

# SEMINAR ANNOUNCEMENT

Farmer Managed Irrigation Systems Promotion Trust, Kathmandu, Nepal  
Eighth International Seminar on

## “Institutional Challenges and Water Security in Irrigation Systems: Consideration from Climate Change and Population Dynamics”

**May 6, 2019 Kathmandu, Nepal**

The thrust of the theme is to look into the Irrigation Institutions for sustainability of irrigation systems ensuring its usual agricultural productivity. The challenges in irrigation institutions also include the question of irrigation system sustainability, performance assessment, institutional and policy landscape of irrigation systems, role of water users associations in the context of climate change, population increase, out-migration and urbanization affecting the farm lands. Competitive use of water is increasing whereby irrigation systems have to compete for water with hydropower, drinking water and industrial use of water.

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, economic, financial and technical innovations in irrigation institutions.
- c. deliberate on the adaptation of appropriate institutions which can meet the challenges brought by climate change and population increase. to assess the climate change impact for right innovative adaptation ,
- d. make the policy makers, practitioners, researchers and observers of irrigation systems to be adequately informed about the process of institutional 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. In this context, the irrigation institutions play an important role.

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.

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 deserve to consider.

Among many factors for sustainability of irrigation systems, irrigation institutions including water users associations play important role. It includes making water users association self governing, self-supporting and self-regulating. There are different modes and methods adopted in different places. It requires process and procedures for participatory irrigation management. Different sister institutions, one way or other way, contribute to irrigation systems. However, irrigation institutions are often operated in silo. Hence, there have been nexus challenges in irrigation institutions.

The sub-thematic issues of the seminar may include:

- a. National policy, institutions and intervention strategy on farmer managed irrigation systems modernization
- b. Design issues, technologies and quality features of irrigation infrastructures in improving local adaptability and resilience of irrigation
- c. Irrigation governance and negotiation on water right and mechanisms of resource management among different water users like drinking water, hydropower and industrial use and conflict resolution in the changing competitive water use context
- d. Effects of urbanization, out-migration, labor and social mobility and local gender balance on irrigation adaptation and resilience
- e. Information collection methodology and information sharing for improving adaptation to meet the new challenges of irrigation systems.

## **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 March 20, 2019. The authors will be informed about the paper selection by March 28, 2019. The full paper should be sent by April 20, 2019.

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

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