



PANEL DISCUSSION

DigitALL: Innovation and technology for climate-resilient agriculture

8 March 2023 | Mid-West University, Surkhet, Nepal

About the event

Every year on 8 March, we mark International Women's Day to promote gender equality and women's rights. This event highlights discrimination against women and girls and the crucial research and action being carried out to eliminate inequity. This year's theme is 'DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality'. In line with this theme, ICIMOD, GeoKrishi, and Mid-West University are co-organising a half-day programme on '[DigitALL innovation and technology for climate-resilient agriculture](#)' in Birendranagar, Surkhet.

The event is being organised under the Green Resilient Agricultural Productive Ecosystems (GRAPE) project and will bring together students, young researchers, faculties, local NGO representatives, government departments, and provincial agricultural ministries to raise awareness on the gender-differentiated impacts of climate change, express the need for research-into-use incorporating digital innovation and technologies to build climate-resilient agriculture, and look into research, planning and design through a gender lens to empower women in research.

ICIMOD is awarding three 'Embrace equity research grants' to young and dynamic students interested in exploring gender-friendly climate-resilient agriculture technologies and practices along with the potential of digital innovation and technology integration. The research should address

the gender-differentiated impacts of climate change on agriculture, contribute to generating scientific evidence, build on traditional or local knowledge, and offer solutions to improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers, particularly women.

Additionally, GeoKrishi will be announcing their leadership programme for students, through which they can enhance their knowledge and skills on web applications and tools for agricultural advisory services and digital marketplace. This platform will enable them to connect with agricultural experts, software developers, and local communities to bring scientific knowledge into practice.

Objectives

- Raise awareness on the importance of women-led research and digital innovation that meets women's needs, reduces drudgery, and promotes gender equality
- Strengthen networking and exchange of ideas on gender-friendly climate-resilient agriculture technologies and practices
- Engage students and young researchers (particularly women and girls) in collaborative action research and encourage for long-term career prospects through research grants and leadership programmes

Expected outcomes

- Increased awareness among government officials, faculties, young researchers, and students on the gender-differentiated impacts of climate change and proven women-friendly technologies/solutions
- Increased interest among faculties, young researchers, and students in pursuing research work on gender-friendly climate-resilient agriculture technologies and practices along with exploring the potential of digital innovation and technology integration

Expected participants

The event includes participants from Far West University, Agriculture and Forestry University, Mid-West University, CTEVT higher secondary schools, Ministry of Land Management, Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation, Directorate of Agriculture Development, Birendranagar Municipality, independent individuals working on gender and youth, GIZ Surkhet cluster, Pathway Technologies (GeoKrishi), LI-BIRD, SAHAS-Nepal, and CEAPRED.

Tentative agenda

Wednesday, 8 March 2023

Time	Programme	Details
08:30–09:00	Registration	
09:00–09:30	Inaugural session Welcome remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Erica Udas, Ecosystem Analyst, ICIMOD• Lekhraj Dahal, Secretary, Ministry of Land Management, Agriculture and Cooperatives, Karnali Province• Nanda Bahadur Singh, Vice Chancellor, Mid-West University	Moderated by Kalpana Paudel , Assistant Professor, Mid-West University
09:30–10:00	Keynote speech: ‘GESI mainstreaming for resilience of agroecological systems’	Hom Maya Gurung , Barefoot Consultant/ Prabina Shrestha , District Coordinator, Himalayan Permaculture Centre
10:00–10:30	Women connect: Digital agro-advisory services for all	Bobin Thapa , Project Coordinator, Geokrishi
10:30–12:30	Panel discussion on ‘DigitALL: Innovation and technology for climate-resilient agriculture’	Moderated by Dinesh Gautam , Executive Director, Hriti Foundation
12:00–12:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Embrace equity research grant announcement• GeoKrishi leadership programme announcement	Erica Udas , ICIMOD Bobin Thapa , GeoKrishi
12:25–12:30	Closing remarks	Sudip Thakuri , Dean, Faculty of Science and Technology, Mid-West University
12:30–13:30	Lunch and networking	

Background

As part of the Green Resilient Agricultural Productive Ecosystems (GRAPE) project, ICIMOD is taking the lead in implementing GRAPE Field of Action (FA) 2 – action research – in Karnali and Sudurpashchim provinces of Nepal. The focus is on participatory action research and demonstration of proven climate-resilient agriculture solutions to minimise climate and socio-economic risks and vulnerabilities. The project puts great emphasis on gender equality and social inclusion for ensuring green and productive agroecological systems that supports mountain livelihoods and economy.

We are working with universities, research institutions, non-governmental organisations, community-based organisations, and governments at all levels to ensure research-into-use through informed policy and decision making so that local communities benefit from adoption of context specific, gender friendly proven solutions and innovations at scale.

GRAPE is jointly planned and financed by the European Union, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland, and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), and implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

About the organisers

ICIMOD

The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) is an intergovernmental knowledge and learning centre working on behalf of the people of the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH). We are based in Kathmandu, Nepal, and work in and for our eight regional member countries – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan. We work to improve the lives and livelihoods of men, women, and children of the HKH and protect mountain environments and cultures. The knowledge we create, and share helps the people of the HKH become more resilient, make the most of new opportunities, and prepare for change. Our work strengthens regional cooperation for conservation and sustainable mountain development.

GeoKrishi

GeoKrishi initiative under Pathway Technologies Pvt. Ltd., an implementing partner of GRAPE, leads work focusing on access to digital information services such as agro-advisory services, weather forecasts, and market price information sharing to farmers. Such digital platforms help farmers easily reach out to experts, access information on cropping calendar and crop management, bargain for better prices as well as allow for better preparedness and planning based on weather forecasts.

Mid-West University

Mid-West University is a state-supported, leading academic institution located in Surkhet, Nepal. Established in 2010, it has quickly gained a reputation for providing high-quality education across the country. The university offers a diverse range of undergraduate and graduate programmes in fields such as agriculture, business, engineering, health sciences, education, and social sciences. With a team of experienced faculty members and state-of-the-art facilities, Mid-West University is committed to providing a supportive learning environment that enables students to achieve their academic and personal goals.



For further information

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