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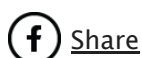


## BI-MONTHLY E-BULLETIN

Up to August 2015



**CARIAA**  
Collaborative Adaptation Research  
Initiative in Africa and Asia



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### HI-AWARE NEWS AND NOTES OF INTEREST



HI-AWARE research teams tested and reviewed the efficacy of participatory research tools and methodologies such as the vulnerability matrix tool and critical moment methodology in Chitwan, Nepal, from 4-10

July 2015. Based on the feedback received, the researchers will adapt and apply these tools and methodologies selectively in the HI-AWARE study basins to study socio-economic, governance and gender drivers of climate vulnerability, and critical moments and adaptation turning points. [READ MORE.](#)

The HI-AWARE Consortium Research Management Team met in Kathmandu, Nepal, from 1-3 July 2015 to take stock of the progress made on the research front; to assess the health of the research partnership; and to revisit the theory of change and impact pathways of the initiative, focusing on research into use (RiU). They also discussed how communication and outreach strategy and policy-engagement strategy can best support RiU. [READ MORE.](#)

**Navarun Varma**, TERI-HI-AWARE researcher, who attended the 3-5 August 2015 workshop on Research Component 2 (RC2) in Dhaka writes about the need to integrate the wellbeing approach to social-ecological systems thinking in HI-AWARE research design, particularly RC2. [READ MORE.](#)

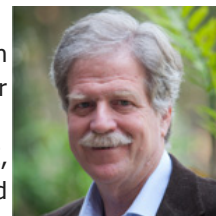
**Tanzina Dilshad**, BCAS-HI-AWARE researcher, makes a persuasive case for mainstreaming gender equity in climate change adaptation policies and programmes, since climate change impacts men and women differentially. [READ MORE](#)

### MESSAGE FROM DAVID

#### MOLDEN

**Director General, ICIMOD and  
Chair of the HI-AWARE Steering  
Committee.**

ICIMOD,  
together with  
its partner  
organisations  
BCAS, TERI,  
PARC and  
Alterra, is



implementing the Himalayan  
Adaptation, Water and Resilience  
(HI-AWARE) Research on Glacier  
and Snowpack Dependent River  
Basins for Improving Livelihoods.

This initiative is supported under the Collaborative Adaptation Research Initiative in Africa and Asia (CARIAA) programme funded by IDRC-Canada and DFID-UK. HI-AWARE is a five-year research initiative aiming at developing climate change adaptation approaches and enhancing the resilience of the poorest and most vulnerable women, men and children living in the Indus, Ganga and Brahmaputra river basins of the Hindu Kush Himalayan (HKH) region. The HI-AWARE research consortium is conducting integrative research across scales on the biophysical, socioeconomic, gender



The special session on 'Water and Mountains' convened by ICIMOD and HI-AWARE at the 15th World Water Congress in Edinburgh, Scotland, last May, discussed the water challenges in mountain environments, their importance for downstream river basins, and the need to mainstream these issues in global water debates and agendas. [READ MORE.](#)

**Hester Biemans**, Co-Principal Investigator-Alterra, presented HI-AWARE to a mixed audience of EU policymakers, academics, researchers and representatives from civil society groups and embassies and missions to the EU, at a briefing seminar entitled 'Water Resources in the Himalayas: Turning the Tide toward Cooperation' at the European Institute for Asian Studies (EIAS) in Brussels on 28 May 2015. [READ MORE.](#)

The HI-AWARE conference held in Faisalabad, Pakistan, on 12 May 2015 stressed on the need to study impacts of climate change on fragile mountain ecosystems of the Hindu-Kush Himalayan region. [READ MORE.](#)

**Christian Siderius**, Alterra, represented HI-AWARE at a special workshop on 'Climate Extremes, Adaption and Policy – From Physics to Solutions' in Riederalp, Switzerland, from 24-28 March 2015. He contributed in particular to session 2 on 'Heavy Precipitation, Drought and Hydrological Responses' from HI-AWARE perspectives. [READ MORE](#)

Letters of Agreement (LoAs) have been signed between HI-AWARE and four strategic partners – Practical Action-Nepal, The Mountain Institute (TMI)-India, Megh Pyne Abhiyan (MPA) and The Centre for Ecology Development and Research (CEDAR) – for collaboration in areas such as pilot projects, field research, co-production of knowledge products and policy-practice engagement.

and governance drivers and conditions leading to vulnerability, in order to understand climate change impacts and to identify critical moments and adaptation turning points. It is focusing on the Indus, Upper Ganga, Gandaki and Teesta river basins, where the impacts of climate change on the livelihoods of the poor are uncertain but likely to be severe. Adaptation policies and practices, based on robust evidence, are urgently required in these basins to enhance the resilience and adaptive capacity of the poorest and most vulnerable populations and to improve their livelihoods in a changing climate. The research started in April 2014; presently it is in its second year of implementation and will end in September 2018.

As chairperson of the HI-AWARE steering committee, it is my pleasure to convey to you that the first issue of the HI-AWARE e-bulletin, operational from August 2015 onwards, will provide you with details of the HI-AWARE research and pilot activities done by the pool of researchers spread across five countries – Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bangladesh and the Netherlands, and two continents, Europe and Asia. [READ MORE](#)

## NOTES FROM THE FIELD

### Indus

A scoping trip undertaken by ICIMOD and Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) researchers to Chaj Doab in the Sargodha and Mandi Bahauddin districts of Punjab province, Pakistan, from 6-16 January 2015 found that financially sound farmers are already adapting to climate change, whereas poor farmers are lagging behind, thus raising the question: "How can the poor farmers be included in the adaptation process?" **Abid Hussain**, Food Security Economist at ICIMOD, blogs about this [HERE](#).

### Gandaki Basin



HI-AWARE is partnering with Megh Pyne Abhiyan to promote ecological-sanitation (eco-san) toilets in parts of flood-prone Bihar, India, as a structural adaptation option, providing climate resilience, and maintaining sanitation and hygiene in the event of floods. Avash Pandey, ICIMOD researcher, blogs about this ongoing partnership [HERE](#).

## Upper Ganga



**Sudeshna Maya Sen**, TERI-HI-AWARE researcher, presents a classic case of water being available yet inaccessible in the mountain villages of Devprayag in Uttarakhand, India.

[READ MORE.](#)

**Sudeshna Maya Sen** writes about what the changing climate means for tourism in the Uttarakhand state of India, drawing on her experiences and perceptions. [READ MORE.](#)

**Harriet Larrington-Spencer**, ICIMOD-HI-AWARE researcher, observes that in the Upper Ganga river basin, climate change tends to impact people belonging to different social strata, including men and women, differentially. [READ MORE.](#)

Six students affiliated with The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)-HI-AWARE – **Divya Sharma, Sudeshna Maya Sen, Yamini Yogya, Ganesh Gotri, Shreya Trivedi** and **Vishaka Gulati** – recount in their own words their internship experiences as part of the HI-AWARE research initiative. [READ MORE.](#)

On his scoping trip to Bihar, India, **Avash Pandey** learns of the contamination of underground water with iron and arsenic. The increasing use of tube-wells at the household level has significantly increased the health risks to villages in Bihar. [READ MORE.](#)

**Sangita Dandekhya**, ICIMOD researcher, blogs about labour migration of male youths and its contribution to enhanced resilience in the hilly areas of Nuwakot District of Nepal. [READ MORE.](#)

## Teesta Basin

**Harriet Larrington-Spencer**, ICIMOD researcher, blogs about how two villages in Sikkim, India – Shaku-Khani and Uttarey – are adapting to climate change in their own ways. [READ MORE.](#)

**Ujol Sherchan**, ICIMOD KMC Focal Point for HI-AWARE, interviews Pema Thinley, a yak farmer from the Gurudongmar area in Sikkim, about some of the major challenges facing animal husbandry and its future in North Sikkim. [READ MORE.](#)

About 350-400 families fleeing floods and riverbank erosion have moved to the embankment area of Uttar Khoribari along the Teesta river in Rangpur District of Bangladesh and are growing pumpkins to make ends meet, while at the same time struggling to find buyers/markets for their produce. **Md Abu Syed**, PhD Fellow at BCAS, draws the attention of HI-AWARE to their plight. [READ MORE.](#)

## PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

**Golam Rasul et al.** from ICIMOD published a HI-AWARE paper "[The nexus approach to water-food-energy security: option for adaptation](#)" for Climate Policy journal. The paper highlights the interlinkages between water, energy and agriculture/food sectors, including implications for sustainable development and climate change adaptation.

**Tiku Gauchan**, HI-AWARE consultant, explains the nexus approach to food-water-energy security, including why this approach should be taken into account when designing adaptation measures and policies. [READ MORE.](#)

**Golam Rasul**, Theme Leader- Livelihoods at ICIMOD, published a HI-AWARE paper '[Water for Growth and Development in the Ganges, Brahmaputra, and Meghna Basins: An Economic Perspective](#)' in the International Journal of Water Management. The paper examines the opportunities for, and potential socio-economic benefits of, water resource management in the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna basins in the face of changing climate.

A HI-AWARE paper '[Crop-specific seasonal estimates of irrigation water demand in South Asia](#)' by **Hester Biemans et al.** has been published as a discussion paper on Hydrology and Earth System Sciences.

## EVENTS OF NOTE



HI-AWARE, in partnership with Megh Pyne Abhiyan and the Centre for Environmental Sciences of the Central University of South Bihar, is organising a roundtable conference on '[The Agony of Rivers: Floods in Bihar](#)' in Patna, India, on 3 September 2015 to discuss flood issues facing Bihar, including a road map for future research and action.

DECCMA and HI-AWARE will meet at a joint stakeholder workshop in Dhaka on 7 September 2015 to familiarise each other on their respective research projects and country- engagement activities in Bangladesh for possible cross-consortia collaboration.

HI-AWARE researchers associated with Research Component 3 ('Monitoring and Assessment of Adaptation Practices') are to have a face-to-face meeting in Rangpur District, Bangladesh, from 5-9 October 2015.

## ABOUT HI-AWARE

The **Himalayan Adaptation, Water and Resilience (HI-AWARE)** Research Consortium conducts research and pilot interventions, capacity building, and policy engagement on climate resilience and adaptation in the mountains, hills, and plains of the Indus, Upper Ganga, Gandaki and Teesta river basins. The Consortium comprises the **International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)**, the **Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS)**, **Pakistan Agricultural Research Centre (PARC)**, **The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)-India**, and **Alterra-Wageningen University and Research Centre (Alterra-WUR)**.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to HI-AWARE Knowledge Management and Communication (KMC) Focal Points – particularly **Prasoon Singh**, TERI-India; **Zakia Nazin**, BCAS-Bangladesh; **Bilal Iqbal**, PARC-Pakistan; and **Hester Biemans**, Alterra-Netherlands – for helping put this edition of the HI-AWARE Bulletin together. Thanks also to **Anja Rasmussen**, KMC Lead for HI-AWARE, for her advice and guidance. - Ed

HI-AWARE is supported by the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) and Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) through the Collaborative Adaptation Research Initiative in Africa and Asia (CARIAS).

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