



## **Media Advisory**

### **Workshop on ‘Water–livelihoods–gender nexus’ in Kathmandu**

Kathmandu, Nepal, 22 March 2016

The two–day workshop on 24–25 March will bring together national and international partners and stakeholders involved in knowledge and capacity development initiatives related to water, livelihoods, and gender in the Koshi basin.

The event is being jointly organized by the Department of Irrigation (DOI) and Department of Agriculture (DOA) of the Government of Nepal and hosted by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) and supported by Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Australia.

Its key objective is to improve understanding of water in the context of socioeconomic and livelihoods in the Koshi River basin, with a special focus on gender.

The workshop aims to act as a platform for knowledge sharing, improved communication and networking on science–based policy, and coordination on the water–livelihoods–gender nexus, as well as enhancing the effectiveness of nexus assessments and policy support to Government of Nepal and India.

The workshop will include presentation of ongoing research outcomes and discussion on ways to improve understanding of livelihoods and gender issues in connection to water resources management in the Koshi basin. Policy recommendations will be developed based on co–learning among the stakeholders.





### **About the Koshi River basin and shifting trends**

Koshi River basin – a transboundary basin shared by China, Nepal and India – provides water for irrigation and domestic use that supports the livelihoods of nearly 40 million people. It also has large potential for hydropower development.

Most rural people in the Koshi basin depend on traditional agriculture and livestock for their livelihoods. Major drivers of change, such as market and demographic changes, migration, and climate change, significantly impact water resources and, ultimately, the livelihoods of the basin people. Some shifts are being observed in livelihoods patterns with a major increase in the commercialization of agriculture, and subsistence farming has been largely replaced by cash crop cultivation. The trend of male outmigration for work overseas is increasing, and although remittance income contributes to the local economy, the work burden for most women has increased in the absence of a large male workforce. Women bear more responsibilities both within and outside their households, especially with regards to agricultural work and managing water for irrigation.

To address crucial issues affecting the Koshi River basin, a number of initiatives have been undertaken by ICIMOD, DOI, DOA, and Water and Energy Commission Secretariat (WECS), CSIRO, the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT), and HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation to generate evidence-based knowledge, build the capacity of communities, and support policy formulation to support adaptation under changing climatic and water conditions.

### **About the participants**

Over 80 participants are attending the workshop, including senior government officials, academic scholars, and development professionals from China, India, and Nepal specializing in water management, gender, livelihoods, food security, agronomy, atmosphere, agriculture, biodiversity, disaster preparedness, ecosystem, policy making and economy.

Ambassador of the Australian Embassy in Kathmandu, His Excellency Glenn White will be giving special remarks during the event.

### **About the presentations**

The event includes technical presentations in diverse areas related to the workshop themes. There will be three key sessions, with the first day focussed on water and livelihoods issues,





and gender and water resource management. Under the first session, topics covered will include socioeconomic and biophysical determinants of crop yield, farmer-managed irrigation systems, and household vulnerability and adaptation. The second session will focus on gender in local water-use planning, reviving springs, and impacts on gender.

On the second day, there will be one session focussed on improving the resilience of livelihoods. Specific topics include riverbed farming to enhance livelihoods, water use master plans in different ecological regions, multiple water-use systems and micro-irrigation technologies, the role of marginal farmers and women in irrigation management, impacts of low-cost irrigation technologies on livelihoods and gender, solar pump interventions among others.

There will be also interactive group sessions focussed on gender-specific research and bringing synergy among researchers, policy makers, and implementers in the Koshi basin. Communication strategies and the impact pathway project management approach will also be discussed.

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**For additional information on the event, please contact:**

Dr Shahriar M Wahid

Programme Coordinator for the Kosi Basin Programme, ICIMOD

Email: [shahriar.wahid@icimod.org](mailto:shahriar.wahid@icimod.org); Tel: [5003222](tel:5003222) Ext 265

Dr Golam Rasul, Theme Lead

Livelihoods, ICIMOD

Email: [golam.rasul@icimod.org](mailto:golam.rasul@icimod.org); Tel: [5003222](tel:5003222) Ext 304

**For media related matters, please contact:**

Nira Gurung

Senior Communications Officer, ICIMOD

Email: [nira.gurung@icimod.org](mailto:nira.gurung@icimod.org); Tel: [5003222](tel:5003222) Ext 115

