

Foreword

Seeds have been considered as a high value low volume product. Seeds alone contribute 20-25% crop productivity. Government of Nepal has formulated Seed Act, Seed Regulation, National Seed Policy and Seed Vision (2013-25) for creating enabling environment for seed production and marketing. National Seed Policy has assumed assurance of quality production and supply, export promotion and import substitution. Efforts made in the past is not sufficient to meet the in-country demand of seeds especially of horticultural crops: potato, vegetable and spice crops. Realizing this situation, 15th National Horticulture Seminar was held on 10-11 Mangsir 2081 (25-26 November, 2024) at Warm Temperate Horticulture Center, Kirtipur, Kathmandu with the theme of *"Strengthening Seed Sector of Potato, Vegetable and Spice Crops"*. The seminar was organized by Nepal Horticulture Society, Lalitpur in collaboration with National Centre of Potato, Vegetables, and Spices Crop Development (NCPVSCD), Kirtipur and National Centre of Fruit Development (NCFD), Kirtipur. The Nepal Horticulture Society feels very proud to publish the proceedings with the financial support of NCPVSCD, Kirtipur. The proceeding has altogether 45 papers covering keynote speeches, strategic and scientific areas and cross-cutting issues of seed sector of potato, vegetable and spice crops. Recommendation has been made on policy and strategic level, program/implementation level and cross-cutting issues.

To bring this proceeding in this shape, Editorial Committee along with the officials of the NCPVSC, Kirtipur worked very hard. I sincerely express my gratitude and thanks to the respected secretary of Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development Dr. Govinda Prasad Sharma for his good wishes messages for the success of the seminar and sincere thanks to the editorial team and NCPVSC team for untiring and commendable works they performed. I also express my sincere thanks to the organizing committee and different sub-committees for their hard work commitments for the success of the seminar and publication of this proceedings. I also acknowledge and appreciate the keynote speakers and authors of different papers for their valuable contribution. The institutions and individuals who supported the seminar and publication of the proceedings are highly acknowledged.

I hope this proceeding will be very useful to horticulture researcher, planners, development workers, private seed entrepreneurs, students and many others who are involved in vegetable seed sector of potato, vegetable and spice crops and also it contributes a lot in the promotional and developmental activities of seed sector of potato, vegetable and spice crop.

Thank You

Gopal Prasad Shrestha
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Nepal Horticulture Society