



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 Hosts Dr. Lubna Naz, Director of IBA-CBER, Karachi, Pakistan to Explore Research Collaboration.
- 231st Episode of the Contemporary Policy Dialogue.
- HI GRID Project Validation Workshop Held at ICIMOD.
- Evidence-to-Policy Dialogue: NDRI Shared Research Findings with YSEF Officials.
- NDRI in SANDEE@25 conference and 50th Research and Training Workshop.
- Reviewing Springwater Monitoring through the SPAN Project Field Visit.
- Enumerators' Training for Endline Survey.
- Muhan Project Brings Key Stakeholders to Advance Springwater Management and Resilient Livelihoods.

WEEKLY ECHOES OF



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

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NDRI Hosts Dr. Lubna Naz from IBA-CBER, Pakistan to Explore Research Collaboration

Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI) was pleased to host Dr. Lubna Naz, Director of the Institute of Business Administration – Center for Business and Economic Research (IBA-CBER), Karachi, Pakistan, during her visit to Nepal on Friday, December 19, 2025, at NDRI premises. The meeting served as a valuable platform for discussions on strengthening research collaboration in economics, development, and environmental studies between NDRI and IBA-CBER. The interaction was highly fruitful, with active participation from NDRI delegates, who shared the Institute's research experiences, ongoing initiatives, and strategic priorities. The delegates also discussed practical pathways for moving forward, including opportunities for joint research, academic exchange, and



Participants gathered for a group photo

collaborative policy engagement. During the meeting, Dr. Shikha Thapa Magar, Executive Director of NDRI, presented an overview of the Institute, highlighting its research focus areas, institutional strengths, and contributions to evidence-based policymaking in Nepal. The discussions enabled an exchange of insights on Pakistan's research initiatives and helped identify common areas of interest where collaboration could add

regional value. Both institutions expressed a strong interest in building a sustained partnership that fosters knowledge sharing and collaborative research in the region.



Dr Shikha presenting Souvenir to Dr. Lubna

231st Episode of the Contemporary Policy Dialogue Series

NDRI and Resources Himalaya Foundation, successfully organised the 231st Episode of the Contemporary Policy Dialogue Series on 19th December 2025. The session featured Mr. Abhishek Ghimire, Expert Advisor at the Ministry of Education, as the Keynote Speaker, who presented on “Nepal’s Education Policy: Current Challenges and Possible Pathways for Reform.” Drawing on his extensive experience of over 18 years in the education sector, He provided critical insights into Nepal’s existing education policy landscape, highlighting key structural challenges, gaps in implementation, and emerging priorities for reform. The session concluded with an engaging discussion, reflecting on policy reform pathways and the need for long-term, collaborative efforts to transform Nepal’s education system.

शैक्षिक रूपान्तरणका लागि सामुदायिक प्रयास

“रूपान्तरण सम्भव छ”

शिक्षा सुधारको माटो सुहाउँदो नेपाली मोडल के हो ?

अभिषेक घिमिरे
संयोजक-मूल शैक्षिक विभाग, नेपाल

Mr. Abhishek Ghimire during the dialogue

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

HI-GRID Project Validation Workshop Held at ICIMOD

A validation workshop for the HI-GRID Project was held at ICIMOD on 8 December 2025, bringing together the project unit, Internal Evaluation Unit, DFAT representatives, and key stakeholders to review and validate findings from field-level data collection and literature. Led by Dr. Shankar Shrestha (Sr. Research Specialist) and Co-Lead Dr. Shikha Thapa Magar (Executive Director), the session featured presentations highlighting insights from both fieldwork and literature review.

The workshop was also attended by the project team, Sr. Research Specialist: Prof. Dr. Tara Nidhi Bhattarai, and Research Associates Mr. Ram Prasad Devkota and Ms. Binita Shahi from NDRI. Discussions centered on sharing lived experiences of beneficiaries, validating findings, reflecting on the Theory of Change, and charting the way forward for the remaining period of the project, with participants raising questions on the findings, receiving clarifications, and ensuring that feedback will be incorporated into the Mid-Term Evaluation report to strengthen evidence-based strategies for impactful outcomes.



Group photo after the workshop



Evidence-to-Policy Dialogue: NDRI Shared Research Findings with YSEF Officials

On 10 December 2025, the research team of Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI), under the IDRC-funded project titled “Promoting Innovation and Inclusion in Growth Potential Enterprises: Evidence from Nepal,” organized a half-day findings-sharing meeting with officials from the Youth and Small Entrepreneurs Self-Employment Fund (YSEF).

The meeting was chaired by Dr. Krishna Pahari, Immediate Past President of NDRI, and was graced by Mr. Anil Raj Poudel, Executive Chairperson of the YSEF Secretariat, as the chief guest. The event was attended by department heads and staff of YSEF, along with the NDRI team comprising Executive Director Dr. Shikha Thapa Magar, Sr. Research Specialists Prof. Dr. Raj Kumar Bhattarai, Prof. Dr. Punya Prasad Regmi, and Dr. Rabita

Shrestha Mulmi, Sr. Research Associate, Mr. Rajendra Khatri, Research Associate, Ms. Nirmita Shrestha, Research Assistant, Ms. Dikshya Barasaini, and Admin and Finance Assistant, Mr. Shekhar Lamichhane. During the program, Dr. Thapa Magar provided a brief introduction of NDRI, highlighting its ongoing research and programmatic activities. This was followed by Mr. Khatri's presentation the overview of the project and its progress.

Ms. Nirmita shared key findings related to the YSEF program, while Prof. Bhattarai presented the program review and policy recommendations. In addition, Prof. Dr. Regmi held a discussion regarding areas for collaboration between NDRI and YSEF. The session concluded with an interactive question-and-answer discussion, focusing on ways forward and strengthening future collaboration, facilitating constructive dialogue between the two institutions.



Group photo taken after the meeting

NDRI in SANDEE 2025 Conference and 50th Research and Training Workshop



Group photo after the workshop (Photo credit: ICIMOD)

In celebration of 25 years of service to the region, ICIMOD–SANDEE organised the International Conference on Development and Environmental Economics at the Hotel Himalaya from 12–14 December 2025. The conference highlighted SANDEE's contributions to strengthening environmental economics education and research capacity, fostering regional collaboration, and generating evidence to support informed policymaking across South Asia and the Hindu Kush Himalaya. Researchers Girish Lamsal, Shreya Bajimaya, and Daya Shrestha represented NDRI at the conference.

Ms. Bajimaya, Sr. Research Associate at NDR, also presented a progress report titled “Economic Assessment of Ecosystem-based Adaptation for Flood Risk Management” during the 50th Research and Training Workshop organised by ICIMOD–SANDEE. The workshop was held at Lemon Tree Premier, Budhanilkantha, from 15–17 December 2025. The R&T Workshop is a biannual programme conducted under



Ms. Bajimaya during her presentation

SANDEE's research capacity building and academic leadership development initiatives.



All participants gathered at the conference for a group photo (Photo credit: ICIMOD)

Reviewing Springwater Monitoring Through the SPAN Project Field Visit

The SPAN project field visit, conducted from 18–20 December, was undertaken jointly with the founders from ACIAR and NDRI, along with collaborative partners, to review on-ground progress, strengthen partnerships, and assess spring monitoring and community engagement activities. The visit included coordination meetings with the Mayor of Kamalamai Municipality and relevant focal persons to discuss project objectives, local priorities, and institutional alignment. Field observations were carried out at spring clusters S-218 (Gwang Khola; Gautami Gufa) and S-219 (Simgaun), including discharge and gauge measurements at M-201, alongside interactions with the Chiyabari community (CM20). Further engagement included a meeting with the Chair of Sunkoshi Rural Municipality,

followed by detailed spring and rainfall monitoring at Spring S-306 (Kalimati) and rain gauge station M-301, covering CM4 communities (Thumka, Chaur, and Sarki Dada). The joint field visit provided an opportunity for ACIAR and partners to directly observe project implementation, validate monitoring approaches, and discuss pathways for scaling springwater management interventions and strengthening community resilience under the SPAN project.



Experts explaining about the springshed and recharge area

Training for Endline Survey of IDRC-MSME Project

On 18–19 December 2025, NDRI conducted a two-day training for 26 field enumerators under the IDRC Canada-funded project “Promoting Innovation and Inclusion in Growth Potential Enterprises: Evidence from Nepal” to prepare them for the nationwide endline survey starting 21 December across all seven provinces. The program was chaired by NDRI President Dr. Jaya Kumar Gurung, with welcome remarks from Executive Director Dr. Shikha Thapa Magar, and attended by delegates from the Youth and Small Entrepreneurs Self-Employment Fund Secretariat (Mr. Surya Prakash Tiwari, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer and Ms. Bhola Khadka). The training covered survey methodology, data quality, ethics, and digital data collection.



The training was facilitated by the NDRI research team, including Sr. Research Specialists: Prof. Dr. Raj Kumar Bhattarai, Prof. Dr. Punya Prasad Regmi, Dr. Rabita Shrestha Mulmi; Project Manager: Mr. Rajendra Khatri; Research Associate Ms. Nirmita Shrestha, and Research Assistant Ms. Dikshya Barasaini, who provided both technical guidance and practical orientation to the enumerators. Following the training, all 26 enumerators have been mobilized and are currently conducting the IDRC endline survey across the seven provinces of Nepal.



Group photo of the Participants at the training

Advancing Springwater Management through the Muhan Project

The first Project Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting of the Muhan project—Springwater management, agriculture, and resilient livelihoods in the mid-hills of Nepal—was held on 16th December 2025 at Hotel Himalaya to guide implementation of the 4-year (2024–2028) interdisciplinary Nepal–Australia research partnership. The project aims to generate holistic knowledge on spring water use, management, and governance, and their links to livelihoods, to strengthen community resilience and local water governance in Nepal's mid-hills. Coordinated by the Water and Energy Commission Secretariat, the PAC brought together government, local government, international organisations, and research institutions to provide strategic guidance and alignment with national development



Group photo after the event

priorities. The meeting featured presentations on Australia–Nepal water cooperation and the Muhan project's objectives, plans, progress, and outputs, followed by group discussions to review initial research, identify risks and mitigation measures, explore synergies and scaling opportunities, and strengthen knowledge exchange for policy and action.



Glimpse of the meeting



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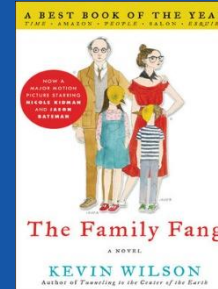
[Gaza patients facing death as Israel continues to block medical supplies](#)

Thought of the Week

The best way to predict the future is to create it. Dreams only become meaningful when we dare to act upon them, shaping each day with courage, persistence, and vision.

- Peter Drucker

BOOK RECOMMENDATION



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

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