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## Trip Report: Nepal

**Dates:** April 5 – 19, 2015

**Traveller:** Tom Hammett

**Institution(s):** Virginia Tech, Agriculture and Forestry University (Nepal), Principia College (USA), and Farmer to Farmer Program, WINROCK (Nepal)

### **Purpose of the trip:**

The goals for the visit included:

1. To conduct a workshop on teaching pedagogies for the AFU and other AET institutions in Nepal
2. To identify key needs for capacity building in Nepal with AET stakeholders
3. To discuss ways that innovATE can be involved in capacity building
4. To report workshop result and to plan a scoping (needs) assessment with USAID

### **Sites Visited:**

Workshop venue and field trip sites in Hetauda, AFU campus at Rampur, and offices in Kathmandu, Nepal

### **Description of Activities:**

See following agenda/notes

### **Suggestions and Recommendations:**

What follows is a summary of the recommendations presented to the USAID Mission in Kathmandu on April 15, 2015

The Government of Nepal and the donor community have an interest in sustainable economic growth and food security. The following recommendations support that effort by improving educational quality and workforce development.

1. Establish a Nepal Center for Transformative Teaching and Learning in Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management based at AFU.
  - Develop a certification program for master teachers in agriculture and natural resources
  - Assist faculty in developing research programs, including educational research in Nepal
  - Develop a teaching and media laboratory
  - Promote faculty and student exchanges (reference Nepal Center for Transformative Teaching Concept Paper)
  
2. Implement a scoping assessment to identify educational needs, gaps, and key policy issues, and prescribe strategies to meet these challenges.
  - Identify manpower training and educational gaps and recommend solutions
  - Identify and evaluate existing stakeholder training modules and approaches
  - Recommend opportunities to connect existing training and educational processes, and with those needed to be developed
  - Gather input from an expanded network of stakeholders
  - Identify value chain research and training needs (refer to innovATE publications)
  
3. Initiate and facilitate a forum to develop strategies to address the structural issues that limit higher educational Agricultural / NRM institutions from achieving their educational objectives.
  - Establish linkages between the Education Ministry and other ministries
  - Improve linkages between universities and the private sector
  - Develop a sustainable model for higher education
  - Increase the integration of AFU and TU resources (refer to F2F assignment final report)
  
4. Research and seek the adoption of best practices from Nepalese and other nations' educational systems that will increase education and training capacity and be appropriate for Nepal.
  - Examine examples of educational success in Nepal (i.e., medicine, engineering)
  - Investigate related educational systems in other countries for practices appropriate for Nepalese universities
  - Develop plan for continuing education that involves AFU faculty and facilities

## List of Contacts Made:

Name	Title/Organization	Contact Info (address, phone, email)
Praveen Baidya	Business Contract Director/ KISAN Project	pbaidya@winrock.org
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Venu Gopal C	Vice President/Sathguru Management Consultants, Ltd.	venu@sathguru.com
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## Action Items:

Follow-up - it will be important to build on the workshop and stakeholders meeting. To continue the discussion. And the intermediate goal is to conduct an assessment that will develop strategies and prescribe investments to improve capacity.

Our suggestions for follow-up to the workshop will include the following:

1. Mike Rechlin will communicate with all the participants via email, and mentor those that communicate with him. Those who answer these questions will be asked to be involved in a focus group during the anticipated scoping assessment. The following questions he plans to ask the participants during the coming month:
  - a. One week after the workshop send an email to Mike Rechlin that answers this question:  
“What have I done differently since completing the workshop? (send in an email during first week after the workshop is finished.”
  - b. Before June 1<sup>st</sup> in an email to Mike, answer the following question:  
“How did I change my class (course) due to my participation in this workshop?”
2. All participants will be invited to join the innovATE Community of Practice.
3. We will set up a section on the CoP that caters to the of the workshop participants’ needs and builds on the subject matter/skills presented.
4. InnovATE will conduct an assessment of training and education gaps and recommend investments to build capacity will occur later in 2015. The participants will serve as a pool of candidates for focus groups and other activities related to the assessment.
5. Collaboration with the Cornell and Satguru USAID funded AIP project and their colleagues at the AFU
6. Sign an a MOU with other institutions) represented at the workshop (i.e., Mid-western University) to expand our network/base in Nepal.
7. Four projects in Nepal funded by USAID need capacity building and training expertise. These have been recommended by the USAID Mission. I have been in touch all four, but need to be contacted in the near future to further explore avenues for collaboration. The contact information for each is included elsewhere in this trip report.
  - a. The KISAN project, managed by WINROCK
  - b. The PAHAL Project (Promoting Agriculture, Health and Alternative Livelihoods program) managed by Mercy Corps Nepal; Cary S. Farley, Ph.D. is the Chief of Party
  - c. The SABAL project (Sustainable Action for Resilience and Food Security) managed by Save the Children, Robert J. Cardinali, PhD is the Chief of Party
  - d. Various projects, managed by iDE; Dr. Luke Colavito is the Country Director

## Appendices:

Appendix 1- Trip Log

Appendix 2 – Agenda for the Workshop (April 9-11, 2015)

Appendix 3 – Agenda for the Stakeholders’ Meeting (April 12, 2015)

Appendix 4 – Agenda for meeting at USAID Mission

## **Appendix 1 -Trip Log**

### April 5 (Easter Sunday)

Departed Blacksburg at 5 AM for flight to Atlanta, and on to Tokyo, Bangkok, and Nepal via taxi

### April 6 - Monday – Tokyo to Bangkok

Lay over in the Bangkok airport (to save time and money stayed in the transit hotel inside the airport terminal)

### April 7 - Tuesday - Bangkok to Kathmandu and (in spite of a nation-wide transportation strike!) on to Hetauda

Departed Bangkok and arrived in Kathmandu in early afternoon

Immediately called our Dr. Balram Bhatta who managed the logistics for the workshop and a faculty member at the Agriculture and Forestry University (AFU). A country-wide “bund” – a transit strike- started today with no vehicle movement allowed, except for tourist (hotel) transport (pick up and drop off at the airport). Since this bund is scheduled to last for three days from 5 AM to 5 PM, it would disrupt our participants getting to our workshop. I was told a few days ago the “bund” was planned, and in anticipation of being stranded in the airport or in Kathmandu I had arranged for a hotel to pick up and bring me to the hotel. Dr. Bhatta could arrange for a car to pick me up at the hotel after 5 PM and I planned to take that car to the workshop site in Hetauda about 5 hours or more hours drive to the south of Kathmandu. I could arrive in Hetauda late at night – not good as travel at night in Nepal is dangerous.

Planes were still flying (but bus, taxi, personal and all other forms of motorized transport were halted. To my surprise, WINROCK one of the supporters of the workshop, with Dr. Bhatta’s help, had arranged a flight for me to Simra, Nepal (about 1-1.5 hours from the workshop site in Hetauda). But, with no transportation, I had to walk with my luggage to the domestic terminal. Once there I picked up ticket the ticket that Dr. Bhatta had ordered and waited for a 3 PM departure. Once in Simra, I walked to the roadside where I waited till a car that Balram had arranged could leave Hetauda and come pick me up.

I met with Dr. Bhatta and the two resource persons I had recruited - Dr. Joe Ritter, Dean at Principia College, located near St. Louis, and Dr. Mike Rechlin, who recently retired as Dean of the Future Generations Graduate School located in West Virginia. Later in the evening we learned the second and third days of the “bund” were cancelled, so the participants should arrive at the workshop without problems.

### April 8 – Wednesday - Hetauda

We located the room reserved for the workshop. The hotel hosting our workshop has been open only four months and the staff were not yet fully trained. We set up the room for the workshop (arranging and setting up tables, etc.). We also were building capacity at the hotel to host professional meetings.

We inventoried the handouts, and finished planning the day-to-day events. We spilt up and hunted and bought the supplies for the workshop (notepads, flip charts, etc.) that were needed.

I went to the bank to get cash to pay the workshop bills that we were accumulating. The bank would not cash half the bills due to creases, marks, etc. The ATM would only give me a small amount

(equivalent of \$400 daily), not get nearly enough to cover the expenses of the workshop. The phone line for the banks was down so no credit card service was available at the hotel. So, all payments had to be delayed until I returned to Kathmandu – after the completion of the workshop.

We finalized the workshop agenda and the handouts for the first day. Getting them printed was another challenge with the absence of printers and electricity!

#### April 9 – Thursday - Hetauda

First day of the workshop – see full schedule for the workshop in Appendix 2

#### April 10 – Friday – Hetauda

Conducted second day of the workshop - see full schedule for the workshop in Appendix 2

#### April 11 – Saturday - Hetauda

Conducted last day of the workshop - see full schedule for the workshop in Appendix 2

#### April 12 – Sunday – Hetauda

Conducted Stakeholders meeting - see full program for the stakeholders meeting in Appendix 3

#### April 13 – Monday – travel Hetauda to Kathmandu

Stops at Chitwan, AFU campus, and Naryanghat

Packed and departed for Kathmandu at 5:30 AM

Visited a lodge near the Chitwan National Park

Visited the Institute of Animal Sciences (IAAS) in Rampur (now part of AFU), met faculty, and toured the campus and a few of the buildings.

Finished the trip to Kathmandu, arrived in the early evening

Meeting over dinner with Ritter and Rechlin, and George Norton of Virginia Tech who was visiting iDE our local partner

#### April 14 – Tuesday – Kathmandu

National Holiday – New year’s Day 2072

AM Spent the morning in meetings to discuss and finalize the recommendations;

PM Spent the afternoon at the late afternoon and early evening at the WINROCK; preparing handouts for tomorrow’s meeting with USAID, and working on the workshop reports

#### April 15 – Wednesday - Kathmandu

9 am to 10:30 Meeting at USAID spent extra time in the meeting; USAID seemed very interested in what we did and what we met with Ms. Danielle Knueppel, Food Security Team Leader USAID/Nepal and Mr. Navin Hada. Dr. Balram Bhatta from AFU. In invited Dr. Joe Ritter, Vrigu Duwadi (from WINROCK) and Dr. Mike Rechlin to attend.

I prepared and printed an agenda for the meeting (attached as Appendix 4). Joining us later in the meeting were other USAID personnel Mr. Prakash Gnyawali, Ms. Stuti Basnyet, Mr. Belay Mengistu, Mr. John Stamm, and Ms. Kristin Ray. We had a good discussion of the results of the workshop and the recommendations from the stakeholders' meeting. There were several questions from the additional personnel that joined us. USAID has decided to go ahead with having innovATE conduct a scoping, the only question remaining is when and the size (scope) of the assessment.

In the lobby of the Embassy we met the IPM IL team who arrived for a meeting with some of the same USAID staff.

Meeting at iDE with Luke Colavito and Sulav Poudal (formerly Penn State Masgteres student funded by innovATE) to debrief after our meeting at USAID and to discuss a proposed scoping assessment to identify training needs and curriculum development required for an iDE project field staff.

Visited a local (national) bank to get an advance from my credit card so that I could pay the bills for the workshop. The bank would not give me an advance, and suggested that I use the ATM. At the ATM I had to settle for a single withdrawal of Rs. 35,000 the daily maximum. This is only one tenth of the amount of cash that I need to pay the remaining bills!

Took Ritter and Rechlin (the resource persons) to the Thamel area, a thriving market for foreigners who seek agricultural and natural resource products.

Organized and hosted a dinner meeting for Ritter, Rechlin, and Bhatta to discuss the results of the meeting with USAID and possible next steps.

#### April 16 – Thursday - Kathmandu

Mike Rechlin left today for the US in the early morning

Early morning breakfast meeting with Dr. Joe Ritter to discuss the results of the workshop/stakeholders' group meeting. He left for the US right after breakfast.

Travel agent visited my hotel to get payment for my plane ticket Kathmandu to Simra

Returned to the bank to withdraw more cash to pay the remaining workshop bills

Meeting with the gender specialist from OIRED, Virginia Tech

Meeting at DEVTEC offices in Central Kathmandu, to review opportunities for collaboration, and proof read a draft letter that we had requested in support of our proposal for the Livestock IL

Meeting with WINROCK Farmer to Farmer Country Director

Meeting with Balram Bhatta

#### April 17 – Friday - Kathmandu

Morning-long meeting with Dr. Bhatta, AFU coordinator of our workshop and stakeholders' meeting to finalize the payment of bills. He agreed to carry the cash back to Hetauda and pay the bills directly to the vendors (i.e., hotel for meeting space, transport company)

Met with TVET coordinator and team leader for the PAHAL project to update them on the workshop and on innovATE; the PAHAL project team hopes to work with innovATE once their work plan and M & E plans are finished (late summer 2015)

Met with training coordinator planning a session here later in 2015; updated her on innovATE

Went to the WINROCK offices to meet with the KISAN project leaders; gave them innovATE materials and received information on KISAN; they will communicate with the team leader and others at KISAN

Meeting at iDE country offices; also met there with the Colorado State/SEN (local NGO) team and discussed our recently completed workshop

Met with Virginia Tech's gender specialist who was visiting ICIMOD this week

Met with owner of farm in northern Kathmandu, who wishes to establish an agriculture training center

Meeting with two faculty members from Auburn who just arrived to serve as WINROCK Farmer to Farmer volunteers at the AFU developing curriculum and courses in fisheries

April 18 – Saturday – Kathmandu AM and travel the USA; layover in Bangkok airport

AM - Meeting with Phone calls to partners; needed to confirm letters of support that I had requested for Livestock IL proposal would be coming; some last minute questions

Meeting with representatives from the MACD program at the Mid-western University (based in Surkhet); discussed possible MU with Virginia Tech, our faculty participating in the MICD program, and conducting another workshop for the faculty at Mid-Western University

Flight to Bangkok; layover in airport terminal

April 19 – Sunday – travel to the US; arrival early evening



**Appendix 2 - Agenda for the Workshop (April 9-11, 2015)**

## Linking Transformative Teaching with Agricultural and Natural Resources Workforce Development

A workshop to improve teaching effectiveness in agriculture and natural resource education, and explore strategies for improving the capacity for sustainable workforce development in Nepal.



April 2015  
Hetauda,  
Nepal



Presented by:

Dr. Mike Rechlin, Future Generations  
Graduate School

Dr. Joe Ritter, Principia College

Dr. Tom Hammett, Virginia Tech

Dr. Balram Bhatta, AFU

Organized and supported by:

Agriculture and Forestry University (AFU), Nepal

Principia College

Winrock International, Farmer-to-Farmer Program

Virginia Tech, Innovate Project



## April 9 - Day 1 Focus: Teaching Pedagogies

7:30 – 8:30	BREAKFAST		Notes
8:30 – 9:30	Opening and Welcome	ND	
	Introductions and Workshop Objectives	TH	
9:30 – 10:30	What is “Transformative Teaching”	MR	A discussion of transformative teaching. How we strive to touch the soul of the student, and make a difference in their lives
10:30 – 11:30	Teaching pedagogies	JR	Laying the base with a discussion of teaching pedagogies: lectures, case studies, demonstration, simulations, projects, problem-based learning, assignments, guide by the side, field work.
11:30 – 12:30	LUNCH		
12:30 – 1:30	What the Best College Teachers do: Ch#3 “How do they Prepare to Teach?”	MR/JR	“What do you usually do – Nepal setting?”  Assignment: read ch#3
1:30 – 2:30	Commonly used methods of teaching in Nepal	BRB	Small group breakout and report back
2:30 – 3:30	Ten minute Teach Introduction	MR	Activity where pairs of workshop participants teach the group on a topic of their choice using two different pedagogies.
3:30 – 4:30	Video and discussion “Stand and Deliver”	MR	Video viewing followed by a discussion on teaching techniques used, challenges faced, and relate to Nepal
4:30 – 5:30			
5:30 – 6:00	Day 1 evaluation		

## April 10 – Day 2 Focus: Project Centered Learning

7:30 – 8:30	BREAKFAST		
8:30 – 9:00	Inspirational quote of the day  Review and Questions	MR	
9:00 – 12:00	Team Based Project Centered Learning Workshop	JR	A workshop covering the principles of PCL, facilitating teamwork, and developing a PCL teaching activity with examples.
12:00 – 1:00	LUNCH		
1:00 – 2:00	Chapter#4 “What do they Expect of their students? “	JR/MR	“What do you expect – Nepal setting?”  Assignment read ch#4
2:00 – 5:30	Continuation of workshop and PCL Exercise	JR	Groups to develop their discipline appropriate Agriculture and Natural Resource Management related PCL activity, with “guide by the side” input from facilitators
			Project Group reporting
5:30 – 6:00	Day 2 evaluation		

## April 11 – Day 3 Focus: Teaching and Learning Center

7:30 – 8:30	BREAKFAST		
8:30 – 9:30	Inspirational quote of the day  Review and Questions	MR	
9:30 – 10:30	Ten Minute Teach activity 	MR	10 minutes/ pair + 10 minutes evaluation. = 6 pairs
10:30 – 11:30			
11:30 – 12:30	LUNCH		
12:30 – 1:30	Chapter#5 “How do they conduct class?”	JR	“How do you conduct class – Nepal setting?”  Assignment read ch#5
1:30 – 2:30	How a Teaching and Learning Center supports good teaching	JR	
2:30 – 3:30	Examples include: Principia College, VT CIDER, and Web based models	JR TH MR	
3:30 – 4:30	Tem Minute Teach	MR	Six remaining pairs
4:30 – 5:30			
5:30 – 6:00	Day 3 evaluation		

**Appendix 3 – Agenda for the Stakeholders’ Meeting (April 12, 2015)**



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**Linking Transformative Teaching  
with Agricultural and Natural Resources Workforce  
Development  
April 12, 2015- Hetauda, Nepal**

A meeting of stakeholders in the agriculture and natural resource sectors to explore strategies for improving the capacity for sustainable workforce development in Nepal.

Organized and facilitated by:

Dr. Mike Rechlin, Future Generations Graduate School

Dr. Joe Ritter, Principia College

Dr. Tom Hammett, Virginia Tech

Dr. Balram Bhatta, AFU



Supported by:

USAID

innovATE Project

Agriculture and Forestry University (AFU)

iDE Nepal

Principia College

Winrock International, Farmer-to-Farmer Program

Virginia Tech



## April 12 – Sunday Focus: Stakeholder Discussions

8:00 – 9:00	BREAKFAST		
9:00 – 9:30	Welcome Introductions Ice Breaker	Tom Hammett	
9:30 – 10:30	Workshop Recap	Joe Ritter and Participants: Ramhari Shiva Mohan	
10:30 – 11:00	Goals and Objectives	Tom Hammett	
11:00 - 12:30	Remarks from Stakeholders		
12:30 – 1:30	LUNCH		
1:30 – 2:00	Continuation: Remarks from Stakeholders		Charge to groups: What critical issues to explore? What questions should be asked? Where to ask them?
2:00 – 4:00	Breakout group discussions	Lou C  Mike Rechlin  Joe Ritter	(1) Educational needs for commercialization of Ag/NRM. (2) Structural changes to improve Ag/ NRM education. (3) Towards a National Center for Transformative Teaching in Ag/ NRM.
4:00 – 5:00	Reporting of findings	Tom Hammett	Setting Priorities
5:00	Remarks from the Vice Chancellor	Kailash Nath Pyakurayal	
7:00	Dinner		

## **Appendix 4 - Agenda for meeting at USAID Mission**

Agenda for  
Review of the innovATE Workshop and Stakeholders' Group Meeting  
held at USAID Mission Kathmandu  
by  
Tom Hammett, Joe Ritter and Mike Rechlin  
April 15, 2015

1. Introductions
2. Background
  - a. Working with AFU, MOU
  - b. Research reports
3. Review of Workshop (April 9-11)
4. Review of Stakeholders' Focus Group (April 12)
5. Visit to AFU
6. Recommendations and Findings
7. Next Steps
  - Schedule scoping (needs) assessment
  - Follow-up discussion