नेपाल विकास अनुसन्धान प्रतिष्ठान
Nepal Development Research Institute
NDRI

SEPTEMBER 15TH- SEPTEMBER 28TH2026

WEEKLY ECHOES OF NDRI

VOLUME 263 & 264



Participants of the Workshop on Sustainable and Inclusive Spring (Muhan) Management

NDRI is an independent, non-partisan, and non-profit institution dedicated to addressing contemporary an emerging policy challenges and to influencing public policy through research.

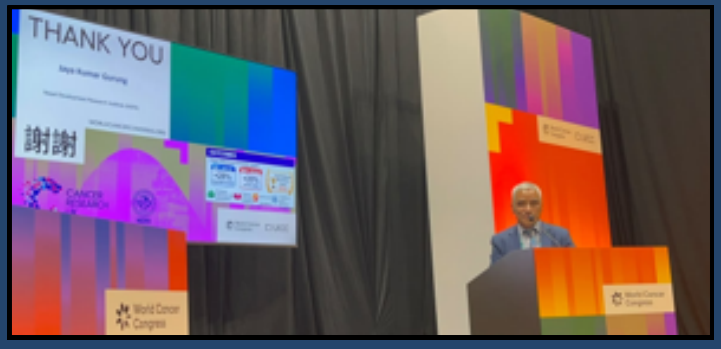
HEADLINES FEATURED IN THIS EDITION

- NDRI participates in **World Cancer Congress 2026**
- NDRI Water and Climate Program Lead, **Dr Divas B. Basnyat, visits South Asian University**
- NDRI participates in **Workshop on sustainable and inclusive spring (Muhan) management**
- NDRI Water and Climate Program Lead, **Dr. Divas B. Basnyat, visits National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee, India**
- NDRI welcomes **new member** in the team

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NDRI participates in World Cancer Congress 2026

Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI) participated in the World Cancer Congress (WCC) 2026, organised by the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) in collaboration with the Hong Kong Anti-Cancer Society, from 24 to 26 September 2026 in Hong Kong. The Congress brought together more than 2,500 participants from over 120 countries, representing a broad spectrum of disciplines, including cancer control, public health, research, clinical medicine, policy, civil society and advocacy. The event featured over 300 sessions, including plenary discussions, parallel sessions and specialised side events, providing a global platform for knowledge exchange and collaboration in cancer control.



Dr. Jaya Kumar Gurung, Coordinator of NDRI's Tobacco Control Program presenting at World Cancer Congress 2026

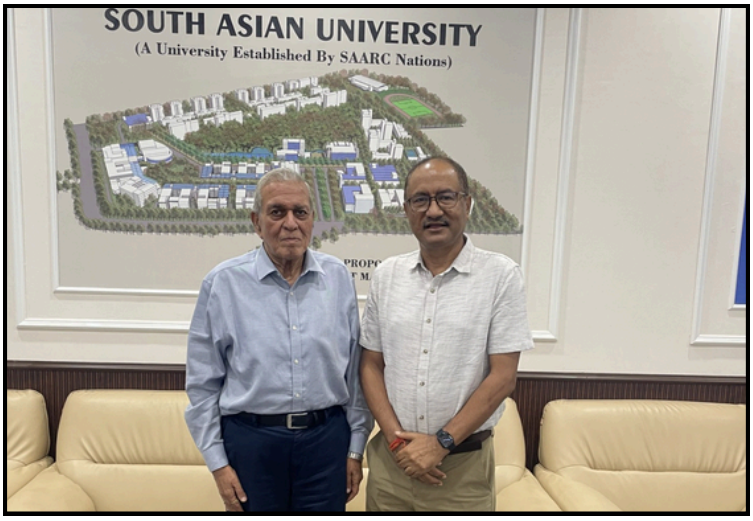
Dr. Jaya Kumar Gurung, Coordinator of NDRI's Tobacco Control Program, represented NDRI at the Congress and presented "From Evidence to Action," highlighting Nepal's efforts to translate research into policy and advocacy to counter tobacco industry interference.

During the World Cancer Congress 2026, Dr. Gurung engaged with international researchers, tobacco-control advocates, public health professionals and development partners, providing opportunities to exchange knowledge, learn from global practices and strengthen NDRI's professional network. Dr. Gurung also held a courtesy meeting with Alexander Wright, Head of Global Policy and Programmes at Cancer Research UK (CRUK), to discuss NDRI's ongoing tobacco-control initiatives and collaboration. NDRI's participation was fully supported by CRUK. NDRI appreciates CRUK's support and remains committed to advancing tobacco-control research and policy advocacy in Nepal.

"THE MEASURE OF INTELLIGENCE IS THE ABILITY TO CHANGE."
— ALBERT EINSTEIN

NDRI Water and Climate Program Lead, Dr Divas B. Basnyat, visits South Asian University

Dr. Divas B. Basnyat, Lead of the Water and Climate Program at NDRI, visited South Asian University (SAU) in New Delhi on 21 September 2026. During the visit, he met with Prof. K. K. Aggarwal, President of South Asian University; Prof. Pooran C. Pandey, Director of the Centre of Excellence on Climate Change, Green Transition and Sustainability; and Dr. Medha Bisht, Associate Professor (SG) in the Department of International Relations, Faculty of International Studies. It may be recalled that Prof. Aggarwal delivered a keynote lecture on the theme "Changing Landscape of Educational Philosophy and Learning in the Digital Age" at NDRI's 23rd Annual Day, held on 23rd Ashar 2083. During the meeting, Prof. Aggarwal reiterated the opportunities for SAU and NDRI to work together on collaborative research and outreach activities of mutual interest. Dr, Basnyat, on behalf of NDRI, expressed his gratitude to Prof. Aggarwal for the kind support extended to NDRI by delivering the Annual Lecture and offering to support NDRI on joint research or other activities.



Dr. Divas B. Basnyat, Lead of the Water and Climate Program at NDRI meets Prof. K. K. Aggarwal, President of South Asian University

Prof. Pooran C. Pandey, Dr. Medha Bisht, and Dr. Divas B. Basnyat discussed potential collaboration between SAU and NDRI on climate change, water and disaster governance, diplomacy, joint research, knowledge sharing, and short courses. The visit also opened avenues for joint research and exchange programs, with a focus on learning from emerging climate-related disasters in the Hindu Kush Himalaya region.

NDRI participates in workshop on sustainable and inclusive spring (Muhan) management

Kamalamai Municipality and the ACIAR-funded Muhan project jointly organized a stakeholder interaction workshop on sustainable and inclusive spring (Muhan) management at Hotel Sindhuli Inn, Kamalamai on Sindhuli, 23 September 2026.

The workshop brought together representatives from ward, municipal focal persons, the Division Forest Office, the Resilient Churia Project, and partner organizations including SIAS, NDRI, NWCF and MaWRiN. Shreya Bajimaya, Senior Research Associate, Rajendra Kumar Shrestha, Research Associate and Garima Bindari, Consultant Research Associate from NDRI participated in the workshop.



Ms. Garima Bindari, Consultant Research Associate presenting the hydrogeological assessment of springs in Kamalamai

From NDRI, Garima Bindari presented the hydrogeological assessment of springs in Kamalamai, with a focused discussion on Gwang Khola and Rajendra Kumar Shrestha shared the concept on water accounting in the Gwang Khola watershed. A local task force was formed to coordinate spring management work in the municipality.



Mr. Rajendra Kumar Shrestha, Research Associate presenting concept on water accounting in the Gwang Khola watershed

On 24 September, the team met the Division Forest Office, Marin, to discuss water-use policies, spring management, water users' rights, and groundwater recharge initiatives. On 25 September, the team met Bagmati Province officials in Hetauda to share the Muhan Project's progress on spring management and discuss future collaboration.

NDRI Water and Climate Program Lead, Dr. Divas B. Basnyat, Visits National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee, India

Dr. Divas B. Basnyat, Lead of the Water and Climate Program at NDRI, visited the National Institute of Hydrology (NIH), Roorkee, India, on 23 September 2026. NIH is a collaborating partner in the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) and Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), Australia-funded Springwater Management, Agriculture, and Resilient Livelihoods in the Midhills of Nepal (Muhan) project.



Dr. Divas B. Basnyat, Lead of the Water and Climate Program, NDRI with Dr. Sumant and NIH colleagues

NDRI is conducting isotope analysis of rainfall, spring, and surface water samples from Kamalamai Municipality and Sunkoshi Rural Municipality, Sindhuli, to understand spring recharge sources, elevation, and water age. Dr. Basnyat discussed the progress with Dr. Sumant Kumar and the NIH team and visited laboratories for soil water, water quality, and nuclear hydrology. The visit also explored future collaboration between NDRI and NIH under the Muhan Project and proposed groundwater management initiatives.

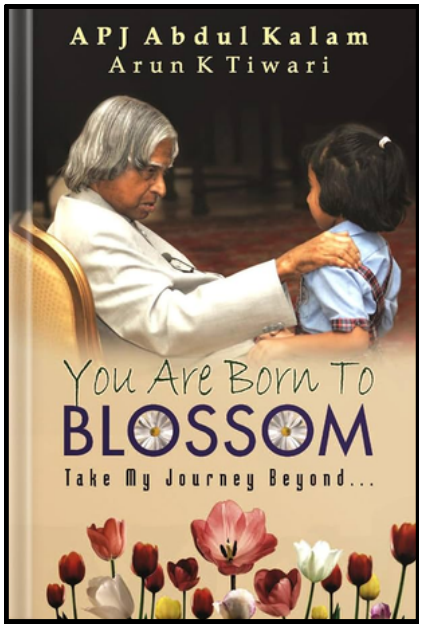
NDRI welcomes new member in the team



Let's welcome
Ms. Ruma Maharajan as an Admin and Finance Assistant



Dr. Jaya Kumar Gurung, Coordinator of NDRI's Tobacco Control Program, represented NDRI at the World Cancer Congress 2026, WCC



BOOK RECOMMENDATION

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

"The best solutions begin with listening, learning, and understanding."

NEWSLETTER EDITORS

KAREENA NEPALI
OUTREACH & COMMUNICATION ASSISTANT

SHIKHA THAPA MAGAR, PHD
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Dr. Divas B. Basnyat meets Prof. Pooran C. Pandey, Director of the Centre of Excellence on Climate Change, Green Transition and Sustainability; and Dr. Medha Bisht, Associate Professor (SG) in the Department of International Relations, Faculty of International Studies, SAU