



A Quarterly Newsletter of Nepal Agricultural Research Council

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Dhruva Joshy: NARC Executive Director

Mr. Dhruva Joshy, Principal Scientist (S-5) has been appointed on to the position of Executive Director of Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC) for a period of next four years with a decision from His Majesty's Government on 9 Dec. 1999.

It is for the first time in the history of NARC an Executive Director has been appointed confirmed as per the "Nepal Agricultural Research Council Act 1991".

NARC Website
at
www.narc-nepal.org

NARC WebPages have begun to be published at the new website. We request for comments and suggestions to make it lively, attractive & rich with information

The Government appointed him according to NARC Act 1991 (First Amendment 1997) Article No. 13.



Mr. Joshy was born on 4 June 1945 in Sarlahi, Nepal. He has had his constant involvement in the field of agriculture research and development for the last thirty five years with various managerial and technical positions.

Mr. Joshy an M.Sc. in Soil Science from United Kingdom in 1974 has already had the positions of Acting Executive Director of NARC; Director for Planning and Coordination of NARC; Chief of Soil Science

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NARC Planning and Budgeting for FY 2000/2001

The process of annual program planning and budgeting of NARC for the year 2000/2001 is undergoing with various activities. The NARC follows bottom-up and top – down convergent approach in planning process. The bottom-up approach begins from the village level planning workshop of outreach research with the participation of clients, farmers, extensionists and NGOs. And with the feed back obtained from the village level workshops and Regional Technical Working Group (RTWG) meetings, research programs are formulated. The proposals prepared are submitted for further processing in regional workshops, technical panels' review, Board meeting and finally to Council meeting for approval. The top-down approach begins with the guideline and directives from National Planning Commission through Ministry of Agriculture, the

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Spring's Greetings

& Best Wishes

on The New Millennium Year 2000

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

- Dhruva Joshy: NARC Executive Director
- NARC Planning and Budgeting for F.Y. 2000/2001
- Int'l Training Workshop on Information for Development
- Nat'l Workshop on Seed Quality Control and Plant Variety Rights
- Training Workshop on Project Proposal Writing
- Hill Maize Research NARC/CIMMYT/SDC Collaboration

Editorial

The world is getting into a new millennium with a change at a frenzied pace in human life upon the new frontiers of information revolution. The closing decades of the outgoing millennium saw the rapidist pace in the development of the information technology. With the integration of computer and communication, the changes in the life style are bound to be far rapider than ever before. The world has become so compact that one can soar over the world through a computer within a room.

Science and technology so advanced, but it has not so an impact in the field of agriculture. The world is getting sort of food for its population and is more likely to get into a very serious situation of food crisis. The country like Nepal that has the agriculture as mainstay of national economy will even far more seriously be affected. During the period the science and technology brought a miracle in the field of agriculture, the status of food supply got poorer. Nepal used to export food until few decades ago but it, with the population growth, has come down to a position to import food every year. What the economy of an agricultural country will be if it has to continuously spend for food import.

Agriculture is predominantly the mainstay of Nepalese economy and will be in the millenniums to come. Nepal has sufficient natural resources for agricultural and diverse of favourable agro-climates. What we really need to is to identify them properly to find alternatives within the agriculture. While thinking for the agricultural development a real picture has to be drawn in mind.

Nepalese agriculture: a picture

- Abundant agricultural resources
- Diverse agro-climatic conditions
- Improportionate infrastructure and market management
- Insufficient technologies and immature adoption by farmers
- Subsistence agriculture and traditional farming practices
- Poor socio-economic fundamentals

Rich with natural resources for agriculture and diverse agro-climatic conditions, Nepal has not been much able to exploit the opportunities. Farmers are bound to labour very hard for a little product as they can find no other suitable alternatives to make their living. The parts rich for fruits are used to get a handful of millets etc. as

CIMMYT's support in Strengthening Web Publishing

The worldwide network with an integration of computer and information has opened new opportunities for information sharing. It has ever increasingly been recognized in agriculture research and development. Apart from delivering services to the researchers with an access to information to their interest, the work of effective dissemination in the agricultural research organization is a demanding task. However, these often have very limited financial and skilled manpower resources. There has also been lack of knowledge on the rapid technological developments.

With a view of capacity building and strengthening the web publishing of NARC, CIMMYT (International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center); Nepal recently provided an assistance with a powerful computer and a short training in web page designing. Mr. Krishna Raj Bhatta, Editor in NARC had a training visit to CIMMYT India, on web page design, and web publishing from 29 Nov 3 Dec. 1999. Under the CIMMYT assistance, NARC had also obtained its own domain name in the internet (i.e. www.narc-nepal.org) with access to FTP for web publishing by ownself. Previously NARC had its web pages in NepalNet Site (i.e. www.PanAsia.org.sg/Nepalnet/NARC/home.htm.) under PanAsia Server. It had no FTP access to publish by ownself. Now the work of web publishing is undergoing in the new website.

MoU Signed for Agriculture Program on NTV

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) among Ministry of Agriculture, NARC and Nepal Television (NTV) has been signed to continue the daily agriculture program on NTV more effectively. Under the MoU, NARC and Department of Agriculture will pay the NTV certain amount of money for the minimum cost of the program. A provision of incentive for the participants to each program has also been made.

they have no idea about and transport access. Therefore, what most urging is to facilitate for optimum use of prioritized farming system.

International Training Workshop on Harnessing Information for Development

International Training Workshop on "Harnessing Information for Development" was held at University Putra Malaysia. (UPM) Malaysia, from 15-19 November 1999.

The five-day workshop was jointly organized by CAB International, the UPM and ISNAR with the objectives to;

- Expose participants to some of the most important issues facing information users and publishers today, especially these resulting from the electronic revolution and the opportunities and challenges offered by access and exposure to the World Wide Web
- Provide practical insights to the potential and pitfalls of using this technology for information access and information generation/publishing in their own environment

Mr. B.M.S. Basnet, Chief, Communication, Publication and Documentation Division of NARC participated the workshop during which a solid program of presentation; hands on exercises; field visits and case studies about Information Communication Technologies (ICT) and management information systems(MIS); information access; and information generation were held.

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Division; Coordinator of National Agricultural Research Institute(NARI); National Coordinator, HMG/FAO Fertilizer Project. He has also had experiences with international agencies as specialist and consultant of FAO to Afghanistan, Indonesia, Madagascar and Lao PDR in promoting biogas technologies.

Mr Joshy an awardee of "Suprabal Gorkha Dakshin Bahu" from His Majesty King in 1998 was also awarded with "FAO Fertilizer Program Commemorative Medal" for his active involvement in implementing FAO Fertilizer Program in the country to promoting the use of fertilizer for increasing food production.

The Executive Director is the Administrative Head, the Chairman of Executive Board and the Member Secretary of the Governing Council of NARC.

National Workshop on Seed Quality Control and Plant Variety Rights

The National workshop on Seed Quality Control and Plant Variety Rights “ was jointly organized by National Seed Board(NSB) and Seed Sector Support Project (SSSP) at Khumaltar on 26 November 1999.

The workshop was inaugurated by Honorable Minister for Agriculture, Mr. Chakra Prasad Bastola in which he talked about importance of seed for agricultural development and urged to think about making the country self sufficient.

In the workshop plant variety rights and registration, and seed quality control system were presented followed by discussions. The workshop concluded with recommendations as follows.

Plant Variety Rights.

- Land races and improved crop varieties will be dealt separately for protection of resources and for getting into WTO.

- Varietal protection for biodiversity and conventional crop varieties
- Creating awareness for WTO
- NSB and VARRC be responsible for running Distinct Uniformity & Stability(DUS) Testing
- Public and private sectors in varietal development and testing should remain at par
- NSB as Secretariat should also work for reference collection and running the DUS test
- Add the performance requirements prerequisite form for candidate varieties

Seed Quality Control System

- International standard, trade value, cost effectiveness and public plus private expertise involvement
- Certification & truthful labeling with minimum standard, seed quality

Agricultural Research must be prepared for the new millenium challenge : Joshy

Agriculture research has to come up with much more effective outputs so as to prepare the world meet the challenge of feeding its population in the next millennium. It was outlined by Mr. Dhruva Joshy, newly appointed Executive Director to the NARC staff gathered to welcome him on the first day of his office.

A strong and dynamic organization with institutional stability is necessary for making out the effective research. A disciplined scientific, administrative and technical staff is required for the organizational development. NARC as sought to be a center of excellency for agriculture research has to prove with

its outcomes that can help bring change in living of farming people. Although a state of chaos seen to exist in the past some years, the agriculture research is now moving on with a development as a system and the scientists have begun to get recognition. But we scientist/ researchers have to show our potential and capability to move on the organization more efficiently and effectively, he remarked.

The Executive Director also underlined the need to make proper manpower adjustment in NARC as it has no proportional and rational distribution of the personnels. He expressed his commitment that it will be worked out soon with a view “ right man in right place”

At the occasion, Director and the officiating Executive Director, Mr. D.S. Pathik welcomed Mr. Joshy and expresses his happiness on the appointment of Executive Director first time as per the Council Act.

Dr. Bhola Ram Pradhan, Senior Scientist moderated the program. Earlier, a large gathering of NARC staff was seen to extend him warm welcome with garlands and flower bunches at his stepping in.



control scheme can be practiced for assuring the quality seed in the market.

Any established varieties from abroad should be registered in NSB testing for eligibility in the national scheme for better protection of introduced species

- All seed quality control scheme come under enforcement by the Government.

Training Workshop on Project Proposal Writing

Hill Agricultural Research Project (HARP) organized a training workshop on Project Proposal Writing at Khumaltar from 22-24 November 1999.

The three-day training workshop was a follow-up to the training held earlier on Project Concept Note (PCN) in August 1999 with the same participants from NARC and some NGOs.

Main objectives of the training was to develop key persons to guide scientists/ researchers in research project design that consists of problem identification based on situation analysis, prioritization and use of systematic procedure to design and monitor the research project i.e. “Log-frame”, the system chosen in case of the HARP.

In the training, the participants were given theoretical and practical knowledge about developing research projects and planning in the context of agricultural development research priorities and planning of the research activities.

HARP Preference

In the process of developing a research project for HARP funding, researchers are required to take the following factors into consideration:

- Higher priority to the projects promoting collaboration among different research/ development institutions,
- Preference to the projects with orientation of on-farm research (applied /adaptive types) including the participation of extension / development workers and farmers,
- Projects involving multidisciplinary teams,
- projects using locally available resources and facilities at stations or at other institutions within the country, and
- Projects that could test locally available but untapped technology as well as test technology already developed at other national and international research centers.

Council and NARC for formulation of research projects to address the national needs.

NARC, recently, with consultation amongst scientists, representatives of National Planning Commission (NPC) and Donor agencies and with review of the previous guideline has prepared and issued "Guideline and Directives for the Preparation of Agricultural Research Projects for Sustainable Agricultural Development in Nepal".

The guideline assumes the main focus of research should be on "Poverty Alleviation," the core theme of the Ninth five Year Plan. The research proposals should be result oriented to meet national goals as envisaged by the Agriculture Perspective Plan (APP). The guideline contains the following points.

Major issues to be addressed

1. Poverty alleviation by generating on-farm and off-farm employment,
2. Utilization of available farm resources for rainfed and relatively low fertile land,
3. Sustainable use of natural resources,
4. Low input and cost effectiveness,
5. Food security and balanced nutrition,
6. Rural livelihood improvement,
7. Eco-friendly management practices,
8. Farming system-oriented outreach research,
9. Equity and gender perspective, and
10. Reduction of drudgery.

Research areas to be focused

1. **Commodity research** should give emphasis to generate or improve technologies on:
 - Major food crops such as rice, maize, wheat and potato,
 - Potential commercial crops such as apple, citrus and vegetables,
 - Cash crops such as coffee, cardamom, turmeric, ginger,
 - Industrial crops such as sugarcane, tobacco, tea, jute, soybean, cotton, sunflowers and others,
 - Exportable commodities such as lentil, niger, angora rabbit, trout fish, baby corn, sweet oranges and others,
 - Specialized commodities such as sericulture, bee keeping and mushroom.
2. **Inter-disciplinary research** should give emphasis on following areas:
 - Cropping intensity and productivity enhancement,
 - Intensification of livestock and fishery production,
 - Integration of crop, livestock and agro-forestry,

- Soil fertility improvement emphasizing integrated nutrient management (INM),
- Integrated pest management (IPM),
- Quality seed production,
- Water management, and
- Agri-business, marketing and post-harvest technologies.

Categorization of research projects

Research projects should be grouped into following categories:

1. Core research projects which include long-term and on-going type of basic research and activities:
 - Crop, livestock and fishery improvement (Breeding),
 - Multiplication, conservation and maintenance of crop germplasm and livestock/fishery genetic materials,
 - Problem identification (Survey/monitoring),
 - Management research, and
 - NARC-based outreach research (Dissemination of proven technologies, participatory research).
 - Policy research analysis related to agriculture
2. Technology development research projects which are more applied and adaptive in nature and short to medium type in duration:
 - Quick evidence of impact with farmers,
 - Testing and verification,
 - Development of techniques and tools, and
 - Improvement on the existing technologies.
3. Socio-economic research:
 - Diagnostic surveys,
 - Socio-economic studies,
 - Cost-benefit analyses,
 - Market potential studies, and
 - Equity/gender issues.
4. Environmental science for agriculture and natural resources:
 - Pesticide use and effect,
 - Fertilizer use and effect,
 - Livestock feeding and effect,
 - Soil conservation and land use,
 - Agro-climates,
 - Agro-forestry, and
 - Aquatic life.
5. New Frontiers/Exploratory research:
 - Biotechnology,
 - Crop modeling,
 - Use of tools like Geographic information system (GIS), and
 - Software for management and information systems (computer tools).

Some mandatory directives

1. Area and level of research conducted by different NARC bodies (disciplinary divisions, commodity programmes, regional research stations, location specific research stations) should be improved and maintained. For example, research proposals from disciplinary divisions must cover subject matters in depth so that the findings can be applied to other areas of research. In other words, disciplinary research works should be one-step ahead and such activities should help guide others. Similarly, regional need-based proposals should originate from regional stations while location specific problems from relevant research stations within a region.
2. Chief of the stations, commodity programmes and disciplinary divisions should prepare an office management project. This project should be able to address how the chief is going to integrate and manage existing on-going projects, new NARC-projects, externally-funded collaborative projects, and research and development activities with NGOs and other agencies. The station management should cover all research and other activities that the station expects to be engaged in the next year. Also, each station should submit specific constraints with possible solution as well along with the project proposal.
3. Due to the lower number of the outreach research sites of NARC, mainly because of low availability of technical and/or scientific manpower, it is difficult to coincide pocket package programmes (PPP) of Department of Agriculture (DOA) and Department of Livestock Services (DLS) with the NARC outreach sites. However, it is NARC's responsibility to address the agricultural technology needed for PPPs. Therefore, make sure that problems of these PPPs are included in the research proposals that have been collected from Regional Technical Working Group (RTWG) meetings and other feed back systems. Also, wherever possible, outreach research sites of NARC and PPP should coincide and the outreach research should concentrate to generate technologies suitable for the PPPs.
4. Develop programmes for increased farm production using farm resources efficiently and promote outreach activities (farmers' day, field visit, demonstrations, observation tours) without hampering the research projects.

Some special directives

1. There are many projects that can be combined and consolidated into a single project in a comprehensive manner. Avoid one trial or one experiment project, but one project approach. For example, initial evaluation trials, advanced varietal trials should be combined to make one project as variety improvement for certain agro-

ecological conditions (e.g. rainfed lowland). The trails should be assigned as activities of related project. Similarly, all production projects should be combined into a single project of a sector.

2. There is limited manpower within NARC, especially in horticulture, livestock, fishery and socio-economic sectors that has resulted in limited research in these sectors. Memorandum of understanding (MoU) between DOA, DLS, Institute of Agriculture and Animal Sciences (Tribhuvan University) and NARC will be signed for the collaborative research in these areas. Include the members of these institutes in research wherever needed. Wherever possible, make collaboration with NGOs/INGOs and other private sector. As far as possible, it is also necessary that these collaborative partners should be included in village level workshop and other planning processes.
3. Priority should be given to collaborative projects which can obtain funding from other than NARC sources (e.g. DFID, ACIAR, HARP, SAVERNET, FRP/DGISP etc.).
4. Inter-disciplinary research proposals are encouraged in order to avoid duplication, repetition and effective use of resources to attain the common objective.
5. Research works and outputs should be complemented/supplemented with environmental and climatic parameters to the extent possible.
6. To emphasize the importance of outreach research, include all the districts of the command area (not only the districts covered by AREP) and program for regular monitoring by the stakeholders concerned.
7. The outreach research projects should be developed based on the outcomes of village level workshop participated by farmers, extension agents, NGOs and other stakeholders. Also, the research projects should have very clear "core problem" that results from consultation with farmers or other users.
8. Provision for contract research could be made in those identified researchable areas for which NARC at present do not have facilities and manpower.

Some specific areas (having poor repository knowledge) where research should be initiated

1. Cut flowers,
2. Ornamental fish,
3. Off-season vegetables,
4. Spices,
5. Wild mushrooms, and
6. Mules.

The complete booklet of the Guideline and Directives is available at NARC, Khumaltar

Rice Field Day

A field Day was organized by Agriculture Botany Division to observe Hill Rice Research activities conducted at Khumaltar. Different scientists working in rice crop, various divisional heads and Director of Crop and Horticulture Research/NARC participated in the program. The rice research activities mainly focussed on mid and high altitude rice and exhibited a number of promising cultivars suitable for the conditions.

NR 10375-14-2-1, NR 10375-20-2-1 and NR 10291-6-1 were the blast tolerant outstanding lines suitable for Kathmandu valley (High Fertility) condition whereas NR 10285-29-3-1, NR 10276-9-3-3-2 and NR 10286-3-2-2 were found promising for mid hill situations under medium fertility condition. For high altitude, materials were planted one and half month later than the normal time at Khumaltar, so as to expose the rice plant to low temperature during panicle initiation to maturity stages. This was practiced in order to identify suitable cold tolerant genotypes for high altitude areas. Yungen-1, Zhinglin-78 were identified suitable for high elevation areas like Jumla valley.

National Seminar on System of Food and Agricultural Statistics in Nepal

A Seminar on the "System of Food and Agricultural Statistics in Nepal" was organized in Kathmandu from 15-16 December 1999.

The two-day seminar was jointly organized by Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS).

In the workshop presentation on Methodological Review of Data Collection, Analysis, Utilization and Dissemination on Agricultural Census in Nepal; Compilation and Utilization of food Balance sheet; Methodological Review of Statistical Information on Agriculture in Ministry of Agriculture; use of Agricultural Statistics in support of strengthening food security program were held each followed by discussions.

Earlier a workshop was held on similar subject from 13 to 14 December organized by Central Bureau of Statistics and Asian Development Bank with the view to inform

TALK PROGRAMS HELD AT NARC

1. "New Directives in Agricultural and Natural Resources Research and Extension System: Implications for Nepal" by Dr. S. Biggs, Research Management Specialist, AREP/NARC on 17 December 1999.
2. "Contribution of Late Netra Bahadur Basnyat in Agriculture Research, Education and Development" by Mr. Hutaram Baidya, Dr. Deepraj Sharma, Mr. Bidur Kumar Thapa, Mr. Top Bahadur Basnyat, Ms. Kamlesh Lata Rajbhandari, Dr. Krishna Prasad Sharma, Mr. Dularchan Sahu Pathik, Dr. Madhusudan Upadhaya on 13 December 1999.
3. "Biogas as a source of fuel and fertilizer" by Dr. Krishna Bahadur Karki, Senior Scientist, NARC on 2 December 1999.
4. "Rice-Wheat System in China and their relevance to Nepalese Agriculture" by Mr. T.P. Pokhrel, Director, Crop&Horticulture/ NARC and Dr. P. Hobbs, Regional Representatives, CIMMYT
5. "Red ant, *Dorlus orientalis*, in Nepal and its Management" by Dr. S.L. Joshi, Senior Scientist, Entomology Division, NARC on 29 October 1999.

Workshop on Environment

A National level Workshop on "Present Environment Challenges, Management of Pesticides, Chemical Fertilizer and Solid Waste" was organized by the Society of Environment Journalists-Nepal (SEJ-Nepal) from 3-4 October in Kathmandu.

about the technical cooperation project of the ADB in making the central Bureau of statistics (CBS) institutionally and technically capable of collecting agricultural data.

Mr. Bholu Man Sing Basnet from NARC participated in both of the programs.

Hill Maize Research Project Gains Momentum under NARC/CIMMYT/SDC Collaboration

Report of the RRA Survey and the Development of the Maize Almanac

HMRP 2nd planning meeting

The hill maize research project was initiated in January 1999 with financial support of SDC and implemented by International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) and NARC. The first project – planning meeting was held in Rampur in February and project activities were initiated immediately following that meeting. The projects funded in 1999 were in addition to those already approved and funded by NARC for the 1998/99 fiscal year. This second planning meeting held at Khumaltar Dec 6-7, 1999, provided a forum for the review of these experiments as well as all other maize research conducted in the hills during this season. The objectives of the second planning meeting were:

- To review the results of maize research during the 1999- growing season,
- To finalize research programs to be supported by HMRP for fiscal year 1999/2000, and
- To develop consensus on operational aspects of the project.

Twenty-eight scientists from Khumaltar, Rampur, Kabre, Dailekh, LAC, PAC and CIMMYT (including DR SK Vasal from ARMP Thailand) participated in the planning meeting. The meeting accomplished thorough review of past maize research and gave impetus to the future maize research in Nepal . All projects that are developed will be submitted for NARC Panel to review, though they will be funded before the normal budget period (this will basically apply to the 1999/2000 fiscal year).



Review and Revision of a Strategy for Breeding, Maintenance and Seed Multiplication of Maize in Nepal

A draft strategy document was circulated. The essential elements of the strategy were presented for discussion. Most of the discussions focused on the development of hybrids within the National Maize Research Program and there was not sufficient time to discuss other aspects of the strategy. However, a meeting of representatives of each of the stations met to further discuss the strategy in more detail and a revised strategy document was prepared with Dr Vasal's input. The meeting finalized the maize strategy, which will be refined and finalized in the near future. The Planning meeting also made progress in finalizing agronomic experiments in four Hill Agriculture Research Stations (ARS). Regarding Maize Seed Production Enterprise Development at the Community Level, it was agreed that the availability of improved seeds is a critical issue in the hills and the production of seed at the community levels was strongly endorsed as a justifiable activity.

The Maize Almanac is a GIS-based application that is being developed under the leadership of the GIS-Lab in CIMMYT Mexico. It was reported that a working version of the Almanac would be ready in early 2000 and training is scheduled for maize researcher in its use in February. Three maps were used to demonstrate the potential that the Almanac will have for

helping prioritize research activities. A Rapid Rural Appraisal (RRA) of maize production in 46 Village Development Committees (VDCs) in 12 districts in the hills and 5 districts in the Terai was carried out in September/October with the active participation of NARC scientists. CIMMYT and APROSC researchers were also involved in the planning and implementation of the RRA survey. This turned out to be a comprehensive survey ever to understand maize production environments in Nepalese hills. Dr. Prabhu Pingali and Roberta Gerpacho from CIMMYT Mexico and the Philippines respectively provided technical guidance to this activity. The RRA consisted of a semi-structure questionnaire that included a group visit at the village level and a household survey. Seven teams consisting of four members conducted these surveys. The draft synthesis report of this work is expected to be ready by the end of January.

Correction on the Identification of Buckwheat Species

Photographs of two wild buckwheat species presented in the previous issue of NARC Newsletter (Vol. 6, No. 3) were miscaptioned. It has been clarified here below.



Fagopyrum cymosum growing in the natural inhabitant, Dolpa, 1999



Fagopyrum megacarpum growing in the natural inhabitant, Dolpa, 1999

Condolence



Tara Nath Regmi

Scientist at GIS Section of Soil Science Division, NARC

Passed away at prime of his age on 13 October.

We feel profound sorrow on the untimely demise of the dedicated, honest and hard working member of the Institution.

We express a very heartfelt condolence to the bereaved family

TRAINING WORKSHOP/SEMINARS, STUDY & TOURS

(October - December 1999)

S.N	Name	Position/Faculty	Subject	Duration	Country
SEMINAR/WORKSHOP					
1.	Mr. Shambhu Bahadur Panday	Director/Planning	Regional W'shop on Effects of Trade Liberalization on Agriculture in Asia	5-8 October	Indonesia
2.	Mr. Binaya Kumar Batsa	S-3/Patho.	Visiting Scientists	11 Oct. - 4 Dec.	Thailand
3.	Mr. Mahesh Man Palikhe	S-3/Agron.	" "	" "	"
4.	Mr. Surya Prasad Shrestha	S-3/Agron.	Jute Workshop	11-14 October	Thailand
5.	Mr. Durga Nanda Chaudhary	S-4/Agron.	Workshop on specific application development of jute based nonwovens to enable commercialization	18 November	India
6.	Dr. Nanda Prasad Shrestha	Director/Livestocks	Stakeholder workshop of the regional partners	15-17 November	India
7.	Mr. Sudip Gautam	T-6/Socio	" " "	" "	India
8.	Mrs. Jagat Devi Ranjit	S-3/Agron.	The Seventh Asia-Pacific Weed Science Society Conference	22-27 November	Thailand
9.	Mr. Shambhu Lal Shrestha	S-4/Agron.	CLAN Country Coordinators Steering Committee meeting	7-9 December	India
10.	Mr. Ram Krishna Neupane	S-3/Agron.	" " " " "	" "	"
11.	Mr. Dularchan Shahu Pathik	Executive Director	Steering Committee Meeting of APAARI	29 Nov.-1 Dec.	Thailand
12.	Mr. Gyan Prasad Rai	S-4/Horticulture	Global Conference of Potato Research	6-10 Oct.	India
13.	Mr. Dhruva Joshy	S-5/Soil	Management of Soil Erosion Consortium (MSEC)	24-30 October	Philippines
14.	Mr. Ram Bahadur Maskey	S-3/Soil	" " "	" "	"
15.	Dr. Kishor Kumar Sherchan	S-3/Agron.	Sixth International Conference on Kyusei Nature Farming	28-31 October	Africa
16.	Mr. Devendra Gauchan	S-3/Socio	W'shop "Legal and Policy Needs of Developing Countries"	11-12 Nov.	Italy
17.	Mr. Bhola Man Singh Basnet	S-4/Agron.	Workshop on "Hamessing Information for Development"	15-19 Nov.	Malaysia
TRAINING					
18.	Dr. Bhola Ram Pradhan	S-4/Fish.	Development of a suitable project management and information system	6-12 October	India
19.	Mr. Sanjit Poudel	T-6/Computer	" " "	" "	"
20.	Dr. Shree Ram Neopane	S-3/Animal Breeding	Progeny and Performance Testing	27 Oct.-2 Nov.	India
21.	Mr. Bishnu Hari Adhikari	S-3/Horticulture	Nutrition Management in Horticulture Crops	28 Oct.-5 Nov.	India
22.	Mr. Devendra Gauchan	S-3/Socio	Expert Meeting on Land use and Land cover change in the Indo-Gangetic Plains	28-30 Oct.	India
23.	Mr. Dol Prasad Dhakal	T-6/Patho.	Study Visit on IPM	26 Oct.-7 Nov.	India
24.	Mr. Ajaya Ratna Bajracharya	T-6/	" "	" "	"
25.	Dr. Chandra Laxmi Shrestha	S-3/Patho.	Application of Molecular tools to study rice diseases	2 Nov.-8 Dec.	Philippines
26.	Mr. Krishna Kumar Mishra	T-6/Agron.	Statistical and Economic Analysis and Nutrient Response Trials	15-26 Nov.	Kenya
27.	Dr. Hari Prasad Bimb	S-3/Patho.	Training on Diversity Analysis Using Appropriate Molecular/Biochemical Techniques	1 Sept.-for 4 months	Japan
28.	Mr. Gopal Pradhan	S-3/Engg.	Training on "Procurement procedures"	6-15 Dec.	India
STUDY					
29.	Mr. Purendra Sekhar Sharma	S-3/Engg.	M.Sc. Ag. (Engineering)	2 Nov.-Fortwo years	India
30.	Mr. Dinesh Pariyar	S-4/Pasture	Ph.D. (Pasture & Fodder)	" "	"
31.	Mr. Kailash Prasad Bhurer	S-3/Agron.	M.Sc. Ag. (Agronomy)	3 Nov. "	"
32.	Mr. Bahuri Prasad Chaudhary	S-3/Agron.	M.Sc. Ag. (Agronomy)	" "	"
33.	Mr. Badri Narayan Chaudhary	S-3/Hort.	M.Sc. Ag. (Horticulture)	19 "	Thailand
34.	Mr. Ram Chandrika Prasad	S-3/Patho.	M.Sc. Ag. (Pathology)	" "	"
35.	Mr. Bhola Shankar Shrestha	S-3/Livestock	M.S. (Tropical Animal Production)	1 Oct 99-30 Sept. 2000	U.K.
36.	Mr. Madhusudan Ghale	S-3/Hort.	Ph.D. (Horticulture)	29 Nov.-for 3 years	India

RNAM Meetings Held in Kathmandu

The 20th Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the 19th Governing Board Meetings of the Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery (RNAM) were consecutively held in Kathmandu on 16, 17 and 18th November 1999.

The meetings jointly organized by Agricultural Engineering Division of NARC, Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery (RNAM) and Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) were participated by agricultural engineers from China, Iran, Indonesia, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam and Nepal.

On the occasion, senior ESCAP official Bhogendra Purus Dhakal laid emphasis upon the need of agricultural mechanization and spoke of providing continuous support to the region. In this endeavor through ESCAP. He also urged Nepalese engineers to develop portable agricultural tools for farmers working in the geographical diversity of the country.

Chief of Agricultural Engineering Division, NARC, Shri Krishna Adhikari said that the adopting of agricultural tools would not deprive farm labors of employment, but would help to increase agricultural production. He further added the proper use of equipment helps reduce turn-around- time for crops and enhances productivity by around 20-25 percent.

The meetings concluded with recommendations made by TAC meeting and finally adopted and approved by the Governing Board(GB). The recommendations adopted by the Board are as follows.

- Recalling the most useful work undertaken by RNAM in the past years, the GB strongly urged ESCAP, participating member countries and

donors to undertake necessary actions to continue and strengthen the RNAM. It also agreed to expand RNAM activities in to the post harvest and processing technologies. In this context, it directed the RNAM office to seek resources for these activities, however, priority should be given to the eight activities included in the seventh phase of the project.

- Considering the project document for the seventh phase, the GB approved it for submission to member countries for signature. It noted with appreciation the offer of the Government of India to host the Agrimach together with TCA/GB meetings in 2000. It requested the Government of India, if possible, to provide other cost related to the Agrimach 2000.
- The GB expressed its gratitude to the participating member countries for their renewed commitment to pay contribution to the network.
- The GB welcomed the request for due



paying associate membership by the Nepalese Society of Agricultural Engineers (NSAE) and agreed upon the recommendation to accept the request.

- Agreeing with TAC recommendation on the request from Nepal for a rice transplanter from Korea and a rice thresher from India, the GB requested China to provide a rice

transplanter to Vietnam on TCDC basis.

- Along with the direct contact through meetings, workshops etc. for information exchange the GB suggested each NI to establish E-mail system together with a web site so that preliminary information could easily be retrieved.
- Expressing its deep gratitude to the Government of the Philippines for the renewed offer to host the RO of RNAM, the GB appreciated the offer of the Philippines to consider a temporary provision of a project manager in the extreme case that all other alternatives as recommended by the TAC did not materialize. However during the period it requested ESCAP to continue hosting RNAM.
- Upon the TAC recommendation, the GB agreed to change the RNAM name to RNAEM to allow engineering associations and organization to participated and share resources inputs.

· GB appreciated the Government of Korea for continued financial assistance to RNAM progress and the Government of China for its pledge to provide financial assistance and host facilities for a training program on food processing machinery during Nov 2000 in Beijing. It requested NIs of member countries provide information and opportunity for member of the NIs to be trained at higher degree levels.

- GB requested ESCAP to assist RNAM in securing assistance from traditional and new donors to continue and strengthen the RNAM, regional office and its progress.

The next TAC and Board Meeting will be held in India in 2000.

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