



CALL FOR PAPERS
International Workshop on
Multiple Use Water Systems (MUS) for Climate Resilience:
A Socio-Technical Approach for Improved Community Water Governance
February 25-26, 2016
Kathmandu, Nepal

Organised by

The Farmer Managed Irrigation System Promotion Trust (FMIST), International Development Enterprises (iDE), the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and the global MUS Group, in partnership with the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment of the Government of Nepal

Background Agriculture-based livelihoods of rural communities are heavily dependent on water and adequate water supply has a huge potential to reduce poverty and improve well-being. Climatic variability and extremes have added new stress on water resources and new challenges for communities, public agencies and development agencies to design resilient water systems. Most traditional water systems have been used to meet multiple needs. In contrast, recent public or private systems have been designed according to a single sector and use. An increasing number of water professionals have acknowledged the advantages of planning for multiple uses from the design phase of the water system and developed the MUS approach. They have advocated the development of mechanisms to support governments in adopting and implementing MUS through participatory planning.

Why MUS? MUS are community managed systems designed to provide water for multiple uses including for drinking, domestic needs, agriculture, livestock, small enterprises, renewable energy, and other uses. MUS represent an important climate change adaptation approach enabling communities to allocate scarce water resources to competing uses, giving priority to domestic needs and also increasing income from more reliable irrigation agriculture and enabling the use of efficient micro irrigation technologies. MUS have also been found to have important benefits for women and girls, reducing the time needed to carry water, creating economic and leadership opportunities for women.



Where are we standing today? Nepal is an exceptional case study of MUS experimentation with more than 200 MUS implemented for a decade through donor-funded projects. However, most water systems in Nepal are still designed for single use, although *de facto* used for multiple purposes. Internationally, MUS have not yet been included in mainstream institutions and discourses on water management.

Workshop Goals: The workshop aims at taking stocks of past experiences across countries and building a strategy to further institutionalize MUS in Nepal and elsewhere. The objectives are to:

(a) Provide a platform for international and national academics, development practitioners and policy-makers interested in water resources development and livelihoods to share information and learn from mutual experiences on MUS

(b) Explore how the MUS approach can offer an important climate change adaptation tool.

(c) Support the development of a working group and strategy to promote the institutionalization of MUS approach in government agencies and development policies across countries, and particularly in Nepal

Call for Papers: The MUS workshop is seeking papers on the MUS approach on the following themes:

(1) Development in MUS: technologies for MUS design, market and institutional models for maximizing benefits;

(2) MUS as a climate smart approach;

(3) Process of Community Engagement to promote equity in MUS implementation;

(4) Learning from best practices and approaches of community management of MUS system;

(5) Approaches and processes for institutionalization and upscaling the MUS approach.

Abstract submission: The participants willing to present a paper are requested to submit by email an abstract of 200-300 words to Dr. Prachanda Pradhan (pradhanpp@hotmail.com) by December 31, 2015. The authors whose abstract is accepted will receive a notification by January 15, 2016.

Pre-Workshop program (Feb 23-24, 2016):

This is a field visit proposed to the workshop participants (optional). It will illustrate the relevance of MUS to the Nepal context through a visit of a few MUS sites around Pokhara, western Nepal, 200 km away from Kathmandu. Participants will fly from Kathmandu to Pokhara (30mn) and back.

The MUS workshop (Feb 25-26, 2016):

During these two days, about 30 papers will be presented in 10 sessions around the 5 themes of the conference. Each session will last around 2h with 15mn for presentation (preferably with ppt) and 10mn for questions and clarification for each paper. Each session will then be wrapped up by a discussion of around 20mn on all the papers presented.

Participants are asked to bear their own travel and hotel costs and are requested to stay at the workshop venue, Hotel Himalaya, Lalitpur (<http://www.hotelhimalaya.com.np>). Single rooms at the conference venue are USD 93/day including breakfast, wifi, VAT and service charges.

About the MUS group: The international MUS group (<http://www.musgroup.net>) regroups 14 international organizations and 735 individual members across the globe. The Group has been operating since 2003 as the platform for learning, synthesis, and joint advocacy around MUS. It brings together a variety of actors - researchers, practitioners, funders – which creates a multidimensional view of MUS and what it will take to scale up.

Further queries: Please contact FMIST (fmist@wlink.com.np), the lead workshop organizer, for any questions.