

**A Brief Report on**

**Climate Change Awareness Program**

**&**

**Consultation cum Interaction Program on Climate Change**

**Knowledge Management**

**Mr Pawan Kumar Neupane and Dr Bimala Devkota**

**Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST)**  
**Nepal Climate Change Knowledge Management Center (NCKMC)**

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## Contents

Summary .....	3
A. Climate Change Awareness Program.....	5
1. Climate Change Awareness Program Sensitized Ramechhap District, Nepal .....	5
2. Nuwakot District Observed Climate Change Awareness Program.....	7
A. Climate Change Quiz .....	7
B. Poster Display and Interaction .....	8
3. Climate Change Awareness Program Engrossed Rasuwa district.....	9
A. Inaugural Session of the Program .....	9
B. Climate Change Quiz .....	10
C. Poster Display .....	10
D. Interaction.....	11
B. Consultation cum Interaction Program on Climate Change Knowledge Management .....	12
Key Findings .....	12
Some Snaps.....	14

## **Team Members**

Dr Buddhi Ratna Khadge, Secretary, NAST

Dr Bimala Devkota, Senior Scientific Officer, NAST

Mr Pawan K Neupane, Scientific Officer, NAST

Mr Sanjaya Bhandari, Assistanat Research Fellow, NAST

Mr Srawan Giri, Admin Assistant, NAST

Mr Bishnu Lamichhane, Admin Assistant, NAST

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### **Summary**

Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST)-Nepal Climate Change Knowledge Management Center(NCCKMC) successfully organized Climate Change Awareness Program and Consultation cum Interaction Program on Climate Change Knowledge Management at Local Level in Ramechhap, Nuwakot and Rasuwa district. The district has been respectively ranked as High, Low and Medium climate change vulnerable district by Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment of Government of Nepal. The Climate Change Awareness Program targeted school students and conducted at Shree Nagkanya Secondary School, Ramechhap (15 June 2017), Prithvi Secondary School, Nuwakot (18 June 2017) and Shree Rasuwa Secondary School, Rasuwa (22 June 2017). The program was inaugurated by District Education Officer in Ramechhap and Nuwakot district. In Rasuwa district, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Mr. Tshowang Tenzing Tamang inaugurated the program.

In the afternoon, 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. A Climate Change Quiz was organized in the schools which were also observed by the important gathering including newly elected local representatives, Chairperson of School Management Committee, Teachers, Police & Army officers and the journalist. Each school was represented by three students with at least one being girl student. In the interaction program, Mr Sanjay Bhandari, Researcher, NAST explained the science and impacts of climate change along with some adaptation measures. Mr Bhandari answered the questions raised by students and the teachers. Finally, prizes were distributed to the winning teams and participants.

Three local FM stations including Radio Tin Lal in Ramechhap, Nuwakot FM in Nuwakot and Radio Rasuwa in Rasuwa district had live broadcasted the program, which cover the nearby districts.

The next day to the School Awareness Program NCKMC organized District Level Consultation cum Interaction program on *Climate Change Knowledge Management* in all three districts (Ramechhap, Nuwakot and Rasuwa respectively on 16 June, 20 June and 23 June 2017. The program was conducted under the chairmanship of Chief District Officer. Dr Bimala Devkota, Senior Scientific Officer, NAST shared her knowledge on importance of climate change knowledge management and how such knowledge is being managed in Nepal. In all district, Energy and Environment Officer delivered an illustrative overview of climate change impacts and adaptation measures practiced in the districts. The program was observed by locally elected representatives, district officers, police and army officers, lecturers, teachers, journalists, and development workers. The programs mainly focused on the management of climate change knowledge at local level so that the knowledge base can be used for making realistic local adaptation plans and programs.

## A. Climate Change Awareness Program

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### 1. Climate Change Awareness Program Sensitized Ramechhap District, Nepal

On June 14, 2017 afternoon, a team from NAST including Dr Bimala Devkota, Mr Pawan K Neupane, Mr Sanjaya Bhandar, Mr Shrawan Giri and Mr Bishnu Lamichhane reached Shree Nagkanya Secondary School, local coordinator of the Climate Change Awareness Program at Manthali, headquarter of Ramechhap district, Nepal. All the school's infrastructures were destroyed during Gorkha Earthquake 2015 and demolition wastes had been piled up in-front of school's temporary structures made up of bamboos and tin roof at the bank of Tamakoshi River. Students and teachers were very exultant to welcome the NAST's team as such program was going to be organized in the school for the first time since the establishment of school in 2050BS. Most of the students in the school are from Majhi (The fisherman) community, one of the indigenous peoples of Nepal having special and intimate relationship with the rivers of Nepal.

In the afternoon of June 15, 2017, more than 500 participants gathered in the sandy ground of the school. 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 Ms Laxmi Budhathoki, Teacher of Shree Nagkanya SS. Mr Ramesh Kumar Basnet, Mayor of Manthali Municipality and the chief

guest for the program and Mr Dina Nath Gautam, District Education Officer jointly inaugurated the program. Addressing the program, Mr Basnet and Mr Gautam appreciated NAST for organizing the climate change awareness program in coordination with a school like Shree Nagkanya Secondary School which mainly target the students from indigenous Maji (Fisherman) community. Dr Bimala Devkota, Senior Scientific Officer, NAST highlighted the objectives of the program. Mr Pujari Maji, Chairperson of School Management Committee, expressed his gratitude to NAST for organizing the program related to climate change at the school of his community. The important gathering also included Political leaders, Teachers, local social workers, volunteers and the journalist observed the inauguration program.

In Climate Change Quiz, Shree Nilkantheshwor SS bagged the first prize while Shree Manthali SS and Shree Nagkanya SS stood second and third respectively. All 10 participating community schools were awarded with the prizes that include educational materials, publications on climate change and certificates. The Winner, Runner-up and Runner team received cash prizes. Each school was represented by three students with at least one being girl student. Dr Bimala Devkota, Senior Scientific Officer, NAST and Mr Buddhi Raj Phuyal, Principal, Shree Nagkanya SS gave the prizes.

In the interaction program, Mr Sanjay Bhandari, Researcher, NAST explained the science and impacts of climate change along with some adaptation measures. Mr Bhandari answered the questions raised by students and the teachers. Local FM station Tin Lal Radio had live broadcasted the program which also covered the nearby district Sindhuli.

## 2. Nuwakot District Observed Climate Change Awareness Program

The NAST-NCCKMC team headed by Dr Bimala Devkota, Senior Scientific Officer, NAST reached Prithvi Secondary School at Bidur, Nuwakot district, Nepal on 19 June 2017 to organize Climate Change Awareness Program. The team was comprised of Mr Pawan K Neupane, Scientific Officer, NAST, Mr Sanjaya Bhandari, Assistant Research Fellow, NAST, Mr Shrawan Giri and Mr Bishnu Lamichhane, Office Assistant, NAST.

The program was started at the premise of the school amidst a gathering including District Education Officer, Political leaders, members of School Management Committee, Principal, Teachers, Journalists and Students. Dr Bimala Devkota highlighted the objective of the program. A local FM *Radio Nuwakot* had broadcasted the program live.

The one-day program successfully completed with following events.

### A. Climate Change Quiz

A Climate Quiz among 9 schools was organized at the premise of Prithvi Secondary School. 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



program enthusiastically. Finally, prizes were distributed to the winner and participating teams of climate quiz. Shree Bhairabi Secondary School bagged the first prize while Shree Ranabhumeshwori SS and Shree Bhawani SS got second and third prizes. The prizes included cash prize, educational materials and publications on climate change. All the participating students also received certification of participation, educational materials and publications on climate change. The Chairperson of School Management Committee, Representative from District Education Office, Principal of the school and Senior Scientific Officer, NAST gave the prizes. Finally NAST felicitated the school with Letter of



Appreciation and Token of Love. Mr Baburam Lamichhane thanked NAST and all the participants for making the program successful.

#### 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. All the



participants observed the informative posters eagerly and asked the queries on climate science to the NAST team.

On the same day, after the quiz program, an interaction program was also organized in one of the cozy classroom of Prithvi SS. Mr Pawan Kumar Neupane, Scientific Officer, NAST and Mr



Sanjaya Bhandari, Assistant Research Fellow, NAST briefly explained climate change science and adaptation measures to the participants. Mr Neupane and Bhandari also answered the questions on climate change adaptation and mitigation measures raised by the participants.

### 3. Climate Change Awareness Program Engrossed Rasuwa district

Rasuwa district (Area: 1544 Sq. Km), a remote mountainous district of Nepal with harsh topography is bestowed with plenty of natural paradises. Travelling to Dhunche, the headquarter of Rasuwa district (120km away from Kathmandu) need right amount of grit and patience as one should pass through narrow and skidding roads with landslides. Whatever the conditions of roads, after an adventurous trip of 4 hours from Nuwakot district, a team comprising Dr Bimala Devkota, Mr Pawan K Neupane, Mr Sanjaya Bhandari, Mr Shrawan Giri and Mr Bishnu Lamichhane reached Dhunche on 20 June 2017 with an objective to organize Climate Change Awareness Program. The program was targeted to Rasuwa district as it is ecologically high vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and have overall climate change vulnerability index Moderate as reported by Climate Change Vulnerability Mapping of Nepal, 2010. The program was organized in the premises of Shree Rasuwa SS, the local coordinator of the program on 22 June 2017. The kind presence of Dr Buddhi Ratna Khadge, Secretary of NAST heightened the importance of the program. A local FM Radio Rasuwa had live broadcasted the program.

Students, teachers, newly elected local representatives, political leaders, social workers, members of the School Management Committee and local club members observed the following events.

#### A. Inaugural Session of the Program

On 22 June 2017, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Mr. Tshowang Tenzing Tamang inaugurated Climate Change Awareness Program by reading the Program Banner. Addressing the program, Hon'ble Tamang stated that organizing such program would enhance the climate change knowledge of students and teachers.



He also urged NAST to cogitate on scientific research that can be conducted in Rasuwa for its further development and empowerment of local people's livelihood. Addressing the program Dr Buddhi Ratna Khadge, Secretary of NAST clarified the objectives and activities of NAST and thanked all the guests and participants in joining

hands with NAST to make the program successful. Mr Bijaya Lama, Chairperson of School Management Committee and Mr Tempa Ghale, Principal, put forward their views and acknowledged NAST for organizing the valuable program in remote mountainous district of Nepal.



### B. Climate Change Quiz

Altogether Seven community schools participated in the quiz program. Shree Rasuwa Secondary School bagged first prize while Shree Nilkantha SS and Shree Komin Shyame Wangbel SS stood second and third respectively. Dr Buddhi Ratna Khadge, Secretary of NAST, Dr Bimala Devkota, Senior Scientific Officer, NAST and Mr Tempa Ghale, Principal, Rasuwa SS gave prizes and certificates to the winners and all the participating schools.



### C. Poster Display

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 Sanjaya Bhandari, Assistant Research Fellow, NAST explained the contents to readers.

#### **D. Interaction**

On the same day, an interaction program was also organized in the school. Participants including all the teachers representing participating school and students actively participated in the interaction program. Mr Sanjaya Bhandari, Assistant Research Fellow, NAST gave brief explanation on climate change science and impacts of climate change with some adaptation and mitigation measures. He also answered the queries raised by students and the teachers.

## B. Consultation cum Interaction Program on Climate Change Knowledge Management

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NCKMC organized District Level Consultation cum Interaction program on *Climate Change Knowledge Management* in all three districts (Ramechhap, Nuwakot and Rasuwa respectively) on 16 June, 20 June and 23 June 2017. The program was conducted under the chairmanship of Chief District Officers in all three districts. The program aims to sensitize local level stakeholders on climate change knowledge management and seek support to manage the climate change knowledge at local and national level. Another important objective of the program was to create a platform for sharing climate change knowledge being generated at local level. The program started with a brief presentation on climate change science and reasons behind denial of climate change. The presentation was delivered by Mr Pawan Kumar Neupane, Scientific Officer, NAST. Dr Bimala Devkota, Senior Scientific Officer, NAST shared her knowledge on importance of climate change knowledge management and how such knowledge is being managed in Nepal. In all district, Energy and Environment Officer delivered an illustrative overview of climate change impacts and adaptation measures practiced in the districts. Dr Buddhi Ratna Khadge, Secretary, NAST delivered his succinct remarks on impacts of climate change and importance of climate change knowledge management at local level. The program was observed by locally elected representatives, district officers, police and army officers, lecturers, teachers, journalists, and development workers. The programs mainly focused on the management of climate change knowledge at local level so that the knowledge base can be used for making realistic local adaptation plans and programs. Some publications on climate changes and climate risk management that are mainly useful to policy makers were handed over to Chief District Officers, Local Development Officers and Army Officers.

### Key Findings

- There is an imperative need of reliable weather stations and contact office along with well-trained human resources for generating climatic database.

- In Rasuwa district, Langtang region can be established as a hub for climate change research to observe and monitor long term impact of climate change on biodiversity, water resources and livelihood.
- Despite of involvement of several institutions in the field climate change adaptation practices, local people are not getting enough knowledge on climate change. However, they are experiencing the changes at their locality. So, climate change knowledge sharing should now be focused on village/community level by organizing village level seminar, talk program, sharing dialogue etc.
- Knowledge generated from implementation of environmental conservation programs and projects needs to be collected and managed at local level.
- Preparation and implementation of Local Adaptation Plan of Action (LAPA) has been initiated in Ramechhap and Rasuwa district. However, knowledge generated from LAPA implementation needs to manage which requires ownership from government institution like District Coordination Committee or District Forest Office, Municipal/Village Council etc.
- Radio program would be an effective means of communication for disseminating climate change knowledge.
- Scientific publication of studies must be shared with local level of study sites. If possible, the summary should be made available in simple language (Nepali/local).
- New local level structures like municipalities and village councils should immediately initiate the management of climate change knowledge at local level.
- Government should give priority for research focusing on drying up water resources like springs, selecting species for plantation and developing technology for climate change adaptation. Local level policy makers also needs to give priority on such research for generating knowledge which can be applied while formulating adaptation plans and programs to make a climate change resilient community

## Some Snaps of the Program

