

Call for Invited Papers and Panels

Agricultural Policy Symposium (Virtual)

Agricultural Policies and Practices in Nepal: Pathways for Transformation

January 6-7, 2023 (Poush 23-24, 2079)

(Time: TBD)

Organizers: Association of Nepalese Agricultural Professionals of Americas (NAPA) and Policy Research Institute (PRI), Nepal

Collaborators: The symposium will be jointly convened in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MoALD), Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC), Agriculture and Forestry University (AFU), Institute of Agriculture and Animal Sciences (IAAS, TU), Nepal Agricultural Cooperative Central Federation Ltd. (NACCFL), Society of Agricultural Scientists-Nepal (SAS-Nepal)

Growing population, climate change, the recent COVID-19 pandemic, the Ukraine-Russia war, and the depreciation of national currencies have disrupted the global food supply chain and increased food prices and food insecurity in many countries, including Nepal. More than 85 percent of the people farm and about two-thirds of the employment comes from the agriculture sector alone in Nepal, and the majority of farmers practice traditional and subsistence agriculture. Therefore, the country's agricultural production is not enough to feed its population. The exodus of youth in search of jobs has exacerbated the situation, creating a shortage of farm workforce resulting in a large area of farmlands fallow or underutilized. Additional causes for the underutilization of farmlands and declining farm returns include unprecedented urbanization, poor governance, inadequate infrastructure development and technology use, and poor implementation of agricultural and associated policies and regulations. Food and nutritional insecurity, burgeoning food safety issues, and high pre-and post-harvest losses of agricultural produce have been identified as other major concerns. Addressing these constraints warrants concerted efforts from the government, nonprofits, and private sectors to promote sustainable and regenerative agricultural concepts and practices that align with local farm attributes and the agro-ecological environment.

The symposium aims to discuss and synthesize structural, policy intervention-related procedural, and local barriers and issues inherent to inadequate agricultural growth in Nepal and recommend transformative and pragmatic policies, programs, and practices feasible at local, regional, and national levels. Selected papers will be published in the special issue of *Nepal Public Policy Review*, a peer-reviewed Journal of the Policy Research Institute (PRI), Nepal.

We cordially invite agricultural scientists, scholars, educationists, researchers, policy analysts, government officers and planners, agribusiness entrepreneurs, and practitioners to submit a one-page *Intent to Present* abstract on the following thematic topics for presentation:

A. Policy

- Current agricultural policies, laws, and regulations that have hindered the production and marketing of farm products.
- Alternative land use policies and practices for utilizing abandoned/fallow lands and promoting cooperative farming, farm diversity, and sustainability.
- Alternative models of transformative agriculture for the viable circular economy and agroecosystem services.
- Internationally successful policies and practices suitable for Nepal.

B. Governance

- Coherence and discordance between the policy frameworks and governing structures/mechanisms of three levels of government and opportunities for realignment for agricultural transformation.
- Local governance framework for agricultural service delivery.

C. Policy Relevance to Research, Education, and Extension

- Cutting-edge genetic improvement of crops and livestock for diverse agro-climatic zones.
- Integrating education, innovations, and science-based information dissemination to farmers and policymakers.
- Diverse food and agricultural systems and practices, including promotion of indigenous and *Vedic* agricultural knowledge and practices.
- Investment in agricultural research and its return over a period of time

D. Technology and Infrastructure Development Policy

- Innovative technology (such as UAV, GIS, and Remote Sensing); agricultural commercialization, entrepreneurship, and mechanization.
- Challenges and opportunities of establishing a fertilizer plant in Nepal.
- Efficient irrigation, appropriate transportation means, processing, storage, and marketing of agricultural produce.

E. Capacity Development

- Development and retention of a diverse and competent workforce in the agricultural sector.
- Addressing the outflow of agriculture graduates and scientists (brain-drain) and engaging the Nepalese diaspora for agricultural transformation.
- Building national and international collaborations, synergy, and partnerships with universities and research institutions.

Please submit your one-page *Intent to present the abstract* here

(<https://www.napaamericas.org/agpolicysymposium.php>) by **November 28, 2022**. For any inquiries regarding the abstract submission and event, please contact us at conference@napaamericas.org.

Guideline for submission of Intent-to-present Abstract.

Prospective presenters should submit a one-page abstract including the following components:

1. Title of the presentation
2. Authors and their affiliation
3. Specific thematic topic addressed (please chose one out of five):
 - A. Policy
 - B. Governance
 - C. Policy Relevance to Research, Education, and Extension
 - D. Technology and Infrastructure Development Policy
 - E. Capacity Development
4. Description of the thematic topic and associated subject areas highlighting current policy and practices, issues and problems in implementation, and innovative and pragmatic ways for transformation.
5. Description of the approach and resources to be used to achieve the desired outcomes within five years and beyond.
6. Description of innovative methods for assessment of the outcomes/benefits to the public and the entire country.

Please submit your abstract here (<https://www.napaamericas.org/agpolicysymposium.php>) by **November 28, 2022**. All the abstracts will be reviewed carefully, and the prospective presenters will be notified by **December 7** for the full-paper submission.

For any inquiries regarding the abstract submission and event, please contact us at conference@napaamericas.org.