



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

- Dissemination Workshop on Promoting Innovation and Inclusion in Growth Potential Enterprises in Nepal.
- NDRI at the Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand.
- NDRI Hosts 234th Episode of The Contemporary Policy Dialogue Series on Voter Education.

WEEKLY ECHOES OF



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Dissemination Workshop on Promoting Innovation and Inclusion in Growth Potential Enterprises in Nepal



Workshop participants gathered for a group picture

A two-day dissemination workshop on “Promoting Innovation and Inclusion in Growth Potential Enterprises: Evidence from Nepal” was held on 28th and 29th of January 2026 at Hotel Himalaya, Lalitpur, organized by NDRI in collaboration with International Development Research Institute (IDRC), Canada.

The event was graced by Dr. Prakash Kumar Shrestha, Vice-Chair of the National Planning Commission, as the Special Guest. Prof. Dr. Punya Prasad Regmi, Senior Research Specialist, set the context of the study. NDRI research team shared key findings, experiences, and lessons from a three- year study, focusing

on what is working, what is not, and what needs improvement in government-initiated enterprise development programs. Mr. Rajendra Khatri, Project Manager, presented the study findings, noting that both MEDPA and YSEF have contributed to the creation of new enterprises and employment

opportunities; however, ensuring long-term sustainability remains a key challenge.

In addition, Ms. Nirmita Shrestha, Research Associate, shared the study's findings related to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI), highlighting key gaps and areas for improvement. Prof. Dr. Raj Kumar Bhattarai, Principal Investigator for the project, subsequently presented key policy recommendations targeted at all three tiers of government.



Workshop attendees during the discussion session

The workshop brought together Mayors, Deputy Mayors, Chairpersons, and Vice-chairpersons from local governments, provincial and federal ministry officials, YSEF representatives, loan facilitators, Chairperson of Agro Enterprise Centre, and representatives from the National Agriculture Modernization Project. The two-day workshop benefited from valuable suggestions and feedback shared by participants, enriching the discussions and making them more practical and action-oriented.



NDRl Researchers during their presentations

Media Coverage

‘मेडपा र वाइसेफ जस्ता कार्यक्रम संघीय संरचना अनुसार अघाडी बढाइनुपर्छ’—उपाध्यक्ष श्रेष्ठ

Posted on: January 30, 2026 - 11:22 am

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स्थानीय तहमा उद्यम विकासको चुनौती: बजेट अभाव, समन्वय र अनुगमन कमजोर

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NDRI at the Asian Institute of Technology

Dr. Krishna Pahari, Lead of Livelihood and Food Security Program at NDRI, held interactions with senior members of the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) during 26th to 29th January 2026, including Mr. Manzul Hazarika, the Director of the Geoinformatics Centre (GIC). A discussion was held, including a stock taking of activities in the Asian region since the establishment of GIC in 1999. It is worth noting that Dr. Pahari was also a contributor to this GIC initiative, under the leadership of Professor Emeritus Shunji Murai. It was agreed to revive communications and to explore possibilities for collaboration in Nepal and in South Asia. Dr. Anil Kumar Anal, Academic Senate Chair, the Dean of the Faculty of Resource and Professor, Food Innovation, Nutrition and Health (FINH) & Food Engineering and

Bioprocess Technology (FEPT): Dr. Anal was also a participant at the IDRC organized Asia regional workshop on Food System Transformation. It was agreed that NDRI and AIT will work closely on research related to FST, together with other organizations in Asia, and thus serve as the research hub.

Dr. Ram Chandra Bhujel, Director of the Aqua-Centre and Associate Professor at AIT: The discussion included a stock taking of the recent progress in fish production in Nepal and potential learning from South East Asia, and potential research collaboration.

Prof. Rajendra Shrestha, Professor and the former Dean of the School of Environment, Resources and Development (SERD): It was agreed to explore potentials for joint research projects related to food

systems, natural resources, and ecosystem-based adaptations.

Prof. Shobhakhar Dhakal, Professor at the Faculty of Climate Change and former Vice President for Academic Affairs: on climate-related research in Nepal.

Dr. Bindu Nath Lohani, Vice-Chair of the Board of Trustees and visiting faculty at the Faculty of Climate Change, on utilizing our excellent network with AIT for furthering research activities in Nepal.



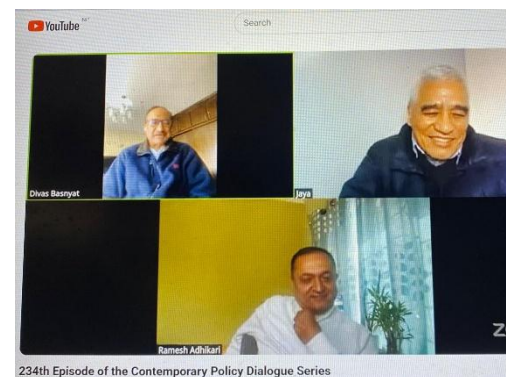
Dr. Krishna Pahari with Dr. Manzul Hazarika, Director of the Geoinformatics Center at AIT.

NDRI Hosts 234th Episode of Contemporary Policy Dialogue on Voter Education



Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI) and Resources Himalaya Foundation (RHF) jointly organized the 234th episode of the bi-weekly Contemporary Policy Dialogue Series on January 30, 2025, focusing on voter education and the importance of casting a valid vote ahead of Nepal's upcoming elections. Titled “तपाईंको मतपत्र बदर नहोस् ख्याल गरौं”, the session aimed to raise awareness about common

causes of invalid ballots and promote approximately 18 million voters, including informed and responsible voter around 850,000 first-time voters, with participation, while serving as a neutral youth accounting for 52 percent, platform to disseminate accurate underscoring the urgent need for targeted election-related information. The program featured election management and governance professional Mr. Ramesh Adhikari as the key speaker. He presented data on invalid votes over the years, explained their negative impact on democratic representation, and outlined key reasons for ballot invalidation. He also provided practical guidance on the correct voting process and emphasized the growing risk of invalid votes due to voter confusion and limited awareness. Mr. Adhikari highlighted the roles of the Election Commission, political parties, and development partners in strengthening voter education. He noted that Nepal has



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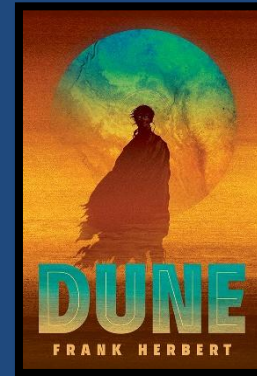
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Thought of the Week

"The expert at anything was once a beginner."

– Helen Hayes

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