



NAPA

Association of Nepalese Agricultural Professionals of Americas

Minutes of NAPA Executive Committee Meeting

2nd EC Meeting held on

Sunday, July 10, 2022; 7:30 - 9:00 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	Ramjee Ghimire, Nityananda Khanal, Sushil Thapa, Bishwo Adhikari, Buddhi Gyawali, Dol P. Dhakal, Dev Paudel, Kripa Dhakal, Pramod Pokhrel, Uma Karki, Megha N. Parajulee,
Informed in absentia	Pradeep Wagle
Uninformed in absentia	-
Invitee	-

General Secretary Dr. Nityananda Khanal welcomed and moderated the meeting with the review of the agenda among attendees.

- 1. Review of last meeting minutes:** Dr. Uma Karki expressed a concern – whether we need to make EC meeting minutes public or not. After a quick discussion, the EC decided to understand common practices in other organizations and have further discussion in the next meeting.
- 2. Formation of specialized committees:** Each committee chair or the representative from the committee updated the current status of their activity as below:

Resource and Capacity Building Committee: Dr. Pramod Pokhrel – Nine prospective members for the committee have been identified; the members are asked to submit a brief biography, and the first meeting will be held soon after he returns back from Nepal.

Information Technology Committee: Dr. Dev Paudel – Prospective four members for the committee have been identified, and he is now looking for few more candidates to complete the committee.

Collaboration and Extramural Grants Committee: Dr. Buddhi Gyawali – the committee is in the process of formation.

Meanwhile, Dr. Nityananda Khanal asked all committee chairs to prepare a brief scope, objectives, and work plan of their committees.

Rewards and Recognitions Committee: Dr. Uma Karki – The committee is in the process of formation. EC members can express their interest if they are interested to serve on the committee.

Women in Agriculture and Allied Professions Committee: Dr. Kripa Dhakal – Three prospective members for the committee have been identified; collection of member profile and preparation of the list of potential activities is underway.

Socio-cultural Committee: Mr. Dol P. Dhakal – First draft of the committee scope and working modality has been prepared and the committee is in the process of formation.

Agri-Connection Newsletter Editorial Board: Dr. Sushil Thapa – The call for expression of interest to serve AC editorial board has been announced; the new issue of AC will be released after the new committee is formed.

Meanwhile, Dr. Megha N. Parajulee suggested that EC members consider succession planning for the preparation of future leaders to maintain or uplift the standard of AC.

Webinar Committee: Dr. Ramjee Ghimire – Dr. Khusi Ram Tiwari will lead the committee. The committee chair is asked to find some interested members who can document the webinar output and submit to EC for the prospect of publication as a whitepaper in the Agri-Connection or Policy and Research Brief series.

Student Coordination Committee: Dr. Ramjee Ghimire – Mr. Madhav Parajuli will lead this committee and Mr. Bipin Neupane serves as the member secretary. Twelve-member committee has been formed and the committee is having its first meeting on July 15, 2022..

Membership Drive Committee: Dr. Ramjee Ghimire - Three new members recently joined NAPA including two student members and a general member.

Policy and Research Brief Editorial Board: Dr. Ramjee Ghimire – New committee members and the thematic areas will be identified soon.

- 3. Treasury transfer and status of accounts:** Treasurer Dr. Bishwo Adhikari updated that he was working in coordination with the outgoing treasurer Dr. Santosh Dhakal to understand the banking procedures and transfer of Treasury accounts to his name. The transfer process has been completed for Chase Bank and that for Vanguard is in the process; PayPal account is not tried yet, and tax filing is in the process of completion.

Dr. Ramjee Ghimire suggested that the treasurer share the balance sheet from each account, which has been a common practice in the past.

Dr. Megha Parajulee mentioned that any membership fees in Nepal was still collected first in his bank account, which might create a problem in future. Since he is currently in Nepal, he will collect information from the

banks for the possibility of opening NAPA account. Since NAPA is growing fast and the annual transactions are increasing, Dr. Parajulee also suggested forming a committee for internal audit. Dr. Adhikari and Dr. Parajulee will collect some information from other public organizations about their book keeping procedure and share it to the EC soon.

Some key persons such as President, Vice-President, and Treasurer (current and outgoing) will hold a meeting soon and make everything clear to the new treasurer, Dr. Adhikari.

- 4. Upcoming webinar:** Dr. Ramjee Ghimire updated that the upcoming webinar will be held with guest speaker Dr. Bishnu Raj Upreti, Executive Chairperson of Policy Research Institute (PRI) in Nepal on July 31, 2022.

It was agreed to form the Webinar Committee first, then ask the Committee to develop the protocol, webinar theme, and documentation of webinar outcomes in the form of research and policy recommendations.

- 5. President's visit to various institutions in Nepal:** Dr. Wagle is currently visiting Nepal; he had a plan for giving talks and conducting meetings with local universities, Nepal Agricultural Research Council, and Policy Research Institute. Dr. Ghimire updated that he recently completed some programs and other programs are in the process.
- 6. Research Mini-Grant (RMG) 2022 announcement: target beneficiaries, and funding sources:** Dr. Ghimire provided brief updates on the past and present project activities. Dr. Karki raised a concern about financial sustainability of the Research Mini-Grant program. Suggestions for conducting impact study of last two cycles of RMG projects, and exploring for alternative mentoring and research support approach were also discussed. It was agreed to confer those thoughts with RCBC Chair Dr. Pramod Pokhrel; let him form the committee, generate and discuss the ideas, develop plans for conducting impact study, and conceptualize alternative and complementary model for mentoring and research support to target beneficiaries. Then EC will discuss RMG plans proposed by RCBC and offer suggestions as needed.
- 7. Closing remarks and meeting adjournment:** Finally, General Secretary Dr. Khanal briefly highlighted major decisions with reference to meeting agenda; Dr. Thapa asked all committee chairs to form the committees as soon as possible; and Vice President Dr. Ghimire thanked the meeting attendees for their active participation and contribution to the agenda resolutions.

The next EC meeting is scheduled for August 14, 2022.

Minutes prepared by: Dr. Sushil Thapa, Joint Secretary, and Dr. Nityananda Khanal, General Secretary