

23rd IDRiM Cafe

2026 Year of Water

Women, Mentorship, and the Power of Collective Action

Ms. Neha Upadhyaya, the guest speaker, will talk on her initiative as a sustainability practitioner and grassroots climate leader in India.

Also, this Cafe is about celebrating the end of the second mentorship program in IDRiM, and participants, Prof. Miranda Dandoulaki, Ms. Angeli Medina, and Ms. Reine Suzanne Kadia will share their experiences.

23 June 2026

UTC 12:00 / CEST 14:00 / JST 21:00



Neha Upadhyaya

Neha Upadhyaya is an Indian sustainability practitioner and grassroots climate leader, widely known as the “Eco-Village Lady of India” for her pioneering work in building climate-resilient rural communities in the Himalayan region. She has created eight eco-villages in Ladakh, demonstrating scalable models of sustainable living rooted in local knowledge and community participation.

She has a strong academic foundation from Delhi Public School RK Puram and King’s College London, and further specialized training in sustainability and ethics supported by a full scholarship from the Government of Sweden. Her work focuses on empowering women farmers, promoting organic agriculture, and integrating renewable energy, waste management, and climate education at the village level. She has also championed rural innovation for climate change and feminist climate justice, ensuring that women are not just beneficiaries but leaders in climate action.

A strong advocate for climate literacy, Neha led the translation of the UNESCO Climate Resilience Library into Bhoti, making critical environmental knowledge accessible to remote and climate-vulnerable communities. She has received multiple recognitions for her impact, including honors from the British Council for social impact in India, the Aditya Birla Group *Force for Good* initiative as a “Hero,” recognition from Earth Day Network as a “Star,” and acknowledgment by Indian Institute of Technology Delhi for entrepreneurial excellence.

Through her efforts, she continues to bridge sustainability, gender equity, and grassroots innovation—creating impactful models for inclusive and resilient rural development in India."

Zoom

<https://kyoto-u-edu.zoom.us/j/88594800784?pwd=VQunOKmhGG8861NCkiTVUxWaSw4D7g.1>

Meeting ID: 885 9480 0784

Passcode: 368145

Time Zone

UTC 12:00 pm

CEST 14:00 pm

IST 17:30 pm

JST 21:00 pm