



**Association of Nepalese Agricultural Professionals of Americas**  
**Research Mini-Grant Program**  
**Call for Proposals**  
**November 1, 2020**

### **Background**

Founded in 2016, Association of Nepalese Agricultural Professionals of Americas (NAPA) is a not-for-profit, non-governmental, non-religious, and non-political professional organization aspired to contribute to agricultural transformation for food security. The Resource and Capacity Building Committee (RCBC) of NAPA has been launching a competitive Research Mini-Grant (RMG) program since 2019 to support applied research projects pertaining to Agricultural and Allied Sciences (AAS) in Nepal. Please visit <http://napaamericas.org/research-mini-grants.php> for details.

### **Objective(s)**

The intent of the RMG program is to provide funding and advisory support to post-secondary students in Nepal to conduct high-impact research in the fields of AAS. The studies are expected to address knowledge gaps and contribute to innovations towards development of economically viable, socially just, and environmentally sustainable plant and animal-based agricultural systems and natural resource management.

### **Funding amount and areas**

NAPA plans to support quality proposals of up to **NRs 35,000** each as a sole or matching fund. In this call, RCBC considers proposals in diverse, specialized, and interdisciplinary areas of agriculture and allied sciences contributing to enhancing knowledge base, defining challenges, and identifying opportunities for technological, socio-economic and policy interventions. Priorities will be given to studies that focus on prospective under-utilized resources (for example, plant and animal species, local landraces/breeds), adaptive technologies, and value-addition and niche-based opportunities.

### **Eligibility**

This call for proposals is specifically for students of post-secondary academic and vocational institutions. All undergraduate/vocational school students' research projects that require monetary and advisory support are eligible.

### **How to apply**

- Follow the given online proposal form for each section including Project Title, Background, Research Hypothesis and Objectives, Methodology, Deliverables and Expected Outcomes, Timeline, and Budget.  
**(Form is available at: <https://forms.gle/1qdsxKVDNuApsLG79>)**
- Proposals must be accompanied with a recommendation letter from students' advisor(s) explaining his/her academic standing and ability to conduct the proposed study. The recommendation letter shall also provide advisor's full commitment to serve as the resident advisor to the student for the duration of the project.
- Investigators proposing collaboration/partnership with other eligible institutions/entities should include letter(s) of support from the collaborating institution(s).



### **Limitations**

- Proposals not adhering to the *Call for Proposal* guidelines will not be considered.
- Project duration shall be 12 months including the submission of the summary report to NAPA. The selected projects may be extended for the second year on a case-by-case basis (at no additional cost to NAPA) if unforeseen situations like natural disaster and/or institutional shutdown hindered the research progress. RCBC must be notified in advance if such situations arise.
- No grant money can be spent on Indirect Cost (institutional administration and other fees).
- Grant money shall not be used to renovate or refurbish research, education or extension/outreach space; to purchase or install fixed equipment in such a place; or to plan, repair, rehabilitate, acquire, or construct buildings or facilities.

### **Timeline**

- Proposal Submission Deadline: **December 31, 2020; 11:59 pm US Eastern Standard Time (New York Time)**
- Awardees will be notified: **January 30, 2021**
- Contracts with awardees and research initiation: **February 15, 2021**

### **Proposal evaluation criteria**

- Statement of the problem, rationale of the study, and expected outcome of the proposed research (**10 points**)
- Literature review and conceptual framework upon which the research builds (**10 points**)
- Clarity in research question/hypothesis which should be built logically from the problem statement (**10 points**)
- Methodology appropriate to address the research question(s) (**20 points**)
- Realistic timeline of the proposed project (**10 points**)
- Budget is appropriate, realistic, justified, and matching fund is available when the total proposed budget is greater than the ceiling provided by NAPA (**10 points**)
- Research has the scientific rigor and potential to make an impact or serve as a model for future research initiatives (**15 points**)
- Innovativeness: originality in terms of new ideas and/or subject area (**15 points**)

### **Contact information**

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**Feel free to contact us if you have any questions.**