

Staff Training Programme on Water and Ecosystems

Background Note

The SaciWATERS organized a Staff training program in 'Water and Ecosystems' during 26 November to 3 December 2007, in Kathmandu, Nepal. The training focused on the linkages between water and ecosystem, emphasizing the theory that in nature nothing exists alone. The key to achieve sustainability is to think in terms of ecosystem as it emphasizes on the concerns related to environment, economy and community. This training was organized for the faculty members from the Partner Institutions (PIs) of the Crossing Boundaries (CB) Project, which is being implemented by SaciWATERS. The CB Project has an aim to contribute to the paradigm shift in water resources management in South Asia, summarized in the concept of IWRM (Integrated Water Resources Management). This is being undertaken through a partnership-based programme for capacity building of water professionals on IWRM and Gender & Water through higher education, innovation and social learning focused research, knowledge base development and networking.

The interdisciplinary training allowed the participants to understand and critically evaluate issues that lie at the heart of water and ecosystem debate in South Asia region. The training included five days (November 26 to 30) of classroom session. This included intense briefing given to the participants on issues that are of concern to South Asian region in the backdrop of water and ecosystem linkages. Two days (December 1-2) field trip to fisher folk villages of Pokhara, Kaski, Nepal was organized post classroom sessions. Following the field visit, a one day (3 December) of discussion for developing a course module was organized. The field program was organized by Nepal Engineering College.

Lead Coordinators

- Prof. Nimal Gunawardena, Department of Agricultural Engineering, University of Peradeniya, Kandy, Sri Lanka. (nimalgun@pdn.ac.lk)
- Dr. Jayati Chourey, Senior Fellow, SaciWATERS, Hyderabad, India. (jayati@saciwaters.org)

Sessions and Resource Persons

- Aquatic ecosystems, their Characteristics and Watershed-level Processes, Eco-hydrology, its Applications and Impacts of Human-made Alterations by Prof. Brij Gopal, Vice President, National Institute of Ecology, Jaipur, India (Ex-Professor, School of Environmental Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India. (brij44@gmail.com))
- Environmental Flow and Ecosystem Services by Prof. Jayanta Bandyopadhyay, Head Centre for Development and Environment Policy, Public Policy and Management, Indian Institute of Management-Calcutta, Kolkata, India. (jayanta@iimcal.ac.in)
- Hydro-Ecological Data and its Analysis and Modeling of Ecosystems, Use of Ecosystem Models for Evaluating Impacts and Impact of Climate Variability and Extreme Hydrological Events on Ecosystems by Prof. Subhas Chander, Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi, New Delhi, India.
- Assessment of Eco-Environment Quality and Monitoring & Maintenance of Ecosystems, Impact of Agricultural and Industrial Pollution on Ecosystem and Water Quality by Dr.R.C.Trivedi, Former Additional Director, Central Pollution Control Board, Delhi, India. (adrct.cpcb@nic.in)
- Water, Food and Ecosystem Linkages by Prof. Nimal Gunawardena, Department. of Agricultural Engineering, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Kandy, Sri Lanka. (nimalgun@pdn.ac.lk)
- Ecosystem Degradation: Economic Causes and Remedies and Extended Benefit Cost Analysis of Investment by Prof. Hemesiri Kotagama, Sultan Qaboos University, Muscat, Oman. (hemkot@squ.edu.om)
- Co-Management; Stakeholder Participation in Ecosystem by Dr. Jayati Chourey, Senior Fellow, SaciWATERS, Hyderabad, India. (jayati@saciwaters.org)
- Gender and Stakeholder Participation by Dr. Chanda Gurung Goodrich, Executive Director, SaciWATERS, Hyderabad, India. (chanda@saciwaters.org)
- Water Sector Development, IWRM and Challenges to Environmental Governance by Dr. N C Narayanan, Associate Professor, Centre for Technological Alternatives for Rural Areas(CTARA), Indian Institute of Technology(IIT)-Bombay, Mumbai, India. (ncnarayanan@gmail.com)