

# **Report of the NAMC Meeting**

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The Nepal Society of Agricultural Engineers (NSAE) and National Agricultural and Environmental Forum, held a plenum meeting of the National Agricultural Mechanization Committee NAMC at the Blue Star Hotel, Kathmandu, on May 6, 2005 at 16:00 hrs. The following is a short report of the meeting.

## **NAMC Members Attending**

- 1) Mr. GP Pandey, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
- 2) Mr. KK Shrestha, Jt. Secretary, Planning Division, MOAC
- 3) Mr. Shiva Sundar Shrestha, DG, DOA
- 4) Dr. DB Swar, DDG, Planning, DOA
- 5) Mr. DS Pathik, ED, NARC
- 6) Mr. GB Manandhar, Chief, Agriculture Engg Division

## **Nepal Society of Agricultural Engineers (NSAE) Attending**

- 1) Mr. Amar B. Karki, President
- 2) Mr. Khadga B. Shrestha, Secretary
- 3) Mr. KP Hada
- 4) Mr. KL Gorkhali
- 5) Mr. Piyush Sharma
- 6) Mr. Niwas C. Shrestha
- 7) Mr. Basu Lohani

## **Banks Attending**

- 2) Mr. KB Kunwar, DGM, Agricultural Development Bank, Nepal
- 3) Mr. Bishnu Gautam, Chief of Loan Div., ADB/N
- 4) Mr. Arjun Thapa, Section Chief, ADB
- 5) Mr. Anup Bandhari, Bank of Kathmandu
- 6) Mr. Anjay Bdr. Shah, Chairman International leasing and Financing Co., Ltd.

## **NGO/Farmers Attending**

- 1) Mr. Ashok Choudhury, Farmer and President, NAEF
- 2) Mr. Scott Justice, Advisor, NAEF

## **Industry Representatives, Attending**

- 1) Mr. U. Manandhar, Habi Auto Trading Representative of Association of Agricultural Machinery Importers (AAMI)

## **Others Attending**

- 1) Dr. Stephen Biggs, Rural Mechanization Specialist
- 2) Mr. Chand, Chief, Agricultural Engg Section, DOA
- 3) Mr. Kurmi, Agricultural Engg, DOA
- 4) Mr. SK Adhikari, Chief, NARI

## **United Nations, Attending**

- 1) Mr. Laxman Gautam FAO Rep

## **Members of the Press, Attending**

- 1) Mr. Krishna B. Budhathoki, RSS
- 2) Mr Madan Lamsal, Editor, New Business Age

## PROGRAM OUTLINE

- 16:00 Welcoming Speech – Mr. GP Pandey, Secretary, MoAC
- 16:15 Brief introduction of the meeting and review of the progress made since last meeting : Mr. Amar B. Karki., President, Nepalese Society of Agricultural Engineers
- 16:30 Policy Review Paper – Dr. Stephen Biggs, Rural Mechanization Specialist
- 16:50 Need for Selective Mechanisation – Mr. Amar B. Karki, Nepalese Society of Agricultural Engineer
- 17:10 Sharing Experiences of some Private Sector – Umesh Manandhar, Representative, Agricultural Machinery Importers Association
- 17:30 Discussion
- 18:00 Remarks – Joint Secretary, Planning Division, MoAC
- 18:15 Remarks – Mr. GP Pandey, Secretary, MoAC.
- 19:35 Concluding Remarks KK Shrestha, Jt Secretary, MOAC
- 19:00 Presentation of Recommendations- Press Conference- Mr. Amar B. Karki, Nepalese Society of Agricultural Engineers
- 19:15 Cocktails and Dinner

### Summary Discussions:

In this meeting, various features of mechanization were discussed by various committee members and many obstacles present to promote it were viewed. The necessity of selective mechanization in Nepal, the importance but its negligence in increasing agricultural productivity, relationship of agri mechanization in agri transportation, need of proper co-ordination of ministry and importers, documentation of appropriate technology in mechanization, mainstream development and proper extension were featured.

### Short Notes on Discussions:

**A.B Karki (President of NAMC):** Why Selective Mechanization is necessary in Nepal? -Which area we have to focus to explore the appropriate technology? It is very difficult to influence the policy while prioritizing the Agricultural Mechanization.

**U. Manandhar (Industry Representatives):** Nepal is an agricultural country but why agricultural mechanization is neglected? As for increasing the agricultural productivity agricultural mechanization is most important.

**SK Adhikari, Chief NARI:** The concept of mechanization is not illustrated in none of the policy so it hasn't still got priority. So, the government should emphasis to promote it. Tractors can also be used for transportation purpose but in Morang district this thing is avoided. Thus the use of tractor for this purpose should also be emphasized. In agricultural mechanization, there is no training provided to the farmers by the government. So, training facilities should be enhanced to make them aware about its use and its maintenance. Others like manpower electrification, revolving funding should also be considered.

**Prakash Shah:** In Nepal, most of the farmers own low land and they don't have the proper utilization of it. So the exploitation of the tractor for the transportation should be encouraged so as to increase the income of the farmers.

**Laxman Gautam, FAO Rep:** If the ministry develop a policy in coordination/partnership with the different importers then it will be very helpful to develop agricultural mechanization in Nepal. A comprehensive position paper should be developed.

**Gautam Buddha Manandhar, Chief, AED, NARC:** Co-operative farming should be developed and mis-use of tractor should be avoided.

**Ganesh Sah, Chief, Agricultural Implement Research Center:** Those farmers who have power tiller of their own lack reaper, seed drill because of higher price. Some farmers are using the reaper by importing it from India due to the availability in low cost in there. So it should be locally available in low cost (in India, the reaper seed drill costs IC 10,000 but in Nepal, it costs Rs 30,000 to 36,000) and for this policy should be developed. The spare parts should make available along with it. Providing subsidy on it should encourage the local manufacturing and the Agricultural Departments should provide the awareness program.

**Stephen Biggs: Rural Mechanization Specialist**

Documentation of current appropriate technologies, how they are being used and who are using them should be performed by NARC and/or Ministry of Agriculture is necessary and it should be emphasized. Success stories of what has happened and what is happening now need to be emphasized. Do not focus on past failures. What is happening now and how can we build on it.

**Laxman Gautam: FAO Rep**

Since last 40 years, tractor is functioning in Nepal but why is agriculture still not developed?

**Krishna B. Budhathoki RSS Reporter:-** Proper extension is necessary. There are no agricultural machinery specialists in the extension department.

**Concluding Remarks: KK Shrestha, Jt. Secretary, MOAC**

- The technique should be competitive and for this we have to bit on its quality and the cost.
- New agricultural policy should focus on commercialization, food security to poor peoples. The vision on different sectors should be discussed under an umbrella. The vision of agricultural engineering is necessary to establish by the compile of different importers. For this a preliminary draft of engineering should be developed in order to keep it one of the factor of this umbrella. Since the government is also very sensitive about this issue and in collaboration with FAO, it wants to explore it all over the countries.
- Mainstream development is necessary.
- The documentation is handled by the NARC.
- Development of different visions is essential.

The development of agriculture is only possible with the development in mechanization in the country. So it is the most important factor in agriculture and we don't have to neglect it and should be improved and extended further. Also, the regular interaction is necessary to promote it.