

SDPU Initiative of Nepal: A Step Ahead at Geneva Event

The [Sustained Dialogue on Peaceful Uses](#) (SDPU) hosted an event entitled “NPT in Action: Showcasing Progress on Expanding Peaceful Uses” in order to exhibit its latest achievements at the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) meeting on July 25, 2024, at the United Nations Palais in Geneva, Switzerland. The SDPU is an initiative funded by the US and UK governments and operated by CRDF Global that aims to reduce barriers to accessing nuclear science and technology for international development. The side event aimed to provide delegations at PrepCom with an overview of SDPU activities to date in five countries: Ghana, Nepal, Nigeria, Paraguay, and Thailand. It also sought to empower attendees to contribute to future SDPU activities, emphasizing the importance of improving access to the peaceful use of nuclear technology in food, health, and water.

The discussion was moderated by Dr. Surbhi Grover from the University of Pennsylvania's Oncology department, who highlighted the SDPU's complimentary role to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in expanding access to and awareness of peaceful uses of nuclear technology.

As a panel delegate from Nepal, Dr. Jaya K Gurung, Senior Research Specialist from the Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI) presented the progress on the SDPU study of ionizing radiation technology for food security and other applications.

At the event, Christine R. Martin from the United States Department of State acknowledged the enthusiasm of all key stakeholders in the Nepal project, including various government ministries (Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, and Ministry of Health and Population), during the pre-feasibility consultative meetings held from January 29 to February 2, 2024, in Nepal.



Panel Presentation, United Nations, Geneva

Similarly, David Riley OBE, Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament at the UK Mission in Geneva, expressed the need for collaboration among different stakeholders (government, private sector, subject matter experts, academia) and the sharing of international experiences regarding the peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology.

Dr. Shota Kamishima, Senior Coordination Officer in the Director General's Office at the IAEA, expressed interest in collaborating on Nepal's initiative for the feasibility study and capacity development to achieve a synergistic impact.



Delegates in front of United Nation Building

The sharing of experiences from other countries has further motivated Nepal's initiative, which is now looking forward to conducting a feasibility study on ionization technology, particularly in food irradiation in Nepal. NDRI, along with CRDF Global, in close coordination with the U.S. Department of State, the Energy Security Office of the UK Government, and key stakeholders from Nepal, is preparing for the feasibility study, aiming for commissioning by the middle of 2025.

Nepal Government's Encouragement, Expressed by H.E. Mr. Ram Prasad Subedi

H.E. Mr. Ram Prasad Subedi, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative, invited the team working in Nepal on the SDPU to the Permanent Mission of Nepal to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva on July 24, 2024.



The team included Ms. Christine R. Martin and Dr. Samuel R. Meehan from the United States Department of State, Mr. Taylor Grove from CRDF Global, Ms. Holly Haines from the UK Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, and Dr. Jaya K. Gurung from NDRI. Mr. Ronal Rai, Second Secretary at the Permanent Mission of Nepal to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, also attended the meeting. H.E. Mr. Ram Prasad Subedi welcomed the team and suggested presenting Nepal SDPU's initiative. Dr. Gurung briefed him on NDRI and its linkage with SDPU.

Ms. Martin elaborated on Nepal's pre-feasibility study held in Kathmandu. Ms. Haines complemented the synergy of the SDPU alliance and Nepal's initiative. Dr. Meehan highlighted the reflections from the Nepal workshop, especially with technical personnel. And Mr. Grove provided a brief account of CRDF Global and the way forward for the SDPU initiative.

H.E. Mr. Ram Prasad Subedi acknowledged the SDPU initiative of Nepal. H.E. Subedi expressed his enthusiasm for the peaceful use of Nuclear Science and Technology (NST) in various sectors in Nepal, including agriculture, health, research institutes, university research, and the environment. He suggested starting with one sector and creating a successful case story in Nepal.

H.E. Subedi thanked the team working on the SDPU initiative in Nepal and for their consultations with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), Government of Nepal. He also expressed the Nepal Government's commitment to supporting and facilitating the SDPU initiative in Nepal.

Dr. Gurung briefed H.E. Mr. Amrit Bahadur Rai, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations, and Mr. Prakash Kumar Suvedi, Executive Director of the Institute of Foreign Affairs (IFA) in Kathmandu, Nepal, about the SDPU initiative before leaving for Geneva.

SUSTAINED DIALOGUE
ON PEACEFUL USES

Gaining Insights on Hemp Production in Nepal

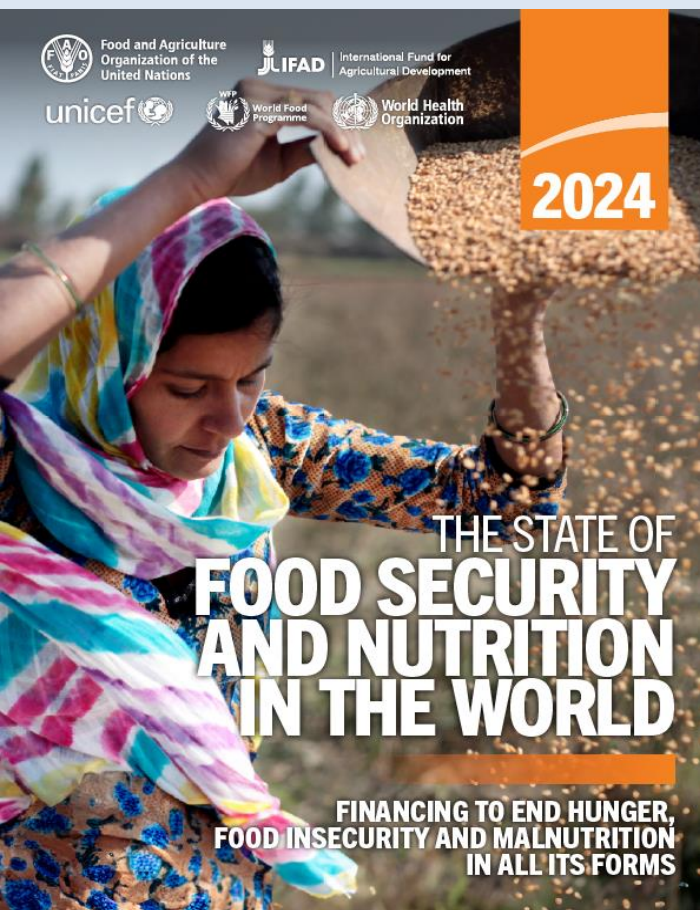


Ms. Salisha Raila and Ms. Bipaswi Nepal, Researchers from the Economic Development Program team at NDRI recently conducted a Key Informant Interview with Mr. Ganesh Aidi at Forestry Bag Udhyog Located in Budhanilkantha, Kathmandu, gathering detailed insights into various aspects of the hemp industry. They examined the entire production cycle, from cultivation, harvesting to processing and final production, as well as

the availability of raw materials, including local and imported sources. The team explored market possibilities, identifying target consumer segments, demand trends, and potential geographical markets, while also analyzing the versatility of hemp products, such as textiles, paper, biofuel, biodegradable plastics, and health and wellness items. A SWOT analysis revealed the industry's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats, highlighting sustainable practices and market growth potential, alongside regulatory challenges and competition. The team identified key market dynamics and challenges, including legal issues, financial constraints, and the need for technological advancements. This comprehensive information will contribute to a pre-feasibility report, an internal initiative aimed at assessing the potential of the hemp industry and supporting strategic decision-making.



Major Highlights of “The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World”



The report, [State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World, 2024](#), jointly published by FAO, WFP, UNICEF, IFAD and WHO has been released on 24th July 2024. Following are the key highlights:

- Considering the mid-range estimate, 733 million people (9.2 percent of the population) in the world faced hunger in 2023, based on the prevalence of undernourishment (PoU). That means the number of people facing hunger is still higher by 152 million from the pre-pandemic level of 2019. The world is unlikely to meet the Zero Hunger target by 2030.

- Africa is the region with the largest percentage of the population facing hunger at 20.4 percent, compared with 8.1 percent in Asia, 6.2 percent in Latin America.

- The prevalence of undernourishment in Nepal is 5.7 percent, compared to 13.7 percent in India, 11.2 percent in Bangladesh, 20.7 percent in Pakistan, 4.1 percent in Sri Lanka, 5.2 percent in Thailand, 5.9 percent in Indonesia and less than 2.5 percent in China.

Ms. Sunita Magar Bids Adieu to NDRI

Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI) bids a heartfelt farewell to Research Associate (Engineering Geology), Ms. Sunita Magar in a ceremony attended by NDRI Family including President, Vice-President, Secretary, Executive Director and all staff. The event celebrated Ms. Magar's significant contributions and the personal impact she had on her colleagues and the organization.



Thought Provoking news

Planes are coming down. Nepali state is least bothered

<https://kathmandupost.com/>

The next session of the Contemporary Policy Dialogue Series (on 2nd August 2024, 9:00-10:00 am) will be a special celebration of our 200th episode; stay tuned for information on participating in this milestone event, which will be provided through our social media channels.

Welcome to the Family!

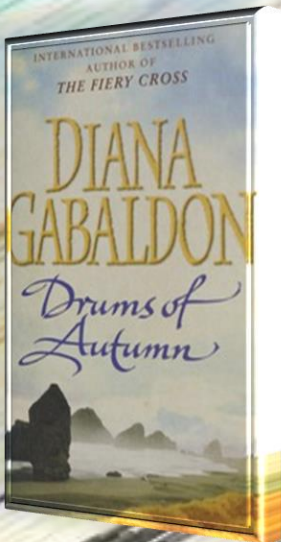


Ms. Binita Shahi
Research Associate
Livelihoods and Food Security



Ms. Srijana Poudel
Research Associate
Disaster Risk Management

Condolences from NDRI



Book Recommendation of the Week

★★★★☆ 4.35

Feel free to recommend books to our readers so that we can collectively enhance knowledge exploration.

Newsletter Preparation :

Ms. Seetal Luitel
Front Desk Officer

Editors :

Ms. Ashma Aryal
Outreach and Communication Officer

Dr. Shankar Shrestha
Executive Director

Click the icons to Connect with Us on Social Media!

