

Sensitisation on the PURE platform for provincial stakeholders in Nepal

Dates

04 August 2025, Pokhara

11 August 2025, Surkhet

14 August 2025, Hetauda

Background

Nepal's agricultural sector employs over 60% of the labour force, yet the sector contributes only 24% to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), largely due to limited productivity and inefficient resource use. Of the 2.5 million hectares of land suitable for irrigation, only 35% has year-round irrigation, making farmers highly dependent on seasonal rainfall and increasingly vulnerable to climate change. While surface and groundwater resources offer significant potential, Nepal's predominantly mountainous terrain creates challenges for irrigation development, often necessitating energy-intensive water-lifting solutions.

To address these challenges sustainably, the Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPIC), with support from the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), developed the Productive Use of Renewable Energy (PURE) platform. This digital tool supports planning for renewable energy-powered river lift irrigation by integrating satellite imagery and field data into a decision-support system. By overlaying various geographic and infrastructural datasets, the platform enables effective site identification for irrigation projects. Although initial implementation has shown promise, there remains a critical need to build awareness and capacity among government and sectoral stakeholders to fully leverage the platform's potential for enhancing irrigation services and supporting national development objectives. To address these gaps, this consultancy aims to sensitise policymakers, planners, government engineers, and other stakeholders on the platform's functionalities. By fostering its integration into planning processes at the federal, provincial, and local levels, this initiative seeks to unlock PURE's full potential in enhancing irrigation services and supporting Nepal's broader development goals.

Objectives

The provincial level orientation programme aims to:

- Introduce key provincial stakeholders to the PURE platform, its functionalities, and its practical relevance
- Foster dialogue and gather recommendations for effective adoption and institutionalisation of the platform
- Build momentum for data-driven and climate-resilient irrigation planning across Nepal

Expected outcomes

- Increased awareness of the PURE platform's utility for irrigation and renewable energy planning
- Strengthened stakeholder interest and commitment to adopt and scale the use of the platform
- Practical feedback and recommendations to support future upgrades and wider dissemination

Agenda

Time slot	Sessions/ Activity details	Session facilitator/ speaker
10:00 – 10:30 am	Participants' arrival, registration, tea/coffee	
10:30 – 10:35 am	PURE platform introduction	Avishek Malla, Intervention Manager, Renewable Energy, ICIMOD
10:35 – 10:45 am	Opening remarks	Representative from a province (TBC)
10:45 – 11:05 am	Presentation: - Context setting of the PURE platform (Background and rationale of the PURE platform; status, demand and importance of solar water lifting in Nepal; potential stakeholders and their role on the PURE platform)	Kushal Gurung, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), WindPower Nepal Pvt Ltd
11:05 – 11:35 am	Presentation on the PURE platform: - Introduction to the PURE platform	Sujan Nepali, Geospatial Analyst, ICIMOD
11:35 am – 12:20 pm	Recommendations and Q&A	WindPower Nepal
12:20 – 12:30 pm	Closing remarks	Representative from the AEPC (TBC)
12:30 pm	Lunch	