



NAPA

Association of Nepalese Agricultural Professionals of Americas

**Minutes of NAPA Executive Committee Meeting
12th EC Meeting held on
Sunday, February 4, 2024; 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, Ramjee Ghimire, Sushil Thapa, Bishwo Adhikari, Dev Paudel, Pramod Pokhrel, Uma Karki, Nityananda Khanal, Megha N. Parajulee
Informed in absentia	Buddhi Gyawali, Kripa Dhakal
Uninformed in absentia	Dol P. Dhakal
Invitee	-

Meeting agenda:

1. Action items from last meeting minutes:
 - Endowment Fund contribution portal
 - Sending reminders to the pledgers and acknowledgements to the contributors
 - Continuation of subject-matter roundtables
 - NAPA AGM and Election Commission
2. Updates on 2024 NAPA Conference preparation
3. Updates on Committee activities
4. Patent WO2016109509A1 - Formulation and process for making fermented probiotic food and beverage products - Google Patents (<https://patents.google.com/patent/WO2016109509A1/en>): its bearing on Nepali Sinki/Gundruk and NAPA's response
5. Others: please suggest if you have any other matters to discuss.

The meeting started with the welcome remarks by President Dr. Pradeep Wagle. Discussions proceeded on the pre-circulated agenda items as follows:

1. Action items from the last meeting minutes

- i. *Endowment Fund contribution portal*: IT Committee Chair Dr. Dev Paudel informed that a direct online contribution system has been developed with hyperlinked "Donate" or "Pay" tabs, which enable the pledgers and direct contributors to put their information, payment frequency, and remarks, and make the payments.

- ii. *Sending reminders to the pledgers and acknowledgements to the contributors:* Dr. Bishwo Adhikari, Treasurer informed that Dr. Aditya Khanal has been doing it regularly. Dr. Adhikari also informed that a few pledges are overdue and need follow-up.
- iii. *Continuation of subject-matter roundtables:* The Research and Capacity Building Committee (RCBC) needs to discuss this with Dr. Shyam Kandel, who has taken on this responsibility. One or two roundtable events may be feasible prior to the 2024 NAPA internal Conference.
- iv. NAPA AGM and Election Commission: President Dr. Wagle moved a motion for the appointment of Dr. Prakash Malla as the Chief Election Commissioner, and Dr. Ramesh Raj Pokhrel and Mrs. Gita Koirala Bhandari as the members of the Election Commission to conduct the election of the NAPA Executive Committee for 2024-2026 term. The motion was seconded by Vice President Dr. Ramjee Ghimire, and all meeting attendees unanimously voted in favor. The appointment letters will be sent to the Election Commission officials with immediate effect.

2. Updates on 2024 NAPA Conference preparation

President Dr. Wagle provided brief updates: Conference Organizing Committee (COC) meetings have been held regularly; Local Organizing Committee activities are in progress; Scientific Committee got all abstracts reviewed and sent notifications of the decisions on the submissions to the corresponding authors; the fund raising opportunities and allocation of sponsorship are being explored; keynote speakers are being identified; and the conference registration portal is in the process of development on the NAPA website. President Dr. Wagle asked all EC members to participate in the COC meetings as much as possible.

3. Updates on Committee activities

Dr. Sushil Thapa, Editor-in-Chief of Agri-Connection newsletter reported that the last issue of the newsletter for 2023 is aimed to be released in January 2024. He requested for timely submission of committee updates and 2024 NAPA conference-related materials for the newsletter. Mr. Padma Atreya from Nepal has been added to the editorial team for Nepali edit.

Treasurer Dr. Bishwo Adhikari presented the financial updates. The investment account balances are in positive trend. Endowment Fund has been increasing with the receipt of pledged amounts. The EC decided to put \$15,000 in the Certificate of Deposit (CD) account and requested Dr. Adhikari to contact the Chase Bank and do the needful.

The amounts for the 2024 NAPA Conference preparatory expenses (first deposit) to the conference hotel have been sent and another installment of the deposit is anticipated in January-February 2024. The receipts of Endowment Fund pledges of 2023 are coming, while some of the 2022 pledge amounts are still due. It was emphasized that reminders

to the pledgers and acknowledgements to the contributors should be sent in a timely manner.

The NAPA Award and Recognition Committee Chair, Dr. Uma Karki informed that the Committee has made a decision on the recipient of the NAPA Distinguished Achievement Award for 2024, which will be announced during the 2024 NAPA Conference. Plaque preparation for the award is in progress. EC discussed the proposal of recognizing outstanding graduate students with academic excellence awards and realized that this proposal needs to be revisited for the award typology and decision process.

As the Editor-In-Chief of the Global Journal of Agricultural and Allied Sciences (GJAAS), Dr. Karki informed that guidelines to authors for full articles and short communications have been prepared; less than 90 days for decision on the submissions are planned.

Dr. Pramod Pokhrel, Chair of the Research and Capacity Building Committee (RCBC) informed that the 2nd installment of funding for the ongoing Research Mini-Grant (RMG) projects has been released. Some of the recipient students have completed the research, while others are in near-completion stage. Additional training for the students, Data Analysis II, is planned. The recipient students may benefit from the Guidelines to Authors for the GJAAS, and it will be communicated to them.

Dr. Ramjee Ghimire, Vice President and Chair of the Membership Drive Committee reported a gradual increase in NAPA membership. The additions to the life membership have also been encouraging. He emphasized efforts to reach out to prospective students and professionals.

4. Patent WO2016109509A1 - Formulation and process for making fermented probiotic food and beverage products - Google Patents (<https://patents.google.com/patent/WO2016109509A1/en>): its bearing on Nepali Sinki/Gundruk and NAPA's response

The EC decided to pursue this matter through further discussions and investigation, and take initiatives in its cancellation if deemed negative implications on the autonomy of processing this cultural food product.

The RCBC Chair Dr. Pokhrel notified that the committee would call for the mid-term progress reports for the RMG projects and schedule the presentations by the recipients soon. Upon review of the progress reports, the 2nd installment of the project funds will be released.

5. Miscellaneous

- i. NAPA Associate Life Membership fee: This membership from developing countries will be made equivalent to that of Nepal.

- ii. Vice President Dr. Ramjee Ghimire will find out about the feature of speakers' voice auto-translation into English so that non-Nepali audiences will be able to understand the verbal presentations and discussions in the Nepali language.
- iii. In the online payment systems on the NAPA website, no-fee or low-fee options should be highlighted to avoid the excessive fees some payment transfer service providers tend to charge.

Finally, Dr. Ramjee Ghimire, Vice President adjourned the meeting with closing remarks by reiterating the importance of follow-up with the Sinki/Gundruk patient discussed before. He requested NAPA EC members to join the 2024 NAPA Conference in person.

Minutes prepared by General Secretary Dr. Nityananda Khanal.