



NAPA

Association of Nepalese Agricultural Professionals of Americas

NAPA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING 6th EC Meeting Minutes

Sunday, December 20, 2020; 7:00 - 8:30 PM CST

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

Attendance

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

1. General Secretary Dr. Ramjee Ghimire welcomed EC members and began the meeting.
2. **NAPA Endowment Fund:** President Dr. Megha N. Parajulee welcomed EC members and provided an update about establishing a NAPA Endowment Fund. He informed that an initial three-member NAPA Endowment Board, comprising president himself, immediate past president Dr. Lila B. Karki and the first NAPA General Secretary Dr. Prem B. Bhandari, is developing a procedure to initiate and manage the Endowment.
3. **Update on Committee Activities:**
Agri-Connection: Upcoming December 2020 issue is being prepared. Final editing is underway. This issue is mostly on information about NAPA 2020 Conference. Two new attributes included in this issue are "Featured Nepalese Agri-Entrepreneur" (Rajendra Rayamajhy for this issue) and "Featured Paper" (a chapter from NAPA's book "Principles and Practices of Food Security" published in August 2020).

Book Marketing: Two new students coming to the U.S. from Nepal have agreed to bring some books. Vice President Dr. Wagle



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appealed all EC members to request anyone in their network if they are travelling from USA to Nepal to bring books.

Career & Outreach Committee (COC): COC and Resource and Capacity Building Committee (RCBC), on November 15, 2020, jointly organized an Orientation cum Q&A on NAPA Research Mini-Grant program and its Call for Proposal.

Membership Drive Committee: NAPA currently has about 400 active members. Two life members joined NAPA in the past two months. NAPA has been requested to revisit its membership eligibility criteria and consider allowing undergraduate students to join NAPA. EC unanimously favored such provision and decided to include this request in the by-laws amendment agenda during the upcoming Annual General Meeting.

Resource and Capacity Building Committee: RCBC Chair Dr. Nitya Khanal provided updates on RCBC activities. Research collaboration with Nepal Agriculture Research Council (NARC) is being explored but has not yet started. RCBC developed Research Mini-Grant guidelines, prepared the Call for Proposals, published the calls, and also posted the link for the call online. Orientation and interactive Q&A session was held for RMG program. As in the past years, proposals will be reviewed following the blind review process.

As of December 20, 2020, the total estimated fund of \$6,644 has been pledged for Research Mini-Grant program. EC members were asked to reach out to their colleagues and request for donations for this fund.

Student Coordination Committee (SCC): As requested by student members, SCC wants to hold an interactive and Q&A workshop on applying for and renewing U.S. Visa and Green Card. NAPA needs to identify a speaker for this role. In the meantime, NAPA can share relevant resources from other news outlets or organizations (e.g., Khasokhas online, NRNA) when available.



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Webinar Committee: Provincial Secretary Ms. Sabnam Shivakoti was NAPA webinar speaker on December 13, 2020 who discussed “Provincial and Local Agricultural Services in Nepal: Collaboration for Effective Delivery.” Next webinar scheduled for January 24, 2020 will be a joint presentation by two Nepalese women entrepreneurs: Moushami Shrestha (Shreenagar Agro Farm: <http://www.safnepal.com/index.html>) and Sunita Nhempahuki (R&D Innovative Solution Pvt. Ltd.: <http://www.rndinnovative.com.np/>, <http://agrinepal.com/>) on “Developing Agricultural Entrepreneurship in Youth and Women: Practitioner’s Success Story.”

- NAPA Nepal Chapter:** NAPA has over 50 associate members in Nepal and this number is growing. Because NAPA focuses its program on Nepal’s sustainable agricultural development, NAPA members and advisors are suggesting EC to form a legal, functional and inclusive NAPA Nepal Chapter. However, the current NAPA by-laws does not have the provision to form such a Chapter. President Parajulee proposed to include this provision in the by-laws when the amendment will be presented in the next Annual General Meeting in May 2021 and EC unanimously accepted it. In the meantime, EC also agreed to keep exploring modalities of implementing this proposal.
- NAPA Expert Database:** Vice President Wagle informed members of the effort being made to develop a member database. An online form to collect such data is ready and will be sent out soon to members requesting them to fill out their information.
- 3rd Biennial Conference:** President Parajulee proposed to create a separate page on NAPA website to highlight the 3rd Biennial Conference, which EC unanimously approved. Joint Secretary Dr. Paudel informed that such page has already been created on the website and will be updated regularly as details come in.
- Celebrating NAPA Day (January 3, 2021):** Vice President Wagle updated members with the preparation for the upcoming NAPA Day and requested them to publicize and participate in the events.



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8. **Felicitating Legendary People:** NAPA will start a culture of felicitating people who have made exemplary contribution to Nepal's agricultural development. A working procedure will be developed to implement this program.
9. **Collaboration with Professional Associations:** There is a possibility for collaboration and experience sharing with other professional organizations in the USA, Nepal, and beyond. NAPA plans to organize meetings with these organizations in the near future.
10. **Effort for Larger Research Projects:** Preliminary discussion to form a core group to write proposals seeking external funding intended for larger scale research and development projects is underway. EC members will be informed of any progress in this effort.
11. **Financial Update:** Treasurer Dr. Santosh Dhakal provided financial update. NAPA account balance at the conclusion of the 5th EC meeting in October was \$33,825. Since then, NAPA has received \$3,495.19 additional money primarily from membership and Research Mini-Grant contribution. The current balance is **\$37,693.93**.

Some amount of balance could be invested for better returns. Treasurer Dhakal will be working with EC officials to explore various savings/investment options

12. **Adjournment:** Vice President Wagle thanked everyone for active participation and adjourned the meeting.