



SOWCOS NEWS

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

Issue No. 2

September 2001

Second General Assembly

The Second General Assembly of SOWCOS has been scheduled for Saturday, 27 Ashwin 2058. The venue is the Conference Hall of Bagmati Integrated Watershed Management Programme Office, Babarmahal, Kathmandu. A notice has also been published in *Kantipur* of 27 Bhadra, 2058. All SOWCOS members are requested to participate actively. Let's make the General Assembly a grand success.

Members' Roster

As assigned by the Executive Committee, Prakash Mathema and Shyam Sundar Shrestha have prepared the SOWCOS Members' roster. The roster includes profiles of all the 101 members of SOWCOS. General Member, Yubak Lal Karmacharya also assisted in the preparation of the profile.

Advisors Appointed

As recognition of their contributions as President and General Secretary of the SOWCOS *ad hoc* Executive Committee, Keshar Man Sthapit and Shyam Sundar Shrestha have been appointed as advisors to the SOWCOS Executive Committee.

Membership Granted

New membership has been granted to 26 persons. SOWCOS now has 101 members. This includes seven Life Members.

Map Preparation

SOWCOS has prepared sub-watershed wise land cover and geological maps for Bagmati Integrated Watershed Management Programme. Bishnu Das Shrestha was involved in the assignment.

Code of Conduct

A draft code of conduct for SOWCOS members has been prepared. The Executive Committee is planning to table the draft code of conduct for discussion in the forthcoming General Assembly.

Draft Code of Conduct

Upon taking the membership of Soil and Water Conservation Society, Nepal (SOWCOS), all members pledge to be abided by this Code of Conduct. All members of SOWCOS should honestly comply with this Code of Conduct to provide the highest level of professional service in the broad field of soil and water conservation. The following Code of Conduct shall be applicable to all membership categories of SOWCOS.

1. Members will always work towards fulfilling the institutional objectives of SOWCOS as stated in its constitution.
2. Members will not harm the reputation of the soil and water conservation profession and that of SOWCOS through any false statement or untruthful action.
3. Members will strive to provide a high standard of professional service with loyalty to their profession and their respective employers.
4. Members will utilize their professional knowledge and skills for the benefit of public, their profession, employers, employees and other associates.
5. During the course of their professional work, members will always put the interest of the public before that of an individual.
6. Members will always aim at enlarging the scope of soil and water conservation profession so as to provide more and better service to the public.

Iranian Officials' Study Tour to Nepal

As requested by FAO/Nepal, SOWCOS successfully organized a two-week long study tour for seven Iranian officials working in Hableh-rud Watershed Management Project, Iran.

The participants had an opportunity to observe and learn from the approaches and activities of the following projects: Community Development and Forest/Watershed Conservation Project (Kaski); Bagmati Integrated Watershed Management Programme (Kathmandu); NARMSAP/DANIDA Project (Tanahun); and Upper Aandhi Khola Watershed Management Project (Syangja).

The participants were also taken to Begnastal Rupatal watershed to observe community forestry activities and to share ideas on sedimentation survey of Begnas and Rupa lakes. The participants were also taken to Dhikurpokhari to observe the past watershed management activities conducted by Phewatal Integrated Watershed Management Project.

The team visited the Research and Demonstration site of ICIMOD at Godawari, Lalitpur. The participants also visited the Shivapuri Watershed and Wildlife Conservation site to observe various watershed management and wildlife conservation activities implemented in the area.

Feedback Meeting: During the feedback meeting with the officials of SOWCOS, the Iranian Team Leader, Mr. Syed Heydarian, thanked SOWCOS for an excellently organized study tour. He said that a sound foundation of participatory watershed management approach has been laid in Nepal and the next logical step would be to build on this foundation by focusing more on income generation programmes.

Visit to FAO/Nepal Office: The Team Leader and the tour co-ordinators also had a meeting with the FAO Resident Representative to Nepal, Mr. Winston Rudder. During the meeting, the Team Leader reported that the study tour had been a success and that it had provided his team with a great learning opportunity. Mr. Rudder expressed happiness on the successful completion of the study tour and thanked SOWCOS for organizing the tour for the Iranian visitors.

General Comments: The team had an opportunity to interact with all levels of people involved in the Soil Conservation and

Watershed Management sector in Nepal. They learnt about the policies, programmes, approach and process of participatory integrated watershed management programme of Nepal. The team was also given ample opportunity to interact with local communities to discuss community level issues related to social, economic, ecological and institutional aspects of participatory watershed management. Based on the feedback given by the participants, they also learnt a lot about the social, economic, cultural, and geographic aspects of Nepal.

Prakash Mathema and Shyam Sundar Shrestha conducted the study tour.

Dailekh Greenery Development Plan

The final draft report of Greenery Development Plan of Dailekh District has been submitted to Helvetas/Nepal. On behalf of SOWCOS, Keshab Man Shakya and Bhawani Prasad Kharel were involved in the assignment, which was undertaken in partnership with the National Labour Academy, a national NGO. The plan, which will be implemented by the District Development Committee, includes the status of green sector of Dailekh; the strategies to be followed for its development; and the activities to be conducted.

Notices

Membership Renewal

All the members are requested to renew their membership as soon as possible. Please contact Padmira Dangol, Treasurer.

SOWCOS Sunhat

Sunhat with SOWCOS logo can be purchased for Rs. 125. Please contact Padmira Dangol.

Request for information

Please feel free to provide information on useful issues for inclusion in the forthcoming issues of the newsletter. You are also requested to inform us any change in your mailing address.

Comments and information should be sent to:

Prakash Mathema
Executive Member / Newsletter Editor
SOWCOS, Babar Mahal, Kathmandu
Tel: 220828 (O)