



# NAPA

## Association of Nepalese Agricultural Professionals of Americas

### NAPA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

3<sup>rd</sup> EC Meeting Minutes

Sunday, August 16, 2020; 7:30 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

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

#### 1. Welcome and housekeeping matters:

The General Secretary (GS) hosted and began the meeting and welcomed participants.

#### 2. Welcome notes and updates on NAPA programs:

President welcomed all members including a new EC member Dr. Uma Karki. He highlighted major NAPA activities executed since the last EC meeting: i) webinar presented by Government of Nepal Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development Secretary Mr. Rajendra Bhari on 26 July 2020, ii) brainstorming session with women professionals organized by Nepalese Women in Agriculture and Allied Professions (WAAP) on 9 August 2020, iii) imminent release of the Agri-Connection issue, and iv) restructuring of different NAPA committees and nominating their leads and members to ensure that these committees are fully and efficiently operational. He also highlighted that the forthcoming 2<sup>nd</sup> biennial conference (25-28 September 2020) is one of the major NAPA activities and the entire EC team should support Conference Organizing Committee (COC) to successfully host this conference. He reminded that the new EC is still at a transitional phase but at the same time we should be putting full effort to keep its programs and activities continuing without any compromise.

Additional notes from President's remarks are as follows:

*Develop WAAP as a standalone and powerful committee, and recently concluded brainstorming session inviting selected successful women professionals from Nepal and US is a step forward in this direction.*



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*For past months, our focus has been on forming NAPA committees and recruiting members for these committees. As we move forward, we may have to swap some members between committees based on their experiences, performance, and interest. We will also continually encourage members to contact any of the EC members for possible ways to volunteer in NAPA activities.*

*Advisory Council Meeting is scheduled for September 4, 2020. All EC members are expected to attend this first EC-Advisory Council meeting.*

*We have developed a biennial work plan for this EC term integrating the feedback received from EC members. Please provide comments or share new ideas if you have any on the work plan.*

*NAPA recently published its seminal book on Food Security. EC is coordinating with Book Publication Committee for its distribution and marketing.*

*After the new EC has been elected, NAPA has increased its programs and has also started publicizing them through various media, including Facebook and YouTube. This has helped heighten the visibility of NAPA. We would be continuing this promotion.*

*NAPA President organized and chaired the Agriculture Session at NRNA Knowledge Convention on 4 July 2020.*

*NAPA is invited to talk on NRN Convention in Kathmandu in October 2020.*

### 3. **Committee Coordinators/Lead/Advisor provide updates about committee activities:**

General Secretary Dr. Ghimire highlighted the plan for ensuring implementation of the items discussed and adopted by each committee and the effectiveness of the committee functioning toward meeting the goals and objectives of NAPA. Committees Chairs/Coordinators/Advisors will review and implement their committee meeting minutes. From the next EC meeting onwards, each committee shall present committee reports (PowerPoint) and also include implementation status of committee activities.

#### **Student Coordination Committee (SCC):**

Providing updates, SCC Advisor Dr. Dhakal shared that SCC's first meeting was held on July 18, 2020. Meeting minutes with four broad areas: legal, career, grad school and family, and miscellaneous has been shared with NAPA EC. "Careers in



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"Agriculture" program scheduled by NAPA for August 29, 2020 is in direct response to the SCC minutes received by EC. SCC meetings will be held on the last Saturday of each month (9:00-10:00PM EST).

### ***Women in Agriculture and Allied Professions (WAAP):***

WAAP coordinator Gita Koirala shared that WAAP held a virtual brainstorming session with women professionals from Nepal and US. Summary notes of this session have been shared with NAPA EC. WAAP is looking forward to successful implementation of the suggestions. The suggested activities demand sizable resources which may be challenging to procure. WAAP team has started reaching out to several women professionals in Nepal to join NAPA and other EC members are also requested to help with recruiting more women members.

### ***Membership Drive Committee (MDC):***

MDC Coordinator and Vice President Dr. Wagle informed that there has been a big push recently to recruit new members. Ten student members and seven life members have been recruited since this new EC was installed. He requested EC members to recruit at least one new member every two months.

### ***Agri-Connection (AC):***

Editor-in-Chief Dr. Khanal shared that Agri-Connection Vol 5, Joint Issue 2 & 3 has been finalized by his team and requested EC leadership to review it. President, Vice President and General Secretary plan to review it as soon as possible and pass it on to the rest of the EC team who will have a short timeframe to review before its publication.

### ***Resource and Capacity Building Committee (RCBC):***

Second meeting of RCBC was held on 2 August 2020.

The meeting decided the following.

- The RCBC team has started putting these minutes into action. For example, RCBC member Dr. Pramod Pokhrel and his team have started compiling graduate assistantship related calls/information and showcasing them through [NAPA Website](#).
- The committee has agreed on a work division among its members.



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- The RCBC needs input from EC on the date to announce the next Research Mini-grant (RMG) cycle, RMG sponsored research (annual or biennial), and the possibility of sponsors to be able to continue sponsorship to the same project for the following year. Because an operational guidelines to implement RMG is required, EC senior officers will work with RCBC committee and develop a clear RMG Policy Handbook.
- NAPA members are requested to use AmazonSmile for shopping on Amazon. NAPA has been listed as a charitable organization on Amazon. 0.5% of the amount spent by buyers goes towards NAPA. NAPA EC will send a mass email informing this to all members.

### **Webinar Committee:**

Vice President Dr. Wagle informed the committee of the next (19th) webinar session by Dr. Bed K. Khatiwada on 6 September 2020.

### **Advisory Council:**

The Advisory Council meeting is scheduled for September 4, 2020. All EC members are expected to attend this meeting.

### **IT Committee:**

IT Coordinator and Joint Secretary Dr. Paudel provided updates on conference registration form being developed along with the use of Google Analytics in NAPA website to record and analyze NAPA website access and use.

### **NAPA Book Marketing:**

Vice President Dr. Wagle shared that of 300 books printed in Nepal, 175 copies have been provided to different outlets for sale/distribution, including 50 to the Agricultural and Forestry University in Chitwan. He requested members, if they know of somebody coming from Nepal to the US, to request them to bring some books from Nepal. EC Member Dr. Kandel represents EC on marketing effort.

### **NAPA Nepal Liaison:**

General Secretary Dr. Ghimire informed that NAPA leadership had a meeting with NAPA Nepal Liaison Mr. Kiran Ojha on 8 August 2020. Mr. Ojha shared many different opportunities that NAPA can pursue, including grant calls published through Nepal-based



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INGOs. VP Dr. Wagle informed that Mr. Ojha will be invited to an RCBC meeting where he will explain about funding opportunities available in Nepal that NAPA may pursue.

### **Research and Policy Brief (RPB):**

Vice President Dr. Wagle provided an update on RPB that the Research and Policy Brief Editorial Committee is working to identify the topics and invite authors to write RPB(s).

### **4. 2020 Megha Parajulee SONE Student Award:**

Current NAPA President Dr. Megha N. Parajulee has been sponsoring this award for the past 10 years through Society of Overseas Entomologists (SONE) at Entomological Society of America annual meetings. The award includes a plaque and \$200 cash to the Best Graduate Student selected by a structured SONE Selection Committee. This year SONE proposed to channelize this award through NAPA. The committee unanimously approved this proposal. Dr. Parajulee sponsors this award through NAPA.

### **5. Nomination of Committee Coordinators/Chairs/Members:**

IT Committee: Two new members have been nominated. They are Pramod Pokhrel (US) and Deependra Dhakal (Nepal).

Communication Committee: Dr. Shyam Kandel will lead this team and Mr. Deependra Dhakal (Nepal) will assist him.

NAPA will continue to recruit new members in these committees as needed.

WAAP: Two members (Kripa Dhakal and Ambika Tiwari) have been nominated. The committee may consider expanding the committee size based on its need.

### **6. NAPA Second Biennial Conference**

#### **a. Conference preparation and updates**

Conference Secretary and NAPA Treasurer Dr. Santosh Dhakal provided updates on the Second NAPA Biennial Conference preparation. The COC is working to finalize the programs. The Scientific Committee is working on conference proceedings and it should be done in few days. Once the proceedings is finalized from the NAPA team, native-language speaking editors will be requested to edit it.

#### **b. Registration fees**



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The EC unanimously approved that a late fee of 25% will be charged after the expiry of the early bird registration date, i. e., September 7, 2020 for the 2nd Biennial Conference.

### 7. NAPA Annual and Biennial Work Plan

Due to time constraints the NAPA Work Plan could not be discussed in the meeting. General Secretary Dr. Ghimire will send it through email. EC members are requested to provide suggestions, if any.

### 8. Financial updates:

Treasurer Dr. Dhakal presented financial details. As of August 16, 2020, NAPA has a total of \$29,264.12 balance in its account.

### 9. Other matters:

#### a. Sharing non-NAPA publications

Any request to share scientific and/or other publication materials from NAPA members or non-members among NAPA members will be handled on a case-by-case basis. The appropriateness of the requested publication material for circulation amongst NAPA members shall be discussed and decided by President, Vice President, and Secretary. Publication(s) to be shared should align to NAPA's mission and goal.

#### b. Holding EC meetings on weekdays

We will keep options open for other time slots but in the current scenario, Sunday evening time appears more conducive for majority EC members.

### 10. Vice President Dr. Wagle thanked everyone for their participation and adjourned the meeting.