

# Vote of thanks

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This workshop has brought together 75 participants drawn from various agriculture research, development and extension agencies of Nepal: non-government organizations (NGOs), International Agriculture Research Centers (IARCs) such as ICRISAT, CIMMYT, IRRI, RWC and NRI. It is a unique gathering where committed and dedicated policymakers and their representatives have spent valuable time and shared their views on the importance, need and scope of reviving and expanding chickpea in rice and wheat-based cropping systems in Nepal.

On behalf of the partners of the project, and especially on behalf of more than 20000 participating farmers, I thank you all for guiding the proceedings of this workshop. I further take this opportunity to thank all participating farmers who have sown chickpea in their rice and maize fallow lands following Integrated Crop Management (ICM). I believe that chickpea cultivation gave them the confidence to grow a second crop in the rainfed single crop (rice/maize) system.

I express my deep gratitude to Mr Hom Nath Dahal, Minister for Agriculture and Cooperatives; Mr Uma Kant Chaudhari, Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Cooperatives; Dr HK Upadhyaya, Honorable Member of the Planning Commission; Mr Bhairab Raj Kaini, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Mr SS Shrestha, Director General, Department of Agriculture; and Mr DS Pathik, Executive Director, Nepal Agricultural Research Council, for their consistent encouragement and guidance in implementing the project on *Integrated Crop Management in Chickpea in Nepal*.

I would like to thank Dr William Dar, Director General, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics, and Dr Dyno Keatinge, Deputy Director General, ICRISAT, for continued support to different phases of this project. In fact, the first phase of project *Integrated Pest Management in Chickpea in Nepal* was inaugurated in November 2000 by Dr Dar, and today as we seek further support on policy and strategy for chickpea cultivation in Nepal, we have the honor of having Dr Keatinge among us to steer deliberations at this workshop.

I would like to thank all participants of this meeting for making considerable efforts to reach Kathmandu. Nepal is my ancestral home, and as a frequent visitor to Nepal, I would like to thank our hosts, NARC without whose involvement and support, none of our successes of the last 10 years could have been achieved. Finally, I would register special thanks to Mr RK Neupane of NARC and Mr JN Rao of ICRISAT for their untiring efforts in the implementation of different activities of the project.

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