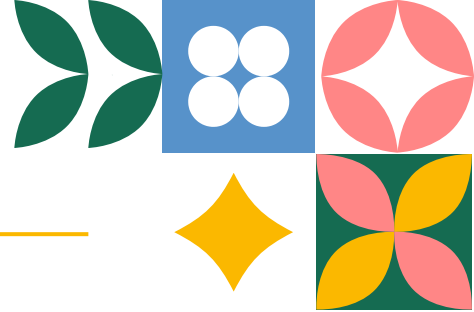




CASE STUDY: WORLD FOOD FORUM NEPAL YOUTH CHAPTER



OVERVIEW

The World Food Forum (WFF) Nepal Youth Chapter, a platform to power youth-driven initiatives in agrifood systems in Nepal, was officially launched during the WFF flagship event in October 2023. What began as a vision of collaboration and change has swiftly evolved into a dynamic force for positive transformation in Nepal's agrifood landscape. This Chapter exemplifies the strength of partnerships, the ingenuity of youth and the vital role of local action in addressing global agrifood systems challenges.



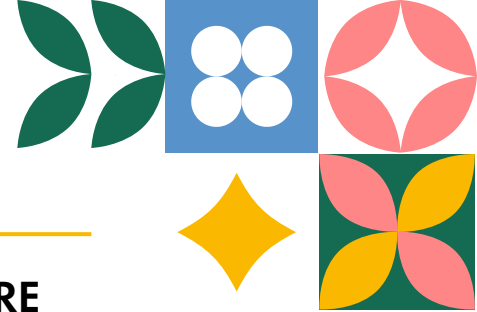
FAO Director-General Dr Qu Dongyu and Chief Economist, Maximo Torero Cullen, championing the WFF's National Youth Chapter in Nepal.

THE FORMATION OF THE NEPAL YOUTH CHAPTER: A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT

From its inception, the Nepal Youth Chapter has been built on a strong foundation of inclusivity, collaboration and strategic engagement. The Chapter successfully mobilized stakeholders through the WFF's Global Youth Action Initiative (Youth Initiative), which provided a vital platform to amplify youth-led action in agrifood systems. A key milestone in its development was the introduction facilitated by the WFF Youth Initiative between Nepal's young leaders and the Country Representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). This connection bridged youth networks with institutional frameworks, allowing FAO Nepal to work closely with young changemakers. This engagement fostered trust, collaboration and impactful partnerships that align both with national priorities and global goals for agrifood systems transformation.

The Chapter was established through extensive consultations with key stakeholders, including FAO Nepal, the Ministry of Agriculture and the National Youth Council. These efforts ensured that its initiatives are not only in line with Nepal's agricultural priorities but also contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Operating under a decentralized structure, the Nepal Youth Chapter engages youth across all seven provinces by establishing Provincial Youth Teams (PYTs). These teams serve as local focal points, addressing critical issues such as food security, sustainable agriculture, and agrifood innovation. By connecting youth with both national and international platforms, the Chapter ensures that young voices are heard, empowered and actively shaping the future of agrifood systems in Nepal.



LEADERSHIP AND ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Nepal Youth Chapter's leadership consists of a dynamic team of five core members, each responsible for a key area: strategy and innovation, collaboration and partnerships, projects and initiatives, research and documentation, and social media and outreach. This diverse structure ensures a coordinated approach, aligning all activities with the Chapter's mission while effectively engaging a broader audience.

OUR CORE TEAM

#FOUNDING MEMBERS



Sagar Paudel, *Agri & Economics*
Project and Initiative Lead



Ghanshyam Bhattarai, *Food Tech*
Strategy and Innovation Lead



Pragya Devkota, *Agriculture*
Research and Documentation Lead



Rabi Raut, *Agri Engineering*
Collaboration and Partnership Lead



Prasun Subedi, *Agriculture*
Social Media and Outreach Lead

Beyond the core leadership team, the Chapter has established a robust network of co-leads within each division. This shared leadership model empowers more youth to take ownership of key initiatives, fostering collaboration and allowing them to contribute their skills toward achieving the chapter's goals.

OUR NEW MEMBERS

#EXTENDED TEAM



Ranjana Sedhai, *MBA*
Strategy and Innovation Team



Bhuwan Poudel, *Agri-Engineer*
Project and Initiative Team



Nistha Dawadee, *Agriculture*
Collaboration and Partnership Team



Rashmi Poudel, *Agriculture*
Research and Documentation Team

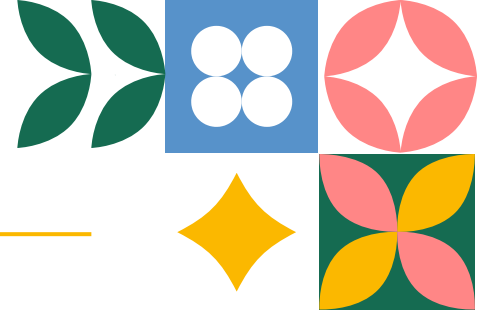


Pratik Kafle, *Agriculture*
Social Media and Outreach Team



Jharana Giri, *Environment Studies*
Social Media and Outreach Team

Extended team – Co Leads for every division on the Nepal Youth Chapter



To promote inclusivity and regional representation, the establishment of PYTs was crucial. These regional teams enable youth to actively participate in decision-making processes that address their specific local challenges and needs. With PYTs in all seven provinces, the Chapter has created a decentralized structure that empowers local leadership, ensuring that the national chapter's vision reflects the diverse perspectives and realities across the country.



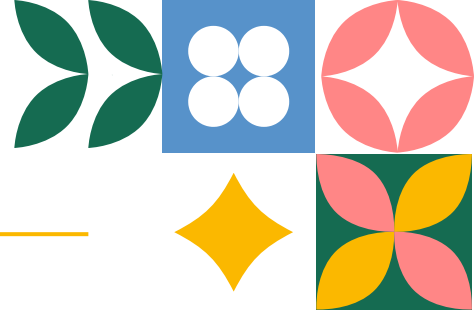
Provincial team – Focal points for every province in Nepal.

SOCIAL MEDIA AND OUTREACH: AMPLIFYING YOUTH VOICES

The Nepal Youth Chapter's social media strategy has played a key role in amplifying youth-led initiatives and promoting awareness of agrifood systems sustainability. By leveraging platforms like Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn, the Chapter engages young people in innovative projects while showcasing creative solutions for sustainable agriculture.

To enhance accessibility and streamline engagement, the Chapter has integrated Linktree into its social media strategy. This centralized hub provides easy access to social media profiles, project pages and key resources, making it simpler for supporters, collaborators and new followers to stay connected with the Chapter's activities.

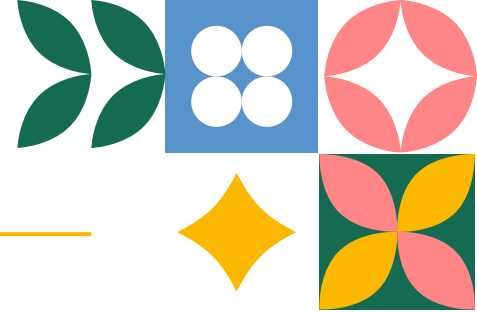
In addition to outreach, social media has served as a platform for interactive and creative engagement. The Chapter has launched competitions that encourage youth to express their perspectives on sustainability and agrifood systems. Events such as the National Rice Day Photo Contest and the World Environment Day Art Competition attracted diverse participants, sparking meaningful discussions on agrifood sustainability. These efforts have successfully cultivated a digital community where Nepalese youth can connect, share ideas and mobilize around shared goals.



KEY ACTIVITIES AND THEIR IMPACT

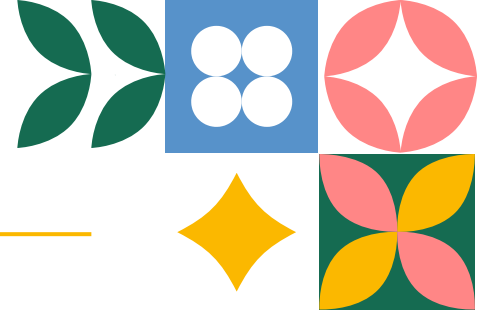
The Nepal Youth Chapter has demonstrated outstanding leadership in 2024, spearheading initiatives that showcase the power of youth in transforming agrifood systems. Inspired by the WFF Youth Initiative, the Chapter has mobilized young leaders, expanded regional engagement and fostered collaboration across various sectors.

- **SDG College Campaign (November–December 2023):** A nationwide awareness campaign across all seven provinces, engaging 6 314 students from 140 colleges in 35 districts with the support of 54 trained facilitators, inspiring action towards the SDGs.
- **International Policy Dialogue on Future-Smart Crops (January 2024):** The Chapter exhibited at a FAO Nepal-organized event, where participants, including FAO's Director-General Qu Dongyu, engaged with WFF representatives to explore sustainable agrifood solutions.
- **Provincial Youth Teams (February–April 2024):** Strengthened regional representation by establishing PYTs in all seven provinces, enabling localized action and empowering youth leadership at the grassroots level.
- **College Outreach Sessions (Throughout 2024):** Engaged over 1 000 students across 14 agricultural and technical campuses to inspire the next generation of agrifood leaders.
- **Digo Actions Social Media Campaign (April–May 2024):** A digital initiative showcasing youth-led sustainability actions, such as traditional Jholmol preparation, river cleanups and Azolla intercropping training, reaching a growing online audience.
- **World Environment Day Art Competition (June 2024):** A creative platform that attracted 70+ students, fostering environmental awareness through artistic expression.
- **One Youth One Plant Campaign (June 28, 2024):** Launched in collaboration with FAO Nepal, the Nepal Youth Council and Ncell, this initiative promoted youth-led tree planting across all 77 districts of Nepal, with an inaugural event in Nuwakot District.
- **National Rice Day Photo Contest (July 2024):** Organized with IAAS Nepal, this contest highlighted the beauty and significance of rice farming, attracting young photographers and showcasing sustainable agricultural practices.
- **Provincial Youth Forum – Lumbini Province (July 2024):** Gathered 175 young participants, in collaboration with FAO Nepal, the National Youth Council and the Lumbini Provincial Government, to discuss food security and sustainable agriculture, emphasizing innovation and networking.
- **International Youth Day Event (August 2024):** Held in Bardibas, Mahottari, under the theme "Driving Youth Towards Sustainable and Digital Agri-Innovation", linking to the global theme "From Clicks to Progress", and fostering discussions on digital agriculture.
- **Nepal Youth Summit (August 2024):** A gathering of 150+ youth, culminating in the presentation of a Youth Declaration to the Prime Minister of Nepal, contributing to the Pact for the Future.
- **World Food Day Activities (September–October 2024):** PYTs in six provinces coordinated interactive events under the theme "Right to Food for a Better Life and Future", promoting awareness and action.



- **Nepal Food Forum (September 2024):** Co-hosted with FAO Nepal and the Ministry of Agriculture, this flagship event, inaugurated by Vice President Ramsahaya Prasad Yadav, brought together 800 participants, showcasing:
 - Lessons from Bhutan’s National Youth Symposium;
 - Nepal’s Youth Agri-Innovation Challenge winners;
 - Policy debate by Debate Network Nepal; and
 - Interactive SDG action card game and Indigenous performances
- **Launch of the Youth Food Lab (Nepal Food Forum 2024):** FAO Nepal and the Chapter announced this local incubator programme to support young innovators in scaling their agrifood solutions into sustainable business models.
- **Masterclasses & Trainings (Throughout 2024):** Inspired by the WFF Youth Initiative’s Masterclass Series, sessions covered topics like proposal writing, systems thinking, SDGs & climate action, AI in agriculture and more.
- **International Representation (2024):** Beyond participation in the 2024 WFF flagship event in Rome, Italy, Chapter members were also present at the UNFCCC COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, further elevating youth voices in global agrifood dialogues.

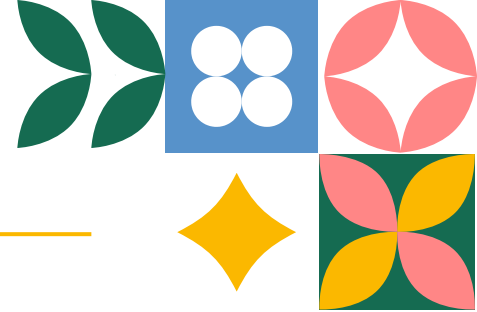
Through these initiatives, the Nepal Youth Chapter has not only expanded its reach but has also deepened its impact, empowering young people to lead, innovate and drive meaningful change in Nepal’s agrifood systems.



WFF Nepal Youth Chapter in Future Smart Crops Exhibition
Participants of SDG College Campaign



Mr Ken Shimizu, FAOR for Bhutan and Nepal Meets WFF Nepal Team before COP 28 Delegation



IMPACT METRICS

Through its initiatives, events and campaigns, the WFF Nepal Youth Chapter has engaged 16 500 youth within the year.

LESSONS LEARNED

The success of the Chapter highlights the critical role of inclusive leadership structures that ensure youth from diverse regions and sectors are actively involved in decision-making processes. Strategic partnerships with key stakeholders have amplified resources and broadened the Chapter's impact, fostering collaboration at both national and international levels. Furthermore, its alignment with the SDGs and national agricultural policies underscores the importance of tying activities to both global and local priorities, ensuring their relevance, sustainability and resonance with broader transformation efforts.

FUTURE OUTLOOK

Building on its accomplishments, the Nepal Youth Chapter plans to expand its youth networks by strengthening connections with grassroots organizations and engaging with international platforms to enhance collaboration and outreach. It also aims to deepen its advocacy efforts by promoting innovative policies such as Future-Smart Crops and sustainable farming techniques, positioning youth as active contributors to transformative agricultural solutions. Capacity-building initiatives will be broadened to Mr Ken Shimizu, FAOR for Bhutan and Nepal, meets WFF Nepal Youth Chapter team include advanced training in climate-resilient agriculture, entrepreneurship and global agrifood trends, equipping young leaders with the skills to address pressing challenges. Additionally, the Chapter seeks to establish new partnerships with educational institutions, private sector entities and international organizations, mobilizing resources to scale its impact and drive meaningful change in agrifood systems.

The Nepal National Youth Chapter serve as a shining example of what can be achieved when youth are given the tools, platform and support to lead change. Its journey from a vision to a thriving platform demonstrates the transformative power of youth leadership in the agrifood systems. As the Chapter continues to grow and expand, it remains a beacon of hope and inspiration for other National Youth Chapters seeking to drive impactful change in their communities.

Through local engagement, global representation and a decentralized structure, the Chapter has set a high bar for what youth-driven transformation in agrifood systems can look like. It is a model that showcases the boundless potential of youth to reshape the future of agrifood systems and contribute to a sustainable and inclusive world.