



National Workshop on
Standard and Programme Implementation for OA Promotion in Nepal
“प्राक्तिक कृषि प्रवर्द्धनका लागि मापदण्ड तथा कार्यान्वयन सम्बन्धी राष्ट्रिय कार्यशाला”
Hotel Greenwich, Bakhundole, Lalitpur
(February 15, 2022/Falgun 3, 2078)



The findings and outcomes of the workshops including the open discussion have been summarised as lessons learned and recommendations below.

Lessons learned:

1. It was found lack of adequate information on different aspects such as advantages of organic farming and the organic products, crops and area on organic cultivation, technology, marketing, inputs suppliers, etc which are important for planning purpose.
2. The level of awareness about organic farming and products amongst producers and consumers are poor, leading to lack of trust regarding authenticity of products and appropriate price for the products.
3. The workshop was able to strengthen discussion and consultation and helped to increase the acceptance of needs of organic agriculture and related documents developed.
4. It was also realised that there are lack of coordinated efforts amongst research, academia and extension service and system.
5. The workshop have also explored different issues and concerns for different level of governments.
6. Sharing experience and success story particularly from Sikkim was very effective to look into process and steps they have taken to make the organic mission successful.
7. Involvement of international experts particularly sharing IFOAM – Organics International experience was found interesting and very effective to sensitise and explore for refinement of documents as well as convince the policy makers on what and how to move ahead for the promotion of organic agriculture in Nepal.
8. There is a lack of dedicated institutional setup (within MoALD and other government entities) and mechanism to support and coordinate the sector at government level.
9. In-sufficient human resources and capacity on organic, particularly on extension, advocacy, inspection, certification and marketing has further hindered actions on organic agriculture promotion.
10. Poor shared learning and coordination among government agencies, civil society organisations and private sectors limiting appropriate and collaborative efforts.
11. It was helpful to develop realisation on important aspect particualrly on availability and sevices on organic inputs like bio-fertiliser and insecticides and pesticides as alternative package of practices to promote organic agriculture.

Recommendations:

1. The promotion of organic agriculture is only possible with collaborative efforts, so it is crucial to develop an environment conducive to collaboration among a wide range of stakeholders.
2. There should be political support for zoning and categorisation of provinces and municipalities for adequate support for organic farming.
3. A clear plan and roadmap with a timeline and provision of budgetary are important aspects of making things happen, which needs to be ensured through political provision.
4. Governance is one of the important elements, which is lacking needs to be established with a proper organic agriculture structure at the ministerial level, including human resources and budgetary provisions. This should be further strengthened by forming a structure similar to the Department of Agriculture, including provincial and local government.
5. Experience over this short period of time has shown that stakeholder engagement, including political commitment in the respective areas, is a fundamental and necessary requirement for the success of any programme, particularly for effective implementation of organic agriculture promotion and marketing.
6. Need of applied research for organic promotion in Nepal. Provide support on course curriculum for school and academy with practical level issues - update course curriculum with addition of organic farming courses. Linking with the course curriculum at school level on a home, horticulture programme of the Ministry of Education and Sports.
7. All three dimensions such as extension, research and education should be mobilised and work closely together with strategic action to achieve the expected results.
8. The alternative provision of certification should be promoted especially considering the Nepali agricultural system. In this regard, Participatory Guaranty System (PGS) should be promoted for local market and marketing system.
9. The policy arrangement for insurance and premium price priority for organic products in both local and international markets.
10. In order to facilitate and provide a strategic movement, an organic association or organic forum at national level should be formed and strengthened through different types of support and services.
11. All dimensions of organic agriculture need to be developed together: production, standards and regulations, markets, training, education and research.
12. Develop an appropriate database and systematic data collection mechanisms in liaison with local and provincial governments, including organisations working on OA production and marketing.
13. Adequate interaction and provision of policies, acts and procedures for effective implementation and learning. Interaction and engagement of policy practitioners should be designed and organised in a way that makes them contextual.
14. The strategy and activities to promote organic agriculture should be integrated with various other components such as community forests, farmland management, livestock grazing management, watershed management, indigenous knowledge skills and technologies and others available in society.
15. Seeds are one of the important aspects in the promotion and marketing of organic agriculture,
16. which needs to be strategically strengthened.
17. Support for farmers to produce organic fertiliser and compost at household level, including
18. improvement of stables, biopesticides and mobilisation of local resources.
19. Appropriate policies, acts and procedures should be prepared and oriented for effective implementation and learning. The interaction and engagement of policy professionals should be designed and organised in a way that makes them contextual.
20. The engagement of private sector organisations with strategic action on the organic agriculture value chain should be strongly reinforced. Develop entrepreneurship and

enterprises through necessary inputs and services on selected commodities. Supporting farmers to produce organic fertiliser and compost at household level, including improvement of stables, bio-pesticides and mobilisation of local resources.

21. Policy formulation is a continuous process that needs to be linked with the learning cycle by organising regular policy interaction and dialogue.
22. The international exhibition, whether in the vicinity such as Sikkim or on board, should be planned and organised to create an enabling environment for the promotion of organic agriculture.

Each participant showed commitment to pursue possible actions on the promotion of organic farming by their respective institutions.

The Director General of the Department of Agriculture made it clear that institutional capacity building will be his immediate priority area. He also presented his thoughts to prioritize possible actions on organic farming promotion and marketing and initiate discussion with line ministries to implement successfully.

The Secretary of Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development provided strategic direction to all concerns including departments and programmes to bring forward all possible and relevant points as actions in their respective institutions. He also asked the department to prepare a list of priority actions for the next planning process. He also highlighted and showed his commitment to take immediate action on any relevant issue brought to his table.