

A Report on Climate Change Awareness Program

Shankhuwasabha, Dhankuta, Surkhet and Parsa District

Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST)

Nepal Climate Change Knowledge Management Center (NCKMC)

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Sankhuwasabha District, Eastern Nepal Adverted to Climate Change Issues

It was early morning on 29 May 2016 when a team representing Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST)-Nepal Climate Change Knowledge Management Center (NCKMC) including Dr Bimala Devkota, Mr Pawan K Neupane, Mr Narayan P Gaire and Mr Shrawan Giri reached Shree Himalaya HSS, local coordinator of the Climate Change Awareness Program at Khandbari, the district headquarter of Sankhuwasabha district, Nepal. The school was established in 2006 BS and has enrollment of about 1500 students. Some of the students were actively engaged in preparing stage and making necessary arrangements to organize the program. Mr Bir Bahadur Rai, Principal of the school was guiding and motivating the students. The Principal, teachers and NCKMC team conducted a meeting and prepared the list of activities to be carried out in the program.

In the afternoon, there were about 500 participants gathered in the grassy ground of the Shree Himalaya HSS. A dozen of colorful posters containing information on the science and impacts of climate change in Nepali language were displayed at the premises of the school. An attractive flyer written Climate Change Awareness Program was hanged on the very front of the stage. The inaugural session of the program started with the welcome speech from Mr Bir Bahadur Rai, the principal of Shree Himalaya HSS. Mr Ganga Bahadur Chettri, Chief District Officer and the chief guest for the program formally inaugurated the program. Addressing the program, Mr Chettri appreciated the initiation of NCKMC



for organizing the climate change awareness program engaging school students. Dr Bimala Devkota, Senior Scientific Officer, NAST highlighted the objectives of the program. The important gathering including District Education Officer, Political leaders, Chairperson of School Management Committee, Teachers, District Senior Police, army officers and the journalist observed the inauguration program.

In Climate Change Quiz, Shree Himalaya HSS bagged the first prize while Bageshwori HSS and Adarsha HSS stood second and third respectively. All 11 participating community schools got the prizes and certificates. The prizes include Rain Gauge, Thermometer, Microscope and Educational materials. Each school was represented by three students with at least one being girl student. Dr Bimala Devkota, Senior Scientific Officer, NAST and Mr Bir Bahadur Rai, Principal, Shree Himalaya HSS gave the prizes.



In the interaction program, Mr Pawan K Neupane, Scientific Officer, NAST explained the science and impacts of climate change along with some adaptation measures. Mr Narayan P Gaire, PhD researcher, NAST gave brief explanation on how tree rings can be studied to find out the impacts of climate change. Mr Neupane and Mr Gaire answered the questions raised by students and the teachers.

Three local FM stations including Radio Khandbari FM, Sunakhari FM and Lali Guras FM had live broadcasted the program, which cover the nearby districts Terathum and Bhojpur.

Shankhuwasabha district has been listed as moderately vulnerable district by Government of Nepal in its report on Climate Change Vulnerability



Mapping for Nepal. Makalu Barun Valley, the Himalayan glacier valley situated at the base of Mt Makalu (8,485m, fifth highest mountain) lies in the district. The Arun River, one of the major rivers of Nepal flows south across the district. The district is famous for Black Cardamom (*Amomum* sp) and Rudraksha (*Elaeocarpus* sp) production in Nepal.

Climate Change Knowledge Kindled Dhankuta District, Eastern Nepal

On May 31, 2016, the day at Dhankuta Bazar, headquarter of Dhankuta district in Eastern Nepal, was cloudy. Soon after Dr Bimala Devkota, Senior Scientific Officer, Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) and the coordinator of Nepal



Climate Change Knowledge Management Center (NCKMC) and Mr Pawan Kumar Neupane, Scientific Officer, NAST reached Shree Gokundeshwar HSS, a gusty storm and rainfall begun. Students became busy in closing windows of their classroom. Teachers bustled about to enter classrooms. The whole school seemed to be disturbed as the rain was pattering the school's tin roof. Dr Devkota and Mr Neupane, giving the instance of sudden change in weather of the day, shortly started a discussion about Climate Change Awareness Program and its importance with Mr Yagya Prakash Chapgain, Principal and Mr Ganga Ram Dhungana, Teacher in a comfy Principal's room. Mr Dhungana informed that the school, established in 1989 BS, is the oldest school in the district and now have enrollment of more than 1100 students. After an informative and sharing discussion, the team prepared a tentative schedule for the program scheduled for 01 June 2016.

The NAST-NCKMC team headed by Dr Buddhi Ratna Khadge, Secretary, NAST reached the school on 01 June 2016 to organize Climate Change Awareness Program. The team comprised of Dr Bimala Devkota, Mr Pawan K Neupane, Mr Narayan Gaire, PhD Scholar NAST and Mr Shrawan Giri Office Assistant, NAST.





Mr Som Prasad Bhattarai, Assistant Chief District Officer, Dhankuta district formally inaugurated the program at the premise of the school amidst a gathering including District Education Officer, Political leaders, members of School Management Committee,

Principal, Teachers, Journalists, Nepal Army, Nepal Police, Armed Police and Students. Dr Buddhi Ratna Khage, Secretary, NAST was the guest of honor for the program. Addressing the program Mr Bhattarai highlighted that the program will be beneficial for the students in knowing the science and impacts of climate change in Dhankuta district that has the overall climate change vulnerability index low as reported by Climate Change Vulnerability Mapping of Nepal, 2010. Dr Bimala Devkota highlighted the objective of the program. A local FM *Radio Makalu* had live broadcasted the program.

The one-day program successfully completed with following events.

A. Climate Change Quiz

A Climate Change Quiz among 10 schools was organized at the premise of Shree Gokundeswor HSS. Three students with at least one being one girl student from each school were participated in the quiz. About 400 students and teachers from participating schools



observed the quiz enthusiastically. Finally, prizes were distributed to the winner and participating. Shree Gokundeshwar HSS bagged the first prize. The prizes include Rain-gauge, compound microscopes, Thermometer and educational materials related to climate change prepared by NCCKMC. Dr Buddhi Ratna Khadge, Secretary, NAST, Dr Bimala Devkota, Senior Scientific Officer, NAST and Mr Yagya Prakash Chapagain, Principal of the school gave the prizes.

B. Poster Display and Interaction

The participants observed the colorful posters carrying messages on climate change science, climate change impacts, adaptation and mitigation measures

in simple Nepali language. About 15 posters were displayed at the premise of the school.

On the same day, after the quiz program, an interaction program was also organized in the seminar hall of Shree Gokundeswor HSS at Dhankuta. Mr Pawan Kumar Neupane, Scientific Officer, NAST and an environmentalist in the team briefly explained climate change science and adaptation measures. Mr Neupane answered



the questions on climate change adaptation and mitigation measures raised by the participants. Dr Buddhi Ratna Khadge, Secretary, NAST also gave the state of art information and answered the queries of teachers.

C. Closing of the Program

The program was formally closed with the closing remarks of Dr Buddhi Ratna Khadge, Secretary, NAST and Chairman of School Management Committee, the chairperson of the program. In his closing remarks, Dr Khadge thanked Shree Gokundeshwar HSS for coordinating with NAST



in organizing and making the program successful. He stated that the knowledge gained by the students and teachers from the program will be



useful. He requested to share what they have learned with their friends and community. Dr Khadge handed over a letter of appreciation and token of love to Mr Yagya Prakash Chapagain, the principal of the school. The chairperson for the program finally appreciated the efforts of NAST to organize the program at Dhankuta district.

Climate Change Knowledge Shared in Surkhet District, Mid-Western Nepal

Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST)-Nepal Climate Change Knowledge Management Center (NCCKMC) successfully organized Climate Change Awareness Program at Birendranagar, headquarter of Surkhet district in Mid Western region of Nepal on 07 June 2016. Surkhet district, inner terai valley of Nepal, is located about 600 kilometers (373 mi) west of Kathmandu, the capital city of the country. The overall climate change vulnerability index of the district is low as reported by Climate Change Vulnerability Mapping of Nepal, 2010.



On 05 June 2016, the NCCKMC team comprising Dr Bimala Devkota, Mr Pawan K Neupane, Mr Narayan P Gaire and Mr Shrawan Giri reached Shree Shiva HSS, the local coordinator of the program. Mr Yam Lal Ghimire, Principal of the school and his team welcome the NCCKMC team. A consultation meeting on the importance of program was conducted.

On 07 June 2016 the colorful posters on climate change science and impacts were displayed in the premises of Shree Shiva HSS. Teachers from eight community schools were explaining the contents of the poster and motivating their students to capture its information. Mr Pawan K Neupane, Scientific Officer, NAST also explained the contents to the students. Then, NCCKMC organized Climate Change Quiz at the premises of the school. Altogether eight community schools participated in the quiz program.



Shree Nepal Rastriya HSS bagged first prize while Shree Jana HSS and Shree Ananda HSS stood second and third respectively. All the participating schools were awarded with prizes and certificates. The program was jointly inaugurated by Dr Bimala Devkota, Senior Scientific Officer, NAST and Ms Kalpana Pokharel, Chairperson of School Management Committee amidst a gathering including teachers, political leaders, social workers, members of the School Management Committee, members

of mother's group and local club members. Mr Pawan K Neupane, Scientific Officer, NAST highlighted the objectives of the program.



On the same day, an interaction program was organized in a cozy room of the school. About 55 participants including all the teachers representing participating school and students actively participated in the interaction program. Mr Narayan P Gaire explained the science and impacts of climate change and gave brief explanation on how tree rings

can be studied to find out the impacts of climate change. Some of the students and teachers shared that the colorful posters displayed at the premises of the school will be very much helpful in understanding the climate change science. They suggested NCKMC to make them more pictorial. Dr Devkota and Mr Gaire clarified the queries raised by students and the teachers. Later on, the participants watched a short video on climate change science and its knowledge management in Nepal.

Students Engaged to Build Climate Change Awareness in Parsa District, Central Nepal

Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST)-Nepal Climate Change Knowledge Management Center (NCKMC) successfully organized Climate Change Awareness Program in Birgunj, the headquarter of Parsa district. The overall climate change vulnerability index of the district is high as reported by Climate Change Vulnerability Mapping of Nepal, 2010. The program was organized in the premises of Shree Nepal Rastriya Vidhyapith HSS at on 10 June 2016. NCKMC team comprising Dr Bimala Devkota, Mr Pawan K Neupane, Mr Narayan P Gaire and Mr Shrawan Giri were involved in organizing the program. Students, Teachers, political leaders, social workers, members of the School Management Committee and local club members observed the following events.

A. Inaugural Program

On 10 June 2016, Dr Bimala Devkota, Senior Scientific Officer, NAST and Mr Gopal P Mahato, Principal of Shree Nepal Rastriya Vidhyapith HSS jointly inaugurated Climate Change



Awareness Program by watering a plant. Addressing the program, Dr Devkota stated that climate change knowledge can be shared quickly with rural community by engaging school students. Mr Mahato viewed that there is confusion on climate change science among students and teachers and urged that the program will be helpful in clarifying such confusion. The members of school management committee and principal from participating school also put forward their views.

B. Climate Change Quiz and Poster Display

Altogether 10 community schools participated in the quiz program. Shree Nepal Rastriya Vidhyapith HSS bagged first prize while Shree Nirsingha HSS stood second. All the participating schools were awarded with prizes and certificates. A



dozen of colorful posters on climate change science and impacts were displayed in the premises of the school. Teachers and students from participating schools observed the posters. Mr Pawan K Neupane, Scientific Officer, NAST explained the contents to readers.

C. Interaction

On the same day, an interaction program was also organized in the school. About 40 participants including all the teachers representing participating school and students actively participated in the interaction program. Mr Pawan K Neupane explained the science and impacts of climate change. Mr Naryan P Gaire gave brief explanation on how tree rings can be studied to find out the impacts of climate change. Mr Neupane and Mr Gaire answered the queries raised by students and the teachers.

D. Fire Proof Roof Demonstration

Fire is one of major disasters in Nepal in Terai region of Nepal. Climate Change is exacerbating this disaster. Most of villages in Terai use Khar (grass) as roofing materials which make the houses vulnerable to fire. Therefore, NAST has designed fire proof roof to protect the houses with such materials from fire which was demonstrated among the participants during the climate change awareness program.

