



## Press Release

Hon. Minister for Agricultural Development Mr. Haribol Prasad Gajurel attended the inaugural session of the Third Meeting of SAARC Agriculture Ministers held in Dhaka, Bangladesh today. The session was inaugurated by the Honourable Prime Minister of Bangladesh Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina.

At the Third Meeting of SAARC Agriculture Ministers held today, Honourable Minister also delivered his statement. In his statement Hon. Minister highlighted the importance of SAARC platform for addressing the common issues of SAARC agriculture sector and also underlined the need for strengthening existing SAARC mechanisms for implementation of past commitments and recommendations. He also stated the policy reforms initiatives undertaken by the Government of Nepal in agriculture sector such as Agriculture Development Strategy, Twenty- Seven Point Commitments of the Ministry of Agricultural Development for the overall development of the agriculture sector.

The Ministerial meeting adopted the Dhaka Statement on Agriculture and Rural Development unanimously recommended by SAARC Senior Officials meeting. The Dhaka Statement on Agriculture and Rural Development focuses on the operationalization of SAARC Food Bank, SAARC Seed Bank, strengthening research-extension system, Trans-boundary Animal Diseases, addressing the issues of agriculture trade barriers and exchange of germplasms.

On the sidelines of the meeting, Honourable Minister held bilateral meetings with Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India, H.E. Radha Mohan Singh, Bangladesh Minister for Agriculture Her Excellency Matia Chowdhury, Minister for Agriculture and Forest of Royal Government of Bhutan H.E. Yeshey Dorji and Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, H.E. Mr. Sikandar Hayat Khan Bosan. In all these meetings views on agriculture co-operation between the two countries were exchanged.

Hon. Minister will visit Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) and SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) in Dhaka tomorrow.

The Nepalese delegation led by Hon. Minister comprised of Dr. Banshi Sharma, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Livestock Development; Mr. Mani Prasad Bhattarai, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Mr. Surya Prasad Paudel, Deputy Director, Department of Agriculture; and other Senior Officials from the Ministry of Agricultural Development and Charge' d' Affaires of the Embassy of Nepal in Dhaka.

Honourable Minister is scheduled to return to Kathmandu on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

Embassy of Nepal  
Dhaka, Bangladesh  
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