
9TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

*Food Science and Innovations for Safe, Healthy Diets and
Sustainable Food Systems*

June 12-13, 2023

Kathmandu, Nepal

Organizers:

Nepal Food Scientists and Technologists Association (NEFOSTA)
Department of Food Technology and Quality Control (DFTQC)
Feed the Future Food Systems for Nutrition Innovation Lab (FSN-IL), Tufts University

Co-Organizers:

Baliyo Nepal Nutrition Initiatives (BNNI)
Central Campus of Technology (CCT)
SUN Business Network (SBN)

INVITATION

The 9th National Conference on Food Science and Technology (9th FCON) is a forum for interdisciplinary exchange among professionals and stakeholders in the fields of food science, technology, food safety, and governance, working towards enhancing innovations across the agri-food systems in Nepal, and beyond. We are pleased to welcome you to attend the 9th FCON on June 12-13, 2023, in Kathmandu, Nepal.

The theme of the 9th FCON is “*Food Science and Innovations for Safe, Healthy Diets and Sustainable Food Systems*” and its aim is to explore evidence and have discussions on a range of issues related to food science, innovations (technologies, policies, processes, and practices), food safety, loss and waste, healthy diets, and nutrition, with a focus on sustainable transformation of Nepal’s food system. The 9th FCON will bring together food scientists, nutrition and food systems researchers and academics, policy stakeholders, private sector stakeholders, development partners, and donor agencies to present thought provoking keynote talks, scientific oral and plenary sessions, poster sessions, and short workshops.

We expect over 300 participants from Nepal, Bangladesh, and other countries in the region. The event is organized by Nepal Food Scientists and Technologists Association (NEFOSTA), Government of Nepal’s Department of Food Technology and Quality Control (DFTQC), and the US Government’s Feed the Future Food Systems for Nutrition Innovation Lab (FSN-IL) managed by Tufts University, and co-organized by Baliyo Nepal Nutrition Initiative (BNNI), Central Campus of Technology (CCT), and SUN Business Network (SBN).

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Purpose

The 9th FCON builds on previous food conferences. It is a forum to bring together food scientists, researchers, academics, private sector entities, consumer networks, and policy champions for interdisciplinary exchange on evidence-based practices and innovations and to contribute, promote, and collaborate on shaping Nepal’s food and nutrition policies, food systems, and governance. The conference provides a valuable platform and opportunity for stakeholders to collaborate and work towards improving food security, food safety, and sustainable food system transformation for better nutrition and healthy diets in Nepal.

Objectives

The 9th FCON 2023 will provide a forum for:

- Presenting evidence-based science and innovations (technologies, policies, practices) across the food system from supply to demand that reduce food waste and loss, while maintaining food safety and increasing access and affordability of nutritious foods in Nepal and discussing their relevance for current and future programs and policies around Food Safety Guidelines, Right to Food and Food Sovereignty Act, and Food Systems Transformation in Nepal.
- Promoting engagement among national, regional, and provincial-level policy leaders, researchers, practitioners, and private sector actors (food industry, small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and street vendors) to shape national ambitions on improving food safety and reducing food loss and waste of nutrient-rich foods through policy recommendations, innovations, education, and economic incentivization.

- Promoting inter- and cross-ministerial exchange and collaboration that collectively promote universal access to high quality, safe, and affordable diets, and shape the design of multi-win policies that fully integrate Nepal's agriculture, health, food security, and food system transformation goals and strategies.
- Sharing novel research findings, success stories, case studies on gaps and opportunities at the pre- and post-farm gate level, within post-harvest handling, processing to storage, packaging, to market actors (SMEs, large producers), infrastructure, and market actions and retail promotion to drive consumer choices and behavior change.
- Providing opportunities for professional growth of local academics, students, young professionals, and institutions, and developing entrepreneurial skills of youth and women-led SMEs to build a resilient local food system.

Technical Program

The two-day conference will involve invited keynote sessions, policy plenary sessions, dialogues, and completed oral and poster sessions. Special plenary sessions will focus on food governance, food systems, food safety, food industry and SME development, nutrition sensitive interventions, and regulations and actions around food imports and exports. Abstracts of presentations will be printed in a booklet before commencing technical sessions. The complete papers and posters presented during the conference will be published in the form of proceedings.

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS AND KEY SESSIONS:

- Food science and technology
- Food safety, contamination, and chemical residues – pre- and post-farmgate
- Food and nutrition governance and consumer concerns
- Indigenous, traditional, and functional foods, food biotechnology
- Food security, nutrition, and intervention programs
- Food systems innovations – food preservation, processing, storage, and packaging technologies, processes, and practices
- Food industry and innovation
- Market (SME) development
- Food quality and nutritional values
- Food toxicology
- Food borne diseases
- Nutrition and health outcomes in vulnerable population groups
- Food loss and waste management and utilization – pre- and post-harvest handling

THEMATIC AREAS

- **Food Safety and Governance:** Science/evidence, technology, management system, innovative metrics and tools, and policy
- **Nutrition and Nutrient-Dense Foods:** Nutrition policy and intervention, technology/biotechnology, traditional and functional foods, nutraceuticals and dietary supplements, and metrics and tools
- **Drivers of Food Systems Innovations:** Market development and private sector, informal market sector, gender, youth

- **Drivers of Food Systems, Science, and Technology:** Novel and emerging processing technology, policy processes, infrastructure, environment, and climate change
- **Food Loss and Waste/Byproduct Utilization:** Science/evidence, technology, innovative metrics and tools, and policy

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Chairperson

Dr. Atul Upadhyay
 President NEFOSTA
 CEO, Baliyo Nepal Nutrition Initiative

Co-Chairpersons

Nepal

Dr. Matina Joshi Baidya
 DG, DFTQC

Dr. Dil Kumar Limbu
 Campus Chief, CCT

International

Dr. Patrick Webb
 Director, Feed the Future Food Systems for Nutrition Innovation Lab at Tufts University

Member Secretary

Mr. Pravin Ojha
 General Secretary, NEFOSTA
 Scientist, Nepal Agricultural Research Council

Advisory Panel

Prof. Jagat Bahadur KC, *Founder President, NEFOSTA*
 Prof. Dr. Tika Bahadur Karki, *Former President, NEFOSTA*
 Dr. Dev Bhakta Shakya, *Former President, NEFOSTA*
 Mr. Deep Jung Shah, *Former President, NEFOSTA*
 Prof. Dr. Dilip Subba, *Former President, NEFOSTA*
 Hon. Mr. Uttam Kumar Bhattarai, *Former President, NEFOSTA*
 Mrs. Jiwan Prabha Lama, *Former President, NEFOSTA*
 Mr. Tirtha Adhikari, *Former President, NEFOSTA*
 Mr. Nawaraj Upadhyaya, *Former President, NEFOSTA*
 Mr. Upendra Ray, *Former President, NEFOSTA*
 Prof. Vhismananda Baidya, *TU*
 Prof. Dr. Bhesh Bhandari, *University of Queensland*
 Prof. Dr. Ganga Prasad Kharel, *TU*
 Prof. Dr. Surendra Bahadur Katwal, *TU*
 Prof. Dr. Dhan Bahadur Karki, *TU*
 Prof. Pashupati Mishra, *TU*

Prof. Basanta Kumar Rai, TU
Prof. Gita Bhattarai, TU
Mr. Tek Bahadur Thapa, Life Member, NEFOSTA
Prof. Dr. Anil Kumar Anal, AIT
Mr. Sailesh Jha, DDG, DFTQC
Mr. Som Kanta Rijal, DDG, DFTQC
Dr. Roman Karki, Chief, National Food Research Centre, NARC
Dr. Shibani Ghosh, Feed the Future Food Systems for Nutrition Innovation Lab, Tufts University

SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Abstract and Proceedings

Coordinator: Prof. Dr. Dhan Bahadur Karki, Member, NEFOSTA, Tribhuvan University
Sub-Coordinator: Prof. Basanta Kumar Rai, Member, NEFOSTA, HOD, Central Department of Food Technology, Tribhuvan University
Sub-Coordinator: Dr. Roman Karki, Member, NEFOSTA, Senior Scientist, National Food Research Centre, Nepal Agricultural Research Council
Sub-Coordinator: Dr. Alok Shrestha, Member, NEFOSTA, Coordinator, GoldenGate International College
Sub-Coordinator: Dr. Robin Shrestha, Feed the Future Food Systems for Nutrition Innovation Lab, Tufts University

Finance

Coordinator: Mr. Hom Neupane, Vice-President, NEFOSTA, CEO, NEBICO Groups
Sub-Coordinator: Mr. Khadga Paudel, GM, Chaudhary Udhayog
Sub-Coordinator: Mr. Rajendra P. Adhikari, Deputy Manager, DDC
Sub-Coordinator: Ms. Bharati Adhikari, Treasurer, NEFOSTA, DFTQC
Sub-Coordinator: Mr. Prakash Bakhrel, Finance Head, Baliyo Nepal Nutrition Initiative

Communication

Coordinator: Anushuya Guragain, Member, NEFOSTA, Research Officer, Baliyo Nepal Nutrition Initiative
Sub-Coordinator: Maha Sheikh, Communications Specialist, Feed the Future Food Systems for Nutrition Innovation Lab, Tufts University
Sub-Coordinator: Pratima Thapa Magar, Communication Officer, Baliyo Nepal Nutrition Initiative

Venue and Logistic

Coordinator: Mr. Santosh Devkota, Member, NEFOSTA, Sales Manager, Sujal Dairy Pvt. Ltd.
Sub-Coordinator: Ms. Deepa Lamichane, Member, NEFOSTA, Food Research Officer, DFTQC
Sub-Coordinator: Mr. Pushkar Pathak, Finance and Admin Officer, Baliyo Nepal Nutrition Initiative
Sub-Coordinator: Mr. Arun Poudel, Brand Manager, NEBICO Group of Companies

Monitoring and Evaluation

Coordinator: Mr. Govinda Raj Joshi, Member, NEFOSTA, Quality Control Head, DDC
Sub-Coordinator: Mr. Vivek Banjara, Member, NEFOSTA, Food Research Officer, DFTQC

Resolution Draft Committee

Coordinator: Mr. Suman Dhital, Member, NEFOSTA, Sr. Food Research Officer, DFTQC

Sub-Coordinator: Mr. Hari Khanal, Member, NEFOSTA, Principal, Pokhara Science and Technology College, Pokhara

Sub-Coordinator: Mr. Abishek Khadka, Member, NEFOSTA

Members: All rapporteurs

STEERING/TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Dr. Atul Upadhyay, President, NEFOSTA

Dr. Matina Joshi Baidya, DG, DFTQC

Mr. Hom Nath Neupane, Vice-President, NEFOSTA

Mr. Pravin Ojha, General Secretary, NEFOSTA

Mr. Dil Kumar Limbu, Campus Chief, CCT

Mr. Utsav Dhungana, Program and Operation Director, BNNI

Dr. Shibani Ghosh, Feed the Future Food Systems for Nutrition Innovation Lab, Tufts University

Dr. Robin Shrestha, Feed the Future Food Systems for Nutrition Innovation Lab, Tufts University

REGISTRATION FEE

Fee Category	Early Bird (By 5 th May)	Advance (By 25 th May)	On-Site
NEFOSTA members	NRs. 3,000	NRs. 4,000	NRs. 6,000
Nepali Food Technologist non-members	NRs. 5,000	NRs. 6,000	NRs. 8,000
Foreigners	US \$ 100	US \$ 125	US \$ 150
Students	NRs. 2,500	NRs. 3,500	-
Non-Food Technologists	NRs. 6,000	NRs. 8,000	NRs. 10,000

Note: The cost of online presentation is half of the cost for in-person presentations. Pre-recorded presentations will be displayed by virtual presenters, while online panel discussions will be conducted. To be eligible for the student category, student participants must provide college recommendations and be a valid NEFOSTA student member. There are only a limited number of seats available for students.

IMPORTANT DATES

Deadline for abstract submission: 30th April 2023

Acceptance notification: By 4th May 2023