

Water-livelihoods-gender nexus to advance Koshi Basin Management

24 – 25 March, 2016, Hotel Himalaya, Lalitpur, Nepal

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Background

Koshi river basin, a trans-boundary basin spread across China, Nepal and India, supports livelihoods of nearly 40 million people by providing irrigation, domestic water and has a large potential for hydropower development.

Most rural people in Koshi basin depend on traditional agriculture and livestock for their livelihoods. Major drivers of change such as market, demographic changes, migration and climate change have significant impact on water resources and ultimately on the lives and livelihoods of the basin people. Some shifts are being observed in the livelihoods patterns in the Koshi basin. There has been a major increase in the commercialization of agriculture, and the subsistence farming has been replaced by cash crops. There is a trend of growing number of male out-migration for overseas work. Although that has helped to contribute in the local economy through the remittance income, the work burden for most women has increased in absence of a large male workforce. The women have to bear more responsibilities both within and outside their households, especially on agricultural work and managing water for irrigation.

A number of initiatives have been undertaken by ICIMOD, Department of Irrigation (DoI), Department of Agriculture (DOA), Water and Energy Commission Secretariat (WECS), Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), International Water Management Institute (IWMI), International

Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT), HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation to generate evidence-based knowledge, build capacity of communities and support policy formulation to adapt to changing climate and water conditions.

A two-day joint workshop 'Water-Livelihoods-Gender Nexus To Advance Koshi Basin Management' is being jointly organised with DoI and DOA, Government of Nepal, and hosted by ICIMOD and CSIRO with support from Department of Foreign Aid and Trade (DFAT), Australia. DoI has a mandate to manage and monitor different modes of environmentally sustainable and socially acceptable irrigation and drainage systems. Its ultimate aim is to increase the agricultural productivity by expanding irrigable area and providing year-round irrigation, which eventually contributes towards the national GDP and improves the standard of living of the beneficiary farmers. Apart from this, DoI also intervenes in the river basin to protect the floodways, floodplains and agricultural lands in the form of river bank protection to minimize the damage of properties from flood disaster. Similarly, DOA is responsible for the overall growth and development of the agriculture sector. This sector still contributes significant share in Nepal's economy. The broader objective of this department is to achieve food security and poverty alleviation by the transformation of agriculture through diversification and commercialization.

This workshop aims to synergize efforts, discuss about creation of a common platform for knowledge sharing and coordination on Water-livelihoods-gender nexus and improve the effectiveness of nexus assessments and policy support to Government of Nepal and India.

Objectives of the workshop

The main objective of the workshop is to improve the understanding of water in socio-economic and livelihoods context with special focus on gender aspects of the Koshi river basin. The workshop specifically aims to:

- Bring together national and international partners and stakeholders involved in water-livelihoods-gender related knowledge and capacity development initiatives in the Koshi basin
- Present the on-going research outcomes and improve the understanding of livelihoods and gender issues in connection with water resources management in the Koshi basin.
- Draw policy recommendations based on the co-learning among the stakeholders.
- Create a platform for knowledge sharing and improved communication for evidence based policy support.

Expected outcomes

1. A common understanding among partners of emerging knowledge and tools to improve livelihoods and gendered development outcomes in the Koshi basin.
2. Improved communication and networking among the different actors working in the Koshi, produce synergy and reduce the duplications.
3. Policy recommendations based on the co-learning from the stakeholders engaged in Koshi.
4. Possible formation of knowledge sharing platform.

Organizers and co-organizers of the workshop

The workshop is jointly organized by the Department of Irrigation (DoI) and Department of Agriculture (DOA), Government of Nepal, hosted by ICIMOD and CSIRO and supported by DFAT Australia. Our co-organisers include, IWMI, HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation, CIMMYT and Farmer Managed Irrigation Systems Trust (FMIST).

Day 1 (24 March 2016)

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| 9:00–10:30 | Opening session |
| 9:00 | Registration |
| 9:30 | Welcome Address <i>Dr David Molden</i> , Director General, ICIMOD |
| 9:40 | Special Remarks: His Excellency <i>Glenn White</i> , Honourable Ambassador, Australian Embassy |
| 9:50 | Remarks <i>Dr Yubak Dhoj GC</i> , Director General, Department of Agriculture <i>Ashok Singh</i> , Deputy Director General, Department of Irrigation <i>Dr Bharat Pokharel</i> , Country Director, HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation |
| 10:10 | Workshop Objectives and Overview: <i>Dr Shahriar M Wahid</i> , ICIMOD |
| 10:20 | Remarks: <i>Dr Tira Foran</i> , CSIRO |
| 10:30 | Group photo |
| 10:30–11:00 | Tea Break |
| 11:00–13:30 | Session I: Water and livelihoods issues and challenges <i>Chair: Dr Golam Rasul</i> , ICIMOD; <i>Moderator: Shabnam Shivakoti</i> , Ministry of Agricultural Development |
| 11:00 | Livelihoods and food security issues in the Bihar part of Koshi basin <i>Dr Biplap Dhak</i> , ANSISS |
| 11:15 | Responding to climate change: constraints and potential adaptation options in Koshi basin <i>Dr RC Bastakoti</i> , IWMI |
| 11:30 | Challenges and opportunities for Farmer Managed Irrigation System in Koshi Basin of Nepal <i>Dr Prachanda Pradhan</i> , FMIST |
| 11:45 | Empirical livelihood analysis and its potentiality for regional planning and policy advice <i>Dr David Fleming</i> , CSIRO |
| 12:00 | Adaptation against rural household vulnerability at up reaches of Koshi River <i>Dr Xueqian Song</i> , Chengdu University of Information Technology, China |
| 12:15–13:15 | Discussion |
| 13:15 | Concluding Remarks: <i>Chair</i> |
| 13.30 | Lunch break |
| 14:30–17:00 | Session II: Gender and water resource management <i>Chair: Dr Prachanda Pradhan</i> , FMIST <i>Moderator: Dr Manohara Khadka</i> , Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation |
| 14:30 | Argument – representation – implementation (ARI): Improving the policy advice that comes from livelihoods research: <i>Dr Tira Foran</i> , CSIRO |
| 14:45 | Gender equality and social inclusion in Water Use Master Plan: <i>Srijana Shrestha</i> , HELVETAS; <i>Neeta Thapa</i> , ICIMOD |
| 15:00 | Recharge ponds for protection of springs in the mid-hills of Nepal: Experience from pilot study in Kavre: <i>Binod Sharma</i> , NWCF |
| 15:15–15:45 | Tea break |
| 15:45–16:45 | Discussions |
| 16:45 | Concluding Remarks: <i>Chair</i> |
| 17:00 | Introduction of group work for Day 2: <i>Dr Shahriar M Wahid</i> |
| 18:00 | Reception Dinner at Hotel Himalaya |

Day 2 (25 March 2016)

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| 09:00–10:40 | Session IIIa: Improving livelihoods resilience <i>Chair: Dr Yubak Dhoj GC</i> , Department of Agriculture; <i>Moderator: Dr Juerg Merz</i> , HELVETAS | | |
| 9:00 | Riverbed Farming for enhancing livelihoods: cases from Koshi River basin <i>Santosh Raj Paudel</i> , DOA | | |
| 9:15 | Local water use master plan and rehabilitation response – livelihood contribution, Koshi Basin <i>Bikram Rana</i> and <i>Rabin Niraula</i> , HELVETAS and <i>Dr Nilhari Neupane</i> and <i>Harshana Shrestha</i> , ICIMOD | | |
| 9:30 | Multiple Use Water Systems (MUS) and Micro- Irrigation Technologies (MIT) for the Koshi Basin - Transferring Learning and Experience from the Gandaki Basin <i>Raj Kumar GC</i> (iDE, Nepal) | | |
| 9:45 | Existing good practices of water management for livelihood improvement in Koshi <i>Dr Pranita Bhusan Udas</i> , ICIMOD | | |
| 10:00 | Discussion | | |
| 10:30 | Concluding Remarks: <i>Chair</i> | | |
| 10:40–11:00 | Tea break | | |
| 11:00–13:00 | Session IIIb: Improving livelihoods resilience <i>Chair: Bashu Dev Lohanee</i> , Department of Irrigation; <i>Moderator: Dr Kamala Gurung</i> , ICIMOD | | |
| 11:15 | The role of marginal farmers and women in irrigation management: reflection from Terai and Bihar part of Koshi basin (cases from ACIAR work): <i>Dr Fraser Sugden</i> , IWMI | | |
| 11:30 | Sustainable intensification of staple crop system in Eastern Indo-Gangetic Plain (IGP) <i>Dr Mina Devkota Wasti</i> , CIMMYT | | |
| 11:45 | Impact of low cost irrigation technologies on livelihoods and gender <i>Rabindra Singh</i> (Practical action) and <i>Pratap Thapa</i> (aQysta) | | |
| 12:00 | Solar pump interventions and scope for livelihoods improvement, experience from WLE <i>Dr Aditi Mukherji</i> , ICIMOD | | |
| 12:15 | Discussion | | |
| 12:45 | Concluding Remarks: <i>Chair</i> | | |
| 13:00–14:00 | Lunch break | | |
| 14:00–16:00 | Session IV: Group Discussion <i>Moderator: Dr Tira Foran</i> , CSIRO | | |
| 14:00–15:30 | Parallel Group work 1 Improving the policy advice that comes from livelihood research in the Koshi basin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gender specific research - ARI framework - Cluster analysis | Parallel group work 2 How to bring synergies among the different actors (researchers, policymakers, implementers) to improve the livelihood in the Koshi basin Communication strategies and Impact pathway | Facilitator: Group 1 Dr Tira Foran; Dr David Fleming Dr Nilhari Neupane; Dr Pranita Bhusan Udas; Dr Shawahiq Siddiqui Facilitators: Group 2 Dr Aditi Mukherji Dr Shahriar M Wahid Dr Arun B Shrestha |
| 15:30–16:00 | Group presentations | | |
| 16:00–16:30 | Tea break | | |
| 16:30–17:30 | Session V: Concluding session <i>Chair: Dr Eklabya Sharma</i> , ICIMOD; <i>Moderator: Dr Shahriar M Wahid</i> , ICIMOD | | |
| 16:40 | Concluding remarks: <i>Bashu Dev Lohanee</i> , Deputy Director General, Department of Irrigation | | |
| 16:50 | Concluding remarks: <i>Dr Yubak Dhoj GC</i> , Deputy Director General, Department of Agriculture | | |
| 17:00 | Concluding Remarks: <i>Chair</i> | | |
| 17:15 | <i>Vote of Thanks: Dr Nilhari Neupane</i> | | |