

Engaging for Agricultural Transformation: NDRI Hosts ADBI Experts for Collaborative Dialogue

On February 8, 2025, NDRI President Dr. Krishna Pahari, on behalf of the Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI), hosted the distinguished Professor Keijiro Otsuka and Dr. Raja Rajendra Timilsina (Economist) of the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), Japan at NDRI. Prof. Otsuka, a Distinguished Honorary Professor at Kobe University, and Professor at the National Graduate Institute of Policy Studies (GRIPS) Japan, is currently a Visiting Fellow at ADBI. Executive Director Dr. Shankar Shrestha, Senior Research Specialist Dr. Shikha Thapa Magar, Senior Research Specialist Mr. Ram Hari Gaihre, and Research Associate Mr. Daya Shrestha also attended the meeting.

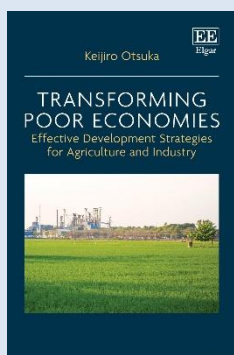
Following a brief introduction of NDRI by Dr. Shrestha, Dr. Pahari presented a comprehensive overview of Nepal's macroeconomic agricultural and food security landscape. This highlighted the recent improvement in food security and nutrition situation, the country's changing consumption trends and patterns, low performance of the agricultural sector and the recent trend of reliance on significant food imports, all against the backdrop of migrants outflows and remittance inflows.



Prof. Otsuka and Dr. Timilsina shared their views on the country's current status of agriculture development and their thoughts on how a lack of strategic national thinking can lead to stagnant and declining agriculture sector.

On that note, Prof. Otsuka also gifted NDRI his new book titled "Transforming Poor Economies". There was also a discussion on the potential collaboration between ADBI and NDRI on ongoing research on the potential of agricultural transformation in selected hill districts of Nepal. The meeting was followed by a group lunch.

This meeting is a follow-up to a number of earlier meetings and collaborations. NDRI President had a meeting with the ADBI Vice-President and the team at their office in Tokyo in October 2023. This was followed by a few virtual meetings between NDRI and ADBI representatives to discuss potential avenues of collaboration. It may be recalled that NDRI had also worked with ADBI in 2022-23 on a survey in six districts as part of the study entitled Household and Village Survey of Indigenous Groups in South and Southeast Asia.



Transforming Poor Economies: Effective Development Strategies for Agriculture and Industry

This book by Prof. Keijiro Otsuka expertly proposes effective strategies for the development of agriculture and industry in lower-income countries using insightful studies to illustrate key findings. The book is a synthesis of more than 40 years of his research in Asia and Africa, and is extremely valuable for the scholars of economics and development, as well as policymakers and practitioners. Prof. Otsuka is a Distinguished Honorary Professor at Kobe University, Research Fellow Emeritus at the Institute of Developing Economies, JETPRO, Japan, Professor at the National Graduate School of Policy Studies (GRIPS), and Visiting Fellow at the Asian Development Bank Institute, Japan.

A copy of this book, kindly presented by Prof. Otsuka, is available at the NDRI library.

Uniting for Cancer Awareness: NDRI Leads the Fight Against Tobacco and Cancer

On February 4, 2025 Nepal Development Research Institute (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 organized a Cancer Awareness Program to mark World Cancer Day. The event aimed to raise awareness about cancer, its risk factors, and the significance of prevention and early detection.

The program featured an informative presentation by Dr. Jaya Kumar Gurung, Lead/ Coordinator of the Health, Education, and Environment Program 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. Ms. Ashma Aryal, Outreach and Communication Officer at NDRI moderated the event.

The World Cancer Day Awareness Program 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, Prof. Dr. Tara Nidhi Bhattarai, Vice President of NDRI, Dr. Shikha Thapa Magar, Senior Research Specialist, NDRI, 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, Mr. Dev Raj Gelal, Vice Principal of Radiant Reader's Academy, Mr. Parashar Khadka, Research Associate at NDRI as well as other ward representatives, students, faculty members, and community members.

Representatives shared their perspectives, reiterating their commitment to promoting cancer awareness and ensuring better public health initiatives.



Completion of the Survey for Post Distribution Monitoring (with UNHCR)

The research team of NDRI led by Mr. Rajendra Khatri (Senior Research Associate) involved in the ongoing project funded by UNHCR Nepal entitled "Cash-Based Intervention Post Distribution Monitoring (CBI PDM)" got back from their week-long fieldwork on February 5, 2025. The field group conducted surveys with refugees in Koshi and Bagmati Provinces. The survey aimed to assess the effectiveness, efficiency, and accountability of UNHCR's Cash-Based Interventions (CBI) in Nepal by systematically collecting and analyzing data on cash delivery, beneficiary needs, and program impact, thereby supporting evidence-based decision-making for improved program design and delivery.



Prof. Catherine O'Mulan Explores Collaboration with NDRI



On February 6, 2025, Associate Professor Catherine O'Mulan from the School of Health, Medical and Applied Sciences, Institute for Future Farming Systems, visited the Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI) to discuss potential collaboration. Prof. Catharine has been conducting research on Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI), with a particular focus on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) among women engaged in agriculture. Her research is in collaboration with the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR).

Additionally, she serves as a visiting professor at Kathmandu University. Representing NDRI in the meeting were the Executive Director Dr. Shankar Shrestha, Senior Research Specialist Dr. Shikha Thapa Magar, Senior Research Specialists Dr. Manjeshwori Singh and Dr. Rabita Shrestha Mulmi, Senior Research Associate Ms. Shreya Bajimaya, and Outreach and Communication Officer Ms. Ashma Aryal. The discussion centered on exploring avenues for collaboration in addressing GBV in Nepal's agricultural sector, among others, with Prof. Catharine expressing interest in conducting field research in the country. The meeting was highly productive, with both parties sharing insights from their past and ongoing work on health and GESI. This engagement marks a promising step toward future research partnerships in the field.



Provincial Workshop for MEDPA Program Review



On February 6, 2025, the research team from the IDRC, Canada-funded NDRI project "Promoting Innovation and Inclusion in Growth Potential Enterprises: Evidence from Nepal", including Prof. Dr. Raj Kumar Bhattarai (Principal Investigator), Mr. Rajendra Khatri (Project Manager), and Ms. Nirmita Shrestha (Research Associate), participated in a one-day provincial workshop. The event was jointly organized by NDRI and the Industry and Investment Promotion Division at the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, and Supplies (MoICS) and was held at Big Hotel, Biratnagar, Koshi Province. The one-day

provincial workshop brought together key stakeholders to discuss the MEDPA program and enterprise development in Nepal. The workshop was chaired by Mr. Krishna Bahadur Raut (Secretary, MoICS) and Mr. Jitendra Basnet (Joint Secretary, MoICS), with participation from other undersecretaries of MoICS, as well as Mayors, Deputy Mayors, Enterprise Development Facilitators (EDFs), and local government officials. Prof. Bhattarai delivered a presentation reviewing the MEDPA program, highlighting its achievements, and identifying areas for improvement, and also shared key findings from ongoing research. The session concluded with feedback from EDFs representing various local governments, offering valuable insights into the program's ground-level implementation. The event was positively received by participants and provided a platform to assess MEDPA's implementation, challenges, and strategies to enhance its impact and sustainability.



Pre-Event of the 1st National Bamboo Conference 2081

Ms. Dikshya Barasaini, Research Assistant at NDRI, attended a Pre-Event of the 1st National Bamboo Conference 2081, held on February 6, 2025, at the Hotel Himalaya, Lalitpur. The event served as a crucial platform to share insights from previous pre-events across Nepal and prepare for the main conference in Diktel, Khotang being held from the 15th to the 17th of Falgun 2081, where NDRI is also expected to present a paper. Bringing together government representatives, researchers, industry experts, and stakeholders, the event focused on addressing challenges, exploring opportunities, and fostering collaboration for sustainable bamboo development. Discussions spanned three key themes: "Grow With Bamboo", highlighting bamboo farming's economic potential and investment needs, "Build It Bamboo", emphasizing bamboo's role in sustainable construction with insights from industry pioneers, and "Let's Talk Bamboo", focusing on policy advocacy and regulatory frameworks essential for the sector's growth. With participation from key institutions, including the Ministry of Urban Development, Nepal Bureau of Standards and Metrology, and private sector leaders, the event successfully identified priority areas for intervention, reinforcing bamboo's potential as a driver of economic growth, sustainability, and environmental conservation in Nepal. As the nation moves toward a greener future, the 1st National Bamboo Conference 2081 is set to play a transformative role in shaping policies, investments, and innovations in Nepal's bamboo industry.



17th Episode of "Mesmerizing Mondays!"



On February 3, 2025, Ms. Akriti Sharma, Research Associate at NDRI, from the Disaster Risk Reduction team presented "Highlights of the Symposium on Earthquake Risk Reduction in the Himalayan Region." Ms. Sharma presented her learnings at the International Symposium on Earthquake Risk Reduction in the Himalayan Region, where she discussed earthquake mechanisms and the importance of building codes. She also highlighted the recent Jajarkot earthquake

and the concept of earthquake-resilient classroom benches. She further spoke about multi-hazard disaster preparedness efforts by the Nepal Police and Nepal Armed Forces, emphasizing their role in disaster response and resilience-building.

212th Contemporary Policy Dialogue on Leadership Roles of MPs

Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI) and Resources Himalaya Foundation (RHF) organized the 212th Episode of Contemporary Policy Dialogue on "Roles and Performance of MP as a Leader." Hon. Neema Giri, a Member of the Provincial Assembly of Lumbini Province, shared insights on leadership, governance, and inclusive policymaking. Held virtually via Zoom, the session engaged policymakers and researchers in discussions on MPs' responsibilities in governance and policy implementation. The event highlighted the need for strong political leadership and accountability in Nepal's evolving democratic landscape. Click the [link](#) to watch the full episode.



Welcome to NDRI Family



Mr. Parashar Khadka
Research Associate
(Health, Education, and Environment Program)

Thought-provoking News

Funds shortage puts free cardiac care for children at risk

<https://kathmandupost.com/health/2025/02/10/funds-shortage-puts-free-cardiac-care-for-children-at-risk>

No objection from opposition parties as government introduces Social Media Bill in Parliament

<https://kathmandupost.com/politics/2025/02/10/no-objection-from-opposition-parties-as-government-introduces-social-media-bill-in-parliament>

Thought of the Week

REVOLUTION BEGINS WITH YOU AND ME

All great things start on a small scale, all great movements begin with individuals; and if we wait for collective action, such action, if it takes place at all, is destructive and conducive to further misery. So revolution must begin with you and me.

- Krishnamurti in Madras 1950

Book Recommendation of the Week

★★★★☆ 4.06

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!



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