

World Water Day 2022 Celebration under the theme "Groundwater: Making the Invisible Visible."

22 March 2022

Yellow Pagoda Hotel, Kathmandu

Dr. Manohara Khadka, Country Representative, IWMI Nepal spoke about the importance of solar irrigation in a seminar organized by the Water and Energy Commission Secretariate, Government of Nepal during the celebration of the World Water and Weather Week, 2022. She

highlighted research activities of IWMI on groundwater resources. She specifically pointed out the potential opportunities of sustainable use of groundwater resources in Nepal's Terai for food security and livelihoods improvement. Terai is viewed as a great potential for surface and ground water-based irrigation but only about 22% of available recharged groundwater is utilized annually. Citing example of IWMI's solar irrigation project in South Asia, she mentioned that access to solar powered irrigation pumps by farmers in Terai region has supported them in food system. She mentioned that 21% of farmers who received solar irrigation pumps have diversified their crop production and have generated income from sale of off-seasonal vegetables. Solar pumps being clean energy technology is also friendly to women farmers. The technology is easy to operate. It reduces drudgery of women in irrigation. She also highlighted the need to consider equity and gender issues in deploying solar technology through the government's subsidy.

