

Background

Sustainable, resilient and inclusive agriculture and food system is the need of the hour. Agricultural research, education and extension (REE) as the three major pillars of Agriculture Knowledge and Information System play critical role to that end. Historically, public investments in REE, and their links with one another have resulted in high returns and pro-poor growth in agriculture. Investment in REE and linkage between them have been weak. With the global as well as national agriculture food systems facing numerous challenges in the wake of changing climate, dwindling natural resource base, increasing poverty, recent COVID 19 pandemics, and the current Russia-Ukraine war, among others. Agriculture extension service plays crucial role in addressing these issues and assist rural farmers and agribusinesses in improving their income and livelihoods sustainably.

Despite a huge scope and potential of extension in transforming agriculture and rural livelihoods, the overall performance of extension service in Nepal has been a mediocre owing to a number of issues and constraints faced by the extension service delivery system. A strong functional linkage among REE institutions has a direct bearing on the need-based technology generation, development, assessment, transfer and dissemination. Evidences have shown that poor linkage among REE institutions is one of the major factors responsible for the relatively poor extension service. Besides, there are scores of problems and constraints within each of REE institutions which keep them out from effective functioning. The situation seems to have aggravated in post federal context in Nepal specifically due to the lack of mandatory functional coordination mechanisms of extension units operating under the

three tiers of government and their poor institutional capacity. Nepalese agricultural extension system, therefore, can be considered to be at the crossroad.

Status quo will only worsen the situation and will be detrimental for the overall economic and social health of the country. Therefore, strengthening and revitalizing the linkage and coordination among REE institutions for the effective and need based technology generation to dissemination mechanism is urgently needed. In this backdrop, Department of Agriculture (DoA) in collaboration with Nepal Agricultural Extension Association (NAEA) is going to organize conference on Strengthening Linkage among Agriculture Research, Extension and Education for the Effective Service Delivery in Federal Nepal. The conference will be supported by Nepal Agricultural Research Council, Institute of Agriculture and Animal Science/TU, Agriculture and Forestry University, Far Western University and Prime Minister Agriculture Modernization Project and Value Chain Development of Fruit and Vegetables in Nepal (VCDP).

Objectives

The overall objective of the conference is to discuss contemporary issues and challenges in extension service delivery system in order to find gaps and suggest various measures to improve and enhance extension service delivery in the country. The specific objectives are to:

- discuss the contemporary agricultural REE policy, functions and functionalities and their effectiveness;
- assess the existing strengths, weaknesses, issues and linkage among agricultural REE and find ways and means to strengthen the linkage;
- share and showcase innovations and good practices in agriculture REE institutions; and

- foster networking of REE professionals, farmers, agribusinesses and other relevant stakeholders.

Thematic areas

A. Agricultural Research, Education and Extension (R-E-E) in the federal context of Nepal

- Agricultural R-E-E policies; their implementation and gaps
- R-E-E institutions, mandate and effectiveness
- Interface between R-E-E institutions
- Role of R-E-E institutions at three tiers of government

B. Effectiveness of extension service delivery

- Agricultural service delivery framework and their components
- Ecosystem of extension service delivery
- Extension service delivery in the post federalization context
- Analysis of demand and supply side of extension service delivery
- Extension service delivery from provincial units and local levels

C. Agricultural education and training

- Higher studies in agriculture
- Technical and vocational training
- Agriculture in school curriculum
- Major educational institutions
- Quality of agricultural education and teaching
- University (public/private) led agriculture research and extension
- Land Grant model at agricultural universities
- Private sector contribution in agricultural education: Status, challenges and issues
- In-service and farmers' training-current state, quality, issues and improvement
- Human resource planning and management in agriculture

D. Strengthening agricultural research system for enhancing extension service delivery

- National Agriculture Research System (NARS) and its effectiveness
- Outreach programs and community engagement approaches
- Extension research
- NARS and deemed to be university

E. Recent trends in extension service delivery and cross cutting areas

- Farmers Field School (FFS)
- Alternate mechanism in information flow; Farmer to Farmer (FtF), Agrovets, Experience Leader Farmer (ELF) and Local Resource Person (LRP) mobilization for adoption of innovation
- Cost sharing extension approach
- Fee-for-service extension
- Digital agriculture
- Gender, technology and agriculture
- Women centric extension approaches
- Youth in agriculture
- Local knowledge, skill and wisdom and their transfer
- Role of extension in agricultural mechanization
- Climate change, agro-biodiversity conservation and utilization, environment, sustainable and resilient agriculture
- Community Agriculture Extension Service Center (CAESC)
- Extension service delivery beyond public sector
 - Market/private sector led extension
 - Role of private sector in extension service delivery
 - NGO/INGO/CBOs in agricultural research, innovation and extension
- Agribusiness models e.g., Rice Mill Model, Maize Commercialization Model

Conference approach

- Key note speech from experts from Nepal and India
- Themes based paper presentation
- Felicitating selected retired agriculture extension professionals
- Contributing paper presentation
- Poster presentation and selection of best three posters
- Award distribution to the selected agriculture technicians working at local levels
- Panel discussion with progressive farmers on the theme of the conference
- Declaration at the end of the conference

Conference organizing team

- Conference Directive Committee
- Management Committee
- Review and Technical Committee
- Field Technicians Selection Committee
- Conference Outcome Declaration Committee
- Conference Secretariat

For further information

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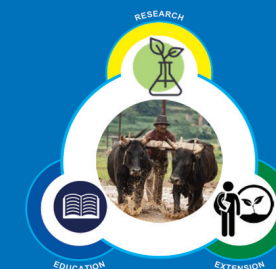
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Conference on **STRENGTHENING LINKAGE AMONG AGRICULTURE RESEARCH, EXTENSION AND EDUCATION FOR EFFECTIVE SERVICE DELIVERY IN FEDERAL NEPAL**



3-4 Asar, 2079 (17-18 June, 2022)

Hotel Yellow Pagoda
Kantipath, Kathmandu

Join Zoom Meeting
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Organizers



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