



## Program

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

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

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

**Venue:** NTNC Auditorium Hall, Khumaltar, Lalitpur, Nepal

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

#### Organizers



Plant Breeding and Genetics Society of Nepal  
(PbaGSoN: <https://plantbreeding.org.np/>)



National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI,  
NARC: <https://narc.gov.np/>)

#### Objectives

- **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.

## Day I (6 Magh 2082BS, 20 Jan 2026)

### Opening session

Chairperson: Dr Krishna Prasad Timsina; ED, NARC  
Rapporteurs: Khem Raj Pant and Jharana Upadhyaya

Convenor: Dr Krishna Hari Ghimire

Time	Activity	Facilitator/ speaker
9.15 am	Registration and networking	Dr Pallavi Singh, Simran Khadka, Pratikshya Shrestha, Anjali Bajracharya, Mandira Chitrakar, Volunteers
	Poster registration and display	Jiban Shrestha, Promise Shrestha, Rita Gurung, Volunteers
	Exhibition registration and management	Dr Kalika Prasad Upadhyay, Dr Mukunda Bhattarai, Dr Sunita Sanjyal, Dr Ujjawal KS Kushwaha
10.30 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chief Guest: Hon'ble Minister, Dr Madan Prasad Pariyar, MoALD</li> <li>Special Guest: Dr Rajendra Prasad Mishra, Secretary, MoALD</li> <li>Special Guest: Dr Naresh Subedi; Member Secretary, NTNC</li> <li>Expert Guest: Bimal Kumar Baniya</li> </ul>	
	National anthem (with script display)	Surendra Shrestha, Volunteers
10.35 am	Welcome and objectives	Binesh Man Sakha; Director, NARI
	Inauguration (lamp in Kalash)	Chief Guest
10.40 am	<b>Key note speech:</b> Innovating for Tomorrow: Integrating Genetics, Biotechnology, and Biostatistics to Advance Agrobiodiversity, Plant Breeding and Seed Science	Shiva Bahadur Nepali Pradhan; Former ED, NARC and Former DG, DoA
11.00 am	Awards distribution (1. Top-cited Researcher Award, 2. Golden Seed Award, 3. Plant Breeding Excellence Award)	Dr Hari Kumar Shrestha; Chair, Award Committee
11.15 am	Organizers' perspectives and what next	Dr Bal Krishna Joshi; President, PBaGSoN
11.20 am	Remarks: Expert Guest	Bimal Kumar Baniya; Former Director, NARC
11.25 am	Remarks: Special guest	Dr Naresh Subedi; Member Secretary, NTNC
11.30 am	Remarks: Special guest	Dr Rajendra Prasad Mishra; Secretary, MoALD
11.35 am	Remarks: Chief Guest	Hon'ble Minister, Dr Madan Prasad Pariyar
11.40 am	Closing with remarks	Dr Krishna Prasad Timsina; ED, NARC
11.45 am	Photo session and coffee break	All
12.00 pm	Poster session and stall visit	All

## Scientific session I: Genetics and its Implication in Nepalese Agriculture

Chairperson: Uma Shankar Shah; Sr. Scientist, NARC

Technical lead: Dr Damodar Poudyal

Rapporteurs: Amrit Prasad Poudel and Keshab Raj Pokhrel

Time	Paper	Presenter
12.30-12:50 pm	<b>Invited paper I:</b> Advances in Genetics and Plant Breeding Technologies: Global Perspectives and Implications for Nepal	Prof Dr Madhav Prasad Pandey; Prof, AFU
12:50-1:00 pm	Molecular Diversity Assessment of Nepalese Fine and Aromatic Rice Landraces using SSR markers	Dev Nidhi Tiwari; Director, DoAR
1:00-1:10 pm	SSR marker-based genetic diversity assessment of Nepalese wild rice accessions	Pradip Thapa; Tech Officer, Genebank
1:10-1:20 pm	Genome-wide association mapping of resistance to pre-harvest sprouting in winter wheat	Pratikshya Shrestha; Tech Officer, ARS, Jumla
1:20-1:30 pm	Computational Identification and Characterization of Candidate Catalase Genes in Proso Millet ( <i>Panicum miliaceum</i> L.) Using TSA Datasets	Abhisek Chaudhary; Banaras Hindu University
1:30-1:40 pm	Screening of Drought-Tolerant Rice Genotypes Using SSR Markers	Biswash Raj Bastola; NRRP
1:40-2:00 pm	<b>Discussion (Q&amp;A and suggestions/ issues)</b>	Technical lead
2:00-2:10 pm	<b>Session remarks, recommendations, and closing</b>	Chairperson/ session team
2:10-2:40 pm	<b>Lunch break, poster and stall visit</b>	All

## Scientific session II: Agrobiodiversity Conservation and Utilization for Resilient Agriculture

Chairperson: Shiva Sundar Shrestha; President, NAF

Technical Lead: Bharat Bhandari

Rapporteurs: Pradip Thapa and Ramesh Acharya

Time	Paper	Presenter
2.40-3:00 pm	<b>Invited paper II:</b> Agrobiodiversity for Climate-Resilient, Nutrition-Sensitive, and Sovereign Agri-Food Systems	Dr Pratap Shrestha; Program Specialist, SSPGR
3:00-3:10 pm	Soil biodiversity in agrobiodiversity – A mycorrhizal case study from Tarai, Manang, and Mount Everest region	Dr Roshan Babu Ojha; Soil St, NAERC
3:10-3:20 pm	Phenological variation and Yield performance of Nepalese Rice Landraces in Madhesh Province, Nepal	Nawaraj Yadav; CNRM
3:20-3:30 pm	Reflection of Agrobiodiversity in Nepalese folk songs	Dr Kalika Prasad Upadhyay; Chief, NATIC
3:30-3:40 pm	Genetic diversity analysis in fiber-related traits of different tossa jute ( <i>Corchorus olitorius</i> L.) germplasm	Sujan Karki; JRP, NARC
3:40-3:50 pm	Genetic Diversity Assessment of Nepalese Chilli Landraces by Agro-Morphological Characterization	Dr Mukunda Bhattarai; Tech Officer, Genebank
3:50-4:00 pm	Performance of elite local germplasms of barley at HRS Dailekh	Jeet Narayan Chaudhary; Chief, HRS, NARC
4:10-4:30 pm	<b>Discussion (Q&amp;A and suggestions/ issues)</b>	Technical lead
4:30-4:40 pm	<b>Session remarks, recommendations and closing</b>	Chairperson/ session team
4:40-5:30 pm	Tea/coffee break, Exhibition and Posters Observation	All

## Day II (7 Magh 2082BS, 21 Jan 2026)

### Scientific session III: Plant Breeding for Food, Nutrition, Health, Business and Environment Security

Chairperson: Bimal Kumar Baniya; Former Director, NARC  
Dilraj Yadav

Technical lead: Dr Nabin Bhusal/ Dr Dr

Rapporteurs: Bishnu Prasad Kandel and Md Ekram Hussain

Time	Paper	Presenter
9:30-9:50 am	<b>Invited paper III:</b> Plant Breeding: History, Achievements, Contributions, Challenges, and Future for Resilient Agriculture	Dr Rajendra Darai, Director, DoAR
9:50-10:00 am	Wheat Breeding in Nepal: Achievements, Emerging Challenges, and Future Prospects	Khem Raj Pant; NWRP
10:00-10:10 am	Examination of Promising Genotypes of Rajma ( <i>Phaseolus vulgaris</i> L.) for Variety Release	Dr Anil Pokhrel; Coordinator, GLRP
10:10-10:20 am	Hybrid breeding and varietal development of chili pepper in Nepal	Dr Amar Bahadur Pun Magar; Senior St, NHRC
10:20-10:30 am	Diversity rich plant breeding methods for resilient agriculture	Dr Bal Krishna Joshi; Chief, Genebank
10:30-10:50 am	<b>Discussion (Q&amp;A and suggestions/ issues)</b>	Technical lead
10:50-11:10 am	<b>Tea/ coffee break, Poster and Stall visit</b>	All

11:10-11:20 am	Genetic Analysis and Performance Evaluation of Diverse Carrot ( <i>Daucus carota</i> L.) Genotypes	Avishek Thakur; IAAS
11:20-11:30 am	Assessment of Genetic Variability and Milling Quality of Rice Landraces ( <i>Oryza Sativa</i> L.) of Nepal	Prashansa Pandey; AFU
11:30-11:40 am	Performance and Adaptability of Foxtail Millet Genotypes in Mid and High Hills of Nepal	Bishnu Bushal; LI-BIRD
11:40-11:50 am	Evaluation of Grain Quality Traits of Nepalese Rice Landraces	Prajita Devkota; AFU
11:50-12:00 pm	Evaluation of Grain Quality and Cooking Characteristics of Nepalese Rice ( <i>Oryza sativa</i> L.) Landraces	Saurabh Joshi; AFU
12:00-12:20 pm	<b>Discussion (Q&amp;A and suggestions/ issues)</b>	Technical lead
12:20-12:30 pm	<b>Session remarks, recommendations and closing</b>	Chairperson/ session team
12:30-1:30 pm	<p><b>Panel discussion</b> Topic: <b>Next-Gen Breeding: Integrating Genomics, AI, Speed Breeding and High-Throughput Phenotyping for Climate-Resilient and Nutraceutical-Rich Crops</b> Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Dr Hari Bahadur KC, Joint Secretary, MoALD</li> <li>● Dr Bhanu Bhakta Pokhrel, Director, NARC</li> <li>● Dr Puspa Poudel, Assist Dean, IAAS</li> <li>● Bharat Bhandari, ED, LI-BIRD</li> <li>● Durga Adhikary, Vice Chairperson, SEAN</li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A cum discussion</p>	<p>Moderator: Resham Babu Amgai; Chief, NABC</p> <p>Rapporteur: Dr Sumitra Pantha and Mahesh Subedi</p>
1:30-2:00 pm	<b>Lunch break, poster and stall visit</b>	All

## Scientific session IV: Agricultural Biotechnology for Smarter and More Efficient Crop Production

Chairperson: Dr Tek Prasad Gotane; Director, NARC  
Rapporteurs: Suman Ghimire and Pukar Bashyal

Technical lead: Dr Bal Kumari Oliya

Time	Paper	Presenter
2.00-2:20 pm	<b>Invited paper IV:</b> Agricultural Biotechnology: History, Achievements, Contributions, Challenges, and Future for Smart Agriculture	Dr Shanta Karki; Chief, CAL
2:20-2:30 pm	Assessment of Induced Mutagenesis as a Tool of Genetic Variance on Seedling Quality Traits in The Local Rice Landrace	Ramesh Acharya; St, NPGRC
2:30-2:40 pm	Optimization of In Vitro Callogenesis and Plant Regeneration in Elite Sugarcane Genotype SRPJ2016 Coll#02	Dr Dil Raj Yadav; Coordinator, NSRP
2:40-3:00 pm	<b>Discussion (Q&amp;A and suggestions/ issues)</b>	Technical lead
3:00-3:10 pm	<b>Session remarks, recommendations and closing</b>	Chairperson/ session team
3:10-3:30 pm	Tea/ coffee break, poster and stall visit	All

## Scientific session V: Agricultural Biostatistics and Data Science for advancing research and decision-making in the Agricultural Sciences

Chairperson: Dr Kishor Chandra Dhahal; Dean, IAAS  
Rapporteurs: Dinesh Ghimire and Sony Bhattarai

Technical lead: Dr Roshan Babu Ojha

Time	Paper	Presenter
3:30-3:50 pm	<b>Invited paper V:</b> Agricultural Biostatistics in Nepal: History, Current Strengths and Weaknesses, Challenges for the Future, and Strategies for its Efficient Use for Advancement in Agri. Research and Crop Productivity in the Country.	Bharat Adhikari; Former Senior St, NARC
3:50-4:00 pm	Experimental Research Design, Sample Survey, and Statistical Analysis Practice in Agricultural Research in Nepal	Nabaraj Poudel; St, NASRI
4:00-4:10 pm	An Insight into Applied Research and Agricultural Statistics	Dr Kishor Chandra Dahal; Dean, IAAS
4:10-4:20 pm	A least used stability analysis tools by Plant breeder for varietal recommendation-GGE Biplots	Dr Umesh Kumar Acharya; Chief, NCCRC
4:20-4:30 pm	Genotype × Environment Interaction of medium grain rice genotypes using additive main effect and multiplicative interaction (AMMI) across different environments of Nepal	Dr Nabin Bhusal; Ass. Prof., AFU
4:30-4:40 pm	Yield Performance and Stability of Soybean Genotypes across Multiple Environments in Western Nepal Using BLUP and GGE Analysis	Padam Prasad Poudel; St, GLRP
4:40-4:50 pm	UAV-Based Remote Sensing for Data-Driven Crop Improvement in Plant Breeding	Dinesh Ghimire; PhD Candidate, Cornell Univ.
4:50-5:10 pm	<b>Discussion (Q&amp;A and suggestions/ issues)</b>	Technical lead
5:10-5:20 pm	<b>Session remarks, recommendations and closing</b>	Chairperson/ session team

## Day III (8 Magh 2082BS, 22 Jan 2026)

### Scientific session VI: Innovation and Good Practices in Seed Science and Technology

Chairperson: Benu Prasad Prasain; Chief, SQCC

Technical lead: Dr Suchit Shrestha

Rapporteurs: Bishnu Bushal and Dr Sabina Manandhar

Time	Paper	Presenter
9:30-9:50 am	<b>Invited paper VI:</b> Seed Science and Technology: History, Achievements, Contributions, Challenges, and Future for Agriculture	Dr Hari Kumar Shrestha; Member, NSB
9:50-10:00 am	Key Findings and Policy Implications from Rapid Rice Seed Stock Survey at Seed Producer Organizations	Dr Narayan Prasad Khanal; CIMMYT
10:00-10:10 am	Agriculture in Vedic Civilization: A Perspective on Seed Conservation and Promotion	Basu Dev Kaphle; Chief, APTRC
10:10-10:20 am	Review of Seed Research work carried out by Nepal Agricultural Research Council during the National Seed Vision time frame	Dr Tara Bahadur Ghimire; Former Principal St, NARC
10:20-10:40 am	<b>Discussion (Q&amp;A and suggestions/ issues)</b>	Technical lead
10:40-10:50 am	<b>Session remarks, recommendations and closing</b>	Chairperson/ session team
10:50-11:00 am	<b>Tea/ coffee break, poster and stall visit</b>	All

### Scientific session VII: Policy, IPR and farmer's right in Agriculture and Group Discussion

Chairperson: Dr Ram Krishna Shrestha; Joint Secretary, MoALD

Technical lead: Dr Rama Paudel

Rapporteurs: Deependra Dhakal and Padam Prasad Paudel

Time	Paper	Presenter
11:00-11:20 am	<b>Invited paper VII:</b> Policy, IPR and FR dimension and gaps in Genetics, Agrobiodiversity, Plant Breeding, Ag-Biotechnology, Ag-Biostatistics and Seed Science	Dr Devendra Gauchan; ICIMOD and President, NAES
11:20-11:30 am	Public-Private Community Partnership for Seed Sector Transformation in Nepal	Anoj Adhikari; Head, MSBL
11:30-11:40 am	कृषिजन्य भौगोलिक संकेत: पहिचानसहितको ग्रामिण विकासको माध्यम	Bimal Baral; Secretary, OCMCM
11:40-11:50 pm	Promotion of Climate Resilient Crop Varieties and Technologies in the Gandaki River Basin of Nepal	Prem Neupane; NTNC
11:50-12:10 pm	<b>Discussion (Q&amp;A and suggestions/ issues)</b>	Technical lead
12:10-12:20 pm	<b>Session remarks, recommendations and closing</b>	Chairperson/ session team

## Closing session

Chairperson: Prakash Kumar Sanjel; DG, DoA

Convenor: Simran Khadka Chhetri

Rapporteurs: Dr Pallavi Singh and Dr Ujjwal Kumar Singh Kushwaha

Time	Activity	Facilitator/ speaker
12:20 pm	Reports/ Recommendations/ Declaration/ Issues (Genetics, Agrobiodiversity, Plant Breeding, Agricultural Biotechnology, Agricultural Biostatistics, Seed Science and Policy)	All technical leads
12.35 pm	Award distribution: 1. Best Oral Presentation and Research Paper Award for a student, 2. Best Poster Award for a student Token of appreciation: 1. LI-BIRD, 2. Oxfam, 3. NTNC, 4. Genebank, 5. Karma Group, 6. Muktinath Seed Bank, 7. NARC, 8. Volunteers-8	
12.45 pm	Remarks from participation	
12.50 pm	Issues, concerns and lesson learn	
1.00 pm	Remarks from guest	
1.10 pm	Convention closing remark and future strategy	Chairperson
1.30 pm	Snacks, stall visit, poster observation and networking	All

## 2nd General Assembly (GA) of PBagSoN

From 2 pm onwards, 8 Magh 2082BS

## For further details

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Dr Bal Krishna Joshi, Mbl: 9863020222

Dr Ujjawal KS Kushwaha, Mbl: 9844033976

## Co-organizers



Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development (LI-BIRD): <https://libird.org/>



Oxfam in Nepal (<https://nepal.oxfam.org/>)



National Agriculture Genetic Resources Center (Genebank): <https://genebank.narc.gov.np/>



National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC) <https://www.ntnc.org.np/>

## Supporters



Nepal Agricultural Federation (NAF) <http://naf.org.np/>



Seed Entrepreneurs Association of Nepal (SEAN) <https://nepalseedassociation.org.np/>



Society of Agricultural Scientists Nepal (SAS-Nepal) <https://sasnepal.org.np/>



Muktinath Seed Bank Ltd. <https://muktinathseedbank.com.np/>



Karma and Son Traders <http://www.karmagroups.com>

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