



## BACKGROUND NOTE

# HIMALAYAN UNIVERSITY CONSORTIUM NEPAL MEMBERS' MEETING

11 August 2018, Pokhara

*Co-Organizers: ICIMOD and Pokhara University; Supported by The World Bank*

## I. THE CONTEXT

The Himalayan University Consortium has its mandate in developing an effective, sustainable network of universities in the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) region, in collaboration with academic, research, knowledge generating and exchange institutions both within and outside the HKH region. Over the past three years, there has been a renewed interest among existing members and increased interest among potential members. The total members increased from 33 in the beginning of 2016 to 61 by the end of 2017 (Annex 1).

Nepal's universities, most notably Tribhuvan University (TU) and Kathmandu University (KU), have been present in the Consortium since the inception days. As early as December 2008, the Honorable Vice Chancellor of Tribhuvan University, Prof Dr Madhav Prasad Sharma, and the Registrar of Kathmandu University, Prof Bhadra Man Tuladhar, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with ICIMOD concerning the HUC. However, until the 8<sup>th</sup> year of HUC existence, at the HUC Summit in Kathmandu, October 2015, only the same two universities were present.

The HUC membership in Nepal did not expand until October 2016 when the Honorable Vice Chancellor of Pokhara University (PU), Professor Chiranjeebi P Sharma, attended the HUC Annual Meeting in New Delhi. Following the Charter signing ceremony, Professor Sharma spoke passionately about the need to build mountain-focused, HKH-specific research and higher education in Nepal. He also highlight the importance of collaboration among universities in one country and between neighboring countries in the region.

At the HUC Annual Meeting in Chengdu, 1 November 2017, the Honorable Vice Chancellor of Agriculture and Forestry University (AFU) signed the Charter and took an active part in the discussion regarding the HUC Thematic Working Groups (TWGs). He coiled the name and put forth an offer for AFU to serve as Nepal's focal point of one of the newly established TWGs, ***Social Mobility and Non-Traditional Food Security*** (Annex 3). In October 2017, the AFU also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with ICIMOD regarding collaboration between AFU and a range of initiatives of ICIMOD, including HUC and HI-AWARE.

Over the past decade, ICIMOD has provided technical support in strengthening research capacity in a number of fields of climate change sciences and natural resource studies and management. The Kathmandu University, for instance, started an MSc by Research in Glaciology in 2013, in collaboration with ICIMOD Cryosphere Initiative. In 2016-2017, an interdisciplinary



team of ICIMOD professionals provided comments and inputs for the revision and upgrade of the MSc in Environmental Science of Central Department of Environment Science, Tribhuvan University. The HUC Secretariat continues to receive requests for support in curriculum building and upgrading for sustainable mountain development from a number of schools/departments of member and non-member universities.

Existing HUC members in Nepal are considerably active in almost all Consortium's activities. Nominees were received from all universities for individual Conference/Mobility Grants and other capacity strengthening opportunities (Annex 2a & b). Tribhuvan and Kathmandu Universities continue to take part in HUC institutional grants in all three grant cycles since 2015 (Annex 2c).

At the level of leadership of the Consortium, Prof Bim P Shrestha, School of Engineering, Vice Chancellor's Office of External Affairs and Global Engagement, Kathmandu University, has served as one of the six HUC Steering Group Members since 2014. In 2015, he led a delegation approaching the University Grant Commissions of Nepal to raise the awareness of the work of ICIMOD and HUC concerning higher education in Nepal. In June 2018, the HUC Secretariat and ICIMOD met with Prof Dr Dev Raj Adhikari, UGC Member Secretary, for an update and explore the potential areas HUC members in Nepal can benefit from UGC policies and priorities.

Meanwhile, Prof Ashok Gurung, a Nepali national, also serves as an HUC Steering Group member, representing an associate member, The India China Institute (The New School, New York City). Prof Gurung maintains close engagement with higher education and sustainable mountain development in Nepal, especially in promoting transboundary collaboration among higher education institutions and local organizations in China, India, and Nepal.

Since early 2018, Professor Madan Koirala, former focal person of HUC at the Tribhuvan University, has been among the two-member team, drafting an HUC Strategy and Action Plan I (2018-2022) through a consultation process with members and experts. The draft Strategy is expected to be circulated among members by mid-2018, to be finalized and approved by the General Assembly at the HUC Annual Meeting, to be scheduled on 31 October 2018.

Given the increase in number of HUC members in Nepal as well as the country's visibility among Consortium's leadership and activities, the time has come for the HUC membership to expand in Nepal in order to boost the national and regional collaboration for research and education in sustainable mountain development. The proposed meeting on 11 August 2018 in Pokhara, to be hosted by the Pokhara University, is a timely response to the above developments and opportunities.

## **II. OBJECTIVES**

Vice Chancellors, Deans, and senior administrators and researchers of HUC members in Nepal will be discussing:

- a draft of HUC Strategy and Action Plan I (2018-2025);



- potential funding sources for research and training collaboration among and between HUC members in Nepal and members within and outside the region;
- thematic areas for Nepal and the role of HUC Nepal's Members in Thematic Working Groups
- promotion science-policy dialogues through HUC linkages with policy making institutions
- potential linkage between HUC and Nepal's University Grants Commission
- the need to establish HUC Country Chapter in Nepal;
- procedure to nominate an HUC Steering Group member representing members in Nepal.

### **III. PARTICIPANTS**

- Senior representatives of existing and potential HUC members in Nepal, led by the HUC Steering Group Member representing Nepal, Prof Dr Bim P Shrestha (KU).
- Senior representatives of a number of higher education institutions focusing on sustainable mountain development will also be invited to selected sessions.
- Women senior administrators and researchers are strongly encourage to participate.

Senior policy makers from the University Grants Commission will also attend the Meeting.

### **IV. EXPECTED OUTCOMES**

The meeting is expected to arrive at:

- a summary of comments and inputs to the HUC Strategy and Action Plan I (2018-2025);
- a summary and action points regarding resource mobilization and potentials for collaboration;
- a summary and action points regarding HUC Country Chapter in Nepal;
- a summary and action points of the nomination procedure for an HUC Steering Group Member representing Nepal.

### **V. ORGANIZATION & LOGISTICS**

The Meeting is co-organized by ICIMOD and Pokhara University. The meeting is funded by The World Bank South Asian Water Initiative Grant made to the HUC.

- Institutional Host – Pokhara University; coordinator: Er Buddhi Raj Joshi, Dean, Faculty of Science and Technology
- ICIMOD co-organizer –coordinator: Dr Chi H Truong (Shachi), Programme Coordinator and Secretariat Lead, Himalayan University Consortium.



**ANNEX 1. LIST OF HUC MEMBERS AS OF 2018  
FULL MEMBERS**

<b>S.No</b>	<b>Name of the Institution(s)</b>	<b>Country</b>
1	Eshraq Institute of Higher Education	Afghanistan
2	Kabul University	Afghanistan
3	Kandahar University	Afghanistan
4	Nangahar University	Afghanistan
5	Bangladesh University of Engineer & Technology (BUET)	Bangladesh
6	Rajshahi University	Bangladesh
7	University of Chittagong	Bangladesh
8	Royal University of Bhutan	Bhutan
9	Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environment Research (UWICER)	Bhutan
10	Institute for Mountain Hazards and Environment (CAS)	China
11	Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research (IGSNRR)	China
12	Kunming Institute of Botany	China
13	Lanzhou University	China
14	Northwest University	China
15	Qinghai Normal University	
16	Sichuan University	
17	Southwest Forestry University (SWFU)	China
18	UNIDO International Solar Energy Centre for Technological Promotion and Transfer	China
19	Yunnan Agricultural University (YAU)	China
20	Yunnan Minzu University	China
21	Yunnan University	China
22	Xinjian Institute of Ecology and Geography	China
23	CSK Himachal Pradesh Agricultural University	India
24	G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment and Sustainable Development	India
25	Forest Research Institute (FRI, Dehradun)	India
26	Kashmir University	India
27	HNB Garhwal University	India
28	Sikkim University	India
29	Shoolini University of Biotechnology and Management Sciences	India
30	Shri Guru Ram Rai University	India
31	South Asian University	India
32	Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS)	India
33	TERI School of Advanced Studies	India
34	Wildlife Institute of India (WII)	India



35	Yangon University	Myanmar
36	Yezin Agricultural University (YAU)	Myanmar
37	Agriculture and Forestry University	Nepal
38	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)	Nepal
39	Kathmandu University (KU)	Nepal
40	Pokhara University	Nepal
41	Tribhuvan University (TU)	Nepal
42	Agriculture University Peshawar	Pakistan
43	COMSATS Institute for Information Technology	Pakistan
44	Karakorum International University (KIU)	Pakistan
45	Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University	Pakistan
46	University of Swat	Pakistan



**ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**

<b>S.No</b>	<b>Name of the Institution(s)</b>	<b>Country</b>
47	Department of Geoinformatics (Z_GIS)	Austria
48	University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, BOKU	Austria
49	Mongolia International University	Mongolia
50	International Institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC)	Netherlands
51	International Institute of Asian Studies, Leiden	Netherlands
52	Norwegian University of Life Sciences (UMB)	Norway
53	University of Central Asia (UCA)	Tajikistan & Kyrgyzstan
54	Centre for Development and Environment (CDE, University of Bern)	Switzerland
55	Asian Institute of Technology (AIT)	Thailand
56	University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI)	UK
57	Walker Institute, University of Reading	UK
58	India China Institute at The New School	USA
59	University of Arizona	USA
60	Yale Himalayan Initiative	USA
61	University of Colorado, Boulder	USA



**ANNEX 2A. LIST OF NEPALESE PARTICIPANTS IN HUC EVENTS IN 2017-2018**

S. No	Full Name	Position	Institutions	Event Title, Location, Date
1	Binod Prasad Heyojoo, Prof	Professor	Institute of Forestry	Inception Meeting of Higher Education for Mountain Agriculture Work Group, Kathmandu, February, 2017
2	Krishna Raj Tiwari, Prof Dr	Professor	Institute of Forestry	
3	Dhruva Gauchan, Dr	Assistant Professor	Kathmandu University	
4	Bishnu Pandey, Dr		Kathmandu University	
5	Surya Kant Ghimire, Prof Dr	Professor	Agriculture and Forestry University	
6	Tek Bahadur Chhetri, Mr	Executive Director	Pokhara University	
7	Ananta Raj Dhungana	Assistant Professor	Pokhara University	
8	Neeraj Joshi, Dr	Founder Member	Himalayan College of Agriculture Science and Technology	
9	Megh Raj Tiwari, Dr	Division Chief	Nepal Agricultural Research Council	
10	Tek Bahadur Gurung, Dr	Director, principal Scientist	Nepal Agricultural Research Council	
11	Rakesh Kayastha, Mr	Research Associate		Regional Training on Hydrological Modelling in the Hindu Kush Himalaya Kathmandu, May, 2017
12	Dinkar Kaystha, Mr	Engineer, Hydologist	Department of Hydrology and Meteorology	
13	Rajan Subedi, Mr	Assistant Professor	Institute of Forestry	HUC Academy 2017 (Disaster Risk and Water Management), Kathmandu, July 2017
14	Sabita Aryal Khanna, Ms	Assistant Professor	Kathmandu University	
15	Shanker Tripathi, Mr	Assistant Professor	Agriculture and Forestry University	
16	Uddhav Guragain, Mr	Phd fellow	Asian Institute of Technology	
17	Neeraj N Joshi	Founder Member	Himalayan College of Agriculture Science and Technology	SAARC Regional Expert Consultation Meeting on Water energy-food nexus, Thimphu, July, 2017



18	Tirth Raj Khaniya, Prof Dr	Vice Chancellor	Tribhuwan University	HUC Conference and Annual Meet, Chengdu, November, 2017
19	Bim Prasad Shrestha, Prof Dr	Executive Com	Kathmandu University	
20	Rijan Bhakta Kayastha, Dr	Professor	Kathmandu University	
21	Balram Bhatta, Dr	Dean	Agri & Forestry Uni	
22	Krishna Raj Tiwari, Dr	Dean	Institute of Forestry	
23	Bikram Manandhar, Mr	Lecturer	Institute of Forestry, Hetauda	
24	Shiva Kumar Manjan, Dr	Lecturer	Institute of Forestry, Hetauda	
25	Rijan Bhakta Kayastha, Dr	Professor	Kathmandu University	
26	Santosh Marahatta, Dr	Assistant Professor	Agriculture and Forestry University	HUC Exposure Visit, New Delhi, February, 2018
27	Narendra Man Shakya, Dr	Program Coordinator	Institute of Engineering	
28	Rajan Subedi, Mr	Assistant Professor	Institute of Forestry- Pokhara, TU	Himalayan University Consortium Asia-Pacific Water Leadership Programme, Australia, April, 2018
29	Biraj Singh Thapa, Dr	Assistant Professor	Kathmandu University	
30	Sabita Aryal, Ms	Assistant Professor	Kathmandu University	
31	Kanchan Shrestha, Ms	Program Coordinator	ICIMOD	
32	Biraj Singh Thapa, Dr	Assistant Professor	Kathmandu University	Second Water Meet, Kunming, May 2018
33	Bikram Manandhar, Mr	Lecturer	Institute of Forestry	HUC Academy 2018 (Climate Science and Adaptation in Hindu kush Himalaya- a transdisciplinary Approach), Kathmandu, July 2018
34	Shiva Pokhrel, Mr	PhD fellow	Yunnan University	
35	Pabitra Jha, Ms	Assistant Professor	Institute of Forestry	
36	Achala Dahal, Ms	Director of Studies	Nepal Administrative Staff College	
37	Tara Prasad Kharel, Mr	Training and Research Officer	Nepal Administrative Staff College	
38	Madan Koirala	Professor	Department of Environmental Science, Tribhuvan University	





**ANNEX 2B. LIST OF NEPALESE HUC INDIVIDUAL GRANT RECIPIENTS 2016-2017**

<b>S. No</b>	<b>Full Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Institutions</b>	<b>Title of the Conference, Location, Date</b>
1	Hari Bahadur Thapa, Mr	Senior Divisional Engineer	National Vigilance Centre, Government of Nepal	Temasek Foundation Water Leadership Program, Singapore, July 2016
2	Ram Gopal Kharbuja, Mr	Deputy Director General	Department of Hydrology and Meteorology, Government of Nepal	Temasek Foundation Water Leadership Program, Singapore, July 2016
3	Moti Lal Rijal, Dr	Assistant Professor	Tribhuvan University	Research Visit to NIH, Roorkee & University of Readings, UK, March-April 2018
4	Navaraj Pokhrel, Mr	Lecturer	College of Applied Sciences/Patan Campus	Environmental and economic issues to enhance mountain sustainability, Italy, July 2017
5	Rijan Bhakta Kayastha, Dr	Associate Professor	Kathmandu University	Proposal Writeshop



Annex 2c. LIST OF HUC INSTITUTIONAL GRANTS AWARDED

SEED/SEEDING GRANTS 2017-2018

SQ NO	TITLE	LEAD PARTNER	OTHER PARTNERS (NO)	LEAD PERSONS	ICIMOD RESOURCE PERSON
1	Water in South Asia: Impacts of Climate Change and Variability (WASIACLIVAR)	Himalayan Cryosphere, Climate and Disaster Research Center, Kathmandu University, <b>Nepal</b>	<i>Department of Atmospheric Sciences, IIT Delhi, <b>India</b>; Centre for Climate Change Research, IITM Pune, <b>India</b>; Sherubtse College, RUB, <b>Bhutan</b>; Hydrometeorology Department, Kabul University, <b>Afghanistan</b>; Institute of Water and Flood Management, BUET, <b>Bangladesh</b> (5)</i>	Rijan Bhakta Kayastha, Dr Associate Prof; Dr Valerio Lucarini, <i>University of Reading, <b>United Kingdom</b>.</i>	Dr <b>Arun B Shrestha</b> , River Basins Regional Programme Manager

SQ NO	TITLE	LEAD PARTNER	OTHER PARTNERS (NO)	LEAD PERSONS	ICIMOD RESOURCE PERSON
1	Developing regional institutional capacity building for educational programme development related to environmental awareness, conservation, and water resource management	Royal Thimphu College, Royal University of Bhutan, <b>Bhutan</b>	Sikkim University, <b>India</b> ; UWICER, <b>Bhutan</b> ; Tribhuvan University (3)	Samir S. Patel, Dr	Dr <b>Philippus Wester</b> , Chief Scientist; Dr <b>Nakul Chettri</b> , Programme Coordinator, Kanchenjunga Landscape Initiative



2	Identifying water sustainability assessment framework for Himalayan cities	Samtse College of Education, RUB, <b>Bhutan</b>	TERI University, <b>India</b> ; Tribhuvan University, <b>Nepal</b> (2)	Nandu Giri, Dr; Kinzang Dorji, Dr	Dr <b>Aditi Mukherji</b> , Water & Air Theme Leader
3	A collaborative initiative to develop a proposal on study of overall quality of water from Nepalese and Indian Himalayas and its health impact on dependent population	Central Department of Biotechnology, Tribhuvan University, <b>Nepal</b>	Sikkim University, <b>India</b> ; <i>Manipal College of Medical Sciences</i> , Pokhara, <b>Nepal</b> (2)	Krishna Das Manandhar, Dr Prof	Mr <b>Laxmi Dutta Bhatta</b> , Ecosystem Management Specialist, Ecosystem Services
4	Multiple Use Water System (MUWS) for Water Resource Management in Context of Climate Change in Himalayan Region	Aquatic Ecology Centre, School of Science, Kathmandu University, <b>Nepal</b>	Institute of Forestry, IoF, TU, <b>Nepal</b> ; COMSATS, <b>Pakistan</b> (2)	Nani Raut, Dr, Research Associate (woman); Deepak Subedi, Dr Prof, Associate Dean, KU	Dr <b>Anjal Prakash</b> , Programme Coordinator HI-AWARE, River Basin Management
5	Enhancing capacity and regional cooperation for research within Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal network	Centre for Water, Climate and Environmental Policy, Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environment, <b>Bhutan</b>	Institute of Water and Flood Management, BUET, <b>Bangladesh</b> ; Central Department of Geology, Tribhuvan University, <b>Nepal</b> ; ACWADAM, <b>India</b> (3)	Norbu Wangdi, Dr	Dr <b>Aditi Mukherji</b> , Water & Air Theme Leader



6	Hydrological characterization of an ungauged or limited monitoring data basin for flood risk assessment and water resource management – learning and sharing knowledge across the region	Institute of Forestry and Environmental Sciences, Chittagong University, <b>Bangladesh</b>	Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources, Water Resources Research, CAS, <b>China</b> ; Institute of Forestry, Hetauda, Tribhuvan University, <b>Nepal</b> (2)	Shyamal Karmakar, Dr	<b>Dr Santosh Nepal</b> , Water and Climate Specialist, Water and Air Theme,
7	Nutritional and livelihood security of subsistence farmer in the hilly and mountain areas of the Hindu Kush Himalayan region	TERI University, <b>India</b>	<i>National Agriculture Education College</i> , Kabul, <b>Afghanistan</b> ; Samtse College of Education, RUB, <b>Bhutan</b> ; <i>Nepal Agricultural Research Council</i> , NARC, <b>Nepal</b> ; Peshawar Agriculture University, <b>Pakistan</b> (4)	Chubamenla Jamir, Dr Associate Prof (woman)	<b>Rasul Golam</b> , Livelihoods Theme Leader
8	Understanding Organic Farming in Context of Climate Change and Water Management in HKH Region	Department of Biotechnology, KU, <b>Nepal</b>	College of Natural Resources, RUB, <b>Bhutan</b> ; Sikkim University, <b>India</b> ; <i>Agricultural and Forestry University</i> , Rampur, <b>Nepal</b> (3)	Gauchan Dhurva, Dr Associate Prof; Sonam Tashi, Dr Associate Prof;	Dr <b>Arabinda Mishra</b> , Senior Social Scientist



SDC HUC FOCUS GRANTS 2018-2019

SQ NO	TITLE	LEAD PARTNER	OTHER PARTNERS (NO)	LEAD PERSONS
1	Cities by Women: Embedding Climate Change Resilience in Himalayan cities through uncovering Gender-Land-use-Livelihood nexus	TERI School of Advanced Studiess, New Delhi, India	Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Bangkok, <b>Thailand</b> ; Royal Thimphu College, Bhutan	Dr Abhijit Datey, Assistant Professor
2	Diagnosing Water security in hard to reach mountainous areas with an environmental security framework	Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET)	Sikkim University, Sikkim, <b>India</b>	Dr Sara Nowreen, Assistant Professor
3	Interfacing Indigenous Knowledge, Modern Science and Policymaking: Water and Climate Change in the Hindu Kush Himalayan Region	Yunnan Minzu University	Royal Thimphu College (Royal University of Bhutan), <b>Bhutan</b> ; International Institute for Asian Studies/ Leiden University, <b>Netherlands</b> ; Sikkim University, <b>India</b>	Prof Dr Dan Smyer Yu, Professor and Founding Director
4	Institutional Interventions to Abate Climate Change Impacts on People, Economic Well-Being, Society and Culture of Gilgit Baltistan	Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography, Chinese Academy of Sciences	Forman Christian College (A Chartered University), Lahore, <b>Pakistan</b> ; University of Management and Technology, <b>Pakistan</b> ; Karakoram International University, <b>Pakistan</b>	Dr Tao Hui, Associate Research Fellow
5	Prospects and challenges of MUWS as climate adaptive option for sustainable water management in Himalayan Region	Kathmandu University	COMSATS Institute of Technology, Pakistan; Karakoram international University, <b>Pakistan</b>	Dr Nani Raut, Lead Project Coordinator



**HUC TROSA WATER RESEARCH GRANTS 2018-2019**

SQ NO	TITLE	LEAD PARTNER	OTHER PARTNERS (NO)	LEAD PERSONS	ICIMOD RESOURCE PERSON
1	Narayani to Gandak: Capturing Trajectories of Trans-boundary Governance, People's Movement and Way Forward management	Tata Institute of Social Sciences, <b>India</b>	Kathmandu University School of Arts, Kathmandu University, <b>Nepal</b>	Dr Jacquleen Joseph, Professor	Dr <b>Amina Maharjan</b> , Livelihoods Migration Specialist; Dr <b>Sanjeev Bhuchar</b> , Senior Watershed Management Specialist
2	Assessment of the impacts of Infrastructure on livelihood of local communities along the Salween River in China and Myanmar	Samtse College of Education, RUB, <b>Bhutan</b>	Yunnan University, <b>China</b>	Prof Dr Nang Ohn Myint, Professor	Dr <b>Mandira Shrestha</b> , Program Coordinator; Dr <b>Philipus Wester</b> , Regional Program Manager
3	Transboundary water resource management and climate change related adaptation capabilities of upstream and downstream local communities in Gandak River Basin.	Central Department of Environmental Science, Tribhuvan University, <b>Nepal</b>	Teri School of Advanced Studies (TSAS), <b>India</b>	Dr Rashila Deshar, Assistant Professor	Dr <b>Santosh Nepal</b> , Water and Climate Specialist; Dr <b>Abid Hussain</b> , Food Security Economist



### ANNEX 3. LIST OF HUC THEMATIC WORKING GROUPS ESTABLISHED IN CHENGDU, NOVEMBER 2017

1. **Water:** University of Chittagong, Yunnan University (Asian River International Centre), South Asian University, TERI School of Advanced Studies, Sikkim University, BOKU Austria, Walker Institute, Yale Himalayan Initiative
2. **Culture:** University of Chittagong, Sichuan University (Center for Tibetan Studies and Institute of South Asian Studies), South Asia University, Sikkim University, COMSAT Pakistan, International Institute of Asian Studies (Netherlands), India China Institute (The New School, NYC, USA)
3. **Disaster and Resilience:** Ugyen Wangchuck Institute of Conservation and Environmental Research, Sichuan University (Institute of Disaster Management and Research), South Asia University, Sikkim University, Walker Institute, Yale Himalayan Initiative, India China Institute (The New School, NYC, USA)
4. **Climate Change:** University of Chittagong, Ugyen Wangchuck Institute of Conservation and Environmental Research, Yunnan University, Yunnan Agricultural University, Lanzhou University, Walker Institute, Yale Himalayan University
5. **Trans-Himalayan Environmental Humanities:** Yunnan Minzu University, Lanzhou University, Shoolini University, COMSAT, International Institute of Asian Studies (Netherlands), Yale Himalayan Initiative
6. **Social Mobility and Non-Traditional Food Security:** Sichuan University (Center for Western Frontier), Yunnan Minzu University, Yunnan Agricultural University, Sikkim University, Agriculture and Forestry University (Nepal), COMSAT, Walker Institute
7. **Genetic Biodiversity:** Lanzhou University, Yunnan Minzu University, Yunnan Agricultural University, Sikkim University, Shoolini University, Agriculture and Forestry University (Nepal), Yezin Agriculture University (Myanmar), University of Agriculture Peshawar, Karakorum International University
8. **Livelihood and Poverty Reduction:** University of Chittagong, Sichuan University (Center for Western Frontier), Yunnan Minzu University, Yunnan Agricultural University, Shoolini University, Yezin Agriculture University (Myanmar), COMSAT, Walker Institute, Yale Himalayan Initiative
9. **Online Training:** Yunnan Minzu University, Shoolini University, Yezin Agriculture University, Walker Institute, Yale Himalayan Initiative
10. **Mountain Agriculture:** [members will have to re-sign up and lead will have to be identified]