



PHOTO HOLLY HOLMES / WORLD FISH

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# WLE GANGES

The CGIAR Research Program on Water, Land and Ecosystems (WLE) is a 'research-for-development' program that works across the developing world, including in the Ganges River basin countries of Nepal, India and Bangladesh.

WLE promotes a new approach to sustainable intensification in which a healthy, functioning ecosystem is seen as a prerequisite to agricultural development, resilient food systems and human well-being.

## GANGES PROGRAM GOAL

To improve the food security, nutrition and livelihoods of smallholder farmers and the rural poor in three Ganges basin landscapes: the mountains, plains and delta.



WLE expects to improve the livelihoods of **60% of those practicing agriculture in the basin.**

## Our work takes on the challenge of

Developing innovative solutions for intensifying agricultural production in ways that eradicate poverty, reduce social inequality and maintain or improve ecosystem service provisions.



PHOTO M. DEFREESE / CIMMYT

## By focusing on

- ◆ Identifying areas where traditional subsistence systems can be transformed into market-oriented agricultural ones through diversification with high-value crops and agro-forestry systems in the highlands.
- ◆ Opportunities for improving degraded lands and improving groundwater management while tapping into new energy and fertilizer sources to boost agricultural yields in the plains.
- ◆ Promising interventions to combat environmental variability and diversify agricultural and aquacultural systems in the delta.
- ◆ The many levels of political, economic, social and environmental interactions between these three landscapes.

## So that we can achieve

- ◆ Increased ecosystem services for highland systems that are more productive, profitable, resilient and attractive to out-migrating youth.

- ◆ Improved agricultural productivity and livelihoods of marginalized groups in the plains.
- ◆ Access to resilient, diversified and productive farming systems for all social groups linked to improved value chains in the delta.
- ◆ Equitable, cross-country sharing of benefits and costs associated with development of the Ganges River basin.

## How will we do this?

- ◆ Generate knowledge and conduct analyses on agriculture, natural resources and ecosystems, with a special focus on water and land.
- ◆ Develop innovative and replicable tools, methods and strategies for governing ecosystems and monitoring their health.
- ◆ Host and actively participate in forums related to the governance, productivity and sustainability of ecosystems.

## Partnerships

WLE is looking for implementing partners to put research evidence and recommendations into action for enhanced agricultural productivity and poverty reduction.

**Interested?** Contact: [wle-ganges@cgiar.org](mailto:wle-ganges@cgiar.org)

## Program Update

The Ganges Basin and South Asia Program conducted a call for Expressions of Interest for research projects. Successful candidates will meet in Kathmandu from November 10–14th to solidify plans for regional projects to be conducted in 2015 and 2016.

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