



ROLE OF DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES ON EVIDENCE BASED DECISION MAKING THROUGH SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION (STI)



OR
ROLE OF DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES ON EVIDENCE BASED DECISION MAKING THROUGH SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION (STI)

RESOURCE PERSON & CONTRIBUTORS



Dr. Sanjay Sharma
Secretary
Ministry of Education, Science and Technology
(Chief Guest)



Dr. Rabindra Dhakal
Chief of Technology
Science and Technology, NAST



Dr. Pradip Gnawali
CEO
Nepal Health Research Council (NHRC)



Mr. Bisam Gyawali
Head of Experimentation
UNDP Nepal



Ms. Christie Getman
Country Director
Mercycorps



Mr. Birendra Bajracharya
Chief of Party
SERVIR HKH ICIMOD



Mr. Pranaya Sthapit
Program Officer
The Asia Foundation



Mr. Ganesh Shah
Session Chair (Coordinator)
Ex Minister (Science & Technology)

Presented by:

DIGITAL SAMVAD TEAM

Er. Ganesh Shah | Mr. Nidesh Maskey

Mr. Hempal Shrestha | Mr. Razan Lamsal

Compiled by: Ms. Simana Hitang



June 2021 | जेष्ठ, २०७८

www.digitalsamvad.org



This report is published under [CC BY-SA 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/)  License

Disclaimer

The presentation and information provided by the Resource Persons and participants, compiled in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the Digital Samvad Team.

All reasonable precautions have been taken by the Digital Samvad team to verify the information contained in this publication. However, the published materials being distributed without warranty of any kind, either expressed or implied. The responsibility for the interpretation and use of the materials lies with the reader. In no event shall Digital Samvad Team be liable for any consequences whatsoever arising from its use.



ROLE OF DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES ON EVIDENCE BASED DECISION MAKING THROUGH SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION (STI)

~**~

SECTION - A: THE BEGINNING

Chapter I The Concept Paper

Public link for inputs of this collaborative document: <https://bit.ly/3iqvVXi>

Context:

Development agencies have been supporting the Nepal and Nepal Government for the past 10 years for evidence based decision making. In this digital age, digital tools and technologies have become crucial at this moment for development agencies. History of development agencies in Nepal show their focus on solving local problems through local solutions and have been supporting Science, Technology and Innovation[STI]. UNDP Nepal, Asia Foundation, ICIMOD, Mercy Corps Nepal, World Vision International and many others have played pivotal roles in helping Nepal Government, non-governmental organization, CSOs, start-ups and local institutions to embrace the change in the technological development scene. UNDP has organized Technology for Public Services Conference and Innovation Fair on 21 March 2018, where they brought in innovation champions and also Robot Sofia, UNDP's first non-human ambassador for Innovation, setting milestones in the history of Robotics and automation. ICIMOD organized the NASA International Space Apps challenge for four years. Similarly, ICIMOD organized Empowering Women in Geospatial Information Technologies for the second year in the row to promote more women in STEM. Mercy Corps has invested in local technologies built by local innovators. RAN farwest installed more than 40 different manual sanitizer dispenser systems during this COVID19 to help communities fight against COVID19 with the support from Mercy Corps. The Asia Foundation has partnered with a lot of technology based start-ups and companies to support local innovations here in Nepal.

This week on 19th Sep, 2020 (Asoj 3, 2077), the Digital Samvad in Association with Nepal Innovation Mapper team plans to host an open discussion on the topic “**Role of Development Agencies on Evidence based decision making through Science, Technology and Innovation**” celebrating 8th National Science Day. It strives to transform this forum for

initiating this discourse towards developing the role of agencies and importance of science, technology and innovation in Nepal through **Digital Samvad**.

1. Introduction:

Development agencies have been crucial in promoting Science, Technology and Innovation here in Nepal. With Science, Technology and Innovation, it's always about making decisions based on evidence. Development agencies have been helping the Nepal government in strengthening governance, improving government services and making long term plans and policies. The aim of the panel discussion helped Science, Technology and Innovation Community understand ways to leverage the value of development agencies to the community, see how development agencies have been operating and what are their priority areas and how they can partner with them. Currently the Science, Technology and Innovation community is slowly growing and being ambitious, it is looking forward to a better support system and investment opportunity.

The panel discussion will highlight the role of development agencies on evidence based decision making and promotion of science, technology and innovation. As part of efforts to facilitate discussion on how development agencies is planning to integrate science, technology and innovation in addressing development challenges, explore the potential of Robotics and AI for the emerging economies like Nepal, what programs and plans can help Nepal fulfill its true potential, this panel discussion is being organized to mark 8th National Science Day celebration.

2. Samvad Objective:

In the above pretext, the 18th edition of the Digital Samvad aims to:

1. Understand and map the actors and stakeholders of the science, technology and innovation ecosystem in Nepal,
2. Role of Development Agencies on Evidence based decision making through Science, Technology and Innovation
3. Develop and draw recommendations for cohesive action planning in Nepal.
4. Stocktaking of digital technologies and innovations to address COVID-19 in Nepal.

3. Key takeaway:

1. Questions/Issues to be Raised/Addressed:

- a. Status of Innovation and Technology in Nepal
- b. Problems, challenges, apprehensions, and scepticism faced by Nepali Innovation and researcher
- c. The role of the development agency in facilitating and enabling the Innovation ecosystem in Nepal,
- d. Thought process of development agencies based on
- e. *<....please add any that you may want to ponder upon >*

2. Related Resources / Library/Document:

- a. National Planning Commission [Startup Grant Directive and Procedure](#)
- b. NAST [Technology Development and Research Grant](#)

- c. Policy - Startups and Innovation - Mo EST
- d. [UNDP Nepal's Annual Report](#)
- e. [Global Innovation Index](#)
- f. [National Science, Technology and Innovation Policy](#)

4. Resource Person/ Contributors:

1. **Dr. Sanjay Sharma, Secretary**, Ministry of Education, science and Technology, Chief Guest and Panelist
2. **Dr. Rabindra Dhakal, Chief of Technology**, Science and Technology, NAST
3. **Dr. Pradip Gnawali, CEO**, Nepal Health Research Council[NHRC]
4. **Mr. Bisam Gyawali**, Head of Experimentation, UNDP Nepal
5. **Mr. Dinee Tamang**, Resilience MERL Advisor, Mercycorps
6. **Mr. Birendra Bajracharya**, Chief of Party, SERVIR HKH ICIMOD
7. **Mr. Pranaya Sthapit**, Program Manager, TAF

5. Perspective Participants (Proposed):

1. Associated organizations:
2. Stakeholders from:
 - a. Ministry of Education, Science and Technology[MOEST], GoN
 - b. NAST
3. Representatives from:
 - a. Development agencies
4. Domain Champions/Experts/Practitioner (Invited):
 - a. NHRC
 - b. MOFA
 - c. NPC
 - d. RAN
 - e. NAXA
 - f. RECAST

6. Program Details:

Topic: Digital Samvad - Role of Development Agencies

Date: 19th Sep, 2020 (Asoj 3, 2077), Saturday

Time: 1:00 - 3:30 PM (NPT). Zoom Room opens **12:45 PM** onwards

Venue: Online via Zoom @ <https://nren.zoom.us/j/67401216494>

Zoom ID (Zoom Number): 674 0121 6494

*NOTE: No password is required to join the Digital Samvad. Please connect using the link (Zoom ID) at least 10 minutes prior to the digital samvad time and turn off your video and mute your audio. Zoom Room opens **12:45 PM** onwards. Kindly provide your proper display Name while participating in the meeting. If you want to disclose your organisation or designation, please do so within brackets after your display name. To share your views, please write your message in the chat section AND ensure to enable hand raise sign in the participants' list section of the Zoom application to speak.*



ROLE OF DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES ON EVIDENCE BASED DECISION MAKING THROUGH SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION (STI)

~**~

**Chapter II
The Samvad Design & Program Outline**

Time (Mins)	Particulars	Remarks
00 - 05	Opening, Introduction, and Welcome.	Er. Ganesh Shah
05 - 15	The objective highlight of the 16th edition of the Digital Samvad.	Mr. Bikas Gurung
15 - 25	<u>Samvad Base:</u> Base presentation on “ Development Agencies and Evidence-based decision making”	Mr. Pranaya Sthapit
25 - 35	Key remarks on “ Science, Technology and Innovation Policy” ; a planning perspective.	Dr. Sanjay Sharma, Secretary, Government of Nepal, Chief Guest
35 - 60	Resource Persons sharing their inputs, opening remarks, and sharing their insights briefly (5-10 mins each) on the samvad objective and issues raised.	- Dr. Pradeep Gnawali, Executive Chief (Member Secretary), NHRC
60 - 90	<u>The Samvad:</u> Cross - Interaction and discussion between the resource persons and domain champions on samvad topic of Digital Startups in Nepal.	- Mr.Bisam Gyawali, Head of Experimentation, UNDP Nepal - Mr. Dinee Tamang, Resilience MERL, Advisor
90 - 120	Open floor discussion and follow-up samvad between the participants, domain champions, and resource persons.	- Mr.Birendra Bajracharya, Chief of Party, SERVIR HKH, ICIMOD
120 -130	<u>Samvad Conclusion:</u> Resource Persons- Concluding Remarks (1 -2 minute each)	- Dr.Rabindra Dhakal, Chief of Faculty of Technology,NAST <u>Co-facilitated by:</u> - Mr. Hempal Shrestha

		- Mr. Bikash Gurung - Mr. Razan Lamsal
130 -140	Summary of the Digital Samvad.	Ms. Akriti Neupane
140 - 150	Appreciation and Closing of the Interaction	Mr. Ganesh Shah
150 Onwards	Zoom Group Photo Session - Screenshot followed by Open Mic - Zoom Networking session.	All Resource Person and Participants interact with each other.



ROLE OF DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES ON EVIDENCE BASED DECISION MAKING THROUGH SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION (STI)

~**~

Chapter III Samvad Invitation & Communication

A. Invitation to Resource Persons and Participants

Subject: Invitation to join Digital Samvad on “Role of Development Agencies on Evidence based decision making through Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) ” this Saturday @ 1:00 PM.

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Greetings!

Thank you for accepting our invitation to join Digital Samvad - an open round table on “**Role of Development Agencies on Evidence based decision making through Science, Technology and Innovation (STI)**” this **Saturday, 19th Sep, 2020 (Asoj 3, 2077)**, from **1:00 - 3:30 PM (NPT)** via Zoom **as a Resource Person**.

Program Details:

Topic: Digital Samvad 18 - Role of Development Agencies on Evidence based decision making through Science, Technology and Innovation (STI)

Date: 19th Sep (Aspj 3, 2077), Saturday

Time: 1:00 - 3:30 PM (NPT), Zoom Room opens **12:45 PM** onwards

Venue: Online via Zoom @ <https://nren.zoom.us/j/67401216494>

Zoom ID (Zoom Number): 674 0121 6494

This is the 18th edition of Digital Samvad where we try to spur discussion and draw the lessons from the experience of our key resource persons and domain experts. We engage with the key stakeholders for conversation and dialogue to find insights for the way ahead to 'turn the sparks into a real opportunity to do things right for the future'.

Digital Samvad in Association with Nepal Innovation Mapper team plans to host an open discussion on the topic “**Role of Development Agencies on Evidence based decision making through Science, Technology and Innovation**” celebrating 8th National Science Day. It strives to transform this forum for initiating this discourse towards developing the role

of agencies and importance of science, technology and innovation in Nepal through **Digital Samvad**.

The open round table discussion will highlight the role of development agencies on evidence based decision making and promotion of science, technology and innovation.

As part of efforts to facilitate discussion on how development agencies is planning to integrate science, technology and innovation in addressing development challenges, explore the potential of Robotics and AI for the emerging economies like Nepal, what programs and plans can help Nepal fulfil its true potential, this panel discussion is being organized to mark 8th National Science Day celebration.

2. Samvad Objective:

In the above pretext, the 18th edition of the Digital Samvad aims to:

1. Understand and map the actors and stakeholders of the science, technology and innovation ecosystem in Nepal,
2. Role of Development Agencies on Evidence based decision making through Science, Technology and Innovation
3. Develop and draw recommendations for cohesive action planning in Nepal.
4. Stocktaking of digital technologies and innovations to address COVID-19 in Nepal.

Kindly find attached herewith the concept note for your kind perusal. If you require assistance or need more information, please visit the Google docs: <https://bit.ly/3iqvVXj>

We look forward to e-seeing you this Saturday afternoon!!

Kind Regards

Digital Samvad Team in Association with Innovation Mapper team

(Er. Ganesh Shah, Hempal Shrestha, Bikash Gurung, Razan Lamsal, Nidesh Maskey)

- *PS 1. : We would like to thank everyone who attended our previous Digital Samvad, which was a tremendous success filled with engaging and productive discussions. If you want a recap of our last Samvad, kindly find the online document <https://bit.ly/3isLHAX> capturing the major highlights of the discussion.*
- *PS 2: NOTE: No password is required to join the Digital Samvad. Please connect using the link (Zoom ID) at least 10 minutes prior to the digital samvad time and turn off your video and mute your audio. Zoom Room opens **12:45 PM** onwards. Kindly provide your proper display Name while participating in the meeting. If you want to disclose your organisation or designation, please do so within brackets after your display name. To share your views, please write your message in the chat section AND ensure to enable hand raise sign in the participants' list section of the Zoom application to speak.*

~**~



ROLE OF DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES ON EVIDENCE BASED DECISION MAKING THROUGH SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION (STI)

~**~

SECTION - B: THE SAMVAD

Chapter IV

"Budgeting for Digitalizing Nepal" - The Samvad

0. Samvad Summary (Nepali):

डिजिटल संवाद इन एसोसिएसन विथ नेपाल इनोभेसन म्यापर टोलीले आठौं राष्ट्रिय विज्ञान दिवसको अवसरमा "विज्ञान, प्रविधि र नवप्रवर्तन मार्फत प्रमाणमा आधारित निर्णयमा विकास एजेन्सीहरूको भूमिका" शीर्षकमा खुला छलफलको आयोजना गरेको थियो। यसले डिजिटल संवाद मार्फत नेपालमा विज्ञान, प्रविधि र आविष्कारको महत्त्व र एजेन्सीहरूको भूमिका विकास गर्ने दिशामा यो प्रवचन सुरु गर्नको लागि फोरमलाई रूपान्तरण गर्न प्रयास गर्यो।

Samvad Summary (English):

Digital Samvad in Association with Nepal Innovation Mapper team hosted an open discussion on the topic “Role of Development Agencies on Evidence based decision making through Science, Technology and Innovation” celebrating 8th National Science Day. It strived to transform the forum for initiating this discourse towards developing the role of agencies and importance of science, technology and innovation in Nepal through Digital Samvad.

1. Samvad Knowledge Base

A. Samvad Sandarbha Presentation on “ROLE OF DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES ON EVIDENCE BASED DECISION MAKING THROUGH SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION (STI)”

The image shows two slides from a presentation. The left slide is titled "Overview of NHRC" and features four icons with labels: "Research" (lightbulb), "Ethical Review Board" (scales), "Health Training" (people), and "Journal Publication" (document). A small video inset shows a man speaking. The right slide is split into two sections: "Challenges" and "Why Invest in Evidence". The "Challenges" section lists: Supply of Data, Demand for Data, Reliability, Validity, Capacity, Not Open, and Culture/Assumptions. The "Why Invest in Evidence" section contains text explaining the importance of evidence-based decision making for development agencies and the need to invest in better digital data systems. A small video inset shows a man speaking.

2. Samvad Highlights

कार्यक्रममा पूर्वमन्त्री गणेश शाहले यस वर्ष नेपालमा ग्लोबल इन्नोभेसन इन्डेक्समा १४ स्थान माथि उक्लेर ९५ स्थानमा आएको जानकारी गराउँदै अझ सरकारले यसतर्फ लगानी र उपयुक्त पोलिसी बनाउनुपर्ने बताए । शिक्षा, विज्ञान तथा प्रविधि मन्त्रालयका सचिव डा. सञ्जय शर्माले अब आर्टिफिसियल इन्टेलिजेन्स र रोबोटिक्सको अधिकतम प्रयोग गरेर औद्योगिक विकास गर्नुपर्ने बताए । उनले सरकारले बनाएका विभिन्न नीति समयमा कार्यान्वयन नहुनु र चेतनाको अभावले गर्दा पनि समस्या खडा भएको बताए । सचिव शर्माले विज्ञान तथा प्रविधिको विकासका लागि विद्यालयदेखिको प्राविधिक तथा वैज्ञानिक शिक्षा जरुरी रहेको औल्याएका थिए ।

त्यसैगरी नेपाल स्वास्थ्य अनुसन्धान परिषद् (एनएचआरसी) का प्रमुख कार्यकारी अधिकृत प्रदीप जवालीले एनएचआरसीले संक्रामक रोगको नियन्त्रण र प्रविधिको विकासमा विशेष ध्यान दिइरहेको बताए । उनले नैतिक समीक्षा बोर्ड बनाएर विज्ञानको विकासबारे नयाँ प्रस्ताव आएमा वैज्ञानिक ढंगबाट विश्लेषण गर्ने बताएका थिए । एनएचआरसीले अहिले कोभिडको समयमा आयुर्वेदिक औषधिको क्लिनिकल परीक्षण पनि गरिरहेको जवालीले जानकारी दिए ।

यसैगरी नाष्टका प्रविधि प्रमुख डा. रवीन्द्र ढकालले पछिल्लो समय नाष्ट र अन्य संस्थाहरूको पनि सहकार्यमा इन्नोभेसनको विकास र प्रवर्धनात्मक कार्यक्रमहरू भइरहेको बताए । ग्लोबल इन्डेक्समा के कारणले हामी माथि उक्लियो र कहाँ कमजोर छ भन्ने हेरेर आगामी दिनमा अझ सुधार गर्न लाग्नुपर्ने ढकालको भनाइ थियो ।

युएनडीपी नेपालका हेड अफ एक्सपेरिमेन्टेसन विशम जवालीका अनुसार युएनडीपीले ७० भन्दा बढी देशहरूमा सामाजिक आविष्कारको प्रयोगले बेरोजगारी हटाउने काम भइरहेको छ । कोभिड नियन्त्रणको लागि पनि सिस्टर रोबोट बनाउन र अन्य प्राविधिक सहयोगमा पनि काम गरिरहेको जवालीले बताए । आगामी दिनमा डिसिजन मेकिङ र अन्य कामहरूमा प्रविधिको प्रयोगलाई उच्च प्राथमिकतामा राख्दै अघि बढ्ने जवालीले बताए । द एसिया फाउण्डेसनका प्रनय स्थापितले कसरी र कुन लेवलबाट प्रविधिको प्रयोग गर्न सकिन्छ भनेर जानकारी गराएका थिए । एसिया फाउण्डेसनले कसरी प्रविधि र इन्नोभेसनलाई प्रयोग गरिरहेको छ भन्नेबारे उनले प्रस्तुतीकरण गरेका थिए ।

मर्सिक्रप्सको दिनेश तामाङका अनुसार रिसर्च र राम्रो जानकारीले गर्दा मात्रै विज्ञान प्रविधिमा विकास गर्न सकिन्छ । प्रविधिमा सरल तर सामान्य मानिसका समस्या समाधान गर्नेगरी टुल्सहरू बनाएर प्रयोग गर्न सके उपयोगी हुने उनले बताए । यसरी इसिमोडका वीरेन्द्र वज्राचार्यले वातावरण, विपत्को क्षेत्रमा पछिल्लो समय विज्ञान प्रविधिको प्रयोग बढिरहेको बताए ।

सय जनाभन्दा बढीको सहभागितामा भएको कार्यक्रममा अन्य विषय विज्ञहरूले आफ्नो विचार प्रस्तुत गरेका थिए । विज्ञान दिवसको उपलक्ष्यमा शिक्षा, विज्ञान तथा प्रविधि मन्त्रालय र नेपाल इन्नोभेटर टिमको सहकार्यमा १८औं संस्करणको डिजिटल संवाद आयोजना भएको थियो । रोबोटिक्स एसोसिएसनका विकास गुरुडले सञ्चालन गरेको कार्यक्रममा आकृति न्यौपानेले वक्ताहरूको भनाइलाई सारांशमा प्रस्तुत गरेकी थिइन् । यो कार्यक्रम महिनाको पहिलो र अन्तिम शनिवार पाक्षिक रूपमा सञ्चालन हुँदै आइरहेको छ ।

A. Samvad Banner:

Digital 18th Edition
samvad
an open round table

CELEBRATING NATIONAL SCIENCE DAY 8th

IN ASSOCIATION WITH
MoEST NEPAL Innovation Mapper
Connecting your Innovations

ROLE OF DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES ON EVIDENCE BASED DECISION MAKING THROUGH SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION (STI)

RESOURCE PERSON & CONTRIBUTORS

Dr. Sanjay Sharma Secretary Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (Chief Guest)	Dr. Rabindra Dhakal Chief of Technology Science and Technology, NAST	Dr. Pradip Gwawali CEO Nepal Health Research Council (NHRC)	Mr. Bisam Gyawali Head of Experimentation UNDP Nepal
Ms. Christie Getman Country Director Mercycorps	Mr. Birendra Bajracharya Chief of Party SERVIR HKH ICIMOD	Mr. Pranaya Sthapit Program Officer The Asia Foundation	Mr. Ganesh Shah Session Chair (Coordinator) Ex Minister (Science & Technology)

B. Samvad ZoomShots:

Zoom meeting interface showing a speaker on the left and a slide titled "Overview of NHRC" on the right. The slide content includes:

- Research
- Ethical Review Board
- Health Training
- Journal Publication

ZoomShots from the Main Event on ZOOM | Digital Samvad 1.0

