

Agri-Connection

Vol 1, Issue 1, Sep 2016



A quarterly newsletter of the Association of Nepalese Agricultural Professionals of Americas (NAPA)



Executive Committee (2016-2018)

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Associate Editors

Sanjay Lamsal

Toya Baral

In this issue

- NAPA: A brief history
- NAPA General Assembly highlights
- Agricultural education, research, and extension in Nepal - NAPA's role
- Flood relief support
- NAPA member list

Message from the president



With immense pleasure, I would like to announce the publication of *Agri-Connection*, a quarterly newsletter of NAPA with following objectives: (a) to regularly update our valued members about NAPA's on-going and planned activities and progress, and (b) to share necessary information for the professional growth of its members. It is highly appreciative of the editorial team and contributors for their hard work and dedication to bring this out on time.

I take this opportunity to briefly re-introduce NAPA to our valued readers and broader public. Officially registered on January 6, 2016 in the United States, NAPA is a non-profit, non-governmental, non-religious, and non-political professional organization dedicated to serve its community and members through educational, scientific, and developmental initiatives. I feel grateful and thank the NAPA Working Committee members (<http://www.napaamericas.org/working-committee.php>) for their hard work and commitment during NAPA's establishment. I feel honored to be the first President of this nascent organization through the election that put the first elected Executive Committee (EC) in action on May 28, 2016. With the love, support and commitment of its valued members, EC, and several committees, NAPA has grown well within a reasonably short period, current membership being 106 (<http://www.napaamericas.org/membership-directory.php>). I am glad to share that NAPA has accomplished all administrative obligations to legitimately perform its activities as per its by-laws and governing US rules and regulations.

Contd...

Message from the president.....contd

Similarly, I would also like to briefly share with you NAPA's future programs and activities. Within the next two years, NAPA has planned several activities to heighten its professional growth, serve valued members, and grow the NAPA community further. Following a conservative approach, we plan to: i) establish and promote collaboration with national and international institutions and individuals, ii) prepare a baseline of potential members (agricultural and allied professionals) in North and South America and across the globe and reach out to them, iii) prepare a roster of experts/specialists that could contribute to policy issues, research, teaching, extension, and development activities nationally and internationally, iv) organize conferences, symposiums, webinars, talk sessions, and discussion forums, v) publish newsletters, journals, working papers, proceedings, policy/research briefs, and brochures, and vi) recognize outstanding NAPA members (faculty, researchers, staff, students, and hardworking community leaders) and more. In addition, NAPA also plans to initiate charitable activities to help support needy people/communities. You may follow and/or contact us through our Website, Facebook, Twitter, email, and upcoming publications for any details or questions.

NAPA expects your contributions in any way possible – financial, scientific, and active involvement in various NAPA programs and activities, among others. Please help us serve potential members by communicating our message in your network, providing advertisements, articles, papers, pledges, sponsorship of any of the activities in your own name, organization and/or the names of your beloved ones or even anonymously. NAPA is a [501(c)(3)] public charity organization. Therefore, your donation is tax deductible. I ensure you that we will make the most of every effort and penny you contribute to make a difference. I thank all the dedicated and hardworking EC officials and the *Agri-Connection* editorial board for bringing the very first issue to fruition on time.

Finally, I urge all potential members (<http://www.napaamericas.org/membership-eligibility.php>) around the globe to join NAPA and contribute in any way you can to make it a vibrant professional organization.

Together we can make a difference.

Lila B. Karki, Ph.D.

Call for NAPA Working Papers

NAPA is pleased to announce the publication of a series of working papers on agricultural and related disciplines. Dr. Dilip Panthee is entrusted the publication of this series. While the details are being worked out by Dr. Panthee, all NAPA members are requested to prepare and submit their relevant working papers for the upcoming issues. You can submit it in a complete journal article format such that you can publish it in a peer reviewed journal later with minimal effort. Publishing as a working paper will not hinder you from future publication in a peer reviewed journal in any way whatsoever. It will in fact help you streamline your manuscript such that you will receive fewer reviewer comments for improvement or outright rejection. Please contact Dr. Panthee, editor-in-chief, at drpanthee@yahoo.com for further details.

NAPA Tax Exempt Approval from IRS

Founded in 2016 and incorporated (Certificate ID: 10668534#BRK73) under the laws of the Secretary of State of the State of Louisiana (LA), USA, NAPA is a non-profit, non-governmental, non-religious, and non-political professional organization dedicated to serve mankind through educational, scientific, and developmental initiatives. NAPA was officially registered on January 6, 2016. Effective the same date, Internal Revenue Service of the United States government has determined NAPA as an entity exempt from federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c)(3). Now any contributions made to NAPA will be tax deductible under IRC Section 170.

हाम्रा नेता

धनञ्जय ढकाल



केहि गर्नु पन्था होइन नमस्तेलाई नेता भाछु ।
विहानिमा चियापसल साँझ भट्टी तिरै धाछु ।
पत्रकारलाई बोलाई बोलाई अन्तर्वार्ता दिइराछु ।
भुठा भाषण गरी गरी ठूलै नेता हुने भाछु ॥

पन्था छैन काम गर्न घरको लागि राम्रै भाछु ।
हेर्नु छैन घर मैले श्रीमती चाहि असल पाछु ।
आफै गरे धेरै फाइदा जग्गा सबै ठेक्का लाछु ।
छोरा छोरी स्कूल तिर जसो तसो पढाइ राछु ॥

मौका मिले यसो त्यसो ठेक्का पनि पार्न भ्याछु ।
श्रीमतीलाई खुसी पार्न विदेश पनि जान भ्याछु ।
गाउँमा बस्दा दिक्क लागि शहरमा घर ल्याछु ।
फेरि पनि एउटा मैले राम्रै गाडि किन्ने भा छु ॥

प्रतिपक्षले जति सुकै राम्रो गरुन् लडाउनलाई दाउ पाछु ।
पहिल्यैदेखिको रिस मेरो यसपालि फेर्ने भाछु ।
जस्ले जे सुकै भनुन आफ्नो लागि राम्रै भाछु ।
जाल भेल गरी पार्टी भित्र ठूलै नेता हुने भाछु ॥

राम्रो पढ्न सक्छा हैन ठूलै पद पाछु ।
कुनै काम गर्न पन्था होइन राम्रै भत्ता पाछु ।
विकासको चिन्ता छैन सरकार फेर्ने माइन्ट्युटमा सही लाछु ।
गाउँघरमा मैले हजुर नमस्ते चाहिँ पाइने राछु ॥

तीन हाइकु

- शोभा वस्ती



१.
नेपाली भूमि
स्वर्गझैं सुन्दर
भगौडा हामी।

२.
तीजको बेला
फेसबुक वालमा
दर पोखियो।

३.
कमायो तिर्यो
अमेरिकी बसाई
भोलिलाई खै ?

तिमी

- सुरेन्द्र वस्ती



वर्षात्को समय थियो
मायाको बहार थियो,
मनको हाँगामा एउटा कोपिला लाग्यो
अँध्यारो रातमा एउटा तारा झुल्कियो ।
आखिर त्यो दिन यही दिन थियो,
आज कोपिला फूल भयो
आज तारा जून भयो
अन्ततः त्यो तिमी थियो
फूल बनी फुलीरह्यौ
जून बनी चम्किरह्यौ।

Nepali Language Support



NAPA is highly appreciative of Mr. Bimal Acharya, Sub-editor of Nepal, National Weekly Magazine, Kantipur Publications, for his commitment to provide Nepali language editorial support to NAPA.

A brief history of Association of Nepalese Agricultural Professionals of Americas (NAPA)

Dr. Dilip R. Panthee, Asheville, NC

Background

Nepalese agriculture professionals started coming to the United States of America (USA) sometimes during 1980s. However, they started to live and work here permanently primarily after 1990. Establishment of democracy and development of information technology simultaneously opened the doors to pursue higher study and professional development in the USA, including agricultural professionals, hitherto unavailable in Nepal. Before that, almost all agricultural professionals who came to the USA for advancement of their education either for graduate study or short term training returned home after the completion of their study. With the changing context, more and more started to live and work here. It made the growing community realize the need for networking and closer association among agriculture professionals living in the USA. This would allow exchanging ideas and helping each other, while also helping and contributing to the agricultural development back in Nepal. The main purpose being to develop an appropriate strategy to help Nepal in developing agricultural education, research, development and extension.

Initial Efforts— 2007 and before

Some informal discussion was initiated among the agricultural professionals, including Drs. Khushi R. Tiwari, Murari Suvedi, Nanda P. Joshi, and Padam P. Sharma, among others, who were present in the third joint convention of Nepalese Association in South-East America (NASeA) and Association of Nepalese in Mid-West America (ANMA) held at Atlanta, GA in 2007. The discussion centered around the contribution towards agricultural development in Nepal.

Concerted Efforts— 2013

A more structured meeting towards this direction was organized on the occasion of ninth joint NASeA-ANMA convention at Spartanburg, South Carolina in 2013. The meeting was organized by Drs. Khushi R. Tiwari and Dilip Panthee. They contacted potential agriculture professionals who were going to participate in the convention at Spartanburg, SC. A meeting was held on the occasion with a total of 13 agricultural professionals (Ambika Tiwari, Bishwa Adhikari, Dilip Panthee, Hem Bhandari, Janak Khatiwada, Khushi R. Tiwari, Krishna Pokhrel, Krishna Paudel, Murali Adhikari, Nanda P. Joshi, Nar Gurung, Sundar Shrestha and Uma Karki).

Dr. Nanda P. Joshi discussed his experience based on his visit to Nepal shortly before that meeting. He described the challenges on working with government agencies, including Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC), Department of Agriculture Development (DoAD) and Agriculture and Forestry University (AFU).

Overall, the initiative was received extremely well by all the participants as well as others who could not participate, but were involved in some preliminary discussion. At the initial meeting, participants introduced each other and discussed about the purpose of the formation of a formal organization. Finally, an Agriculture Forum (Agri-Forum) *ad-hoc* committee was formed comprising of seven members with Dr. Khushi R. Tiwari as the coordinator. Other members included Drs. Dilip Panthee, Durga D. Poudel, Hem Bhandari, Kalidas Subedi, Lila B. Karki and Raju Pandey. Main purpose of the Agri-Forum was to further increase the interaction and discussion among the agricultural professionals living in the USA and Canada who shared a common goal and a strong belief that agricultural expatriates can be instrumental for the overall development of Nepal.

Materializing the Efforts— 2015 and Current Status

The Agri-Forum organized a meeting and a talk program on the occasion of 11th NASeA-ANMA joint convention at High Point, North Carolina in 2015. There were a total of 13 participants in the meeting, including His

Excellency Dr. Arjun K. Karki, Ambassador of Nepal to the USA. After an initial discussion and interaction among the participants, a 13-member Founding Committee was formed. This Founding Committee included: Lila B. Karki, Ambika Tiwari, Anup Srivastav, Biswa Adhikari, Debendra Amatya, Dilip Panthee, Hem Bhandari, Kemika Bhandari, Khusi Ram Tiwari, Krishna P. Poudel, Prakash Malla, Shiva K. Rai and Uma Karki. The Founding Committee unanimously nominated Karki as the Coordinator to form an organization of professionals engaged in agricultural and allied areas in America. Accordingly, a 17-member Working Committee was formed as: Lila B. Karki Coordinator, Prem Bhandari General Secretary, Ambika Tiwari Treasurer, and Megha N. Parajulee, Krishna P. Paudel, Prakash Malla, Toya Baral, Doleswor Bhandari, Ramesh Khanal, Anup Srivastav, Kemika Bhandari, Lekha N. Paudel, Sweta Sharma, Laxmi Pant, Chunu Mainali, Dilip Panthee, and Pradeep Wagle as members. After a series of meetings, the Working Committee decided to name the organization as ‘*Association of Nepalese Agricultural Professionals of Americas*’ (NAPA). It was then registered as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in the state of Louisiana in January 2016. More importantly, it was able to host its first convention in May 2016 and elect the first Executive Committee. For further details, please visit <http://napaamericas.org/>

Moving Forward

The Executive Committee has already come up with various action plans for its two-year term, while also outlining the long term goals and strategies. Some of those have been presented in the president’s message. A few to mention are publishing NAPA Newsletter (first issue in your hands), working papers, possible publication of a journal that is geared toward serving the Nepalese agricultural professionals throughout the world, expanding the database of agricultural professionals working in the USA who can contribute to Nepal, hosting relevant conferences in the USA and Nepal, and training agriculture professionals. The organization also intends to contribute to the formulation of agricultural policy and be a part of overall agricultural development in Nepal. The organization believes that accomplishing a few of these alone will have a tangible impact in Nepalese agricultural research and development. While this is a huge challenge, the organization has accepted it to move forward with its best efforts and endeavors.

NAPA Talk Session

NAPA is pleased to announce its first **Talk Session**. We cordially invite you all to join this much-awaited program, contribute to the discussion, and make it a successful event.

Title:

Securing Sufficient, Safe and Healthy Food in Nepal

Presented by:

Dr. Drona Prakash Rasali
DVM, PGT (Vet. Path.), MS, PhD, FACE
(NAPA Member)



When:

Saturday, October 15, 2016
(9:00-10:00 PM EST)

How to Join?

Dial-in free conference call #: 641-715-3580 Access Code: 113245# (gmail phone could be used)
For questions, please contact Talk Session Organizers
Lila B. Karki, Megha N. Parajulee or Prem B. Bhandari

NAPA Balance Sheet Summary "(As of September 30, 2016)"

Job links

https://chroniclevitae.com/job_search/new
<http://www.fass.org/jobs/>
<http://careers.careerplacement.org/jobs/>
<http://www.agcareers.com/>
<http://www.entsoc.org/employment/career-center>
<http://www.ift.org/careercenter.aspx>
<https://www.aaea.org/employmenttopps>

Conferences/Annual Meetings

Experimental Biology 2017
<http://experimentalbiology.org/2017/Home.aspx>
 Population Association of America (2017)
<http://www.populationassociation.org/sidebar/annual-meeting/>
 Rural Sociological Society Meeting (2017)
http://www.ruralsociology.us/?page_id=410
 International Conference on Poverty and Sustainable Development (ICPSD 2016)
<http://povertyconferences.com/>
 International Conference on Food Security and Nutrition
<http://www.icfsn.org/>

Items	US\$
A. INCOME	
A1. Membership Fee	6,335.00
A2. Donation*	5,543.74
Total	11,878.74
B. EXPENSES	
501(c)(3) Registration	105.00
IRS (Form 1023) Application	400.00
NAPA Website Domain Purchase & Hosting	228.43
Business Check + Paypal Charge	28.20
AGM Related Expenses Total	434.25
Total General Expense	1,195.88
PayPal Fee	257.19
Total	1,453.07
Total Balance	10,425.67

*Includes LA flood donation, \$3,328.00 minus PayPal fees

Membership status

Type	Number
Regular	61
Student	32
Joint/Family	8
Life	5
Total	106

Nostalgia: The place most NAPA members either graduated from or worked at



Tribhuvan University
 INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE AND ANIMAL SCIENCE
 (IAAS)





Measuring internal quality of fruit non-invasively? Case of internal defects in apple

Bed Khatiwada, Ph.D., UC Davis, CA

How consumers feel with an apple with internal rot or disorders after cutting it in the kitchen or taking a bite expecting a juicy and nutritive feel? You might have experienced this! Of course, consumers get disappointed and reconsider purchasing decision of that particular fruit or visiting the store again. What about the market reputation of that particular brand or variety? Sometimes, it leaves a devastating and lasting effect. Brand reputation and consumer confidence could be lost, which could be hard to regain.

Generally, late harvested fruit stored for more than six months is prone to develop internal browning (Figure 1, far right). However, the incidence and severity depends on variety. Seated deeply in the flesh, the disorder barely leaves any visible changes on the surface, making it hard to suspect. It is erratic in nature making it hard to predict and sorting out ineffective. Since eating a quality fruit is basically non-negotiable. Therefore, fast, accurate and non-invasive method for determining the quality at the retail level becomes crucial.

Near infrared (NIR) spectroscopy is a recent non-invasive tool for quality assessment of fruit for sweetness, dry matter and firmness. Specific chemical molecules are absorbed differently at different wavelengths thereby indicating the presence of specific chemical compound.

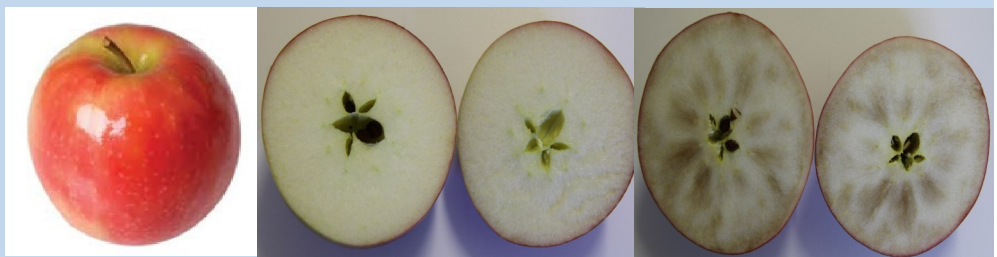


Figure 1. Mean absorbance spectra from fruits.

Different fruit crops and/or varieties have different spectral signatures and so do good and defective fruits within the same variety (Figure 2).

NIR spectroscopy has been tested in detecting internal browning in apple. Among the methods and instrumentation used for non-invasive detection, such as X-ray imaging, nuclear magnetic resonance and magnetic resonance imaging, NIR spectroscopy is promising in terms of speed, accuracy, cost, and inline installation.

Currently, primary industries are observing high loss during sorting operation both due to misclassification of good as well as defective fruits. Misclassifying the defective fruits (with internal browning) as good leads to rejection in the retails, while incorrectly classifying the good ones incurs economic and storage space loss. Thus, finding the correct compromise between the two is crucial.

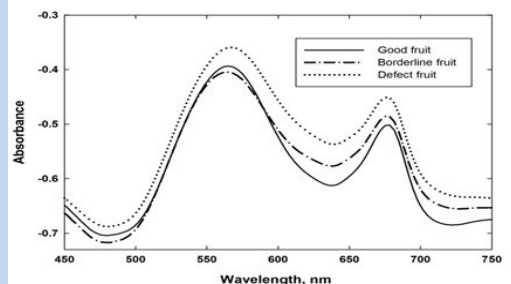


Figure 2. Mean absorbance spectra from fruits.

Researchers are working at finding better solutions to ensure the minimum misclassification based on spectral feature of the good and defective fruits in online sorting operation. The system allows light to pass through one end of fruit and receive the transmittance spectra from another end. This transmittance spectrum carries the physical and chemical information chiefly the scattering and absorbance of light by given fruit. This consists either the development of the model taking the spectral absorbance information at given wavelength region or develop the algorithm using the ratio of the absorbance readings at particular wavelength region. Based on the absorbance at given wavelength region, researchers were able to classify the good and defective fruit with accuracy up to 98% using the algorithm.

This technique gave the commercially applicable results that can be used for monitoring the incidence of the disorder at storage or sorting the defective fruits during online packing operation.

First NAPA General Assembly Highlights

On May 28, 2016, NAPA successfully convened its first ever General Assembly (GA) in Dallas, Texas. The GA unanimously ratified its by-laws, while also forming a by-laws review committee as some inconsistencies were pointed out in it. A total of 38 participants attended the assembly (see www.napaamericas.org/annual-meeting.php). The General Assembly was Coordinated by Dr. Megha N. Parajulee, Member, NAPA Working Committee. Dr. Lila B. Karki, NAPA Working Committee Coordinator, presented NAPA's brief history, goals and objectives, progress and future plans. Mrs. Ambika Tiwari, Treasurer, NAPA Working Committee, updated the financial as well as membership status. The assembly elected the Executive Committee (see page 1) for the next two years. Enjoy the glimpses.



NAPA Best Performance Award 2016

On May 28, 2016, the Coordinator of the NAPA General Assembly Committee, Texas and the member of Working Committee Dr. Megha N. Parajulee and Coordinator of the Working Committee Dr. Lila Bahadur Karki jointly presented the **NAPA Best Performance Award 2016** to Mrs. Ambika Tiwari, Treasurer and Dr. Prem B. Bhandari, General Secretary of the Working Committee for their outstanding contribution for the growth and development of NAPA.



His Excellency Dr. Arjun K. Karki attended the NAPA First General Assembly

His Excellency Dr. Arjun K. Karki, Nepalese Ambassador to the United States of America attended the NAPA's First General Assembly in Dallas, Texas on May 28, 2016. During the occasion, he handed over a check of US\$ 1,500 to NAPA to organize an interaction program on "How NAPA could contribute to the agricultural development of Nepal?"





NAPA

Association of Nepalese Agricultural Professionals of Americas

Scientific Presentations at the NAPA First General Assembly

1. [Rebuilding coupled with sustainable land use, food security, and agri-business for community resiliency in the Gorkha Earthquake Devastated Region in Nepal.](#) Durga D. Poudel, Regents Professor in Applied Life Sciences, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Lafayette, Louisiana, USA.
2. [Review of current agricultural research, teaching, and extension in Nepal.](#) Megha N. Parajulee, Regents Professor, Faculty Fellow, and Cotton Entomology Program Leader at Texas A&M University Research Center, Lubbock, Texas.
3. [Observation and monitoring of the world using earth observation satellite data.](#) Chandra Giri, Chief, Sensing and Spatial Branch, Office of Research and Development, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
4. Use of multivariate analysis and machine learning algorithms to detect anomalous transactional data. Gopi Upreti, Virginia.

Joining NAPA and Membership Types

We would like to invite all agricultural professionals living and working in the Americas to join NAPA and contribute to its goals and objectives. You may send an application to napa2072@gmail.com or ambika-adhikari100@gmail.com. Required fee may be paid through PayPal, credit card or by sending a check to the treasurer, Ambika Tiwari. Make sure to specify the **purpose** of the payment (e.g, Membership Fee, Donation, etc.) in the “**additional information**” box when paying online.

Regular or General (\$50.00 for two years): Individuals who hold at least an undergraduate or bachelors or equivalent degree in agriculture or allied areas shall meet the requirements of this member category.

Student (\$25.00 for two years): Current students of agricultural and allied areas of studies who are at good standing student's status.

Life Membership (\$500.00 One time): Individuals having met regular/general member's category and pays defined dues at a time.

Associate Membership (\$50.00 for two years (\$500 for Associate Life member): Interested individuals who do not qualify for membership types above. Associate member shall not have a voting right and shall not be eligible Executive Committee member. An Associate member may qualify for Associate Life member with the necessary payment.

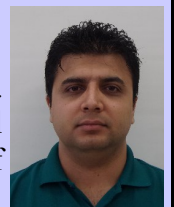
Honorary: Individuals having outstanding achievement in academic and professional career and contribution to the field of agriculture and allied areas around the globe.

Joint/Family Membership (\$15.00 for two years): Spouse of a member of any of the five categories (regular/general, student, life, honorary, and associate), who is not eligible for other categories of membership. Family member shall not have a voting right.

IT Support for NAPA



Mr. Tanka Kafle (left), Texas designed the NAPA website (www.napaamericas.org). Mr. Kafle is providing IT support from its inception. Similarly, Mr. Santosh Aryal (right), Louisiana is providing support for the management and regular updates of NAPA website. NAPA appreciates and thanks both for their excellent support.



NAPA Membership List as of September 23, 2016

SN	Member Name	State
Life Members		
1	Durga D. Poudel	LA
2	Kemika Bhandari	MD
3	Lila Bahadur Karki	AL
4	Megha N. Parajulee	TX
5	Uma Karki	AL

Regular Members		
SN	Member Name	State
1	Ambika Tiwari	MS
2	Anup Srivastav	GA
3	Badri Nath Adhikary	TX
4	Basu Bhandari	TX
5	Bed Khatiwada	CA
6	Bhoja Raj Basnet	TX
7	Bishwa Adhikari	GA
8	Bishwo Adhikari	AZ
9	Buddhi Gyawali	KY
10	Chakra Budhathoki	MD
11	Chunu Mainali	Canada
12	Dhananjaya Dhakal	TX
13	Dhruba Dhakal	MO
14	Dilip Bhandari	AR
15	Dilip Panthee	NC
16	Dirgha Ghimire	MI
17	Drona Rasali	Canada
18	Gopi Upreti	VA
19	Jhalendra Rijal	CA
20	Kabindra Adhikari	WI
21	Kalidas Subedi	Canada
22	Kalpna Khanal	MA
23	Keshab Singh	VA
24	Khusi Ram Tiwari	MS
25	Kishor Bhattarai	CA
26	Krishna P. Paudel	LA
27	Krishna P. Poudel	TN
28	Kumba Raj Tamang	TX
29	Laxmi Poudel	TX
30	Lekha Nath Paudel	DE
31	Mohan Adhikari	TX
32	Monika Ghimire	OK
33	Mukti Ghimire	MA
34	Murali Adhikari	TX
35	Nirmala Devkota	TX
36	Nitya Nand Khanal	SK
37	Pradeep Wagle	OK

SN	Member Name	State
38	Pradip Adhikari	TX
39	Pradip Adhikari	TX
40	Prakash Malla	GA
41	Prem B. Bhandari	MI
42	Raja Khanal	Canada
43	Rajan Ghimire	OR
44	Raju Pandey	CA
45	Ramesh Khanal	WI
46	Ramesh R Pokhrel	MD
47	Romy Das Karna	IA
48	Sanjay Lamsal	MO
49	Shanta Parajuli	TX
50	Shiva Kumar Rai	NH
51	Shyam Adhikari	IL
52	Suman Rimal Gautam	MD
53	Sundar Shrestha	GA
54	Sweta Sharma	FL
55	Tanka Kandel	OK
56	Tilak Bhandari	TX
57	Tilak R. Mahato	AZ
58	Tirtha Shrestha	TX
59	Toya Nath Baral	CA
60	Umakant Mishra	IL
61	Upendra Sainju	MT

Student Members		
SN	Member Name	State
1	Abhishes Lamsal	KS
2	Anish Sapkota	MT
3	Anju Giri	KS
4	Bijay Pokhrel	LA
5	Bijaya Upadhyaya	SD
6	Bikash Poudel	ND
7	Buddhi Achhami	MT
8	Deepak Vitrakoti	GA
9	Dependra Bhatta	LA
10	Dev Paudel	FL
11	Dinesh Panday	MO
12	Govinda Baral	VA
13	Kamal Khanal	NM
14	Kishor Kumar Gautam	TX
15	Laxman Adhikari	GA
16	Nabaraj Amgain	MO
17	Pragya Adhikari	NC
18	Prakash Parajuli	TX
19	Pratishtha Poudel	OK

SN	Member Name	State
Student Members		
20	Prem Kandel	AL
21	Rachana Poudel	NE
22	Rajen Bajgain	OK
23	Ramjee Ghimire	MI
24	Rishi Khatri	AL
25	Sandesh Dangi	ID
26	Sanjok Poudel	AL
27	Shiva Makaju	GA
28	Shrijana Duwadi	AL
29	Sulochana Paudyal	OK
30	Surendra Osti	LA
31	Sushil Nyaupane	NC
32	Yubaraj Kumar Karki	AL

Joint Members		
SN	Member Name	State
1	Madhab Bhatta	NE
2	Mamata Dangi	ID
3	Pramita Pokhrel	TX
4	Radha Poudel	TN
5	Sarita Khanal	ON
6	Shobha Ghimire	MA
7	Sita Bhandari	TX
8	Usha Bhandari	MI

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Current State of Agricultural Research, Teaching, Extension, and Agricultural Enterprise in Nepal: NAPA's Role

Megha N. Parajulee, Ph.D.

Coordinator, First General Assembly and Vice President, NAPA
Professor, Faculty Fellow, and Texas A&M Regents Fellow
Texas A&M University, AgriLife Research and Extension Center, Lubbock, Texas, USA

The **Association of Nepalese Agricultural Professionals of Americas (NAPA)** began its institutional journey with the first assembly and the ratification of its by-laws on May 28, 2016 in Dallas, Texas. This milestone, however, was only possible with all the hard work from so many dedicated individuals for the past several years leading to this event. The First Assembly observed an impressive attendance of NAPA members and non-members along with Nepalese Ambassador to the United States, Dr. Arjun Karki. In addition to its General Assembly business affairs and by-laws ratification, this Assembly conducted a technical session and comprehensive interaction program to assess Nepal's current agricultural affair (research, teaching, outreach, and agricultural enterprise) and explored possible areas for NAPA to play a constructive and synergistic role to benefit Nepal's agricultural enterprise. This report highlights the summary of this interaction program. The speakers of the technical session who facilitated the interaction program were Durga D. Poudel, Chandra Giri, Gopi Upreti, and Megha Parajulee. Their presentations are found at the NAPA website for specific details (<http://napaamericas.org/annual-meeting.php>).

Higher education in agricultural sciences in Nepal formally began in 1972 with the establishment of Tribhuvan University's Institute of Agriculture and Animal Sciences (TU/IAAS) at Rampur, Chitwan. Today, Nepal has three major agricultural teaching institutions [TU/IAAS, Himalayan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (HICAST), and Agriculture and Forestry University (AFU)] and several other agricultural colleges and polytechnic institutes throughout the country. While these institutions focus primarily on training agricultural scientists and specialists, Government of Nepal/Department of Agriculture (DOA) conducts agricultural outreach through its district level agricultural development offices in all 75 districts. The country's agricultural research is shouldered by Nepal Agriculture Research Council (NARC), which coordinates research activities through its five regional headquarters and several research stations throughout the country. The NAPA interaction discussed the functioning of these institutions as it relates to agricultural manpower development, research, and outreach. Current challenges and future prospects of these agricultural institutions in Nepal's overall agricultural development were discussed in light of NAPA's prospective role in Nepal.

Despite the formal establishment of IAAS in 1972, the growth of higher education in agriculture remained stagnant for the next 30 years. However, the recent decade is marked by a significant growth in agricultural higher education institutions in Nepal, including two new universities, HICAST (2000) and AFU (2010), and several private agricultural institutes and polytechnic colleges. Based on author's visits and interactions at each of these institutions, following remarks were drawn about the higher education in agriculture in Nepal:

- Extreme political interference has hindered the quality of education, which is not surprising given the political instability in the nation.
- The oldest agriculture institution, IAAS Central Campus, has been displaced from Rampur, but the new AFU that displaced IAAS has not gained a significant traction.
- HICAST has not yet developed itself into an international level agricultural institution even after 15 years of its establishment, but it harbors great potential to achieve such status.
- Newly affiliated colleges, e.g. in Dang and Baitadi, need greater resources and attention from the TU.
- Coordination amongst universities, government agricultural institutions, NGOs, and private institutions appeared to be weak; individually they seem to be doing well.

While these limitations have handicapped the growth in Nepal's agricultural education, many possibilities do exist. These institutions can and should develop attractive research-teaching-extension curricula for international researchers to seek tangible collaborations. An effective way for young scientists from these nascent institutions to publish their research in international journals is via effective collaboration and partnerships with international institutions. NAPA General Assembly felt the need for strong partnerships between Nepalese agricultural expatriates and relevant institutions in Nepal in the aforementioned areas of education and manpower development.

Nepal's agricultural research is primarily overseen by Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC). Until 1991, Nepal's agricultural research and extension services were both under the Government of Nepal/DOA. While DOA provided the extension service through its district agriculture offices, agricultural research was conducted via regional and national research centers. These research centers were generally commodity based and regionally adapted. In 1991, NARC was established under the Agriculture Ministry with the mandate to: a) conduct qualitative studies and research on different aspects of agriculture, b) identify existing problems in agriculture and suggest possible solutions, and c) assist government in formulation of agricultural policies and strategies. While the idea of separation of research and extension from DOA was sound, the implementation was plagued with political interference and the original intent of such separation did not materialize. As a result, not all research centers from DOA were transferred to the newly minted NARC nor the autonomy of NARC, as envisioned in the charter, was implemented. Nevertheless, there is now one regional research center at each of the five developmental regions in the country. In addition, there are several agriculture research stations within those regional centers. The author recently visited all five regional research centers (Tarahara, Parwanipur, Lumle, Khajura, and Dipayal) and found that these centers have tremendous potential for research. While these centers are not well equipped with research facilities, scientists appeared to be highly, motivated, innovative and productive.

In the last two decades, Nepal's agricultural sector has witnessed tremendous growth in NGOs, private sector agricultural enterprises, and cooperatives; all working together with district agriculture offices toward improving agricultural production, alleviating poverty, and enhancing agricultural sustainability. Because Nepalese agricultural expatriates already have exceptionally close relationships with most agricultural scientists and practitioners throughout Nepal, the author envisions a natural and seamless collaboration between NAPA and Nepal's agricultural institutions.

MANGALMAYA SHUBHAKAMANA

NAPA wishes you all a very happy, healthy and prosperous “BIJAYA DASHAMI, DEEPAWALI, and CHHATH 2073.” May these auspicious occasions bring all of us closer and help us and our NAPA grow as a bigger and stronger professional organization.

Flood relief support: A friend in need is a friend indeed

An appreciation and a request that goes a long way



NAPA Executive Committee (EC) and all NAPA families are deeply saddened by the devastating and catastrophic damage caused to Dr. Durga D. Poudel (Executive Committee member) and his family in a recent flood incidence in Louisiana that happened on August 13, 2016.

As a token of support and expression of solidarity, NAPA collected US \$4,428 (before PayPal surcharges) to support Dr. Poudel and his family at this difficult moment. Below is the list of generous members who didn't hesitate a moment to help the affected family. We are sure many others will join the list. NAPA Treasurer Ms. Ambika Tiwari handed over a check of \$4,299.09 (four thousand two hundred ninety nine dollars and nine cents) (after PayPal surcharges) to Dr. Poudel's family on September 24, 2016.

NAPA is thankful to all the big hearts who generously made their contributions at this critical moment.

We further request all NAPA members and beyond who have not yet had a chance for your voluntary contributions for this humanitarian cause. NAPA is a charitable organization. Your contribution is tax deductible. If you would like to contribute please visit www.napaamericas.org or contact Ms. Ambika Tiwari, Treasurer at ambikaadhikari100@gmail.com or napa2072@gmail.com for details.

SN	Donor's Name	Amount \$
1	Abhishek Bhandari	250.00
2	Basu Bhandari	35.00
3	Bishwa Adhikari	100.00
4	Chakra Budhathoki	101.00
5	Dilip Panthee	501.00
6	Dirgha Ghimire	91.00
7	Ganesh Panta	200.00
8	Gopi Upreti	100.00
9	Jhalendra Rijal	25.00
10	Kabindra Adhikari	100.00
11	Kabiraj Neupane	500.00
12	Kamal Khanal	25.00
13	Khusi and Ambika Tiwari	300.00
14	Krishna Poudel	51.00
15	Lekhanath Poudel	100.00
16	Lila and Uma Karki	501.00

SN	Donor's Name	Amount \$
17	Megha N Parajulee	100.00
18	Nityanand Khanal	50.00
19	Pradeep Wagle	100.00
20	Prakash Malla	200.00
21	Prem Bhandari	101.00
22	Prem Kandel	5.00
23	Rajan Ghimire	25.00
24	Raju Pandey	100.00
25	Ramesh Khanal	201.00
26	Ramjee Ghimire	100.00
27	Sanjay Lamsal	50.00
28	Sundar Shrestha	51.00
29	Sushil Nyaupane	15.00
30	Uma Kant Mishra	50.00
31	Upendra Sainju	300.00
Total		4,428.00

Upcoming NAPA Publications and Events

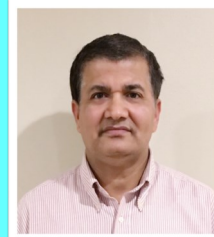
Agri-Connection: Next issue in December, 2016.

Working Paper Series: A regular publication.

Journal: Planning in progress.

Talk Session: December, 2016.

A Great Beginning,



With the formal establishment of the **Association of Nepalese Agricultural Professionals of Americas (NAPA)** as a professional organization of the Nepali diasporas living and working in the agricultural and allied sector in the US, it is only natural that we bring out the news and views regarding its programs, activities, strategies, and goals and objectives to those the society serves and beyond. The editorial board feels privileged and thankful to have the responsibility entrusted to us by the executive committee. We are fully aware this is a great task that requires our total dedication and continued effort and commitment. However, we also believe that with the help and cooperation from everyone, it will be a smooth ride.

As everyone is aware, the newsletter is a reflection of what we do, when we do, where we do, and how we do. If our programs and objectives are not well thought out and executed with full conviction and forward thinking process whereby everyone has a chance to express their ideas and put forth the effort needed to carry out the assigned responsibilities, there is no question of the quality of the newsletter not being affected. I am sure not just the executive committee, but also the whole NAPA body will pitch in and allow this budding and nascent organization to blossom, so we can all be proud of and the newsletter be a perfect mirror image of that pride and accomplishment.

When it comes to organizations and institutions, vertical growth is usually easier than horizontal growth. With initial hiccups before its formal establishment, we have now started great with our vertical growth. However, greater endeavor and foresight is needed to grow horizontally, so we can serve and contribute not just to our own professional well-being but also to that of others, particularly the country we left behind. With such an enormous pool of talent, experience, and resources at our disposal, only thing that is needed is the willingness and commitment.

With this hopeful beginning, the first issue of our newsletter, **Agri-Connection** is in your hands. We are fully aware that there are shortcomings and further refinements are needed. We do expect and appreciate your thoughtful comments and feedback for its continued improvement. That is absolutely necessary if we are to make it a piece of work that our readers will look forward to receiving and eagerly waiting for.

Thank you very much.

Ramesh Khanal, Ph.D.

Agri-Connection: Call for your creative works and relevant information

NAPA would like to request you all to provide pertinent information, be they short articles, vacancy announcements, graduate assistantships, creative works, and many other relevant materials for publication in the Agri-Connection that is published quarterly. For more details, please contact Dr. Sanjay Lamsal, editor, at napa.americas@gmail.com. For anything in Nepali, make sure to type in Google Unicode. Please visit Agri-Connection at <http://napaamericas.org/newsletter.php>



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