



*Summary of Day 1 and Way forward*  
**Koshi DRR Knowledge Hub: Building a Resilient Koshi Basin**

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# Opening Session

Welcome Remarks by Sanjay Pandey, Bihar InterAgency Group

Objectives by Kanchan and Shrestha, ICIMOD

- Understand the issues and challenges related to Koshi basin
- Share some solutions towards making Koshi Basin resilient and support transboundary collaboration
- Priority actions for the Koshi DRR Knowledge Hub (intro to the KDKH)

# Opening Session

“This Knowledge Hub is a platform that we all can contribute and learn from each other” – Dushyant Mohil, Wetlands International

“How do we integrate livelihoods in the hub? We have been saving lives but what about livelihood?” – Praveena Sridhar, Frank water

KDKH needs multi-lateral, constant, and cohesive approach to achieve its objective– Tushar Tushar Kanti Das, Plan India

# Opening Session

- “Our ancestors have been in living with floods for centuries, why have these become disasters now? What actions are we taking now that is causing these disasters?” - Dinesh K. Mishra
- Regional context with HIMAP. Lets look at the river basin as a whole, looking at upstream downstream relationship, need for gender response and socially inclusive – Sanjeev Bhuchar, ICIMOD
- “Flood is a function of the river. Disasters need to be managed at a basin scale - not in pieces” – Prof. (Dr.) Rash Bihari Prasad Singh, VC, Patna University

# Technical Session 1A: Understanding the issues and challenges of the Koshi river

*Santosh Nepal, Water and Climate Specialist, ICIMOD*

- Integrated assessment of climate change, floods and sedimentation is needed for disaster risk reduction in the Koshi Basin
- Transboundary collaboration is needed to do these assessment

*Dinesh K. Mishra*

- Drainage commission is needed to better management river infrastructures.
- Will the embankments in Nepal help solve Bihar's problems? The answer is probably no.
- What can be done in India – flood tolerant crops, flood resilient houses

# Technical Session 1A: Understanding the issues and challenges of the Koshi river

Praveena Sridhar, Frank Water

- Flood affected areas have increased by three folds – why? Population growth and landuse planning. Apps like *Bhuwan* can be used.
- Anchoring the intervention in the local economy – even like Mithila art and local products. Unless ecological practices are able to generate income it will not be long lasting

## Q and A -

- Why flood areas increasing? Sedimentation? – floods and sedimentation is a natural process. Climate change, needs better management.
- Monitoring and evaluation with the beneficiaries – whether embankment is good or bad. Then adjust plans
- Why SOPs are not being implemented.
- Melting of glaciers and other factors can contribute to glacial melt.

Closing remarks by Anil Sinha – Innovative solutions – need to treat sediment as an asset than only problem. From the youth.

# Technical session 1 B: Understanding the issues and challenges of the Koshi Basin

Banku Bihari, UNICEF

- Sendai framework, empowering the youth and communities, without communities there is no resilience
- Pilots like the early warning system needs to upscaled, sharing information upstream and downstream can save lives
- Fatalistic behavior and dependency behavior needs to change
- Best practices sharing session through the hub can be organized in the coming the days.



# Technical session 1 B: Understanding the issues and challenges of the Koshi Basin

Tushar Kanti Das, Plan India

- Why are more children drowning near , which children?
- Vulnerable children without support system
- If we cannot protect and empower children during peace time how do we prepare for during the disasters?
- Resilience starts from communities and children

# Technical session 1 B: Understanding the issues and challenges of the Koshi Basin

Ravi Prakash, SDO

- Example of Forbesgunj: unless natural drainage systems are maintained – flood management cannot work
- Drainage systems are private lands, how can we make raiti land? River contour maps can be used, if available.
- Linear structures, like roads hold water and cause flood for longer time period

# Q and A

- We put all responsibility on the communities only, governments have equal responsibility
- Human trafficking is on the increase during the disaster
- Create safe places for children, schools should not be used as camps. Schools starts as soon as possible

# Technical session II: Strengthening Coordination and Collaboration among transboundary development agencies

Babul Prasad, Mission DRR :

- Monitoring and warning services at transboundary level – create authentic system
- Absorptive resilience, adaptive resilience, transformative resilience
- Formal system needed bringing NGOs, development agencies and government - secretariat need in Nepal and India – one voice
- Network – sub-committees – with specific roles , at least 20years, should contribute what they can and also increase their capacity
- Long term financial commitment is needed.

# Technical session II: Strengthening Coordination and Collaboration among transboundary development agencies

Kapileshwar Ram, Chairman, Dalit Adhikar Manch, Bihar

- How can we increase collaboration between state governments, and national governments for Koshi Basin management – we still have hope!
- Coordination team at the local level is most important, Leadership training at the local level – both for women and men
- The most vulnerable have less voice – who is standing in the line for relief?

## Technical session II: Strengthening Coordination and Collaboration among transboundary development agencies

Ranjeev, Nadi Wapasi Abhiywan, Bihar

- The need for early warning is becoming more important
- Citizen group, cultural exchange needs to be improved

Raju Thapa, DpNet

- Large network for government,
- Livemap with live information is available in Nepal
- [www.bipad.gov.np](http://www.bipad.gov.np) with Disaster Information Management System
- DpNet and KDKH information needs to be synced
- Online emergency meeting groups
- Focal person in each network
- Online meeting - cost effective -

# Q and A

- Can state and center communicate – are the mechanisms in place? Are they effective? What can be done?

Closing remarks by Ranjana Das, Oxfam

- The community strengthened from response to preparedness to resilience

# Improving upstream-downstream cooperation for cross-border floods and resilience building

Shree P.N Rai, BSDMA - So much effort is placed reconstruction, we need to be prepared better.

Neera Shrestha Pradhan – what is CBFEWS and how does it work?

Mahendra Karki and Ranjeet Jha – Heros – tirelessly working to save lives!

Kamini Jha – our village has benefitted, the ground realities have changed, how can we build resilience ?

Sanjay Panday – what can we give upstream as incentives? How can we replicate ?

Deepak Jha - The training was very useful, we were able to do it little support, have been constantly in touch

Satish ji – we need sustainability models so that work continues long after I am gone. Need to remember rivers benefits and how we manage them



# Improving upstream-downstream cooperation for cross-border floods and resilience building

Babul Prasad – we also have a system for early in 40 villages. It is not very technical but have 40 volunteers. Can we learn from each other.

-- Khado River – affects very much in India as much as Nepal. – Jaal sambad manch with both communities from two years – no more fights. Issues have been resolved. This is a good practice

## **Closing Remarks –**

P.N. Rai – please build these partnerships. BSDMA is working to build capacity at ward, mukhiya sarpanch, chairperson, master trainers for swimming, Training of 8 to 10 volunteers on disaster from each panchayat.

Why aren't being able to replicate CBFEWS? the conference should give way forward for replicating this.

# Science-Policy-Practice

- Practices – documented of good practices, participatory assessments of the interventions
- Research – linking natural and social sciences, gender disaggregated, integrated climate change, floods and sediment, resilient infrastructure development
- Policies – rooted in improving livelihoods.
  
- Linkage – Sarkar and samudaya
- Cross-cutting – Keep people at centre, social inclusion, modern tools (smart technologies)

# Today's session

- **Technical Session IV (A)** : Transboundary interactions and sustainable actions towards a resilient Koshi
- **Technical Session IV**: Role of media in reaching out to the unreached in creating a resilient Koshi river basin
- **Koshi DRR Knowledge Hub (KDKH) – country chapters and transboundary working groups (working tea)**
- **Valedictory Session – closing session**