



NAPA

Association of Nepalese Agricultural Professionals of Americas

**Minutes of NAPA Executive Committee Meeting
12th EC Meeting held on
Sunday, December 3, 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, Bishwo Adhikari, Buddhi Gyawali, Dev Paudel, Dol P. Dhakal, Kripa Dhakal, Pramod Pokhrel, Nityananda Khanal
Informed in absentia	-
Uninformed in absentia	Megha N. Parajulee, Uma Karki
Invitee	-

The meeting started with the welcome remarks by President Dr. Pradeep Wagle. In his remarks, President Wagle shared that a total of 216 abstracts from nine countries have been received for the 2024 NAPA Scientific Conference. Discussions proceeded on the pre-circulated agenda items as follows:

1. NAPA financial updates

The Treasurer Dr. Bishwo Adhikari presented the financial updates. The investment account balances appeared to be in recovery mode. The amounts for the 2024 NAPA Conference preparatory expenses (first deposit) to the conference hotel have been sent and another installment of the deposit is anticipated in January-February 2024. The receipts of Endowment Fund pledges of 2023 are coming, while some of the 2022 pledge amounts are still due. It was emphasized that reminders to the pledgers and acknowledgements to the contributors should be sent in a timely manner.

2. Nomination for the NAPA Distinguished Achievement Award

President Dr. Wagle informed that the nominations were received and are being reviewed by the Award and Recognition Committee.

3. Updates on Committee activities

Dr. Kripa Dhakal, Chair of the Women in Agriculture and Allied Sciences (WAAP) shared that some thoughts were accorded for prospective activities to be tied with the 2024 NAPA Conference. Vice President Dr. Ramjee Ghimire added that a WAAP-centered panel discussion had been a part of

the past NAPA conferences, and it would be a good idea to identify a contemporary topic for the panel discussion.

Dr. Dev Poudel, the IT Committee Chair informed that the Committee had devoted their efforts to NAPA 2024 Scientific Conference-related matters and website maintenance. The conference abstracts were compiled and sent to the Scientific Committee.

Dol P. Dhakal, Chair of the Socio-economic and Cultural Committee acknowledged that the NAPA Day program falls in the scope of the committee and will contribute to finalizing and launching of the NAPA Day program.

Dr. Buddhi Gyawali, Chair of the Collaboration and Resource Building Committee reported that a concept note for a project encompassing various NAPA outreach activities including an in-person conference in Nepal was submitted to the Ambassador of Nepal to the USA. A 45-minute policy review panel discussion on “Role of Nepalese Diaspora in Nepal’s Agricultural Development “ is aimed at the 2024 NAPA Conference and Dr. Gyawali would submit a proposal to the Conference Organizing Committee. Dr. Gyawali will also send an email to prospective collaborators such as scientists of the Nepal Agricultural Research Council and those associated with the Society of Agricultural Scientists in Nepal for a coordination/collaboration meeting.

Dr. Sushil Thapa, Editor-in-Chief of Agri-Connection newsletter reported that the last issue of the newsletter for 2023 is aimed to be released in January 2024. He requested for timely submission of committee updates and 2024 NAPA conference-related materials for the newsletter. Mr. Padma Atreya from Nepal has been added to the editorial team for Nepali edit.

Dr. Pramod Pokhrel, Chair of the Research and Capacity Building Committee (RCBC) reported that five training events were completed, and four more events are forthcoming for capacity building of the recipients of Research Mini-Grants (RMG). One of the RMG projects was complete while others were at various stages of implementation. The abstract submissions for the 2024 NAPA Conference by the RMG recipients will be tracked. Dr. Pokhrel will submit the highlights of the committee activities for the upcoming AC newsletter. President Dr. Wagle suggested that the subject-matter roundtables should be resumed to foster networking and deliberations on contemporary issues by students, and new as well as established professionals.

Dr. Ramjee Ghimire, Vice President and Chair of the Membership Drive Committee reported that a significant number of students and professionals are joining NAPA. The additions to the life membership have also been encouraging. The prospective students and professionals should be reached out. As the Chair of the Policy Brief Editorial Board, Dr. Ghimire also confided that at least one Policy Brief issue would be targeted for the near future. He also informed that some books on Food Security published by NAPA will have to be brought from Nepal for the disbursement at the NAPA Conference.

4. Research Mini-Grant mid-term review and fund release

The RCBC Chair Dr. Pokhrel notified that the committee would call for the mid-term progress reports for the RMG projects and schedule the presentations by the recipients soon. Upon review of the progress reports, the 2nd installment of the project funds will be released.

5. NAPA Day celebration

The virtual event is scheduled for January 6, 2024, starting at 7:00 p.m. CST in North America, accordingly January 7, 2024, at 6:45 a.m. in Nepal. A call for ideas for the NAPA Day celebration will be solicited from members by email. The tentative program would be a mix of Agri-poems, songs, music, and short presentations on NAPA's accomplishments, upcoming conference, endowment fund, and welcome to new members.

6. 2024 NAPA AGM and Election Commission

Some prospective personalities for the election commission were mentioned. It was thought that it would be worthwhile floating ideas through the EC Messenger group to make some headway on the agenda for the next meeting.

7. Others

7.1 Student travel bursary for the 2024 NAPA Conference: For student presenters who wish to participate in-person, it was discussed that NAPA might be able to cover their accommodation and meals.

7.2 Endowment Fund contribution portal: On the query if such portal could be created on the NAPA website, IT Chair Dr. Poudel responded that he could create the Endowment Fund contribution portal.

Finally, Dr. Ramjee Ghimire, Vice President adjourned the meeting with closing remarks by stressing the need to reach out to prospective members. He also asked for floating ideas for making the 2024 NAPA Day event memorable.

Minutes prepared by General Secretary Dr. Nityananda Khanal.