



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

- Assessing the Economic Value of Ecosystem-based Adaptation for Flood Risk Management.
- 233rd Episode of the Contemporary Policy Dialogue Series on Electoral Responsibility.
- NDRI at the IDRC's Transforming Food Systems in Asia Workshop in Thailand.
- 30th Episode of the Mesmerizing Mondays.
- NDRI and ZSL Discuss Research Collaboration.
- NDRI Engages with Partners at CFLI Event.
- Preliminary Meeting Held at NCRS Lalitpur Chapter to Plan World Cancer Day 2026 Celebration.
- NDRI at the Building Resilience Feasibility Study Workshop.
- NDRI Strengthens Collaboration on Financing Women-Led Enterprises in Nepal

WEEKLY ECHOES OF



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Assessing the Economic Value of Ecosystem-based Adaptation for Flood Risk Management



NDRI researchers with community members of Purwa Lalitpur (Dhangadhi -19)

As a part of the SANDEE/ICIMOD-funded project “Economic Assessment of Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) for Flood Risk Management,” NDRI researchers Mr. Rajendra K. Shrestha, Mr. Girish R. Lamsal, and Ms. Sophiya Shrestha conducted a field visit to Kailali, Kanchanpur, and Bardiya from 11th to 14th January 2026. The team observed a range of EbA interventions, including bamboo bio-dykes, flood-responsive sugarcane and wild sugarcane (Kans grass)

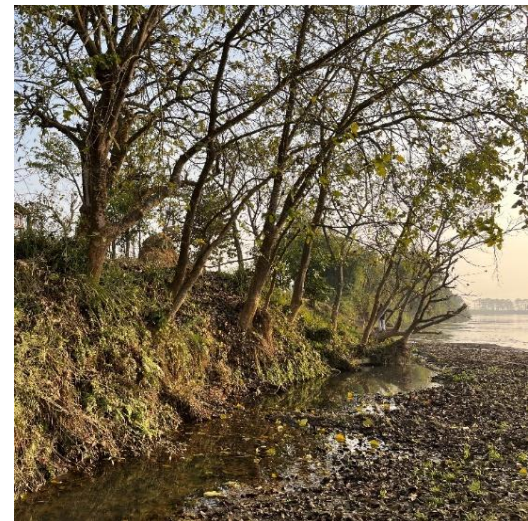
plantations, and forest restoration measures. The visit enabled an in-depth assessment of the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of these interventions through interactions with farmers, community members, and local project implementers.



Research team interacting with a Sugarcane farmer

In addition, the field observations informed the cost-benefit analysis by generating site-specific data on implementation costs,

maintenance requirements, and livelihood-related benefits of EbA interventions. The findings will provide evidence to support the economic evaluation of EbA as a resilient and cost-effective approach to flood risk management in flood-prone landscapes.



Fully established biondyke in Bangalipur, Bardiya

233rd Episode of the Contemporary Policy Dialogue Series on Electoral Responsibility

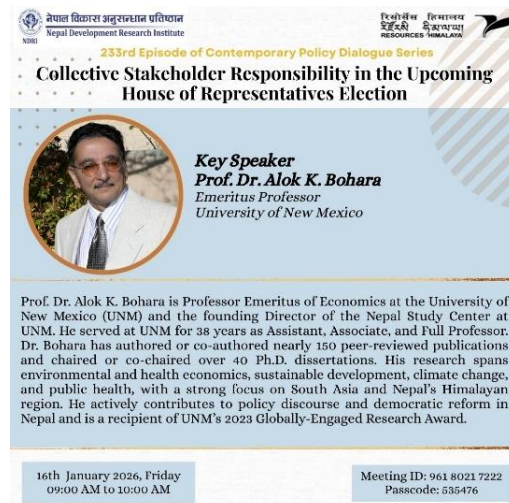
Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI) and Resources Himalaya Foundation (RHF) successfully organized the 233rd episode of the Contemporary Policy Dialogue (CPD) Series on Friday, 16 January 2026. The session focused on the timely and critical theme “Collective Stakeholder Responsibility in the Upcoming House of Representatives Election.”

The dialogue featured Prof. Dr. Alok K. Bohara as the Key Speaker, who is a Professor Emeritus of Economics at the University of New Mexico (UNM) and the founding Director of the Nepal Study Center at UNM. In his presentation, Prof. Dr. Bohara emphasized how political pressure during crises shapes the behavior and responses of key institutions, including political parties, the state, and

society at large. He noted that such pressures often blur institutional roles and weaken accountability, resulting in reactive rather than principled decision-making.

Reflecting on Nepal's political trajectory, the speaker highlighted the lack of internal democracy within political parties as a fundamental driver of the country's three decades of political instability. He argued that weak democratic practices inside parties have limited leadership renewal, undermined public trust, and strained effective governance. A central theme of the discussion was institutional ambiguity, where unclear mandates and overlapping authority create space for political interference.

Prof. Dr. Bohara identified a major structural loophole in Nepal's political system, the absence of an effective and independent “referee” institution to regulate, oversee, and discipline political parties.



नेपाल विकास अनुसन्धान परिषद्
Nepal Development Research Institute

233rd Episode of Contemporary Policy Dialogue Series

Collective Stakeholder Responsibility in the Upcoming House of Representatives Election

Key Speaker
Prof. Dr. Alok K. Bohara
Emeritus Professor
University of New Mexico

Prof. Dr. Alok K. Bohara is Professor Emeritus of Economics at the University of New Mexico (UNM) and the founding Director of the Nepal Study Center at UNM. He served at UNM for 38 years as Assistant, Associate, and Full Professor. Dr. Bohara has authored or co-authored nearly 150 peer-reviewed publications and chaired or co-chaired over 40 Ph.D. dissertations. His research spans environmental and health economics, sustainable development, climate change, and public health, with a strong focus on South Asia and Nepal's Himalayan region. He actively contributes to policy discourse and democratic reform in Nepal and is a recipient of UNM's 2023 Globally-Engaged Research Award.

16th January 2026, Friday
09:00 AM to 10:00 AM

Meeting ID: 961 8021 7222
Passcode: 535476

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



NDRI at the IDRC's Transforming Food Systems in Asia Workshop in Thailand



Participants of the workshop captured in a group moment

Dr. Krishna Pahari, Lead of Livelihoods and Food Security Programme at NDRI, attended the three-day Asia regional workshop on Food Systems Transformation (FST), organized by IDRC in Thailand. Prominent experts and representatives from various research institutes, government organizations, and regional institutions attended the workshop. The regional institutions

included the Asian Institute of Technology (Thailand), International Rice Research Institute (Philippines), and several institutions under ASEAN. Representing Nepal were two well-known think tanks, like NDRI and Policy Research Institute. The workshop dealt with the concepts of FST, envisioning its future, regional collaboration, and coalition for advancing the agenda.

The workshop participants engaged in extensive brainstorming and consultations to maximize the capabilities of various organizations in Asia in advancing different themes related to FST. Among the seven groups thus identified, NDRI is expected to take a lead on research activity related to FST by first taking on the mapping and assessment of existing research institutions and capacities related to FST in the region. NDRI also took the opportunity to suggest that IDRC organize a workshop in Nepal to stimulate deliberations on FST in South Asia.



The research coalition for FST in Asia – experts from Nepal, Thailand, Philippines, Malaysia and Bangladesh.

30th Episode of the Mesmerizing Mondays



Glimpse from the Mesmerizing Monday's Episode on Earthquake Response

On Monday, 12 January 2026, President of NDRI Dr. Jaya Kumar Gurung and Sr. Research Specialist Prof. Dr. Tara Nidhi delivered a presentation on “Earthquake Response Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)” as part of the Mesmerizing Monday Series in observance of Earthquake Day. Before the presentation, all attendees participated in a brief self-reflective questionnaire on earthquakes, safety measures, and related concerns to assess their baseline understanding of the topic. The remaining session was dedicated to

the presentation, which focused on ensuring life safety, systematic evacuation, effective emergency coordination, and timely recovery actions before, during, and after an earthquake. The session was insightful and encouraged meaningful reflection among participants. It concluded with a question-and-answer segment for clarification and additional inputs, along with an action point to revisit the questionnaire results to collectively compare participants’ understanding before and after the session.

NDRI and ZSL Discuss Research Collaboration

On January 7, 2026, Dr. Shikha Thapa Magar, Executive Director of NDRI, and Dr. Shankar Shrestha, Senior Research Specialist, held a partner meeting at the Zoological Society of London with Country Representative Dr. Bhagwan Dahal and his research team. They discussed their respective organizations’ research areas



Dr. Shikha and Dr. Shankar, along with Dr. Bhagwan Dahal

during their visit

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and identified opportunities for collaboration, particularly in conservation and livelihood. This partnership will continue with a focus on a seminar to share the findings.

NDRI Engages with Partners at CFLI Event



Dr. Shikha with Deputy Ambassador Mr Mark Alley and Ms Juna Mathema

On January 15, 2026, Dr. Shikha Thapa Magar, Executive Director of NDRI, attended a Networking Dinner Reception

organized by the Canadian Embassy as a part of the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI). The event served as a networking platform for local partners and development partners (DPs) to share their work. During the reception, Dr. Thapa Magar highlighted NDRI's ongoing projects supported by Canadian funding.

Planning World Cancer Day 2026 Celebration at NCRS Lalitpur Chapter

A preliminary planning meeting for the World Cancer Day 2026 celebration was held on 21 January 2026 at the Nepal Cancer Relief Society (NCRS) Lalitpur Chapter Office, Lagankhel. The meeting focused on coordination, partnership, and program planning for the upcoming awareness event. Members of the Tobacco Control Program Team, including Project

Lead Dr. Jaya Kumar Gurung and Research Associate Mr. Parashar Khadka visited the NCRS Lalitpur Chapter and held an in-person discussion with Mr. Shailendra Lal Pradhan (Chairman), Mr. Kedar Karki (Vice Chairman), and other NCRS members. The key agenda of the meeting was to finalize plans for the World Cancer Day 2026 celebration, which will be organized by NCRS with support from Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI). Dr. Gurung shared the initial concept and confirmed that this year's theme will continue from last year: "United by Unique," emphasizing inclusive, people-centered cancer awareness and action. It was agreed that the program will be held on 6 February 2026, two days after World Cancer Day, due to the scheduling of other events.

The program will take place at Namuna Machhindra School, Lalitpur. The planned activities include a key presentation by Dr. Jaya Kumar Gurung, along with inputs from selected participants. A major highlight of the program will be the screening of a 30-minute teleserial/short film, "Ke Dera Ke Ghar," featuring Madan Krishna Shrestha and Haribansha Acharya. The film uses a comedy-based approach to convey important messages related to cancer prevention and awareness. The event will conclude with an interactive question-and-answer session, encouraging students to actively engage with the topic. Awards will be presented for the best questions and responses, promoting participation and deeper understanding.

NDRI at the Building Resilience Feasibility Study Workshop

NDRI participated in a two-day virtual workshop on 9th and 12th January 2026, to share its research findings as a part of the recently concluded short-term feasibility study on "Building Community Resilience for Food and Nutrition Security and Disaster Risk Reduction in Salyan District, Nepal," supported by AWO International. Study lead Dr. Krishna Pahari, Livelihoods and GESI expert Dr. Manjeshwori Singh, and Research Associate Mr. Daya Shrestha shared their findings and recommendations to members of AWO International headquarters in Germany, regional office staff, and project staff of CEAPRED (Center for Environmental and Agricultural Policy Research, Extension and Development, the proposed project's

primary implementing partner.

The findings and recommendations were based on an extensive desk-based study and a week-long field visit completed a month ago. They were well received by the rest of the participants and contributed to an engaging discussion. The discussion and validation at the workshop informed the final feasibility report.

BUILDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE FOR FOOD &
NUTRITION SECURITY AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION
IN SALYAN DISTRICT, NEPAL

A Feasibility Study

Workshop to share preliminary findings



NDRI Strengthens Collaboration on Financing Women-Led Enterprises in Nepal

On January 22, 2026, Dr. Shikha Thapa Magar, Executive Director of NDRI, participated in an event titled “Unpacking and Bridging the Financial Barriers to Empower Women-Led Enterprises (WLEs) in Nepal.” The event aimed to present and discuss the key findings of a recent study jointly conducted by the Climate Policy Initiative (CPI), Forest Action Nepal (FA-N), and the Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies (SIAS).



Group photo from the Event

The study explores the socio-economic and financial challenges faced by women-led enterprises in Nepal, with a particular emphasis on barriers related to access to finance. The program also served as a platform for dialogue among stakeholders to deepen the understanding of existing gaps and to explore potential pathways to enhance financial access for WLEs. During the event, Dr. Shikha Thapa Magar identified a shared area of interest between NDRI and CPI regarding financial constraints faced by women-led enterprises and initiated discussions on developing a collaborative concept.

Following this, Dr. Debal from CPI visited NDRI the next day to further explore opportunities for collaboration and

concept development. The meeting concluded with research sharing and the formulation of a collaborative concept, enriched by the contributions of NDRI's President- Dr. Jaya Kumar Gurung, Thematic Lead of the Water and Climate Programme- Dr. Divas B. Basnyat, and Senior Research Specialist.- Dr. Shankar Shrestha.

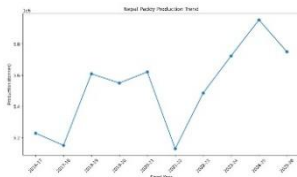


NDRI President, Executive Director, Senior Research Specialists, along with Dr. Debal, in a frame

Follow the [link](#) for SIAS's event coverage



NEWS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE



Nepal's paddy output set to fall for the first time in four years



Indonesia sues six companies over environmental harm in flood zones



Nepal, Bangladesh move to fast-track preferential trade agreement



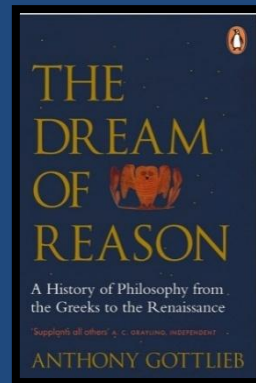
Scientists confirm 2025 as third-warmest year ever recorded

Thought of the Week

Keep your face always toward the sunshine and shadows will fall behind you. Life is too short to dwell in darkness when hope, love, and possibility are waiting in front of us.

-Walt Whitman

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