



NAPA

Association of Nepalese Agricultural Professionals of Americas

Minutes of NAPA Executive Committee Meeting

3rd EC Meeting held on

Sunday, August 14, 2022; 8:00 - 9:45 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, Nityananda Khanal, Sushil Thapa, Bishwo Adhikari, Buddhi Gyawali, Dol P. Dhakal, Kripa Dhakal, Pramod Pokhrel, Uma Karki
Informed in absentia	Dev Paudel
Uninformed in absentia	Megha N. Parajulee
Invitee	-

President Dr. Pradeep Wagle welcomed meeting attendees and General Secretary Dr. Nityananda Khanal moderated the meeting with the review of the agenda items as below.

1. Follow up on action items from the previous meeting

a. **Whether or not to make EC meeting minutes public:** NAPA will continue sharing the EC meeting minutes, but in the future, minutes will be available to the members only after feature to log-in by members using their credentials is available on the NAPA website.

b. **Committees formation updates:** Each committee chair or the representative from the committee updated the current status of their activity as below:

Research and Capacity Building Committee (RCBC): Dr. Pramod Pokhrel – A nine-member committee has been formed and their biography is being collected. A committee meeting will be organized soon.

Socio-economic and Cultural Committee (SCC): Mr. Dol P. Dhakal – New members are added and the committee is in the process of preparing a digital compendium of agri-poems entitled “Krishika Susheliharu - 2” that were recited and/or collected during the NAPA Conference 2022.

Women in Agriculture and Allied Professions (WAAP) Committee: Dr. Kripa Dhakal – A 6-member committee has been formed. Two

meetings are already done. The committee will prepare a brief note on committee goals and activities for the upcoming issue of Agri-Connection. The committee is planning for a webinar soon inviting an accomplished women professional from Nepal. Dr. Sushil Thapa suggested that panel discussion instead of webinar can add diversity in the approach and avoid duplication with Webinar Committee's thematic webinar series.

Collaboration and Resource Building Committee (CRBC): Dr. Buddhi Gyawali – the committee is in the process of formation and expected to have about 10 members. Dr. Ramjee Ghimire shared the past experience and suggested not to include non-NAPA members in any committees.

Rewards and Recognitions Committee (RRC): Dr. Uma Karki – A three-member committee has been formed. The committee is in the process of collecting biographies from each member.

Agri-Connection Newsletter Editorial Board: Dr. Sushil Thapa – A three-member committee has already started working on the next issue to be released at the end of September or early October. Interested members both from Americas, Nepal or abroad will be identified and added to the team.

Webinar Committee (WC): Dr. Ramjee Ghimire – The next webinar is scheduled on September 11, 2022 with Dr. Punya Regmi, VC at Agriculture and Forestry University (AFU), Chitwan, Nepal.

Student Coordination Committee (SCC): Dr. Pradeep Wagle – A 12-member committee has been formed. The committee is collecting students' feedback for future planning.

Membership Drive Committee (MDC): Dr. Ramjee Ghimire - Three new members recently joined NAPA including one student member and two associate life members. There are 314 good standing members at this time.

Information Technology (IT) Committee: Dr. Dev Paudel sent notification of his absence, updating the committee which included web updates on Policy Research Brief Committee, and IT committee. Expert Database is being curated by Sandhya. Pradeep Wagle provided further brief about the IT Committee: The committee is continuously uploading new items. A member log-in system will be implemented soon.

Policy and Research Brief (PRB) Editorial Board: Dr. Ramjee Ghimire – A four-member committee has been formed. The committee is planning to publish one PRB issue in every six months.

- 2. Internal treasury update:** Dr. Bishwo Adhikari – Information on banking procedures and tax filing is being collected. Commercial software such as “Quickbooks” are available in the market for keeping account information up to date, and we want to try and see if the trial version is available. There is a total amount of \$36,956.38 in four bank accounts. The

investment in Vanguard is in loss at this time. Mr. Dol P. Dhakal said he could find some people to help with Tax filing and other account related activities. Dr. Adhikari will share the account information to the committee in a tabular form.

3. **NAPA-PRI MOU:** Dr. Ramjee Ghimire – For the purpose of working together (training, publications, virtual meetings/conferences), NAPA is in the process of having a MoU with Policy Research Institute (PRI) in Nepal. The first draft has already been prepared and currently the PRI team is reviewing it.
4. **NAPA-PRI-AFU Conference:** Dr. Ramjee Ghimire – NAPA has agreed to take a lead on organizing a virtual conference/symposium in partnership with PRI, AFU or more sometime in December 2022/January 2023 with the theme of "Transformative Agricultural Research, Development, & Educational Policy Framework." The idea of this conference/symposium is to develop a whitepaper for new policy in agricultural research and development in Nepal and move forward with collaborative endeavors.
5. **Professional Development training to NAPA members, PRI staff, and beyond:** Dr. Pradeep Wagle – For capacity building of NAPA members as well as PRI staff and beyond, NAPA will organize some professional development training such as data visualization, R programming, etc. in collaboration with PRI and beyond.
6. **Agri-Connection upcoming issue:** Dr. Sushil Thapa – The next issue of Agri-Connection will be released at the end of September or early October 2022. This issue will cover various activities of NAPA Conference 2022 and information about recently formed NAPA committees. All the committee leaders are requested to submit the committee profile and activities by September 15.
7. **Collaboration and Resource Building Committee (CRBC):** Dr. Buddhi Gyawali - A conceptual document of the committee has been prepared and will be shared among the EC members for their feedback soon. Dr. Gyawali highlighted the importance of a meeting with the Embassy of Nepal in the USA and he also wants to include some NAPA projects while writing capacity enhancement grants.

in the meantime, Dr. Pradeep Wagle clarified that research and capacity development related activities fall under the scope of Research and Capacity Building Committee (RCBC), and collaboration and resource generation related activities fall under the scope of newly formed Collaboration and Resource Building Committee (CRBC).

8. **Research Mini-Grant - retrospect and prospect:** Dr. Pramod Pokhrel – The RMG awards coupled with mentoring provided by NAPA was appreciated by the grant awardees in Nepal, based on Dr. Pokhrel's conversations with a

number of awardees. Amount of project budgets was said to be enough to conduct the proposed research. In addition to the advisors, the awardees are expecting feedback or suggestions from RCBC as well. Some issues such as whether to provide research grants to MS students or not, and the collaboration efforts with NARC will be discussed in the upcoming committee meetings.

In the meeting, opinions were shared for supporting **Nepal Agro-biodiversity Year 2022** by soliciting some Agro-biodiversity focused proposals under RMG.

9. **Closing remarks and meeting adjournment:** Finally, General Secretary Dr. Nityananda Khanal briefly highlighted major decisions with reference to meeting agenda; Vice President Dr. Ramjee Ghimire thanked the meeting attendees for their active participation and contribution to the agenda resolutions.

The next EC meeting is scheduled for August 21, 2022, mainly to discuss about ANPA roles and strategies in the proposed NAPA-PRI-AFU Conference.

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