

Climate-resilient agriculture for sustainable food systems in the Hindu Kush Himalaya

1–3 October 2024 | ICIMOD Headquarters and Living Mountain Lab (LML), Godavari

About the conference

The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), in collaboration with the Government of Nepal and the Green Resilient Agricultural Productive Ecosystems (GRAPE) project, is organizing this conference to bring together multi-stakeholders from the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) countries and beyond to foster cross-learning of best climate resilient practices, solutions, approaches, and policies for sustainability of mountain food systems, particularly in the HKH. It also seeks to advance knowledge on enabling environment climate resilient agricultural solutions (CRAS) and regional cooperation for wider adoption of these solutions to achieve sustainability in mountain food systems. Participants include researchers, experts from government and non-government sectors, practitioners, academicians, policymakers, and other stakeholders.

Objectives

- **Promote exchange of best practices:** Facilitate cross-sharing of the best climate-resilient practices and solutions to address the rising risks in mountain food systems.
- **Address barriers and identify solutions:** Deliberate solutions to address challenges and bottlenecks that disrupt the enabling environment for wider adoption of climate-resilient agricultural solutions in the HKH.
- **Enhance collaborative efforts:** Foster collaboration among governments, NGOs, researchers, and local communities to promote the widespread adoption of climate-resilient solutions and ensure long-term sustainability in mountain food systems.

Background

Mountains cover 22% of our planet and accommodate over 1 billion people. Yet, 40% of mountain communities face food insecurity. In the HKH alone, one-third of the population is food insecure and nearly half suffer from malnutrition—severely impacting children and women.

The HKH is grappling with severe challenges in agriculture including macro issues such as climate change, loss of agrobiodiversity, labor shortage, low tech adoption, and high post-harvest losses. Climatic changes - such as changes in temperature, erratic weather patterns, frequent floods, prolonged droughts, and shifting seasons - not only impact food production and income, but also exacerbate the existing social inequalities. Therefore, addressing these threats and impacts of climate change are among the most urgent challenges for ensuring the sustainability of our food systems and the resilience of agriculture.

In response, ICIMOD held the international conference '[Enabling Resilient and Sustainable Food Systems in the Hindu Kush Himalaya](#)' in 2023 which spotlighted the urgent need for resilient and sustainable food systems in the HKH and facilitated cross-learning to address both climatic and non-climatic risks in mountain food systems. This year's conference will build on this momentum, exploring innovative climate-resilient solutions, approaches for building climate resilience in the HKH, and strategies for widespread scaling and adoption.

Agenda

Day 1- 01 October 2024

Registration: 9:00-9:30

Time (NPT)	Sessions
9:30-10:30	Opening session Host: Barsha Rani Gurung, Communications Officer, ICIMOD
	Welcome Remarks Formal inauguration by the Chief Guest: Honourable Minister, Ramnath Adhikari, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome remarks by: Shekhar Ghimire, Director Administration, Finance and Operations, ICIMOD Address by: Shahiya Ali Manik, Director, SAARC Secretariat Remarks by: Benjamin Seidel, Deputy Head of Mission, Head of Cooperation and Economic Affairs, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Kathmandu Launch of knowledge products <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Towards Climate Resilient Agriculture in Nepal: Solutions for Smallholder Farmers Community Learning Centres: For Climate Resilient Agriculture जलवायु परिवर्तन र जलवायु उत्थानशिल कृषिसम्बन्धी सुचना पत्र Book of Abstracts: Participatory Action Research on Climate-Resilient Agriculture under GRAPE Inaugural address by chief guest Vote of thanks: Kamal Aryal, Project Coordinator, GRAPE FA 2, ICIMOD
10:30-11:00	Tea/coffee and group photo
11:00-12:30	P1: Mountain Food Systems in the Face of Climatic and Other Changes Session Host: Abid Hussain, Action Area Coordinator, Adapting and transforming livelihoods and economies, ICIMOD

	<p>Keynote: Arabinda Mishra, Chairperson, Development and Environment Futures Trust, India</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jonathan Reeves, Senior Climate and Energy Adviser, British Embassy Kathmandu • Shri Faiz Ahmed Kidwai, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare & CEO National Rainfed Area Authority , Govt of India Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare & CEO National Rainfed Area Authority , Govt of India (virtual) • Rajendra Prasad Mishra, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Nepal • Rosa Laura Romeo, Coordinator, Mountain Partnership, Italy (video participation) • Paulina Campos, Country Representative, GIZ Nepal 	
12:30-13:15	<p>Marketplace (Poster Presentation around 35)</p> <p>Session Host: Oshin Sharma, Research Associate and Rajendra Dhakal, Climate Resilient Agriculture Analyst, ICIMOD</p> <p>Theme: Climate resilient agriculture technologies and practices (findings from GRAPE action research)</p>	
13:15-14:00	Lunch break	
14:00-15:30	TS1: Innovative Climate-Resilient and Sustainable Agricultural Practices	
	<p>A: Technological innovations for building climate resilience in mountain agriculture</p> <p>Session Host: Till Ludwig, Technical Advisor, GIZ</p> <p>Session Hall: Nanda Devi Hall</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunita Nhemaphuki, Co- founder and CEO, R&D Solutions, Nepal • Kalyan Gauli, Head of Climate Resilient Agriculture Development, GIZ, Nepal • Muhammad Yaseen, Director General, Government of KPK, Pakistan • SHEN Ting, Postdoctoral Fellow, Centre for Mountain Futures, China 	<p>B: Nature based solutions for climate resilient and sustainable mountain agriculture</p> <p>Session Host: Srijana Joshi Rijal, Ecosystem Specialist, ICIMOD</p> <p>Session Hall: Annapurna Hall</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chhimi Dorji, Director, Tarayana Foundation, Bhutan • Anil Shrestha, Professor, California State University, USA • Ram Krishna Shrestha, Joint Secretary, MoALD, Nepal • Menila Kharel, Thematic Lead- Sustainable Agriculture and Markets, Practical Action Nepal • Rommila Chandra, Assistant Professor, DOON University, India

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prakash Tiwari, Professor, Kumaun University, India 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geeta Pandey, Director, KIRDARC, Nepal
15:30-15:45	Tea/coffee break	
15:45-17:00	<p>P2: Productive use of Renewable Energy for resilience building in Mountain Agriculture</p> <p>Session Host: Avishek Malla, Energy Specialist, ICIMOD</p> <p>Keynote speaker: Laxman Prasad Ghimire, Deputy Director, Alternative Energy Promotion Centre, Nepal</p> <p>Launch of knowledge products:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch of Detailed Feasibility Study Framework • Video screening on solar cold storage system solutions <p>Moderated discussion: Mewang Gyeltshen, Senior Specialist Renewable Energy, ICIMOD</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laxman Prasad Ghimire, Deputy Director, Alternative Energy Promotion Centre, Nepal • Lenneke Braam, Country Program Director, SNV, Nepal • PC Sharma, Joint Director, ISA, India • Wang Peng, Professor, Guangzhou Institute of Energy Conversion, Chinese Academy of Science. 	
18:00- 20:00	Reception Dinner: Hotel Himalaya, Kupondole Height, Lalitpur	

Day 2- 02 October 2024

Time (NPT)	Sessions	
9:30-9:45	Recap of Day 1	
9:45- 11:00	TS2: Green and inclusive agricultural value chains and entrepreneurial ecosystems.	
	<p>C: Enabling environment for green and inclusive agricultural Entrepreneurship</p> <p>Session Host: Anu Joshi Shrestha, Rural Enterprise and Value Chain Specialist, ICIMOD</p> <p>Session Hall: Kailash Hall</p> <p>Panellists:</p>	<p>D: Engaging women, youth, and marginalized groups in mountain agri-businesses</p> <p>Session Host: Binija Nepal, Component Manager- Knowledge Dissemination and Upscaling, GIZ</p> <p>Session Hall: Annapurna Hall</p> <p>Panellists:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ramji Prasad Neupane, Former National Programme Manager, Micro Enterprise Development Programme (MEDEP) • Prativa Pandey, Founder, Herveda Botanicals and Catalyst Technology • Dhan Bahadur Kathayat, Agriculture Extension Officer, MoLMAC, Karnali • Madhuvanti Kale, Senior Manager, United Way of Hyderabad, India • Niraj Khanal, Co-founder, Knowledge growth and sustainability Inc Pvt Ltd, Nepal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sudha Khadka, Country Director RECOFTC, Nepal • Shiba Satyal, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Lead, ICIMOD • Marycielo Valdez Sanchez, Alpaca fiber transformation and supply chain Manager, Threads for Dream • Shakeb Nabi, Country Director, WHH • Suman Ghimire, CEO and Founder, Seed innovation lab • Hina Siddique Chaoudhary, Scientific Officer, Pakistan Agriculture Research Council(PARC)
11:00-11:30	Tea Break	
11:30- 12:30	Storytelling for Resilient Food Systems Moderator: Barsha Rani Gurung, Communications Officer, ICIMOD Voices from the field: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purna Rawat Bhandari, Farmer, Dailekh, Nepal • Shakti Singh Rawat, Farmer, Humla, Nepal Video showcase – Videos on climate resilient agriculture Digital first and role of digital storytelling – Neelima Vallangi, Climate Journalist Digital narratives for change: Inspiring actions in mountain agriculture, ICIMOD	
12:30-13:30	Lunch break	
13:30-14:50	TS3: Climate smart mechanization and digital technologies for resilient mountain food systems	
	<p>E: Climate smart mechanization in mountain agriculture</p> <p>Session Host: Arun GC, Program Specialist, FAO Session Hall: Kailash Hall</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MA Wei, Chief Scientist, CAAS, China • Shiva Shrestha, Project Manager, UNDP-Nepal • Shreemat Shrestha, Principal Scientist, NARC 	<p>F: Digital Solutions for Production and Marketing in Mountain Food Systems</p> <p>Session Host: Aradhana Gurung, Co-Founder and CEO, Impact 447 Session Hall: Nanda Devi Hall</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YANG Xueqing, Professor, SAAS, China • Tara Panthi, Innovation and New Initiative Lead, Heifer, Nepal • Rajan Bajracharya, Managing Director, Geo-Krishi, Nepal • Abiral Pant, Business and Market Systems Director, USAID Feed the

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shalu Adhikari, Climate Specialist, FAO • Aamer Hayat, Co-Founder, Agriculture Republic, Pakistan • Jeet Chand, Senior Agricultural Engineer, PMAMP, Nepal 	Future Agriculture Inputs Activity, Nepal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sravan Shrestha, Senior Associate-Remote Sensing & Geoinformation, ICIMOD
14:50-16:10	P3: Regional collaboration for reducing risks and building resilience in mountain food systems Session Host: Brij Mohan Rathore, Senior Policy Advisor, ICIMOD Panellists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surendra Raj Joshi, HIREAP Coordinator, ICIMOD • Nivedita Varshneya, Regional Advisor, Advocacy and Collaborations, WHH, India • Arjan De Haan, Senior Programme Specialist, IDRC • Ganga Dutta Acharya, Senior Program Specialist, SAARC Agriculture Centre, Bangladesh • Neera Shrestha Pradhan, Action Area Coordinator, Managing Cryosphere and Water Risks ICIMOD • Yusuf Zafar, Former Chairman, PARC, Pakistan 	
16:10-16:30	Tea Break	
16:30-17:30	Closing session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback – 2-3 participants • Summary of the conference and way forward –Abid Hussain, Action Area Coordinator, Adapting and transforming livelihoods and economies, ICIMOD • Remarks – Roshan Shrestha, Deputy Chief Technical Advisor and Component Manager, GRAPE, GIZ • Closing remarks –Arjun Prasad Pokharel, Secretary, Ministry of Land Management, Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation • Vote of thanks – Kamal Aryal, Project Coordinator, GRAPE FA 2, ICIMOD 	

Day 3- 03-October 2024

Time (NPT)	Sessions
9:30-10:00	Commute to Living Mountain Lab of ICIMOD
10:00-11:00	Presentation on the Living Mountain Lab – Yufang Su, Head – LML, ICIMOD
11:00-11:30	Tea Break
11:30-1:30	LML Walk – guided by LML/ICIMOD team
1:30-2:30	Lunch
2:30-3:00	Return to Hotel