

23 June to 6 July 2025

Weekly Echoes of NDRI



नेपाल विकास अनुसन्धान प्रतिष्ठान
Nepal Development Research Institute

Welcome to the latest edition of NDRI Insights, your go-to source for important updates, valuable information, and the latest developments from the Nepal Development Research Institute.

HIGHLIGHTS FEATURED IN THIS EDITION

- NDRI Celebrates Rice, Resilience, and Reflection on the occasion of National Paddy Day.
- NDRI Participates in 49th Biannual SANDEE Research and Training Workshop in Sri Lanka.
- Successful completion of the 221st Episode of the Contemporary Policy Dialogue Series.
- The 22nd episode of Mesmerizing Mondays features an insightful presentation by Mr. Prabin Shrestha.
- NDRI Leaders attended the joint launch of a memoir by gender equality and human rights specialist Ms.Chandni Joshi.
- NDRI Executive Director joined the Vyasa Podcast sharing her insights .



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SUPPORTING EVIDENCE FOR A
BETTER FUTURE!***

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



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VOLUME 204 & 205

NDRI Celebrating Rice, Resilience, and Reflection on National Paddy Day



NDRI family during the program

On June 30, 2025, Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI) organized an insightful and interactive event to mark Paddy Day, bringing together experts in livelihood and food security to reflect on the present and future of Nepal's agricultural sector, especially its deep-rooted relationship with rice.

The event began with opening remarks by NDRI President, Dr. Krishna Pahari, who set the tone by sharing striking facts about rice production in Nepal. He noted that Nepal produced approximately 5.9 million metric tons of rice this year, an increase from 5.6 million metric tons last year, reinforcing Nepal's position as the 15th largest rice producer in the world.

Diving into the historical and cultural importance of rice cultivation and consumption, Senior Research Specialist Dr. Jagannath Adhikari provided rich insights into how rice has shaped Nepalese society over centuries, from tradition to modern-day practices.

Dr. Manjeswori Singh, Lead of the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion cross-cutting program at NDRI, offered a powerful perspective on the gender dimension of rice, highlighting the often-overlooked roles and contributions of women in rice farming, from seed to harvest.

The session was wrapped up by Senior Research Specialist, Prof. Dr. Punya Prasad Regmi, who discussed critical issues like agricultural mechanization, commercialization, and the impacts of climate change. He emphasized that while agriculture is a business, it must be approached with environmental sensitivity and inclusiveness.

The program concluded with an open floor discussion, followed by a warm and festive sharing of Dahi Chiura (curd and beaten rice), a cherished Paddy Day tradition. This annual event continues to serve as a vibrant platform for reflection, dialogue, and inspiration for shaping resilient and equitable food systems in Nepal.



Dr. Singh delivering her presentation

NDRI Participates in 49th Biannual SANDEE Research and Training Workshop in Sri Lanka

Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI) proudly participated in the 49th Biannual Research and Training Workshop organized by the South Asian Network for Development and Environmental Economics (SANDEE), held from July 1 to July 4, 2025, in Sri Lanka. The workshop was hosted as part of SANDEE's ongoing commitment to research capacity building and academic leadership development, with support from the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD).

Representing NDRI, Research Associate Mr. Girish Raj Lamsal presented the third progress report of NDRI's ongoing research titled "Economic Assessment of Ecosystem-based Adaptation for Flood Risk Management."



Mr. Lamsal delivering his presentation

This research is being conducted under the SANDEE grant program and aims to evaluate the economic effectiveness of nature-based solutions in reducing flood risks. The workshop served as a platform for SANDEE grantees to disseminate the progress of their respective research projects, receive feedback, and outline action plans for the next phase of their work. New grantees also presented their research proposals, which were reviewed and critiqued by an expert panel. A key highlight of the event was the SANDEE-ICIMOD Karl-Göran Mäler Memorial Lecture, held on July 1, 2025. This prestigious lecture series commemorates the legacy of the late Professor Karl-Göran Mäler, one of SANDEE's founding figures. This year's keynote was delivered by Prof. Erin O. Sills, Edwin F. Conger Professor and Head of the Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources at North Carolina State University, USA. The lecture was held in a hybrid format, with in-person attendance by invitation and online participation.

The workshop emphasized personalized mentoring, enabling participants like Mr. Lamsal to engage in meaningful dialogue with peers and seasoned researchers. This approach fosters high-quality, policy-relevant research and strengthens the capacity of environmental economists across South Asia. NDRI remains committed to producing impactful research in the areas of climate resilience and sustainable development, and is proud to be part of SANDEE's vibrant regional research network.

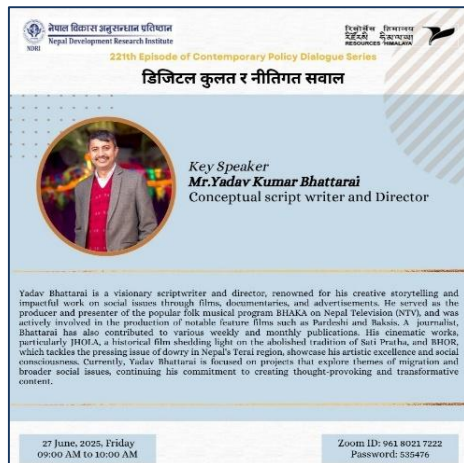


Group photo after the event

221st Episode of Contemporary Policy Dialogue Series

On 27 June 2025, Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI) along with Resources Himalaya Foundation (RHF), successfully organized the 222nd episode of its Contemporary Policy Dialogue Series today, featuring renowned conceptual scriptwriter and director Mr. Yadav Kumar Bhattarai as the key speaker. The dialogue, titled "डिजिटल कुलत र नीतिगत सवाल" (Digital Addiction and Policy Questions), addressed the pressing issue of digital addiction and its implications for society and policy. He stressed the need for awareness, education, and effective policies to mitigate the rising problem of digital dependency, particularly among youth.

The talk was followed by an engaging interactive discussion, where participants actively shared their perspectives and explored possible solutions to balance technology's benefits with its risks.



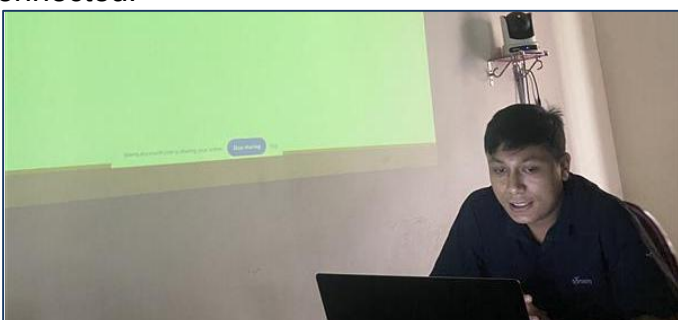
Official banner for the 221st Episode of CPD

Click on the [link](#) to watch the full Episode

The Hidden Dangers of Public Wi-Fi

On June 23, 2025, the 22nd episode of Mesmerizing Mondays featured an insightful presentation by Mr. Prabin Shrestha, IT Officer at NDRI. His session, titled “Public Wi-Fi and the Security Risks Associated with It,” highlighted the growing concerns around using public wireless networks and the often-overlooked vulnerabilities they carry.

In his presentation, Mr. Shrestha walked the audience through how public Wi-Fi works, the common threats users may face, such as data interception, man-in-the-middle attacks, malware distribution, and unauthorized access, and practical ways to stay safe while staying connected.



Mr. Prabin, during his presentation

Through relatable examples, he explained how even everyday online activities could expose users to serious risks if proper precautions aren't taken.

This episode sparked an engaging discussion, focusing on the importance of digital hygiene and raising awareness about cybersecurity in both personal and professional settings.

The interactive session served as a valuable reminder to think twice before logging into that “free” network at a café or airport.

NDRI Leaders Grace the Book Launch of Human Rights Specialist Joshi



Dr. Shikha with Ms. Chandni as she signs a copy of her book

NDRI President, Dr. Krishna Pahari, and Executive Director, Dr. Shikha Thapa Magar, attended the joint launch of *Weaving My South Asian Tapestry*, a memoir by gender equality and human rights specialist Chandni Joshi. The event was a celebration of Joshi's remarkable contributions to women's empowerment, gender equality, and human rights advocacy in Nepal. NDRI representatives honored her pivotal role in shaping Nepal's social development landscape. It was an inspiring occasion, recognizing a trailblazer whose work continues to influence progressive change in the region.

NDRI Executive Director Invited to Vyasa Podcast

Dr. Shikha Thapa Magar, Executive Director of Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI), along with Mr. Maneet Dhungel Policy Lead, Digital Transformation from Institute for Integrated Development Studies (IIDS), was invited to the Vyasa Podcast hosted by Ms. Ruchi Pandey. The discussion centered on the role of think tanks in Nepal's current scenario and how think tanks can bridge the gap between researchers and policymakers. Dr. Thapa Magar highlighted the need for think tanks to be more youth-inclusive and embrace digital tools as well as media for effective advocacy. She stressed the importance of synergy among think tanks and fostering collaboration between grassroots stakeholders and policymakers to drive Nepal's economic development.

The podcast explored ways to strengthen Nepal's think tank ecosystem for greater policy impact.



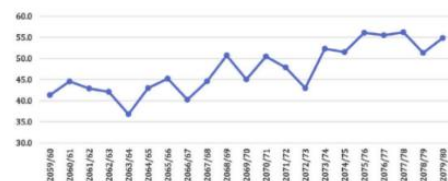
Dr. Shikha with Mr. Maneet and Ms. Ruchi at VYASA Media

Media Coverages

नेपालको धान-संस्कृति, उत्पादन र खाद्य सुरक्षाका चुनौतीहरू नेपालको धान-संस्कृति, उत्पादन र खाद्य सुरक्षाका चुनौतीहरू



डा. कृष्ण पहाडी
नेपाल विकास अनुसन्धान प्रोफेशनल



(नेपालको धान-संस्कृति, उत्पादन र खाद्य सुरक्षाका चुनौतीहरू)

Click [here](#) to read the publication by NDRI President Dr. Krishna Pahari in The Himalaya Times



Click [here](#) to watch an exclusive interview with Dr. Nawa Raj Khatiwada, Senior Research Specialist at NDRI



NEWSLETTER MAY - JUNE 2025

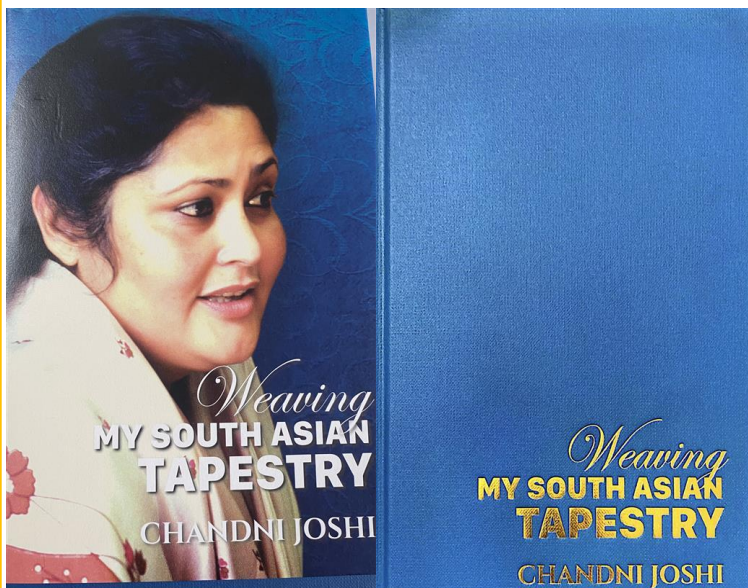
Crossing Borders, Igniting Innovation: FMC Leads India-Nepal MSME Collaboration



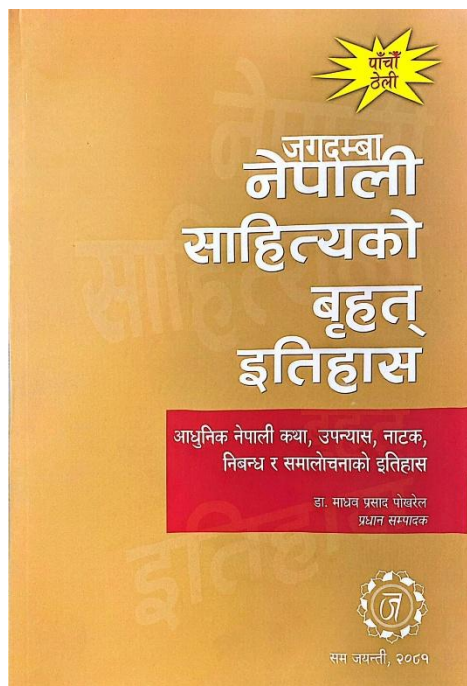
The Foundation for MSME Clusters (FMC) proudly hosted a high-impact delegation from the Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI) under their three-year action research project, Promoting Innovation and Inclusion in Growth Potential Enterprises. This initiative has equipped 25 Nepalese entrepreneurs with exposure to cluster-based growth, technology adoption, and targeted capacity-building. As a core implementation partner, FMC led a dynamic nine-location learning tour across India—sparking dialogue, exchange, and real-time insights. By connecting ecosystems and showcasing tested practices, we are not only advancing inclusive entrepreneurship in Nepal but also deepening regional MSME collaboration and innovation.

NDRI's Research team's recent exposure visit to India featured in the Newsletter of the Foundation of MSME Clusters (FMC)

New Arrivals at the NDRI Library



Weaving my South Asian Tapestry: A book written by Gender Equality and Human Rights Sepciaits Ms. Chandni Joshi



नेपाली साहित्यको बृहत् इतिहास written by Linguistic Expert Prof. Dr. Madhav Prasad Pokharel

Thought of the Week

Success is not the result of spontaneous combustion. You must set yourself on fire.

— Arnold H. Glasow

Thought Provoking News

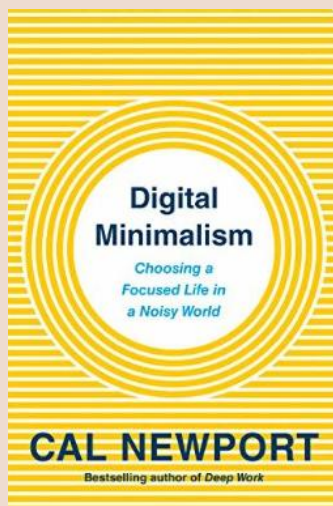
Why is it raining mostly at night?

<https://english.onlinekhabar.com/why-is-it-raining-mostly-at-night.html>

राष्ट्रिय धानदिवस : औचित्य र सार्थकता ■ थप सामग्री :

<https://ehimalayatimes.com/2025/06/353197/>

BOOK RECOMMENDATION



Feel Free To Recommend Books To Our Readers So That We Can Collectively Enhance Knowledge Exploration.

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Front Desk Officer

Ms. Ashma Aryal
Outreach and Communication Officer

Dr. Shikha Thapa Magar
Executive Director



Click [here](#) to watch NDRI's innovative initiative to transform plastic waste into something useful, a small step toward sustainability.



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