

# Presentation #3

## Title: Review of Current Agricultural Research, Teaching, and Extension in Nepal

Regents Professor, Faculty Fellow, and Cotton Entomology Program Leader at Texas A&M University Research Center, Lubbock, Texas.

### Abstract

Higher education in agricultural sciences in Nepal formally began in 1972 with the establishment of Tribhuvan University's Institute of Agriculture and Animal Sciences (IAAS) in Rampur, Chitwan. Today, Nepal has three agricultural universities (TU IAAS, Himalayan College of Agriculture Science and Technology (HICAST) in Bhaktapur, and Agriculture and Forestry University (AFU) in Chitwan) and several agricultural colleges and polytechnic institutes throughout the country. While these agricultural institutions focus primarily on training agricultural scientists and specialists, Government of Nepal/Department of Agriculture conducts agricultural outreach through its district agricultural development offices in all 75 districts. The country's agricultural research is shouldered by Nepal Agriculture Research Council (NARC), which coordinates research activities through its five regional headquarters and several research stations throughout the country. The author had an opportunity to spend about five months in Nepal as a Fulbright Senior Fellow for Agriculture. The assignment entailed visiting an extensive number of agricultural academic institutions, government research institutes, private farms, and non-governmental organizations engaged in agricultural development. This presentation highlights the functioning of these institutions as it relates to agricultural manpower development, research, and outreach. Current challenges and future prospects of these agricultural institutions in Nepal's overall agricultural development are discussed.



### Biography

Dr. Megha Parajulee earned a B.Sc. (Agriculture) degree (1987) from Himachal Pradesh, India, and M.S. (1991) and Ph.D. (1994) in Entomology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Parajulee joined Texas A&M University in 1994 as a postdoctoral research associate and later moved to Texas Agricultural Experiment Station in Vernon and served as a research scientist/cotton entomologist (1996-2000). In 2001, Dr. Parajulee joined his current position at the Texas A&M Lubbock Center as Cotton Entomology Project Leader. He is currently a Professor, Faculty Fellow, and Texas A&M Regents Fellow. His research focuses on developing ecologically intensive arthropod management in Texas cotton.

Dr. Parajulee is a leader in cotton entomology research, teaching, and service, with an exemplary record of scientific research, publication, and delivery of pest management technologies to the producer clientele of Texas and beyond. He has authored/co-authored 92 refereed and over 350 non-refereed publications, organized several international invited symposia, and has presented 150 invited and 250 submitted papers. He is active internationally with plenary/keynote/special speaking role in Egypt, China, India, Colombia, Nepal, Uzbekistan, United Kingdom, USA, Canada, Mexico, South Korea, South Africa, Australia, Germany, Brazil, and Ghana. He received the Texas A&M Vice Chancellor's Award in Research Excellence (2008), Faculty Fellow Award (2009), Regents Fellow Award (2010), and Texas A&M Vice Chancellor's Award in Team Research (2015). He is active in ESA and other professional societies for the last 25 years, including ESA National Program Committee Chair (2010), Chair of the ESA Standing Committee on International Affairs (2008), President of the Society of Southwestern Entomologists (2009), and International IPM Symposium Program Co-Chair (2012). He was also a Fulbright Senior Fellow in Nepal and Uzbekistan (2014). He is the incoming President (2016-2017) of Entomological Society of America International Branch.