



**Report of the International Conference on
Multiple Use Water Systems (MUS) for Climate Resilience:
A Socio-Technical Approach for Improved Community Water Governance
25-26 February 2016, Kathmandu, Nepal**

On 25-26 February, the International MUS Conference took place in Kathmandu, inaugurated by the Honourable Minister of Population and Environment, Mr. Vishwendra Paswan. Co-organisers were iDE, the Farmer Managed Irrigation Systems Promotion Trust (FMIST), IWMI Nepal, the global MUS Group, and the Ministry of Population and Environment. Over 180 national and international participants from MUS communities, government, donors, I/NGOs, academic institutions, and development stakeholders engaged in lively debates around 25 presentations based on projects and research in Nepal and around the world.

Nepal's experiences with MUS, as shared in this workshop, were a global breakthrough in two respects. First, various organisations are now engaging in MUS, which has created an unprecedented critical mass. In addition to iDE's pioneering and ever-expanding implementation of MUS since 2001, various other MUS initiatives emerged in Nepal. For example, in the less-developed Far West, the Rural Village Water Resource Management Project is moving from a domestic water supply approach to a MUS approach. Across Nepal, the Water Use Master Plan (WUMP) approach is increasingly applied. This planning tool provides village- and district-level local government with insights in water resource availability, variability, current water uses and scope for sustainable development for multiple uses. These and other initiatives strengthen a keen interest in the development and dissemination of a wide range of affordable technologies for small-scale uses, for both basic domestic and productive purposes. These technologies can make a real difference in people's lives.

The second breakthrough was to use this critical mass for the theme of the workshop: to move beyond many separate parallel projects into a programme to institutionalising MUS. It was most encouraging that the highest levels of government actively participated in the conference and expressed support for the MUS approach, including the Ministry of Population and Environment, the Ministries of Agricultural Development, Federal Affairs and Local Government, and Irrigation; the Water and Energy Commission Secretariat; and other government agencies.

The conference concluded with the formation of a national MUS network. The network aims at raising awareness, sharing knowledge and information on different approaches for MUS, promoting MUS based on scientific evidence, exchange information and technologies, organize trainings and field visits, and hold annual meetings. iDE Nepal Country Director Dr. Luke Colavito has volunteered to be the Coordinator of the network. The global MUS Group welcomes and provides full support to this network.

Participants MUS Conference Kathmandu 25-26 February 2016



Photo by Bimala Rai Colavito