



National Farmers' Commission, Nepal: Achievements, Challenges and Future Strategies



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Presentation Outline



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Introduction



- Nepal is a peasantry-based agriculture country.
- Agriculture is the backbone of the national economy.
- Two third of the country's total population depends on agriculture.
- Peasants are the major driving force of a self-reliant national agriculture economy.



Introduction contd...



- “National Farmers' Commission (NFC)” has been formed as per the executive Order 2016 A.D. issued of the Government of Nepal (GoN) as envisioned by the Agriculture Development Strategy (2015-2035 A.D.).
- This can ensure the transformation of rural livelihood where the majority of the countrymen reside, which can ultimately be the foundation embodying the slogan of 'Happy Nepali, Prosperous Nepal', a reality.



Vision



To assure social justice to the peasants by protecting and promoting their rights and welfare and transforming agriculture as a dignified profession based on the assumption that "Peasants are the main bases of the development of agriculture".



Mission



The Commission shall remain as an independent, impartial, trustworthy, and leading institution for the promotion and advancement of national peasants' rights adopting the universally accepted principles, norms, and values of the peasants' rights.



Goal



To develop agriculture as a dignified and attractive profession with the creation of peasants' rights friendly environment for guaranteeing peasants' rights by facilitating the implementation of their constitutionally assured rights in co-operation with the GoN, and concerned stakeholders.



Core Values



Pro-peasant and self-reliant agriculture with food sovereignty, equality and justice, impartiality, reasonable access of the producer farmers on the resources and means of food and agricultural production, accountability, transparency, independence and autonomy, participation and inclusion; and respect of the diversity are the core values of the Commission.



Peasants' Rights



1. Access and right of producer farmers to resources and means of food and agricultural production, agricultural goods and natural resources,
2. Rights to food sovereignty,
3. Rights to agricultural production, market and market price,



Peasants' Rights contd...



4. Rights on indigenous and gained knowledge, skill and technology, indigenous crop varieties, seeds, breed, varieties and breeds developed by farmers,
5. Rights to research, subsidies, relief, insurance, extension services and facilities, and farmers social security,
6. Right of participation of farmers in policy making level, and
7. Right to social justice.



Scope of the Commission



The scope of the NFC shall be all over the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal.



Tenure



The tenure of the Chairperson and the Members of the NFC shall be of four years.



Duties, Responsibilities and Rights of the Commission



A.To provide suggestions to the essential advisories of the improvement for the successful implementation of the Agriculture Development Strategy (ADS) to the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development and concerned authorities.

B.To recommend the 'Farmer Welfare Scheme' to the Government of Nepal for promoting the rights and welfare of the peasants.



Duties, Responsibilities and Rights of the Commission contd...



C. To study and analyze the policy gap regarding the rights of the peasants in the current Policies, Acts, and Laws issued by the GoN and recommend for the improvement to the concern authority.

D. To support the GoN to draft new Policies, Acts and Guidelines for peasants' rights and welfare; and their duties and responsibilities towards the state.



Duties, Responsibilities and Rights of the Commission contd...



- E. To monitor and supervise the peasants' rights situation and recommend the GoN for its betterment.
- F. To recommend concrete plan of actions to the GoN for enhancing the access of the peasants and establishing their rights on the natural resources and means of production used in agricultural works.



Duties, Responsibilities and Rights of the Commission contd...



G. To advise the GoN for effective alternatives regarding the market-access, enhancing the quality-standard and competitiveness, and assurance of the appropriate price to the peasants for their crops and agricultural produces based on the value-chain.

H. To provide suggestions to the GoN about the measures of protecting and promoting rights of the peasants by enhancing the capacity of the commodity associations, federations of the producer co-operatives, peasants' network and organizations.



Duties, Responsibilities and Rights of the Commission contd...



- I. To provide essential recommendations to the GoN for increasing the peasants' access and use on traditional knowledge, skills, technologies, indigenous varieties, seeds and breeds; and those crops/livestock-breeds developed by the peasants (farmers) as well as to establish the rights of the peasants on them.
- J. To conduct study and research on policies and programs of peasants' rights for making agriculture an attractive profession.



Duties, Responsibilities and Rights of the Commission contd...



- K. To provide necessary recommendations to the GoN by conducting studies about whether or not the rights and welfare of the peasants are being implemented as provisioned by the Constitution.
- L. To register and regulate the peasants' (farmers') associations/organizations.



Duties, Responsibilities and Rights of the Commission contd...



- M. To recommend the needed actions by informing the concerned institution and the GoN in case of violation of the peasants' rights by any of the policies and programs/projects conducted by the government, non-government and private sector.
- N. To perform other tasks assigned by the GoN in time to time.



Achievements



Based on the provided Terms of Reference, NFC has submitted following documents to the concerned authorities and hopes for the implementation as suggested.

- Working Procedure on Farmers classification and distribution of Identity card to the farmers
- Land-use Utilization Act
- Farmers' Right Act
- Utilization of Barren land



Achievements contd...



- Situation of Agriculture loan and its effectiveness
- Problems regarding Agriculture production and export promotion
- Interaction Workshop regarding Foreign Direct Investment in Kaski and Kathmandu
- Situation of Agriculture Development Strategy and its implementation in field level
- Monitoring the status of Agriculture Development Strategy implementation in various parts of the country



Achievements contd...



- Monitoring of flood infected areas
- Monitoring of commercial agriculture farm.
- Regular discussion with Stakeholders
- Training of Trainers regarding agriculture labor
- Awareness and Orientation program about peasants' rights in Dhankuta, Siraha, Tanahun, Nepalgunj, Jumla, Dadeldhura, Janakpur, Sindhuli, Kavre, Chitwan, Dhangadi, Banke, Butwal, Biratnagar etc.



Achievements contd...



- Problem identification at State and Central level
- Orientation program on Agriculture Loan
- Orientation program on Contract farming
- Monitoring the activities of various Agriculture related projects and suggesting them the measures to be more effective and farmers-friendly
- Interaction with farmers cultivating Industrial crops such as Sugarcane and Rubber, identification of their problems and the measures to solve them



Achievements contd...



- Interaction workshop with concerned stakeholders on the prevalent issues regarding chemical fertilizers and recommendation to the concerned Ministry
- Active participation and involvement in Minimum Support Price fixation of various crops
- A road map of Federal, Province and Local level Agriculture program coordination and its effective implementation



Achievements contd...



- Present scenario of Poultry sector in Nepal and solution to the existing problems
- Effective Coordination mechanism among agriculture extension, research and education for agriculture development
- Registration of farmers organization and regular interaction meeting with them regarding current issues
- Maintenance of Roster of retired Agriculture experts and interaction with them to utilize their expertise



Constraints



- Very less awareness among peasants regarding constitutionally granted peasants rights
- Invasion by Multinational companies, ultimately threatening the small producers
- Large range of stakeholder, difficult for coordination
- Technologies requiring maximum resources for production



Future Strategies



- Upgradation of the Commission to a Constitutional one.
- Prove the necessity of its demand for more responsibilities and duties concerning peasants welfare such as fixation of Minimum Support Price, monitoring of agriculture activities throughout the country
- More awareness and orientation program to peasants about peasants' right



Future Strategies



- Utilization of indigenous and underutilized crop varieties and their protection
- Timely revision of policies concerned to agriculture
- More active participation in policy formulation
- Provision of more manpower
- Coordination and knowledge sharing among different international Farmers Organizations



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राष्ट्रिय किसान आयोग
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