RESEARCH DISSEMINATION AND POLICY WORKSHOP ON LABOUR OUT-MIGRATION, AGRICULTURE CHANGE AND CONSEQUENCES FOR LEFT BEHIND WOMEN

Workshop Report



Prepared by: Institute for Social and Environmental Research-Nepal Fulbari, Chitwan, Nepal













DECEMBER 18, 2017

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
2. INTRODUCTION	4
3. WORKSHOP PROGRAM	5
3.1 Inaugural session	5
3.2 Overview of research	5
3.3 Thematic sessions	6
4. ACCESS TO DATA AND OTHER RESOURCES	8
5. KEY NOTE SPEECH	9
5.1 Interdisciplinary research and evidence based agriculture policy formulation	9
5.2 Role of interdisciplinary research in agriculture research	9
5.3 Interdisciplinary research and higher education policy	9
6. CLOSING REMARKS	10
7. REFERENCES	10
Annex 1. List of Participants	11
Annex 2. Workshop Schedule	13

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides an overview of a workshop entitled, "Research Dissemination and Policy Workshop on: Labour Outmigration, Agriculture Change and Consequences for Left Behind Women". The workshop was jointly organized by the Institute for Social and Environmental Research-Nepal (ISER-N), the Agriculture and Forestry University (AFU) in Nepal and the Population Studies Center (PSC) at the University of Michigan (UM), USA with financial support from the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), UK. The workshop was held on the International Migrants' Day, December 18, 2017 at Hotel Shanker, Kathmandu, Nepal.



Picture right to left: Prof. Dr. Nabaraj Devkota, Research Director, Agriculture and Forestry University; Prof. Dr. Dirgha Ghimire, Principal Investigator of the Study; Hon. Prof. Dr. Ishwari P. Dhakal, Vice Chancellor, Agriculture and Forestry University; Prof. Dr. Dharma Raj Dangol, Chair Person, Institute for Social and Environmental Research-Nepal; Hon. Prof. Dr. Kailash Nath Pyakuryal, Former Planning Commission Member and Founding Vice Chancellor, Agriculture and Forestry University; Dr. Bal Gopal Baidhya, Former Planning Commission Member and Chair, New ERA; and Prof. Dr. Mana Raj Kolachhapati, Registrar, Agriculture and Forestry University.

The goal of the workshop was to share the empirical findings generated through rigorous scientific investigation of labour out-migration, agricultural change and its consequences for left-behind women and foster policy dialogue to integrate findings with policy. Additionally, the workshop also aimed to facilitate cross-disciplinary interaction among scientists and research scholars, crucial for building a foundation for interdisciplinary research, education and public policy. The workshop envisioned a policy formulation process more complex than a simple interaction between researchers and policy makers and a reach to a wider audience that includes educators, activist, development practitioners, government line agencies and funding agencies, who, the team believes, have a substantial role in the process. Altogether 45 participants representing various agencies participated in the workshop. The workshop was highly successful in achieving its stated goals of: (1) sharing the empirical findings generated through rigorous scientific investigation; (2) fostering productive dialogue on ways to integrate the empirical findings into policy formulation; and finally, (3) promoting crossdisciplinary interaction among educators, research scholars, policy makers and stakeholders crucial for building a foundation for interdisciplinary research, education and public policy. This report contains background information that was presented to participants, summarizes workshop discussions and catalogs potential adaptation options and next steps that were identified by workshop participants.

2. INTRODUCTION

Despite the unanimous consensus of a need for evidence-based policy formulation, researchers and policymakers face many challenges in identifying policy messages, communicating them appropriately to right audience (stakeholders) and translating those recommendations into evidence-based policy and interventions. Scholars have now identified several challenges that include lack of communication between researchers and policymakers, relevance of research findings to specific context and time, mutual mistrust, poor quality of research, inconclusive or conflicting findings, political instability and/or high turnover rates at the policymaking levels. These challenges make it increasingly difficult to foster productive exchange of ideas and information and identify policy agenda that effectively address existing social problems (Craig et al. 2007).

This workshop was highly successful in overcoming many of these barriers. First, for the purpose of this workshop, we leveraged findings from a rigorous scientific study on "Labour Outmigration, Agricultural Productivity and Food Security," funded by DFID-ESRC Growth Research Programme, UK. The relevant research areas of *migration*, *agriculture and consequences on women*, scientific design (panel design), stakeholder engagement in planning process through an inception workshop and rigor in development of research instruments and data collection as well as data analysis have been major factors in minimizing the mistrust between researcher and stakeholders. This greatly increased the confidence of the participants on the findings of the study. Participants' remarks during the discussion were reflective of their confidence in the empirical findings. Second, this workshop strategically assembled a diverse group of participants who play an important role in shaping policy, if not directly, then through civic action. We believe that this combination of participants is important in initializing and strengthening evidence-based policy formulation. We also believe that this workshop is the first of its kind in bringing together policy makers, advocacy groups, educators and research scholars. Finally, the combination of migration experts, agriculturists, educators and gender and social exclusion experts provided a unique opportunity to further interdisciplinary research and policy debate.

This dissemination and policy workshop was organized to share the empirical findings generated through rigorous scientific investigation of labour out-migration, agricultural change and its consequences for left-behind women. This study was funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) under DFID-ESRC Growth Research Programme Award No. ES/L012065/1. Specifically, this study tried to address three questions:

- To what extent does labor outmigration influence (i) agricultural productivity, (ii) women's participation in farming, and (iii) exit from farming?
- To what extent do remittances influence (i) farm technology use, (ii) women's participation in farming, and (iii) exit from farming?
- > To what extent does farm technology use and exit from farming influence subsequent outmigration

The workshop focused on (1) briefing project goals and accomplishments; (2) sharing the results of published and working papers; (3) dissemination and accessibility of the data; and, (4) *ways of integrating the results to policy making.* One of the goals of the workshop was also to facilitate cross-disciplinary interaction among scientists and research scholars, crucial for building a foundation for interdisciplinary research, education and public policy. Altogether 45 participants representing several government line ministries, non-governmental organizations, bilateral aid organizations, research organizations, universities and freelancer experts attended the workshop (see Annex 1 for participants list). Invited scholars are engaged in social science research, agricultural research and extension, policy formulation and program implementation.

3. WORKSHOP PROGRAM

The workshop was organized into four major sessions along with a brief inaugural session and closing dinner. These sessions included overview of research program, thematic presentations with discussion, access to data and other resources and keynote addresses.



Workshop Program Banner at the workshop venue

3.1 Inaugural session

The opening session commenced with participant registration, followed by a formal seating of the Guest of Honor and invited guests. Dr. Naba Raj Devkota, Director of Research and Extension at Agriculture and Forestry University (AFU) in Nepal, welcomed the distinguished guests and participants

on behalf of the organizing committee and facilitated participant introduction. Dr. Devkota highlighted the study's effort to understand migration and its impact on daily lives, especially on the left-behind women. He also referenced the capacity-building accomplishment of AFU students during the period. Dr. Devkota further expressed his delight at disseminating the findings through the workshop and hoped there would be enough time to share, formally and informally, ideas, feedback and suggestions. Finally with a note about ISER-N being an organization working honestly with highly credible database system procedure, he expressed hope that the workshop would be fruitful for all participants and inspire future collaboration.



Dr. Devkota during welcome remarks

3.2 Overview of research

Dr. Dirgha Jibi Ghimire, Executive Director of the Institute for Social and Environmental Research-Nepal (ISER-N) and the Principal Investigator of the DFID-ESRC Growth Research Programme, "Labour Outmigration, Agricultural Productivity and Food Security," presented the program overview, including brief introduction about the project, objectives of the study and the workshop, timeline of project activities and overall data collected and the timeline and format of the workshop. Dr. Ghimire started with the referring to the stakeholder workshop during the inception of the project in November 2014. He walked through the three specific aims of the project and the components that were the focus of the study, making reference to the challenge that selection of subject poses for scientific investigation of the consequences of migration. Furthermore, he clarified that the consequences of migration are reciprocally related to other outcome variables, one of which could be impact of remittance, which the study attempted to assess. He went on to explain how stakeholders were involved in each step of the

project, from planning to policy formulation, and expressed his expectation that the workshop would enhance the objective of applying the research findings further to policy. Dr. Ghimire explained the components studied and data collected through the project, also mentioning the four students and faculty members from AFU and four research scholars from NARC who had participated in the capacity-building program.

Following the overview of the project, Dr. Ghimire noted that the goal of the workshop was "to share empirical findings and foster intellectual interaction to strengthen evidence-based policy formulation," and also emphasized that evidence-based policy formulation would remain jargon forever without empirical findings from that population setting.

3.3 Thematic sessions

The thematic sessions were designed to share the empirical results, discuss the applicability and encourage the stakeholders and policy makers to integrate these findings into policy formulation. These thematic presentations were moderated by an expert of that field. Each presentation was followed by an elaborated discussion, question-and-answer session and closing remarks by the moderator speaking on potential implications of the findings. The three thematic sessions included "Social Change, Outmigration and Exit from Agriculture", "Husbands' Out-migration: Increased Burden on or More Autonomy for Wives Left Behind?" and "How Good Are Survey Measures of Agricultural Productivity?". While the first two presentations were focused on substantive findings, the third session had a more methodological focus.

3.3.1 Social Change, Out-migration and Exit from Agriculture.

In this presentation, Dr. Ghimire shared the empirical results from a multi-level discrete time hazard model. Dr. Ghimire investigated the effect of international labor out-migration on agricultural

productivity. Consistent with the hypothesis that labor out-migration produces a loss of labor on farms in the place of origin, the results show that labor out-migration increases the rate of exit from agriculture. However, independent of loss of farm labor through out-migration, the results also show that the amount of remittance from those migrants substantially decreases the rate of exit from agriculture. These results are robust against several key community- and household-level factors. This study documents the complex and bi-directional nature of the consequences of labor out-migration for local farming in countries of origin.



Dr. Gurung moderating the session

This session was moderated by Dr. Ganesh

Gurung, Former Member of Planning Commission and prominent migration scholar of Nepal. This presentation inspired stimulating discussion about research methodology and suggestions for future research on agriculture and migration. However, the important part of the discussion revolved around the relevance, significance and implications of the findings for Nepali society. The opposing effect of loss of labour and remittance was the center of discussion.

Policy implications:

The stimulating question-and-answer session and policy discussion presented a clear picture of loss of labor from farming on a daily basis, its consequences on Nepali agriculture and the potential problem of food deficit in the nation. However, the discussion also reflected on the complexity of the relationship between labour out-migration and agriculture and put forward the following policy recommendations:

- The government of Nepal, particularly the Ministry of Agricultural Development, should develop and refine farm mechanization policy and programs as appropriate.
- The government of Nepal, particularly the Ministry of Labour and Employment, should develop and refine migration policy to ensure migrants' rights and well-paid employment by formalizing and enforcing the contract process to maintain the flow of remittance.
- Given that many of the returning migrants do not wish to make another trip, it is now
 imperative to develop a policy for management of the returning migrants who have three
 things: capital they have earned, skills and a sense of the importance of hard work, as they have
 experienced many obstacles during their stay abroad.
- Migration issues should be integrated into agriculture research.
- Given the rapidly changing global socioeconomic and political context and our lack of migration research, policy formulation agenda on migration and agriculture should be encouraged in every step of planning process.

3.3.2 Husbands' Out-migration: Increased Burden on or More Autonomy for Wives Left Behind?

In this presentation, Dr. Ghimire shared the empirical results from the multi-level, multivariate regression models of women time use. The results show that compared to wives of non-migrants, wives of migrants perform a substantially higher number of daily activities, which suggests an increased burden on wives of migrants. The results showed that the number of months husbands were away last year had significant impact on number of activities women perform on a daily basis, that is, if a husband was away for 1 month, women's number of activities increased by .2, and so, if they were away for 10 months, , the women had to perform 2 more activities. Likewise, migrant wives also participated more in farming activities. However, the results showed that participation in farming by women whose husbands did not send remittance was not significantly different compared to that of women whose husbands were non-migrants, while participation in farming by women whose husbands sent remittance

was significantly less than that of women whose husbands were non-migrants. On the other hand, compared to wives of non-migrant husbands, wives of migrant husbands were found to have more engagement with and accessibility to social media. However, there was no significant difference in participation in economic activities between the two groups of women. These results are robust against several key community- and household-level factors.

This session was moderated by Dr. Meeta Sainju-Pradhan, a prominent gender and social inclusion scholar of Nepal. This presentation resulted in a stimulating discussion about the meaning of empowerment and suggestions for future research on agriculture and migration. However, as



Dr. Pradhan moderating the session

in the first session, the important part of the discussion revolved around the relevance, significance and implications of the findings for Nepali society. The clear findings of increasing work load on the wives of the migrants was the center of discussion.

Policy implications:

Similar to the first session, the question-and-answer session and policy discussion reflected an unambiguous conclusion that loss of labor from farming has clearly increased the work load on the left-behind women. However, the discussion also reflected on the complexity of the relationship between male labour out-migration and female burden and empowerment. Dr. Pradhan, the moderator of the session, also highlighted the complexity of the topic and elaborated on the findings from other

contemporary studies. This discussion also resulted into similar policy recommendations to that of the first session.

- Focus on female-friendly farm mechanization policy and programs as appropriate.
- Refine migration policy to ensure migrants' rights and earnings by formalizing and enforcing the contract process to maintain the flow of remittance.
- Develop new policy aimed at creating an environment conducive to promoting and facilitating self-employment for the returning migrant.
- Integrate gender issues into both agriculture and migration research with more refined measures of women autonomy and empowerment.

3.3.3 How Good Are Survey Measures of Agricultural Productivity?

Ms. Rija Manandhar started her presentation with challenges agriculture scientists face to

accurately measure crop yield. The first aim of this study was to validate the survey measures collected through household survey by comparing it with measures collected through crop cutting. The second aim was to understand the factors associated with the difference between survey and crop cutting measures. With brief explanation of methods adopted, Ms. Manandhar presented the results. On comparing the crop yield, she found that, on an average, the rice production was 0.45 tons per hectare less than the production reported in the household survey. Ms.



Ms. Manandhar during thematic

Manandhar then explained the results from regression models. Interview characteristics including age of the respondents explain about 1.4% of the difference. Finally, Ms. Manandhar concluded her presentation with the note that there were more works to be done and asked for feedbacks on what other probable variables could have explained the difference in reported productivity and crop cutting and what could be done to improve survey measures.

This session was moderated by Dr. Pashupati Chaudhary, a prominent agriculture scholar of Nepal. Much of the discussion revolved around the methodological aspect of the crop cutting technique and survey methodology. There were suggestions to make the survey tools more rigorous and minimize the error for future research implication.

Methodological implications:

The discussions mostly focused on how survey data collection on net area of cropping could be improved and verified.

- Suggested using seed system tracking as a possible option than using net area

Dr. Chaudhary moderating the session

- A verification method could be also collecting information about amount of crops used to eat and amount sold

4. ACCESS TO DATA AND OTHER RESOURCES

Ms. Manandhar gave a short presentation about the data collected by the institute that are publicly available. She mentioned about the data being publicly available at a) ICPSR website, www.icpsr.umich.edu; b) UK Data Bank, www.ukdataservice.ac.uk; and c) ISERN project website, https://loaf.isernepal.org/. She then briefly explained the steps how the data could be downloaded from the website and what information are available.

5. KEY NOTE SPEECH

The workshop organizer strategically invited three key note speakers, representing three key players of agriculture policy – development, research and teaching.

5.1 Interdisciplinary research and evidence based agriculture policy formulation

Mr. Basudev Kafle, Chief of Policy Section, on behalf of Secretary of Ministry of Agricultural Development (MoAD), Dr. Suroj Pokhrel, thanked the organizers and highlighted the importance of interaction between policy makers and researchers. He mentioned lack of communication between researchers, policy makers and practitioners being a major barrier for evidence based policy formulation in Nepal. He also believed that the workshop created a platform in establishing strong coordination among different actors of agriculture development regarding research, science and innovation matters to ensure that the policies in



Mr. Kafle on behalf of Secretary, MoAD

agriculture are based on sound scientific evidence. Finally, appreciating the effort by the organizer and with further hope that such programs would continue in future, Mr. Kafle concluded his note reiterating the Ministry's commitment to move hand in hand with stakeholders, development partners and related agencies in area of evidence based agriculture policies formulation.

5.2 Role of interdisciplinary research in agriculture research

Dr. Yugnath Ghimire, Chief, Socioeconomics and Agricultural Research Policy Division, Nepal Agriculture Research Council (NARC), highlighted the importance of interdisciplinary research in agricultural research. He elaborated the role of migration in feminization of Nepali agriculture and expressed his commitment to push forward interdisciplinary research approach in agriculture research policy in Nepal.

5.3 Interdisciplinary research and higher education policy

Hon. Prof. Dr. I.P. Dhakal, Vice Chancellor, Agriculture and Forestry University (AFU) thanked the organizer and committed that AFU would utilize the research outcomes shared in the day and even incorporate in the course curriculum, wherever possible. Prof. Dhakal believed social scientists played role in facilitating knowledge, skill and contributing for addressing research question and that social scientist together with the natural scientist can work to find out the common solution. Prof. Dhakal also shared facts on increasing number of students trying for study abroad and therefore, Nepal emerging as an important growth market for the international research and education. Finally, Prof. Dhakal concluded with the note about the



Dr. Y. Ghimire presenting about interdisciplinary research, NARC



Hon. Prof. Dr. Dhakal, Guest of Honour

need to review the impacts of the existing policy on the interdisciplinary research.

6. CLOSING REMARKS

Prof. Dr. Dharma Raj Dangol, Chair, ISER-N thanked the collaborating institutions, sponsors, presenters, moderators and all participants for active participation and successful program. Prof. Dangol also

acknowledged the distinguished guests for their time and keynote speech. Dr. Dangol further requested concerned organizations and ministry to consider ways about incorporating such learnings in policy and education and also expressed that ISER-N would always be ready to work together for that to happen. Finally, with the invitation to visit ISER-N to understand the research works of ISER-N since 1995 and with the interest to work together in collaboration with different stakeholders in future too, Dr. Dangol concluded the workshop. Finally, the evening reception dinner provided special opportunity for cross disciplinary networking, as a result of which the project team has already received several invitation for new collaboration.



Prof. Dr. Dangol during closing remarks

Limitations

Despite high representation of research scholars, professionals, activist and implementing agencies, there were however, some limitations. First, because of the International Migration Day Celebration, there was some conflict in participation and as a result, the workshop could not have as many migration scholars as we expected. Next, because of the ongoing political transition to federal governance system the prevailing ambiguity in governance structure also lower the participation from existing planning commission.

7. REFERENCES

Craig Mitton et al. 2007. "Knowledge Transfer and Exchange: Review and Synthesis of the Literature," Milbank Quarterly 85(4): 729-68.

Annex 1. List of Participants

S.No	Name	Organization Name
1	Mr. Ananta Ghimire	Freelance consultant - Agronomist
2	Dr. Anita Ghimire	Nepal Institute for Social and Environmental Research (NISER)
3	Dr. Arjun Kharel	Social Science Baha
4	Dr. Anoj Chhetri	South Asia School of Rural Reconstruction (SARR), Nepal
5	Dr. Bal Gopal Baidya	New ERA/Former Member, National Planning Commission
6	Dr. Dilli Ram Sharma	Department of Agriculture
7	Dr. Durga Devkota	Agriculture and Forestry University
8	Mr. Durga Dawadi	Ministry of Population and Environment
9	Dr. Ganesh Gurung	National Institute of Development Studies/Former Member, National Planning Commission
10	Hon. Prof. Dr.Ishori P. Dhakal	Agriculture and Forestry University
11	Prof. Dr. Mana Raj Kolachhapati	The Mountain Institute
12	Dr. Meeta Pradhan	The Mountain Institute
13	Dr. Naba Raj Devkota	Agriculture and Forestry University
14	Mr. Nabin Hada	USAID
15	Dr. Pashupati Chaudhary	Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)- Nepal
16	Mr. Prakash Poudel	District Coordination Committee-Bharatpur
17	Mr. Ram Raj Bhattarai	Social Welfare Council (SWC)
18	Dr. Rewati Raman Poudel	Regional Directorate of Agriculture
19	Mr. Basudev Kafle	Ministry of Agricultural Development (MoAD)
20	Mr. Uddhab Raj Poudyal	Freelancer, Migration Expert
21	Ms. Yamuna Ghale	The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)- Nepal
22	Mr. Yogendra Prasai	New Era
23	Dr. Yug Nath Ghimire	Nepal Agriculture Research Council (NARC)
24	Mr. Nirbhay Kumar Sharma	Nepal Health Research Council (NHRC)
25	Mr. Namdev Upadhyay	Nepal Agriculture Research Council (NARC)
26	Mr. Rajendra Ghimire	Lawyer
27	Prof. Dr. Kailash Nath Pyakuryal	Agriculture and Forestry University
28	Dr. Yubraj Acharya	Pennsylvania State University, USA
29	Mr. Samaya Gairhe	Nepal Agriculture Research Council (NARC)
30	Dr. Debi P. Pandey	Agriculture and Forestry University
31	Ms. Sarmila Mainali	Nepal Institute for Social and Environmental Research (NISER)
32	Ms. Adina Gurung	Institute for Social and Environmental Research- Nepal (ISERN)
33	Prof. Dr. Dharma Raj Dangol	Chair, Institute for Social and Environmental Research-Nepal (ISERN)
		Continued next page

S#	Name	Organization Name
34	Dr. Dirgha Jibi Ghimire	Institute for Social and Environmental Research- Nepal (ISERN)
35	Mr. Durga P. Adhikari	Board Member, Institute for Social and Environmental Research- Nepal (ISERN)
36	Dr. Hridaya Devkota	Fellow, Institute for Social and Environmental Research- Nepal (ISERN)
37	Ms. Indra Chaudhary	Institute for Social and Environmental Research- Nepal (ISERN)
38	Mr. Krishna Ghimire	Institute for Social and Environmental Research- Nepal (ISERN)
39	Mr. Krishna Shrestha	Institute for Social and Environmental Research-Nepal (ISERN)
40	Ms. Michele Clark	Fellow, Institute for Social and Environmental Research- Nepal (ISERN)
41	Mr. Prem Pandit	Institute for Social and Environmental Research- Nepal (ISERN)
42	Mr. Rajendra Ghimire	Institute for Social and Environmental Research- Nepal (ISERN)
43	Ms. Rija Manadhar	Institute for Social and Environmental Research- Nepal (ISERN)
44	Mr. Tula Ram Sijali	Institute for Social and Environmental Research- Nepal (ISERN)
45	Ms. Yasodha Shrestha	Board Member, Institute for Social and Environmental Research- Nepal (ISERN)

Annex 2. Workshop Schedule

	Program
13:00-13:30	Arrival, Registration and Tea/Coffee
13:30-14:00	Welcome Remarks and Introduction ~Prof. Dr. Naba Raj Devkota, Director of Research and Extension, AFU, Rampur, Chitwan
14:00-14.15	Overview of the workshop and study ~Dr. Dirgha J. Ghimire, Director, ISER-N, Bharatpur, Chitwan; Research Associate Professor, Population Studies Center (PSC), University of Michigan, USA
14:15-14:35	Thematic Presentation: Labour out-migration and agricultural change ~Dr. Dirgha J. Ghimire, ISER-N /PSC
14:35-14:50	Policy implication of labour out-migration and Q&A ~Dr. Ganesh Gurung, Former Member, National Planning Commission; Chair, Nepal Institute of Development Studies, Kathmandu
14:50-15:10	Thematic Presentation: Husbands' out-migration consequences for wives ~Dr. Dirgha J. Ghimire, ISER-N/PSC
15:10-15:25	Policy implication on Women's empowerment and Q&A ~Dr. Meeta Sainju Pradhan, Gender and Social Exclusion Specialist; Director of Himalayan Program, The Mountain Institute, Kathmandu
15:25-15:45	Thematic Presentation: How good are survey measures of agricultural productivity? ~Ms. Rija Manandhar, Senior Research Officer, ISER-N
15:45-16:00	Methodological implication and Q&A ~Dr. Pashupati Chaudhary, FAO, Kathmandu
16:00-16:30	Presentation: Overview of policy briefs, data and other resources access ~Ms. Rija Manandhar, Senior Research Officer, ISER-N
16:30-16:45	Tea/Coffee break
16:45-17:00	Presentation: Capacity building, collaboration in evidence based policy formulation ~Dr. Dirgha J. Ghimire, Director, ISER-N/PSC
17:00-17:10	Role of Interdisciplinary research in Agriculture development ~Dr. Yug Nath Ghimire, Nepal Agricultural Research Council, Kathmandu
17:10-17:20	Interdisciplinary research and evidence based agriculture policy formulation ~Dr. Suroj Pokhrel, Secretary, Ministry of Agricultural Development, Kathmandu
17:20-17:30	Keynote Address: Interdisciplinary research and higher education policy ~Hon. Prof. Dr. Ishwari P. Dhakal, Vice Chancellor, AFU, Rampur, Chitwan
17:30-17:50	Action agenda for collaboration in research and evidence based policy formulation ~All participants
17:50-18:00	Closing Remarks ~Prof. Dr. Dharma R. Dangol, Chief, Natural History Museum, Kathmandu, Chair, ISER-N, Fulbari, Chitwan
18:00-18:30	Refreshment and networking
18:30-19:30	Dinner ~End~