

EDITORIAL

The World Environment Day (June 5), an auspicious occasion, is celebrated to accomplish environmental actions all over the world involving all categories of people. *Raise your voice, not the sea level*, the UNEP theme for the World Environment Day 2014 is about Small Islands Developing States. The theme draws attention to the Small Islands, their exceptional development challenges and successes. Global warming and climate change is principal among their challenges. To make the theme appropriate in Nepalese context, Government of Nepal has renamed the theme as *“Protect Himalayas, save the Environment”*. Nepal also lies in the climate change risk zone, the Himalayas are the frontline to face the climate change. Nepal’s theme is confined to the protection of Himalays and the entire Himalayan ecosystem. The glaciers within the Himalays are sources of fresh water reserves and sources of headwater to major river systems in Asia. For the sake of the livelihood of the people depending upon the riverbasin we must protect the Himalays. Contributing to the protection of world environment, Nepal has to put emphasis on the safeguard of the Himalayas.

The high altitudinal natural resources such as Himalayan flora and fauna, rangeland and pasture are the priceless wealth supporting to Himalayan food security and livelihood development. The Himalayan ecosystem is facing risk of extinction of biodiversity, degradation of rangeland and pasture due climate change. Thinning of glacier flow observed in Himalayas is another impact of climate change, which creates down stream water scarce and eventually impact on agricultural production and food security. In contrast, the glacier lake outburst floods (GLOF), resulted due to climate change, create havoc of flash flood and risk upon the vegetation and settlement.

The day is being celebrated through several events and relevant environmental campaigns. Food Security and Environment Division in the Ministry of Agricultural Development has been publishing the Journal of Agriculture and Environment to celebrate the World Environment Day every year. The division now has brought the journal’s new issue, vol.15, in the hand of readership. The journal essentially includes technical and review articles, and the volume has major coverage of climate change, plant breeding, agricultural biodiversity, food security, organic agriculture and agriculture product marketing related issues. The Editor-in-Chief acknowledges the valuable contributions from authors, reviewers, editors and the editorial management team, and hopes that the readers find the issue informative and knowledgable. The Editorial Board will be pleased to receive valuable suggestions and feed backs to improve our forthcoming issues.

Editor-in-Chief