



SOWCOS NEWS

A Newsletter of Soil and Water Conservation Society (SOWCOS), Nepal

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National Workshop

SOWCOS is planning to organize a national level workshop towards the end of 2004. The theme of the workshop is – “Soil and Water Conservation: Challenges and Opportunities”. Bhawani Prasad Kharel, SOWCOS Vice President, and Shashindra Lal Singh, SOWCOS General Secretary will initiate to form a sub-committee to undertake this activity.

The workshop will be held with an intention to provide a forum for sharing ideas and experiences on various problems on soil and water conservation in Nepal, and their possible solutions.

Technical Bulletin

We are planning to publish a technical bulletin on soil and water conservation. This bulletin will be a collection of articles that provide analytical perspectives on various aspects of soil and water conservation programs in Nepal. The Executive Committee will soon form a publication sub-committee for this purpose. Please contact us if you are interested.

Quiz Contest

We are planning to organize an inter secondary school quiz contest in October to raise conservation awareness among students and general public. Shyam Sundar Shrestha, SOWCOS Executive Member, has been assigned to organize the contest.

Valuable Donation to SOWCOS

Shishir Kumar Upadhyay, SOWCOS General Member, has donated a bookcase with 251 books on diverse subjects. We are thankful to him for this noble deed. We also take this opportunity to offer him good luck in his new

life in the United States of America where he has migrated with his family by winning Diversity Visa.

SOWCOS Membership is growing

The total number of SOWCOS members has increased to 128 out of which 11 are Life Members. Last year the total number was 110.

WASWC

SOWCOS is proud to have professional affiliation with World Association of Soil and Water Conservation (WASWC) based in Bangkok, Thailand. One immediate outcome of this affiliation is the availability of worldwide information of soil and water conservation through WASWC Newsletter and other publications. Members interested in reading these publications are requested to contact SOWCOS office, Babar Mahal, Kathmandu.

FAO Assignment

SOWCOS was entrusted by FAO to undertake a review study on the next generation of watershed management program. The study was conducted under the coordination of Shashindra Lal Singh. The team members were: Bhawani Prasad Kharel, Manmohan Dhoj Joshi and Prakash Mathema. SOWCOS is thankful to Kumar Upadhyay, Sharad Kumar Rai and Rabin Bogati for their valuable contributions to the study.

The study included the following topics: evolution of watershed management program in Nepal; analysis of the policies and programs of watershed management; challenges, opportunities, and lessons learnt; and recommendations.

The findings of the study were presented by Shashindra Lal Singh and Bhawani Prasad Kharel at the Asia Regional Workshop held in Kathmandu from 11 to 13 September 2003. The workshop was jointly organized by FAO and ICIMOD.

CARE - Nepal Assignment

SOWCOS prepared Indicative Sub-Watershed Management Plan for CARE-Nepal supported Chure Watershed Management Project. Bishnu Das Sirestha, Kiran Dangol, and Binod Dhakal were involved in the assignment.

SET Exhibition

SOWCOS helped enthusiastic students of St. Xavier's College to set up a stall at the Social Service, Environment and Technology (SET) Exhibition held at the premises of the St. Xavier's College in April 2004. Soil conservation models, posters, and various publications were exhibited at the SOWCOS stall. Different documentaries on soil and water conservation were also shown at the stall.

General Assembly

SOWCOS General Assembly was held on 13 Baisakh 2061 at Local Development Training Academy, Lalitpur. The assembly, besides approving the budget and programs for the Fiscal Year 2061/62, also provided valuable recommendation to the Executive Committee. The assembly was inaugurated by Manmohan Dhoj Joshi, the senior-most member of SOWCOS.

The General Assembly approved the following programs:

- Launching of SOWCOS website
- Publication of Technical bulletin and SOWCOS Newsletters
- Participation in exhibitions
- Conducting study tours and training programs
- Organizing seminars and workshops
- Providing consulting services
- Updating members profile
- Members welfare activities

Proposal for Training Programs

SOWCOS has sent proposals to Sri Lanka for conducting two training programs for the field staff of Upper Watershed Management Project and farmers of the project area in Sri Lanka. The training will focus on Integrated Farming with Appropriate Soil Conservation Practices in Nepal. Shashindra Lal Singh, Shyam Sundar Shrestha, and Basanta Kumar Rimal were involved in the preparation of the training proposals.

Affiliation with Social Welfare Council

SOWCOS has recently obtained affiliation with the Social Welfare Council.

Notices

Membership Renewal

All those members who have not renewed their membership are requested to renew their membership. Please contact Padmira Dangol, SOWCOS Treasurer.

SOWCOS Sunhat

Different designs of sunhats with SOWCOS logo are available for sale at the SOWCOS office located at Babar Mahal, Kathmandu. Price ranges from Rs. 125 to Rs. 275. Please contact Padmira Dangol.

Request for information

We request members to provide information on useful and interesting topics for inclusion in the forthcoming issues of the newsletter. We also welcome comments on making *SOWCOS News* more interesting.

Comments and information should be sent to:

Shashindra Lal Singh, General Secretary or
Prakash Mathema, General Member

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Coming together is beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success.