

**Regional Consultation on
Trade, Climate Change and Food Security in South Asia**

20-21 December 2012, Hotel Himalaya, Lalitpur

TENTATIVE (PROPOSED) PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

20 December 2012, Thursday

09:00–09:30 Registration

09:30–10:15 Inaugural session

Welcome and Opening remarks: Dr. Ratnakar Adhikari, Chief Executive Director, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE), Kathmandu

Special remarks: Mr. Amrit Lugun, Director, Economic, Trade and Finance Division, SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu

Remarks by the Guest of Honour: Hon'ble Mr. Choida Jamtsho, Member of Parliament, National Assembly of Bhutan (TBC)

Inaugural address by the Chief Guest: Mr. Janak Raj Shah, Member, National Planning Commission (NPC), Government of Nepal

Chair's remarks: Mr. Keshav Bhattra, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology, Government of Nepal, Kathmandu

10:15–10:30 Tea/Coffee break

10:30–12:00 Outcomes of the Doha Climate Conference

Chair: Dr. Dinesh Devkota, Former Vice-Chairman, National Planning Commission, Government of Nepal

Presenter:

Mr. Ajay Dixit, Executive Director, Institute for Social and Environmental Transition (ISET), Kathmandu

Discussants:

Mr. Tirthankar Mandal, Programme Coordinator, Climate Change Action Network in South Asia (CANSAs)

Ms. Dwitiya Jawher Neethi, Programme Associate, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Dhaka

12:00–13:15 Regional approach to food security in South Asia: Operational modality of the SAARC Seed Bank

Chair: Dr. Abid Suleri, Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Islamabad

Presenter: Mr. Kamalesh Adhikari, Doctoral Researcher, Australian National University, Canberra

Discussants:

Mr. Rashid-Al Titumir, Chairman, Unnayan Onneshan, Dhaka

Dr. Pratap Shrestha, Regional Representative and Scientific Advisor, USC Canada Asia

13:15–14:15 Lunch Break

14:15–16:00 Regional approach to food security in South Asia: SAARC Food Bank

Chair: Amb. Madhu Raman Acharya, Executive Director, South Asia Center for Policy Studies (SACEPS), Kathmandu

Presenters:

Prof. Mustafizur Rahman, Executive Director, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Dhaka

Dr. Krishna P. Pant, Agricultural/Environmental Economist, Kathmandu

Discussants:

Ms. Yamuna Ghale, Senior Programme Officer, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Lalitpur

Mr. Choni Dendup, Department of Agricultural Marketing and Cooperatives, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Royal Government of Bhutan, Thimphu

16:00–16:15 Tea/Coffee Break

16:15–17:30 Biofuel and food security: The South Asian context

Chair: Prof. Mustafizur Rahman, Executive Director, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Dhaka

Presenters:

Dr. Shurti Khadka Mishra, Economist, Kathmandu

Dr. Mahfuz Kabir, Senior Research Fellow, Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS), Dhaka

Discussants:

Dr. Krishna P. Pant, Agricultural/Environmental Economist, Kathmandu

Mr. Shafqat Munir, Regional Campaign Coordinator, Oxfam GB

18:00–21:00 Dinner

21 December 2012, Friday

09:00–10:15 Anticompetitive practices and food price inflation in South Asia

Chair: Mr. Purusottam Ojha, Former Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Supplies, Government of Nepal

Presenter: Dr. Anusree Paul, Assistant Professor of Economics, Symbiosis School of Economics, Pune

Discussants:

Ms. S. Saroja, Coordinator, Citizen Consumer and civic Action Group (CAG), Chennai

Mr. Apurba Khatiwada, Advocate and Competition Law Expert, Kathmandu

10:15–11:30 Barriers to the expansion of intra-SAARC trade in agriculture and food products

Chair: Prof. Sajal Mathur, Professor, Centre for WTO Studies, New Delhi

Presenter: Mr. Nitya Nanda, Fellow, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi

Discussants:

Mr. Pradip Maharjan, Chief Executive Officer, Agro-enterprises Centre, Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI), Kathmandu

Mr. Chandan Sapkota, Associate Economics Officer, Asian Development Bank (ADB), Kathmandu

11:30–11:45 Tea/Coffee break

11:45–13:00 Liberalization of environmental goods: South Asia's agenda

Chair: Mr. Shafqat Munir, Regional Campaign Coordinator, Oxfam GB

Presenter: Ms. Farah Ishaq, Research Associate, South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM), Dhaka

Discussants:

Mr. Pranav Kumar, Director and Head of International Policy Trade, Confederation of Indian Industry, New Delhi

Mr. Paras Kharel, Research Coordinator, SAWTEE

13:00–14:00 Lunch

14:00–15:30 Technology needs and transfer issues for South Asia

Chair: Dr. Ram Manohar Shrestha, Emeritus Professor, Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok

Presenters:

Dr. Mahfuz Kabir, Senior Research Fellow, Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS), Dhaka

Dr. Ratnakar Adhikari, Chief Executive Director, SAWTEE, Kathmandu

Discussants:

Mr. Nitya Nanda, Fellow, TERI, New Delhi

Mr. Apar Paudyal, Project Development Officer, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction, Practical Action Consulting Asia, Kathmandu

15:30–15:45 Tea/Coffee break

15:45–17:15 Adapting to climate change: Issues for South Asia

Chair: Prof. Dr. Ram Prasad Chaudhari, Executive Director, Research Centre for Applied Science and Technology (RECAST), Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur

Presenters:

Dr. Posh Raj Pandey, Executive Chairman, SAWTEE, Kathmandu

Ms. Samina Hossain, Programme Associate, CPD, Dhaka

Discussants:

Mr. Suresh P. Singh, Policy Analyst, CUTS International, Jaipur

Mr. Raveen Ekanayake, Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka (IPS), Colombo

17:15–17:45 Valedictory session

Remarks: Mr. Scott Afaiia, Country Director, Oxfam GB, Kathmandu (TBC)

Chief Guest's remarks: Dr. Yubaraj Bhusal, Secretary, National Planning Commission (NPC), Government of Nepal

Chair's remarks: Dr. Posh Raj Pandey, Executive Chairman, SAWTEE, Kathmandu

18:30–21:30 Farewell Dinner