

South Asian Agricultural Economists' Kathmandu Declaration 13-14 February 2015

Preamble

The agricultural economists and related professionals held a two-day conference on 'Transforming the South Asian Agriculture: Challenges and Opportunities' in Kathmandu with participants from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and officials of International Food Policy Research Institute, Ministry of Agricultural Development/ Nepal, UN FAO, SAARC Secretariat, Nepal Economic Association and Nepal Agricultural Economics Society from 13 to 14 February, 2015. This conference considered some 19 papers on the major thematic areas of agricultural transformation, namely, agricultural productivity and profitability, sustainable and climate-resilient agriculture, linkage of smallholders to markets and value chains, and diversification of agriculture. Considering the state of agricultural economy and the need for developing the agricultural economics profession in the region alongside other aspects such as institutions, industry, and ecological systems, the Conference Participants issued "Kathmandu Declaration on Agricultural Economics" on 14 February 2015, and decided to pursue a 10-point agenda.

10-Point Agenda of Kathmandu Declaration on Agricultural Economics

- i. Carry out a constant dialogue on food, agricultural, and agrarian relations with the Governments, SAARC, industry chambers, and CSOs on policy formulation.
- ii. Undertake research and analytical work in the disciplines, and substantiate them with scientific facts and figures, and relationships.
- iii. Build the capacity of agricultural economists in the analytical techniques and policy analysis, and boost up their effective roles.
- iv. Establish a network of the professional societies in the countries and the region for higher professional collaborative R & D work.
- v. Organize the agricultural economists and related professionals, their societies, and trustees to establish a South Asian Agri-Economics Association and develop it; and launch the Association's Journal and related publications.
- vi. Maintain a roster of experts in the region to act as reviewers for publication.
- vii. Carry out research by identifying the issues of common interest and organize conferences.
- viii. Explore the sources of funding for policy research, policy communications, and related works.
- ix. Carry out collaborative works with the regional/international organizations (such as IFPRI, IRRI, CYMMIT, ICRISAT, UN Agencies, and the like), and
- x. Facilitate the discourse of South Asia's agricultural professional associations in various fields with similar international professional bodies.
