Knowledge Forum

Climate Resilient Development in Himalayan and Downstream Regions

Jointly Organized by
Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW), Government of India
International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and
Institute of Economic Growth (IEG)

Juniper Hall, India Habitat Center, New Delhi (Near Gate No. 1)

16–17 June, 2016

16 June, 2016 (Thursday)

Arrival and registration (09:30–10:00)

1. Inaugural and Welcome Session (10:00–11:30)

Himalayan countries made remarkable progress in socio-economic development in recent years. Challenges, however, persist in ensuring food and nutritional security, ending hunger and poverty, and providing access to safe water and clean energy to the burgeoning population. Poverty, unemployment, food insecurity, and poor health are widespread in this region. Leaders in the region have committed to end poverty and hunger, ensure food and water security, provide clean energy, mitigate the impacts of climate change, and promote inclusive growth and climate resilient development as part of the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2030. Achieving these goals requires integrated solutions, the efficient and sustainable use of land, water, energy and ecosystems, the strengthening of upstream–downstream linkages, and increased regional and sub-regional coordination and communication.

The inaugural session will set context and orient the Knowledge Forum to focus on the key issues and challenges faced by Himalayan and downstream communities as well as identify options and mechanisms for integrated solutions, resource use efficiency, upstream–downstream linkages, regional and sub-regional cooperation for inclusive growth and climate resilient development.

- David Molden, Director General, ICIMOD – Welcome and background of Knowledge Forum
- Manoj Panda, Director, IEG – Remarks on role of research
- S.K. Pattanayak, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India – Remarks on role of government
- Harinder Sidhu, Australian High Commissioner, India – Remarks on Sustainable Development Investment Portfolio approach in South Asia
Demand for food, water and energy is growing rapidly in the Himalayas and downstream regions. Although Himalayan countries made progress in food production, poor sectoral coordination and institutional fragmentation have triggered an unsustainable use of water, energy and other resources. This has increased the risk of long-term sustainability of food, water, and energy security in the region, as well as posing a critical challenge to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs of zero poverty (SDG1), ending hunger and food insecurity (SDG2), ensuring water security (SDG6), access to modern energy (SDG7), sustainable economic growth (SDG8), sustainable production and consumption (SDG12), and conservation, protection and sustainable use of marine and terrestrial resources and ecosystems (SDG 14 and 15) are directly and indirectly linked to food, water, and energy security. In this context, this policy talk will focus on:

- Improving the understanding of the current state of knowledge related to food, water, and energy security in the Himalayas and downstream, their interlinkages, synergies and trade-offs;
- Identifying options and mechanisms to improve inter-sectoral and inter-regional coordination and coherence to minimize inter-sectoral trade-offs and maximize synergies.

Ashok Gulati, Professor, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER)

- Golam Rasul, Theme Leader, Livelihoods, ICIMOD – Setting the context
- Sabnam Shivakoti, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of Nepal
- Dipak Gyawali, Chair, Nepal Water Conservation Foundation, Former Minister of Water Resources, Government of Nepal
- Jyoti Kirit Parikh, Executive Director, Integrative Research and Action for Development, India
- Rajat Katharuia, Director, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), India
- Chairperson’s remarks

13:30–13:45 Lunch

Technical Session 1: Improving Agricultural Productivity and Livelihoods

The majority of the people in the Himalayan region and downstream live in rural areas and depend heavily on agriculture for their livelihoods and wellbeing. Improving agricultural productivity and enhancing sustainability is critical improving livelihoods of rural people and promoting inclusive growth. Growth and dynamism in the agriculture has recently slowed due to climatic and non-climatic factors. This session will focus on innovative ideas and options that promote agricultural productivity and livelihood enhancement in changing climatic conditions and socioeconomic changes.

Chair: Brij Mohan Singh Rathore, Chief Policy Advisor, ICIMOD

- S. Siva Kumar, Divisional Chief Executive, Agriculture Business Division, ITC Limited, India
- Kalyan Das, OKD Institute of Social Change and Development, Guwahati, India
Himalayan and downstream countries are challenged in ensuring food, water and energy security in the face of increasing uncertainty in water availability with changing climate change. Farmers have limited access to water for irrigation, recurrent occurrence of floods and droughts and power shortage cripples economic activities and thwarts industrial growth.

Sustainable development of water resources in Himalayan river basins is critical for long-term sustainable economic development of downstream areas reflects a stronger upstream–downstream linkage. Despite the huge benefit, upstream–downstream cooperation has remained sub-optimal, though it is critical for climate resilient development at river basins. This session will bring scientific evidences of climate change impact in the Himalayan river basins and suggest mechanisms for strengthening upstream and downstream linkages to minimize the damages of water related disasters and optimize the collaborative development of water resource at Himalayan river basins.

Chair: Dipak Gyawali, Chair, Nepal Water Conservation Foundation, Former Minister of Water Resources, Government of Nepal

- Arun B. Shrestha, Regional Programme Manager, River Basins, ICIMOD
- D. K. Mishra, Member of an Expert Advisory Group to the Ministry of Water Resources to advise the Ministry over Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, India
- Srikant Baldi, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Himanchal Pradesh, India
- Navarun Varma, The Energy and Resource Institute, New Delhi, India
- Anamika Barua, Executive Director, SaciWATERs, India

Chairperson’s remarks

18:30-19:30 Musical evening
19:30-21:00 Reception Dinner

17 June 2016 (Friday):

Technical Session 3: Innovation for Climate Resilient Development
(09:30–11:00)
Inclusive growth and climate resilient development call for innovative ideas, options, technologies and practices. This session will focus on identifying innovative ideas, technologies, good practices and solutions for inclusive growth and climate resilient development in changing climatic condition and socioeconomic changes.

Chair: R.B. Sinha, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
Policy Talk: Agricultural Development – Emerging Challenges and Opportunities (11:30–13:00)
Agriculture is the main livelihood options in the Himalayan river basin. In this specific policy talk, the policy makers and researchers exchange their ideas to address the agriculture challenges and opportunities in the Himalayan river basin so that agriculture sector will be more competitive to grow more nutritious food in a sustainable manner to achieve the goal of SDG to ensure food and nutrition for all.

Chair: Vijay Paul Sharma, Chairman, Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)

- Golam Rasul, Theme leader Livelihoods, ICIMOD — setting the context
- Nilabja Ghosh, Associate Professor, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi, India
- Basu Dev Lohani, Deputy Director General, Department of Irrigation, Nepal
- JMH Jabed, Director, Director of Agriculture and Rural Development, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Secretariat
- Pramod Kumar, Institute of Social and Economic Change, Bangalore, India
- Chairperson’s remarks

13:00–14:00 Lunch

Way Forward: Coherent and Coordinated Policy for Comprehensive Development (14:00–16:00)
Inclusive growth and climate resilient development will require to appropriate policy and institutional mechanisms to create conditions for innovative ideas and integrated solutions for inter-sectoral coordination, increased regional and sub-regional collaboration, and sustainable use and management of resources. The aim of this session is to identify appropriate policy and institutional options, incentive structures, and regulatory mechanisms to foster science–policy–practice interactions, and promote actions and strengthen cooperation among diverse actors including government, private sectors, NGOs, civil society and research organizations.

Moderator: Eklabya Sharma, Director Programme Operations, ICIMOD

Forum summary: Golam Rasul, Theme Leader, Livelihoods, ICIMOD

- Yuba Raj Khatiwada, Vice-Chairperson, National Planning Commission, Government of Nepal
- Anil K. Sinha, Vice-Chairman, Bihar State Disaster Management Authority, Government of India
- Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad, Chairman, Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), Bangladesh
- T. Chatterjee, Director, Indian Institute of Public Administration, Former Secretary, Government of India (TBC)
- Ajay Narayan Jha, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, India (TBC)
- Ashok Jain, Adviser, National Institute for Transforming India (NITI Ayog), Government of India (TBC)
- David Molden, Director General, ICIMOD
• Jawhar Sircar, CEO Prasar Bharti, India (TBC)
• Manoj Panda, Director, IEG
• Moderator’s remarks

Valedictory

• Nilabja Ghosh, Associate Professor, IEG, India