



NAPA

Association of Nepalese Agricultural Professionals of Americas

**Minutes of NAPA Executive Committee Meeting
10th EC Meeting held on
Sunday, July 30, 2023; 7:00 - 8:15 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, Nityananda Khanal, Sushil Thapa, Dev Paudel, Pramod Pokhrel, Uma Karki, Kripa Dhakal, Dol P. Dhakal, Buddhi Gyawali, Megha N. Parajulee
Informed in absentia	Ramjee Ghimire, Bishwo Adhikari
Uninformed in absentia	
Invitee	Lila B. Karki

President Dr. Pradeep Wagle welcomed the meeting attendees and stated the meeting on the following agenda items. The meeting was focused on planning for the forthcoming NAPA Conference 2024.

- 1. Preparation of NAPA 2024 Scientific Conference:** NAPA Conference 2024 organizing committee chair Dr. Lila B. Karki updated the status of the conference as below.
 - a) The conference organizing committee (COC) has been formed.
 - b) Call for abstract and student essay contest are almost ready to go.
 - c) Conference banner is ready, and the conference email account has been set up.
 - d) Various sub-committees are being formed.
 - e) Local organizing committee has been formed under the leadership of Basudev Sharma Paudel and the committee is in the process of expansion.
 - f) 14 conference themes have been suggested by NAPA members. The COC will hold a meeting and decide on the theme soon.
 - g) For the conference venue, the contract has not been done yet, but the committee is working toward it.

Meeting participants quickly discussed the fund-raising strategies. In addition to approaching companies, industry partners, and businesses, applying for USDA/OECD grants was also discussed as a potential option. It was decided to propose Dr. Ramjee Ghimire (Vice President) to work with the USDA grant and Dr. Buddhi Gyawali to check the possibility of applying OECD grant.

The meeting participants then discussed the NAPA bylaws which were presented for amendments in the last AGM. It was agreed to make amendments that were ratified by the majority of AGM participants, while other suggested changes will remain as it is.

- 2. Distinguished Contribution Award:** It was decided to name it as “NAPA Distinguished Achievement Award.” The call for nomination is ready to go. Since it is the highest award of NAPA, the committee has decided not to receive self-nominations. The outstanding job of the Award and Recognition Committee in drafting the award guidelines was appreciated by the meeting participants.
- 3. Activity highlights of specialized committees:** Committee members, who were present in the meeting shared progress/updates as below.
 - Collaboration and Resource Building - Dr. Buddhi Gyawali –Working on potential partnership building with Corus International for a USAID grant.
 - Research and Capacity Building - Dr. Pramod Pokhrel – First installment of the Research Mini Grant has been released. The committee will organize a series of trainings to increase the capacity of grant recipients in the coming days. The process of collating the announcements of professional and student opportunities on NAPA website is being reinstated to provide needed information to the opportunity seekers. NAPA members may forward the links of their own or other relevant announcements to collate on the NAPA website.
 - Agri-Connection Editorial Board - Dr. Sushil Thapa – The Agri-Connection Issue 8.2 has recently been released. The editorial board will be expanded in the near future.
 - Women in Agriculture and Allied Professions - Dr. Kripa Dhakal – The committee is collecting success stories from Nepal focusing on women entrepreneurs to publish in Agri-Connection. Some women professionals who returned from abroad and have been successful in their professions in Nepal will be invited as speakers in experience-sharing meetings soon.

Some other suggestions were:

- The financial report (budget status) needs to be formatted well to make it clear for everyone.
- Move the Endowment Fund that is still in the Checking account to the Saving account.
- Publish the Mini-Grant funded research results in the NAPA’s GJAAS journal.

At the end of the meeting, NAPA General Secretary Dr. Nityananda Khanal delivered closing remarks thanking all participants for meritorious discussions.

Minutes prepared by Joint-secretary Dr. Sushil Thapa.