



Mission: Shaping the future of crop improvement and seed innovation in Nepal

First National Convention on Genetics, Plant Breeding and Seed Science (Plant Breeding Convention)

Venue: Khumaltar, Kathmandu, Nepal

Date: 6-8 Magh 2082 BS (20-22 Jan 2026), Tuesday to Thursday

Organizers: National Agriculture Research Institute (NARI, NARC: <https://narc.gov.np/>) and Plant Breeding and Genetics Society of Nepal (PBaGSoN: <https://plantbreeding.org.np/>)

Co-organizers: Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development (LI-BIRD: <https://libird.org/>), National Agriculture Genetic Resources Center (Genebank: <https://genebank.narc.gov.np/>)

Collaborators:

INTRODUCTION

Nepal, with its rich agrobiodiversity and diverse agro-ecological zones, has significant potential for agricultural advancements through the application of genetics, plant breeding, seed science, plant biotechnology and agriculture biometrics. However, the agricultural sector faces several challenges, including low productivity, limited access to improved seeds, and the need for sustainable practices that can adapt to climate change. Globally, advances in genetics, plant breeding and biotechnology have played a crucial role in enhancing food, nutrition, health, business and environment security and livelihoods. In agriculture and forestry, disciplines such as genetics, plant breeding, seed science, agrobiodiversity, biotechnology-ag, and biometrics-ag are key to improving food, nutrition, health, business, and environmental outcomes. Despite these global advancements, Nepal has not fully advanced in these fields, with research and development efforts being sparse and scattered.

To address these challenges, it is essential to bring together experts for collaborative brainstorming and innovation. Institutions like the Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC), Seed Quality Control Centre (SQCC), Department of Agriculture (DoA), academia, private companies, international and national non-governmental organizations (I/NGOs) and professional societies need to work together to advance these fields. While NARC, SQCC and other key institutions have made efforts in plant breeding, genetics, and seed science, significant gaps remain in knowledge, technology development and adoption, and policy implementation.

There is a growing recognition of the need to integrate modern biotechnology, biometrics, and innovative tools into traditional breeding and seed systems. This integration is vital for improving

crop yields, conserving agrobiodiversity, and ensuring food security in the face of population growth and environmental challenges. Strengthening public-private partnerships and aligning with global advancements in these fields are also critical for realizing Nepal's full agricultural potential.

In response to these needs, the First National Convention on Genetics, Plant Breeding, and Seed Science (Plant Breeding Convention) is going to be organized to bring together experts, researchers, policymakers, and stakeholders from across Nepal and beyond. The convention aims to facilitate knowledge sharing, address existing gaps, and chart a collaborative path forward for the sustainable development of Nepal's agricultural sector. By focusing on key disciplines such as genetics, plant breeding, agrobiodiversity, seed science, biotechnology-ag, and biometrics-ag, the convention seeks to promote innovation, strengthen capacities, and develop actionable strategies that will contribute to the nation's agricultural growth and food/nutrition/ health/ business and environment security.

OBJECTIVE

- **Share and Disseminate Knowledge:** To present and discuss the latest advancements, research findings, and existing gaps in the fields of Genetics, Plant Breeding, Agrobiodiversity, Seed Science, Biotechnology (ag), and Biometrics (ag).
- **Foster Collaboration and Networking:** To bring together professionals, experts, and stakeholders to foster networking, collaboration, and partnerships that can lead to future projects, research, or initiatives.
- **Enhance Public-Private Partnerships:** To create a framework and mechanisms for effective public-private partnerships in the areas of GAS-3B, encouraging joint efforts in research, development, and application.
- **Policy and Practice Development:** To discuss and develop policies, guidelines, and best practices that can guide future actions in the respective field or industry.
- **Addressing Challenges and Opportunities:** To identify and discuss current challenges, gaps, and opportunities in the field, and to explore potential solutions and strategies.
- **Promoting Innovation and Excellence:** To demonstrate cutting-edge technologies, innovations, and exemplary work, encouraging high standards and innovation within the industry or field.
- **Identify Future Directions:** To generate group recommendations and establish clear future directions for research, policy, and practice in the GAS-3B disciplines.
- **Document and Disseminate Outcomes:** To compile and disseminate the proceedings of the convention, including keynote speeches, thematic papers, general papers, posters, and recommendations, ensuring broad access to the knowledge shared.

Themes

GAS-3B: Genetics, Agrobiodiversity, Seed Science, Breeding, Biotechnology-ag & Biostatistics-ag

The convention will focus on six key disciplines within the broader sectors of Agriculture, Forestry, and Policy: Genetics, Agrobiodiversity, Plant Breeding, Biotechnology-ag and Biometrics-ag and Seed Science. These disciplines will be examined through the lens of both

practical application and policy development, with the goal of advancing research, fostering innovation, and creating sustainable practices in these critical areas. Followings are the themes in the Convention.

- I. Genetics and its Implication in Agriculture
- II. Agrobiodiversity Conservation and Utilization for Resilient Agriculture
- III. Plant Breeding for Food, Nutrition, Health, Business and Environment Security
- IV. Agricultural Biotechnology for Smarter and More Efficient Crop Production
- V. Agricultural Biostatistics and Data Science for advancing research and decision-making in the Agricultural Sciences
- VI. Innovation and Good Practices in Seed Science and Technology
- VII. Policy and IPR in Agriculture and Plant Breeding

Key Convention Features

- **Convention Sessions:** The convention will feature keynote presentations, thematic papers on Genetics, Plant Breeding, Seed Science, Agrobiodiversity, Biotechnology-ag, Biometrics-ag, and Policy Dimensions, general paper presentations, poster sessions, and exhibitions.
- **Interactive Components:** Group discussions and plenary sessions will be conducted to foster active participation and generate actionable recommendations for the future of GAS-3B.
- **Panel Discussions and Debates:** Interactive panel discussions and debates will be held to explore controversial topics, emerging trends, and policy implications in Genetics, Plant Breeding, Agrobiodiversity, Seed Science, Biotechnology, and Biometrics.
- **Networking Opportunities:** Dedicated networking sessions will be facilitated to encourage interaction and collaboration among participants, including opportunities for young researchers to connect with experienced professionals.
- **Exhibition and Demonstration Stalls:** An exhibition area will be set up where companies, research institutions, and other stakeholders can showcase their products, technologies, and innovations related to GAS-3B.
- **Poster Sessions:** Researchers will present their work through posters, allowing for detailed discussion and feedback from peers and experts.
- **Awards and Recognitions:** The convention will recognize outstanding contributions in the fields of GAS-3B with awards and commendations, encouraging excellence and innovation.

Language

Nepali, English and Hybrid (Nep-Eng)

Guidelines for papers and posters

- Authors should follow the technical details given in the “Authors Guidelines” of journal, Genetics, Plant Breeding and Seed Science of PBaGSoN at <https://plantbreeding.org.np/page/journal.html>.

- Authors should print poster themselves following standard format and guidelines (free format). All posters will be included in the proceedings.
- Visit website of PBaGSoN at <https://plantbreeding.org.np/> or contact the Technical and Publication Team
- Each presenter will get 10-15 minutes for presentation
- Submit abstract, full paper, and poster within given time at pbagson19@gmail.com and sthapromise0584@gmail.com

Best research paper and poster award

Based on their scientific merit, two research papers and two posters will be awarded. There will be separate award category for student on presentation and poster. Poster size should be 24 x 56 inch.

Deadlines

Abstract Submission Deadline: 25 December 2025

Notification of Acceptance: 30 December 2025

Full Paper Submission Deadline: 15 January 2026

All accepted papers will be presented at the convention and considered for publication in the **Proceedings of the National Convention.**

PARTICIPANTS

Approximately 200 participants are expected at the event, including experts in Genetics, Agrobiodiversity, Seed Science, Plant Breeding, Biotechnology-ag, and Biostatistics-ag (GAS-3B). as well as working in crops, forages and forest plants. Attendees will primarily be researchers, policy makers, students, academicians, extensionists, innovators, farmers, business personal, scientists, etc.

CONFERENCE SPONSOR AND EXHIBITOR OPPORTUNITIES

The convention invites organizations and companies to participate as sponsors or exhibitors, providing an excellent platform to showcase products, services, and innovations. For sponsorship or exhibition inquiries, please contact Exhibition Team, the President of PBaGSoN or the Director of NARI.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS

- Sharing of advancements and identification of gaps in Genetics, Agrobiodiversity, Seed Science, Plant Breeding, Biotechnology-ag, and Biostatistics-ag (GAS-3B)
- Establishment of interlinkages and collaborative networks among experts, practitioners, and policymakers
- Creation of a mechanism and framework for public-private partnerships in GAS-3B
- Formulation of group recommendations and future directions for GAS-3B
- Compilation of proceedings, including keynotes, theme papers, research papers, and posters

Convention Committees

Organizing committee

Convenor: Dr Binod Prasad Luitel, @: binodsan@yahoo.com
Co-convenor: Dr Bal Krishna Joshi, @: joshibalak@yahoo.com
Members: Dr Shanta Karki, @: shantakyoto@gmail.com
Dr Krishna Hari Ghimire, @: ghimirekh@gmail.com
Dr Resham Amgai, @: reshamamgain@yahoo.com
Dr Netra Hari Ghimire, @: nhghimirenc@gmail.com
Dr Prakash Acharya, @: acharyap2020@gmail.com
Dr Nabin Bhusal, @: nbhusal@afu.edu.np
Mr Bharat Bhandari, @: bbhandari@libird.org
Dr Santosh Shrestha, @: sanshrestha@oxfam.org.uk
Mr Suresh Gurung, SEAN, @: suresh@karmagroups.com
Secretary: Dr Kalika Prasad Upadhyay, @: kalikaupadhyay@gmail.com

Technical and publication team

Coordinator: Dr Bal Krishna Joshi, @: joshibalak@yahoo.com
Member: Dr Binod Prasad Luitel, @: binodsan@yahoo.com
Dr Krishna Hari Ghimire, @: ghimirekh@gmail.com
Dr Kalika Upadhyay, @: kalikaupadhyay@gmail.com
Mr Pragati Raj Sipkhan, @: pragati.sipkhan@libird.org
Secretary: Mr Promise Shrestha, @: sthapromise0584@gmail.com

Award committee

Chair: Dr Hari Kumar Shrestha, @: harikumar.hk@gmail.com
Member: Dr Puspa Raj Paudel, @: poudelpuspa@gmail.com
Dr Mufid Alam Bhat, @: mufid.agribhu@gmail.com
Ms Rita Gurung, @: rgurung@libird.org
Secretary: Dr Suchit Shrestha, @: suchit.shrestha@gmail.com

Logistic (Food, Lodging and transportation) support team

Chair: Mr Netra Hari Ghimire, @: nhghimirenc@gmail.com
Members: Dr Sushil Subedi, @: subedirajsubedi@gmail.com
Mr Pradip Thapa, @: pradip.thapa876@gmail.com
Mr Arjun Prasad Paudel, @: arjunprakashpoudel@gmail.com
Ms Sarita Manandhar, @: sarita.mk2070@gmail.com
Secretary: Mr Anjali Bajracharya, @: bajracharyaanjali7@gmail.com

Communication, Coordination and Exhibition Committee

Chair: Dr Resham Amgain, @: reshamamgain@yahoo.com
Members: Dr Pallavi Singh, @: pallaviid.singh@gmail.com
Dr Mukunda Bhattarai, @: mukundab_7@yahoo.com
Dr Sabitri Adhikari, @: sabitriko@gmail.com

Mr Mahesh Subedi, @: M.subedig@gmail.com
Dr Sumitra Pantha, @: sumitrapantha400@gmail.com
Dr Sunita Sanjyal, @: ssanjyal.narc@gmail.com
Secretary: Dr. Ujjawal KS Kushwaha, @: kushujjwal@gmail.com

Volunteer & Student Coordination team

Chair: Dr Kalika Prasad Upadhyay, @: kalikaupadhyay@gmail.com
Members: Mr Pragati Raj Sipkhan, @: pragati.sipkhan@libird.org
Ms Simran Khadka Chhetri, @: simrankhadka0@gmail.com
Mr Promise Shrestha, @: sthapromise0584@gmail.com
Mr Anka K Limbu, @: ankulimbu1119@gmail.com
Secretary: Dr Ranjana Rawal, @: ranjanarawal.narc@gmail.com

Resource (Financial) Management Team

Chair: Dr Binod Prasad Luitel, @: binodsan@yahoo.com
Members: Dr Santosh Shrestha, @: sanshrestha@oxfam.org.uk
Mr Durga Adhikari, SEAN, @: adhikaridurga@hotmail.com
Mr Bharat Bhandari, LiBIRD, @: bbhandari@libird.org
Dr Tek Prasad Gotame, NARC, @: gotame@gmail.com
Secretary: Ms Januki Giri, NARI, @: janukigiri@gmail.com

2nd General Assembly (GA) of PBaGSoN

Following the National Convention, PBaGSoN will hold its 2nd General Assembly (GA), which will include: Presentation of annual reports, Award distribution ceremony, Formation of the new Executive Committee, and other official matters. All members are invited.

For further details

Dr Binod Prasad Luitel, Mbl: 9843274202
Dr Bal Krishna Joshi, Mbl: 9863020222
Mr Bharat Bhandari, Mbl: 9856073100
Email: pbagson19@gmail.com

