for the first time in many years, emphasizing the importance of this gathering. Among the distinguished guests were Dr. Surya Raj Acharya, an Infrastructure Expert, and Dr. Arjun Baral, Executive Director of the Center for Economic Development and Administration (CEDA), Tribhuvan University.

A major highlight was the unveiling of the NDRI Annual Report 2023/24, presented by NDRI Founding members and special guests, which detailed the institute's achievements and ongoing initiatives. The programme also featured reflections from key NDRI members, who shared their insights as Founding members. The remarks from the special guests, Dr. Acharya and Dr. Baral, enriched the event with their expertise and vision for NDRI as a think tank.



Photo 23: Group photo from the open session of the event

Mesmerising Monday Series

NDRI has been organizing a weekly presentation series titled Mesmerising Mondays, featuring staff and members from across the institute. The platform provides NDRI researchers an opportunity to share their areas of interest and ongoing studies through short, 10-minute presentations. The initiative has helped young researchers enhance both their subject knowledge and public speaking skills. Each session concludes with a Q&A and Discussion, fostering an engaging environment for learning and improving presentation skills across the team. To date, 28 episodes of this series have been completed.



Photo 24: NDRI colleagues learning how to recycle plastic waste

Nepal's National Budget 2082/83 Analysis Press Meet

On June 2, 2025, NDRI organised a press meet reviewing “Nepal’s National Budget 2082/83” at the National Cooperative Federation Hall, Pulchowk, Lalitpur. The event gathered economic journalists from diverse media houses, along with subject specialists and NDRI thematic experts, who shared their insights on the newly announced national budget and discussed its implications across economic, social, environmental, and governance dimensions.



Photo 25: Audiences eagerly listening to the Analyses

Dr. Shikha Thapa Magar, Executive Director of NDRI, welcomed everyone, emphasizing the role of research institutions in fostering critical engagement with public policy. The main highlight of the event

was a keynote presentation by Dr. Rudra Suwal, Programme Lead for Economic Development, who provided a comprehensive analysis of the 2082/83 national budget, touching on trends, priorities, and potential gaps. The session then transitioned into reflections from other thematic leads, including Dr. Jaya Kumar Gurung (Health, Education, and Environment), Dr. Divas Basnyat (Water and

Climate), and Dr. Manjeshwori Singh (Gender Equality and Social Inclusion), who each contextualised the budget's implications within their respective fields.

The discussion centered on how strategic allocation and policy refinements could strengthen economic stability, sectoral growth, and overall national development. During the discussion session, all attendees actively shared their thoughts on the national budget and posed insightful questions to the thematic leads, fostering an engaging and participatory dialogue. The press release summarised the collective insights, adding further dimensions to the discussion. Notably, the presence of various national media outlets helped extend the event's reach, amplifying evidence-based perspectives to a broader audience. NDRI President Dr. Krishna Pahari concluded the event, emphasizing the importance of maintaining budget literacy and evidence-informed policymaking.

Muhan Project (SPAN) Inception Workshop

A three-day inception workshop for the Springwater Management, Agriculture, and Resilient Livelihoods in the Mid-Hills of Nepal (SPAN/Muhan) Project was held at Square Hotel, Pulchowk, from April 3 to April 5, 2025. The project, funded by ACIAR and led by CSIRO, aims to strengthen local water governance and empower



Photo 26: Group photo after the event

communities in Nepal's mid-hills. NDRI is primarily focused on the biophysical components of the research. The event was honored by the presence of Australia's Ambassador to Nepal, Her Excellency Leanne Johnston. Key discussions during the workshop included impact pathway analysis, thematic focus areas, project approaches, implementation strategies, and the work plan. It served as a valuable platform to bring together all project partners and foster collaborative engagement, thereby contributing to the project's success.

Celebration of World Environment Day

On June 5, 2025, NDRI supported the World Environment Day 2025 event held at the Russian Culture House, Kamalpokhari, Kathmandu. Organised by Tri-Chandra Multiple Campus in collaboration with Environment and Culture



Photo 27: Group photo of the Environment experts present at the event

Volunteer (ECV) and the Russian House, the programme embraced the global theme “Ending Global Plastic Pollution” under the campaign Beat Plastic Pollution. Students from various universities and campuses across Nepal participated in the workshop, which focused on effective waste collection and recycling methods. With the mission “Catch Them Young: Zero Waste & Circular Economy in Campus,” the event aimed to instill sustainable waste management practices among students through awareness, training, and the implementation of a 3-bin segregation culture. Highlights of the event included expert sessions, recycling exhibitions, and an oath-taking ceremony by students and faculty to promote zero-waste principles. NDRI joined hands with other supporting partners to promote sustainable solutions and environmental consciousness among youth.

A Two-Day Co-Design Workshop at Sudurpashchim Province

NDRI organised a two-day Co-Design Workshop for the project titled “Mitigating Flood Risks through Women’s Leadership in EbA Interventions” from March 27 to 28, 2025, at Hotel Rubus, Dhangadhi, Sudurpashchim Province. This project is funded by the Global EbA Fund under IUCN, in collaboration with Wageningen University and Research and the International Centre for Environment Management (ICEM). The workshop witnessed active participation from key stakeholders, including the Chief District Administrative Officer, representatives from the District Coordination



Photo 28: Participants actively engaged in group work

Committee, officials from municipalities, provincial governments, and various institutions across Sudurpashchim Province.

The primary objective of the workshop was to collaboratively develop a Watershed Restoration Plan Integrating Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) approaches along with recommended structural measures for disaster risk reduction, with a strong focus on flood risk mitigation at the basin level. The event provided an interactive platform that encouraged diverse perspectives and innovative solutions to address flood risks, while empowering women's leadership in climate resilience efforts. Representatives from NDRI, the International Center for Environment Management (ICEM), as well as from the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Thailand, were actively engaged during the event.

First Episode of Roundtable Talk Series on the Occasion of IWW2025 —

NDRI launched the first episode of its Roundtable Talk Series on the occasion of International Women's Week 2025. The event, themed "Voice of Female Staff of NDRI," featured Ms. Sangeeta Rana Thapa, a renowned expert in women's development, as the Honored Dignitary. Led by NDRI Executive Director Dr. Shikha Thapa Magar, the session encouraged females of NDRI to share their experiences and challenges. Dr. Manjeswori Singh, NDRI's first female Member and General Secretary, reflected on breaking gender barriers and celebrated NDRI's over 50% female staff representation, while urging greater inclusivity at the executive level.

Researchers highlighted key challenges faced by women entrepreneurs, including societal and financial barriers, and discussed gender disparities across various sectors. They also shed light on inequalities in the agriculture sector, where women often face lower pay



Photo 29: Group photo after the round table talk

and systemic biases. Additionally, they emphasised NDRI's progress in promoting gender inclusivity and the role of digital platforms in amplifying women's voices in research and development. In her closing remarks, Ms. Sangeeta Rana Thapa commended NDRI's commitment to gender equality and urged continued efforts to increase women's representation at the executive level. Dr. Shikha Thapa Magar concluded the session, reaffirming NDRI's dedication to fostering an inclusive and

equitable future. The event was a powerful celebration of women's contributions and a call to action for greater gender equality in research and development.

Handover Ceremony of the Executive Director Position

Change is an inevitable part of growth, and at NDRI, we recently marked a significant transition with the Handover Ceremony of the Executive Director Position on February 12, 2025. Held at NDRI's premises at Sanepa Lalitpur, this event brought together NDRI members and staff to witness and celebrate the leadership continuity. A highlight of the event was the introduction of Dr. Shikha Thapa Magar as the first female Executive Director of NDRI and the ninth individual to hold this esteemed position. Her expertise in agriculture, climate change, and value chain analysis was praised as a valuable asset to NDRI's mission. The gathering was not only about welcoming new leadership but also about appreciating past contributions. Dr. Shankar Shrestha reflected on his three-year tenure as Executive Director, acknowledging how each leader has contributed to NDRI's journey. He then formally handed over the leadership to Dr. Shikha and extended his best wishes for her tenure.



Photo 30: Group photo after the event

Leading the Fight Against Tobacco and Cancer

On February 4, 2025, NDRI, in collaboration with Ward No. 2, Lalitpur Metropolitan City, and Radiant Reader's Academy, and in coordination with the Ministry of Health and Population, successfully organised a Cancer Awareness Programme to mark World Cancer Day. The event aimed to raise awareness about cancer, its risk factors, and the significance of prevention and early detection.



Photo 31: Spreading awareness on the impact of tobacco consumption

The programme featured an informative presentation by Dr. Jaya Kumar Gurung, Lead/ Coordinator of the Health, Education, and Environment Programme at NDRI, on “The Impact of Tobacco Consumption,” highlighting the health risks associated with tobacco use, emphasizing its direct link to cancer and other chronic illnesses.

Uniting for Cancer Awareness: NDRI Leads the Fight Against Tobacco and Cancer. The World Cancer Day Awareness Programme served as a powerful platform to educate and inspire individuals to take proactive steps towards cancer prevention. The presence of experts, policymakers, educators, and students created an environment of collective learning and commitment to a healthier society. The event was graced by the presence of esteemed dignitaries, including Mr. Rajesh Kumar Maharjan, Chair of Ward No. 2, Lalitpur Metropolitan City, Mr. Dan B. Thapa Magar, Supervisor and Treasurer of the Ward Health Implementation Committee, and Representatives from Radiant Reader’s Academy, NDRI, as well as other ward representatives, students, faculty members, and community members. One of the participants mentioned that after the presentation, she would share the information with her family and friends about the harmful effects of tobacco and support her father in quitting smoking, being one of the ambassadors of the **NO TOBACCO CAMPAIGN**. Representatives shared their perspectives, reiterating their commitment to promoting cancer awareness and ensuring better public health initiatives.

Promoting Respect and Safety at Work

NDRI organised a one-day training on “Promoting Awareness for a Respectful Workplace Environment” on Friday, January 10, 2025, at the National Cooperative Federation Conference Hall. The event aimed to strengthen understanding of workplace harassment, promote human rights awareness, and equip staff with practical strategies to ensure dignity and respect in professional settings.



Photo 32: ongoing training on a safe workplace organised by NDRI

Expert facilitators Ms. Sabita Koirala and Mr. Gokul Pyakurel provided a comprehensive overview of different forms of harassment, relevant international and national frameworks, Nepal’s legal provisions, the mental-health impacts

of harassment, and proper reporting and complaint mechanisms. They highlighted how harassment often becomes an “invisible problem” due to silence and lack of awareness, emphasizing the need for collective responsibility and strong institutional systems. The training emphasised that a respectful workplace is one where employees feel valued, safe, and able to contribute without fear of discrimination.

Dr. Krishna Pahari, President of NDRI, reaffirmed the organisation’s commitment to maintaining a respectful and inclusive work culture. Participants responded positively, noting improved understanding of harassment prevention and response. NDRI plans to continue such initiatives to strengthen awareness and ensure a safe, inclusive, and harassment-free professional environment for all.

Professor Leslie Enlightens on Manuscript Writing

A special lecture session on “Submitting Manuscripts and Getting Them Accepted” was delivered by Prof. John Leslie, Distinguished Professor from Kansas State University, USA, at the Postgraduate Hall of the Institute of Agriculture and Animal Science (IAAS), Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal. The event, held on December 23, 2024,



Photo 33: Prof. Leslie delivering his lecture on manuscript writing

witnessed the participation of over 50 attendees, including master’s and PhD students, professors, and aspiring authors from various institutes, including IAAS, Institute of Engineering (IoE), and NDRI. The session was designed to equip participants with practical insights and strategies for successfully submitting and publishing academic papers. Prof. Leslie shared his extensive experience, guiding attendees through the intricacies of manuscript preparation, submission processes, and strategies for navigating peer review. The event was jointly organised by NDRI and IAAS. Participants found the session highly engaging and informative, gaining valuable knowledge on crafting impactful research articles for reputable journals.

Dream-Catching the AI Wave: Insights from Mr. Kundana Kumar Lal —

On December 5, 2024, NDRI, in collaboration with Everest Engineering College (EEC), organised a seminar at the EEC premises in Sanepa, Lalitpur, entitled “Rise of AI: Its Impact on Industries and Society,” featured an engaging and insightful presentation by Mr. Kundana Kumar Lal, President of Vitti Foundation, India. Prof. Dr. Hari Krishna Shrestha, Chair of the Research Committee at EEC, emphasised the importance of understanding AI’s transformative potential. Mr. Kundana Kumar Lal provided a thought-provoking overview of how Artificial Intelligence (AI) has evolved, from Artificial Narrow Intelligence to Artificial General Intelligence, and now advancing towards Artificial Super Intelligence. He highlighted the profound implications of this transition on industries, society, and human capital, explaining how automation is reshaping the workforce and reducing dependency on human labour. A key focus of his talk was the groundbreaking Dreamcatcher Project, which has set a new benchmark in AI innovation and demonstrated its potential to outpace human capabilities in various fields.

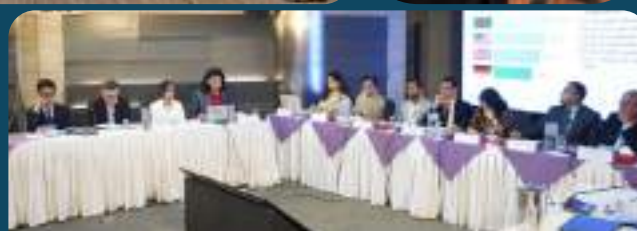
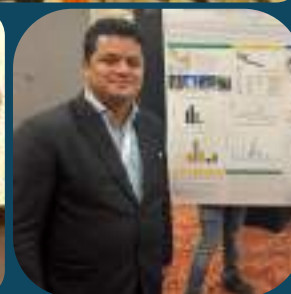
The seminar concluded with an interactive Q&A session, allowing participants to engage with Mr. Kundana Kumar Lal on the challenges and opportunities AI presents in today’s rapidly changing world. This seminar marked another milestone in fostering collaboration between academia and industry, reflecting NDRI’s commitment to promoting knowledge-sharing and innovation in Nepal.



Photo 34: Group photo after the programme

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH

NDRI actively engages in major national and international events, showcasing its commitment to collaboration and knowledge exchange. Through participation in these prominent platforms, NDRI strengthens its outreach and visibility globally. A few of these significant events are highlighted in this section.



NDRI Joins the Fight Against Tobacco on World No Tobacco Day 2025

As a part of the global movement for World No Tobacco Day 2025, NDRI's Tobacco Control Programme (TCP) participated in a series of impactful events on May 30 and 31, 2025, aligned with this year's WHO theme: "Unmasking the Appeal: Exposing Industry Tactics on Tobacco and Nicotine Products." This set a clear focus on how the tobacco and nicotine industry glamorised harmful products like e-cigarettes and vapes, attracting youth. Here's a glimpse into the events NDRI participated in:

► *Public Health Awareness Programme at Lalitpur Metropolitan City, Ward-2*

NDRI, in collaboration with Lalitpur Metropolitan City Ward No. 2, organised a Public Awareness Programme on the eve of World No Tobacco Day. During the event, Dr. Jaya Kumar Gurung, Project Lead of the Tobacco Control Programme, delivered an insightful presentation covering the role of local government in tobacco control, the tobacco



Photo 35: Dr. Jaya K. Gurung, Sr. Research Specialist presenting at ward no. 2

industry's youth-targeted marketing strategies, updates on tobacco taxation under Budget 2082, progress at municipal and rural levels, and the establishment of tobacco cessation help desks. The session was supported by Ms. Ashma Aryal (Outreach and Communication Officer) and Mr. Parashar Khadka (Research Associate), with a highly interactive audience including Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs) and Aama Samuha (local mothers' groups).

► *Celebration at NHTC*

On the occasion of World No Tobacco Day 2025, NDRI's team participated in a high-level national event organised by the National Health Education, Information & Communication Center (NHEICC) at the National Health Training Center (NHTC) in Kathmandu. The event brought together prominent figures in public health, including Dr. Rajesh Sambhajirao Pandav (WHO Representative to Nepal), Mr. Pradip Poudel (Minister of Health), Dr. Tara Singh Bam (Vital Strategies), Mr. Keshav Raj Pandit (Director, NHEICC), and representatives from key organisations like TAPAS Nepal and Baskar Tejashree Foundation.

A proud moment for the nation, Nepal was recognised as the first country in the world to achieve 100% implementation of Public Health Warnings (PHW) on tobacco products. In recognition of this significant milestone, Minister Poudel was honored by WHO Director General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus at a special ceremony in Geneva.

Further reinforcing national tobacco control efforts, the event also marked the official reactivation of the national Quitline (1132), a vital tool for supporting individuals seeking to quit tobacco. The celebration featured impactful presentations.

A creative highlight of the day was the Tobacco Awareness Video Competition, where Kantipur Dental College was announced as the winner for their compelling video titled “Youth Against Tobacco.” In his closing remarks, Dr. Pandav applauded Nepal’s leadership in tobacco control and stressed the urgency of addressing the tobacco industry’s growing influence over youth through glamorised marketing. Minister Poudel concluded the event by announcing the launch of a national “Healthy Nepal” initiative, reaffirming the government’s commitment to a tobacco-free and healthier future



Photo 36: Dr. Jaya K Gurung, with the government officials at the event

Glacial Lake Observatory for Flood Hazards Impacted by Changing Climate (GLO-FHICC)

Mr. Rajendra K. Shrestha, Research Associate, participated in a joint field trip to conduct field surveys with researchers from the University of Leeds, CEMAC, and the University of Calgary in the Khumbu region from 17 to 30 May 2025. The field trip is a part of the work on compilation and meta-analysis of global glacial lake bathymetry datasets in the Khumbu region, covering rivers, glacial lakes (Thame, Thengpo, Dig Tsho, Gokyo), and topography using drone and sonar technologies; identified two lakes in Thengpo as highly vulnerable to GLOFs. Community interviews were also conducted in Thame, focusing on past GLOF events and their impacts.

The Glacial lakes in High-Mountain Asia are rapidly expanding due to glacier retreat under climate change, increasing the risks of Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs). The GLO-FHICC project aims to establish a Glacial Lake Observatory (GLO) that integrates global datasets, field surveys, and modeling approaches to improve flood hazard assessment and support climate-resilient development pathways in Nepal and the wider region.



Photo 37: Bathymetric survey of a glacier lake



Photo 38: Glacial lakes in Gokyo

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), drones, multibeam and single-beam sonar were used for field-based lake and river surveys. Two Thengpo lakes were confirmed as high GLOF risk hotspots, requiring priority monitoring. The bathymetric survey revealed that the Thengpo lakes have depths of up to 25 meters, Dig Tsho reaches around 70 meters, and one of the supraglacial lakes in the Gokyo area was found to exceed 70 meters in depth. Future work on the project will be on the (i) application of remote sensing (Sentinel-1/2, Planet Scope, ICESat-2) for lake monitoring, (ii) development of machine learning models (SR-CNN, GANs, U-Net) for DEM enhancement and lake classification, and (iii) flood hazard modeling using Height Above Nearest Drainage (HAND) approach and 2D hydrodynamic simulations.

Regional Workshop Organised by AWO International 2025 ———

AWO International, in support of the Federal Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation (BMZ) in Germany and Alliance of German relief Organisations Aktion Deutschland Hilft (ADH), hosted the Partners Workshop 2025 on the 2nd and 3rd of May 2025, under the theme “Sharing and Learning Initiative.” This two-day event brought together senior executives and board members from partner organisations across Nepal, India, and Bangladesh, as well as key officials from AWO International headquarters and the Regional Office for South Asia (ROSA).

The workshop aimed to deepen collaboration, reflect on project achievements, and explore innovative strategies to address the evolving needs of communities across South Asia. The event emphasised a shared commitment to enhancing resilience, sustainable development, and



Photo 39: Dr. Krishna Pahari, NDRI President, presenting on the Migration Atlas of Nepal

inclusive growth through cross-border cooperation. The programme was graced with the presence of Mr. Benjamin Seidel, Charge d’Affaires a.i. and Head of Development Cooperation, German Embassy, Nepal, as Chief Guest. A highlight of the day was the presentation of the Migration Atlas of Nepal by Dr. Krishna Pahari, President of Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI), which offered valuable insights into migration trends shaping the country.

Over two days, partner representatives shared country-based experiences, from climate resilience in Odisha and well-being programmes in Kolkata to labour migration in Nepal and livelihood support in Bangladesh, highlighting AWO International’s impactful grassroots work. Day 2 focused on participatory strategic planning through tools like the Focused Conversation Method and Vision Workshops, enhancing facilitation skills for community- centered planning. The workshop concluded with reflections reinforcing a shared vision for a just, resilient, and empowered South Asia and stronger future partnerships.

Nepal National Glacier Water and Weather Week (NNGWWW) 2025

NDRI was one of the supporters of the NNGWWW 2025 for which NDRI Dr. Shikha Thapa Magar, Executive Director, participated in the inaugural ceremony, and Dr. Shankar Shrestha, Senior Research Specialist, participated in the First ‘National Water Conference’ in Kathmandu, organised by Water and Energy Commission Secretariat (WECS) of the Government of Nepal and National Federation of Irrigation Water Users’ Association, Nepal (NFIWUAN) on 22 – 23 March 2025.

Mr. Girish Raj Lamsal, Research Associate, made a presentation titled “Resilient Hydropower Development in the Face of Changing Cryosphere and Associated Hazards” on 21 March 2025 at the National Symposium on Cryosphere organised by Kathmandu University. The presentation is based on NDRI’s recent projects,

including the “Climate Resilient Guideline for Hydropower and Its Application in the Narayani Basin” for ICIMOD (NDRI, 2024).

In his presentation, Mr. Lamsal highlighted that while future temperatures are projected to rise, the extent remains highly uncertain under different Shared Socio-economic Pathways (SSPs). Precipitation projections are even more uncertain, with models showing both increases and decreases. He noted that climate change impacts water availability and energy generation in run-of-river (ROR) projects vary by catchment type, snow-dominated or rain-dominated. Higher-elevation (snow-dominated) catchments are expected to see increased winter and pre-monsoon energy, while lower-elevation (rain-dominated) catchments may experience declines. He emphasised that hazards such as GLOFs, permafrost degradation, LDOFs, and sediment flows pose major risks to hydropower projects, making risk assessment and mitigation essential. Mr. Lamsal concluded that future hydropower development must be climate-resilient to adapt to these uncertainties.



Photo 40: Dr. Shankar Shrestha, Sr. Research Specialist, NDRI, receiving the Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of NDRI



Photo 41: Mr. Girish Lamsal, RA, NDRI, presenting at the National Symposium on Cryosphere

MSME Project Team Presents Initial Findings to Local Governments

As a part of the IDRC-funded NDRI project “Promoting Innovation and Inclusion in Growth Potential Enterprises: Evidence from Nepal”, the research team from NDRI, including Prof. Dr. Raj Kumar Bhattarai (Principal Investigator) and Mr. Rajendra Khatri (Project Manager), attended pre-findings sharing sessions across three local governments in Dailekh, Kapilvastu, and Dang districts, at the request of the respective chairs. The sessions were held on January 19th, 21st, and 22nd, 2025, at the premises of Dullu Municipality in Dailekh, Banganga Municipality

in Kapilvastu, and Rapti Rural Municipality in Dang District, respectively. During the sessions, Mr. Khatri presented the key findings from the baseline and follow-up surveys of the project, highlighting insights and progress made to date.

In addition, Prof. Dr. Bhattarai utilised the occasion to deliver a presentation on a concept, RAJTHALI (Regional Action Junction for Trade and Heritage Linkage Advantage Initiative), which he is conceptualizing, to achieve the growth



Photo 42: Prof. Dr. Raj Kumar Bhattarai Presenting at the Dullu Municipality

of the MSME sector. The sessions were well attended by the municipality and rural municipalities' heads, ward chairpersons, academicians, journalists, and other representatives, who actively participated in the discussions. The session's conclusions were productive and insightful, where participants shared their perspectives, and the municipalities expressed a strong commitment to supporting the project's activities in the future.

CLARE Asia Workshop

CLARE – the UK-Canada framework research programme on Climate Adaptation and Resilience that aims to enable socially inclusive and sustainable action to build resilience to climate change and natural hazards for people across Africa and Asia-Pacific, hosted a workshop for partners in Asia from 6 to 8 October 2024 in Kathmandu, Nepal, in collaboration with ICIMOD and Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI). The workshop brought together leads of the multi-country CLARE projects, in collaboration between IDRC, FCDO, and Nepal-based research and capacity-strengthening organisations in the CLARE programme. NDRI is a part of the ECONOGENESIS project (1 of the 11 CLARE projects) team and was represented by Dr. Divas B. Basnyat (Project Lead) and Dr. Shankar Shrestha (then Executive Director and a Project Member).

After two days of internal discussions (October 6-7) focused on common themes and approaches, the CLARE, ICIMOD, and NDRI teams organised a targeted



Photo 43: Ms. Divya Subedi, RA, as the MC in the panel discussion



Photo 44: Mr. Girish Lamsal, RA, along with the participants during the event

exchange on October 8 with national and regional stakeholders, fostering collaboration between the CLARE community and climate policymakers and practitioners. The WCP ECONOGENESIS Project Team organised a panel discussion on “Climate Adaptation Needs and Climate Finance” in collaboration with ICIMOD as part of the CLARE regional workshop on 8 October 2024 at ICIMOD. The event was moderated by Ms. Blanche Butera, Paul Watkiss Associates, and the panelists were as Om Prakash Bhattarai, Under Secretary, Climate Finance Unit, Ministry of Finance, Nepal; Medinee Prajapati, Sustainability Officer, Global IME Bank, Nepal; Bedoshtruti Sadhukhan, Associate Director, ICLEI South Asia, and Vivek Sen, Climate Policy Initiative.

The panelists spoke on specific topics related to attracting climate finance to meet the adaptation finance gaps. The key questions discussed were: What kind of investments can make climate action sustainable and inclusive, particularly through a gender lens; how can local innovation and good practice be scaled and financed; what sort of partnerships are needed to facilitate climate action, and how can we develop an ecosystem for equitable access to climate finance?

Forty-ninth Biannual SANDEE Research and Training Workshop

Mr. Girish Raj Lamsal, Research Associate, participated in the 49th Biannual Research and Training Workshop organised by the South Asian Network for Development and Environmental Economics (SANDEE), held from 1 – 4 July 2025, in Sri Lanka. The event was supported by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development



Photo 45: Mr. Girish Lamsal, along with the participants during the event

(ICIMOD) as part of SANDEE's long-standing commitment to strengthening research capacity and academic leadership in South Asia. He presented the third progress report of NDRI's ongoing research titled "Economic Assessment of Ecosystem-based Adaptation for Flood Risk Management". The workshop provided a platform for SANDEE grantees to share research progress, receive expert feedback, and develop action plans for the next phase of their work. New grantees also presented proposals, which were reviewed by a panel of senior researchers. A key highlight of the event was the SANDEE-ICIMOD Karl-Göran Mäler Memorial Lecture, delivered on 1 July 2025, by Prof. Erin O. Sills, Edwin F. Conger Professor and Head of the Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources at North Carolina State University, USA. The workshop emphasised personalised mentoring, enabling participants like Mr. Lamsal to engage in constructive dialogue with peers and leading scholars. This approach continues to foster high-quality, policy-relevant research and strengthen the community of environmental economists across South Asia.

Innovative Facilitation Fellowship Programme Workshop in Sri Lanka

Ms. Shreya Bajimaya, Senior Research Associate at NDRI, participated in the Innovative Facilitation Fellowship Programme workshop held in Sri Lanka from 30 May to 4 June 2025. The fellowship, led by the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Center and the International Center for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) and funded by the CLARE programme, aims to strengthen facilitation capacities among academicians and practitioners. This workshop provided a rich learning environment to deepen facilitation skills, build team cohesion, and shape the trajectory of the fellowship. Ms. Bajimaya is part of the Asia cohort, which includes fellows from Bangladesh, the Philippines, and Nepal. The one-year fellowship includes a combination of virtual sessions and two in-person engagements.



Photo 46: Ms. Shreya Bajimaya, SRA, along with other participants at the event

Climate and Health Responder Course

On 4th June 2025, NDRI's Senior Research Specialist, Prof. Dr. Punya Prasad Regmi, participated as a distinguished speaker in Session 5 of the 11-week South and Southeast Asia Climate and Health Responder Course, organised by the Global Consortium on Climate and Health Education (GCCHE). The session was titled "Climate Extremes, Agriculture, and Food & Water Security."

In his presentation, Prof. Dr. Regmi shared valuable insights on who suffers most from climate change, especially in vulnerable communities. He discussed the impacts of climate extremes on agriculture, food, and water security in the context of South and Southeast Asia, and also in the context of Nepal.



Photo 47: Prof. Dr. Punya P. Regmi, Sr. Research Specialist, presenting virtually

International Conference on Climate and Development in China

Prof. Dr. Punya Prasad Regmi, Senior Research Specialist at NDRI, actively participated in two significant international events in late May and early June 2025. From May 31st to June 3rd, 2025, Prof. Dr. Regmi attended and presented a country paper at the 2025 International Conference on Quality Development and Co-Modernisation of Border Areas, held in Lanzhou, China, and organised by Northwest Minzu University (NWMU). The conference was a gathering of regional and international experts to discuss inclusive development and co-modernisation strategies in border regions. Prof. Dr. Regmi's presentation highlighted Nepal's experiences, challenges, and policy directions related to cross-border development, and cooperation. These presentations reflect NDRI's continued commitment to contributing to global discussions on climate resilience, sustainable development, and cross-border cooperation.



Photo 48: Prof. Dr. Punya P. Regmi, Sr. Research Specialist, delivering his presentation in China

E4I Workshop in Accra, Ghana.

As part of the IDRC Canada-funded project titled “Promoting Innovation and Inclusion in Growth Potential Enterprises: Evidence from Nepal,” the research team from Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI), along with an innovation agency representative, participated in the Evidence for Innovation (E4I) Workshop held in



Photo 49: A glimpse from the panel discussion session

Accra, Ghana, from May 25–27, 2025. The delegation included Prof. Dr. Raj Kumar Bhattarai (Principal Investigator) and Ms. Nirmita Shrestha (Research Associate) from NDRI, and Mr. Bishwo Mohan Adhikari, Executive Director of the Youth and Small Entrepreneur Self-Employment Fund under the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Government of Nepal, representing the innovation agency.

The workshop was hosted by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research–Science and Technology Policy Research Institute (CSIR STEPRI), Ghana, with the support of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). Prof. Dr. Bhattarai presented an overview of the project, its key findings, policy implications, and the way forward. Mr. Adhikari actively contributed to the fishbowl discussions, which focused on translating research into practice through enhanced innovation support programmes. The workshop brought together participants from all nine IDRC-funded E4I projects- seven from Africa and two from Asia. It also saw participation from innovation agency representatives from across the African continent, promoting cross-regional collaboration and providing researchers and policymakers with opportunities to engage in emerging innovation networks.

2- week Exposure Visit to India

A 2-week exposure visit to India was organised by NDRI from May 5, 2025, as a part of the IDRC Canada-supported experimental project “Promoting Innovation and Inclusion in Growth Potential Enterprises: Evidence from Nepal”. The visit involved 21 beneficiaries who were selected from various parts of Nepal, accompanied by the core project team, including Dr. Rabita Shrestha Mulmi (EDI Expert), Mr. Rajendra Khatri (Project Manager), and Ms. Nirmita Shrestha (Research Associate).

This programme was hosted in collaboration with the Foundation for MSME Clusters (FMC), New Delhi. FMC is working extensively across all states of India, promoting micro, small, and medium enterprise (MSME) development. The exposure visit aimed to strengthen the capacity of project beneficiaries, along with innovative technological adoption through peer learning and observation. In addition, the visit also provided an opportunity to enhance their knowledge and practical understanding through real-world exposure. The team observed similar businesses in different states of India, where they were encouraged to gain insights, adopt new ideas, and innovate within their own enterprises back in Nepal.



Photo 50: The team from Nepal heading to India for the knowledge sharing

The participants visited several key MSME clusters supported by FMC, State governments, and private firms in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, New Delhi, Rajasthan and Odisha which included Milk and Milk Products Processing Cluster, Haridwar, Center of excellence for sub-temperate horticulture and Khumba development project, Palampur, Department of Horticulture, Himachal Pradesh, Block printing, Rangottri Atelier, Jaipur, SFURTI project CFC Mayurbhanj, Odisha and many more.

Climate Adaptation and Resilience (CLARE) Exchange 2025 —

Ms. Shreya Bajimaya, Senior Research Associate, participated in the CLARE Exchange 2025 held in Lusaka, Zambia, from 6-9 May 2025. CLARE is a flagship research programme on climate adaptation and resilience, funded by UK Aid

through the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), and co-funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada. The CLARE Exchange Forum 2025 was the inaugural programme-wide in-person convening of the CLARE programme. The Forum brought together participants working on climate adaptation research across Africa and Asia, including researchers, policymakers, community representatives, and youth, to co-create programme-level narratives emerging from their work.



Photo 51: Exhibiting Group work on GESI

The programme aimed to provide an inclusive space for peer learning and collaboration among the wide range of individuals and institutions involved in CLARE-supported projects across and beyond the smaller working groups. Through participatory sessions, thematic workshops, and a field visit, the event emphasised integrating community knowledge and lived experience with cutting-edge research evidence to address climate vulnerabilities.

The three-day workshop, followed by a half-day field visit, was designed to deepen reflection and action around a central theme. It began by connecting participants within the CLARE community to build a shared understanding of progress, challenges, and approaches in areas such as capacity strengthening, GEI, monitoring and evaluation, and research for impact. Participants then explored emerging thematic threads to co-create impactful programme narratives through interdisciplinary exchange. The sessions also focused on reflecting upon the CLARE Theory of Change to identify opportunities for adaptive action. The workshop concluded with a field visit, allowing participants to engage with local realities and community-led adaptation efforts.

The Forum employed a range of creative facilitation techniques, storytelling approaches, and participatory methods to encourage open dialogue, collective analysis, and innovative thinking. It also served as a space for identifying strategic opportunities to amplify CLARE narratives at future global platforms such as Adaptation Futures 2025 and COP 2025.

Webinar Exploring Gender Responsive EbA Strategies

On April 3, 2025, the Global EbA Fund Secretariat, in partnership with the NDRI and Help Age International, organised a webinar titled “Mainstreaming Gender into Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA),” which aimed to emphasise the importance of gender integration in EbA and to showcase tools, approaches, and best practices for mainstreaming gender throughout the project cycle. Among the key speakers, Dr. Manjeshwori Singh, Senior Research Specialist and GESI Expert at NDRI, presented preliminary findings focused on the gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) components of the project “Mitigating

She emphasised that effective flood risk management requires recognizing how women, indigenous groups, and marginalised communities interact differently with riverine ecosystems and disproportionately experience the impacts of climate change. Other distinguished panelists, such as Jacqueline Siles Calvo, Senior Gender Programme Manager at IUCN, and Marcela Bustamante, Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean at HelpAge, contributed insights on rights-based conservation and the intersection of gender, age, and climate resilience. This webinar served as a crucial platform for sharing knowledge and best practices, paving the way for more equitable and effective climate adaptation solutions worldwide.

On 17 March 2025, Dr. Shankar Shrestha, Senior Research Specialist, and Ms. Shreya Bajimaya, Senior Research Associate of NDRI presented at a seminar on “Importance of Collaboration and Outreach in Research Project Development, Execution, and Dissemination to Master’s and PhD students and researchers



Photo 53: Dr. Shankar delivering his lecture at AIT

of the Water Engineering and Management (WEM) Programme at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Bangkok, Thailand. Dr. Shrestha provided an overview of NDRI's research focus, key collaborations, and ongoing projects. He emphasised the essential stages of research, from defining issues and research questions to execution and dissemination. He also highlighted the importance of teamwork, interdisciplinary collaboration, and networking in securing funding and maximizing real-world impact. Ms. Bajimaya presented case studies from NDRI's Water and Climate Programme (WCP),

highlighting how international partnerships have contributed to advancements in water management and disaster mitigation.

Global EbA Fund Learning Exchange and Networking Workshop

Ms. Shreya Bajimaya, Senior Research Associate, and Mr. Girish Lamsal, Research Associate at NDRI, participated in the four-day workshop (3-7 March 2025) organised in Bangkok, Thailand. The duo presented their work on "Mitigating flood risks through women's leadership in EbA intervention," highlighting the importance of participatory approaches in the co-creation of knowledge on EbA, implementation, uptake, and scalability as well.

Global EbA Fund is a catalytic funding mechanism that supports projects that aim to create enabling environments for the uptake and mainstreaming of EbA to climate change. As part of the Fund, activities to deliver a capacity development system for the grantees, the Learning Exchange and Networking Workshop was organised for the Asia-Pacific, which brought together the project teams with their diverse experience, to share their learning, and to strengthen the community of practice.



Photo 54: The workshop group during field visit

IMMRC 2025 International Conference

The IMMRC 2025 International Conference, held on 17–18 January 2025, brought together global leaders, academicians, and industry experts to discuss emerging trends and technological advancements driving innovation and sustainability for societal and business progress. The two-day event served as a dynamic platform for exchanging ideas, showcasing cutting-edge research, and exploring pathways toward a more sustainable and technologically empowered future.

Representing Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI), Dr. Nawa Raj Khatiwada, Senior Research Specialist, participated as a keynote speaker. In his address, Dr. Khatiwada offered valuable insights into the intersection of innovation, sustainable development, and evidence-based policy, highlighting the critical role of research in shaping resilient and future-ready societies. His contribution added significant depth to the conference discourse, emphasizing the importance of integrating scientific knowledge, technological progress, and inclusive development strategies.



Photo 55: Dr. Nawa Raj Khatiwada with other delegates from Nepal

The IMMRC 2025 conference reaffirmed its role as an influential forum for thought leaders and practitioners committed to advancing global progress. With contributions from experts like Dr. Khatiwada, the event successfully stimulated meaningful dialogue and inspired collaborative efforts toward a more innovative and sustainable world.

CLARE CS Hub Seasonal School 2025 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Ms. Sophiya Shrestha, Senior Research Assistant at NDRI, participated, as an Early Career Researcher (ECR) under the ECONOGENESIS project, in the CLARE Capacity Strengthening Hub (CS Hub) Seasonal School 2025 held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, from 24–28 February 2025. The event brought together ECRs from across CLARE projects to strengthen critical thinking, foster collaboration, and support professional development. The programme was organised by PAACTS

(PlanAdapt) and the African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS).

The five-day Seasonal School covered critical thinking in climate research, inclusivity, policy engagement, and impact, featuring an interactive poster session where Ms. Shrestha presented the ECONOGENESIS project. Participants received training on data collection methods and ethics, with field practice in Vingunguti, an informal settlement in Dar es Salaam, engaging with community leaders and observing locally led adaptation initiatives supported by the Centre for Community Initiatives (CCI). The programme also focused on knowledge brokering, innovative research dissemination through storytelling, and concluded with group presentations of mini projects showcasing applied research and interdisciplinary collaboration.



Photo 56: Ms. Sophiya Shrestha, Sr. Research Assistant, pitching her idea on participatory GIS survey methodology

International Symposium on Ecological Environmental Protection and the Development of Green and Low-Carbon Economy in China



Photo 57: Prof. Dr. Punya P. Regmi delivering his lecture

Prof. Dr. Punya Prasad Regmi, Senior Research Specialist of NDRI, participated as an invited speaker in the International Symposium on Ecological Environmental Protection and the Development of Green and Low-Carbon Economy in China, which was held on 7 December 2024. This symposium was hosted by Southwest Minzu University, Wuhou District, Chengdu, Sichuan,

and Chengdu International Studies University, and organised by the School of Economics, Southwest Minzu University, Business School, Southwest Minzu University, and Sichuan Finance Society Ethnic Region Finance Special Committee.

Prof. Regmi made a presentation on 'Ecological Environmental Protection and Green Low Carbon Economic Development'. He took this opportunity to initiate possible collaborations between South West Minzu University and NDRI.

The International Bamboo Conference

Ms. Nirmita Shrestha, Research Associate at NDRI, participated in the International Conference on "Just Transition to Net Zero- Role of Bamboo in the SAARC Region," held on 17th December 2024 in New Delhi. The event, organised by the Foundation for MSME Clusters (FMC), brought together policymakers, industry leaders, financial institutions, researchers, and artisans to explore the role of bamboo as a tool for sustainable



Photo 58: Ms. Nirmita Shrestha, RA, delivering her presentation at the conference

development across SAARC countries. Ms. Shrestha contributed to the conference with her presentation titled "Opportunities and Challenges for Bamboo- Based Enterprises: Case Studies from Nepal". She highlighted the challenges like inadequate infrastructure faced by bamboo enterprises, proposed actionable solutions, and emphasised the urgent need to support and promote bamboo-based businesses for sustainable growth. The conference marked an important step in fostering regional collaboration and advancing the role of bamboo in achieving net-zero goals in the SAARC region.

Regional Consultation on Innovative Ideas and Knowledge Sharing

NDRI participated in the Regional Consultation on Innovative Ideas and Knowledge Sharing, organised by the Centre for Policy Dialogue, Bangladesh, in collaboration with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Held on December 14, 2024, in Kathmandu, the event brought together experts from South Asia and

Southeast Asia (representing think tanks, universities, bilateral and multilateral development partners, etc.) to discuss critical themes such as Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation; and Universal Health Coverage (UHC), among others. Representing NDRI were Dr. Shankar Shrestha, Senior Research Specialist, and Mr. Kamal Chaulagain, Research Associate, who presented as Panelists in the sessions on “Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Efforts in South Asia and Southeast Asia” and “Regional Cooperation and Knowledge Sharing in UHC System” respectively.



Photo 59: Dr. Shankar Shrestha and Mr. Kamal Chaulagain as Panelists

In his presentation, Dr. Shrestha highlighted the sustainable agricultural practices currently being implemented in South Asia and Southeast Asia to adapt to the impacts of climate change and their effectiveness. He also emphasised the key barriers to adopting climate- resilient agricultural practices and the ways to address them.

Mr. Kamal Chaulagain focused on the barriers to achieving UHC in the region, highlighting challenges such as insufficient healthcare financing, workforce shortages, and the rising burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs). He recommended practical solutions, including increasing health investments, expanding telemedicine services, and strengthening collaboration between public and private sectors to create an equitable and inclusive health system.

Strengthening Regional Collaboration for MSME Growth and Innovation

On December 5-7, 2024, the NDRI team represented by Dr. Shankar Shrestha (Senior Research Specialist), Prof. Dr. Raj Kumar Bhattarai (Senior Research Specialist / Principal Investigator) and Mr. Rajendra Khatri (Senior Research Associate / Project Manager) visited New Delhi, India for a meetings with IDRC, New Delhi Regional Office-based team as well as the Foundation for MSME

Clusters (FMC) team (New Delhi Head Office-based) as part of the project “Promoting Innovation and Inclusion on Growth Potential Enterprises: Evidence from Nepal,” funded by IDRC-Canada. The meeting with the IDRC team focused on discussions on further increasing the productivity of the project outputs, and soon, the exposure visit of the project beneficiaries (entrepreneurs/MSMEs) to India next month.

The meeting with the FMC team focused on exploring opportunities for organizing exposure visits of selected Nepalese entrepreneurs/MSMEs (project beneficiaries) next month to the relevant sites throughout India to learn from the successful stories of India’s entrepreneurs/MSMEs. The FMC team has expressed a strong willingness to support the initiative, emphasizing their commitment to facilitating linkages between entrepreneurs from Nepal and India.



Photo 60: NDRI Team with FMC team

This collaboration aims to create valuable opportunities for knowledge exchange, capacity building, and fostering innovation, ultimately strengthening the MSME ecosystem in both countries and paving the way for mutual growth and development.

SHERPA Project Highlighted at Ministerial Conference in Vienna, Austria

The project entitled “Feasibility Study on Cold Plasma Technology in Agriculture, Healthcare, and Other Sectors in Nepal” (SHERPA), led by Dr. Jaya Kumar Gurung, Senior Research Specialist at NDRI gained international attention during the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science, Technology, and Applications and the Technical Cooperation Programme, held from November 26–28, 2024 at the Vienna International Centre (VIC), Austria. Dr. Gurung was invited to share insights about the SHERPA project and its transformative potential for Nepal’s development.

In his presentation, Dr. Gurung detailed the SHERPA initiative and its implications for leveraging nuclear science and technology (NST) to address socio-economic

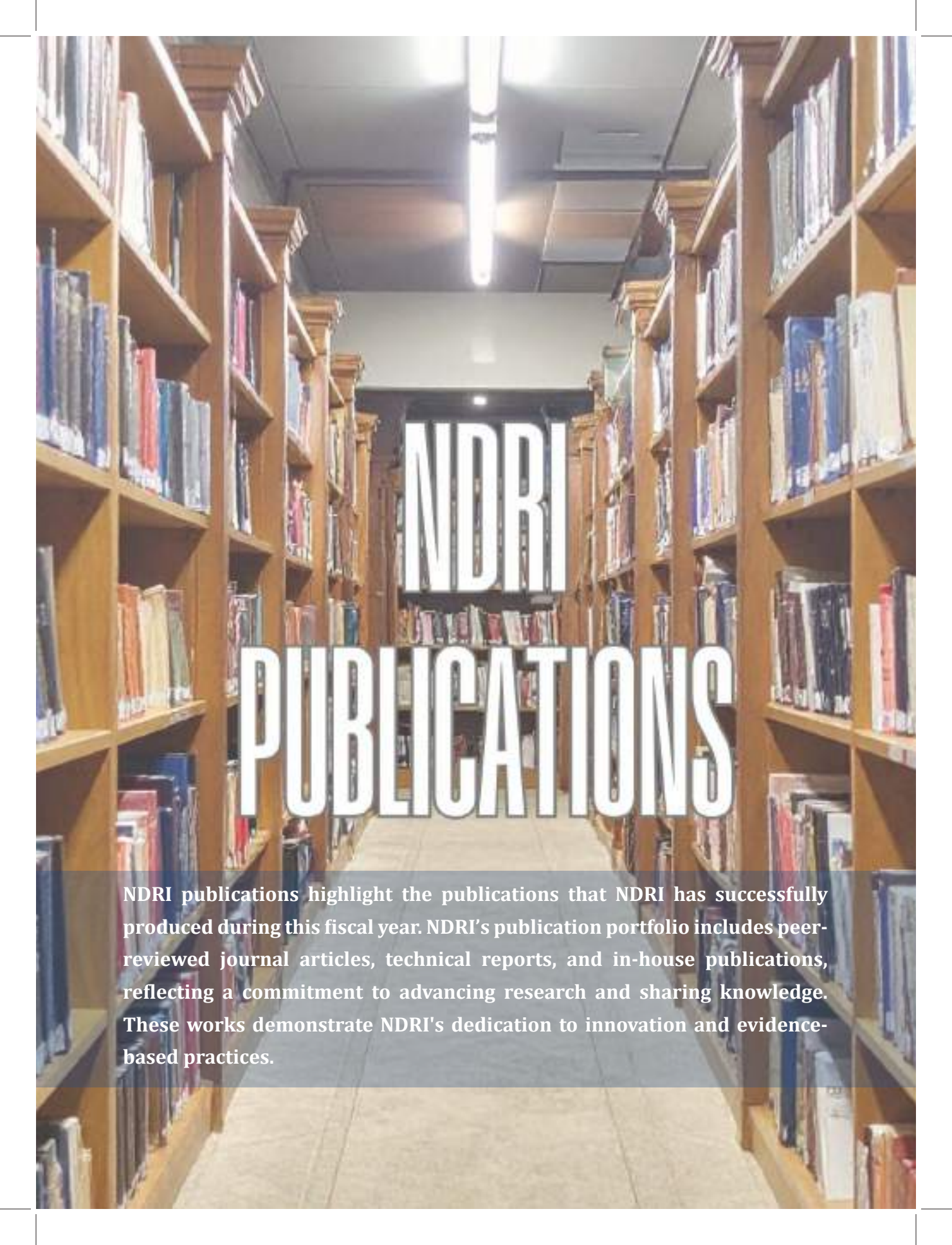
challenges in Nepal. The conference also featured remarks from Mr. Bishwo Babu Pudasaini, Secretary of Nepal's Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology (MoEST), who underscored Nepal's strong commitment to collaborating with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in advancing development efforts. His Excellency Mr. Bharat Kumar Regmi, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations and other international organisations in Vienna, extended his appreciation to both the Nepalese and U.S. teams working on the SHERPA initiative.



Photo 61: Dr. Jaya K. Gurung, Sr. Research Specialist, representing Nepal at the Ministerial Conference in Vienna

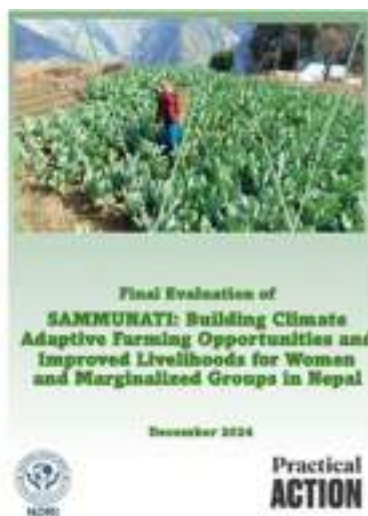
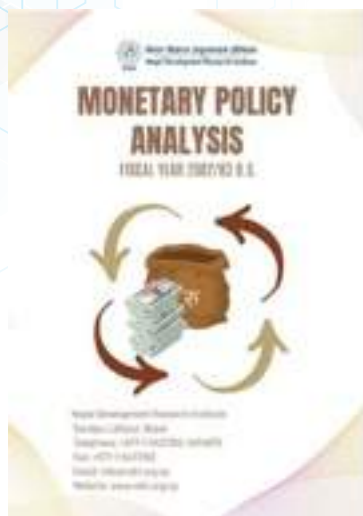
He encouraged further collaboration and offered the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' support in facilitating the project's progress. For Dr. Gurung, the conference was a profound learning experience. He observed how NST is driving socio-economic transformation in other countries, with innovative approaches such as public-private partnerships (PPP) and regional cooperation playing pivotal roles. He stressed that Nepal must actively seek opportunities to adopt similar models and benefit from the IAEA's technical support for capacity development. Additionally, he highlighted the importance of drawing lessons from international best practices to establish e-beam technology in Nepal, a vital step in enhancing the country's

technological capabilities. During the conference, Dr. Gurung also met with key U.S. diplomats, including Ambassador Bonnie Jenkins, U.S. Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security, and Ambassador Laura Holgate, U.S. Permanent Representative to the IAEA and UN offices in Vienna. These interactions underscored Nepal's alignment with global commitments under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and its aspirations to use NST for peaceful and developmental purposes.



NDRI PUBLICATIONS

NDRI publications highlight the publications that NDRI has successfully produced during this fiscal year. NDRI's publication portfolio includes peer-reviewed journal articles, technical reports, and in-house publications, reflecting a commitment to advancing research and sharing knowledge. These works demonstrate NDRI's dedication to innovation and evidence-based practices.



NDRI MEMBERS & STAFF

Executive Committee Members



General Members



RESEARCHERS

 Dr. Shikha Thapa Magar Executive Director		
 Mr. Rajendra Khatri Sr. Research Associate	 Ms. Shreya Bajimaya Sr. Research Associate	 Ms. Akriti Sharma Research Associate
 Ms. Anjana Lamichhane Research Associate	 Ms. Binita Shahi Research Associate	 Mr. Daya Shrestha Research Associate
 Mr. Girish Lamsal Research Associate	 Ms. Kabita Yadav Research Associate	 Mr. Kamal Chaulagain Research Associate
 Ms. Nirmita Shrestha Research Associate	 Mr. Parashar Khadka Research Associate	 Mr. Pramit Ghimire Research Associate
 Mr. Rajendra K. Shrestha Research Associate	 Mr. Ram Prasad Devkota Research Associate	 Ms. Salisha Raila Research Associate
 Ms. Sophiya Shrestha Sr. Research Assistant	 Ms. Dikshya Barasaini Research Assistant	 Mr. Anuj Dhakal Research Assistant

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

 Ms. Deepa Luintel Admin and Finance Officer	 Ms. Ashma Aryal Outreach and Communication Officer
 Mr. Prabin Shreshta IT Officer	
 Mr. Shekhar Lamichhane Admin and Finance Assistant	 Ms. Seetal Luitel Assistant Administrative Officer

SUPPORT STAFF

 Ms. Sarita Chaudhary Kitchen Staff	
 Mr. Bishnu Kumar Baniya Security Guard	 Mr. Kumar Kandel Security Guard



Quality Policy

NDRI is to provide that it always meets or exceeds quality objectives and customer requirements, based on the following precepts:

- ☐ Customer requirements are collected effectively to ensure that NDRI is capable of achieving its requirements.
- ☐ Interested parties' requirements are also clearly understood so that our products and services can be delivered in a timely and professional manner.
- ☐ All processes employed by NDRI to deliver services are determined, resourced appropriately, documented, monitored, and measured to ensure its objectives and any statutory and regulatory requirements.
- ☐ All NDRI employees are competent in their areas of work through academic achievements, training, and experience, where appropriate.
- ☐ The QMS is an integral part of our process management, and NDRI has established a Quality Management System (QMS) in line with the requirements of the ISO 9001:2015 Standard.
- ☐ NDRI top management is dedicated to evaluating risks and opportunities throughout the process of service AND its continual improvement by evaluating, monitoring, and measuring the performance of the QMS and customer satisfaction.



Shikha Thapa Magar, PhD
Executive Director

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Accounting System:

Nepal Development Research Institute has been following a systematic accounting system and record keeping, which has led the organisation to achieve the desired output. The reliable system for collecting, recording, and reporting financial transactions is followed by the organisation. The accounting procedures, therefore, permit a direct reconciliation of the costs and revenue declared in respect to the different programmes/projects with the corresponding supporting documents. NDRI believes in producing outstanding results with a proper accounting system. The accounts of NDRI are maintained in accordance with Nepal Accounting Standards. Financial and administrative laws and bylaws developed by the institute are in practice as per requirements.

Auditing of the Organisation:

The internal audit of the organisation is carried out on a timely basis to check the financial accuracy of the organisation. This is done for the purpose of daily monitoring and evaluation of activities on whether the financial activities of the organisation are managed as per the organisational and legal requirements or not. Regular financial auditing is done by an accredited firm that is endorsed by the General Assembly Meeting.

Process for International Standard ISO 9001:2015

Nepal Development Research Institute has also initiated the process for international standardisation of ISO 9001:2015, which is the most popular and most commonly used standard for quality management systems. With this approach, NDRI is trying to establish a system of quality control and quality management designed to ensure that the firm and its personnel comply with professional standards and regulatory and legal requirements. It aims to enhance customer satisfaction through the effective application of the system, including processes for improvement of the system and the assurance of conformity to customer and applicable statutory and regulatory requirements.

Financial Capacity:

The Financial functions of the organisation are performed by a separate “Finance” department led by an Admin and Finance Officer with a supporting Admin and Finance assistant. The Admin and Finance Officer is responsible for the preparation of consolidated financial statements as well as managing daily financial and administrative functions. NDRI has transitioned from the previously applied Nepal Accounting Standards (Previous GAAP) to the Nepal Accounting Standard for Not-for-Profit Organisations (NAS for NPOs) since the last fiscal year 2080.81. The statements are checked by the treasurer and finally approved by the Executive Director. If there are any changes in the statement, it needs to be approved by the Executive Committee. The financial statements of the organisation include a Balance Sheet, Income Statement, Cash Flow Statement, Statement of Changes in Equity, and Notes to the Financial Statements. There is a policy of formulating the annual plans and budget of the institute, implementing them transparently and effectively, and running its financial activities pursuant to the prevailing laws.

PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

We gratefully acknowledge the support and collaboration of the following institutions:

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES		
Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC)	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MOALD)	National Health Research Council (NHRC)
Agriculture Information and Communication Centre (AICC)	Ministry of Communication and Information Technology	National Planning Commission (NPC)
Center for Education and Human Resource Development (CEHRD)	Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology (MOEST)	Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST)
Department of Agriculture (DOA)	Ministry of Finance (MOF)	Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC)
Policy Research Institute	Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MOFALD)	National Statistics Office (NSO)
Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM)	Ministry of Industry, Commerce, and Supply (MOICS)	Social Welfare Council (SWC)
Karnali Province Planning Commission	Ministry of Population and Environment (MOPE)	Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation (MoEWRI)
Lalitpur Metropolitan City (LMC)	Ministry of Social Development Karnali Province	Youth and Small Entrepreneur Self-Employment Fund (YSEF)

ACADEMIA		
Tribhuvan University (TU)	Kathmandu University (KU)	Asian Institute of Technology (AIT)
Department of Human Ecology (HUMECO), University of Tokyo	Kansas State University	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
University of Edinburgh	Cornell University	University of Massachusetts
Western Sydney University	Nepal Open University	

DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC)	Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN)	Asian Development Bank (ADB)
Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI)	AWO International	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany
Cancer Research UK (CRUK)	Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Dhaka	Climate Change. Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS)
Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (CCSAP)	Climate and Development Network (CDKN)	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)
Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)	International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)	Department For International Development (DFID)
Department of Human Ecology University	Danish Hydraulic Institution (DHI)	Emergency Response and Disaster Management Plan (ERDMP)
Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)	Frost and Sullivan (F&S)	Global Climate Adaptation Partnership (GCAP)
Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF)	Good Neighbors International	Green Climate Fund (GCF)
Helen Keller International (HK)	Habitat for Humanity Nepal	International Centre for Water Hazard (ICHARM)
Ipas Nepal	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)	International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada	International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)	Institute for Global Environment Strategies (IGES)
International Labour Organisation (ILO)	Kangbuk Samsung Hospital	Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)
Kivu International	Mercy Corps Nepal	Mott MacDonald
Norwegian Embassy	OXFAM Nepal	Plan Nepal

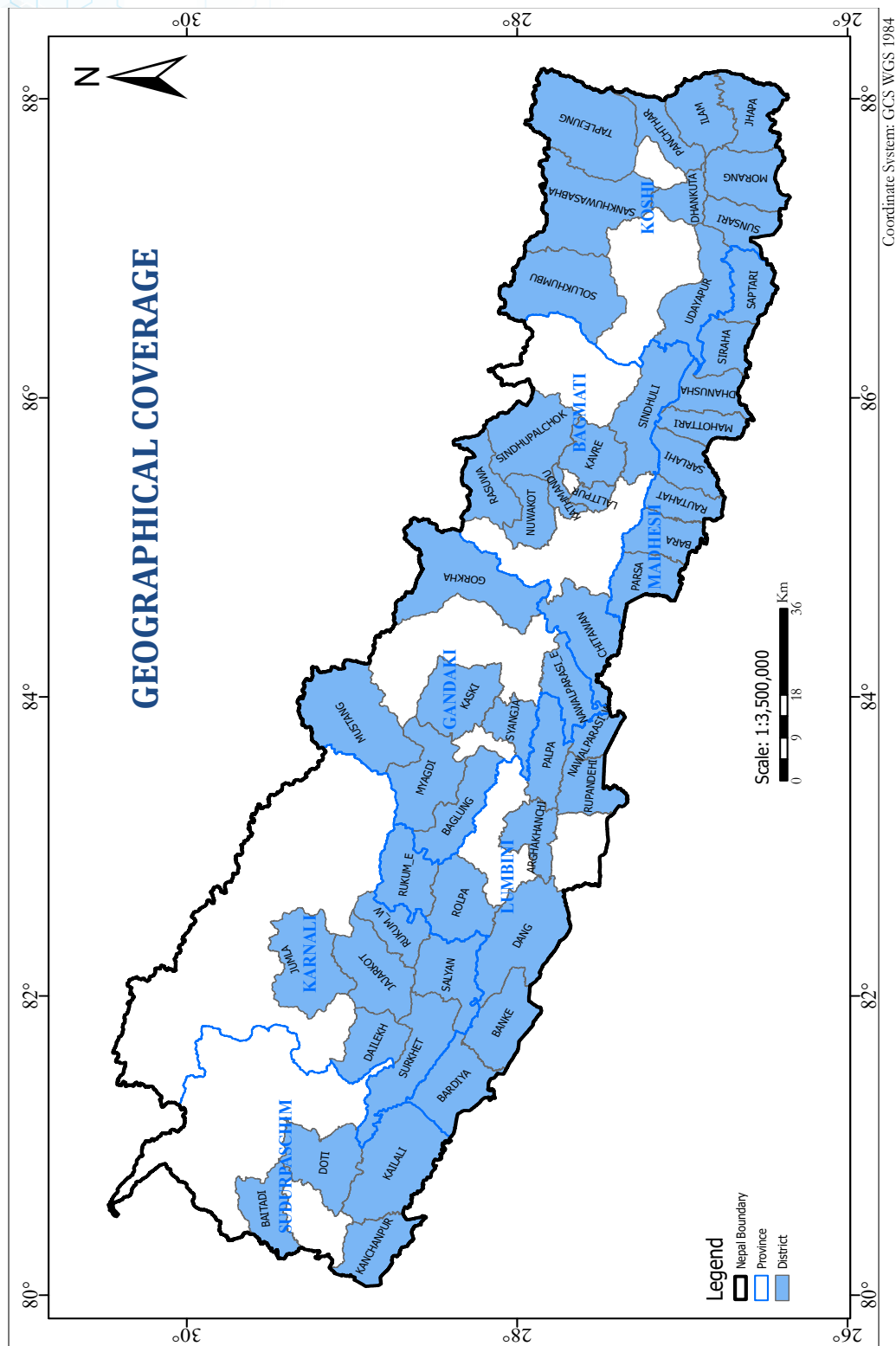
Planete Enfants & Development (PE&D)	Practical Action Nepal	SAMARTH
Project for Agricultural Commercialisation & Trade Nepal (PACT)	PSI Nepal	SOS Children's Villages Nepal
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	Save The Children	Swiss Contact Nepal
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)	United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)
UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	UN Women
Vitti Research Foundation	United Nations Resident Coordinator Office (UNRCO)	United States Forest Service (USFS)
The World Bank	United States Agency for International Development (USAID)	Welt Hunger Hilfe (WHH)
WWF Nepal	Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO)	World Health Organisation (WHO)
World Food Programme (WFP)		

PRIVATE ORGANISATIONS

Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI)	Danish Hydraulic Institute (DHI)	ITECO Nepal
Federation of Nepali Cottage and. Small Industries (FNCSI)	Fullbright consultants	Oriental Consults, Japan

National NGOs, Think Tanks and Civil Society

Resources Himalaya Foundation	Small Earth Nepal	Nepal JSPS Alumni Association (NJAA)
Japan University Alumni Association in Nepal (JUAAN)	Nepal Red Cross Society	Nepal CRS Company
Prakriti Resources Centre (PRC)	Street Child of Nepal	



Map 7: Map showing geographical coverage of NDRI's research activities in the fiscal year 2024/25

Policy Award 2081: A recognition of NDRI's achievement

At a high-level event on 26 September 2024, NDRI was presented with the prestigious PRI Award (Niti Samman 2081). This was in recognition of NDRI's contributions to Nepal's policy research ecosystem and evidence-based policy making through rigorous research, constructive feedback, policy advocacy, and capacity-building across diverse policy areas. NDRI President, Dr. Krishna Pahari, on behalf of NDRI, received the Niti Samman 2081 from the Right Honourable Speaker of the House of Representatives, Mr. Devraj Ghimire, who was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

The 'Niti Samman 2081' is a reflection of NDRI's commitment to advancing public policy through quality research, critical analysis, and active engagement with policymakers. Over the years, NDRI has contributed to various policy areas, including Food Security, Tobacco Taxation Policy, Railway Development, Enterprise Development, Water Resource Management, Education, Disaster Management, and GESI, providing evidence-based recommendations to shape sound policies for social advancement.

This recognition is a collective achievement of the entire NDRI team, including staff, members, associated experts, and alumni. We are grateful to our partners, collaborators, and well-wishers for their continued support in this journey for the greater benefit of our society at large through research and advocacy for shaping evidence-based policies.

We believe the Niti Samman is not just an award; it is a national acknowledgment of excellence in policy research and advocacy. This recognition strengthens our resolve to continue bridging research and policy for a more inclusive, resilient, and prosperous Nepal.



Photo 62: Dr. Krishna Pahari, President, NDRI, receiving the prestigious award on behalf of NDRI



Photo 63: picture of the certificate received by NDRI



NDRI



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