

# EVENT REPORT



**YOUTH ADVOCACY NEPAL**  
**युथ एड्भोकेसी नेपाल**

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This event report of the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Youth Conference-2021 is independent. Views expressed in it don't necessarily represent the views of the Youth Advocacy Nepal (YAN) and supporting organizations.

## ABBREVIATION

AAN	ActionAid Nepal
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FCHVs	Female Community Health Volunteers
FYN	Female Youth Nepal
GoN	Government of Nepal
GPF	Global Peace Foundation
IYD	International Youth Day
LGBTIQ+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Intersex and Queer
MoYS	Ministry of Youth and Sports
NAFAN	National Forum for Advocacy Nepal
NCE-Nepal	National Campaign for Education-Nepal
NDYN-Nepal	National Disabled Youth Network-Nepal
NGDF	National Grassroots Development Foundation
NYC	National Youth Conference
NYC	National Youth Council
NYFN	National Youth Federation Nepal
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SOFI 2021	The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021
UN	United Nations
UNESCO	United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
VSO	Volunteer Service Overseas
YAN	Youth Advocacy Nepal
YNPD	Youth Network for Peace and Development

# FOREWORD

Since 2000 AD, the International Youth Day (IYD) is being marked on 12 August each year throughout the world by organizing a number of programs. The day is taken by young people as grand festival of young people in which their issues, concerns and aspirations are raised in a way so that it could be addressed from concerned stakeholders with adequate policy measures.

Youth Advocacy Nepal (YAN), since its establishment in 2013, in partnership with government agencies, UN agencies, I/NGOs and youth civil society organizations, has been marking jointly this day by organizing a wide range of programs. The programs organized by YAN so far have been assumed successful in terms of raising youths' issues, enhancing the capacity of young people, exerting the pressure to concerned authorities to adopt better policies for youths, and strengthening the coordination and collaboration among government agencies and youth organizations.

Like the previous years, YAN in collaboration with like-minded organizations celebrated the IYD -2021 by organizing a three days "3<sup>rd</sup> National Youth Conference" from 10-12 August 2021 under the theme of "Transforming Food Systems: Youth Innovation for Human and Planetary Health" in virtual mode due to the pandemic. During this three days program, dialogues on various issues including food sovereignty, sustainable education, video screening, story-telling, among others were held in the presence of more than 200 young people from across Nepal. I strongly believe that the conference has been successful to empower the young people on various issues relevant for them.

Documenting the process of NYC and views expressed during the programs by policy makers, experts and participants are pivotal to advocate youth rights, taking it as a reference tool. With this view in mind, the event report is compiled, edited and printed. Following the publication, it is supposed to be disseminated into wider level stakeholders.

On behalf of organization, I would like to thank all the partner organizations, experts and participants for organizing the conference successfully. Special thanks go to FAO, UNESCO, IM Swedish Development Partner, ActionAid Nepal and Restless Development for supporting to publication. This publication could not have been in this shape without technical expertise of Mr. Krishna Gahatraj, former vice president of YAN, hence, I would like to appreciate his relentless endeavors to get the job done. Last but not the least; I would like to express my deep gratitude to entire team of YAN for making the program so successful with their voluntary spirit.

**Narendra Khatiwada**

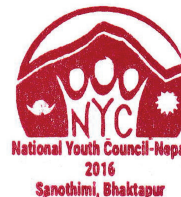
President

Youth Advocacy Nepal (YAN)

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FROM NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL



Government of Nepal  
Ministry of Youth and Sports  
**National Youth Council**  
Sanothimi, Bhaktapur, Nepal  
(..... Section)



Ref No.:

### Acknowledgment

National Youth Council, Nepal is an autonomous government organization governed by the National Youth Council Act, 2015 and National Youth Policy, 2015 which works in line with the Youth Vision 2025 encouraging partnership approach with youth-led National and International organizations. The key thrust working areas of the Council are; coordinate government of Nepal to formulate youth friendly policy and implement them accordingly, provide direct and indirect services to youth in different streams and sectors, coordinate with stakeholders to ensure no youth is left behind.

**International Youth Day** celebration is one of the extensively celebrated programs of the Council. The Council celebrates the main event on August 12 launching multiple week-long youth-focused activities adopting and translating the theme thrown by the United Nations each year. We encourage youth engagement, participation and leadership through the activities we conduct in the partnership and coordination with government and nongovernment organizations.

I am excited to share that the celebration of International Youth Day, 2021 connected national and international youth-led organizations through various means. Nepalese youth got opportunities of participating and performing in various activities such as in video making competition, oratory competition, innovation workshop, folk-song competition, blood donation, policy dialogues and interactions.

I am extremely glad to acknowledge that Youth Advocacy Nepal (YAN) organized 'National Youth Conference' on the occasion of International Youth Day 2021. YAN has been working closely with the Council aligning the agenda of youth leadership, entrepreneurship, innovation and awareness raising. Indeed, the efforts of YAN have supported to translate the vision of Youth Vision 2025 in reality.

At the end, I would also like to congratulate the team for the successful completion of the conference. And, I also would like to express best wishes to YAN for further endeavors.

Madhab Prasad Dhungel  
Executive Vice Chairperson

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## **BEST WISHES MESSAGE FROM UNESCO**

I am very pleased to know that Youth Advocacy Nepal (YAN) is going to publish an event report prepared on the basis of three days 3rd National Youth Conference, organized on the occasion of International Youth Day, from 10-12 August 2021 under the theme of “Transforming Food Systems : Youth Innovation for Human and Planetary Health”.

UNESCO firmly believes that youths are the agents of change for all sectors including economic, socio-cultural, political and environmental. Recognizing the above mentioned fact, UNESCO has been supporting through a number of youth related project and programs to harness the potentials of young people throughout the world, including in Nepal for a long time. The strategy developed by UNESCO in relation to youth empowerment is clear to give continuity such endeavors in the days to come too.

Although virtual, the three days conference, I believe, has been very helpful to empower the young people participating from across Nepal on various issues, including food sovereignty, education system, among others. Open dialogue on various issues, as organized during the program, should be given continuity, playing very important role to broaden the horizon of young people needed for their own and societal development.

As one of the partners of this conference, UNESCO would like to congratulate all the entire team of YAN for this wonderful initiative.

**Michael Croft**

UNESCO Representative

## KEY MESSAGE FROM FAO

Agriculture is considered as the backbone of the Nepalese economy as this sector contributes 27% to the GDP and employs two-thirds of the population. It is also increasingly recognized that no sector of a national economy can attain its intended level of development unless the involvement of youth is ensured. Hence, for the revitalization of the agriculture sector in Nepal, it is crucial to emphasize the nurturing of youthful knowledge as well as to attract skilled, capable youth in this sector.

There are many barriers and challenges to increasing participation of the Nepalese youth in the agriculture sector. These include the perceived lack of techniques, experiences, and knowledge in agriculture, making it less attractive to youth and the majority of them regarding farming as a 'no-go' area, in terms of career development. Therefore, there is an urgent need for all stakeholders to work together to bridge this gap and to have a more meaningful engagement of youth in the agricultural sector.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) recognizes a critical need to harness the passion, innovation, entrepreneurial spirit and action of youth to catalyze more inclusive agriculture and rural development, through greater and more consistent youth engagement. The agenda 2030 also identifies youth as critical agents of change with every SDG requiring youth action and participation to succeed. The United Nations (UN) has highlighted the fundamental importance of transforming the global agri-food systems, with youth empowerment as one of the main issues, with the announcement of the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit (FSS). Additionally, the FAO Youth Committee is also providing support for the launch of the World Food Forum (WFF) in October 2021. – a youth-led movement and network to transform our food systems to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular “zero hunger”.

In this regard, the theme of International Youth Day 2021 “**Transforming Food Systems: Youth Innovation for Human and Planetary Health**” underscored the critical importance of youth to collaborate, act boldly and lead a global response to transform agri-food systems that are more equitable, sustainable and sufficient to meet the needs of a growing population and to achieve the SDGs.

We look forward to continuing our close collaboration and partnership with dynamic agents of change and youth organizations in supporting the country towards ensuring future food systems, which are inclusive and encourages the full participation of Indigenous Peoples, women and youth, both individually and through their organizations.

**Mr. Ken Shimizu**

FAO Representative in Nepal

## **BEST WISHES FROM IM SWEDISH DEVELOPMENT PARTNER**

On this occasion, I would like to thank Youth Advocacy Nepal (YAN) for the initiative of celebrating the International Youth Day with IYD slogan 2021 “Transforming Food System: Youth Innovation for Human and Planetary Health”. This event has really highlighted the role of youth from around the world to restore the planet and protect life, while integrating biodiversity in the transformation of food systems. This is the high time to realize the urgent need of transforming agriculture to contribute to sustainable food production system.

Understanding the need for investing on youth to contribute to planetary health, IM Swedish Development Partner (<https://www.imsweden.org/en/>) has been empowering youth for their leadership, facilitating their participation in the policy making processes, facilitating dialogues with the government and private sectors for increasing their access to economic resources and to contribute on social inclusion.

In this regard, YAN’s effort is relevant to IM’s mission and vision to empower youth. It is my pleasure to share on behalf of IM Swedish Development Partner (IM), Nepal that we are together with YAN on its effort to empower youth to protect and promote the rights of youth and mobilize the youth for protecting the planet.

**Uttam Aryal**

Country Representative, Nepal



## NOTE OF APPRECIATION

ActionAid Nepal (AAN) in partnership with various likeminded organizations and the communities is advocating for social justice in last 39 Years. It firmly believes that the root cause of poverty and inequality is unequal and unjust power relation including structural discrimination. Based on its experience and emerging context, AAN has strategically moving through its policies, priorities and programs keeping youth and women in center. Since women are comparatively the most dominated sections and youth are the energetic groups of the population, our programs focus on them with an aim for transformation and shifting in power relation and structure through organizing, leadership development and strengthening their agency.

In this regard, AAN has consciously initiated various social transformative actions in partnership with Youth Advocacy Nepal (YAN) for last 7 years. I appreciate that Youth Advocacy Nepal (YAN) is publishing an event report to capture the key discussion of three days National Youth Conference which is specially organised on the occasion of International Youth Day from 10 to 12 August 2021 to advance the agenda 'Transforming Food Systems: Youth Innovation for Human and Planetary Health' of this year 2021.

I trust that this publication will help to generate conceptual context and fundamental understanding that can positively contribute the discourse of food system, key significance of youth to joint collaboration for the agenda of agri-food system transformation in a democratic, rightful and ecological way and of course, contribute to achieve national and global agenda as well.

Finally, I would like to appreciate the tireless efforts of contributors, participants including the entire YAN family and supporting team for their contribution and solidarity to produce this program report.

**Sujeeta Mathema**

Executive Director  
ActionAid Nepal

## BEST WISHES FROM RESTLESS DEVELOPMENT

Restless Development, as a global agency for youth-led development, has been supporting young people to demand and deliver a just and sustainable world for all. We have been collaborating with Youth Advocacy Nepal (YAN) to empower and capacitate young people to become active citizens in their communities and become agents of change.

I was extremely delighted to be a part of the National Youth Conference conducted to mark International Youth Day 2021 with the theme "Transforming Food Systems: Youth Innovation for Human and Planetary Health". Thank you Youth Advocacy Nepal (YAN) for extending us, Restless Development Nepal, the chance to become one of the partner organizations for the conference.

At present, the availability and affordability of food is an important concern. Firstly, we need to understand what the food system is, before transforming it. More than 40% of Nepal's population is young; this is a very big resource that should be utilized in the transformation of politics and social reforms to ensure food security. It is necessary to inform everyone about the nutrients included in the local food. We have grown up eating the local foods, however, our children despite learning about the food nutrients have not adopted healthy eating. Further, the advancement in technology might be the reason that now we're detecting a high number of diseases but many also consider the intake of unhealthy food as a reason.

The engagement of young people to address concerns related to the food system is crucial and I was really glad to advocate the significance of youth engagement to promote food security during the program.

Furthermore, I would also like to congratulate the team on successfully completing the conference. Restless Development Nepal is always open to extending our support to YAN in every way possible in future programs.

### **Kaajal Pradhan**

Hub Director

Restless Development Nepal

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

International Youth Day (IYD) is observed on August 12 every year. This day is celebrated to pay the especial attention to the problems faced by young people throughout the world. The day came into effect on the recommendation of the World Conference of Ministries Responsible for Youth in Lisbon to the United Nations (UN) General Assembly.<sup>1</sup> On this day, various awareness raising campaigns, concerts, seminar, workshops and interactions and exchanges are organized focusing on the potential of the youth in society.

### 1.1. International Youth Day – A Historical Synopsis

The United Nations has long recognized that the imagination, ideals and energies of young people are vital for the continuing development of the societies in which they live. The Member States of the United Nations acknowledged this in 1965 when they endorsed the Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples. Two decades later, the United Nations General Assembly observed 1985 as the International Youth Year: Participation, Development and Peace.

The previous record from the different sources says that the IYD was first proposed in 1991 at the first session of the World Youth Forum of the UN system. In 1998, the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth hosted by the Government of Portugal in cooperation with the United Nations considered August 12 as International Youth Day (IYD). In 1999, General Assembly resolution 54/120 endorsed the recommendation made by the World Conference of Ministers of Youth (Lisbon, 8-12 August, 1998) that August 12 be declared as IYD<sup>2</sup>. The former UN Secretary General – Kofi Annan issued a message marking the first observance of IYD<sup>3</sup>. Since then, IYD is celebrated globally every year on August 12 organising various events. At its early stage, the IYD aimed to promote awareness, especially among youth, of the World Program of Action for Youth to the year 2000 and beyond. The World Program of Action for Youth called for action in 10 priority areas.

The World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY) provides a policy framework and practical guidelines for national action and international support to improve the situation of young people. It contains proposals for action, aiming at fostering conditions and mechanisms to promote improved well-being and livelihoods among young people. The WPAY focuses in particular on measures to strengthen national capacities in the field of youth and to increase the quality and quantity of opportunities available to young people for full, effective and constructive participation in society. In its original form, the World Programme of Action for Youth outlined 10 priority areas to be addressed; however, at the ten-year review of the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth, Member States agreed to the addition of five additional issue areas. These were expanded upon in a Supplement, which was adopted in 2007.<sup>4</sup>

1 <https://2020/www.indiatoday.in/information/story/international-youth-day-history-significance-theme-quot2021es-and-images-1839786-2021-08-12>

2 <https://en.unesco.org/commemorations/youthday>

3 <https://www.un.org/press/en/2000/20000808.note5621.doc.html>

4 <https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/documents/wpay2010.pdf>

And, it recommended actions at national, regional and global levels to implement the programme. This is the first document where UN defined 'youth' as the age group between 15 and 24 years old that make up one sixth of the world's population. The majority of these young men and women live in developing countries, and their numbers are expected to rise steeply in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The timeline of IYD celebration along with every year's slogan declared by UN is as follows:

IYD Year	IYD Slogan
2021	Transforming Food Systems: Youth Innovation for Human and Planetary Health
2020	Youth Engagement for Global Action
2019	Transforming Education
2018	Safe Space for Youth
2017	Youth Building Peace
2016	Road to 2030: Eradicating Poverty and Achieving Sustainability
2015	Youth Civic Engagement
2014	Mental Health Matters
2013	Youth Migration: Moving Development Forward
2012	Building a Better World: Partnering with Youth
2011	Change Our World
2010	Dialogue and Mutual Understanding
2009	Sustainability: Our Challenge, Our Future
2008	Youth and Climate Change: Time for Action
2007	Be Seen, Be Heard: Youth Participation for Development
2006	Tackling Poverty Together
2005	WPAY +10: Making Commitments Matter
2004	Youth in an Intergenerational Society
2003	Finding Decent and Productive Work for Young People Everywhere
2002	Now and for the Future: Youth Action for Sustainable Development
2001	Addressing Health and Unemployment
First observance of IYD 2000	

Source: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/youth/what-we-do/international-youth-day.html>

The above given table clearly gives the historical timelines of IYD celebration in each year diversifying themes and priorities that concerns to youth. The day is very significant to commemorate each year because youth are the major backbone of any countries that play pivotal role for overall development, sustainable peace and social justice. None of the countries can imagine its prosperity, peace and happiness leaving youth behind.

## 1.2. Youth Advocacy Nepal and Commemoration of International Youth Day

Founded and formally established in 2013, Youth Advocacy Nepal (YAN) is a purely youth-led vibrant non-for profit making nongovernmental national level youth organisation. Strongly believing on the fact that youth are the group of heterogeneous people, YAN is indeed a representative voice of the most marginalized and excluded youth. Youth from Dalits, LGBTIQ+, young girls, youth with disabilities, religious minorities, indigenous come together at a common platform to advocate for their rights and equality on an equal basis with others. YAN strives to create inclusive society which is just and equal to all.

YAN, since its establishment, has taken a crucial role to commemorate IYD by breaking a conventional pattern of its celebration by only few selected so-called youth organisations and the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS) from Government of Nepal. Every year, the MoYS used to take a leading role by making a IYD Celebration Coordination Committee. This committee used to be represented by selected like-minded youth civil society organisations and international nongovernmental organisations.

YAN broke this conventional pattern by creating a separate IYD Celebration Youth Civil Society Networks. This sort of network provided ample opportunities to all those excluded youths network to come together by creating a huge ownership of the day celebration. Since then onwards, MoYS opened the space to all youth-led organisations to represent there and celebrate the day collectively building strong solidarity by all. YAN has been playing crucial roles to mark this day splendidly jointly with National Youth Council (NYC), MoYS, and all other likeminded organisations since onwards.

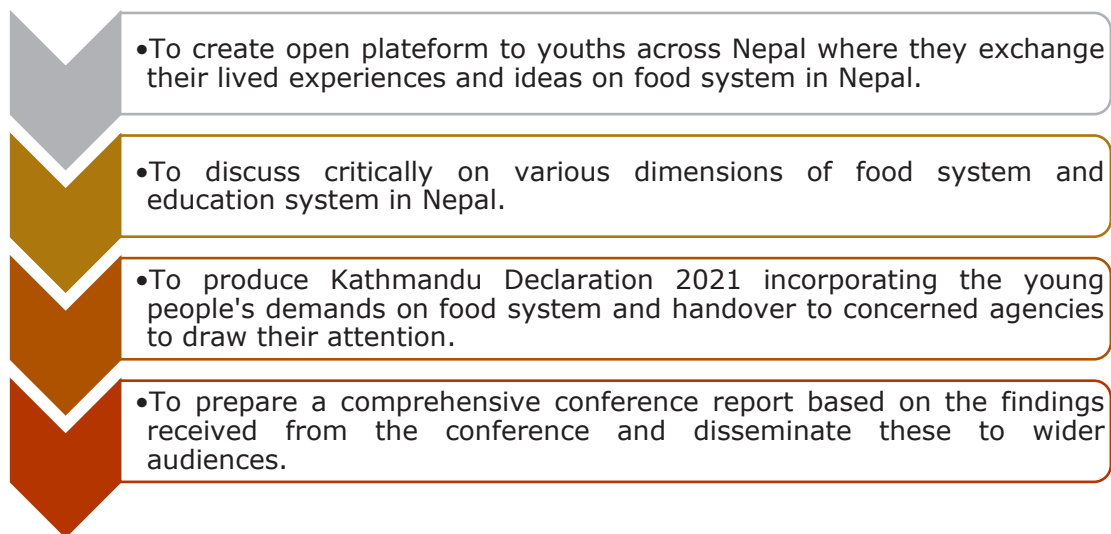
## 1.3. Youth Advocacy Nepal and National Youth Conference

In order to contextualize and rationalize the IYD with national context, YAN began to commemorate National Youth Conference (NYC) by last 2019. The first NYC 2019 was celebrated with various events. Following the same practice, YAN marked second NYC in 2020. Similarly, the 3<sup>rd</sup> NYC is celebrated this year in August on behalf of the IYD 2021. The 3<sup>rd</sup> NYC was aligned with the IYD 2021 prioritizing the same agenda – *Transforming Food Systems: Youth Innovation for Human and Planetary Health*.

Considering the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, YAN commemorated this year's 3<sup>rd</sup> NYC 2021 virtually. The 3<sup>rd</sup> NYC was scheduled for three days with series of events that were organized virtually collaborating and coordinating with various likeminded organisations including National Youth Council (NYC), FAO, UNESCO, VSO, Restless Development Nepal, IM Swedish Development Partner and others.

## 2. Purpose of Commemorating 3<sup>rd</sup> National Youth Conference

The major purposes of commemorating this 3<sup>rd</sup> NYC are:



## 3. Modality of the Conference and Its Structure

The entire three days' conference was designed in a fully participatory and inclusive way. Considering the learning of past years' conferences and as well as current threat of COVID-19 pandemic, the whole three days' sessions were completely designed to be accomplished in virtual mode. YAN conducted close consultation with its entire available members including those with likeminded youth civil society members. It formed a dedicated inclusive committee that took overall lead in terms of planning, arranging and successfully accomplishing the conference.

The NYC was organized for three days – August 10 to 12, 2021. All these three days' events were organized in online/virtual mode. The whole three days' conference was structured in a way that included formal inaugural session followed by youth discourse, slogan competition, storytelling, declaration paper, publication and video documentary. The first day event of the conference lasted for 3 hours 45 minutes. On this day, the conference was formally inaugurated in the presence of distinguished delegates and all invitees. Then after, there was a paper presentation on food security followed by questions-and-answers. Second day lasted for 1 hour and 30 minutes. On this day, there was also a paper presentation on youth education for sustainable future followed by questions-and-answers. And, the third or final day of the conference lasted for almost 2 hours where selected youths were invited to share their food habits through storytelling.

## 4. Participants and their Diversity

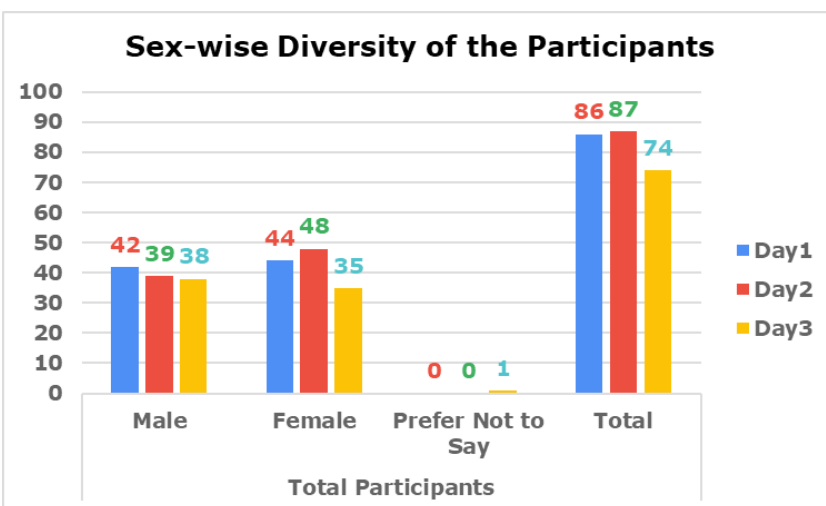
The major targeted participants for this conference were all types of youths from urban to rural, federal government structure to provincial and local level structures. YAN has its own organizational structures as district chapters in all seven provinces. There was a good



numbers of participation though these events were organized virtually. The participants were from diverse background in terms of age category, sex, castes and ethnicity, geographical, etc. This can be diagrammatically presented as given below:

The above table clearly shows that the ratio of female participation in the conference for day 1 and 2 is comparatively higher than male and reverse in the day 3.

The ratio of participation in day 1 and 2 is quite similar whereas it is comparatively lower in day 3.



## 5. Collaborative Partners and Key Stakeholders

As previously done and aforementioned, YAN strongly believes in collaborative efforts and partnership with all likeminded stakeholders. In order to mark this year’s NYC, it built collaborative efforts with many likeminded stakeholders. The collaborated partners and their types are:

SN	Type of Stakeholder	Name of Stakeholder
1	Government Bodies	National Youth Council
2	UN Agencies	UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)
3		FAO (Food and Agriculture Organisation)
4	INGOs	ActionAid Nepal
5		Restless Development
6		IM – Swedish Development Cooperation Organisation
7		VSO (Volunteer Service Overseas) Nepal
8		GPF (Global Peace Foundation)
9	NGOs/Youth Civil Society Organisations	National Youth Federation Nepal (NYFN)
10		Kayapalat
11		NCE Nepal (National Campaign for Education)
12		NDYN-Nepal (National Disabled Youth Network-Nepal)
13		ACE Nepal
14		FYN (Female Youth Nepal)
15		YNPD (Youth Network for Peace and Development)
16		NGDF (National Grassroots Development Foundation)
17		NAFAN (National Forum for Advocacy Nepal)

## 6. DETAILS OF THRID NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

The 3 days NYC started from August 10 and ended at August 12, 2021. The details of each day with its major outcomes are described in below provided section.

### 6.1. First Day of the Conference – August 10, 2021

First day of the 3 days NYC was organized on August 10, 2021 starting from 11:00 AM and ended at 4:00 PM. The day was structured in three sessions with a formal inaugural session to the paper presentation, questions-and-answers to formal closing of the session. The first day was designed in a way to mainly discussed on the theme of food sovereignty, agriculture and youth.

#### 6.1.1. Formal Inaugural Session

The program was moderated by Mr. Narayan Kadariya – Secretary and chaired by Mr. Narendra Khatiwada– Chairperson of the YAN. Mr. MadhavDhungel – Vice-Chairperson of the National Youth Council (NYC). There were also distinguished delegates invited for the inaugural session of the conference. Ms. Gita Chaudhary – General Secretary of the current YAN executive board expressed her welcome speech to the all invitees explaining the purpose and rational of organizing this three days’ national youth conference. The conference was inaugurated by clapping virtually by all the attendees. The key highlights of the speakers of the inaugural session are briefly documented as provided below:

#### ***Gita Chaudhary – General Secretary of YAN***

Speaking at the inaugural session, Gita Chaudhary – Secretary of the YAN highlighted following key points

- YAN started to observe IYD since its establishment coordinating and collaborating with all likeminded organisations.
- YAN started to observethis IYD by organizing NYC since 2019 contextualizing it with national priorities and themes.
- YAN celebrates this day to create broader youth network throughout the country to coordinate, collaborate and advocate for youth rights, participation and inclusion.
- This conference focused to critically discuss on the agenda of food security and the role youths to contribute on it.
- Having National Youth Council (NYC) as an apex and autonomous body to look after the youth agenda from the Government of Nepal (GoN) is a great achievement for all youth community.
- YAN always takes these especial days to create broader awareness to the youth community throughout the country so that they can be informed, engaged and contribute in future from their level best.



After Gita Chaudhary's background information and rationale of commemorating this IYD and 3<sup>rd</sup> NYC 2021, the chief guest and distinguished delegates were invited for short welcome speech. The key messages delivered in welcome speech by every individual guest speaker in an inauguration session are highlighted as provided below:

### ***Sujeeta Mathema – Country Director of ActionAid International Nepal***

- ♣ Sujeeta conveyed her appreciation to the YAN for organizing such an event as she always feels energetic while participating.
- ♣ The issue of food security has been really critical to the current generation with the change of this time era. Many current generations enjoy with the corporatized food system whereas they completely forget the past generations' food system and their habits. So, it is pivotal to have a massive discussion among the youth generation as how these changes could be brought into the food security practices.
- ♣ In this contemporary society, the people have very limited time to prepare their healthy foods to eat. Therefore, they tend to mostly enjoy with fast foods. However, it is very crucial to understand the fact that these junk/fast foods are less healthy to the health.
- ♣ In order to control this corporatized food system, how governments are providing subsidized sustainable crops globally is quite important to think about when talking about the current food security.
- ♣ Without understanding the whole food system, it is not possible to go through the transformation of the food system. Therefore, she highlighted to believe on the fact of 'actual cost' instead of preferring to the 'cheaper cost'.



### ***Kaajal Pradhan – Hub Director of Restless Development of Nepal***

- ♣ Restless Development has a long relation with YAN in terms of raising youth voices for advocating youth rights directly engaging concerned stakeholders like National Youth Council including other governmental bodies.
- ♣ She expressed her opinion that the current international theme for transferring food system is highly relevant, particularly considering the current availability of foods, its costs and quality, which is most essential to be discussed. Therefore, she highlighted that she would be more related at an individual level herself with this food system as how it is impacting her throughout the life.
- ♣ It is a precondition to understand the food system comprehensively in order to contribute to its food system transformation. It is said that this is the youth peak era since it



constitutes about 50% of the total population globally whereas Nepal does also have more than 40% youth population of its total population. Therefore, they could be engaged as change agent whole throughout the country if their potential is rightly recognized. They could equally contribute for the whole transformative change in terms of social, economic, political and cultural aspects.

- ❖ The current IYD 2021 theme has equally given an opportunity to think about our local food systems and their availability. Therefore, these need to be thoroughly discussed in such a platform through which many youths could be aware on this aspect.
- ❖ It is necessary to promote youth engagement in such crucial agenda by building their capacity in such critical issues that could really contribute for the food system transformation.

### ***Ptrativa Shrestha – Senior Program Coordinator from UNESCO in Nepal***

- ❖ Youth plays dynamic role in every change. The change is not possible without youth engagement and, therefore, it is vital to engage youth for sustainable peace and lasting social change.
- ❖ UNESCO has standalone youth-focused program not only just targeting them as 'targeted beneficiary' but also to have their meaningful participation and leadership throughout the program. Therefore, UNESCO believes on youth development through their engagement in societal activities.
- ❖ Food system is a comprehensive concept as how food gets produced and come to our kitchen to our table in the form of our major food. Therefore, it has a long chain system through which it also negatively impacts in our environment and as well as supports to us as main survival means too.



### ***MadhavDhungel–Vice – Chairperson of National Youth Council (NYC), Government of Nepal (GoN)***

- ❖ He mentioned that it is the 6<sup>th</sup> year of IYD celebration after the establishment of NYC. And, it has its own scheduled series of events on behalf of commemorating this day.
- ❖ Mr. Dhungel highly appreciated the activeness of YAN in terms of raising youth voices for the inclusion and meaningful participation. And, YAN is doing what its name says. So, it's been improving gradually to make its interventions more effective and comprehensive. He mentioned that NYC organized a debate program on the same theme among youth



with a contextualized slogan '*Local Production: Food System Transformation*'. Through this event, NYC intended to raise awareness on the importance of organic food production to reduce currently produced chemical mixed foods. The quality food only can safeguard the good health system of an individual. The quantity of food production in current corporatized markets may have various side effects on human body system. Therefore, this needs to be brought into the discussion from federal to provincial and to the local levels as how the three layers of governments can contribute on this movement to secure food system transformation.

- ♣ He further shared the information that the GoN has already undertaken series of events and studies on food system which has also created some foundation to contribute this current IYD theme. Therefore, NYC is also planning to take some initiatives forward in this regard.
- ♣ Climate change, excessive urbanization, unaware of disaster preparedness, various natural and other induced disasters including current COVID-19 pandemic are the major causes that have affected the entire food system globally at present.
- ♣ He emphasized on giving focus to the local production while going down to the local level to make organic food production as much as possible. This could only contribute to make this year's theme meaningful in future days.

#### **Mr. Narendra Khatiwada – President of Youth Advocacy Nepal (YAN)**

- ♣ Mr. Narendra Khatiwada shared a fact that globally, about 8.9% of the world's population — 690 million people — go to bed on an empty stomach each night. Since 2014, the number of people affected by hunger has been slowly on the rise. If it continues at this rate, it'll exceed 840 million by 2030.



- ♣ Many people in the world are still compelled to live their lives in starvation. The major reason behind this is that the 40% of food produced from the land is not appropriately managed. Therefore, it shows fact that there is an issue somewhere in the whole food system because of which it is happening. Hence, it is very essential to discuss on this agenda.
- ♣ These facts show serious concerns with food sovereignty, right to food and food security. These are human rights issues. Hence, every state is obliged to ensure this right taking appropriate actions.
- ♣ In order to ensure the sustainable food system transformation, it is very essential to have effective and meaningful youth engagement throughout the cycle. This could only contribute significantly to address this concern sustainably.
- ♣ He overviewed all three days' events as how these events are being designed to contribute for the discussion on '*food system transformation*'.

With this concluding remarks of YAN president for the formal inaugural session, the, another session took place.

### 6.1.2. Paper Presentation and Discussion

After the completion of first inaugural session, the second session was on paper presentation and discussions. There were two paper presentations by the thematic experts. The first paper presentation was on 'food sovereignty, agriculture and youth' and second paper was on 'role of youth for transforming food systems in Nepal'. Each paper presentation was followed by commentator and open questions-and-answers.



#### **First paper presentation on 'Food Sovereignty, Agriculture and Youth' by Arun GC – Agriculture Extension Officer at Ministry of Agriculture Development, GoN**

Mr. Arun GC structured his contents mainly in four sections–history of food sovereignty, global status, national status and way forward. The major contents that he shared through his presentation are –

- ⇒ He briefly described historical perspective on right to food, food security and food sovereignty along with burning issues of the food securities as how these are evolved.
- ⇒ He further made an interactive discussion on the issues of food sovereignty and food security along with youth role to contribute for its further improvement.
- ⇒ He mentioned in his presentation that food problem is as ancient as human civilization. And, the issue of food security came into international arena in 1798 AD when Thomas Malthus first wrote about it on his powerful essay on principle of population.
- ⇒ Thomas Malthus mentioned in his essay that the population increases in geometric proportion. In contrary, the food production increases in arithmetic progression. Therefore, he predicts a point of situation in near future where population rises intersect with food production. It means that the increased population should be fed with limited food that will invite a very serious catastrophe in near future.
- ⇒ Food security, in a very simple understanding, is meant a situation of not having any apprehension of food for eating. Therefore, the food security has mainly four key elements – availability, accessibility and utilization and stability.
- ⇒ The issue of food sovereignty started during 1980s and 1990s as a response of new national and international agricultural policies. The neoliberal economic policies further emphasized on commodification of the foods that are available.
- ⇒ Food sovereignty was coined to recognize the political and economic dimension inherent in the food and agriculture system by La Via Campesina which was a global movement of over 200 million small scale farmers, peasants, farm workers and other food producers in over 70 countries at the 1966 World Food Summit that held in Rome, Italy.

- ⇒ The GoN has also well-spoken on rights related to food by ensuring specific constitutional provision in the Constitution of Nepal 2072 BS.
- ⇒ According to the FAO's SOFI 2021 Report, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to expose weaknesses in our food systems, which threaten the lives and livelihoods of people around the world.
- ⇒ Many evidences of current progresses evidently show that there is still a huge challenge to achieve sustainable development goal of zero hunger by 2030 is still a big challenge.
- ⇒ The FAO's SOFI 2021 Report further says that by 2030, we need 50% more food, 45% more energy and 30% water than today we have. Out of this 85% of this additional demand will be in the developing countries mainly with the increased population.
- ⇒ At the end of his presentation, he posed some critical questions concerning to the youth engagement in terms of food system transformation. He posed some questions like –*Are youth retaining in farming? Are youth attracting in farming? Will youth adopt farming? Do we need youth in agriculture? In what conditions, youth can enjoy in farming?*
- ⇒ Sixth industrialization is the way to revitalize the rural economy and boost incomes. Therefore, it can be considered as one of the most potential interventions.
- ⇒ Promotion of future smart foods, bio-fortification instead of fortified food, urban and peri-urban farming; growing many crops; reducing food loss and wastes and teaching school children and feeding them well are some of the potentially suggested interventions for the food system strengthening.

*Please see annex-1 for the details of the presentations.*

### **Commentators Comments**

After completion of his presentation, the commentator – Prof. KeshabKhadka, PhD made his comments over the presented contents. The major comments that he made are –

- ♣ Prof. Keshabhighly appreciated the presentation of paper presenter – Arun GC saying that he has included valuable information systematically.
- ♣ Prof. Keshab said that it is very crucial to see the things from people's perspective while talking about the food security. There was no policy at the beginning on food security which was promulgated afterwards by the government. The history of food production and agriculture is thousand years older than that of the institution like agriculture department and policies were made in Nepal. Therefore, the perspective to see the agriculture and peasants is not in favor of them as they were always seen as second class citizen. Therefore, this needs to be first changed by the current generation as they have to be equally valued as others.
- ♣ The definition of food sovereignty should be redefined contextualizing with the availability, accessibility, utilization and stability of the foods being produced at the country contexts. The state should be aware of importing the food items through open markets. Such practices are really impacting a lot in food system transformation.

- ♣ It is imperative to see at policy level for the change in terms of food system transformation recognizing the best potential that is found in the country's geographic structure.
- ♣ He further suggested to replicate the approach of Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs) for increasing youth engagement calling them as *Agriculture Co-Worker Youth* that plays crucial roles to resolve the problems found in agriculture from traditional to the modern practices.
- ♣ The state should come up with specific interventions to protect the indigenous corps found in the country that can only promote food system for sustainable development.

## Floor Open for Participants

### *Comments from Participants:*

- Harendra Kumar Jha from province 2 shared his opinion that if unemployment, illiteracy, social lifestyle, addiction and superstition, political playful, economic inequality, low valuation of labor, lockdown due to COVID-19 pandemic and poverty are addressed, then, youth can be well empowered to get engaged in various sectors.
- Karna Nepali – National Programme Manager of Raleigh International asked queries on government's interventions to ensure accessibility, availability and affordability of the community people to access foods comparing to the past few years to the current years. Due to our socio-cultural beliefs and practices, doing agriculture is considered as lower class job because of which many youths who study agricultural subjects are also not doing the same job. Therefore, it is very important to eliminate such stereotypes to engage in agricultural work to produce organic foods for sustainable food system in Nepal.
- Puspa Serala shared his opinion regarding the agriculture related skills and their management from production to the markets, value chain, availability of data and also consumption. How are these aspects managed for youth engagement in agricultural work?
- Keshav Dahal from **im** – Swedish Development Partner shared that they work in Kapilvastu and Dang districts. It is very difficult to find youth at communities since many of them have gone abroad for their livelihoods. Though there are many government schemes to support for youth entrepreneurial work, those you are unaware of these schemes. Therefore, the local government should take this responsibility to facilitate for all these process as where these schemes are available and how they could have access to these schemes. To make accountable to the local government for these sorts of work, the youth-led NGOs like YAN should continue their advocacy interventions throughout the country at all three layers of governments - local governments, provincial governments and federal governments.

### *Response by Arjun GC – a paper presenter*

- There were no specific responses to the queries put forward by the participants since all of these were their opinions that added value to the discussions.



- Though there are several opportunities to be engaged and take advantages, many youths are not getting to realize and experience these practically yet. This is mainly a coordination gap among all three layers of government structure. Therefore, youth should have such interventions to create pressure to have quality delivery of the services removing such barriers.

**Second paper presentation on 'Role of Youth for Transforming Food System in Nepal' by Lok Raj Awasthi – President of 4H Nepal**

The second paper was on 'role of youth for transforming food system in Nepal' which was presented by Mr. Lok Raj Awasthi – president of 4H Nepal. He talked about the role of youth for transforming food system. The key points that he highlighted throughout his presentation are briefly presented in the bulleted points as provided below:



- Last year, there was a global food system summit where the conference talked about healthy food. Good foods keep everybody healthier. The good food strengthens our communities, empowers our communities and protects our planet. However, there is no equal access to good food like others.
- When talking about the food system, there are its different elements like food production, distribution and aggregation, food processing, marketing, markets and purchasing, preparation and consumption and, resource and waste recovery.
- When we talk about the 'good food for all', it demands to have equal access to food, availability of food, utilization of food, stability of food and production of foods.
- Food system is multidimensional because it intersects with employment, disability, gender, geography, caste system and poverty.
- In the 2020 Global Hunger Index, Nepal ranks 73rd out of the 107 countries with sufficient data to calculate 2020 GHI scores. With a score of 19.5 Nepal has a level of hunger that is moderate.
- Sustainable Development Goal 2 (SDG 2) which is Zero Hunger, is a very important goal for the country. The prevalence of malnutrition among children under the age of 5 was 9.7 percent in 2016.
- Mr. Lok Raj shared some ideas on the role of youth to reduce hunger in Nepal. According to him, youth should be engaged to raise awareness on food system in Nepal.
- As a way forward, Mr. Lok Raj suggested that youth should be empowered to engage in agricultural activities. Youth should advocate for good food for all. The youth-led organisations like YAN should create pressure to the government to implement constitutional rights and provisions at de-facto level.

*Note: please see annex-2 for the detail presentation.*

## Floor Open for Participants

### *Comments from Participants:*

- One of the participants – Suruchi Pant expressed her opinion that all presenters shared only problems but they did not talk about the possible solutions. So, it is very important to equally know the most probable solutions too. When we talk about the good food for all, it is not possible to get good food these days due to the increased uses of chemicals.
- AmritMajhi – student of Agriculture and Forestry University, who is also a participant of the conference, told that there is no production in Nepal while talking about the food system transformation. In addition, there is also no investment for research in agriculture sector. Whatever done here in Nepal are learned from others. Therefore, there should be special budget/resource allocation for the research in agriculture sector. It is not possible to change the food habit immediately within a week or month or year. It needs some prolonged interventions to raise awareness to the people. In addition, there should be the production of our own country and made available everywhere. The imported products cannot change the food habits.
- Madan Raj Joshi from Dhangadhi, Sudurpaschim Province of Nepal, criticized the presentations that none of the presenters included what the youths in Nepal are doing for food system transformation. These presentations failed to include the indigenous practices found at community level. And, they did not also include the field reality whether the constitutional and other policy level provisions are being practiced. These should be also included in these presentations.
- Narendra Khatiwada – President of YAN talked about the knowledge building process of our own indigenous practices. Sometimes, the policies and guidelines are developed by the experts citing the international good practices. But, we forget to include our own good practices. Therefore, youth should also be attentive to document such indigenous knowledge as part of our knowledge building process.
- Birendra Ray from Sarlahi expressed his opinion that the leadership should be undertaken by those people whose agenda directly concern to them.

### ***Response by Lok Raj Awasthi – Paper Presenter***

- Paper presenter expressed his assent to the views expressed by all participants. So, there was no particular response as such in this discussion.
- He further added that they have been planning to develop *integrated agriculture strategy* and *food system* to work with 10 rural/municipalities in coming days.

### **6.1.3. Closing of the Day**

After almost three hours of long virtual discussion, Mr. Narendra Khatiwada – President of YAN concluded the first day of the 3<sup>rd</sup> NYC. During the closing of the, he highly appreciated all the attendees who joined for full sessions. And, he also thanked to all paper presenters, distinguished delegates and supported who helped to mark this first day through logistical and other technical support.

## 6.2. Second Day of the Conference – August 11, 2021

Second day of the 3<sup>rd</sup> NYC was moderated by Mr. Ganesh Dhimi–YAN member. The conference started at 11:00 hrs and lasted for 1 and ½ hours. The conference directly started with the paper presentation along with open questions-and-answers session. The second day conference was attended by over 87 participants (female-48 and male–39) from all throughout the conference.

### 6.2.1. Paper Presentation and Discussion

On second day of 3<sup>rd</sup> NYC, there was only one paper presentation. For this paper presentation, Suresh Gautam, PhD from Kathmandu University was invited. And, he presented his paper on 'Youth Education for Sustainable Future'. The key highlights of his presentation and discussion are briefly described as provided below:



- ⇒ Youth is a period in which adult identities are shaped and through this society's institutions and cultural beliefs are either produced or reproduced.
- ⇒ Youth is not a homogenous group. Youths are diverse from gender, class, geography, culture, disability, minority, sex and other many perspectives.
- ⇒ There needs to be a further quality discourse on why we need education. We need to explore ourselves as what type of education we want and why. We need to think education beyond just going to the schools, colleges and universities and receiving certificates or earning money. Education is for transformation (individual, groups, communities, society, political, economic, etc.). Therefore, this should be informed to the wider communities.
- ⇒ The education should contribute to society's sustainable future. In an overall, the education should contribute to sustainable futures of society, environment and economy.
- ⇒ He further said that the education and learning which we take should be able to connect to the culture, nature, governance and economy of mainly three spheres i.e. people, planet and profit.
- ⇒ It is very essential to work for preparedness particularly for education in emergency situation. Though there were some attempts to strengthen education system in Nepal, it went down due to the earthquake in 2015 in Nepal. Therefore, there should be the role youth to actively advocate for preparedness to ensure the continuation of education even in emergency.

*Note: please see annex-3 for the detail information of the presentation.*

### Floor Open for Participants

*Comments from Participants:*

- One of the participants highly appreciated the contents that were explained in detail in terms of education with sustainable future. However, he asked for further explanation

in terms of education connecting to economy and governance as these two components seem to be conflicting to each other while comparing to the current practices.

- Since the state is regulating both types of education system – public and private, what could be the role of youths to push private education system more towards public education system?
- Dinesh Magar asked a question that our education system remains same though there has been lot of change from one generation to another generation. So, why our education system has not been changed according to the technology that have been advanced every day?
- Umesh Bohara asked question as how could we continue and promote school education even during the emergency situation?
- Adarsha Chapagain shared that youth spend majority of their productive time in university education. It is also said that youth education should be for their sustainable future. But, we do not find such productive roles being played by the universities in our Nepali context. Therefore, what is the effectiveness of our Nepali universities to make youth education for sustainable future? In addition, our universities are still not found to be focused on research based education system. In this scenario, what roles our universities could play to make youth future sustainable?
- Dilip from Rajapur, Bardiya district shared that their municipality has declared free and mandatory education in their area after the continual efforts of youth's advocacies. And, there is only 4.15% budget allocation for public education. Therefore, what roles can youth play to ensure quality and practical education at school level?
- Suman Karki asked a question as how much chances are there to be engaged in primary education due to the consequence of these fluctuating quality of education. And, what are the most probable precautionary measures to control these?
- Saru Raut requested paper presenter to explain more in detail about the impact of politics in the school education.

### ***Response by Suresh Gautam, PhD – Paper Presenter***

- There are two types of governance in federal structure. One is deliberative governance that seek direct participation of the people in the planning process as what are their real needs.
- The state has a constitutional provision for free and compulsory school education. However, there are no such a planned systematic investment to improve the public education system. It shows that these provisions are not practically being translated into the practice. Therefore, one of the most important alternatives to push public education system forward could be to make them better than that of the private education system. And, relaying its information to the school children and their parents could ultimately choose public schools. Youth activism should focus to enhance the public education system more quality and strong.
- When we talk about the previous generation, we should always be careful to carry

forward the former indigenous knowledge, skills and practices that are relevant to this generation as well. However, we should be always mindful of our former generation's ill-practices that created inequalities and injustices to the society. For instances, our past generations practiced menstruation as taboo and has a strong misbeliefs of caste based discrimination and untouchability. These should unlearn by the current generation. This is in terms of generational change.

- We need to explore alternative approach to resume school education even during the emergency situation. For instances, currently the newly evolved technologies like google chrome, google class, zoom and off-line recorded video are being used to continue the school education. Therefore, we need to work out for exploring new alternatives. The government should come with concrete plan of action under the preparedness plan.
- He agreed that almost all campuses in Nepal are mostly certificate oriented and course completion oriented. It is hard to find these here in Nepal. And, therefore, it is one area to be further discussed and bring the transformation in whole system.
- In order to improve the quality of education in Rajapur, Bardiya, he suggested youth to start with regular monitoring of each school whether there are teachers regularly coming in the schools or not. And, youth should also monitor whether schools are taking students exam in-time or not. So, monitoring is key to start by youths as voluntary work. And, youth could convert it to a kind of monitoring committee that periodically holds meetings with all students, teachers and guardians. The feedback and their voices are heard and addressed accordingly. This is a completely voluntary work but will have lasting change to improve quality of education.
- In terms of politics in school education, he clearly mentioned about types of politics that exist. The political partybased politics should not be done. The party based politics being completely mobilized by political parties' vested interest in the education sector might not work effectively. But, the politics for the sake of education transformation is necessary.

### **6.2.2. Closing of the Day**

With this intense discussion on the presented paper, second day of the 3 days long 3<sup>rd</sup> NYC got closed. During the closing session, Mr. Narendra Khatiwada – President of YAN, formally closed the day delivering his thanking messages to all who supported for the day to make it successful. In his closing speech, he briefly shared about the third/final day's schedule as well.

### **6.3. Third Day of the Conference – August 12, 2021**

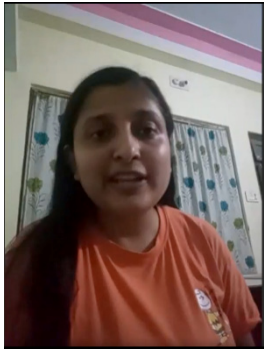
The third day of the conference took place on August 12, 2021. This was the day to mark IYD where YAN organized a closing ceremony of its 3 days long 3<sup>rd</sup> NYC. On this day, YAN organized an event to share and exchange the youth's food habit from diverse communities. It was called 'youth story telling'. The event was organized for almost 2 hours with the attendance of 74 (38-female, 34-male and 1-prefer not to say) participants all throughout the country. On the same event, YAN showed a short video that comprised the information on previous events that YAN used to organize while celebrating IYD.

### 6.3.1. First Session: Youth Story Telling – Past and Present Food Habit

from diverse communities and geographies shared their food habit as how these have been changed over time and generation to generation. Gita Chaudhary – General Secretary of YAN moderated the whole session and it was chaired by Narendra Khatiwada – President of YAN. There were also distinguished delegates and special invitees to commemorate this day. The key food habits shared by each selected individual youth is as provided below:

SN	Story Teller	Past Food Habits	Present Food Habits
1	 <p>Urmila Gamwa Tharu</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tharu is one of the ethnic and indigenous community in Nepal who used to have their own typical cultural and traditional customs.</li> <li>- Tharu used to have typical types of foods.</li> <li>- Tharu community was famous for typical types of foods like Dhikri, Bagiya, Chichar, Bhakka, Ghonghi (mud-water snails found in paddy fields and streams), Pakuwa, Gengta/Kakhor/KekhadaChuney (a crab dish), Parewaksikar, Jhingiyamachhari, Sipi/Situwa/SutahiPatushni/Aairkanchan/KhariyaSidhara, Bayarak chutney, Sidharaak chutney, Sinki, AndikJhor/Jaar, etc.</li> <li>- These foods used to be made by the corps which used to be produced at local level. And, these corps used to be very nutritious.</li> <li>- Tharu community was famous for Jaar and pig meat/Pork.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The current generation has been found changed in many forms – in terms of food habits, in terms of clothing, in terms of speaking the language, etc.</li> <li>- The current generation is gradually forgetting to cook our own original foods.</li> <li>- The current generation is mostly eating current markets foods which are almost imported from other countries.</li> <li>- The currently eating foods are less nutritious too.</li> <li>- The current generation mostly do not do pig farming rather access meat from markets.</li> </ul>
2	 <p>Phul Kumar Bamjan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tamang is another indigenous community in Nepal who have their own culture, language and food pattern.</li> <li>- Tamang used to eat locally produced crops like millet, wheat, barley, maize, paddy, beans, etc.</li> <li>- Tamang used to eat millet flour pudding.</li> <li>- The past generation used to eat mostly black beans.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Current generation has changed their life styles.</li> <li>- Food habit is found changed.</li> <li>- Mostly, the current generation Tamang do not eat flour pudding.</li> <li>- They hardly cook local foods.</li> </ul>

SN	Story Teller	Past Food Habits	Present Food Habits
3	 <p>Lekhnath Bhusal from Chitwan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Shared about his group farming.</li> <li>- The past generation had some strong beliefs on food as this needs to be produced by themselves.</li> <li>- The past generation used to do subsistence agriculture.</li> <li>- The past generation had their own indigenous knowledge and skills to protect foods and corps seeds for future uses. For instances, they used to make Masaura, Gundruk by using indigenous knowledge and skills.</li> <li>- They used to use only animal dungs as fertilizers which used to be completely organic because of which the soil production capacity maintained for long time.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Current generation has stereotypes of doing agriculture by education youths.</li> <li>- Learning from the previous nationwide lockdown posed by India pushed them to start this group farming.</li> <li>- The current generation has changed their mindset to convert this into the commercial approach. Therefore, they have been applying all new technologies like water irrigation, water-sprinkles, seeds protection, etc.</li> </ul>
4	 <p>Doma Sherpa Pinasa</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The himali Sherpa community are also one of the indigenous ethnic community in Nepal.</li> <li>- The Sherpa also has its own tradition, culture and food habits.</li> <li>- The past generation mostly used to eat only barley, potato and buckwheat as major foods since these corps only used to be found at local level.</li> <li>- The Sherpa community used to have various items made by potato which was used to eat as major food.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There has been huge change in this food system and food habits comparing to the past generation.</li> <li>- Many new generations do not know how to cook these past food items which used to be eaten.</li> <li>- Requires massive awareness program to engage youth for food protection and food habit change.</li> </ul>

SN	Story Teller	Past Food Habits	Present Food Habits
	 <p>Bipana Acharya</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Past generation used to travel a long way to access food.</li> <li>- The food used to be exchange by giving one product to purchase another preferred product.</li> <li>- The past generation used to produce crops using traditional knowledge, skills and tools.</li> <li>- The past generation used to each locally produced crops like barley, maize, paddy, wheat, millet, edible foods found in jungle, etc. Such foods are full of nutrition and thus used to call so healthy foods.</li> <li>- The former generation used to do subsistence agriculture.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The current generation has food available at home through online delivery.</li> <li>- With increase in population, the food demand is also increasing but the production is lower due to many factors.</li> <li>- The current generation uses various chemicals and new technologies for high production.</li> <li>- It is becoming very hard to find such edible foods in jungle due to massive forest encroachment and increased population.</li> <li>- Current generation eats fast foods, junk foods, and corporatized foods that lack nutrients.</li> <li>- These foods are not really healthy.</li> <li>- The current generation humiliates past food system if they try it now.</li> <li>- The current generation looks for commercial agriculture.</li> </ul>

### 6.3.2. Singing Song and Telling Poems

Aiming to make story telling more interesting to all participants, some of the participants were also invited to share their poems and sing their songs. Om Ramtel shared her poem about the field experience of travel to Dolpa. Similarly, Nabil Thapaliya also shared his poem criticizing government's ignorance to the food system. Laxmi Chaudhary sang a song that really refreshed all participants to actively participate in the conference.



### 6.3.3. YAN Video Screening

YAN showed about ten minutes long video that comprised the information on how YAN began to celebration IYD since its establishment. This video can be accessed from this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vnZPkUBYwXo>.



### 6.3.4. Closing Ceremony of the 3rd NYC

Finally, after accomplishing series of events on the auspicious occasion of IYD 2021, YAN formally closed three days long conference inviting all distinguished delegates and key invitees from youth civil society organisations. Ram Rohan Panta – President of Global Peace Foundation (GPF) and Narendra Khatiwada-President of YAN delivered their key remarks thanking everyone who supported to make this event successful.

### 6.4. Photo with Slogan Competition

YAN organized a photo with slogan competition among youths to commemorate 3<sup>rd</sup> NYC. The objective of the photo with slogan competition was to disseminate the information about the food sovereignty in Nepal. More than 20 young people from various backgrounds participated in the program with carrying different slogans. At the closing ceremony, the winners were awarded with special prizes. Some of its selected photos with slogan are as provided below:





10

om Ramtel



11

Binod Dhakal



12

Renu Subedi



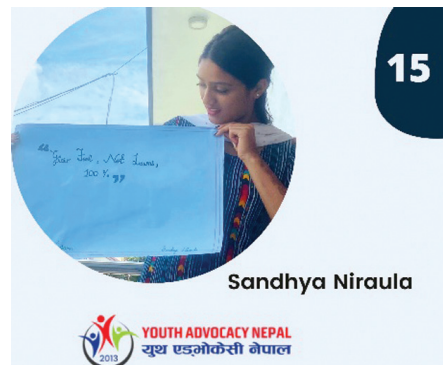
13

Suban Chaudhary



14

Rohan Yadav



15

Sandhya Niraula



16

Bidhan Ranabhat



17

Manjita Tamrakar



## 7. CONCLUSION

The three days long 3<sup>rd</sup> NYC was successfully completed. The conference became successful to create a platform to discuss on the diverse roles of youth for the food system transformation in Nepal. All collaborating partners, government bodies and the youth who participated in this three days of conference have strongly realized that the theme chosen internationally for this year has high value to discuss on the food system transformation.

Generation is changing. However, the transfer of indigenous knowledge, system and practices are gradually reducing to transfer to the forthcoming generation. This is really creating a huge gap in human lives because of which it is also impacting in the whole human ecosystem. Therefore, this conference has been able to come up with some solid ideas to continue its advocacy initiatives and awareness campaigning to raise massive awareness on youths for food system transformation. Those partners and collaborating organisations who joined hands together to commemorate this 3<sup>rd</sup> NYC also highly appreciated the conference being organized in such adverse situation too.

## 8. GAPS AND CHALLENGES

The major gaps and challenges faced during this conference are:

- Since the conference was organized in virtual mode, many youths could not take part on it despite of their keenness due to poor internet.
- The space to have robust discussion over the presented papers was restricted due to the program being organized in virtual mode.
- Some participatory approach to the discussions could not be practiced throughout the discussion.

## 9. GOOD PRACTICES

- One of the good practices that YAN did to accomplish this 3rd NYC is cost effectiveness. Since the event was organized virtually, many logistical costs like hall and foods not required.
- YAN provisioned to distribute certificates for those participants who participate in all three days of events as part of the 3rd NYC.
- YAN tried its best to balance the diversities in terms of sex, caste and ethnicity and geography while taking representative voices in different events.
- YAN provided very enabling environment to make participation of all youth from all over the country.
- In order to keep attendees record, YAN introduced electronic registration sheet that helped to keep data information of the attendees.

## 10. RECOMMENDATION

The recommendation based on the outputs of the three days long 3<sup>rd</sup> NYC, it is categorized in three sections and these are as follows:

### 10.1. Recommendation to National Youth Council (NYC) including Government Bodies.

- Transforming food system is a genuine agenda of this current era. Therefore, NYC including all three layers of governments (federal, provincial and local) should create such a platform through which youth engagement are ensured.
- NYC should lead and further facilitate to ensure equal and meaningful participation of all types of youths in all three layers of governments' planning and decision making process.
- NYC should take some initiatives to create model in terms of engaging youth for transforming food system coordinating and collaborating with wider civil society networks.

## **10.2. Recommendation to International Development Communities.**

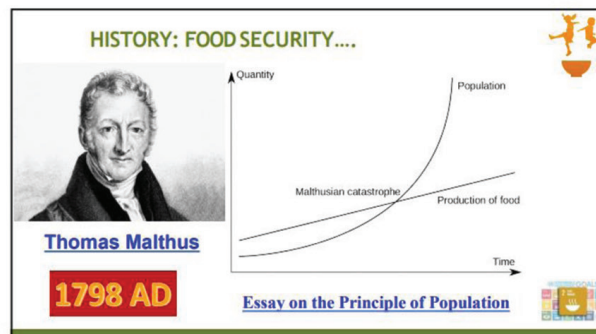
- In order to achieve the current development paradigm – 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the international community should fairly allocate resources to ensure youth engagement in their entire programs.
- The international development communities should fully ensure that youth are not left behind from their work. For this, they could start with different types of partnership approach with youth civil society organisations.
- Transforming food system is genuine agenda for sustainable development. Therefore, international development communities should directly invest in youth for climate justice and environment conversation through various innovative approaches.

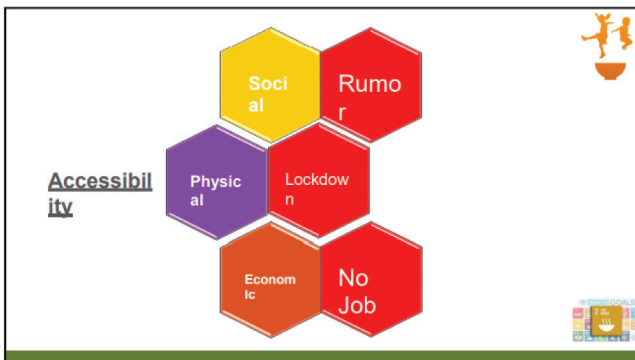
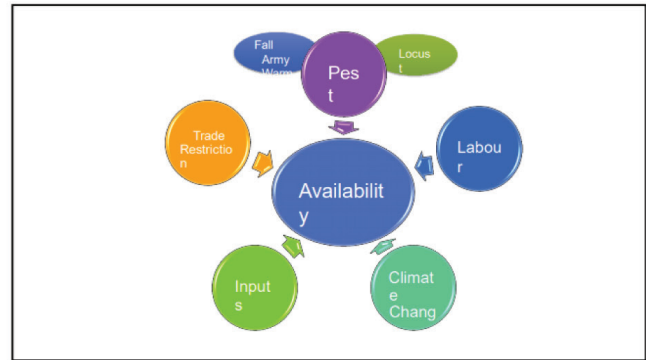
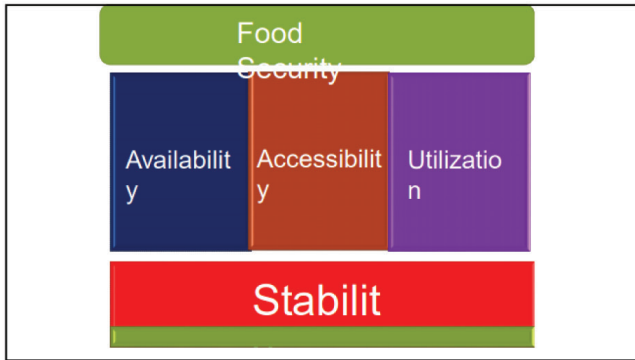
## **10.3. Recommendation to YAN including other youth civil society organisations**

- YAN should take initiatives to collaborate and partner with those likeminded international development organisations for exploring resources to build youth capacity on food system.
- YAN should workout to develop a comprehensive strategic plan of actions based on the findings received from this three days long conversation towards engaging youths all throughout the country in their respective areas.
- YAN should conduct massive awareness raising, capacity building and advocacy initiatives on transforming food system as soon as possible.

# 11. ANNEXES

1.1. Presentation by Arun GC – Agriculture Extension Officer at Ministry of Agriculture Development, GoN on 'Food Sovereignty, Agriculture and Youth'





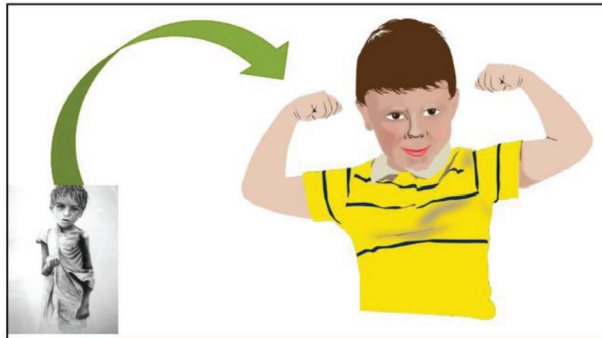
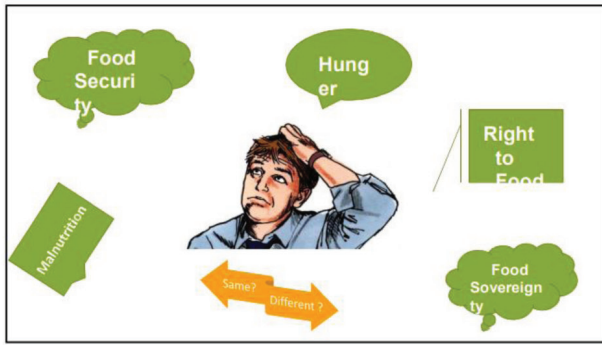
**FOOD SOVEREIGNTY**

- BACKGROUND OF FOOD SOVEREIGNTY**
- Started during 1980s and 1990s as a response of new national and international agricultural policies
  - Neoliberal economic policies, GATT, WTO
  - Widespread loss of control over food markets, environment, land and rural cultures
  - Global Food Crisis of 2007-08 -> millions of people took streets demanding affordable food in Haiti, Bangladesh, Egypt, West and Central Africa, etc
  - Despite strong advocacy of IMF, WB, WTO=> reduction of poverty and eradication of hunger?
  - Continual advocacy for higher production => GMOs, further liberalization of agriculture and trade

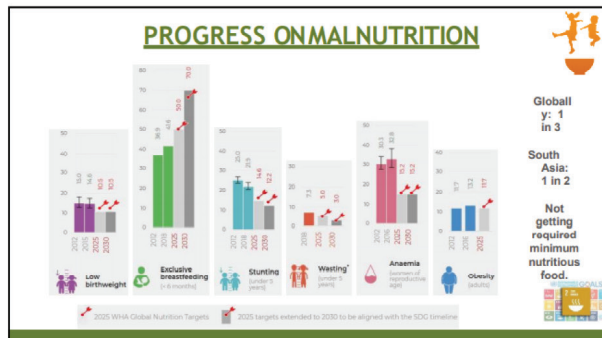
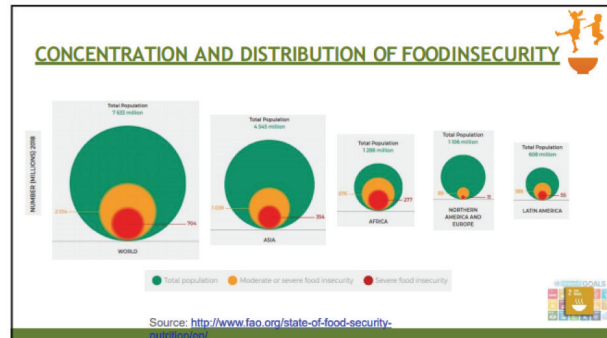
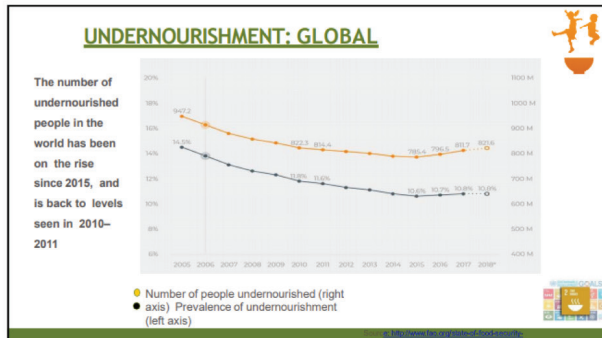
- FOOD SOVEREIGNTY...**
- Food Sovereignty was coined to recognize the political and economic dimension inherent in the food and agriculture system by La Via Campesina, a global movement of over 200 million small-scale farmers, peasants, farm workers and other food producers in over 70 countries at the 1996 World Food Summit in Rome.
  - It is the right of farmers over healthy and culturally appropriate food

- FOOD SOVEREIGNTY IN NEPAL**
- The Constitution of Nepal 2072
  - Article 36: Right relating to Food
  - Article 36 (3): Every citizen shall have the right to food sovereignty in accordance with law.
  - Article 51: Policies of the state
  - Article 51 (h): Policies relating to Basic Needs of Citizens
  - Article 51 (h)(12): To provide for sustainable production, supplies, storage, security, and easy and effective distribution of foods by encouraging food production in tune with climate and soil, in consonance with the concept of food sovereignty, while enhancing investment in the agriculture sector

- THE RIGHT TO FOOD AND FOOD SOVEREIGNTY ACT, 2075 (2018)**
- "Food sovereignty" means the following rights which are used or exercised by the farmers in the food production and distribution system:
- To participate in the process of formulation of policy relating to food,
  - To make choice of any occupation relating to food production or distribution system,
  - To make choice of agricultural land, labor, seeds, technology, tools,
  - To remain free from adverse impact of globalization or commercialization of agricultural business.
- "Food security" means physical and financial access of every



GLOBAL STATUS:  
#ZERO\_HUNGER



NATIONAL STATUS  
OF  
FOOD SECURITY

### NEPALI CHILDREN

Children under 2 may be getting on average a quarter of their energy intake from items such as biscuits, instant noodles and juice drinks, which is lowering their intake of essential vitamins and minerals. Children eating the most of these sorts of snacks and beverages were shorter than their peers.

Under 5 Mortality: 18 (median: 32)  
lower: 25  
upper: 41

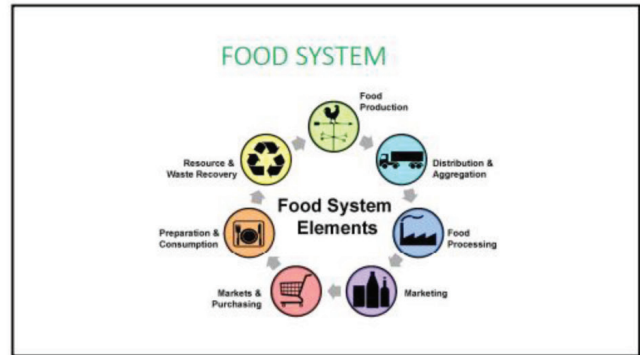
<https://www.unicef.org/media/60806/file/SOWC-2019.pdf>

Thirsty?

YOUTH AND AGRICULTURE







### Good FOOD for All

- FOOD AVAILABILITY
- FOOD ACCESS
- FOOD UTILIZATION
- FOOD STABILITY
- FOOD PRODUCTION

### Food Security Policy Architecture in Nepal

The Right to Food and Food Sovereignty Act, 2018

Every citizen shall have the following right relating to food and food security without infringing upon the general principles mentioned in Sub-section (1): To have regular access to adequate, nutritious and quality food without any discrimination.

- To be free from hunger.
- To be secured from a vulnerable condition of life due to food scarcity.
- A person or family at risk of famine, or food insecurity to acquire nutritional support and sustainable access to food.
- To utilize culturally acceptable food.

### Food system is Milt-dimensional

- EMPLOYMENT
- DISABILITY
- GENDER
- Geography
- Caste System
- Poverty

### Hunger and FOOD system in Nepal

In the 2020 Global Hunger Index, Nepal ranks 73rd out of the 107 countries with sufficient data to calculate 2020 GHI scores. With a score of 19.5, Nepal has a level of hunger that is moderate

One in four people in Nepal lives below the national poverty line that is just 50 cents per day. People that live [under the poverty line](#) do not have enough money to meet their basic needs like food, clothing and shelter

Those who live in mountainous, more rural areas are the most likely to suffer from poverty and hunger that affects the country.

Sustainable Development Goal 2 (SDG 2) which is Zero Hunger, is a very important goal for the country. The prevalence of malnutrition among children under the age of 5 was 9.7 percent in 2016.

**More than 1 billion tonnes of food every year.**

Agriculture [provides work](#) to 68 percent of Nepal's population and accounts for 34 percent of the country's GDP, yet food is in low supply for Nepali citizens.

### Role of Youth to reduce hunger in Nepal

- Don't waste food/Respect the Food
- Promote the Indigenous Food System
- Change the food habit
- All food systems are sustainable: from production to consumption.
- An end to rural poverty.
- Adapt all food systems to eliminate loss or waste of food.
- Access adequate food and healthy diets, for all people, all year round.
- An end to malnutrition in all its forms.

- ### WHAT WE CAN DO...???
- EMPOWERING YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE
  - ADVOCACY FOR GOOD FOOD FOR ALL
  - PRESERVE TO TRADITIONAL FOOD SYSTEM AND CULTURE
  - CREATE PRESSURE TO GOVERNMENT FOR IMPLEMENTATION CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS
  - PROMOTE TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH
  - BE CHANGE MAKER FOR BETTER HEALTH FUTURE

### HAPPY INTERNATIONAL YOUTH TO ALL OF YOU!

# Youth Education for Sustainable Futures

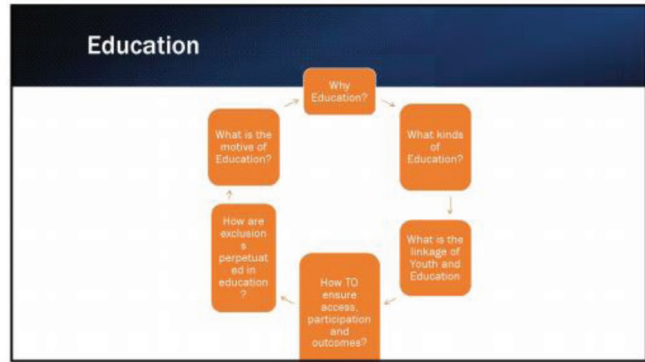
Suresh Gautam, PhD  
Kathmandu University

## YOUTH in Society

- Youth is a period in which adult identities are shaped and through the society's institutions and cultural beliefs are either produced or reproduced.
- Young people and their attitudes and actions fascinate and create anxiety for broader society.
- It locates young people's experience in a context of social change, employment, education, family, gender, social class, youth culture and geographic location.
- It explores the new ways in which young people approach learning, work and relationships and examines the impact of the digital revolution, globalisation, and modernity.

## YOUTH Diversity

- From Gender
- From Class
- From Geography
- From Culture
- From Disability
- From Minorities
- From Other Aspects



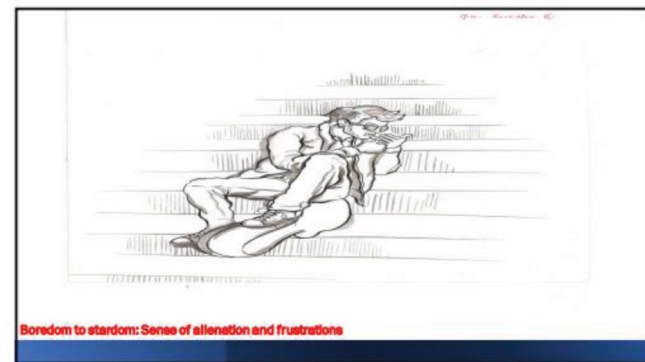
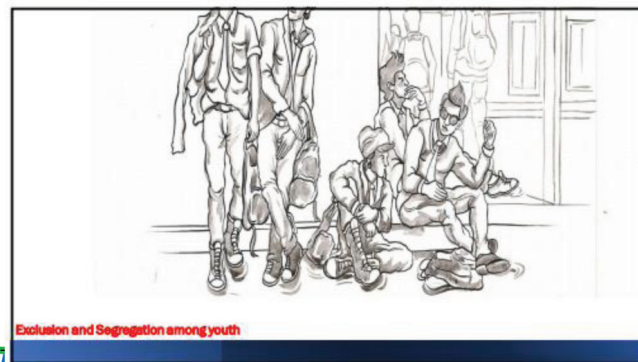
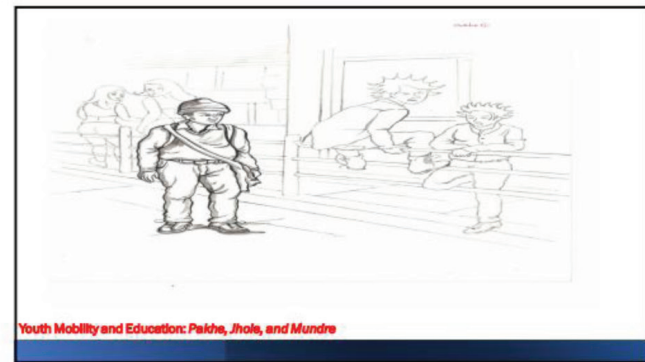
## Sustainable Futures

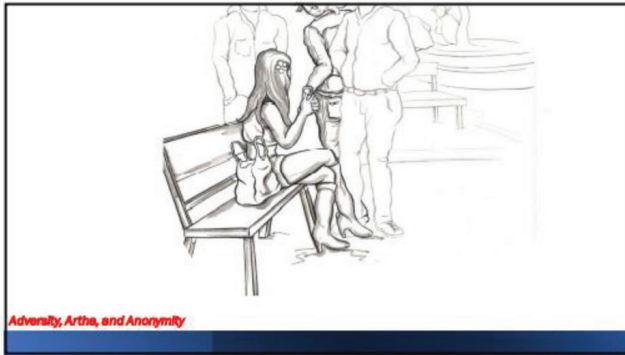
Society

Environment

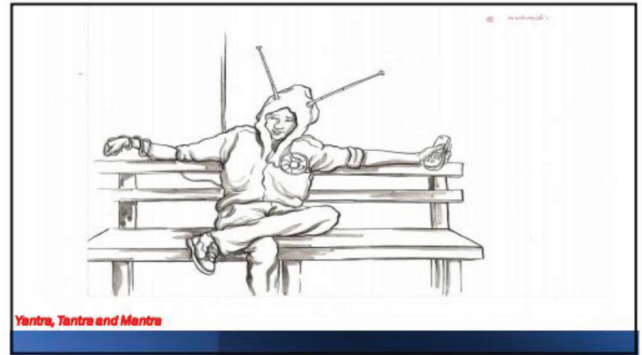
Economy

Education

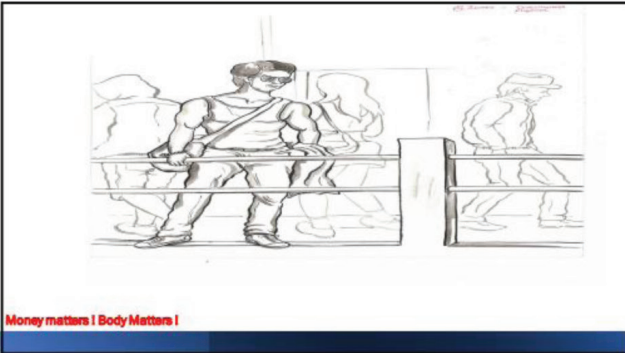




Adversity, Artha, and Anonymity



Yantra, Tantra and Mantra



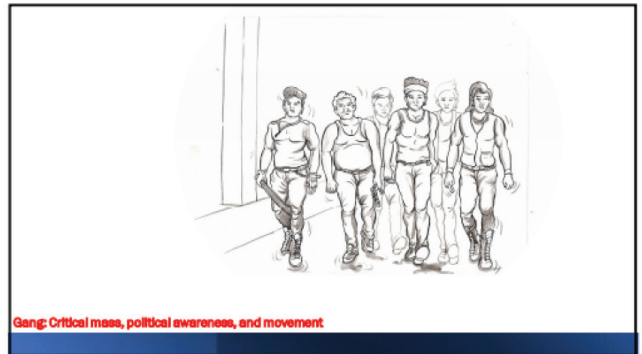
Money matters | Body Matters |



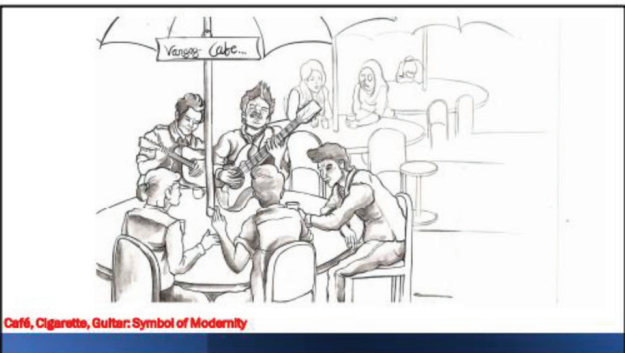
I don't care! So What attitude? बानी भवन




Experiments in lifestyles and media: Media, consumptions, and modernity

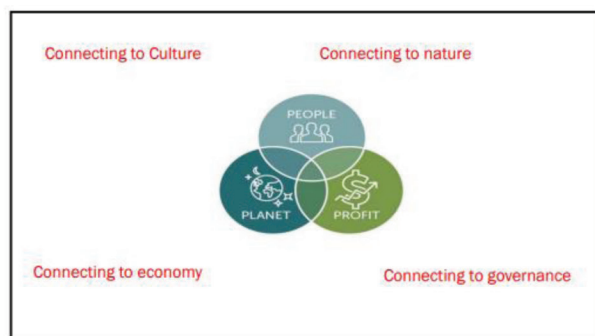


Gang: Critical mass, political awareness, and movement



Café, Cigarette, Guitar: Symbol of Modernity

Education for youth for Sustainable Futures	Traditional education- Producing machine, job seekers
	
Critical and creative ways of learning , being and doing	Form and structure of education



Time	Activity	Remarks
<b>First day: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/yan.org.np/videos/211883687614017">https://www.facebook.com/yan.org.np/videos/211883687614017</a></b>		
11:10-11:15	<p>Taking Seat</p> <p>Chair- NarenKhatiwada, President, YAN</p> <p>Chief Guest: Mr. Madhab Prasad Dhungel, Vice president, National Youth Council</p> <p>Special Guests:</p> <p>Ms. Sujeeta Methema, Executive Director- ActionAid Nepal</p> <p>Ms. Kaajal Pradhan, Hub Director- Restless Development</p> <p>Representatives from FAO, UNESCO, IM Swedish, VSO, NCE Nepal, Grass Roots Development Foundation, National Youth Federation, Female Youth Nepal, Global Peace Foundation, National Disabled Youth Network</p>	
11:15-11:17	Inauguration by Chief Guest with clapping	
11:17-11:20	Objective Sharing and welcome by Geeta Chaudhary, General Secretary of YAN	
11:20-11:40	Greeting Speech from Chief guest and special guests	
11:40-12:10	<p><b>Paper Presentation</b></p> <p>Food Sovereignty, Agriculture and Youth by Mr. Arun GC, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Agriculture Development Division</p> <p>Commentator : Professor Dr. KeshavKhadka</p>	
12:10-12:40	Floor Open for Q and A	
12:40-1:00	<p><b>Paper Presentation</b></p> <p>The role of Youth in Food Security in Nepal by Mr. LokrajAwasthi</p>	
1:00-1:30	Floor Open for Q and A	
<b>Second Day: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/yan.org.np/videos/862983741303361">https://www.facebook.com/yan.org.np/videos/862983741303361</a></b>		

Time	Activity	Remarks
11:00- 11:30	<b>Paper presentation</b> Youth Education for Sustainable Futures by Dr. Suresh Gautam, Kathmandu University	
11:30-12:30	Floor Open for Q and A	
12:30-1:00	Documentary Screening	
<b>Third Day: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/yan.org.np/videos/512533906506360">https://www.facebook.com/yan.org.np/videos/512533906506360</a></b>		
5:00-6:30	Youth Story Telling- Past and Present Food habit	
6:30-7:00	Closing with Declaration	

*1.1. Lists of participants for Day 1*

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15	Anshusah	Female	anshusahjanakpur@gmail.com
16	Anshusah	Female	anshusahjanakpur@gmail.com
17	Anusha Kc	Female	Anshakc13@gmail.com
18	AratiKaphle	Female	aratikaphlee@gmail.com
19	BharatiSahani	Female	bharatisahani1@gmail.com
20	BinitTimalsina	Male	binittimalsina@gmail.com
21	BinitaSubedi	Female	bneetasubedi@gmail.com
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28	DilipRatgainya	Male	dilipbro143@gmail.com
29	Dinesh magar	Male	Dineshmagar103@gmail.com
30	Dinesh magar	Male	Dineshmagar103@gmail.com
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35	JanukaGurung	Female	Janukagurung89@gmail.com
36	Jiwan Chauhan	Male	Chauhan.jiwan555@gmail.com
37	Lisa Thulung Rai	Female	lisarai770@gmail.com
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39	Nikita kathayat	Female	nikitakathayat907@gmail.com
40	Nikita kathayat	Female	nikitakathayat907@gmail.com
41	NirutaSedhai	Female	sedhainiruta@gmail.com
42	NischalKafle	Male	namkafle@gmail.com
43	NishaKaucha Magar	Female	nishakaucha70@gmail.com
44	Prabin Kumar mahato	Male	prabinmahato70194@gmail.com
45	Prabin Kumar Mahato	Male	prabinkumarmahato2@gmail.com
46	PrakritiPokharel	Female	Prakritipokharel456@gmail.com
47	Prem Nepali	Male	premyes1217@gmail.com
48	Prem Nepali	Male	premyes1217@gmail.com
49	Puja lama	Female	puja29881@gmail.com
50	Puja lama	Female	puja29881@gmail.com
51	puspaserala	Male	Pserala.giftbajura@gmail.com
52	RadhaKhadka	Female	radsy21094@gmail.com
53	Radhakhadka	Female	radsy21094@gmail.com
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56	RAM DEV THARU	Male	ramdevratgaiya@gmail.com

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60	Sanjay Kumar pandit	Male	sanjaypanditahd2016@gmail.com
61	santkumarbarai	Male	santbarai55@gmail.com
62	SapanaSubba	Female	sapanasubbathapa@gmail.com
63	Sarfullah Ansari	Male	rti.sarfullahansari4@gmail.com
64	Sarojpoudel	Male	sawmerose@gmail.com
65	SaruRaut	Female	saru.raut.sr@gmail.com
66	SeemaKumari Shah	Female	seemashah.shah25@gmail.com
67	SeemaKumari Shah	Female	seemashah.shah25@gmail.com
68	Shisham Sharma	Female	sharmashisham36@gmail.com
69	Shovakhatri	Female	Khatrishova011@gmail.com
70	Shovakhatri	Female	Khatrishova011@gmail.com
71	SrijanaSigdel	Female	srijanasigdel17@gmail.com
72	SrijanaSigdel	Female	srijanasigdel17@gmail.com
73	SumanKarki	Male	sumankarki07@gmail.com
74	SunitaGaha	Female	9869941547s@gmail.com
75	SurakshyaDevkota	Female	suraxa395@gmail.com
76	SurakshyaDevkota	Female	suraxa395@gmail.com
77	Surmasingh	Female	surmas449@gmail.com
78	Suruchi Pant	Female	suruchipant74@gmail.com
79	SushilGhimire	Male	sushilghimire902@gmail.com
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81	SuvaniSubba	Female	suvanishubba12@gmail.com
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84	YashasweAmatya	Female	amatyayas@gmail.com
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## 1.2. Lists of participants for Day 2

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12	ShradhaThapa	Female	shradha.thapa7@gmail.com
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15	Anjali pc	Female	anjaleepc6@gmail.com
16	Shovakhatri	Female	Khatrishova011@gmail.com
17	BipanaDhakal	Female	dhakalbipana13@gmail.com
18	Aanchal Shrestha	Female	vocalsaga1@gmail.com
19	Gopal Thapa	Male	gopal@restlessdevelopment.org
20	Sujata Nepal	Female	suzatanepal6@gmail.com
21	Prem Nepali	Male	premyes1217@gmail.com
22	Keshab Kumar Dahal	Male	keshab.dahal@imsweden.org
23	Tej Bahadur bohara	Male	tejbohara999@gmail.com
24	RishavShahi	Male	rishavshahi400@gmail.com
25	Karna Nepali	Male	karnanepali777@gmail.com
26	Dilkumari Budha Magar	Female	dilubmdilu@gmail.com
27	Achal Ray	Female	Kajalray1330@gmail.com
28	Himachal keshari	Male	keshrihimachal0@gmail.com
29	Madan Raj Joshi	Male	mdjoshi2010@gmail.com
30	Prabin Kumar Mahato	Male	prabinkumarmahato2@gmail.com
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41	Karina Poudel	Female	karina.poudel21@gmail.com
42	Shisham Sharma	Female	sharmashisham36@gmail.com
43	Sadiksha Das	Female	dassadiksha@gmail.com
44	Puja lama	Female	puja29881@gmail.com
45	NiketJha	Male	niketjha2019@gmail.com
46	Anil Gharti	Male	anil49.kssc@gmail.com
47	AmritMajhi	Male	amritmajhi10@gmail.com
48	SABNAM ARYAL	Female	sabnamaryal9@gmail.com
49	Puspaserala	Male	Pserala.giftbajura@gmail.com
50	MatrikaKhanal	Male	khanalmatrikas@gmail.com
51	SrijanaSigdel	Female	srijanasigdel17@gmail.com
52	Suban Chaudhary	Male	suamndahit927@gmail.com
53	susmitabasnet	Female	susmitabasnet235@gmail.com
54	BipanaSenchuri	Female	senchuribipana4@gmail.com
55	PrakritiPokharel	Female	Prakritipokharel456@gmail.com
56	Abhishek Thakur	Male	abisec01@gmail.com
57	JanukaGurung	Female	Janukagurung89@gmail.com
58	Salina khadge	Female	salenakhadgi@gmail.com
59	SurakshyaDevkota	Female	suraxa395@gmail.com
60	Sarfullah Ansari	Male	rti.sarfullahansari4@gmail.com
61	Birendra Ray	Male	birendra.9896@gmail.com
62	BinitaSubedi	Female	bneetasubedi@gmail.com
63	Bhogendra Kumar Sah	Male	coach.bks7@gmail.com
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65	Altaf Hussain	Male	altaf.khan.123461@gmail.com

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### 1.3. Lists of participants for Day 3

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# 11.6 News coverage

3rd National Youth Conference complete  
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3<sup>rd</sup> National Youth Conference complete  
 - Nepalayattimes



International Youth Day: National Conference focuses on innovative youth engagement  
 17/08/2021



3rd National Youth Conference complete  
 Kathmandu – Three days virtual National Youth Conference has completed in organizing of Youth Advocacy Nepal.  
 Amid the COVID-19, Youth Advocacy Nepal (YAN) in partnership with UNESCO, FAO, National Youth Council (NYC), ACE Nepal and other like-minded organizations marked the International Youth Day-2021 by organizing a three days virtual National Youth Conference from 10-12 August 2021 with the participation of more than 160 young people from across Nepal.  
 12 August is marked as International Youth Day since 2000 throughout the world with different theme by organizing various programs. The theme of this year's IYD is "Transforming Food Systems: Youth Innovation for Human and Planetary Health".  
 During the three days program, various interactions related to food sovereignty, education, among others, storytelling, documentary screening, photo with slogan competition were organized.

"Young people are on the frontlines of the struggles to build a better future for all. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the dire need for the kind of transformational change they seek – and young people must be full partners in the effort." –UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres  
 In celebration of International Youth Day 2021, Youth Advocacy Nepal (YAN), in partnership with UNESCO, FAO and National Youth Council, organized a three-day virtual National Youth Conference on 10-12 August 2021. In all, 150 young people from across the country participated.  
 The theme of the event, "Transforming Food Systems: Youth Innovation for Human and Planetary Health" highlights how the success of such global efforts will not be achieved without the meaningful participation of young people.  
 The three-day event organized various interactions concerning food sovereignty and education through storytelling, documentary screening, and a photo-with-slogan competition, among others.  
 Reiterating the importance of the organic farming system with the involvement of young people, Chief Guest Madhab Prasad Dhungel, Vice President of National Youth Council, stated, "Local production based on the diversity of land and soil without using chemicals should be our priority focus."  
 Sujeta Mathema, Director of ActionAid, said that the food system in Nepal has been hijacked by corporatism that focuses more on quantity rather than quality. As a result, the health of the people has been adversely affected.  
 Highlighting the significance of the local food, Kajol Pradhan, Director of Restless Development Nepal's Hub, stated that the local food system should be institutionalized and strengthened. She stressed increasing the meaningful participation of young people in the food transformation system.



"Without the engagement of young people in the food system, transformation is neither possible nor sustainable. Youths should not only be treated as a target group or beneficiaries but also as collaborative partners and leaders for a sustainable future."  
 — Prativa Shrestha, UNESCO  
 Presenting a paper on agriculture, food sovereignty and youth, Arun GC, Section Officer at the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, underscored that food security not only includes food availability but also accessibility and utilization. He stressed the need to increase the participation of young people in Nepal's agricultural sectors.  
 Commenting on the paper, Professor Dr. Keshav Khadka stressed promoting the local indigenous food system and agricultural techniques.  
 Similarly, Dr. Suresh Gautam from Kathmandu University highlighted the need to provide quality education to young people for sustainable development.



"Only education can transform the lives of individuals, society and the economy."  
 — Dr. Suresh Gautam from Kathmandu University  
 Youth participants representing various sectors put forward their views and experiences concerning the food system, education and other crucial youth issues. Finally, Narendra Khatiwada, president of YAN, stressed in his closing remarks the need for harnessing the youth demographic by engaging them in the policy and implementation process from the local to the central level.

3rd National Youth Conference complete  
 Addressing the inauguration session of conference, chief guest Madhab Prasad Dhungel, who is also the vice president of National Youth Council, said that local production based on the diversity of lands and soils without using chemicals should be our focused policy areas. In the meantime, Dhungel also stressed the importance of organic farming system with the involvement of the young people.