

# SEMINAR ANNOUNCEMENT

**Farmer Managed Irrigation Systems (FMIS) Promotion Trust, Kathmandu, Nepal**  
**Seventh International Seminar on**  
**"Irrigation in Local Adaptation and Resilience"**

**April 11 and 12, 2017**  
**Kathmandu, Nepal**

The context, meaning and impact of adaptation and resilience of irrigation in the local situation have substantial sustainability dimension. It ultimately contributes in global improvement of climate change. The adaptation process and resilience, policy, institutions, technology and interaction with the environment and resources at the local level do affect livelihood of a larger number of agriculture based population. Urbanization, migration pattern, food-water security nexus and political agricultural economy as a whole have influence on irrigation adaptation and resilient response. Irrigation is found in all eco-geographic terrains where human civilization has flourished in general. Without irrigation, enrichment of civilization from agriculture is not possible. Without adaptation and resilience of the irrigation in the local context more so in the scenario of changing climate, a social and economic order cannot be thought of.

## **Objective of the Seminar:**

The objectives of the seminar are to

- a) provide a knowledge platform to learn, share and disseminate experience and information on local adaptation and resilience of the irrigation systems
- b) understand the social, institutional, economic, financial and technical innovations in resiliently managed adaptation of the irrigation system
- c) deliberate on the framework to assess the climate change impact for right innovative adaptation and a dynamic mix of organization and environmental resilience for the evolution of the irrigation system, and
- d) make the policy makers, practitioners, researchers and observers of irrigation systems to be adequately informed about the process of adaptation and associated resilience of irrigation community and pursue and push for a learned framework that better serves farmers' irrigation interest and capacity enhancement in the changing climate context.

## **Contexts and Issues relevant to the Seminar:**

Farmers have been adapting, and building resilience to climate change impacts. Recent studies helped understand the climate change variability though a natural process and unavoidable phenomenon are found addressed by indigenous knowledge of the farmers in that area. The traditional and indigenous knowledge could be modified as per the need and help cope with the climatic extremes.

Many transitional countries are highly susceptible to climate change risks. Climate change is expected to intensify in these countries' already pronounced climate variability and frequency of climate extremes such as droughts and floods, steep terrain and heavy rainfall patterns. In extreme events, entire villages have been destroyed or washed away. Impact of these events are felt most at the local level.

Unlike organized FMIS, poor and marginalized people are especially vulnerable to climate variability and change. They generally are the least able to cope with disaster, live in the most at-risk areas and have limited information, knowledge and resources to help reduce their level of risk. The predicted impacts of climate change will intensify existing vulnerabilities, inequalities and exposure to hazards. In the agricultural sector, smallholder farmers if not organized well would face the greatest risk. They tend to own few livelihood assets such as land and livestock, receive a low income, and have a low level of education and limited access to community and government services. They are also likely to be dependent on rain-fed agriculture and occupy land that is prone to floods, drought and landslides. In agrarian societies, GHG emissions are primarily driven by the agricultural sector, which accounts for largest level GHG emissions. The climate-related events have put fragile agricultural ecosystems at risk. The impacts of climate change and related extreme events on agriculture often generate food insecurity, which primarily affects poor and marginalized people, including women and children. Ultimately this has repercussions on the nation's economic growth.

Though FMIS have developed mechanisms to cope with the environmental changes, it is crucial to understand and strengthen their overall institutional adaptive capacity and associated resilience. The identified four key components of adaptive capacity for farmer-managed irrigation systems are social capital, learning, governance, and asset base. Given the multiple drivers of change – especially climate variability, labor migration, and market penetration in rural areas – it is important to move beyond measurement of individual components of adaptive capacity. By measuring and addressing the inter-relations among multiple capacity dimensions and inherent opportunities offered by multiple water use system (MUS), refined understanding of adaptation and associated resilience permit the strengthening of farmer-managed irrigation systems in a range of contexts.

The proceedings of sixth international seminar on "small scale irrigation systems, challenges to sustainable livelihood" has noted good lessons from Nepal FMIS: "What is labeled non-conventional by technocrats and bureaucrats today is already widespread in Nepal, and with the impact of two key drivers, climate change and out-migration, will be part of the mainstream tomorrow." Findings from the field have also reported importance of appropriate irrigation design and infrastructures for adaptable irrigation operation. In the changing context, for example in the Ganges basin, solar power is considered the best suited to harness groundwater for irrigated agriculture. But in view of the global and national links of the changing climate, market, urbanization, labor and social mobility nexuses, gaps in institutions and governance across the adaptation issues and associated resilient responses, farmers' localized efforts at times are rendered unstable and inadequate.

The sub-thematic issues of the seminar may include:

- a. National policy, institutions and intervention strategy on climate resilient local adaptation of irrigation
- b. Design issues, technologies and quality features of irrigation infrastructures in improving local adaptability and resilience of irrigation
- c. Irrigation governance, community and negotiation on water right and mechanisms of resource management and conflict resolution in the changing climate context
- d. Financing and capability enhancement for local irrigation adaptation activities and associated resilient responses
- e. Effects of urbanization, out-migration, labor and social mobility and local gender balance on irrigation adaptation and resilience
- f. Information collection methodology and information sharing for improving adaptation resilience of irrigations.

**Four types of paper presentation are expected:**

- Keynote speeches
- Research Papers
- Invited Papers
- Individual Country Papers

**Supports to be provided:**

FMIS Promotion Trust will not provide any international travel support to the international participants. It will provide food and accommodation of reasonable standard to the international participants and their spouses during the period of the participation in the seminar. In-country participants will pay for their travel and accommodation. The Trust will provide lunch and tea to all participants during the seminar.

**Format of the Paper Presentation**

Only abstracts will be distributed during deliberations. The paper contributors are requested to submit their papers in the following format (with their name, position, institutional affiliation and address including e-mail):

Top/ Bottom Margin: 2.5 cm

Left/ Right Margin: 2.5 cm

Typing/ Print Area: 15 cm x 22 cm Single Space Column

Font Type: Times Roman Title: 14 Point BOLD CAPITAL

Author's Name: 12 Point BOLD CAPITAL

Position, Affiliation and Address: 11 Point Upper-Lower

Main Heading (s): 10 Point BOLD CAPITAL

Sub-Heading (s): 10 Point BOLD Upper-Lower

Text: 10 Point

Please type the headings, sub-headings and paragraphs aligned with the left-hand margin. Double space should be left above and below headings/sub-headings. Figures should be placed nearer to the first reference in the text. Photographs may be included, if absolutely necessary.

The papers prepared in conformity with the above format must be sent as an attachment by e-mail to the seminar organizers at the address given below. The attachment should be prepared by using MS WORD (suitable for windows). The total number of pages in A4 or 22 cm x 30 cm size should not exceed 10 pages including charts, figures and analysis.

Full citation for the references should be given at the end of the paper whereas the surname(s) of the author(s) or the name/acronym of the organization and the year of publication should be mentioned in the body of the text as shown in the examples below:

For references in the body of the text (Gill, 1993)

For citation of the books at the end of the text Gill Gerald J., 1993. Indigenous and community forestry management: The policy dimension. *Indigenous Management of Natural Resources in*

Nepal, ed. Devika Tamang and Gerald J. Mill. Ministry of Agriculture/Winrock International, Kathmandu, Nepal.

For citation of the journals at the end of the text Hallowell A.I., 1943. The nature and function of property as a social institution. *Journal of Legal and Political Sociology*, Vol. 1.

The Trust has set the rule that there should not be more than three contributors of a paper. The editorial board reserves the ultimate right for the acceptance or rejection of a seminar paper. After the seminar, the papers will be selected to include in the seminar proceedings, which will be published in the book form. **The paper contributors are urged to comply with the format above as it will greatly help the Trust to publish the seminar proceedings expeditiously.**

The paper contributors are requested to send their abstracts on the seminar theme and relevant sub-themes at the address given below. The last date of submission of abstract is February 15, 2017. The authors will be informed about the paper selection by February 28, 2017. The full paper should be sent by March 25, 2017.

For any inquiry about the seminar, and submission of abstract, please contact at the following addresses:

**Mr. Sushil Subedee**

Seminar Coordinator/Member Secretary,  
Farmer Managed Irrigation Systems Promotion Trust  
subedee.s@gmail.com

**Mr. Deepak Raj Pandey**

Executive Member,  
Farmer Managed Irrigation Systems Promotion Trust  
deepak\_110@hotmail.com

**Mr. Naveen Mangal Joshi**

Chairman  
Farmer Managed Irrigation Systems Promotion Trust  
namanjos@hotmail.com  
GPO Box: 1207  
Tel : +977-1-4434952,  
Fax: +977-1-4434431

For further information, request is made to see website: <http://www.fmistnepal.wordpress.com>