



## Members Spotlight

### Dr. Arun KC



Dr. Arun KC is an Advisor for Agriculture and Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation in Save the Children's Global Food Security and Livelihood Program in Washington DC. Dr. KC provides technical advice to country programs in Africa and Asia. His expertise includes modeling of climate change impact on economic, environmental, and social indicators, prioritization of climate-smart interventions using simulations, statistical/econometric models, and socio-economic surveys, translating knowledge to action for scaling climate change adaptation and mitigation interventions in agriculture and allied sectors, and impact assessment of climate actions.

Dr. KC has long working experience in South Asia (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan) and Africa (Kenya, Ethiopia, Mali, Tanzania, Burkina Faso, and Niger). Before joining

Save the Children, he worked for CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) based in International Water Management Institute (IWMI-Sri Lanka), International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT-Mexico), International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT-Colombia), and University of Vermont as a climate change adaptation and mitigation scientist. Before joining CCAFS, he worked for the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI-Washington DC), Conservation International (CI-Arlington Virginia), and other organizations in different capacities and roles.

Dr. KC is an active and experienced researcher. He has published more than 50 peer-reviewed articles in various international journals, and book chapters. His publications largely include evaluation of climate-smart interventions in the farmers' fields and agricultural landscapes, economic and environmental impacts of climate-smart agriculture (CSA) technologies and practices, science-policy nexus of CSA, business cases and investment on CSA, and impact/sustainability of climate-smart agriculture programs.

Dr. KC holds two Ph.D. degrees: i. Ph.D. in Rural Economics from the Hiroshima University, Japan, and ii. Ph.D. in Agriculture and Environmental Economics from West Virginia University (WVU), USA. Dr KC has also earned M.S. and B.S. in Agricultural Economics from the Institute of Agriculture and Animal Science (IAAS), Rampur, Chitwan, Nepal. He completed his post-doctoral at International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Sri Lanka with research on evaluation and scaling up climate-smart agriculture in South Asia.

Dr. KC currently serves on the Strategic Initiatives Committee and the Newsflash editorial team of NACA.

## Members Spotlight

### Dr. Sweta Baniya



Dr. Sweta Baniya is from Kathmandu, Nepal. Currently, she is an Assistant Professor of Rhetoric, Professional and Technical Writing in the Department of English and an Affiliate Faculty of Center for Coastal Studies at Virginia Tech. She received her Ph.D. in Rhetoric and Composition from the Department of English at Purdue University, Indiana, USA. Her scholarship is heavily influenced by her work as a communication practitioner and community organizer. Her research centers around transnational conversations regarding disaster response, crisis-communication, non-western rhetorical traditions, and feminist rhetoric.

Dr. Baniya's dissertation work "Comparative Study of Networked Communities, Crisis Communication, and Technology: Rhetoric of Disaster in Nepal Earthquake and Hurricane Maria" has received the 2021 Conference on College Composition & Communication Outstanding Dissertation Award in Technical Communication-Honorable Mention, which is one of the prestigious awards in her field. Recently, she was awarded the Coalition of Community

Writing Emerging Scholars Award. **She has won more than 13 major prizes and awards** for her scholarship, contribution, and excellence in the field.

Additionally, **she has received multiple small-scale grants (9) and international fellowships (5)**. Currently, Dr. Baniya is working on a book, *Transnational Assemblages: Social Justice Oriented Technical Communication in Global Disaster Management*, which is under initial contract with the Studies in Writing and Rhetoric book series. With case studies of the *2015 Nepal Earthquake & 2017 Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico*, this book provides strategies for researchers and practitioners in rethinking digitally complex, varied modes of risk and crisis communications in global disaster management via social justice and transcultural frameworks.

Before getting her Ph.D., she has received Master's Degrees in English from Tribhuvan University and Pokhara University in Nepal. Dr. Baniya has nearly a decade of work experience as an English News Reader and Editor for Nepal's National Radio – Radio Nepal. She has also worked as a journalist for Nepal Bureau of China's official- Xinhua News Agency and communication officer for national and international organizations.

Dr. Baniya is new to NACA and is excited for opportunities to work and contribute to the Nepali scholarly community. She will be moderating a panel organized by NACA and is planning to be an active member. She sees NACA as an important platform where all the Nepali scholars and graduate students can come together and do some action-oriented research, teaching, and service that will contribute to Nepal and the global communities that we are part of.

## Recent Peer-reviewed Publication

Stone, M. T., Stone, L. S., & Nyaupane, G. P. (2021). Theorizing and contextualizing protected areas, tourism and community livelihoods linkages. *Journal of Sustainable Tourism*, 1-15.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/09669582.2021.2003371>.

Summary: Linkages between conservation, community development, and tourism has been one of my research themes since I conducted a study in Bardia National Park as part of my undergraduate thesis about 25 years ago. Since then, I have developed research frameworks and approaches to advance knowledge on this topic through various research projects globally by involving graduate and undergraduate students. Recently, I, along with my two former PhD students guest edited a special issue for *Journal of Sustainable Tourism* to critically analyze existing frameworks, methods, and state of knowledge, and propose future directions on linkages research. This introductory paper synthesizes accomplishments and challenges that exist in studying linkages between protected areas, tourism and community livelihoods, which to date have been sporadic and mostly theoretical

Wagle, U. (2021). Reluctant privatization: Assessing the higher education context and policy formation in Nepal. *Educational Research for Policy and Practice*. Published online, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10671-021-09308-7>. (Preprint version available at: <https://rdcu.be/cBkMf>).

Summary: This paper takes stock of the way the higher education system of Nepal has evolved and is now mismanaged, with a particular attention to the overall structure, financial management, quality control, and human resources that are central to fulfilling its societal promise. Given that these challenges have been a by-product of an evolving process of policy formation drawing from both global forces and local contexts, this analysis explains how the country has arrived at the current policy of “reluctant privatization” using path dependence and Advocacy Coalition Framework.

Khatri-Chhetri, A., Sapkota, T.B., Sander, B.O. Arango, J., Nelson, K. & Wilkes A. (2021). Financing climate change mitigation in agriculture: assessment of investment cases. *Environmental Research Letters*.

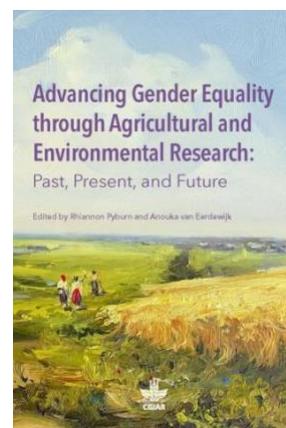
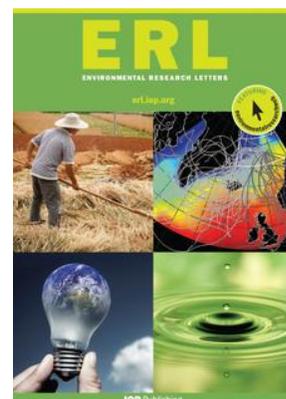
<https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/ac3605/meta>.

Summary: This study assessed investment cases that link field evidence of economic relevance and potential to reduce agricultural GHG emissions by reaching the scale. Results include i) an evaluation of investment cases that hold promise for reducing GHG emissions from the agriculture sector and support mitigation policies, and ii) discusses innovative approaches applied to overcome current barriers in financing in low emissions development agriculture. The assessment focuses on innovative financial mechanisms and instruments that can improve and increase farmers' access to finance and deliver environmental, economic, and social benefits.

Huyer, S., Gumucio, T., Tavenner, K., Acosta, M., Chanana, N., Khatri-Chhetri, A., et al. (2021). From vulnerability to agency in climate adaptation and mitigation. In *Advancing gender equality through agricultural and environmental research: Past, present, and future*, eds. Rhiannon P. and Anouka E. Chapter 7, Pp. 261-294. Washington, DC: International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).

[https://doi.org/10.2499/9780896293915\\_07](https://doi.org/10.2499/9780896293915_07).

Summary: This study summarizes the gendered effects of climate change, assess what we know so far about the potential of climate-resilient agriculture and land use-based management practices for gender equality. The paper spotlights on cases from three different regions – South Asia, Southeast Asia and West Africa – as potential models for increasing women’s resilience to climate change.



## Opportunities

### Job Opportunities:

The Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources (<https://cnr.ncsu.edu/fer/>) at North Carolina State University (<https://www.ncsu.edu/>) invites applications for a fully funded PhD assistantship to work on international forestry, beginning in fall 2022. The scope of the project is wide open, and the selected student, depending on her/his background and interest, can develop a research project in evaluating global policies pertaining to forestry and natural resource management or socio-economic aspects of common property resource management. Other potential research areas include natural climate solutions, climate finance, and conservation finance.

How to Apply: Please begin the application process by submitting an expression of interest to Dr.

Rajan Parajuli ([rparaju@ncsu.edu](mailto:rparaju@ncsu.edu)). This should include a cover letter describing your research experience and topics of interests, a resume including names of three references, and unofficial B.S. and M.S. transcripts. GRE is not required. Students from underrepresented groups are strongly encouraged to apply.

## Nepal Corner

Nepal aims to be carbon negative after 2045  
<https://kathmandupost.com/climate-environment/2021/11/12/cop26-and-nepal-s-climate-commitments>

Blackbuck population declines in Bardia  
<https://kathmandupost.com/climate-environment/2021/10/30/blackbuck-population-declines-in-bardiya-s-blackbuck-conservation-area>

Nepal to sell electricity in India's energy exchange market  
<https://kathmandupost.com/national/2021/11/02/delhi-opens-door-for-nepal-to-sell-electricity-in-india-s-energy-exchange-market>

Investments in solar energy increasing in Nepal  
<https://thehimalayantimes.com/business/solar-energy-attracting-investors-11-projects-granted-permission-for-survey>

More than 50,000 people leave country monthly for employment  
<https://myrepublica.nagariknetwork.com/news/over-1-800-youths-left-nepal-daily-for-foreign-jobs-last-month/>

Coffee production declining in Nepal  
<https://myrepublica.nagariknetwork.com/news/coffee-production-falls-coffee-worth-rs-100-million-imported/>

Agroecology could be useful in tackling climate change in Nepal  
<https://www.nepalitimes.com/banner/agroecology-nepals-answer-to-climate-change/>

Kathmandu valley rituals related to Vedic times  
<https://www.nepalitimes.com/banner/monsoon-culture/>

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