



FEED THE FUTURE

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

Nepal Seed and Fertilizer (NSAF) Project



National Workshop and Expert Elicitation on

Lentil Productivity and Profitability in Nepal

20-21 Feb, 2018 | Nepalgunj

Jointly organized by:

National Grain Legumes Research Program (NGLRP/NARC) &
International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT)



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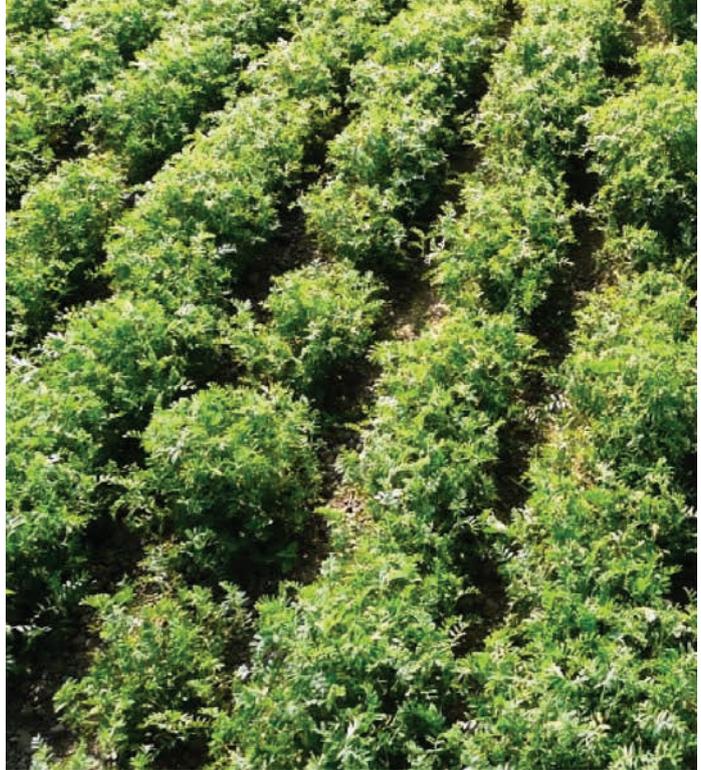
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Background

Lentil (*Lens culinaris*) is one of the most important legumes of Nepal. It is grown mainly in the cool/winter season and accounts for 63% of total pulse area (0.32 million ha) and 67% of total pulse production (0.4 million MT) in Nepal. The national average lentil yield is 1.23 t/ha, which is at the top of all legume productivity in Nepal (MoAD, 2015/16). Lentil is a rich source of protein (22-28%) and high micronutrients such as iron (Fe), zinc (Zn) and selenium (Se), which are important for increasing immunity and maintaining healthy metabolism in humans (Frederick et al., 2006). Apart from its high dietary value, it is also an export commodity crop of Nepal, which is among the top five lentil exporters in the world.



Nepal's lentil productivity (1.23 t/ha) is the second highest in comparison to its neighboring countries such as China (2.37 t/ha), Bangladesh (1.02 t/ha), India (0.68 t/ha) and Pakistan (0.49 t/ha) (FAOSTAT, 2016). However, there is a huge yield gap of at least 0.8 tons between the national average and the achievable yield (SQCC, 2016/17) due to the lack of improved varieties resilient to both biotic and abiotic stresses, poor seed production and marketing, lack of awareness and low adoption of improved management practices by farmers and seed growers.

In the 2017/18 lentil cropping season, some seed companies were unable to sell improved seeds due to low profit margins and farmers' traditional use of farm-saved seeds of inferior quality, which discourages companies from carrying seeds of high yielding varieties (NSAF baseline survey, 2017). In addition, the retail grain price of lentil varies hugely from district to district as well as in places close to the Indian border, compared to inland markets. Therefore, a deep understanding of market forces and scenario analysis by relevant stakeholders is critical for establishing a strong lentil market information system. This would help curb the challenges of Nepal's volatile and unpredictable lentil market. The stability of the lentil market system will eventually motivate grain and seed producers as well as other value chain actors.

To address the intricate challenges and harness potential opportunities, the National Grain Legume Research Program (NGLRP), in collaboration with the Feed the Future Nepal Seed and Fertilizer Project (NSAF), will hold a national workshop on lentil productivity and profitability in Nepal on 20-21 Feb., 2018 with the following objectives and expectations.



Objectives

- Review existing technologies in crop genetics, seed production, and crop husbandry
- Understand and conceptualize the different market forces and further unlock the export potential and profitability of lentil in Nepal
- Share the experiences, lessons and challenges of the lentil value chain and develop a strategic road map to foster sustainable, market-oriented and science-led lentil innovations and interventions in Nepal



Expectations

- Stakeholders will be updated on the existing lentil technologies (genetic gains, seeds and varieties, best management practices, etc.)

- Opportunities and challenges in relation to improved practices and technologies in the lentil value chain identified and suitable scaling-up pathways recommended

- Short-, medium- and long-term activities and implementation strategies identified and documented jointly with relevant stakeholders

- Future research and development priorities and viable business models identified for the benefit of small scale and marginalized farmers

- A national lentil working group formed to follow up and monitor planned activities

Date:
Feb. 20-21, 2018

Venue:
Cygnett Inn Krishna Hotel, Nepalgunj

Participants: Representatives of public and private sector institutions that are engaged in lentil research and development activities in Nepal. The list includes but is not limited to:

- Ministry of Agricultural Development
- National Agricultural Research Council
- Private/local seed companies
- Progressive farmers, traders and cooperatives
- Lentil grain processors and exporters
- Seed Entrepreneur Association of Nepal
- Department of Customs
- Nepal Chamber of commerce
- Various Federal Government departments
- International research organizations
- Various projects working on lentil in Nepal

RSVP: Please confirm your participation on or before 12 Feb., 2018 to Mrs. Smriti Maharjan (CIMMYT-Nepal), telephone 9851129805; email: s.maharjan@cgiar.org or to Dr. Dilli KC at d.kc@cgiar.org; cell: 9851131004 to make necessary bookings and to send final program details.



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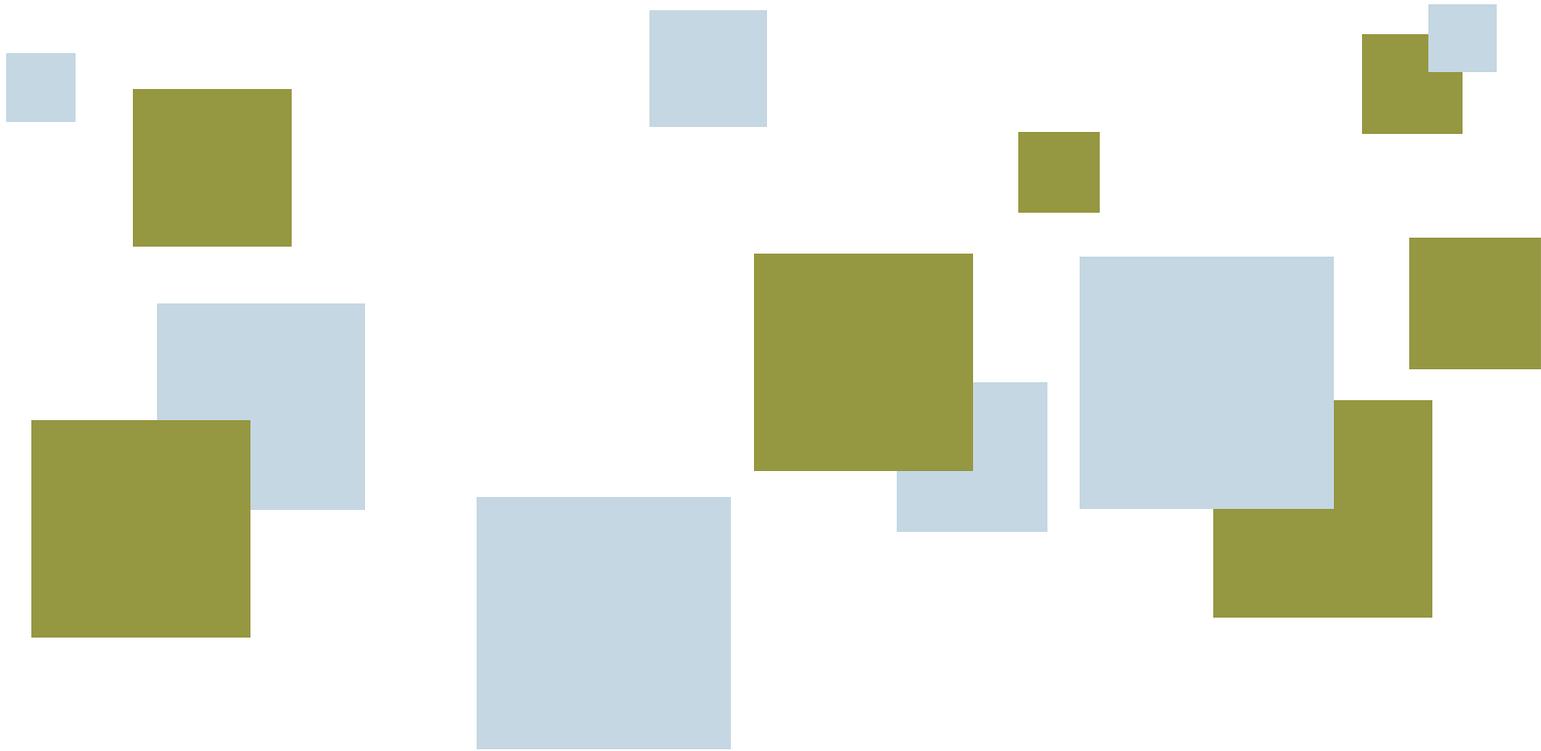
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