



नेपाल विकास अनुसन्धान प्रतिष्ठान
Nepal Development Research Institute

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

HEADLINES FEATURED IN THIS EDITION

- NDRI Charts Nepal's Path to Zero Hunger and Prosperity with Two Landmark Publications.
- NDRI Presents Education Reform Insights to Hon. Minister Dr. Mahabir Pun.
- Concluding field staff training on Rice Farming Systems and commencing survey.
- NDRI's Executive Director Advocates for Smart Urban Planning and Food Security at the 3P Conference.

WEEKLY ECHOES OF



*LEARNING FROM THE PAST,
SUPPORTING EVIDENCE FOR
A BETTER FUTURE!*

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NDRI Charts Nepal's Path to Zero Hunger and Prosperity with Two Landmark Publications.

On Friday, November 7, 2025, NDRI in collaboration with the Policy Research Institute (PRI), organized the event “Nepal’s Quest for Zero Hunger, Economic Prosperity and Decent Livelihoods: Dissemination Event on the Latest Evidence” at Hotel Himalaya, Lalitpur. The event aimed to promote evidence-based policymaking for national well-being and prosperity, bringing together high-level officials, development partners, academics, and civil society representatives.



Group photo of NDRI members with special guests



Moment captured during the report unveiling ceremony

Dr. Madan Pariyar, Hon. Minister of Agriculture and Livestock Development, served as the Chief Guest, while FAO Representative Mr. Ken Shimizu, WFP Nepal Country Director Mr. Riaz Lodhi, and Former UN Resident Coordinator Mr. Bishow Parajuli attended as special guests. The event highlighted the completion and dissemination of two key research initiatives by NDRI. The first, Nepal’s Journey Towards Zero Hunger:

The Triple Challenge of Food Security, Food Self-Sufficiency, and Economic Prosperity, conducted in partnership with PRI, analyzed national and international data on food security and hunger, identifying critical gaps and challenges. The second was the Migration Atlas of Nepal, in collaboration with AWO International. Minister Pariyar reaffirmed MoALD’s commitment to achieving Zero Hunger and national food self-sufficiency.





Photo: Dr. Krishna Pahari delivering his presentation

PRI Executive Chairperson, Prof. Dr. Lekhnath Sharma who chaired the event emphasized the importance of timely, evidence-based research in guiding policy and government action. The second part of the event featured a panel discussion on advancing zero hunger, economic prosperity, and decent livelihoods amid Nepal's youth exodus and declining agricultural workforce. Dr. Krishna Hari Pushkar, Secretary at the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security, and Dr. Januka Pandit, Joint Secretary at MoALD, shared government perspectives on creating attractive domestic work

opportunities and boosting agricultural outcomes. Ms. Manushi Yami Bhattarai discussed the role of youth leaders in the country's evolving political landscape and the disconnect between public expectations and government delivery. Dr. Anima Maharjan, Senior Livelihood and Migration Specialist at ICIMOD, highlighted how research can bridge this gap when shared accessibility and relevance. Mr. Parajuli encouraged relying more on domestic budget allocations for agricultural growth rather than external

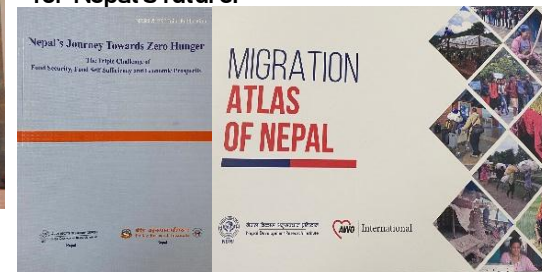


Photo: Glimpse from the panel discussion session

Please click on the image above in order to view the video of the entire event

aid, given the shrinking development assistance.

The panel discussion session was moderated by Prof. Dr. Punya Prasad Regmi, Senior Research Specialist at NDRI, and concluded with Prof. Dr. Sharma calling for stronger collaboration across sectors to enable timely policy reforms. The event successfully emphasized the crucial role of research-driven evidence in shaping sustainable policies for Nepal's future. The event successfully emphasized the crucial role of research-driven evidence in shaping sustainable policies for Nepal's future.



Click on the book images above to view the reports online.

NDRI Presents Education Reform Insights to Hon'ble Minister Dr. Mahabir Pun

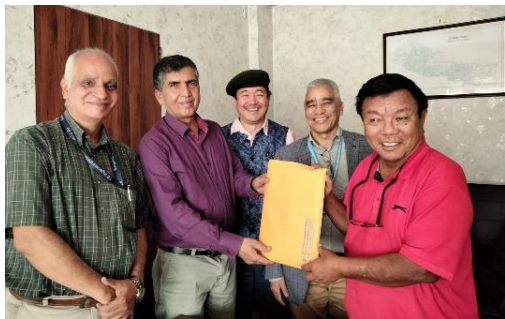


Photo: Knowledge Products Handed Over to Hon. Minister

At the invitation of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST), the NDRI delegation, including Senior Research Scientists Dr. Nawa Raj Khatiwada and Dr. Jaya Kumar Gurung, presented key insights on Nepal's education reform on 8 November 2025. They highlighted how the system has weakened over the past four decades due to outdated curricula, limited practical exposure, and a declining teaching culture.

The team duo stressed the need to modernize science, technology, computer, and communication education and discussed the potential of introducing a work-and-study model for Nepal. Dr. Khatiwada also demonstrated NDRI's "Sorting Network," an innovative tool that simplifies computer algorithms for students and teachers.

Hon. Minister Dr. Mahabir Pun welcomed the suggestions and requested a practical roadmap focusing on curriculum reform, a Nepal-tailored work-study modality, and concrete steps for university reform. Dr. Gurung also shared insights from a regional workshop on eBeam technologies, emphasizing their potential in agriculture. The delegation team handed over NDRI's latest publications to the Honorable Minister.

Rice Farming Systems: Training Wrapped Up, Survey Begins



Mr. Rajendra Khatri leading the training session

NDRI commenced a week-long field survey on rice farming households from Sunday, November 9, 2025. The survey is part of a study conducted by the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), Tokyo, Japan, under the project Sustainable Rice Farming Systems and Household Well-being in Rural Asia. This Cross-Country Rice Farming Household and Agricultural Survey is being conducted across three of the major rice-producing districts of the country, namely Jhapa, Rupandehi, and Kailali.

NDRI's Executive Director Advocates for Smart Urban Planning and Food Security at the 3P Conference

Research Associates Mr. Ram P. Devkota, Ms. Nirmita Shrestha, and Mr. Daya Shrestha are each leading a team of seven enumerators across Nepal. In total, the team aims to collect information from at least 700 rice-farming households to understand the various climatic and non-climatic factors that affect rice production in Nepal's major rice-farming clusters. It aims to collect information on the extent to which various integrated and climate-smart rice farming systems are practiced in the country. As part of the survey preparations, NDRI conducted a two-day training for the 21 enumerators on the 5th and 6th of November, which included a thorough run-through of the questionnaire and an opportunity to learn in detail about Nepal's rice farming practices.



Photo: Dr. Shikha, along with other panelists, during the panel discussion session

On November 3, 2025, NDRI's Executive Director, Dr. Shikha Thapa Magar, participated as a panelist at the National Conference on Policy, Practice, and Progress (3P). The conference, themed "Smart Urban Planning and Development: Policies to Practices," was organized by the National PhD Association. During the session on "Urban Food Systems and Green Infrastructure,"

Dr. Thapa Magar emphasized the critical need to integrate rural and urban planning to preserve agricultural land. She highlighted the importance of developing robust value chains for food security and addressed how rural-to-urban migration is leading to barren lands, decreased productivity, and heightened food insecurity. Consequently, she stressed that effective urban planning must account for migration trends and create sufficient opportunities to encourage youth to remain in the country.



Photo: A moment captured during the event

NEWS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE



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[Drought at planting, deluge at harvest leave farmers reeling](#)



[EU agrees weakened climate target in final-hour deal for COP30](#)



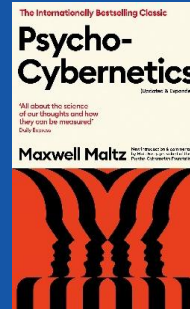
[Iran faces unprecedented drought as water crisis hits Tehran](#)

Thought of the Week

*"Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.
Life rewards action more than hesitation, and progress
always starts with a single choice to begin."*

— Theodore Roosevelt

BOOK RECOMMENDATION



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