



**Government of Nepal**  
**Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development**  
**Singhadurbar, Kathmandu**  
**Nepal**

---

**National Agriculture Development Strategy (ADS) Conference**  
**“Integrated and Coordinated Actions for competitive and inclusive Agriculture Development”**

---

## **Call for Collaboration**

**Background:**

For the overall development of agricultural sector, the Government of Nepal has prepared Agriculture Development Strategy 2015-2030 (ADS) and is under implementation. ADS was prepared with through close consultation and the active participation of 13 development partners, the Agriculture and Water Resources Committee of the then Parliament, wider array of experts, farmers and other relevant stakeholders. The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MoALD) is going to organize an extensive National Agriculture Development Strategy (ADS) Conference in March 2020 (proposed) in the view of its review in 5 years time as stipulated in the ADS itself and concurrently the country has adopted the federal system on the political front. The ADS has also a provision that the Rt. Honorable Prime Minister has the role to chair the annual ADS conference. For the presentation in this conference, research papers are solicited from the policy makers, academics, development partners (DPs), independent researchers and experts in varieties of fields centering around the scope of agriculture. Of the received papers, selected papers exhibiting the rigor of empiricism on the subject matter will be published in the Journal of Agriculture and Environment as a special issue. So, the MoALD requests all interested entities wishing to collaborate in this conference to send their brief proposal/ expression of interest indicating the area of interest and necessary documents including registration, experience letter of the relevant works to the Agriculture Development Division, ADS Section of the ministry physically or electronically. ([sujan.dhungel@nepal.gov.np](mailto:sujan.dhungel@nepal.gov.np); [arun.gc@nepal.gov.np](mailto:arun.gc@nepal.gov.np)).

**1. Context:**

Progress in the agriculture sector has been recognized as a strategic element in the development process. The intimate and complex relationships between agriculture and the rest of the economy have several policy and implementation level implications. Agricultural development planning in Nepal recognizes these interrelationships with industry, commerce, forest, environment and the livelihood diversification. As almost 68 per cent of people are engaged in the agriculture sector, the sector should be developed in such a way that it can transform the economy as a whole. Although agriculture in Nepal has been successful in changing the structure of the country's economy, the sector has yet to be able to transform the economy like in other countries. Over the last decade a secular decline of the contribution of agriculture sector to the GDP has been witnessed as the sector accounts 31.6% in 2007 and 26.24% in

2017 in GDP contribution. Agriculture sector in Nepal is a critical driving force for economic growth and for substantially reducing the poverty.

Each periodic plan has accorded due priority to the agriculture development. However, in reality there exists both policy and implementation gap. The basic policy prescriptions are subscribed as: agricultural growth is necessary for alleviating poverty in a sustainable manner; agricultural growth is hindered by inadequate agricultural infrastructures; government sector alone is not sufficient to stimulate the diversification and investment.

The Agriculture Development Strategy (ADS) 2015-2035 clearly underscores the fact that some of the social and economic phenomena such as: increasing income, urbanization, changing lifestyles and growing interface with the outside world has resulted in increased consumption of agricultural commodities along with non-agricultural. This phenomenon clearly provides an opportunity for the Nepalese agriculture and livestock sector to participate in the national, regional and global value chain to tap into this underutilized opportunity. Over the last couple of decades while rural livelihoods have changed considerably, commercial agricultural activities and livestock enterprises mainly goat, dairy cattle and buffalo farming continue to expand along the road corridor or areas having good access to markets but this is not sufficient and is indicating by increasing trade deficit.

Agriculture covers wide ranging of other sub-sectors (e.g. high value cash crops, cereals, livestock, nutrition, etc.) and issues around these sub-sectors. Therefore, the term agriculture needs to be understood from a holistic optic and all the issues connecting and connected issues need exposition while framing the sectoral policies. Similarly, it has been argued that complementary input mechanisms for agricultural development (commercial or subsistence agriculture) seem to be seriously lacking. These include: road, irrigation, electricity, processing facilities, extension services, finances, market and distribution channels, to list but a few.

From the political economy perspective, agriculture in Nepal has been beset with unequal production relation; so for the development of agriculture through the reforms in land distribution and its effective economic usages have been imperative. Nepalese agriculture now faces a tremendous pressure on the small-scale farming systems to produce more, and the question will be how to do this in a sustainable manner, and at the same time supporting those not able or ready to transform. Importantly, the key challenge is therefore on how to raise productivity, protecting the environment and creating dynamic agriculture sector in the longer run.

The conference centers in and around these pertinent issues and will proffer a new way forward in the changed national political context while integrating in the global market and value chain.

## **2. Objective:**

Mainstreaming the contemporary issues of agriculture in the policy discourses involves the engagements of wider array of entities such as political, academic, practitioners, experts, farmers and other interest groups. While agricultural development takes place in a dynamic context; so informed and evidence based facts form as important tools for the process of making and shaping of policy. Therefore, the major objective of the conference is to promote effective exchanges of contemporary issues on Nepalese agriculture centering on the issues as set forth in section 3. However, other objectives are as follows:

1. The conference seeks innovative and evidence-based ideas to adjusting and review ADS in the federal context.

2. Build cooperation among policy makers, researchers, practitioners, private sectors, farmers and development partners who are involved in agriculture research and development.
3. Review progress and advances in implementing the agriculture development activities as well as in creating capacities and adopting effective modalities for evidence-based policy planning, monitoring and evaluation – particularly focused on ADS outcome indicators.
4. Disseminate the best practices and lessons learned in different fields of agriculture from the country or abroad.
5. Provide evidence based facts and figures as a way forward for on-going policy making processes

### **3. Conference Themes:**

1. **Self-reliant:** Self-sufficiency in food grains
2. **Sustainable:** Irrigation, Soil organic matter, Land Degradation, Agro-forestry, Agricultural land productivity, Agribusiness development, Agrobiodiversity
3. **Competitiveness:** Agricultural trade (domestic and international), Agriculture Commercialization
4. **Inclusiveness:** Gender in Agriculture, Extension coverage
5. **Growth:** Agriculture growth
6. **Livelihood:** Agricultural labor productivity, Rural poverty
7. **Food and Nutrition:** Food poverty, Nutrition, Food safety, Food Security
8. **Agriculture in Federal Structure**
9. **Technological innovation, Research and development, adoption and dissemination: Results and implications**
10. **Agricultural development infrastructures, indigenous systems and performances**
11. **Information Communication Technology in Agriculture**
12. **Finances, insurance and risk management**
13. **Climate change and Agriculture**

### **4. Structure of the Conference**

The conference will take place for two days and a short brief of the conference will be as follows:

On the **Day 1** the conference will be officially opened followed by a high-level keynote address and high-level panel discussion on the conference theme. In the afternoon, it will consist of parallel sessions.

**Day 2:** will focus on presentation and discussion of the different themes and in the late afternoon way forward for future direction of agriculture and declaration of the conference will be presented in the plenum

### **5. Expected Outcome:**

The yield of the national conference will be considered for the ground of revision of the ADS. The selected papers of the conference will be published on the special issue of the Journal of Agriculture and Environment, publishing by the Ministry of the Agriculture and Livestock Development.