



NAPA

Association of Nepalese Agricultural Professionals of Americas

Minutes of NAPA Executive Committee Meeting 5th EC Meeting held on Sunday, November 20, 2022; 5:00 - 6:15 PM CST

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

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

President Dr. Pradeep Wagle welcomed the meeting attendees. General Secretary Dr. Nityananda Khanal moderated the meeting on the following agenda items:

- Action items from the previous meeting:** Major action item from the previous special EC meeting held on August 21 was the joint NAPA-PRI symposium entitled "Agricultural Policies and Practices in Nepal: Pathways for Transformation" to be organized in collaboration with various stakeholders in Nepal. Detail progress is updated on the agenda item 4 below.
- NAPA treasury update:** NAPA treasurer Dr. Bishwo Adhikari shared the overview of the financial statements in various NAPA accounts. Vice President Dr. Ramjee Ghimire emphasized on settlement of Nepal's account with Immediate Past President Dr. Megha N. Parajulee pertaining to NAPA's transactions and balances. Dr. Parajulee proposed that Dr. Adhikari, Dr. Ghimire, and Dr. Parajulee himself would sit together to settle the account. President Dr. Wagle asked Dr. Adhikari to send acknowledgements of the receipt of any endowment donations to the donors, and also inform IT Chair Dr. Paudel for the preparation of acknowledgement flyers. Dr. Wagle also asked all EC members to contribute with their donations for the endowment fund.
- Presentation of progress and forward plans by specialized committee chairs**
 - Collaboration and Resource Building Committee (CRBC):** The committee chair Dr. Buddhi Gyawali updated the committee formation and introductory information of the objectives, scope of activities, and initiatives of the committee.

- 3.2 **Membership Drive Committee (MDC):** NAPA Vice President and Chair of the Membership Drive Committee updated the total NAPA membership in good standing at 330. Those included a number of new members who joined recently. He asked all EC and specialized committee members to reach out to prospective new members including new students and encourage them to join NAPA for networking, professional development, and opportunities for intellectual discourses and contributions. Dr. Ghimire also updated about the committee formation and plans for the **Policy Research Brief** publication.
- 3.3 **Student Coordination Committee (SCC):** NAPA President Dr. Wagle highlighted that the EC officials were in regular communication with the Leads of the Student Coordination Committee, Madhav Parajuli and Bipin Neupane. He emphasized on putting a focus on new students' recruitment and sharing of NAPA resources.
- 3.4 **IT Committee:** IT Committee Chair Dr. Dev Paudel reported that the NAPA website page was being transferred and the committee has targeted to complete the process by NAPA-PRI Symposium to be held on January 6-7, 2023.
- 3.5 **Endowment Fund Committee:** Immediate Past President Dr. Parajulee updated that the Endowment Fund statement was sent to Treasurer Dr. Adhikari. He requested the EC members to send their pledged amount to set the examples. He suggested that prospective donor individuals and organizations beyond the membership should be outreached for raising the Fund. Dr. Parajulee also asked to send reminders to the donors who had pledged for the donation.
- 3.6 **Women in Agriculture and Allied Sciences (WAAP) Committee:** The Committee Chair Dr. Kripa Dhakal updated about the committee formation and discussions about the invitation of exemplary women professionals for inspirational talks after the NAPA-PRI symposium.
- 3.7 **Research and Capacity Building Committee (RCBC):** Chair of the RCBC Dr. Pramod Pokhrel provided a broad overview of the RCBC activities. The Committee focused its major attention on launching Research Mini-Grant (RMG) projects. Dr. Pokhrel held meetings with Committee members and NAPA officials regarding the RMG.
4. **Research Mini-Grant Program: Decision making for the Call for Proposals**
The RCBC Chair, Dr. Pokhrel reported that the call for the new 2022-2023 was prepared and the links were shared for review by the EC and RCBC Committee members. He highlighted key RMG features as follows:
- Individual project amount NRs 40,000 as a sole or matching amount
 - One local advisor to one student
 - Contracts with the recipients to be executed by March 2023
 - Proposal writing guidelines were published through NAPA website
 - Proposal submission portal was created under the Research tab on the NAPA website
 - The submission form included contact details of the Advisors and Students

- Undergraduate students were prioritized as target recipients of RMG

President Dr. Wagle advised Dr. Pokhrel to release the RMG announcement with a due date of January 6, 2023. Dr. Wagle also reminded that NAPA members who contribute \$300 to the RMG can serve as NAPA Advisors to the students on the project of their choice.

Dr. Bishwo Adhikari announced that he was willing to contribute up to \$1000 for a suitable project and competent graduate students.

Dr. Megha N. Parajulee suggested a two-pronged approach – offering advisory supports to students who have other sources of funding, and providing both advisory and financial supports to those devoid of other funding.

Dr. Dev Poudel inquired if there could be any remuneration to the local advisors. Dr. Wagle and Dr. Parajulee opined that joint advisory to students for quality research and publications should be considered as a major incentive for now.

5. Agriculture Policy Symposium

The CRBC Chair Dr. Gyawali and NAPA President Dr. Wagle highlighted the progress to date for the symposium to be held on January 6-7, 2023. A series of weekly meetings with symposium partners and collaborators are being held every Wednesday, and the symposium typology finalized. The due date for the submission of symposium proceedings abstracts was extended till November 28, 2022. Four abstracts were received till November 20. The sessions would be solo presentations as well as panel discussions. Keynote speaker(s) were yet to be finalized.

Dr. Parajulee suggested utilizing media and outreach, and video interviews for the publicity of the symposium.

6. Others

Dr. Parajulee advised that the EC should start putting thoughts about next NAPA Conference plan.

After the discussions on the agenda, NAPA Vice President Dr. Ramjee Ghimire delivered closing remarks thanking all participants and stating that the discussions were fruitful, especially those on finance and Endowment Fund. Dr. Ghimire requested the EC members to contribute to the Endowment Fund. He also asked for reaching out to prospective new members. He encouraged NAPA members to participate in and promote the Agriculture Policy Symposium being jointly convened by NAPA and PRI along with many key stakeholders from Nepal. Finally, Dr. Ghimire opined that it would be worthwhile to develop a database of all agriculture-related professionals in the Americas and discuss this agenda further in the next meeting

Minutes prepared by Nityananda Khanal