



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

- 229th episode of the Contemporary Policy Dialogue Series.
- The Rice Farming Systems Survey concludes.
- NDRI Team Conducts Springshed Assessment and Water Monitoring Field Mission.
- NDRI Participates in an International Conference organized by IBA Karachi, Pakistan.
- NDRI's WCP Team Attends Global mHM Training Workshop in Leipzig.

WEEKLY ECHOES OF



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229th episode of Contemporary Policy Dialogue Series

On November 14, 2025, Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI) and Resources Himalaya Foundation (RHF) hosted an insightful policy dialogue as part of its ongoing Contemporary Policy Dialogue Series. The session, titled *"UN at 80 - Global Paradigm in Peril: Implications for Nepal"*, featured Dr. Shambhu Ram Simkhada, former Ambassador to the UN and a prominent international relations expert. Dr. Simkhada discussed the growing global challenges, which he referred to as the "Crisis of the 3 Cs": Conflict and War, the Crisis of Climate Change, and pandemics like COVID-19. He emphasized the increasing complexities of these crises and their significant impact on diplomacy and Nepal's position in the international arena. Reflecting on the



Photo: Dr. Simkhada during his presentation

foundation of the United Nations, Dr. Simkhada stressed the need for more robust multilateral approaches to address these pressing challenges. In addition, he explored Nepal's evolving relations with India and China in the 21st century, underscoring the importance of strategic diplomacy to navigate these regional dynamics. Dr. Simkhada also critiqued what he termed the "Tragedy of Mimicry," which refers to Nepal's tendency to blindly

copy Western models. He proposed the idea of *"Lyase Pyase"*, advocating for a more balanced, indigenous approach to global engagement. The session offered valuable insights into Nepal's foreign policy and the broader international challenges that shape the global landscape today.

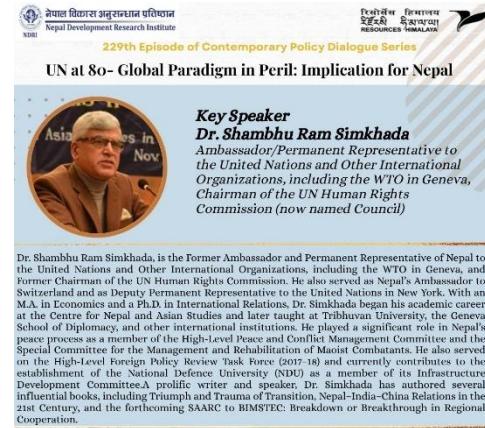


Photo: Flyer of the 229th Episode

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

Rice Farming Systems – Survey concludes

NDRI concluded a week-long field survey of rice farming households from, November 9th to 17th, 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 was conducted across three of the major rice-producing districts of the country, namely Jhapa, Rupandehi, and Kailali.



Photo: Hay being burned after harvesting rice



Photo: Field Enumerator during the survey

Within these three districts, the surveys were conducted in (Gauradaha Municipality, Gauriganga Municipality, and Lumbini Cultural Municipality) and three rural municipalities (Gaidahawa Rural Municipality, Janaki Rural Municipality, and Jhapa Rural Municipality). Research associates Mr. Ram Prasad Devkota, Ms. Nirmita Shrestha, and Mr. Daya Shrestha each led a team of seven enumerators across each of the three districts.

The team surveyed 702 rice-farming households to examine climatic and non-climatic factors influencing rice production in Nepal's main rice-growing regions. The data also captured the use of integrated and climate-smart farming practices. Early findings show that improved irrigation has boosted yields despite rainfall shifts that have pushed rice farming to earlier months. Farmers' selling prices vary greatly, with many earning below the government's minimum rate. Although diverse rice varieties are grown nationwide, the adoption of bio-fortified rice remains low, and traditional cropping patterns, with minimal intercropping, still dominate. NDRI will now collaborate with ADBI to further analyze and generate insights on Nepal's rice production systems.

NDRI Team Conducts Springshed Assessment and Water Monitoring Field Mission

From 7th to 21st November, 2025, a multidisciplinary team from NDRI carried out an intensive field mission in Sindhuli district to support ongoing spring shed and water resource research. The field team, comprising Research Associate Mr. Rajendra Kumar Shrestha, Engineering Geologist Ms. Garima Bindari, and two hydrogeologists, undertook a series of technical assessments across selected wards of Kamalamai Municipality and Sunkoshi Rural Municipality.



Use of V-notch to measure discharge

The primary objectives included geological mapping for springshed delineation, water quality analysis, discharge monitoring of seven key springs, and precipitation data collection from four rain gauge stations. The team also mapped spring users at the household level and identified recharge zones and potential intervention areas to enhance groundwater sustainability. In the field, detailed geological investigations of rock formations, soil characteristics, structural features, and spring conditions were conducted, leading to the preparation of geological maps and cross-sections for each monitored spring. This mission marks an important step toward developing informed, community-centered strategies for spring conservation and water security in Sindhuli.



Photo: Installation of the information board of rain gauge

ACTIVITIES:

- Monitored discharge data collection from seven selected springs.
- Installed V-notch devices to measure discharge in two selected springs out of the seven monitored.
- Monitored precipitation data from four installed rain gauges and installed information boards at each rain gauge station.

Leading Voices at the International Conference in Pakistan



Photo: Dr. Thapa Magar and Dr. Shrestha at the event
On 13-14 November 2025, NDRI's Executive Director, Dr. Shikha Thapa Magar and Senior Research Specialist, Dr. Shankar Shrestha participated in the 5th International Conference (CBERCON25) under the theme "A New Global Order, Yet Again" organized by the School of Economics and Social Science (SESS), IBA, Karachi, Pakistan in collaboration with the Centre for Business and Economic Research, IBA-CBER.

Dr. Thapa Magar served as a Panelist in the Panel Discussion Session on "Climate Change and Social Protection," where she

highlighted the importance of social protection in South Asia for women in agriculture and rural areas. She also emphasized that identifying the core problem of women and vulnerable groups through a gender lens of intersectionality and disaggregated data is crucial for the required support.



Photo: Dr. Thapa Magar delivering her remarks
Dr. Shrestha chaired the Technical Session on "Climate Change, Adaptation and Financing," where he provided critical reviews and suggestions on the research

papers presented. In his closing remarks, he emphasized the importance of aligning climate change, adaptation, and financing research with each country's National Adaptation Plan to ensure outputs directly support national priorities. He also highlighted the widening adaptation finance gap noted in UNEP's Adaptation Gap Report 2025, to which the ECONOGENESIS Project (implemented by NDRI with partners from the UK and Tanzania under the CLARE initiative) contributed a chapter on "Adaptation Finance Gap" and proposed measures to address it.



Dr. Shrestha chairing the Technical Session

NDRI Researchers Attend Global mHM Training Workshop in Germany



Photo: NDRI Research Associates Mr. Pramit Ghimire and Mr. Girish Lamsal during the workshop

From November 3rd to 7th, 2025, NDRI's Research Associates, Mr. Girish Lamsal and Mr. Pramit Ghimire, from the Water and Climate Program at NDRI, participated in the mHM International Workshop 2025 in Leipzig, Germany. This workshop was organized by the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ). The mHM (mesoscale Hydrologic Model) is a powerful open-source tool for simulating terrestrial water cycles, designed to be

spatially distributed, physically based, and applicable across a wide range of scales and regions. The workshop provided comprehensive, hands-on training, beginning with mHM's theoretical foundations, technical setup, and configuration. The training then shifted to a practical session where they learned to prepare all the necessary input data using mHM's tools in Jupyter, before advancing

to model calibration and other specialized topics. The event culminated in collaborative case study presentations by the attendees.



Photo: From Top, Mr. Girish Lamsal and Mr. Pramit Ghimire, presenting their respective case studies

NEWS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE



We focus on book-knowledge rather than practical



US, Ukraine say they have an 'updated and refined' peace framework, but questions remain



Upper Dolpa medical emergencies are marred by high costs and delays



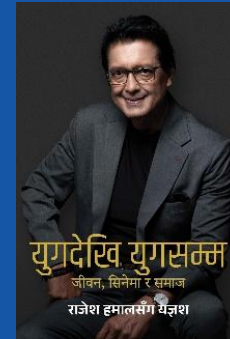
Bangladesh's ousted leader Sheikh Hasina sentenced to death

Thought of the Week

*A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.
Every dream starts small, but each step taken in faith
turns visions into reality.*

- Lao Tzu

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