

Sustained Dialogue Kick-off the prospect of Ionization Technology in Nepal

Honorable Member of Parliament, Mr. Devendra Paudel, Former Minister of Science and Technology (MoEST), in the presence of some Members of Parliament, stressed the imperative of linking scientific research with



peace and development in a program held on 2 February 2024 as part of a consultation. The consultative meeting was facilitated by the Nepal Development Research Institute in coordination with the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology (MoEST). In the consultative meeting, a team of experts from the United States, including the US Department of State, UK Department of Energy Security & Net Zero, US Agency for International Development, Texas A&M University, and Kansas State University, was invited. The aim of the consultative meeting was to explore the prospects of ionizing technology in Nepal, particularly in food safety and security. The consultative meeting involved a diverse range of stakeholders, including the MoEST, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MoALD), Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP), Nepal Academic Science and Technology (NAST), National Planning Commission (NPC), Nepal Agriculture Research Council (NARC), Department of Food Technology & Quality Control (DFTQC), Tribhuvan University (TU), Nepal Food Science Technology Association (NEFOSTA), Federation of Nepalese Chambers and Commerce & Industry (FNCCI), Nepal Chamber of Commerce (NCC), Bhabhateni Supermarket and Department Store, Big Mart, Valley Cold Store, Nepal Dairy, and a few other private sector companies. The team met key individuals from these institutions to understand their perspectives, level of comprehension regarding the technology, interest, and commitment.



The consultative meeting generated enthusiasm among key stakeholders, particularly those already engaged in research on e-beam-related subjects and applications.

This meeting not only encouraged and sparked enthusiasm but also made them feel acknowledged, fostering a desire for collaboration.

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Furthermore, the consultative meeting informed key stakeholders about the technology and implanted enthusiasm for its prospects, particularly among private sectors and Members of Parliament (MPs).

The consultative meeting successfully educated many individuals within the government, transforming their conventional mindset from hesitance towards Nuclear Science and Technology to embracing modern e-beam



technology that would directly contribute to the socioeconomic development of Nepal.

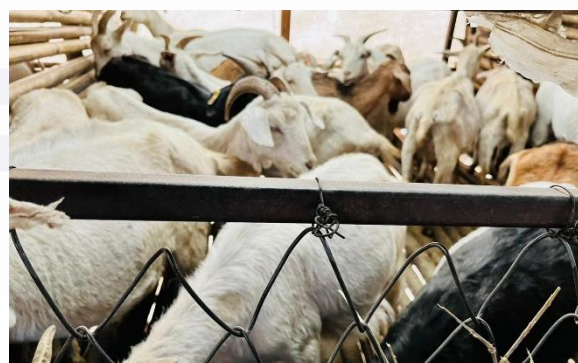
The consultative meeting started at Hotel Himalaya with representatives of all those stakeholders on 29 January 2024. Dr. Shankar Shrestha, Executive Director, NDRI, shared on behalf of NDRI and its role in facilitation. Dr. Krishna Pahari, President, NDRI, gave a deliberation on the Food Security situation of Nepal and the prospects of this technology in reducing post-harvest loss in Nepal.

The entire consultation meeting was conducted by NDRI coordinated by Dr. Jaya Kumar Gurung, Senior Research Specialist, NDRI. The meeting concluded with the idea of conducting a Feasibility Study of Ionization Technology in Nepal focusing on food security.

Addressing the closing session of the meeting, Pramila Devi Bajracharya, Secretary, MoEST, thanked all the key stakeholders from Nepal and distinguished guests from the US and UK for the successful completion of the consultation. She further advised conducting the feasibility study and expressed the commitment to cooperation on behalf of the MoEST.

Case Study on Growth Potential Enterprises around Nepal

The IDRC project team from NDRI conducted a nationwide case study field visit from January 20th to February 4th as part of the project "Promoting Innovation and Inclusion in Growth Potential Enterprises: Evidence from Nepal". The team aimed to understand the challenges and opportunities faced by MSMEs for promoting their sustainable growth. They were also able to identify the growth potential enterprises required for intervention and support package design. The team was divided into three groups, each comprising three researchers, to conduct case studies across all seven provinces. The team assigned to cover Koshi and Madhesh Provinces included Dr. Rabita Shrestha Mulmi (Senior Research Specialist), Ram Prasad Devkota (Research Associate), and Utasaha Gartaula (Senior Research Assistant).



The other dedicated team, included Dr. Manjeshwori Singh (Senior Research Specialist), Kamal Chaulagain (Research Associate), and Nirmita Shrestha (Research Associate), who covered Bagmati and Gandaki provinces. Similarly, Rajendra Khatri (Senior Research Associate), Anjana Lamichhane (Research Associate), and Kabita Yadav (Research Associate) conducted the study in Karnali, Lumbini and Sudur Paschim Provinces. The teams explored MSMEs involved in various sectors and industries. The field visit was fruitful in identifying the growth potential enterprises and assessing their needs in terms of designing the support services required for the growth and sustainability of the identified enterprises.

26th National Symposium on “Disaster Risk Reduction and Management in Nepal”

The 26th National Symposium on “Disaster Risk Reduction and Management in Nepal” was held on 1st February 2024 at Tripureswor, Kathmandu, Nepal on the occasion of 26th Earthquake Safety Day. The Symposium was jointly organized by National Disaster Risk Reduction and Urban Development and Building Construction (DUDBC), Chandragiri



Municipality and National Society for Earthquake Technology (NSET). Er. Shanmukhesh C Amatya, Senior Research Specialist, NDRI participated in the program representing NDRI. The symposium was mainly concentrated on the Jajarkot earthquake disaster that occurred on November 2023. Different experiences of different agencies about the earthquake were shared on the event. The presentations were classified in 3 thematic sessions. Session one was related to Jajarkot Earthquake Response and Relief, Session two was related to Studies on Earthquake Damage and Impacts and the third session was related to Earthquake Recovery and Reconstruction.

The symposium discussed that the major causes of damages are due to the wrong use of construction materials as rounded boulders with mud mortar, no use of horizontal timbers, no calculation of load distribution, and even the method of construction and so on. So debated on some points about the use of local materials as rounded boulders and mud mortar that should be banned for house and masonry construction in that area. Next opinions were floated on the floor that it is a matter of research about the construction materials for construction of houses and masonry by rounded boulders and mud mortar. In the meantime, NDRRMA suggests that, obviously the local materials could be used for the building and Masonry construction which will be cheaper and easily available but not the rounded boulders, the boulders could be broken into flatter stones. In this regards some recommendations were given as below.

Need to use horizontal timber or RC band in stone Masonry.

Need to decrease weight of roof with very thin states or GI sheets.

- Need to use typological design which were prepared in 2015 Gorkha earthquake.
- Need to prepare and use new appropriate typological design which are suited as per site condition.
- New buildings should be constructed fully complying with building bylaws and building codes.
- Need to assess the capacity of local government in terms of Nepal National Building code implementation.
- Need to develop a national framework for the effective implementation of Nepal National Building code.
- Need to conduct seismic evaluation of all types of buildings mainly stone masonry in mud mortar of western part of country.

Newspaper articles authored by NDRI Family

Dr. Jaya Kumar Gurung, a distinguished member and Senior Research Specialist at the Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI), recently contributed an insightful article published by Annapurna on Sunday, 4th February. The article, titled "धूमपानमा छुट किन ?" [Link](#)



Mr. Kamal Chaulagain, a Research Associate at the Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI), published an article addressing the critical topic of 'Imagining a cancer-free Nepal.' Published in the Annapurna Express on February 5, 2024. [Link](#)

Thought-provoking News

Informal economy worth Rs 1.44trn: Study
[Informal economy worth Rs 1.44trn: Study \(theannapurnaexpress.com\)](#)

Kanchanpur migrant workers prefer local jobs to seasonal migration to India
<https://kathmandupost.com/sudurpaschim-province/2024/02/05/kanchanpur-migrant-workers-prefer-local-jobs-to-seasonal-migration-to-india>

Thought of the Week

"I have learned over the years that when one's mind is made up, this diminishes fear."

- Zig Ziglar

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