

NEWSLETTER

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Vice Chair of Sarkegad Rural Municipality, Humla Visits NDRI

Ms. Dewaki Timilsina, Vice Chair of Sarkegad Rural Municipality, Humla, visited Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI) to discuss pressing challenges in her municipality. The meeting focused on key issues such as Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH); Disaster Management; Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI); and tobacco control—topics that align closely with NDRI's thematic areas. NDRI representatives present included: President- Dr. Krishna Pahari, Executive Director- Dr. Shankar Shrestha,



Lead, Disaster Management Program- Prof. Dr. Tara Nidhi Bhattarai, Livelihood and GESI Specialist- Dr. Manjeshwori Singh, Lead, Health Education and Environment Program- Dr. Jaya Kumar Gurung, Lead, Water and Climate Program - Dr. Divas B. Basnyat, Lead, Economic Development Program - Dr. Rudra Suwal, Senior Research Specialist - Dr. Dipendra Rokaya, and Outreach and Communication Officer - Ms. Ashma Aryal. During the meeting, Ms. Timilsina highlighted critical issues faced by Sarkegad. She emphasized the dangers posed by traditional stairs, which are a major cause of accidents, and the improper construction of toilets, which negatively impacts menstrual hygiene in the area. She expressed her strong hope that these challenges could be addressed during her tenure and sought NDRI's expertise as a think tank to provide innovative solutions. NDRI expressed its interest on the subject and mentioned that it could provide valuable inputs and recommendations on these issues, if required, following a thorough study of the area, ensuring evidence-based and sustainable solutions.

Professor Leslie Enlightens on Manuscript Writing

A special lecture session on “Submitting Manuscripts and Getting Them Accepted” was delivered by Prof. John Leslie, University 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, 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 organized by NDRI and IAAS. The event was attended by a distinguished team from NDRI, including Executive Director-Dr. Shankar Shrestha; Lead of Health, Education and Environment Program-Dr. Jaya Gurung; Research Associates-Ms. Binita Shahi, Nirmita Shrestha, and Girish Lamsal,



To be continued...

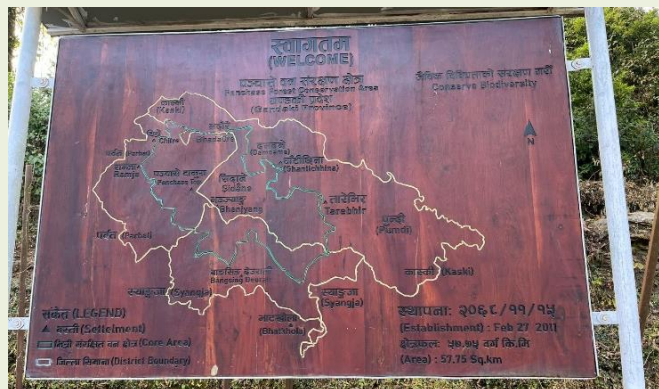
Outreach and Communication Officer Ms. Ashma Aryal and Research Intern Mr. Anuj Dhakal. Representing IAAS were Dr. Kishor Dahal, Dr. Huma Neupane, Dr. Puspa Raj Poudel, and their team. Participants found the session highly engaging and informative, gaining valuable knowledge on crafting impactful research articles for reputable journals.

On the 23rd and 24th of December, Ms. Dikshya Barasaini, a Research Assistant at NDRI of the IDRC-funded project [“Promoting Innovation and Inclusion in Growth Potential Enterprises: Evidence from Nepal”](#), conducted a field verification in Hemja, Pokhara. During the visit, she interviewed Ms. Mina Kumari Gurung, a treatment beneficiary of the project, who has been excelling in producing high-quality feta cheese. Ms. Barasaini assisted in quality testing and packaging processes, ensuring the cheese met the market standards. Mina’s dedication and innovation have enabled her to consistently produce premium cheese and effectively meet market demand, showcasing the project’s positive impact on fostering local enterprise growth.

IDRC Field Highlights



Field Insights: Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) for Climate Resilience



As part of the Global EbA-funded project [“Mitigating Flood Risks Through Women’s Leadership in EbA Interventions”](#), Ms. Shreya Bajimaya, Senior Research Associate, and Ms. Sophiya Shrestha, Senior Research Assistant, conducted field visits on December 23–24, 2024. The primary objective was to explore and assess the flagship Mountain Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) project implemented in the Panchase region of Nepal from 2011 to 2016. The project was led by the Government of Nepal’s Ministry of Forests and Environment (MoFE) in partnership with IUCN, UNEP, and UNDP.

The field visits focused on understanding approaches used to enhance climate resilience and reduce the vulnerabilities of local communities and the ecosystems they depend on.

The team was accompanied by Mr. Ram Kaji Gurung, Ward Chairperson of Ward-23, Pokhara Metropolitan City, who facilitated visits to the Harpan Sub-watershed in the Panchase Region a critical area feeding the nationally significant Phewa Lake. During the visit, Ms. Bajimaya and Ms. Shrestha engaged with local government representatives and local partner team members to understand the challenges faced, successes achieved, and lessons learned from the project. Discussions emphasized the importance of sustainable management, conservation, and ecosystem restoration as integral components of the EbA strategy to mitigate climate vulnerabilities and enhance community and ecosystem resilience. The observations and learnings from this field visit will play a crucial role in advancing the objectives of the Global EbA project and guiding future interventions.

NDRI’s Founding Member Dr. Mahesh Gautam visits NDRI

[Dr. Mahesh Gautam](#), Senior Water Resources Engineer, California Department of Water Resources, USA as well as a Founding Member of NDRI visited NDRI premises at Sanepa, Lalitpur on 24 December 2024 to meet NDRI family. It was a pleasant interaction with NDRI Family with a reminiscence of past NDRI memories and congratulating NDRI for excellent work in the past two decades.



Field Assessment of Biophysical Factors: Insights from the SPAN Project

As a part of the [Springwater Management, Agriculture, and Resilient Livelihoods in the Mid-Hills of Nepal](#) (SPAN) project, Ms. Akriti Sharma, Research Associate at NDRI conducted field visits to Sindhuli from December 22 to 25, 2024. The primary objective of the visit was to assess biophysical factors for selecting appropriate spring source sites. The project is funded by ACIAR and led by CSIRO in collaboration with NDRI, NWCF and SIAS. During the fieldwork, specific spring water site selection criteria were analyzed with a focus on biophysical perspectives. The study emphasized the proximity of potential sites to meteorological stations, preferably those equipped with comprehensive weather data, including at least daily precipitation records. The team was accompanied by representatives from the local bodies of Sunkoshi Rural Municipality and Kamalamai Municipality in Sindhuli. During the visit, Dr. Bhatt from NWCF engaged with local government officials and partner team members to gain insights into the challenges associated with the decline in spring water availability, as well as the lessons learnt from the project.



Discussions focused on the accessibility of spring water, its types, the availability of historical data, and the current springs' conditions, especially in the context of alterations or shifts in their characteristics. Additionally, an analysis was conducted on the presence of multiple spring water sources in the area.

The observations and insights gathered during the field visit will play a critical role in enhancing spring water data collection efforts and will significantly contribute to understanding the hydrological and hydrogeological aspects of the region.

Highlighting Retail Practices & Preservation Challenges in Fresh Produce

As a part of an ongoing NDRI study, Prof. John F. Leslie (University Distinguished Professor, Kansas State University) and Dr. Jaya K. Gurung (Senior Research Specialist, NDRI), visited Bhaktapur Municipality to study the retail practices of fresh produce, vegetables, and fruits. Their visit provided valuable insights into local markets' evolution, post-harvest management challenges, and potential technological innovations. They discussed with Mr. Dambar Khanal and Ms. Sunita Nemafuli from R&D Solution Pvt. Ltd., who offered diverse perspectives on the current retail landscape. Ms. Sunita shared an overview of the transformation from informal street vending in the past to today's more structured farmers' markets. "This shift has helped in better organization and increased access to fresh produce, benefiting both consumers and producers," she noted. Mr. Dambar Khanal highlighted a critical issue plaguing the sector—fungal contamination in fresh produce. He emphasized the pressing need for innovative preservation solutions to reduce spoilage. "Exploring e-beam technology is particularly relevant in this context," he added, referring to its potential to enhance the shelf life of perishable items. Mr. Khanal also pointed to a recent government policy aimed at facilitating the export of Nepalese mangoes, underscoring the opportunities for expanding Nepal's agricultural exports. During their visit, the researchers also met



with Jeevan Raut, one of Nepal's largest vendors of hot chili (Dalle Khursani). He shared concerns about post-harvest losses, which remain a significant challenge in Nepal's agriculture sector. "We need modern preservation technologies to address these losses effectively," he remarked, highlighting the economic impact of produce spoilage. The visit concluded with all three participants—Dambar Khanal, Sunita Nemafuli, and Jeevan Raut—agreeing to serve as key informants for a feasibility study on the adoption of e-beam technology which NDRI is leading. This innovative approach holds promise for improving food preservation, reducing waste, and supporting Nepal's agricultural sector in meeting global standards. The insights gathered during this visit will contribute to research and policy efforts aimed at transforming Nepal's fresh produce retail sector and addressing post-harvest challenges.

209th Contemporary Policy Dialogue

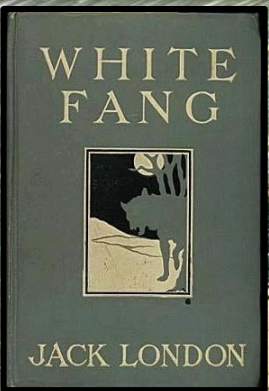
The 209th episode of the Contemporary Policy Dialogue Series, held on December 27, 2024, featured Dr. Jyoti Giri, Senior Research Specialist at NDRI, discussing "Society-Based STI Policy: Literacy of Science Behind the Technology." Dr. Giri emphasized the importance of bridging scientific advancements with societal needs through informed policymaking and STI literacy. The session highlighted strategies to promote public understanding of science and technology and concluded with an interactive Q&A, fostering meaningful discussions on integrating STI into development policies. Watch the full episode: [link](#)

Prof. Leslie concluded his visit to Nepal with a luncheon hosted by NDRI

Prof. John Leslie, University Distinguished Professor from Kansas State University, wrapped up his Nepal visit with a luncheon at Eden, Sanepa, Lalitpur, on December 23, 2024. The event brought together representatives from NDRI, including Dr. Jaya K. Gurung (Senior Research Specialist), Dr. Shankar Shrestha (Executive Director), Ms. Binita Shahi (Research Associate), Mr. Anuj Dhakal (Research Intern) and Ms. Deepa Luitel (Admin and Finance Officer) alongside Dr. Krishna Pahari (President) and Prof. Dr. Tara Nidhi Bhattarai (Vice-President).



The gathering featured engaging discussions on future collaborations, with Prof. Leslie pledging to return to Nepal. Prof. Dr. Bhattarai extended an invitation for continued partnership, and Prof. Leslie was presented with souvenirs as a gesture of appreciation. The event celebrated the strong academic ties between Kansas State University and NDRI.



Book
Recommendation
of the Week

★★★★☆ 4.02

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

Thought-provoking News

Thailand ready to hold Bimstec Summit in April

<https://kathmandupost.com/national/2024/12/27/thailand-ready-to-hold-bimstec-summit-in-april>

Help them heal

<https://kathmandupost.com/editorial/2024/12/26/help-them-heal>

Thought of the Week

*Do not dwell in the past,
do not dream of the
future, concentrate the
mind on the present
moment.*

— Buddha

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