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Association of Nepalese Agricultural Professionals of Americas
Proudly Announces the 14th Talk Session (Webinar) On

Agrobiodiversity in Nepal: Conservation and utilization prospects and challenges

BY: **Bal Krishna Joshi, Ph.D.**

When: Sept 14, 2019 (Saturday in US)

Time: 9:00 PM US Eastern Standard Time/6:00 PM US Pacific Time

(Sunday 6:45 AM, Sept 15 in Nepal)

How to Join the Session?

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://zoom.us/j/102006483>

Telephone: Dial: +1 669 900 6833 or +1 646 876 9923, **Meeting ID: 102 006 483**

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/a1BVSSwpe>

Talk Summary: Agrobiodiversity is the most important component for food and nutrition security. Just three crops: rice, wheat, and maize contribute nearly 60% of calories and proteins that people obtain from plants in the world. Nepal ranks 49th position in term of biodiversity richness in the world and 10th in Asia. The numbers of food value plant species are 790 in Nepal. Among 577 cultivated species, 484 are indigenous and 93 are introduced species. Unfortunately, more than 50% of agrobiodiversity has been lost and country's dependency is about 95-100% on foreign germplasm for agricultural research and development. To manage all the agricultural genetic resources, 25 conservation approaches have been in practices in Nepal. National Genebank has adopted four conservation strategies, namely ex-situ, on-farm, in-situ, and breeding along with 60 different good practices. National Genebank currently holds more than 15,000 accessions of 100 plant species in Seed Bank, Tissue Banks, and Field Genebanks. Nevertheless, only 5% agrobiodiversity has been used in research and development.



Dr. Joshi will talk about Nepal's agrobiodiversity and importance of its conservation and utilization for agricultural development in Nepal. He will discuss recent initiatives to conserve agrobiodiversity.

Speaker's Brief Bio: Dr. Joshi is a Senior Scientist in Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC), and has been involved in conserving and managing agro-genetic resources, molecular breeding, and isozyme analysis of rice and buckwheat since early 1990s. He has published over 300 articles (journal articles, book, and book chapters) and is the Editor-in-Chief of Journal of Nepal Agricultural Research Council since 2018. Earlier, Dr. Joshi served as an Editor-in-Chief of Nepal Agriculture Research Journal. He has a PhD in Plant Breeding and Genetics from Japan and MSc from North Carolina Univeristy and Tribhuvan University, Nepal.