First Announcement
Asian Regional Conference on Goats (ARCG 2019)
October 20-23
Chitwan, Nepal

For further detail, please contact:
ARCG 2019 Secretariat
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Agriculture and Forestry University, Chitwan, Nepal
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Email: ar cg2019@afu.edu.np
Website: www.afu.edu.np/vet/arcg2019

Organizers
- Faculty of Animal Science, Veterinary Science and Fisheries, Agriculture and Forestry University, Rampur, Chitwan, Nepal
- International Goat Association

Co-organizers
- Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Department of Livestock Services, Directorate of Livestock Production (DoLP), Hariharbhan, Lalitpur
- Nepal Agricultural Research Council, Singhdurbar Plaza, Kathmandu
- Heifer International Nepal, Hattiban, Lalitpur
- Michigan State University, East Lancing, MI, USA
- Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR)-Central Institute for Research on Goats, India

Potential collaborators
- University Grants Commission, Nepal
- USAID/KISAN- II Project, Nepal
- Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) Nepal
- Nepal Veterinary Association (NVA), Kathmandu
- Nepal Animal Science Association (NASA), Kathmandu
- International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)
- International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Kathmandu
- Tribhuvan University, Institute of Agriculture and Animal Science (IAAS), Sanepa, Lalitpur
- Purwanchal University/HICAST, Kathmandu and NPI, Bharatpur

Air connectivity
Nepal has one international airport, Tribhuvan International Airport, located at Kathmandu. There are few direct long-distance flights to Nepal. Getting into Nepal from Europe, America or Australia will almost always involve a stop in the Middle East or Asia. About two dozens of airlines serve Nepal from abroad.

Security issues
Nepal feels safer than most of other countries around the globe, possibly due to the friendly behavior, religious nature and natural kindness of the Nepalese people. In Nepal, the tourists are considered as the avatar (form) of God and are always very welcoming.
Background

The Agriculture and Forestry University (AFU) is the first state-owned technical university in Nepal that was established under a land grant model with the mandate of three functions: education, research and extension. AFU mainly aims to produce internationally competent human resources to promote education, research and development in the field of agriculture, livestock, fisheries, forestry, and allied disciplines. Since being established, AFU has engaged in organizing various national, regional and international conferences, as well as seminars and symposiums, to meet its vision and mission.

Goats (Capra hircus) are very social, curious, gentle, independent and intelligent creatures that were first domesticated by human beings in 10,000 BC. The largest goat population in the world remains in Asia (59%) followed by Africa (35%). Goat husbandry is becoming the most popular enterprise among the rural as well as urban youths in Nepal. Goat, the “poor man’s cow” contributes about 20.4% to the total meat production in the country and ranks second after buffalo (54.3%). Goat is also considered as living bank account, as they can be converted into cash when needed by the farmers. Thus, this species has made a great contribution to sustaining the livelihoods of rural smallholders in the developing world.

In this context, AFU/Faculty of Animal Science, Veterinary Science and Fisheries is organizing an Asian Regional Conference on Goats (ARCG 2019). The conference is tentatively scheduled for 20-23 October 2019, and is organized in association with the International Goat Association; Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Department of Livestock Services; Nepal Agricultural Research Council; and Heifer International Nepal. The conference’s main aim is to gather researchers, academicians and development entities to exchange knowledge and technologies generated in the field of goat research and development across the globe.

Proposed thematic areas

- Goat as a source of food and economic security in the developing world
- Goat production policies, socio-economics, and value chain development
- Goat husbandry management
- Goat as a source of food and economic security in the developing world
- Goat feeding and nutrition management
- Phenomics, genomics and biotechnology for enhanced goat production
- Health management and disease control
- Advancement in goat product processing

Important dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Call for Abstract</td>
<td>December 15, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deadline for Abstract Submission</td>
<td>June 01, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Notification of acceptance and call for full papers</td>
<td>July 01, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deadline for submission of full papers</td>
<td>August 15, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Review/feedback on full papers</td>
<td>September 01, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Re-submission of full papers</td>
<td>September 30, 2019</td>
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<td>Early registration deadline</td>
<td>September 30, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>On-spot registration deadline</td>
<td>October 20, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conference dates</td>
<td>October 20-23, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Post conference tour</td>
<td>October 23, 2019</td>
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Conference registration

We encourage the delegates to register for the event online. Please visit the conference website www.afu.edu.np/arcg2019 for more details. Pay the registration fee through online bank transfer to the following account. The transaction details should be uploaded through online during registration.

A/C Number: 0080721970019
A/C Holders' Name: Conference Account FAVF
Name of Bank: Himalayan Bank Limited
Branch: Chitwan Branch
Swift Code: HIMANPKA

Registration fees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participants' category</th>
<th>Early registration</th>
<th>On-spot registration</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Delegates representing INGOs/NGOs:</td>
<td>NRs 10,000</td>
<td>10,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Delegates representing GOs:</td>
<td>NRs 6,000</td>
<td>6,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Association and Individual Delegates:</td>
<td>NRs 5,000</td>
<td>5,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Delegates:</td>
<td>NRs 4,000</td>
<td>4,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participants from SAARC Nations:</td>
<td>USD 200*</td>
<td>210*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foreign Delegates:</td>
<td>USD 400*</td>
<td>410*</td>
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(*includes shuttle service to conference center, 4 lunches and a gala dinner)

Scientific & Regional Conferences (S & R C) Committee

Chair: Dr. Lucia Sepe, International Goat Association
Members:
- Juan Capote, Noemi Castro Navarro, Herve Hoste, Nazan Koluman, Paula Menzies, Tilahun Sahlu, Felipe Torres-Acosta, Carina Visser

The S & R C Committee of IGA assists in overall planning, implementing and organizing the regional meetings. Additionally, this Committee is responsible for working with the ICG and RCG host country Scientific Committee to recruit invited speakers, finalize the scientific program schedule, review and select oral abstract presentations, and review and select poster award nominations.

Conference Committees

Chair:
- Dr. Ishwari Prasad Dhakal, Vice Chancellor, Agriculture and Forestry University, Nepal

Patron:
- Prof. Dr. Mana Raj Kolakshyapati, Registrar, Agriculture and Forestry University, Nepal

Chief advisor
- Dr. Beth Miller, President, International Goat Association, USA
- Dr. Lucia Sepe, Vice-President, International Goat Association, Italy
- Dr. Bimal Kumar Nirman, Director General, Department of Livestock Services
- Dr. B.N. Mahato, Executive Director, Nepal Agricultural Research Council
- Dr. M.S. Chauhan, President and Director, Indian Society for Sheep and Goat Production and Utilization, Central Institute for Research on Goats, India
- Prof. Dr. Nanda P Joshi, Associate Professor, Michigan State University, MI, USA
- Dr. Shubha N. Mahato, Country Director, Heifer International Nepal

Organizing Chair
- Prof. Dr. Sharda Thapaliya, Dean, Agriculture and Forestry University, Nepal
- Asst. Professor and Head, Agriculture and Forestry University, Nepal

Organizing Secretary
- Dr. Nirajan Bhattarai, Asst. Professor, Agriculture and Forestry University, Nepal

Co-Secretaries
- Raju Kadel, Chief, Goat Research Station, Nepal Agricultural Research Council, Nepal
- Dr. Himal Luitel, Asst. Professor, Center for Biotechnology, Agriculture and Forestry University, Nepal