Association of Nepalese Agricultural Professionals of Americas (NAPA)

NAPA Annual General Meeting
2020-2021
ANNUAL REPORT

Megha N. Parajulee, Pradeep Wagle, and Ramjee Ghimire

Executive Committee and Associated Committees
Associated Committees

&

400+ members
Eight EC meetings were held on the following dates:

- Jun 7, 2020
- Jul 19, 2020
- Aug 16, 2020
- Sep 23, 2020
- Oct 31, 2020
- Dec 20, 2020
- Feb 28, 2021
- May 7, 2021

- NAPA’s maiden book on Food Safety published/launched
- Endowment Fund Advisory Board Established (Endowment Enhanced)
- Research Mini-Grant Program expanded/enhanced
- Existing committees restructured and new committees formed/mobilized
- Celebrated NAPA Day and Nepali New Year
- Scaled up outreach activities with the US and Nepal-based media
- Interacted with Nepal-based educational institutions
- President/EC members chaired/participated in 5 international meetings/conferences hosted by professional organizations such as NRNA, NACA, UNCON, and others
- Social and charity services, including regular blood donations, Covid-19 Relief Fund for Nepal, and others
161 abstracts were submitted; 102 were registered; and 84 presented during the conference.

358 scientific scholars representing 83 different institutions involved as authors/co-authors.

Abstracts submitted from seven countries (USA, Nepal, Nigeria, Australia, Canada, Benin Republic, and Morocco).

19, 25, and 6 competitive presentations in each of Student Oral, Poster, and Rapid-fire Competitions.

34 non-competitive oral and poster presentations.

14 essays submitted for Student Essay Competition.

67 poems received for Agri-poem competition.

Entrepreneurs roundtable, NAPA strategic roundtable, and Women in Agricultural and Allied Professions (WAAP) roundtable organized.

151 participants registered for the conference.
A total of $6,462.55 donation fund collected.

A total of $2,150 prize money distributed for Student Oral Competition; Student Poster Competition; Student Essay Writing Competition; Student Rapid-fire Competition; Agri-poem Recitation.

21 participants awarded.

EC decided to transfer the residual income from the conference ($5,941.99) to the Endowment Fund.

The proceeding is available at https://www.napaamericas.org/
Three Advisory Council meetings were held:
  Sep 4, 2020;  Mar 20, 2021;  and May 5, 2021

Key Advices/Suggestions:
  ❑ Sustainability of NAPA programs
  ❑ Establishing and investing Endowment Fund
  ❑ Widening NAPA’s scope and programs
  ❑ Strengthening NAPA as a professional institution
  ❑ By-law amendments
  ❑ Expanding program in Nepal and other regions beyond Americas
  ❑ Expand NAPA’s programmatic reach among needy communities
  ❑ Maintaining transparency in programs
  ❑ Giving priority to life memberships (membership and service)
A five-member Editorial Board formed in October 2020.

Organized four meetings (several informal meetings and discussions).

Released four issues V5.2 & 3 (combined), V5.4, and V6.1.

The combined version was released by the team led by Dr. Nityananda Khanal.
Agri-Connection

Regular sections
• NAPA Committees
• Membership Update
• Featured Member
• Photographs in Action
• Featured Article (new)
• Featured Agri-Entrepreneur (new)
• Opinion: AC through My Eyes (upcoming)
• KidsZone (upcoming)

Evidence-based news
• Webinars, Panel Discussions, Talks
• Research and Policy
• NAPA Activities

Articles, literary creations
• Scientific and Non-Scientific
• Agri-Poems
Endowment Fund

- Endowment concept was envisioned soon after NAPA’s establishment in 2016.

- $850 was deposited (6 contributors).

- Focus on programmatic development and organizational growth.

- In late 2020, an Endowment Fund Advisory Board (EFAB) was established to refocus on endowment fund development for long-term financial sustainability.

- Dr. Lila Karki, Past President and NAPA Advisor, leads the Board.

- Charge, current progress, and future strategies of EFAB will be separately presented following this presentation.
- Update and maintenance of NAPA website: www.napaamericas.org (82,425 visits)
- Modernized membership form and update member directory
- Developing database of agriculture experts
- Co-ordinated 2\textsuperscript{nd} Biennial International Scientific Conference 2020 (Virtual)
  - Prepared registration forms for conference
  - Developed/managed abstract/video submissions for talks and posters
  - Organized/catalogued videos and presentations for the conference
- Led 5-day Applied Bioinformatics Workshop
  - Cloud computing for 300 participants
  - Archived all videos from the workshop
- Coordinated presentations of RMG Symposium
- Archived videos from NAPA webinar series
Vol 2 No 1 (2020) Global Journal of Agricultural and Allied Sciences

Articles

Training Center Employees' Perceptions of the Village Animal Health Worker Training Program in Nepal
Ramjee Ghimire
1-10
PDF

Genetic Variation Within and Among Lowland Switchgrass Cultivars as Revealed With AFLP Polymorphisms
Shiva O. Makuyu, Yanqi Q Wu, Michael P. Anderson, Vijaya Gopal Kakani, Michael Smith, James Todd, Laxman Adhikari
11-17
PDF

Maintenance of Non-Timber Plants at Low Heights Increased the Solar Radiation Influx and Understory Vegetation Biomass in Woodlands
Shallak Bhattrai, Ghita Karki, Kanjok Pourie, Dietmar Panzer, Navendra Paliwal
18-24
PDF

Robotic Manipulation for Specialty Crop Harvesting: A Review of Manipulator and End-Effector Technologies
Joseph Davidson, Santosh Bhushal, Changki Mo, Manoj Karkee, Qin Zhang
25-41

Vol 3 No 1 (2021)

Articles

Review of Poultry Production and Poultry Vaccine Manufacture in Nepal
Uttsho Roulal, Umesh Dahal, Santosh Chakal
1-7
pdf

Perceived importance of Core Competencies among Extension Professionals in Nepal
Ramjee Ghimire, Murari Sunedi, Michael Kaylouitz, Robert B. Richardson
8-15
pdf

Links
About the Journal
Editorial Team
Author Guide
Submit your Article

Contact
Email: gjaasjournal@gmail.com
www.napaamericas.org
Book Publication
Drona Rasali, Editor-In-Chief

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES OF FOOD SECURITY
SUSTAINABLE, SUFFICIENT, AND SAFE FOOD FOR HEALTHY LIVING IN NEPAL

Editor-in-Chief
Drona P. Rasali

Co-Editor-in-Chief/Managing Editor
Prem B. Bhandari

Editors
Uma Karki, Megha N. Parajulee, Ram N. Acharya, and Raju Adhikari

ASSOCIATION OF NEPALESE AGRICULTURAL PROFESSIONALS OF AMERICAS (NAPA), USA

• 300 copies were printed
• Some sales in Nepal
• Few books have been brought to USA
• Sales have been affected by COVID till now
Available at: https://www.napaamericas.org/krishika-suseliharu.php
An Introduction to Survey Data Analysis
(June 21-September 27, 2020)

Prem Bhandari, Ph.D.

Organized by:

Coordination:
Man B. Khatri, Lecturer
Central Department of Anthropology
Tribhuvan University, Nepal

- Dhaulagiri Multiple Campus, Baglung
- Myagdi Multiple Campus, Myagdi
- Central Department of Anthropology and Sociology, Kirtipur
- Ratna Rajya Campus, Kathmandu
- Mechi Campus, Bhadrapur, Jhapa.
Teaching and Graduate Student Mentoring

- Graduate student committee
- PhD thesis external reviews
- Review of graduate student thesis and papers
### Membership Drive Committee

Pradeep Wagle, Chair

#### Good Standing Members as of May 29, 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member categories</th>
<th>Numbers</th>
<th>Member categories</th>
<th>Numbers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Life members</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>Associate Members</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General/Regular</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Family/Joint</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student</td>
<td>131</td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>343</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### New Members under New EC (Last 1 Year)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member categories</th>
<th>Numbers</th>
<th>Member categories</th>
<th>Numbers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Life members</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Associate Members</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General/Regular</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Family/Joint</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student</td>
<td>32</td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>67</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Research and Policy Brief
Bed P. Khatiwada, Chair

• Two new briefs are in progress.
• The third issue is scheduled for publication in July 2021.
Career and Outreach Committee
Pramod Pokhrel, Chair

Committee formed: Nov 2020

Major Activities:

1. Collected, compiled, and published graduate opportunities in the US universities on NAPA website.

2. Co-organized “NAPA Research Mini Grant 2020 Orientation and Q&A Session”. Session targeted NAPA RMG 2020 applicants and prospective recipients for successful grant application.

Future prospect:

1. Continue to collect and publish US graduate opportunities on the NAPA website.

2. Organize helpful interactive sessions for current and prospective graduate students.
Student Coordination Committee
Shubhechchha Sharma, Chair

- Number of meetings held: 4

- Priority areas to be focused by SCC were identified, including activities related to Career (technical writing, statistics and data analysis, travel grant/awards, career counseling, job applications, networking etc.), legal (maintaining F1 status, converting to J1/H1B, applying for Green Card, etc.), and Grad School and Family (grad school stress management, imposter syndrome, work-life balance etc.).
Co-organized ‘Careers in Agriculture’ panel discussion on August 29th, 2020. Panelists represented employees from federal and state governments, academia (teaching, research, and extension), private industries, and non-profit organizations.

Co-organized a panel discussion on ‘Scientific Writing and Publication’ on February 13, 2021. Panelists shared their experiences on writing and publishing scientific manuscripts in authentic journals.

Future Plans: NAPA SCC will continue organizing events that are directly related to students within the USA and in Nepal. Future programs will be focused on the priority areas identified by SCC including career development, legal advices, and grad school and family management.
Webinar Committee
Khusi R. Tiwari, Chair

- Included a wide range of webinar topics - Ag. policy issues, post-harvest losses, seed entrepreneurship, women and youth motivational talks, and hydroponics.

- Average interval of approximately 6 weeks (7-8 Webinars/Year).

- Excellent participation from members of public institutions, private sector professionals, students, and faculty/scientists.

- Excellent participation: 50-80 participants in Zoom plus thousands plus views on Facebook. Very positive feedback from participants.

- We will continue to invite highly talented speakers with the feedback from the NAPA team members.

- Next webinar is planned for June 27, 2021. List of webinar speakers and topics for the last one year is available to view from NAPA website.
Webinars

July 26, 2020

Agriculture Sector in Nepal: Policies, Priorities, and Issues
Rajendra Prasad Bhatti
Secretary
Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development
Government of Nepal

September 6, 2020

Postharvest Management & Quality Regulations of Fresh Agricultural Produce in Nepal
Bed Prasad Khatiwada, PhD
Fresh Produce Safety and Quality Controller
Brisbane Markets
Brisbane, Australia

November 1, 2020

Livestock Development in Nepal - What Have We Learned?
Mahendra Lohani, PhD
Senior Vice President of Programs
Heifer International
Little Rock, Arkansas, USA

December 13, 2020

Provincial and Local Agricultural Services in Nepal: Collaboration
Sabnam Shivakoti
Director
Ministry of Land Management, Agriculture & Cooperatives
Gandaki Province, Pokhara, Nepal

January 24, 2021

Youth and Women Agri-Entrepreneurs’ Roles in Agricultural Development in Nepal
Moushumi Shrestha
CEO
Shrestha Group of Companies
Sunita Nemaphuki
Director
RD2 Innovations Pvt. Ltd., Nepal

March 7, 2021

Agriculture Entrepreneurship for Seed Production and Research in Nepal
USA Time: March 7, 2021 (Sunday)
7:30 PM CST
Nepal Time: March 8, 2021 (Monday)
7:15 AM (ललितपुर समय)

May 2, 2021

Controlled Environment Hydroponic Agriculture: Highly Productive and Efficient Growing System
USA Time: May 2, 2021 (Sunday)
7:30 PM CST
Nepal Time: May 3, 2021 (Monday)
6:15 AM

June 27, 2021

“Agricultural Transformation in Nepal: Realities and Way Forward”
USA Time: June 27, 2021 (Sunday)
7:45 PM CST
Nepal Time: June 28, 2021 (Monday)
6:30 AM
Workshops and Symposia

UNCON USA-NEPAL COMMUNITY OUTREACH NETWORK

Public Speaking Workshop & Seminar
(For Scientists and Science Students who want to improve their presentation skills)

AUGUST 22-24, 2020
(8:00 AM - 9:30 AM NST)

Opening Remarks

Presents

Sharada Thapaliya, PhD
Vice Chancellor
Agriculture and Forestry University

Megha N. Parajulee, PhD
Regents Fellow Professor, Texas A&M University
President, NAPA

Nirmal Shrestha, CRN President, UNCON

Panel Discussion

Megha N. Parajulee, PhD - Panelist
Naba Raj Devkota, PhD - Panelist
Khire Bhandari, DTM - Panelist
IP Karki, PhD - Moderator
Babul Bista, DTM - Moderator

Speakers

Babul Bista, DTM
Jeffrey Cornell, ACG
Devendra Shah, IP2
Dr. Vinayak Gaikwad, IP2
Rajan Chhimire, PhD

For Registration visit:
www.afu.edu.np
www.usanepalnetwork.org

Zoom link will be provided to registered participants only.

APPLIED BIOINFORMATICS IN AGRICULTURE & MEDICINE
(With hands-on workshop on genomics and evolution of SARS-CoV-2)

Program Details:
Seminar: July 19 (8:00 AM - 10:00 AM, NST)
July 20 (8:00 AM - 10:00 AM, NST)
Workshop: July 21-23
(8:00 AM - 10:00 AM NST, daily)

Keynote Speakers:
Sharada Thapaliya, PhD
Vice Chancellor
Agriculture and Forestry University

Megha N. Parajulee, PhD
Professor, Texas A&M University
President, NAPA

Invited Speakers:
Ananta Acharya, PhD
Scientist, Corteva Agrisciences

Radhika Bartaula, PhD
Post-doctoral Associate, USDA-ARS

Sangeet Lamichhane, PhD
Assistant Professor, Kent State University

Megha N. Parajulee, PhD
Professor, Texas A&M University
President, NAPA

Saroj Parajuli, PhD
Post-doctoral Associate, University of Florida

Dev Paudel, PhD
Post-doctoral Associate, University of Florida

Sishir Subedi, MS
Bioinformatician - Houston Methodist Hospital

For registration visit: www.afu.edu.np
WAAP
Gita Koirala Bhandari, Chair

- August 2020, **WAAP brainstorming session** discussed vision, mission, scope and activities (10 participants from Nepal and USA).

- September 2020, **WAAP Roundtable discussion** at Second Biennial International Scientific Conference (7 Panelists from USA and Canada).

- Updating the Women Agriculturist database (Ongoing).


- Participated in Poem Recitation Program “Krishi Bigya Chhori” at NAPA Day 2021.

- Outreach effort in disseminating NAPA’s mission to members and non-members throughout the world.
NAPA Sponsored Research Mini-Grant Projects Conference

Final presentations from several research projects completed in Nepal that were sponsored by mini grants from NAPA

“Agricultural Research Advancement Through Collaboration”

Date and time


Click HERE to Register

Program Highlights

- Final Presentations of the Projects from 14 Grant Recipients
- Keynote Addresses
- Recognition of the Presenters
- Free and open to the public
2020-2021 Research Mini-Grant

- **Call announced:** November 1, 2020
- **Proposal call orientation & interaction session:** November 15, 2020
- **Proposal call closed:** December 31, 2020
- **Proposal review & award decision:** 16/43 proposals; February 10, 2021
- **Agreement execution & 1st installment release:** Complete
- **RMG introductory session:** March 4, 2021
- **Research & Publication Ethics:** March 11, 2021
- **Experimental & Social Research Design:** April 23, 2021
- **Survey Design** is scheduled for June 4, 2021.
2020-2021 Research Mini-Grant: Distribution of 16 awarded proposals

- **By Disciplines:**
  - Crop/soil management: 3
  - Crop germplasm assessment: 2
  - Livestock/fisheries/veterinary: 4
  - Horticulture: 2
  - Socio-economics: 3
  - Crop protection: 2

- **By Gender:**
  - 8 Females
  - 8 Males

- **By Location/institution:**
  - AFU, Rampur: 8
  - IAAS - Lamjung: 3
  - Paklihawa: 1
  - Dang: 2
  - Jhapa: 1
  - Ilam: 1
• Communication with Nepal’s agricultural research, extension and education institutions: Nepal Agricultural Research Council, Institute of Agriculture and Animal Sciences, Nepal Agriculture and Forestry University, & other research & development stakeholders in Nepal for the possibility of collaboration between NAPA and institutions in Nepal.

• Advocacy role and provide expertise support in the curriculum re-structuring in agricultural education in Nepal; proper integration of Agricultural and engineering education.

• Research collaboration opportunities among NAPA members and beyond.
### Treasurer's Report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Regular Chase Checking Account (x6778)</th>
<th>PayPal Account</th>
<th>Chase Savings Account (x7289)</th>
<th>Chase Checking Account for Endowment Fund (x3203)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash inflow</strong></td>
<td>Cash inflow</td>
<td>Cash inflow</td>
<td>Cash inflow</td>
<td>Cash inflow</td>
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<td>Carryover from previous EC</td>
<td>$28,882.78</td>
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<td>Year 2020</td>
<td>$13,919.3</td>
<td>$6,716.42</td>
<td>$6,384.91</td>
<td>$4,537.11</td>
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<td>Year 2021</td>
<td>$10,291.37</td>
<td>$32,228.04</td>
<td>$3,197.96</td>
<td>$3,994.97</td>
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<td>Account balance</td>
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<td>$25,942.01</td>
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<td><strong>Overall balance</strong></td>
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<td>$25,942.01</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>$6,905</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NAPA Biennial Conference 2020 surplus</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$5,941.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>(To be contributed to NAPA endowment fund)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Research Mini Grant (RMG) donation received</strong></td>
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<td>$6,489.29</td>
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<td><strong>Endowment fund deposited</strong></td>
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<td>$6,905</td>
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<td><strong>COVID Relief Fund</strong></td>
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<td>$1,924.79</td>
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<td><strong>AMAZON-Smile donation to NAPA</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>$32.88</td>
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Plans for 2021-2022

• Host third biennial conference (May 2022; Atlanta, GA).
• Programmatic:
  o Expand Endowment Fund and invest EF to generate revenues.
  o Continue and scale up sponsored research programs.
  o Expand and empower regional committees.
  o Initiate programs for senior/veteran agricultural professionals.
  o Collaborate with other professional organizations.
  o Initiate programs for Americas-based communities and stakeholders.
  o Felicitation/recognition of agri-professionals.
  o Publish NAPA’s expert database.
• Strategy:
  o Continue to share plans/programs/activities with members and promote, engage more members on its activities.
  o Programs to empower members.
  o Offer more student-centered activities.
  o Continuing engagement with Nepal’s various stakeholders through research, education, outreach, and policy discussion.
I firmly believe that the state of NAPA is very strong, and it can become a significant force in shaping international agriculture if we continue to believe in its global vision and work toward achieving it.