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WORKSHOP ON CLIMATE PREDICTION IN AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Workshop on Application of Climate Tools on Agriculture Research and Development was held on November 10 and 11, 2005 at NARC Hall Khumaltar.

The two-day workshop was formally inaugurated at a special function by Minister of Agriculture and

Cooperatives in which Secretary and Joint Secretaries of the Ministry, Member of Planning Commission, Executive Director, Directors and Scientists of NARC spoke on the importance of the application of climate science on agriculture.

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WORKSHOP ON SOCIAL SCIENCE CONCEPTS AND TOOLS

A national workshop on "Social Science Concepts and Tools for Agricultural Research and Impact Assessment" was held on 2-6 October at NARC Khumaltar, Lalitpur, Nepal.

The five-day workshop organized at the initiative of the newly-established Socioeconomics and Research Policy Division (SARPOD) of NARC aimed to build capacity of agricultural researchers for socioeconomic analysis and impact assessment. The workshop was provided technical support by IRRI-Social Sciences Division. Objectives of the workshop were: to increase the awareness of the role of social science concepts and

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INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN DAY, 2005 OBSERVED

Third International Mountain Day, 2005 was observed with different activities in Kathmandu. His Royal Highness Crown Prince, Paras Bir Bikram Shah Dev, at a special ceremony, inaugurated the International Mountain Day organized by Ministry of Forestry and Soil Conservation on 11 December 2005.

During the occasion, exhibition showing different mountain development activities and cultural shows from different parts and ethnic communities were held. NARC had its exhibition that was keenly observed by the Crown Prince. HRH Crown Prince also distributed 'Mountain Development Award' and cash prizes to different persons and organizations for their remarkable contribution in the field of mountain development.

United Nations General Assembly earlier in 1998 declared 2002 as the International Year of Mountain and to observe December 11 every year as The International Mountain Day. Theme of the International Mountain Day this year was "Sustainable Tourism for Poverty Alleviation in the Mountain"



BMS Basnet briefing HRH Crown Prince and Princess about NARC's activities on mountain development

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MOU FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN NEPAL AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

NATIONAL POULTRY EXPO 2005

With the view to promote and develop agricultural scientific and technical cooperation through mutual assistance in the areas of research, development and transfer of technology, education and training, the Rural Development

Korean Delegates Visited NARC

An official team from Rural Development Administration of Republic of Korea had a visit of NARC and its Divisions on October 2005. The team led by Dr. Jeong-Soo Son, Administrator, Rural Development Administration of Republic of Korea visited NARC headquarters and different disciplinary divisions at Khumaltar, Regional Agricultural Research Station, Parwanipur, National Rice Research Program, Hardinath. During the visit, the team had meetings with Executive Director and Directors of NARC. A memorandum of understanding (MoU) between NARC and The Rural Development Administration of Republic of Korea was also signed during the visit.

Administration (RDA) of the Republic of Korea and Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on 26 October 2005 in Kathmandu. Under the MoU, both the parties will exchange technical staff, researchers and fellows; conduct joint research activities; participate in seminars and scientific and technical meetings; exchange training materials, research papers/publication and other information; exchange animal and plant germplasm and breeding materials on a reciprocal basis in accordance with due formalities stipulated in the regulation of each country.

The MoU for a term of five years was signed by Mr. Dularchan Sahu Pathik, the then Executive Director, NARC and Dr. Jeong-Soo Son, Administrator, Rural Development Administration (RDA), Republic of Korea.

National Poultry Expo 2005 was organized at Narayanghad River Exhibition Ground, Narayanghat, Chitwan on 15-19 December 2005. The Expo was jointly organized by Narayanghat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NCCI) and Nepal Poultry Entrepreneurs Forum (NPEF).

The Expo was inaugurated by Honorable Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Mr Keshar Bahadur Bista at a special function participated by high level delegates including Secretary and joint secretaries of Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives and Ministry of Industry and Commerce, international delegates from India, China, Thailand, USA. This was the first Expo organized focusing poultry production in Nepal. There were 140 stalls (exhibitors) including 50 from India and China. A stall was set up from Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC) to provide technical aspects of poultry production and distributed pamphlets and leaflets produced by NARC. Nearly Sixty thousand visitors including producer farmers, traders, professionals, officials and students visited the Expo. The Expo explored opportunities in poultry produces in terms of technology, quality products, market expansion and medicine. Separate technical sessions were organized to discuss on the issues related to poultry production in Nepal. The session also considered the Bird Flue which is spreading all over the world and suggested the government to take necessary actions.

The poultry has been making significant contribution in the national economy and has been recognized as an important sector of development to uplift socio-economic status of the poor Nepalese. Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC) has been conducting research for suitable poultry technologies.

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tools in agricultural research and impact assessments; to orient NARS social scientists in project development and design and impact assessment approach; to finalize survey design and data management approach for upland rice research; and to communicate the establishment of SARPOD among stakeholders within & outside NARC in Nepal.

The workshop was divided in three different sessions. The first session was for Inauguration and highlights on Role of Social Science in Agricultural Research in concept papers on different aspects of social science in agricultural research and remarks from distinguished guest were presented. The second session

was devoted for training to participants in project evaluation and impact assessment by Dr. Templeton from IRRI as resource person. The final two days of the workshop were allocated for upland rice survey finalization and data management. Ms. Ludy Velasco, Data Management Expert of IRRI, facilitated this workshop. The participants in the session were mainly researchers involved in upland rice research from proposed three research sites (Hardinath, Lamjung and Doti) and social scientists from NARC and IAAS.

The participants included scientists/researchers from NARC, Institute of Agriculture and Animal Science (IAAS) and NGOs..

WHEAT SEED DISTRIBUTION FOR PARTICIPATORY VARIETAL DEVELOPMENT

With the view to acknowledge the participatory program in wheat varietal selection, to help promote wheat production through improved technologies in farmers' field and to extend the participatory varietal selection (PVS) programs to other different areas through research and extension agencies, wheat seeds were distributed to farmers amidst a special function at NARC, Khumaltar, Lalitpur on 9 October 2005.

Based on the on station trials and participatory variety selection (PVS) at different places in the valley for last some years, wheat seed varieties "WK 1204" and "BL 2089" that are in the process of release were distributed a packet of 10 kilograms each to thirty farmers from Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur districts.

At the functions, representatives from Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Department of Agriculture, Farmers, District Agriculture Development Offices, Scientists/Researchers from NARC and CIMMYT were present.

The wheat is third important APP prioritized cereal after rice and maize in Nepal and is grown in all 75 districts of the country. Summer wheat is limited to some high hill areas such as Mustang and Dolakha districts. Improved wheat varieties cover 96% of the total wheat area in the country. In FY 2061/62 national production of wheat was 14,42,442 mt and total cultivated area was 6,75,807 hectares. Productivity per hectare was 2,134 kg. that is the highest in the history of Nepal.

A total of 28 wheat varieties along with package of practices have been so far released in Nepal and some resource conservation technologies like zero-tillage, minimum tillage, combined harvester etc. have been developed for wheat cultivation.



Wheat variety 'WK 1204' in farmers' field

WORKSHOP ON VEGETABLE SEED MARKETING

Vegetable seed is a low-volume, high value agricultural commodity that is emerging as an important means for increasing incomes of poor farmers and reducing poverty in Nepal. In more remote and inaccessible areas, where poverty tends to be particularly severe, it is often the only feasible opportunity within farm sector for enhancing the livelihoods of the rural poor. Over the past decade, Nepal's vegetable seed industry has grown considerably with respect to the number of farm families engaged in vegetable seed production and the quantity of seed produced and marketed within and outside country. As emphasized by the APP, the potentials of vegetable seed to contribute to high agricultural growth and to become an important export commodity of Nepal are very high. However, the prospects for this are critically determined by how well the markets for Nepali vegetable seeds are organized and managed.

In this context, Center for Environmental and Agricultural Policy Research, Extension and development (CEAPRED) organized a half-day national workshop on Vegetable Seed Marketing on December 21, 2005 at Pulchowk, Lalitpur to discuss the issues and challenges facing vegetable seed marketing in Nepal. The workshop was inaugurated by Dr Shankar Prasad Sharma, Honorable Vice-Chairman, National Planning Commission and participated by the representatives of seed producers, entrepreneurs, government officials, NARC, NGOs and selected donors. The workshop had focused to rationalize the international market by developing infrastructural facilities in the country because all the seed produced can not be consumed in the domestic market. The workshop further identified following issues to be addressed by the government as soon as possible to make it compatible with the export market in the WTO context.

- Quarantine and regulatory policies for legal export to India
- Diversification of export, based on demand with quality and identity to Bangladesh
- Development of new varieties based on market demands
- Attractive packaging with price competitiveness

Horticulture Research Division of Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC) has been engaged in developing off-season vegetable production technologies and quality seed production technologies of different vegetable crops. The technologies so far identified and developed are under verification at different outreach sites in collaboration with extension agencies and farmers.

ANNUAL REVIEW AND PLANNING OF HMRP

With the objective to review maize research and dissemination results of the program conducted in 2005 and plan for 2006, Annual Review and Planning Meeting of the Hill Maize Research Project (HMRP) was conducted on 13-14, December 2005 at Khumaltar, Lalitpur.

In the meeting, results of different on-station and outreach research and development activities on different aspects of maize conducted under the HMRP at different stations in the last year and proposed programs for the next year were presented. The aspects of the program activities include maize varietal investigation, crop management, soil fertility, crop protection (disease, insects, weed), agro-forestry and seed production.

The two-day workshop was opened with a special session chaired by Dr. R.P. Sah, Executive Director of NARC in which Dr. GO Ferrara, Leader, HMRP/CIMMYT presented the objectives of the meeting.

The Hill Maize Research Project (HMRP) was initiated in 1999 with the goal of improving maize production and productivity in the hills of Nepal. The objectives of the project are: i) to develop and disseminate improved maize varieties specifically adapted to hill environments; ii) to develop and promote resource-conserving productivity-enhancing crop management practices for maize-based systems, appropriate to farmers' circumstances and compatible with existing cropping and livestock systems; iii) provide technology that will reduce crop losses due to drought, low fertility, diseases and pests (including post-harvest insects and ear rots) through focused breeding efforts and integrated pest management approaches (mainly host plant resistance); and (iv) to build sustained research capacity in the

National Maize Research Program of NARC and in allied institutions and enhance the linkage between technology generation/verification and its delivery to farmers, with special focus on the delivery of seed of improved varieties and promotion of management options in a participatory manner in farmers' fields.

An innovative process using GIS-based data from the Nepal Almanac Characterization Tool, extensive surveys of farmers and expert opinion was used to establish research priorities for the project. Strategies for addressing these priorities were developed in working group and planning meeting. Extensive testing of exotic materials from CIMMYT has identified a number of promising new varieties and establish collaborative research links. On-station and on-farm testing of varieties and crop management practices have expanded during the last some years of the project. Community-based seed production has been initiated to allow for the provision of seed of improved varieties in inaccessible areas. A broad range of training provided by HMRP has helped to improve the efficiency of research. Linkages with other organizations enabled by the small-grants project have greatly increase the potential for disseminating promising new technologies.

The activities of the project can be broadly categorized as: i) identifying research priorities and establishing strategies for addressing these priorities, ii) developing and testing new technologies, iii) disseminating technologies, iv) and training. The significant outputs of these activities include: identifying priorities and establishing strategies; developing and testing new technologies; disseminating technologies; training and study for researchers.

NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON COMMERCIAL CROPS

With an objective to review research and development activities and to share knowledge and experiences of different agencies in commercial crops and to set future plan, the national workshop was held at Khumaltar on 14-15 November 2005.

The two-day workshop jointly organized by NARC, Ministry of Agriculture and cooperatives, Department of Agriculture and National Tea and Coffee Development Board was formally inaugurated by Hon'ble Member of National Planning Commission Dr. Ram P. Chaudhary at a function chaired by Executive Director of NARC Dr. Ram P. Sah. The function was attended by NARC scientists, representatives from Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Department of Agriculture, National Tea and Coffee Development Board and different NGOs involved in the sector.

About twenty papers on different aspects and disciplines of commercial crops including the status, research and development activities, achievements in tea, coffee and cardamom were presented in the workshop. Reviewing the past activities, the workshop put an effort to develop a network among all the stakeholders. The workshop also worked out for a future plan and program on research and development of commercial crops.

The commercial crops include sugarcane, jute, cotton, ginger, tea, coffee, cardamom etc. However this workshop was concentrated on tea, coffee, and cardamom that play very important role in the national economy. In FY 2061/62, total area of tea cultivation was 16,000 hectares, production 12,500 mt. and productivity 781 kg/ha. Fifty percent of the production was exported and the rest consumed domestically. Coffee cultivation was in 1,078 hectares, production 343 mt and productivity 318 kg/ha. Cardamom was cultivated in 11,347 hectares of land with total production 6086 mt and productivity 536 kg/ha.

ADOPTION OF IMPROVED MAIZE PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY

- NS Thakur and MN Paudel

Maize is the second most staple food after rice in Nepal and directly related to food security and income generating opportunity for the resource poor farmers too. Thus, to identify adoption of improved maize technology and its effects on socio-economic status of farmers a study was conducted at Sukranagar Outreach Site of Chitwan District. The findings revealed that adoption rates of improved maize varieties are increasing because of implementation of outreach activities of National Maize Research Program (NMRP), Rampur, Chitwan. NMRP has been successfully helping farmers to adopt new technology on maize for enhancing productivity. The main focus of the NMRP was to enhance productivity and sustainability of maize-based cropping systems thus, NMRP has been supporting farmers by technology generation, verification, dissemination, and community based maize seed production program. This activity has made available improve high yielding varieties in the farmers' field.

It was also found that the farmers were aware of the benefit from the cultivation of improved maize varieties, which indicated an increased adoption of maize production technology. As a consequence, improved maize varieties such as Rampur Composite, Arun-2, and Gaurav Hybrid were adopted by sampled households. The farmers reported that the yield of winter maize has increased by 80 per cent and the main source of income because it was sold as seed for the main

season (April-August) planting. One of the important impacts of the outreach program in the area was enhancement of skills, knowledge, and technical know-how for maize farming. The overall response of different ethnic groups showed that there was improvement on livelihoods as a result of participatory outreach program, which facilitated for adopting improved maize technologies at farmers' level.

In spite of the intervention of NMRP, there are some problems prevailing in the farmers' level namely diseases, insect pests, and lack of drought tolerant varieties and lack of a complete package of practices for enhancing maize production and productivity. And, there was still a big gap between research yield and farmer's yield.

Hence, there is a need to promote and strengthen further participatory research program for technology generation and scaling-up in the field level. Local capacity building of farming community in quality seed production, management, and marketing is also essential to enhance income and livelihood of farmers. To attain these goals, mobilizations of farmers' groups for improved seed production and marketing through cooperatives are essential. However, to make the program economically more effective and sustainable promotion of relevant technologies are essential in close partnership with farmers, extension workers, and other stakeholders including maize agro-enterprises.



GENETIC RESOURCES POLICY INITIATIVE

A Launching meeting of the project "Genetic Resources Policy Initiative-Nepal (GRPI-Nepal)" was held on 7 October 2005 at Dhulikhel, Kavre.

GRPI is a joint project that aims to enhance the capacity of the national policy makers and other stakeholders in developing suitable genetic resource policy options by creating public awareness, policy research and enhancing participation in national policy decision making.

The project has major two objectives- to develop the analytical and technical capacity of actors engaged in national plant genetic resources for food and agriculture related law and policy; and to contribute towards the development of comprehensive and appropriate genetic resources policy frameworks.

The partners in the joint project are Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC), International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI), Local Initiative for Biodiversity Research and Development (LIBIRD), ABTRACO and Law Associates Nepal (LAN).

Dr. Madhusudan Upadhyaya, Senior Scientist of NARC is the coordinator of the project.

NATIONAL AGRI EXTENSION WORKSHOP

The National Agricultural Extension Workshop was held at Jawalakhel, Lalitpur on 13-14 December 2005.

The two-day workshop jointly organized by Directorate of Agri Extension and Nepal Agri Extension Association was inaugurated by Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture and Cooperatives and was participated by extensionists from government and non government organizations. The workshop reviewed the existing extension approaches, past efforts and activities and developed extension strategy for future.

INDIAN SCIENTIST OBSERVED GOAT RESEARCH IN NEPAL

Dr. B Rai, Senior Scientist (LPM), CIRG, Makhdoom, India visited Goat Research Station, NARC, Bandipur on 16 November 2005. Appreciating the work being done by a small team of scientists/researchers, Dr Rai put forth his observations for further improvement of goats in the hilly tracts of Nepal. He put some suggestions related to breeding management, production management and production system. Some of the suggestions are:

- Use of line mated breeding stock to grade up the local goats avoiding the intermixing
- Further strengthening of nucleus herd for wider use of elite males in the field area
- Maintaining breed structure by using selective breeding practices within the breed
- Selection of bucks and does on the basis of their pedigree and performance
- Information collection on ethno-veterinary practices and their experimentation at farm level
- Development and popularization of kid management practices to lower mortality rate under field condition
- Publication of package of practices for goat keepers for effective management of goats under field condition
- Development of some cheap pellet based technology for goat especially for lean season/period
- Characterization of production system
- Initiation of experiment on hay making for the benefit of goat keepers

Dr Rai was on a visit to Nepal from 13 to 18 November who visited different offices and research station of NARC.

TRAINING ON SEED HEALTH TESTING

A training program on seed health testing (Mycology) was organized at Plant Pathology Division of NARC on 12-21 December 2005.

The training held under the joint Capacity Enhancement Project of Plant Pathology Division/NARC and Danish Seed Health Institute for Developing Countries was participated by 13 seed experts, plant pathologists and Plant Protection Officers.

The training included rice, maize, wheat, mustard and soybean crops and different fungi. Testing methods employed in the training are dry seed inspection, washing test, embryo count, incubation methods (standard blotter and deep freeze blotter).

In order to develop skills and provide training on seed health and plant disease, a teaching laboratory at Plant Pathology Division has been established.

WORKSHOP ON COMMUNITY BIODIVERSITY REGISTER

The two-day workshop on Community Biodiversity Register (CBR) jointly organized by Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC), International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI) and Local Initiative for Biodiversity Research and Development (LIBIRD) had the objectives to review and refine methodologies for CBR for documenting/registering genetic resources and associated knowledge; to review and refine methodologies/approaches to manage CBR at community level; to review and refine CBR methodologies as an option for establishing community rights over access to and benefit sharing of genetic resources and associated knowledge.

The workshop was participated by representative from MoAC, NARC, IPGRI, LIBIRD and other different I/NGOs including IUCN.

WORKSHOP ON SRI

Workshop on SRI (System of Rice Intensification) was organized at ICIMOD Conference Hall, Khumaltar, Lalitpur on 19 December 2005.

The workshop reviewed the SRI work conducted and discussed for the future research strategy and role of different agencies.

Agriculture officers and farmers from different districts and researchers from NARC stations presented their papers/experiences on SRI at a session chaired by Mr BMS Basnet, Principal Scientist of NARC. The workshop was concluded with group presentation at a session chaired by Dr. RP Sah, Executive Director of NARC.

Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC) has been conducting researches on SRI at different sites.

Talk Programs

"Solving micronutrients deficiencies in human with Golden Rice" by Jorge E. Mayer, PhD., MIP (Law), Golden Rice Project Manager, Campus Technologies Freiburg GmbH, Germany on 20 October 2005

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"Trout Management System in India" by Dr. Prem Kumar, Senior Scientist, NRC Cold Water Fisheries, Bhimtal, India on 16 December 2005 organized by SAS/Nepal

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"Goat Production System in India" by Dr. B. Rai, Senior Scientist, Central Institute of Research in Goat, Makhdoom, India on 18 November 2005 organized by SAS/Nepal

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TRAINING WORKSHOP/SEMINARS, STUDY & TOURS ABROAD
(October - December 2005)

SN.	Name	Position	Subject	Duration	Country
1.	Mr. Janmejy Tripathi	S-4, NWRP, Bhairahawa	3rd World Congress on Conservation Agriculture	3-6 Oct	Kenya
2.	Mr. Bhola Shankar Shrestha	S-3, RARS, Lumle	Transition to Sustainable Livestock Systems	17-28 Oct	Kenya
3.	Mr. Mukesh Karki	T-6, RARS, Parwanipur	Transition to Sustainable Livestock Systems	17-28 Oct	China
4.	Mr. Nawal Kishor Yadav	Coordinator, NLRP Rampur	International Food Legumes Conference—IV	18-22 Oct	India
5.	Mrs. Sharda Joshi	S-4, Pathology Division	International Food Legumes Conference—IV	18-22 Oct	India
6.	Mr. Rajendra Darai	T-6, NLRP Rampur	International Food Legumes Conference—IV	18-22 Oct	India
7.	Mr. Purusottam Jha	S-1, RARS, Nepalgunj	International Food Legumes Conference—IV	18-22 Oct	India
8.	Mr. Bhola Man Singh Basnet	Chief, CPDD, Khumaltar	Integrating National Agricultural Information Systems	1-5 Nov	Thailand
9.	Dr. Surya Laxmi Maskey	Director, Crop & Hort.	CLAN Country Coordinator's Steering Committee Meeting	3-5 Nov	Philippines
10.	Mrs. Gyanu Manandhar	S-4, Pathology Div.	Training Visit in Seed Health Mycology	31 Oct-4 Dec	Denmark
11.	Dr. Hira Kazi Manandhar	Chief, Planning Div.	Visit Program	1-14 Nov	Belgium
12.	Mrs. Bimala Sharma	T-6, Planning Div.	Leadership Course for Asian Women in Agriculture R&D	7-18 Nov	Philippines
13.	Dr. Hari Prasad Bimb	Chief, Bio-tech. Unit	High Level dialogue on Bio-tech for Food Security & Poverty reduction	7-9 Nov	Thailand
14.	Dr. Shreeram Prasad Neopane	Chief, Ani.Breeding Div.	Integrating Livestock-crop Systems to meet the challenges of globalization	15-18 Nov	Thailand
15.	Dr. Yagya Gajadhar Khadka	S-3, Soil Science Div.	Improving Agricultural Productivity in Rainfed Areas	22-26 Nov	India
16.	Mr. Raj Kumar Niroula	S-1, Bio-tech. Unit	5 th Int'l Rice Symposium and 3 rd International Rice Functional Genomics	20-23 Nov	Philippines
17.	Mr. Resham Babu Amagain	T-6, RARS, Lumle	5 th Int'l Rice Symposium and 3 rd International Rice Functional Genomics	20-23 Nov	Philippines
18.	Mr. Gautam Buddha Manandhar	Chief, Agri.Engg.Div.	4 th Session of TC and GC Meeting	21-24 Nov	India
19.	Mr. Suresh Kumar Wagle	S-4, FRS, Pokhara	Molecular Genetics in Aquaculture and Inland Fisheries Management	30 Nov-15 Dec	Thailand
20.	Ms. Neeta Pradhan	S-1, FRS, Pokhara	Molecular Genetics in Aquaculture and Inland Fisheries Management	30 Nov-15 Dec	Thailand
21.	Dr. Madhav Joshi	Chief, Training Div.	Training Workshop on Rural Prosperity and Secondary Crops towards Pro-Poor	6-9 Dec	Indonesia
22.	Mr. Hari Krishna Shrestha	S-3, Planning Div.	Training Workshop on Rural Prosperity and Secondary Crops towards Pro-Poor	6-9 Dec	Indonesia
23.	Mr. Bishwo Prasad Mainali	T-6, Entomology Div.	Seminar on Promoting Integrated Pest Management	5-9 Nov	Indonesia
24.	Dr. Niranjana Prasad Adhikari	Chief, NRRP, Hardinath	An External Review of Research Program on Uplands	12-13 Dec	Philippines
25.	Dr. Dil Prasad Sherchan	Chief, Soil Science Div.	Improving Plant Nutrient Management for Better Farmer-Livelihood	12-16 Dec	China
26.	Mr. Ramesh Chandra Bhandari	S-4, Food Res. Unit	Food Safety Standards for Better Export of Fruits & Vegetables	12-16 Dec	Pakistan
27.	Mr. Buddhi Prakash Sharma	S-4, NPRP, Khumaltar	4 th Asia Pacific Drying Conference (ADC-2005)	12-15 Dec	India
28.	Mr. Bimal Kumar Baniya	Chief, Botany Div.	Open-ended Working Group on the Rules and Procedure for PGR	14-17 Dec	Italy
29.	Mr. Bahuri Prasad Chaudhary	S-4, NLRP, Nawalpur	Processing and Seed Production Methodology in Legumes	19 Dec-18 Jan '06	India
30.	Mr. Daya Nidhi Pokharel	T-6, RARS, Khajur	Processing and Seed Production Methodology in Legumes	19 Dec-18 Jan '06	India
31.	Mr. Babu Ram Bastola	S-4, Swine & Avian	L/S and Livelihoods of Landless People in Bangladesh and Nepal	17-21 Dec	Bangladesh

**DR RP SAH: NARC
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



Dr. Ram Pratap Sah, Principal Scientist (S-5) was appointed on to the position of Executive Director of Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC) by His Majesty's Government on October 31 as per "Nepal Agricultural Research Council Act, 1991.

Dr. Sah was born on June 01, 1950 in Dhanusha, Nepal. He has been working in the field of agriculture research and development for the last thirty two years with various managerial and technical positions and capacities.

Dr. Sah, Ph.D. in Plant Breeding and Genetics from Michigan State University, USA has already had the positions of Director for Crops and Horticulture Research, Regional Director of NARC, Wheat Research Coordinator, Division Head, Station Chief, Training coordinator (IITA, Nigeria).

The Executive Director is the Administrative Head of the Organization, Chairman of Executive Board.

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In the technical sessions, sixteen papers on different themes were presented relating climatic variability and its predictability and use of its parameters; GIS and RS applications; social behavioral change as an impact of climate change; seasonal climate prediction and its relationship with agriculture; role of information and communication technology; solar radiation and its implication on agricultural sector; resource planning and management, information sharing and decision making as so on.

An interactive web demonstration on the use of crop modeling was also presented with the aid of online internet access. The objective of the demonstration was to create awareness and establish similar type of information network that can communicate agriculture activities in order to avoid or minimize the damaging effects that could have taken place otherwise.

The workshop after group discussion was concluded with a strategy and action plan of climate prediction and agriculture research and development that is the main document presented for signing as a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between different institutions.

The two-day workshop drew attention

on the importance and application of climate science on agriculture research and development in Nepal by bringing the potentials of State of the Art of the Information Technologies like crop modeling, Geographic Information System and Remote Sensing and other IT tools seeking cooperation from potential institutions like ICIMOD, FAO, WMO, which can be instrumental towards implementation of the project.

A committee on "Climate Prediction and Agricultural Research and Development" has been formed under the aegis of Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives with representatives from DoA, DHM, DoI, DWIDP and NARC is a starting step in the field of climate science and agriculture. Dr. Krishna Bahadur Shrestha, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives is the Convener of the Committee.

**Interaction on
International Treaty PGR
for Food and Agriculture**

Interaction on International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) was organized by Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives on 20 October 2005 in the Conference Hall of the Ministry at Singhadurbar, Kathmandu. Dr Surendra Bhandari of Law Associate Nepal was the resource person in the interaction.

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