



# NAPA

## Association of Nepalese Agricultural Professionals of Americas

### Executive Committee

#### President

Dr. Megha N. Parajulee

#### Vice President

Dr. Pradeep Wagle

#### General Secretary

Dr. Ramjee Ghimire

#### Joint Secretary

Dr. Dev Paudel

#### Treasurer

Dr. Santosh Dhakal

#### Members

Dr. Aditya Khanal

Ms. Gita Koirala Bhandari

Dr. Nityananda Khanal

Dr. Shyam L. Kandel

Dr. Sushil Thapa

Dr. Uma Karki

### NAPA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING 13<sup>th</sup> EC Meeting Minutes

Sunday, May 22, 2022; 7:30 - 9:00 PM CST

Attendance	
<b>Executive Committee</b>	Megha N. Parajulee, Pradeep Wagle, Ramjee Ghimire, Dev Paudel, Santosh Dhakal, Gita Koirala Bhandari, Nityananda Khanal, Uma Karki, Aditya Khanal, Shyam Kandel
<b>Informed in absentia</b>	
<b>Uninformed in absentia</b>	Sushil Thapa
<b>Invitee</b>	

1. General Secretary Dr. Ramjee Ghimire called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM CST. President Dr. Megha N. Parajulee welcomed the members, informed that this could hopefully be the final EC meeting and thanked everyone for their support during the past two years.

#### 2. Update on Committee Activities:

##### Resource and Capacity Building Committee:

Since the formation of the current RCBC in June 2020, the Committee has held a series of meetings to discuss aspects of resource generation, collaboration, outreach, and administration of Research Mini-Grant (RMG). The committee members brainstormed on the approaches to accessing external grant funding, faculty-to-faculty collaboration between Nepal and abroad, advocacy for integrating engineering and agricultural science programs, credits for RMG projects as undergraduate thesis project, strengthening post-graduate research, and collaboration with applied research instructions in Nepal. The RMG administration was relatively intensive activity in the year 2020-2021. The following are the major events centred on the RMG program:

Call for Research Mini-Grant proposals was released on November 1, 2020, with the submission deadline of December 31, 2020.



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Targeted participants were undergraduate students in the agriculture and allied sciences programs in Nepal.

Interactive question-answer session for prospective research mini-grant applicants: November 15, 2020.

Award decision and notification to the applicants and their local academic supervisors: February 10, 2021

Release of first installment: March 2021

RMG introductory session: March 4, 2021

Research & Publication Ethics session: March 11, 2021

Experimental & Social Research Design session: April 23, 2021

Survey and Questionnaire Design session: July 2, 2021

Project Status Review Meeting: July 30, 2021

Good Practices in Statistical Analysis session: August 20, 2021

Data Analysis Using R: March 18, 2022

RMG Symposium: to be held on May 29, 2022.

Altogether 43 RMG proposals from undergraduate students went through double-blind review leading to selection of sixteen proposals for funding. After the funding award decision, a series of research orientation and capacity building sessions were organized. Drs. Megha Parajulee, Pradeep Wagle, Ramjee Ghimire, Prem Bhandari, Bharat Pokhrel, Chakra Budhathoki, Dev Paudel & Anil Adhikari served as resource persons in various orientation sessions. Drs. Pramod Pokhrel and Nityananda Khanal conducted the sessions.

Mid-term progress review and presentation session of the RMG projects was held on October 8, 2021. The RMG recipients submitted their mid-term progress reports prior to the presentation workshop. Based on the project reports and presentations, 15 RMG recipients had made some progress in their research projects, which ranged from initiation to completion of the survey or experimental activities. The COVID-19 pandemic presented challenges in project activities causing delays in the project timelines and milestones. Despite challenges, the project accomplishments by the students were satisfactory. However, one of the grant recipients was not able to initiate project work due to



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COVID-19 pandemic and returned the project fund to NAPA. Another project was also significantly delayed due to COVID-19 pandemic and site accessibility issues in high mountains during rainy and winter seasons. Following the project review, the second installment of the fund was disbursed to the RMG recipients.

Till May 2022, most of the RMG recipients submitted final project completion reports and have registered for the Research Mini-Grant Symposium to be convened during the 3<sup>rd</sup> NAPA International Scientific Conference to be held May 27-29, 2022. The current RCBC is pleased to pass the torch on to the new committee following the NAPA General Meeting amidst the conference.

**NAPA Endowment Fund:** NAPA has received a total pledge of \$ 100,855 towards NAPA Endowment Fund, of which \$20,500 has been invested.

**Book Marketing:** Efforts to market NAPA food safety books are on. Agricultural and Forestry University has accepted to buy twenty-five copies. As advised by Dr. Naba Raj Devkota, twenty-five copies are kept in the HICAST admin office and will be sold from there. NAPA Nepal Liaison Kiran Ojha has volunteered to sell twenty copies. Kathmandu University Registrar Prof. Bim Shrestha has agreed to buy about five copies for their university library. One copy has been provided to Dr. Binayak Raj Bhandari of HICAST as a complementary copy. With those copies deducted, we now have sixty-seven copies in the stock.

**Membership Drive Committee: Good standing members as of May 22, 2022**

Member categories	Number s
Founding Life	5
Regular Life + Senior life	115
General/Regular	16
Student	100
Associate Life (Nepal)	63
Associate Life (International)	5
Joint Life	5





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Total	309
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#### Under EC term of 2020-2022:

Total life members: 39

Other members: 125

Not renewed:

Regular members: 10

Student members: 68

**Policy and Research Brief Committee (PRB):** One Policy and Research Brief was published.

**Webinar Committee:** Fourteen webinars covering policy, technologies and agribusiness were held during the past two years.

**Women in Agricultural and Allied Professions (WAAP):** Efforts were made to establish a women agricultural professional database.

#### Student Coordination Committee (SCC):

Total no. of meetings: 8; Programs organized: 4

August 29, 2020: Panel discussion – Careers in Agriculture

February 13, 2021: Panel discussion – Scientific Writing and Publication

July 31, 2021: Panel discussion – Graduate School Life Management

October 31, 2021: Webinar and Discussion – Legal Issues, Visa Status, Work Eligibility, and Permanent Residency

**GJAAS:** GJAAS editorial team is working on releasing few articles for a new issue soon.

**Information and Technology:** IT team worked relentlessly behind the scenes and with other committees to keep NAPA website up to date.



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### 3. Financial Update:

Regular transactions							
	Regular Chase bank		PayPal		Total		
Category	Debit	Credit	Debit	Credit	Debit	Credit	Balance
<b>Prior carryover</b>		28882.78			0	28882.78	<b>28882.78</b>
Member		2443		8098.88	0	10541.88	10541.88
2020 Conference	2952.84	5109.01		1888.2	2952.84	6997.21	4044.37
COVID Relief Fund	4051.4	3507.71		545.79	4051.4	4053.5	2.1
RMG	3621.67	4372		1376.79	3621.67	5748.79	2127.12
Endowment fund	13646.99	6000		990.23	13646.99	6990.23	
NAPA Book	1587.56	20		83.21	1587.56	103.21	-1484.35
Amazon smile donation		50.38		0	0	50.38	50.38
2022 Conference	2541.92	4890		962.62	2541.92	5852.62	3310.7
Miscellaneous	13897.69	3085.97	10	485.20	13907.69	3571.17	
Transfer from Paypal		14,107.28			0	14107.28	
Bank transfers	25941.38	2500	14107.28		40048.66	2500	
Subtotal	68241.45	74968.13	14117.28	14430.92	82358.73	89399.05	
<b>Total</b>		<b>6726.68</b>		<b>313.64</b>		7040.32	
Regular Chase Savings						28886.19	
EF checking account						2100	
EF savings account						2367.46	
Vanguard investment						20500	
<b>Total</b>						<b>60893.97</b>	

- Felicitation:** President Dr. Parajulee proposed to recognize Dr. Ananta Shrestha at the conference for his lifelong service to agriculture in Nepal and for being a pioneering horticulturist, first horticulture PhD from Nepal with HONORARY MEMBERSHIP. His bios and the seminal book he wrote on apple cultivation were also shared. VP Wagle seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.
- AGM Chair:** President Dr. Parajulee proposed to request Dr. Lila Karki as the chair of the Annual General Meeting at 3<sup>rd</sup> Biennial International Biennial Conference. The motion was unanimously approved.
- Adjournment:** Vice President Wagle thanked everyone for active participation and adjourned the meeting.