



NAPA

Association of Nepalese Agricultural Professionals of Americas

Minutes of NAPA Executive Committee Meeting 11th EC Meeting held on Sunday, October 1, 2023; 7:00 - 8:15 PM CST

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

Attendance

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

The meeting started with the welcome remarks by President Dr. Pradeep Wagle. Discussions proceeded on the pre-circulated agenda items as follows:

1. NAPA financial updates

The financial updates were not discussed at this time, as the Treasurer Dr. Bishwo Adhikari was not present in the meeting.

2. Updates on activities of the Committees

Dr. Uma Karki, Chair of the Awards and Recognition Committee and Chief Editor of the Global Journal of Agriculture and Allied Sciences (GJAAS) highlighted that the nominations for the NAPA Distinguished Achievement Award were being received. The Award committee secretary Dr. Aditya Khanal would further promote the call for nomination for wider diffusion. She stated the need for IT support for the GJAAS and inquired about the availability of IT Chair Dr. Dev Paudel or other experts. President Dr. Wagle responded that he would contact Dr. Ananta Acharya for IT-related support. IT Chair Dr. Dev Paudel proposed that Dr. Sanjok Paudel could also help on the Journal related matter.

Dr. Dev Poudel, the IT Committee Chair informed that the Committee had been focusing on NAPA 2024 Scientific Conference-related matters and website maintenance. The website had been more accessible for NAPA members and would send out welcome letters to new members upon the acceptance of their membership. With the increasing scope of the IT work in the NAPA activities, he was considering the expansion of IT committee.

Dr. Kripa Dhakal provided updates on Women in Agriculture and Allied Sciences (WAAP) activities. Exemplary success stories were requested from Nepal. It was suggested that women faculty members from Nepal, post-doctoral fellows, and new faculty from the USA and abroad should be reached out for their NAPA membership and encouraged for their participation in the NAPA 2024 Scientific Conference.

Dr. Pramod Pokhrel, Chair of the Research and Capacity Building Committee (RCBC) highlighted the activities about the Research Mini-Grant (RMG) program. The RCBC was conducting bi-weekly orientation and training sessions, of which 4th event had been completed then. The 5th event focusing on Data Analysis was tentatively scheduled for October 13, 2023. The following event in the series would focus on publications, for which Dr. Pokhrel requested resource person(s) from the GJAAS editorial committee to confer with the participants on why and how to publish in the GJAAS. He was also considering having a joint meeting of the local and NAPA advisors. Stating that the awarded projects were on track to attain the expected outcomes, he requested for the release of 2nd installment of the project funds. President Dr. Wagle suggested to send out notifications of training events to all NAPA member so that interested members could benefit from the trainings. He further added that the second installment of the fund would be released upon mid-term report submission by the awardees and review of the progress.

Dr. Ramjee Ghimire, Vice President and Chair of the Membership Drive Committee highlighted the update on members' profile and auto-acknowledgment to the new members. He emphasized the need to accelerate the membership drive in view of growing number of prospective members in the North America. Dr. Dev Paudel informed that membership renewal notification was scheduled to be sent out on 14 days and 7 days prior to and the same day of the expiry of the regular membership. Dr. Megha Parajulee and Pramod Pokhrel suggested for novel and persuasive approach to the membership drive such as some perks for new members and reimbursement of refreshments with prospective new members.

Dr. Sushi Thapa, Editor-in-Chief of Agri-Connection newsletter requested for committee updates and conference-related materials for the upcoming issue of the newsletter, which was expected to be released by mid-October.

Dr. Megha Parajulee informed that Endowment Fund Board would meet on October 3, 2023.

3. Updates on the NAPA 2024 Conference preparation

The Conference Organizing Committee (COC) had been actively involved in the needed preparations. The committee would meet monthly to review progress and reinforce the preparation plan. Details will be documented in the COC meeting minutes. The calls for abstract submission and Student Writing Context had been promoted. EC and other committee members should make efforts to reach out to existing and prospective NAPA members for abstract submissions. It would also be effective to approach faculty members advising graduate students for travel approval and funding for the students to present their work at the NAPA 2024 conference

5. Others

5.1 A meeting with the Ambassador of Nepal to the USA will be held on October 4, 2023.

5.2 Dr. Uma Karki opined that some Dashain-specific events for all NAPA members such as spiritual speech would be appreciated.

Finally, Dr. Ramjee Ghimire, Vice President adjourned the meeting with closing remarks by stating the need of more frequent EC meetings, more determined membership drive and the diffusion of information on the NAPA 2024 International Scientific Conference.

Minutes prepared by General Secretary Dr. Nityananda Khanal.