

**Farmer Managed Irrigation Systems Promotion Trust**  
**Third International Seminar On:**  
**"Farmer Managed Irrigation Systems and Governance**  
**Alternatives"**

**Theme of the Seminar:**

Farmer Managed Irrigation Systems and Governance Alternatives.

**Objective of the Seminar:**

The objective of the seminar is to share and disseminate the knowledge and experience about Farmer Managed Irrigation Systems (FMIS) and the opportunities of governance alternatives offered by them.

**Context of the Seminar:**

Irrigated agriculture is one of the main guarantors of food security and is the predominant user of fresh water. To achieve both food security and sustainable use of increasingly scarce water, it is critical to govern irrigated agriculture well.

Irrigation governance has two common forms: agency-centered and farmer-centered. Each has been in practice for a long time and each provides many lessons. Since FMIS is widely practiced and its key feature is the involvement of members in decision-making, it can provide useful lessons especially with regard to the increased scarcity of fresh water; a phenomenon characterized by competition and conflict.

The term 'governance' in FMIS context implies certain notions of the right, which is legitimate and socially sanctioned as well to make decisions about the use of water and to derive benefit from the rightful use. Governance includes the structures and methods of organisational effectiveness relative to water allocation and utilisation decision. Decisions are based on rules and collective action. FMIS practices in many parts of the world present a viable mode of governance of irrigation systems of all sizes and types. How FMIS in the variable settings have been responding to the underlying notions of governance?

The trend in natural resource development including irrigation indicates that neither the state nor the free market can provide sustainable governance framework. Hence, there has been a growing recognition of the role of community in governing these resources. This trend appreciates state's facilitating role and also views market as an opportunity provided principle of transparency and fair play is pursued in the market relations. What sort of role the state and the market have been playing in promoting governance alternatives for FMIS?

In the last few decades, the responsibility for many government-built irrigation systems has been transferred to farmers' organisations. Some are jointly managed by the agency that built the systems and farmers' organisations, while others are managed solely by farmers' organisations. In both approaches, farmers' organisations have important roles to play. Under the model of self-governing irrigation systems, "fundamental tasks are undertaken by irrigators themselves on the basis of accumulated local knowledge and filling all of the necessary positions from among the irrigators themselves". How much the farmer organisations promoted under irrigation management transfer program have been able to realise self-governance?

FMIS promote the trend toward polycentrism of institutions while organizing governance processes at the community level. Where the policy environment is expected to encourage the citizens to perform by themselves, it would allow the polycentric governance mode.

FMIS, that represent an indigenous grass-root democratic institution governed by the community of the stakeholders, best perform in such a policy environment. What sort of factors help the state to create an enabling policy environment for FMIS?

In view of the introduction to the theme, the sub-themes could include, among others, i) Role of the state in the changed context, ii) Market and diversified FMIS activities, iii) Community management of natural resources, iv) Role of the farming community in local governance, v) Participatory approach to strengthen farmers' autonomy, vi) Polycentric governance in managing water conflict, vii) Social capital in FMIS, viii) Technology and governance: FMIS response, ix) Communication and FMIS development process, x) Promoting knowledge base of FMIS.

**Seminar date and Venue:**

Thursday and Friday, 9-10 September, 2004, Kathmandu, Nepal.

**Seminar Sequence:**

The seminar will follow these sequential steps: i) inauguration ii) bestowing honor awards to distinguished FMIS scholars/icons of honor iii) key-note speeches by icons of honor iv) presentation of research papers v) plenary discussion on the papers' presented vi) vote of thanks.

**Seminar Papers:**

Four types of paper presentation are expected:

- a) Key-note speech papers
- b) Collaborative research papers
- c) Invited papers
- d) Individual in-country papers

**Supports to be Provided:**

FMIS Promotion Trust will not provide any international travel support to the international participants. It will provide food and accommodation of reasonable standard to them. In-country participants will pay for their travel-costs. The Trust will provide lunch and tea to all the participants during the seminar.

**Format of the Paper Presentation:**

The Trust will collect papers but not make multiple copies for distribution. Only abstracts will be distributed. The paper contributors are requested to submit their papers in the following format:

Top/ Bottom Margin : 2.5 cm  
Left/ Right Margin : 2.5 cm  
Typing/ Print Area : 15 cm x 22 cm Single Space Column  
Font Type : Times Roman  
Title : 14 Point BOLD CAPITAL  
Author's Name : 12 Point BOLD CAPITAL  
Position, Affiliation and Address : 11 Point Upper-Lower  
Main Heading (s) : 10 Point BOLD CAPITAL  
Sub-Heading (s) : 10 Point BOLD Upper-Lower  
Text : 10 Point

The paper should begin with an abstract of not more than 400 words giving the gist of the paper and highlighting the main points. Please, type the headings, sub-headings and paragraphs aligned with the left-hand margin. Double space should be left above and below

headings/sub-headings. Figures should be placed nearer to the first reference in the text. Photographs may be included, if absolutely necessary.

The papers prepared in conformity with the above format must be sent as an attachment by e-mail to the seminar organizers at the address given below. The attachment should be prepared by using MS WORD (suitable for windows). The total number of pages in A4 or 22 cm x 30 cm size should not exceed 20 pages including charts, figures and analysis. Full citation for the references should be given at the end of the paper where as the surname(s) of the author(s) or the name/acronym of the organization and the year of publication should be mentioned in the body of the text as shown in the examples below:

For references in the body of the text

(Gill, 1993)

For citation of the books at the end of the text

Gill Gerald J., 1993. Indigenous and community forestry management: The policy dimension. *Indigenous Management of Natural Resources in Nepal*, ed. Devika Tamang and Gerald J. Mill. Ministry of Agriculture/Winrock International, Kathmandu, Nepal.

For citation of the journals at the end of the text

Hallowell A.I., 1943. The nature and function of property as a social institution. *Journal of Legal and Political Sociology*, Vol. 1.

The full text of the papers, after having been scrutinized and accepted, will be published as a part of the seminar proceedings and one copy of the published proceedings will be made available to each participant later. The paper contributors are requested to send their abstracts on the seminar theme and relevant sub-themes at the address given below. The last date of submission of abstract is 27 December, 2003. The full paper should be sent by the middle of August, 2004.

For any inquiry about the seminar, please contact at the following address:

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