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NARC-IRRI Signed MoU for Scientific and Technical Cooperation

With the common objectives to further promote and accelerate research on rice and rice-based farming systems and strengthening national and regional rice research programs, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC) and International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) was signed on 19 Jan. 2001 at IRRI Office, Philippines.

It is mutually agreed that collaboration between NARC and IRRI should focus on the technology generation and dissemination to alleviate poverty and enhance the management of natural

resources. More specifically, collaboration will focus on the following areas:

- Varietal development and improvement for drought tolerance, good grain quality, high yield, and pest resistance including germplasm collection and conservation;
- Crop and resources use in the rice-wheat system;
- Pest management particularly on blast, sheath blight, BLB, BPH, rice

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NARC-CIMMYT Work-plan Signed

In order to develop, promote and accelerate close collaborative efforts in the field of maize and wheat improvement and, the NARC-CIMMYT work-plan on "Scientific and Technical Collaboration on Maize and Wheat Systems" was signed on 11 Feb. 2001. The three-year work-plan signed by Director General of CIMMYT (International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center), Dr. Timothy G. Reeves and NARC Executive Director Dhruva Joshy in a special ceremony at NARC Building, Ramshah Path includes various activities in detail with work responsibilities on wheat and maize separately. The joint NARC-CIMMYT activities to be implemented during 2001-2004 were discussed in a research

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Dr. Ronald P. Cantrell, IRRI Director General and Mr. Dhruva Joshy, NARC Executive Director signing the MoU at IRRI, Philippines

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

- NARC-IRRI signed MoU
- NARC-CIMMYT Work-plan signed
- Regional Agricultural Research communication Workshop Held
- The Quality Protein Maize (QPM)
- Press Conference organized
- Three-Decades of Partnership in Maize and Wheat Research and Development Marked
- NARC Gained Award

NARC Program Planning and Budgetting

NARC annual program planning and budgetting for the FY 2001/2002 has almost accomplished after a sequence of exercises at various levels within NARC planning process. However, before final approval by the Council, the programs and budget will have to be readjusted in line with the national budget allocation from Ministry of Finance.

Total number of programs passed by NARC management for submission to NARC Executive Board and Council is 554 and the proposed budget is about 68,31,71,000.

The research program proposals were prepared, with feed-back from farmers/clients and in line with the national agricultural policy, guidelines and directives, at disciplinary divisions, research programs, regional and other research stations. The proposals were presented at regional planning workshop and technical panels meetings for review, screening and modification. The regional program and budget workshops were held on 8-10 January at RARS, Tarahara; on 14-16 at RARS, Parwanipur; on 21-23 at RARS, Bhairahawa and on 24-26 at RARS, Nepalgunj. The technical panels meetings were held on 31Feb. at NARC building, Ramshah Path. Exact and details of the programs and budget will be presented in the next issue.

Press Conference Organized

On the eve of the NARC-CIMMYT partnership day in Wheat and Maize Research and Development, a Press Conference was organized on 11 February 2001 at NARC's new building at Ramshah Path, Kathmandu.

At the conference Mr. Bhola Man Singh Basnet presented highlights and achievements of the NARC-CIMMYT partnership in Wheat and Maize.

Observing the conference, Dr. Timothy G. Reeves, Director General of CIMMYT said that it has been a great challenge to supply food for the dramatically increasing population of the world. He pointed out the need to bring change in

Regional Agricultural Research Station (RARS), Tarahara organized the First Regional Agricultural Research Communication Workshop at Tarahara on 13 March 2001.

The one-day workshop organized to discuss the role of communication in agriculture technology transfer and make communication strategy in the Regional Agricultural Research Station was participated by researchers, extension workers, journalists and representatives from NGOs and farmers in which the participants emphasized the regular linkages and coordination among research extension and media.

In the workshop, the Chief of Communication, Publication and Documentation Division, Mr. B.M.S. Basnet said the workshop was the first of its kind and an attempt to expand the communication, publication and documentation activities at the regional level.

Regional Director of Livestock Services Dr. Shibendra Singh said the role of communication is vital in technology generation. Welcoming all the participants, the Director of the Regional Agricultural Research Station, Tarahara, Mr. Chittaranjan Yadav briefed about the

the traditional farming system through improved new technologies among the farmers and to create awareness about the environment.

Mr. Dhruva Joshy, Executive Director of NARC said that NARC has pursued the policy of partnership and collaboration with other institution and organizations for developing and disseminating agriculture technologies in order to meet the challenges.

At the occasion, NARC and CIMMYT officials and scientists, journalists, representatives from various government agencies, NGOs and INGOs were present.

Regional Agricultural Research Communication Workshop Held

research activities under the station. In the Workshop Chaired by Regional Director of Agriculture, Ghanshyam Singh, journalists Mr. Dilbhushan Pathak, Mr. Kabindra K.C. and P.B. Diyali also spoke.

The workshop concluded with some suggestion as follows.

- Regular organization of "Meet the Press"
- Publicity of new and proven technologies through local news papers
- Agriculture Program from Community Radio be broadcast
- Interactions of farmers, researchers, journalists be organized
- Information materials on new technologies be prepared in time
- Provision of rewards for best news on agriculture be made.

In the workshop, the need of Agricultural journalists in the country like Nepal where agriculture shares a large portion in the national economy was realized.

At the end the participants were led to a field visit of research activities in the Station.

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The MoU was signed by Dhruva Joshy, Executive Director, NARC and Ronald P. Cantrell, Director General, IRRI.

NARC is an apex national body for agriculture research and is committed to give the highest priority to increasing the production of rice and other food crops in rice-based farming systems in Nepal; IRRI, a nonprofit international organization supported by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, has as its primary goal increasing the quantity and quality of rice produced through research and training in all aspects of rice, including rice-based farming systems, and through scientific and technical cooperation with national programs.

- borer, and rice bug;
- Technology and information sharing and policy support;
- Rice-based animal agriculture through linkages with ILRI and ICRISAT; and
- Human resource development.

The scale of collaboration between NARC and IRRI will be determined from time to time by a joint evaluation of Nepal's needs and interest in collaboration, IRRI's capacity and effectiveness for such collaboration, and by the level of financial resources available for the implementation of the joint program.

Under the MoU the IRRI will:

- Provide short-term consultancies to advise on and assist in the collaborative research and training program of NARC;
- Arrange for Nepali scientists to undertake degree and non-degree training at IRRI or elsewhere;
- Invite Nepali scientists to attend IRRI-sponsored international research conferences, meetings, symposia and workshops;
- Make available seed materials and research information to support collaborative activities in Nepal; and
- Assist in the preparation of a joint project proposal for external donor funding.

In order to facilitate the implementation of collaborative activities, the NARC, in accordance with the existing laws and regulations in force in Nepal, will:

- Undertake to arrange necessary clearances for Nepali scientists to travel abroad to participate in international research conferences, workshops, training programs, and collaborative work sponsored by IRRI, and to join in relevant monitoring of network and consortium activities coordinated by IRRI;

- Assure the movement of germplasm in and out of Nepal territories as to promote the collaborative programs on the basis of the regulation of the His Majesty's Government of Nepal and with the approval of authorities;
- Assist in obtaining necessary visa and completion of formalities connected with the visits of IRRI scientists to Nepal;
- Accord to IRRI expatriate personnel who may be assigned to work in Nepal, upon the request of NARC, privileges regarding payment of taxes and import duties which are consistent with standard policies of the His Majesty's Government of Nepal and which are accorded to foreign personnel assigned by other international organizations to work in the country. These privileges will include exemption from local income tax of IRRI foreign personnel and the importation into Nepal free of custom duties and other duties on taxes, personal and household effects for personal and family use of IRRI expatriate personnel who are not citizen of Nepal within a period of six (6) months from the first arrival into Nepal. It is understood that personal and household effects imported under such exemptions are not to be sold in Nepal without the approval of the Government of Nepal and after payment of custom duties. However, the nature of the privileges will be decided in consultation with NARC.
- Ensure the items of equipment and supplies, including imported by IRRI in consultation with NARC for use in cooperative work, are exempted from payment of custom duties or any other taxes admissible under the rules of the His Majesty's Government of Nepal. However, if any duties or taxes on such equipment and supplies are payable in Nepal, such duties or taxes shall be borne by the His Majesty's Government of Nepal. Also, the

NARC will assist for the custom's clearance of equipment supplied by IRRI.

About the ownership and publication of results of cooperative research both parties have agreed that:

- Results of collaborative research will be published in the public interest as mutually agreed upon;
- Although in most cases the results of cooperative work will be published jointly by scientists working for the two organizations, and/or with cooperators from other countries, each party may publish the results separately if so determined by mutual consultation in specific cases. Either party publishing any research findings should give credit to the other party's contribution but would at the same time will be entirely responsible for the conclusions and interpretations reported.
- Breeding materials, germplasm, etc. will be freely exchanged between Nepal and IRRI with due recognition for the sources of the seed material. Either party may use such materials but will give full credit to its source of origin.
- It was also agreed that all outcomes of NARC-IRRI joint research activities including all intellectual property rights (IPR) shall be jointly owned by both parties. As such they should remain in the public domain and shall be available to IRRI and Nepal partners and end users.

This MoU will be supplemented by specific Workplans to be developed jointly every 3-4 years in accordance with the needs of NARC and IRRI and with the financial resources available for cooperative activities. The work plan will specifically describe the joint activities to be carried out under this MoU and set forth the envisaged contributions of each party. Such workplans may originate from each party but will require the full approval of both parties for implementation. The parties to this MoU may, by mutual consent in writing, modify any provisions of this Memorandum of Understanding.

The Quality Protein Maize

The success in developing the quality protein maize (QPM) after decades' effort of the CIMMYT scientists has given a hope for meeting the demand of protein among millions of the poor in the world whose major food is the Maize.

Indian Maize Breeder, Dr. Surinder K. Vasal and CIMMYT Cereal Chemist, Dr. Evangelina Villegas have been jointly awarded the prestigious World Food Prize for 2000 for their effort at CIMMYT over the decades to develop the QPM. The prize is awarded annually to individuals who have advanced human development by improving the quality, quantity or availability of food in the world. It has been reported "Vasal capitalized on traditional breeding techniques to incorporate a series of special genes that countered the unwanted side effects of Opaque-2, a gene for protein quality discovered in maize in 1963. To ensure that the value-added protein trait was

retained during crossing and selection, Villegas and her lab group painstakingly measured amino acid content in the protein of some 20,000 maize grain samples each year. By the mid-1980s, the scientists had developed a product that looked, tasted, and yielded like normal maize. Subsequent breeding work focussed on further improving yield, adaptation and grain quality, while developing a line of QPM products for nearly all tropical and subtropical production settings."

Numbers of QPM hybrids and varieties have been released from research and certification agencies in 14 different countries. Research trials on various QPM varieties are being conducted under Nepalese condition by National Maize Research Program of NARC. After a number of station and farm trials and verification, proven varieties upon their performance, will be released for farmers.

NARC Gained Chairman's Excellence Award of the CGIAR

For its outstanding contribution in research in wheat and maize under the banner of Rice-Wheat Consortium (RWC), the Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC) has been awarded with the "Chairman's Excellence in Science Award 2000" of the Consultative Group of International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).

International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) together with NARC and the national agricultural research organizations of India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh have been awarded the Outstanding Scientific Partnership Prize for their contributions in the research.

Dr. Peter Hobbs, Regional Representative of the South Asian Regional Office of the CIMMYT handed over the award to Mr. Dhruva Joshy, NARC Executive Director in a function at Khumaltar.



Upcoming Events

National Livestock & Fisheries Research Workshop, 12-14 June 2001 in Kathmandu, organized by National Animal Science Research Institute (NASRI), NARC.

International Conference on Wild Rice, 4-10 November 2001, in Kathmandu organized by Green Energy Mission (GEM), Nepal

Symposium on Maize Research and Production in Nepal, 4-6 December 2001, in Kathmandu, organized by National Maize Research Program, NARC and Hill Maize Research Project (HMRP), CIMMYT.



CIMMYT Regional Representative, Dr. Peter Hobbs handing over the Award to NARC Executive Director, Dhruva Joshy

Photo: Kajendra Bajracharya

NARC Central Office Shifted

The Central Office of the NARC has been shifted from Khumaltar, Lalitpur to its new building "NARC Building" at Singha Durbar Plaza, Ramshah Path, Kathmandu since 16 April 2001. The new address and telephone/fax numbers are as below:

Postal Address:

Nepal Agricultural Research Council
NARC Building, Singha Durbar Plaza,
Ramshah Path
P.O.Box: 1440, Kathmandu, Nepal

Telephone/Fax:

Executive Director: (977-1)256837
Director, Planning: 262567
Director, Finance: 262650
Director, Administration: 262904
Fax: 262500

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consultation meeting held in Kathmandu during November 2000 that was participated by other stakeholders working in the country such as Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Institute of Agriculture and Animal Sciences, Department of Agriculture (DOA) and some NGO's, LIBIRD and SSP etc. The Crops and Horticulture Director in NARC has the overall responsibility for coordinating the activities with CIMMYT outlined in the workplan.

The major collaborative research subjects and activities on **wheat** are listed under six major headings; crop improvement, crop protection, natural resource and crop management, socio-economics, human resources and regional cooperation. In addition, the activities are divided into two distinct Nepal agro-ecological areas; the flat, *tarai* plains areas in the South and the Himalayan hill and mountain areas. Emphasis will be placed on efficient integration of the various discipline and commodity scientists and stronger linkages with extension, farmers and other stakeholders at selected sites. Linkages will also be made with other International Centers (IARCs), Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), and advanced research institutions in other parts of the World and the Regional Rice-Wheat Consortium (RWC) based in Delhi.

Economic studies and natural resource research related to increasing, sustaining

and prospering from the wheat-based cropping system has been well covered in the new work plan. Economics research other than commodity-associated topics will be decided between NARC and CIMMYT Economics when needed.

The National Wheat Program at the Regional Agricultural Research Station (RARS) in Bhairahawa, is responsible and the nodal center for coordinating wheat activities in Nepal through the Coordinated Wheat Improvement Program.

The RWC activities looking at rice-wheat systems will also be linked to the activities through the national NARC nominated rice-wheat coordinator who at present is the Crops Director. The three-year (2001-2004) wheat systems

workplan was developed in collaboration with the wheat program, the RW coordinator, the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) South-Asia Regional Office based in Kathmandu, Nepal and the Rice-Wheat Consortium Facilitation Unit based in Delhi for which CIMMYT is the convening center. The document outlines major areas of commonality for collaborative work. It covers the various opportunities for exchange of personnel, material, joint experimentation, joint publication and technical collaboration in several frontier areas of research. New opportunities for collaborative research that arise during the three-year period can be included by mutual consent of NARC and CIMMYT.

The workplan broadly describes the planned collaborative activities between NARC and CIMMYT for the period 2001 to 2003. Proposed activities on **maize** in the workplan cover GIS, socio-economic surveys, variety and hybrid development and seed production, improved cropping management practices, Small Grants Scheme, improved technology dissemination, strengthening the capacity of NARC. The National Maize Research Program at Rampur is responsible and the nodal center for coordinating maize activities in Nepal..



CIMMYT Director General and NARC Executive Director signing the Workplan

Photo: Rajendra Bajracharya

NARC Research Network Structure Updated

The Council has made some modification in NARC organizational structure with the units as follows:

- Agricultural Research Station (horticulture), Dhankuta is named as **Citrus Research Program, Dhankuta.**
- Agricultural Research Station, Hardinath is named as **Rice Research Program, Hardinath.**
- Agricultural Research Station, Rampur and the Maize Research Program, Rampur have been combined into one as **Maize Research Program, Rampur.**
- Agricultural Research Station, Kabre and Hill Crops Research Program, Kabre have been combined into one as **Hill Crops Research Program, Kabre.**
- Agricultural Research Station, Godawari and Fisheries Research Division, Godawari have been combined into one as **Fisheries Research Division, Godawari.**
- The present Planning Unit has been upgraded to **Planning Division.**
- The present Monitoring Unit has been upgraded to **Monitoring and Evaluation Division.**
- The scholarship Unit has been upgraded to the **Scholarship and Training Division.**
- The biometric Unit and computer Unit have been combined into one and renamed as **Statistics Division.**
- The Tobacco Research Program, Belachapi has been replaced as **Agriculture Research Station, Belachapi.**
- A New Division has been established as **Commercial Crop Division.**
- A new unit as **Agriculture Environment Unit**
- A new unit as **Post-Harvest Unit**

SHORT NEWS

Training on Animal Feed Held

As per the Technology Transfer Package Program (TTPP) prepared by Animal Nutrition Division of NARC, a training on Low Cost Feed Formulation Technology was organized from 4-8 December 2001.

The five-day training was given to 15 feed milers/industrialists under Small Animal Industries by Animal Feed Association.

A training was also given on Urea Mineral Molasses Block (UMMB) technology during 13-15 December. After having the training, Udaya Feed Quality Industry has begun production with the name of "Urea Chocolate".

Similarly, The Division conducted a training program on poultry feeding from 19-23 March 2001. 18 farmers from Kabhre, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur participated the training.

Farmers' Day Observed

Agriculture Implement Research Center of NARC at Ranighat, Parsa organized a Farmers' Day on 21 February 2001.

During the day-long program, about 100 farmers (25 women) and other representatives had field observations of farm trials of zero-tillage, minimum tillage, surface seeding of wheat technologies jointly conducted by the Center and farmers at Basantapur, Parsa. At the occasion, Chief of the Center, Mr. Ganesh Sah briefed about the impact and benefit of the technologies.

CIMMYT Director General visited NARC

Dr. Timothy G. Reeves, Director General of CIMMYT visited NARC at Khumaltar on 11 February 2001. During his visit he observed the Biotech lab at Botany Division. Earlier on the day he visited PVS (Participatory Variety Selection) site at Katunje, Bhaktapur.

National Conference on Agro-Processing Held

With the theme "Agricultural Production, Processing & Marketing through Cooperative Farmers' Movement", the National Conference on Agro-Processing in Nepal was held at NARC, Khumaltar on 14-15 February, 2001.

The two-day conference was organized by Green Energy Mission, Nepal (GEM/N) that was participated by agro-entrepreneurs, researchers, concerned government official, NGOs, INGOs and farmers.

The Conference was inaugurated by Hon'ble Vice-Chairman, Mr. Prithvi Raj Ligal in a special Session Chaired by Sr. Agri-Engineer Huta Ram Vaidhya that was addressed by Hon'ble Prithvi Raj Ligal, Officiating Secretary of Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Dr. Leela Pathak; and HARP Director Mr. J.B. Abington. Dr. Gyan Lal Shrestha, Executive Director of the GEM/N had briefed about the Conference.

TALK PROGRAMS HELD AT NARC

"Application of GIS in Poverty Mapping and Natural Resources Management" by Dr. Suan Pheng Kam, GIS Specialist, International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Philippines on March 12, 2001.

"Alien Gene Transfer in Wheat Utilizing tools of classical and modern biotechnology" by Dr. Prem P. Jauhar, Research Geneticist, Professor of Cytogenetics, USDA-Agricultural Research Service Northern Crop Science Laboratory State University Station Fargo, North Dakota, USA. •

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STUDY

33. Mr. Megh Bahadur Nepali	T-6/Economics	M.Sc. Regional and Rural Dev. Planning	2 Jan. 2001-31 Aug. 2002	Thailand
34. Mr. Ram Brikchha Prasad	S-3/Agronomy	Ph.D. Agronomy	2 Jan. 2001-15 June 2003	U.K.
35. Mr. Damodar Neupane	T-6/Livestock	M.Sc. Livestock Poultry	3 Jan. 2001-2 Jan. 2003	India
36. Shambhu Bdr. Shrestha	T-6/Livestock	M.Sc. Livestock Poultry	3 Jan. 2001-2 Jan. 2003	India
37. Mr. Binaya Kumar Batsa	S-3/Pathology	Ph.D. Plant Pathology	7 Jan. 2001-2 Jan. 2004	India
38. Mr. Arun Pd. Baidya	T-6/Fishery	M.Sc. Aquaculture	26 Jan. 2001-25 Jan. 2003	India
39. Mrs. Asha Rayamajhi	T-6/Fisheries	M.Sc. Aquaculture	24 Jan. 2001-23 July. 2003	Australia

TRAINING WORKSHOP/SEMINARS, STUDY & TOURS ABROAD (January - March 2001)

S.N.	Name	Position/Faculty	Subject	Duration	Country
<u>SEMINAR/WORKSHOP</u>					
1.	Mr. Govinda Prasad Koirala	Director/Finance	A New WTO and Agri-SPS and Environment Capturing the benefits for South Asia	11-13 January	India
2.	Mr. Dhruva Joshy	Executive Director	NARC-IRRI MoU signing meeting	17-20 January	Philippines
3.	Mr. Dularchan S. Pathik	Director/Crop & Hort.	NARC-IRRI MoU signing meeting	17-20 January	Philippines
4.	Dr. Bhola Ram Pradhan	Director/Planning	NARC-IRRI MoU signing meeting	17-20 January	Philippines
5.	Dr. Surya Laxmi Maskey	S-4/Soil	Workshop on soil fertility management for strengthening production in rice field	24-27 January	Sri Lanka
6.	Mr. Chandra Bahadur Shrestha	S-3/Commercial Crops	Sixth special session of the International Jute Council	28-29 January	Bangladesh
7.	Mr. Dhruva Joshy	Executive Director	Regional Steering Committee meeting of Rice-Wheat Consortium	16-18 February	Bangladesh
8.	Mr. Dularchan S. Pathik	Director/Crop & Hort.	Regional Steering Committee meeting of Rice-Wheat Consortium	16-18 February	Bangladesh
9.	Mr. Bhola Man Singh Basnet	S-4/Communication	Regional Steering Committee meeting of Rice-Wheat Consortium	16-18 February	Bangladesh
10.	Dr. Bhava Prasad Tripathi	S-3/Soil	International Conference on Nature Farming and Ecological Balance/Organic Expo 2001	7-14 March	India
11.	Dr. Kishor Sherchand	S-3/Agri Env.	SASCOM-APN workshop on Regional CO ₂ Enrichment Rice Research Experiment	16-18 March	India
12.	Mr. Suchit Shrestha	T-6/Soil	SASCOM-APN workshop on Regional CO ₂ Enrichment Rice Research Experiment	16-18 March	India
13.	Mr. Chandra Bahadur Shrestha	S-3/Commercial Crop	Twenty Ninth Session of the International Jute Council	12-14 March	Switzerland
14.	Dr. Bhola Ram Pradhan	Director/Planning	Regional Group of Fisheries and Aquatic Research (GOFAR) and Expert Consultation of Research Priority Setting	23-29 March	Thailand & Malaysia
<u>OBSERVATION TOUR</u>					
15.	Mrs. Sharada Joshi	S-3/Pathology	Observation Tour	3-14 January	India
16.	Mr. Hari Ram Shrestha	S-4/Livestock	Observation Tour	4-11 January	India
17.	Dr. Ram P. Shah	S-4/Agronomy	Observation Tour to Mathura	28 Jan. - 7 Feb.	India
18.	Dr. Bhoj Raj Joshi	S-4/Veterinary	Observation Tour to Mathura	28 Jan. - 7 Feb.	India
<u>TRAINING</u>					
19.	Mr. Bir Bahadur Maharjan	S-4/Planning	Regional Training Course on Policy & Institutional Reforms	15-19 January	India
20.	Mr. Tribhubaneswor Dhaubadel	S-3/Livestock	Turkey Training	3-12 January	India
21.	Mr. Netra Prasad Osti	S-3/Livestock	Turkey Training	3-12 January	India
22.	Dr. Kishor Sherchand	S-3/Agri Env.	Analysis of Rice-Wheat Production System in the Indo Gangetic Plains of Nepal	31 Jan-13 Feb.	India
23.	Mr. Tek Nath Ghimire	T-5/Agronomy	Maize Crop Management Research Training	Jan.-2 months	Kenya
24.	Mr. Laxmi Narayan Ray	T-5/Agronomy	Maize Crop Management Research Training	Jan.-2 months	Kenya
25.	Mr. Lal Bahadur Biswokarma	T-5/Agronomy	Maize Crop Management Research Training	Jan.-2 months	Kenya
26.	Mr. Kalika Prasad Upadhyaya	T-6/Horticulture	Maize Crop Management Research Training	Jan.-2 months	Kenya
27.	Mr. Mahesh Mishra	T-6/Agronomy	Maize Crop Management Research Training	Jan.-2 months	Kenya
28.	Mr. Shailendra Thapa	T-5/Agronomy	Maize Crop Management Research Training	Jan.-2 months	Kenya
29.	Mr. Raj Kumar Sah	T-5/Agronomy	Maize Crop Management Research Training	Jan.-2 months	Kenya
30.	Mr. Tika Bahadur Karki	T-5/Agronomy	Maize Crop Management Research Training	Jan.-2 months	Kenya
31.	Mr. Sashi Ram Sharma	T-5/Agronomy	Maize Crop Management Research Training	Jan.-2 months	Kenya
32.	Mr. Ramjee Yadav	T-6/Agronomy	Maize Crop Management Research Training	Jan.-2 months	Kenya

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Three Decades of Partnership in Maize and Wheat Research and Development Marked

Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC) and International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) jointly organized a function on 12 Feb. 2001 in Kathmandu to mark the three decades of collaborative partnership in Maize and Wheat research and development in Nepal.

The day-long function was inaugurated by Hon'ble Member of National Planning Commission Mr. Hari Shankar Tripathi. Director General of CIMMYT, Mexico and the Guest of Honour Dr. Timothy G. Reeves highlighted the CIMMYT's collaboration in maize and wheat research and development. Executive Director of NARC, Dhruva Joshy; Regional Representative of CIMMYT, Dr. Peter R. Hobbs also spoke on the partnership approach and achievement in Maize and Wheat. A technical session with various presentation and discussions was also held.

The CIMMYT is an internationally funded non-profit scientific research and

training organization with Headquarters in Mexico that works with agricultural research institutions worldwide to improve the productivity and sustainability of maize and wheat system for poor farmers in developing countries. Although, the NARC,

with its present name and status, was established in 1991, the partnership began in 1970s. The CIMMYT established a regional office in Nepal in 1985 that is now the second largest of CIMMYT's 17 regional offices. Maize and wheat are the most important cereal crops for food security in the hills of Nepal. The NARC-CIMMYT collaboration involves in the development of new varieties and production practices for maize and wheat that has helped to ensure food security for a large portion of Nepalese population. CIMMYT avails germplasm from its global breeding program and also provides technical guidance and research methodologies to assist NARC scientists to more effectively carry out the research.

The achievements of the collaboration include: new varieties of maize and wheat, tillage practices to conserve resources, farmers' participation in selecting better varieties, Eastern Gangetic plains partnership (terai of Nepal, eastern India and Bangladesh), disease resistant wheat varieties, hill farming system and human resource development.

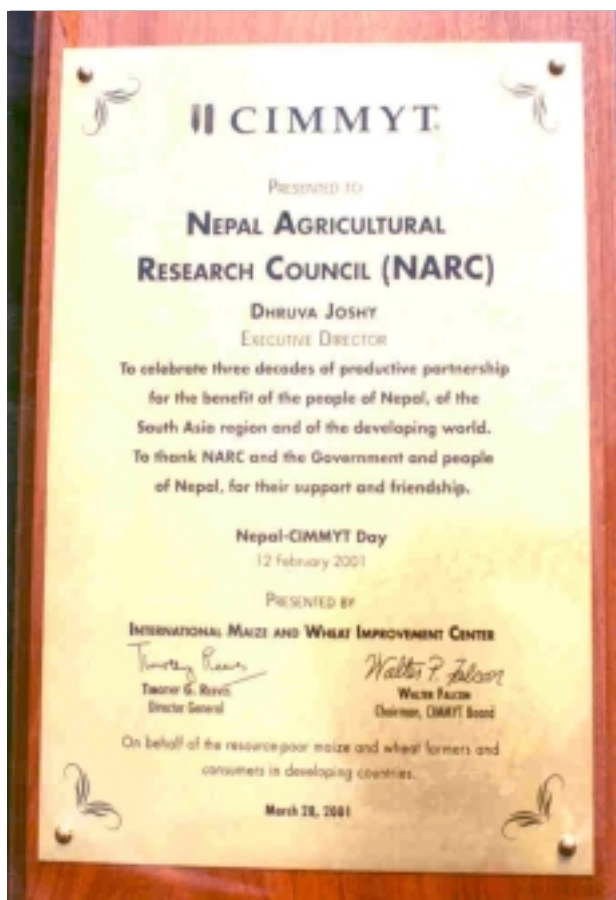


Photo: Rajendra Bajracharya

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