



# NAPA

## Association of Nepalese Agricultural Professionals of Americas

### Minutes of NAPA Executive Committee Meeting 7<sup>th</sup> EC Meeting held on Sunday, March 26, 2023; 7:00 - 8:30 PM CST

Attendance	
<b>Attendees</b>	Pradeep Wagle, Ramjee Ghimire, Nityananda Khanal, Sushil Thapa, Bishwo Adhikari, Buddhi Gyawali, Dev Paudel, Dol P. Dhakal, Megha N. Parajulee, Pramod Pokhrel Uma Karki
<b>Informed in absentia</b>	Kripa Dhakal
<b>Uninformed in absentia</b>	-
<b>Invitee</b>	-

#### Executive Committee

##### President

Dr. Pradeep Wagle

##### Vice President

Dr. Ramjee P. Ghimire

##### General Secretary

Dr. Nityananda Khanal

##### Joint Secretary

Dr. Sushil Thapa

##### Treasurer

Dr. Bishwo Adhikari

##### Members

Dr. Buddhi Gyawali

Dr. Dev Paudel

Mr. Dol P. Dhakal

Dr. Kripa Dhakal

Dr. Pramod Pokhrel

Dr. Uma Karki

Dr. Megha N. Parajulee,

Immediate Past

President

President Dr. Pradeep Wagle welcomed the meeting attendees. General Secretary Dr. Nityananda Khanal moderated the meeting on the following agenda items:

- NAPA 2023 AGM:** The AGM is proposed for Friday, May 26, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. CST. Considering her exceptional contribution to the association since its inception, Mrs. Ambika Adhikari Tiwari was consented to have her nomination to serve as the AGM Chair. The EC meeting supported her nomination with acclamation. It is anticipated to be a program of about two hours. Detail AGM program and agenda will be discussed and shared with members later.
- Bylaws review committee:**  
Some revisions on by-laws have been deemed desirable. The revision proposal is tasked to a three-member bylaws revision committee including Immediate Past President Dr. Megha N. Parajulee, current Vice President Dr. Ramjee Ghimire, and NAPA life member Dr. Prakriti Bista. Some key areas to be proposed for revision include the provision of institutional membership and election-related topics. The proposed revision is to be sent out to all NAPA members about three weeks prior to the AGM. So, the bylaws revision committee and the EC should meet three weeks prior to the AGM to discuss and finalize the proposed revision to be shared with the NAPA members.
- NAPA 4<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference planning: Venue & conference Chair nomination**  
**4.1 Venue:** Baltimore is deemed to be an appropriate venue because of a good number of dedicated active members around there. Discussions

are underway on specific venues, including Annapolis, MD as an alternative venue. Price quotes for accommodation and conference facilities are being collected.

**4.2 Conference Chair:** Dr. Lila Karki, currently based in Maryland, has been recognized as a suitable candidate to serve as the Conference Chair due to his outstanding expertise and significant contributions to NAPA as a Founding President and many roles. Initially, Dr. Prem Bhandari, who is also working in Maryland, was approached to lead the conference as the Chair.

**4.3. Scientific Committee:** The Scientific Committee is to be formed to initiate the program detail and announcements well in advance. The conference may be of hybrid nature involving both virtual and in-person participation. About 150 in-person participants are targeted.

4. **Nepal Agricultural Policy symposium proceedings update:**  
NAPA President Dr. Pradeep Wagle and the Chair of the Collaboration and Resource Building Committee Dr. Buddhi Gyawali highlighted the progress towards the publication of the proceedings. As of then, seven manuscripts were under review, two manuscripts were accepted with minor revisions, four peer-reviewed manuscripts were sent to the authors, three were awaiting reviewers' comments, one manuscript may be reconsidered after major review, and four additional papers were committed for the submission.

Dr. Gyawali also outlined forthcoming committee activities, including statistics training for the staff of the Nepal's Policy Research Institute, a meeting with the Ambassador of Nepal to the USA and informal meetings with Nepal's stakeholders to discuss the prevailing agriculture-related issues.

5. **Research Mini-Grant (RMG) program update and subsequent plan:**  
The Chair of the Research and Capacity Building Committee Dr. Pramod Pokhrel updated the progress of the 2022-2023 RMG process. Comments were received from the proposal reviewers. Based on the reviewers' ratings, 13 proposals appeared promising, and 39 proposals would need further scrutiny of the merit, and the rest of the proposals did not meet the standards. A meeting on April 29 was proposed for the finalization of the proposal's merits for funding.
6. Updates on other activities by specialized committees  
**IT Committee:** The Chair of the IT Committee informed that a switch-over to a new website of the NAPA was underway and is expected to complete before the next meeting.

**NAPA Treasury:** The NAPA Treasurer Dr. Bishwo Adhikari updated on the NAPA's treasury status focusing on the balances in the various banks and accounts, and Endowment Fund. The meeting decided to open a Certificate of Deposit (CD) and deposit \$30,000 of the Endowment Fund there. The deposit in the CD account currently earns 3-5% interest on the principal.

**Social and Economic Committee:** The Chair of the committee Mr. Dol P. Dhakal highlighted two major accomplishments – a talk program on taxation, and the publication of an Agri-poem Compendium – Krishika Sushelihar.

**Agri-Connection Editorial Board:** The Editor-in-Chief Dr. Sushil Thapa informed that the editorial board needs to be reformed; some prospective editors have expressed their interest. He also opined that the NAPA Committee update needs to be regularized for the Agri-Connection columns. The EC members suggested that the AC should also feature highlights of the Global Journal of Agriculture and Allied Sciences (GJAAS), RMG program activities, activities of all committees including Students Coordination Committee, Women in Agriculture and Allied Sciences, Endowment Fund, NAPA-PRI symposium papers, and research highlights of the student members.

**GJAAS Editorial Board:** The meeting participants congratulated Dr. Uma Karki for being appointed as the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal. Dr. Karki is also the Chair of the **Reward and Recognition Committee**, which was yet to meet. The EC meeting was preceded by a meeting of the previous Editorial Board and NAPA EC officers, which identified Dr. Karki as an appropriate expert to lead the Board. Dr. Karki describes her plan to form a new editorial board and her idea about the journal contents in addition to regular manuscripts such as short communications (e.g., the RMG results), letter to Editors, policy and develop perspectives, NAPA Conference papers and abstracts, and special issues. She also requested all participants to consider submitting their contributions to the GJAAS. She also informed her plan to coordinate with NAPA Conference scientific committee for the prospective publications. She has the plan to hold the Board meeting monthly in the beginning to streamline the Journal publication.

**Endowment Fund Board:**

Past President Dr. Megha Parajulee informed that the Board would meet soon and asked the Treasure to update the Endowment Fund status from time to time to the Board and general members for their motivation to contribute. Dr. Parajulee also asked to design an Endowment Fund acknowledgment template and timely acknowledge the contribution. Treasurer Dr. Bishwo Adhikari informed that eight pledgers had yet to contribute their pledged amount for 2022.

**Student Coordination Committee (SCC):**

President Dr. Pradeep Wagle highlighted the activities organized by the SCC including a recently convened panel discussion on Careers in Industry.

**Membership Drive Committee:**

Vice President Dr. Ramjee Ghimire, who is also the Chair of the Membership Drive Committee updated NAPA membership status, including 19 new members, who were mostly students. Dr. Ghimire also emphasized that someone from NAPA should participate, if possible, in the Nepal Day being organized on April 16 in Georgia to appeal the prospective members to join the NAPA.

7. Suggestions from Advisory Council meeting of March 14, 2023  
NAPA President Dr. Pradeep Wagle and General Secretary Dr. Nityananda Khanal highlighted the suggestions provided by the Advisory Council members in the Council's meeting held on March 14, 2023. The key suggestions included the following:
  - Make a functional structure of the Advisory Council with the leadership of the Advisor and NAPA Life Member Dr. Nanda P. Joshi as a Council Chair and deem the Council as an independent committee
  - Hold more frequent meetings between the EC and Advisory Council
  - Specify October-November as Endowment Fund month to update fundraising, research support, scholarship, and other activities, which can serve as a reminder for contributions from the pledgers and receive pledges from new members
  - Build the current NAPA activities on quality over quantity
  - Treasurer to share the treasury overview in such meetings
  - Make a functionally structured joint member committee and encourage joint members to play roles in the NAPA Activities
  - EC to encourage to grow Endowment Fund
  - Establish GJAAS as a flagship recognition of NAPA, expand the editorial board, rosters of reviewers, obtain DOI and adopt the NAPA Conference coverage as a special issue in GJAAS.
  
8. Others:  
IIDS Questionnaire: Dr. Pradeep Wagle discussed the request received from IIDS through the Embassy of Nepal to the USA for filling out a survey questionnaire. It was decided to encourage NAPA members to extend courtesy by filling out the questionnaire.

After the discussions on the agenda, NAPA Vice President Dr. Ramjee Ghimire delivered closing remarks thanking all participants for meritorious discussions. He also asked for reaching out to prospective new members and emphasized visiting Georgia on Nepal Day to strengthen NAPA's foundation in the state, if possible.

Minutes prepared by Nityananda Khanal, General Secretary, NAPA