

AGRICULTURE EDUCATION IN HIMALAYAN COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES & TECHNOLOGIES (HICAST)

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Background

Agriculture is the engine of growth in Nepal. Its economy in general and resource-poor farmer's livelihood in particular has been rising and falling with vicissitudes in agricultural policies as well as ecological, economic and political environment. Agriculture is the mainstay of nearly 80 percent of the population. To grasp the profiles of development in its various facets, it is necessary to enlarge upon the status of Agriculture in Nepalese economy. However, the performance of Agriculture hitherto indicates the paradox situation partly due to the traditional system of farming and partly due to lack of technically well-equipped human hands. It can be emphatically said that building human asset able to effectively and efficiently manage available resources and opportunities is the first condition for moving towards achieving Millennium Development Goals. Keeping this fact in mind, Himalayan College of Agricultural Science & Technology (HICAST), was established by a community of agricultural and veterinary professionals. **HICAST was established in 2000 AD.**

Mission

HICAST was established with a mission of contributing to attainment of sustainable livelihoods and sustainable development of the nation by producing academically and practically competent agriculturist, veterinarians, and technologists.

Vision

To contribute in strengthening national agricultural/livestock/public health development systems by developing the human resources needed to manage research, development and training in the field of agriculture and allied sciences and technology.

Objectives

- Produce academically and practically competent graduates in the field of Agriculture, Veterinary Science, and Food/Dairy/Meat Technology.
- Provide the students with adequate opportunities and new vision to cope with the challenges of the new millennium.
- Enhance linkages with national & international institutions; and conduct collaborative and participatory research, workshop/training and seminars.
- Develop the college into a center of academic excellence to promote and attain sustainable livelihood and mutual respect among the people with diverse ethnic and socio-economic background.

Approaches

- HICAST believes in synergy among the different technical institutions and human resource therein.
- It has in-built focus on experiential learning and **public-private/private-private partnership (PPP)** for sound teaching, research, extension and training.

Programs

- Undergraduate Programs:
 - B.Sc. (Honours) Agriculture - 4 year
 - B.V.Sc. & A.H. – 5 Year
- Post Graduate Program
 - M.Sc.Ag. (Agri-business Management) - 2 year
 - M.Sc. Dairy Technology – 2 year
 - M.Sc. Meat Technology – 2 yeay

Under the 4 - year B.Sc. (Honours) Agriculture programme, the students are engaged in project works starting from the Third Semester besides laboratory practical. The students are provided with choices in the following elective courses in the Seventh Semester.

- Horticulture Sustainable, Agriculture, Plant Breeding, Plant Protection, Animal Science Soil Science Agricultural Economics and Business Management Development Studies

Future Programs (Under Affiliation Process)

- M.Sc.Ag. (Commercial Horticulture)
- M.Sc.Ag. (Sustainable Agriculture and Climate Change)
- M.Sc.Ag. (Animal Breeding)

Collaboration and MOU with other Organization and University

1. Department of Agriculture (DOA), Harihar Bhawan
2. Department of Livestock Services, Harihar Bhawan
3. Nepal Agricultural Research Council, Kathmandu
4. Department of Food Techninology and quality Control, Babarmahal
5. Dairy Development Corporation, Lainchaur
6. Nepal Dairy Pvt. Ltd. Mahabaudha, Kathmandu
7. Laxmi Dairy Pvt. Ltd. Kupandol, Lalitpur
8. Nepal Sausage Factory Pvt. Ltd. Kathmandu
9. Valley Cold Store Pvt. Td., Kathmandu
10. Nepal Engineering College, Bhaktapur
12. Nepal F.M, Kathmandu
13. Shree Panchakanya Devi Vegetable growers Group, Thimi
14. Shree Madahyapur Organic Farmers group, Thimi
15. WOREC Nepa, Kathmandu
16. College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Florida, USA
17. Agricultural University of Hebei, China
18. Hebrew University, Israel
19. Center for Animal Research and Development (CARD – Nepal)
20. CABI, South Asia Regional Center, New Delhi, India
21. University of Washington, USA