Despite its immense importance for nation’s development, the agriculture sector was continuously neglected even after the restoration of multi-party democracy in 1990 and during the 10 years of insurgency from 1996 to 2006 in Nepal. Government’s apathy towards agriculture was manifested through the insufficient budget allocation for agricultural research and agriculture value chain development. Nevertheless, some efforts have been made to support the agriculture sector after the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), especially after 2010. Debate on importance of agriculture in Nepal’s development was started during the political transition period (2006-2016). The provisions of CPA were included in the Constitution of Nepal 2015, which provides a solid road-map for advancement of agriculture with provisions of scientific land reform, food rights and food sovereignty. Similarly, the government brought different policies, laws and regulations to implement the constitutional provisions. Despite some setbacks to agriculture sector due to the transition to federal system, the federal setup provides fundamental opportunities for the modernization, mechanization and commercialization of agriculture, protecting farmers’ rights, diverse bio-genetic resources and indigenous knowledge and skills.

Dr. Upreti will discuss these issues with the aim of generating informed debate on the contribution of agriculture sector in state building, achieving durable peace and social-political stability and prosperity.

**Speaker’s Bio:** After getting a Bachelor in Agricultural Economics, a Master’s in Sociology from Tribhuvan University, and M.Sc. in Management of Agricultural Knowledge Systems, Dr. Upreti received his PhD in Conflict Management from the Wageningen University, the Netherlands in 2001. He did Post-Doctoral studies from the University of London (King’s College)/Centre for Environmental Studies, University of Surrey, UK (2001-2003). During 39 years of professional experience, he has gained wider experiences from local, national, inter-regional to international levels. He served as South Asia Coordinator of a global research programme called NCCR North-South and Senior Researcher focusing state building, peace and unconventional security (water, food, health, environmental security); governance and North-South research partnership. His research activities in the past spanned through out Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America. Currently, he is working as a Research Director at Nepal Centre for Contemporary Research and leading or co-leading research project operating in Nepal, Myanmar, Laos, Rwanda, and Bolivia. He is also teaching and supervising graduate students at Kathmandu University and Agriculture and Forestry University. He has authored and co-authored 57 books and more than 500 newspaper and journal articles. He is one of the members of Board of Trustees of International Foundation for Science (2014-2021) and member of Advisory Board of Centre for Unconventional Security Affairs, University of California, Irvine (2009 to date).