



# Digital Agriculture Experiences in Nepal: Lessons Learned and the Way Forward

**Wednesday, 30 March 2022**

**10:00 AM to 11:45 AM Kathmandu Time (GMT+5:45)**

**12:15 PM to 2:00 PM Manila/Beijing/Singapore time (GMT+8)**

## Meeting Details:

Microsoft Teams meeting

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## Background

Agriculture in Nepal is characterized by small farm size, low productivity, and low level of commercialization. About half of the farm population holds less than 0.5 hectares (ha) of land, the average productivity of agricultural commodities is below that of neighboring countries, and only 20% of rural farmers are commercial farmers. Smallholder farmers are not able to shift from subsistence agriculture to higher value production. Instead, the outmigration trend is increasing, particularly in the hilly areas of Nepal. Hence, the growth of the agriculture sector was never consistent, and it fluctuates significantly with the positive output mainly driven by monsoon and favorable commodity prices rather than improvement in productivity. Nepal, as a result, has become a net food importer despite the favorable climatic conditions for agriculture.

To support hilly area farmers' income generation from commercial farming while enhancing their climate resilience, the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development and provincial Ministry of Land Management, Agriculture and Cooperatives are preparing the Nuts and Fruits in Hilly Areas (NAFHA) project with financing from the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The NAFHA project aims to improve livelihoods of rural households and resilience of farmers to climate change. The project beneficiaries will be approximately 40,000 farm households in hilly areas. To effectively enhance capacities of project beneficiaries for agribusiness development as well as horticulture crop production and post-harvest handling, the project will enhance public extension

services, engagement of private input providers as part of the extension system, and farmer-to-farmer extension through lead farmers. One of the core elements of this extension service network will be a digital technology based advisory system for farmers. In this regard, MOALD and ADB organizes an online workshop to first understand the on-going activities in farmer digital advisory systems (related to water and agri-input requirements, planting and harvest optimization, agronomic management, pest/ disease control among others) and to learn lessons from these early efforts.

## Agenda

<p><b>10:00 AM – 10:10 AM (Kathmandu Time)</b></p>	<p><b>Welcome Remarks (2 mins)</b> Mio Oka, Director, SAER</p> <p><b>Opening Remarks (2 min)</b> Dr. Govinda Prasad Sharma, Secretary, MOALD</p> <p><b>Brief Presentation of ADB NAFHA Project (5 min)</b> Sunae Kim, Project Officer, NAFHA</p>
<p><b>10:10 AM – 11:00 AM (Kathmandu Time)</b></p>	<p><b>Digital Agriculture Experiences in Nepal: Sharing Best Practices and Lesson Learnt</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Navin Twarakavi, Senior Digital Agriculture Specialist, ADB</p> <p><b>Presentation 1: IFAD: Digital Agriculture Platform to Revitalize Agricultural Extension Systems (10 mins)</b> Sanjeev Shrestha, <i>Value Chain and Market Development Expert, IFAD Nepal</i> <i>Rajan Bajracharya, MD, Pathway Initiative</i></p> <p><b>Presentation 2: WFP: Enabling last-mile climate services through municipal agro-meteorological information centre (10 mins)</b> Krishna Yogi, <i>Deputy Head of Programme and Strategic Programme Manager, WFP Nepal</i></p> <p><b>Presentation 3: USAID: Digital Agriculture Initiatives in Nepal (10 mins)</b> Anita Mahat, Economic Growth Adviser</p> <p><b>Presentation 4: AgriClear: Opportunities and Challenges of digital agtech industry in Nepal</b></p>

	<p>Shristi Piya, Project Lead (10 mins)</p> <p><b>Q&amp;A (10 mins)</b></p>
<p><b>11:00 AM – 11:30 AM (Kathmandu Time)</b></p>	<p><b>Relevant Experiences Across the World</b></p> <p><b>Presentation 5: DeHaat - Leveraging new age technologies &amp; ground intelligence to build personalised advisory systems for farmers (10 mins)</b> Mr. Abhinav Raghuvanshi, Head-Extension &amp; Advisory Services &amp; Mr. Ankit Gupta, AVP - Products</p> <p><b>Presentation 7: Green labs-Digital Agriculture Initiatives (Korea)</b> Min Baek, Global COO, Greenlabs</p> <p><b>Presentation 6: PxD- Implementation of a Mobile-based Customized Advisory Service for Farmers of Odisha, India (10 mins)</b> Otini Mpinganjira, Program Lead, PxD</p> <p><b>Q&amp;A (10 mins)</b></p>
<p><b>11:30 AM – 11:45 AM (Kathmandu Time)</b></p>	<p><b>Summary/Next Steps</b> Navin Twarakavi, Senior Digital Agriculture Specialist, ADB</p>