

BRINGING MOUNTAIN WOMEN ACROSS BORDERS

A case of women traders in the Hindu Kush Himalaya

Thursday, March 11, 2021 | 10:00 to 13:00 hrs (IST)

CUTS International, in partnership with International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), is implementing an [explorative study](#) in four transboundary landscapes of the Hindu Kush Himalayan region: [Hindu Kush Karakoram Pamir Landscape](#) (HKPL), [Kailash Sacred Landscape](#) (KSL), [Kangchenjunga Landscape](#) (KL), and the [Far Eastern Himalaya](#). The study aims to understand women's status in economic activities in these landscapes, their role in cross-border and regional trade, and factors limiting their entrepreneurial growth.

The preliminary findings of the study will be discussed in the webinar. This will be followed by panel discussion on how various shocks, including COVID-19, have impacted the lives of women traders in the mountain landscapes, and possible measures to build resilience.

AGENDA

- 10:00 – 10:15 **Welcome:** Bipul Chatterjee, *Executive Director, CUTS International*
Opening Remarks: Pema Gyamtsho, *Director General, ICIMOD*
Webinar Objectives: Janita Gurung, *Programme Coordinator, Kailash Sacred Landscape, ICIMOD*
- 10:15 – 10:25 **Glimpses from the fields:** Veena Vidyadharan, *Fellow, CUTS International*
- 10:25 – 11:25 **Voices from Transboundary Landscapes**
Moderator: Kamala Gurung, *Gender & Natural Resource Management Specialist, ICIMOD*
Speakers:
- HKPL: Maryam Iqbal, *Founder, Scherzade, Pakistan*
 - KL: Priyasha Gurung, *Entrepreneur, Samtse, Bhutan*
 - KL: Smita Rai, *Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer, Namchi Designer Candles, Namchi, South Sikkim*
 - KSL: Manju Kotiyal, *Dharchula, Uttarakhand, India*
- 11:25 – 11:30 **Break**
- 11:30 – 12:30 **Panel Discussion**
Moderator: Bipul Chatterjee, *Executive Director, CUTS International*
Speakers:
- Afghanistan: Mozammil Shinwari, *Executive Director, Organisation for Economic Studies and Peace*
 - Bhutan: Kunzang Lhamu, *Director General, Department of Employment and Human Resources, Ministry of Labour and Human Resources, Royal Government of Bhutan*
 - India: Pankaj Tewari, *Executive Director, Aarohi, Uttarakhand*
 - Nepal: Reeta Simha, *President, Federation of Woman Entrepreneurs' Associations of Nepal (FWEAN) Executive Member and Chairperson of Women Entrepreneurs Development Committee FNCCI*
- 12:30 – 12:45 **Q&A**
- 12:45 – 13:00 **Concluding Remarks**
- Chanda Gurung Goodrich, *Senior Gender Specialist, ICIMOD*

