



Affiliate Annual Report for Calendar Year 2025

(Complete Attachment B to be considered for one or more 2026 Affiliate Awards.)

To maintain compliance with IAFP Constitution and Bylaws, Affiliates must return this completed report. Please send by email to Susan Smith at: ssmith@foodprotection.org.

Please return the following items **electronically** by **Tuesday, March 3, 2026** (late reports will not be considered for awards):

REQUIRED:

This completed form (*in English*).

Your Association's list of current term officers (complete Attachment A).

OPTIONAL:

Attachment B: Completion required **only** if your Association requests to be considered for one or more Affiliate Awards.

IAFP accepts **all** Affiliate Annual Reports electronically, including those vying for one or more of the Affiliate Awards. *Affiliates seeking to present the highest quality visual presentation are encouraged to present their Annual Report in the highest quality possible for review by the Selection Committee.*

To avoid errors and omissions, please limit your submission to ONE email with all attachments.

Digital photos (with names and descriptions) to appear in the *Affiliate View* quarterly newsletter.

Nepalese Association for Food Protection (NepAFP)

1. Your Official Delegate to IAFP Affiliate Council and Contact

Enter in the fields below the information requested for your Association's official Delegate to the IAFP Affiliate Council and your official Contact for IAFP correspondence. **Delegate must be an IAFP Member.**

Official Delegate to IAFP Affiliate Council

Karuna Kharel

289 Knapp Hall

Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 70803, USA

225-578-1398

kkharel@agcenter.lsu.edu

IAFP Member? Y ☒ N ☐

Official Contact for IAFP Correspondence (indicate “same” if person also serves as Delegate)

Same

IAFP Member? Y ☒ N ☐

2. Membership List

- Indicate the current total number of members in your Association: 122
- How many NEW members joined your Association in 2025? 114

3. Meetings: Annual Meeting/Conference, Educational, Workshops, Webinars, etc.

- On what date(s) was your most recent general membership or major meeting (i.e., Annual Meeting/Conference) during the past year? Please list number of attendees.
 - December 10-12, 2025. Total 117 registrations with 105, 78 and 50 attendees in each of 3 days of the meeting.
 - July 28, 2025, at the IAFP annual meeting with number of attendees: 25.
- Please provide the date(s) and location of your next scheduled major meeting (i.e., Annual Meeting/Conference):
Dec 10-12, 2026; Annual NepAFP virtual research symposium will be conducted online (Zoom)
- List all other general membership meetings held in 2025 (excluding board meetings). Include title, dates and attendance numbers.

Introduction to NepAFP affiliate and welcome	02/22/2025 ; 94 attendees
Navigating US Graduate School Application	05/10/2025 ; 62 attendees
Enhancing Meat Safety: case studies on antimicrobial interventions (Dr. Siroj Pokhrel)	07/03/2025; 33 attendees
General Annual Business meeting at IAFP 2025	07/28/2025; 25 attendees
Informational session of NepAFP 2025	11/09/2025; 28 attendees
Annual NepAFP 2025 virtual research symposium	Registered overall: 117 Zoom registrations 12/10/2025 (105 in attendance) 12/11/2025 (78 in attendance) 12/12/2025 (50 in attendance)

4. Awards and Scholarships

a. List members honored with an award from your Association and/or IAFP during 2025. Include name of award and qualification for award.

	Award: NepAFP 2025 Developing Scientist Award All the oral presenters presented their research findings and were judged based on standard rubric on quality of research content, depth of research and presentation style. Acknowledging the fact that the availability of lab space and research resources in 2 countries are vastly different, presenters were divided into 2 categories for awards: student presenters residing in Nepal and student presenters residing in US for fair chance
Prekshya Timsina	1st place Central campus of technology (CCT), Nepal
Bibash Paudel	2nd place National College of Food Science and Technology (NCFST), Nepal
Dhiren Subba	3rd place Central campus of technology (CCT), Nepal
Sandesh Chapagain	1st place University of Maryland, Eastern Shore
Pratiksha Shrestha	2nd place Louisiana State University
Dikshya Shilpakar	3rd place Louisiana State University

b. List scholarships awarded during 2025; include recipient and qualification for scholarship.

IAFP and NepAFP student membership for low middle income countries / \$15	Prekshya Timsina For being selected for and presenting at the NepAFP 2025 virtual research symposium <u>from Nepal</u>
IAFP and NepAFP student membership for low middle income countries / \$15	Bibash Paudel For being selected for and presenting at the NepAFP 2025 virtual research symposium <u>from Nepal</u>
IAFP and NepAFP membership for low middle income countries / \$25	Dhiren Subba For being selected for and presenting at the NepAFP

	2025 virtual research symposium <u>from Nepal</u>
IAFP student membership for low middle income countries / \$15	Sagar Dahal For being selected for and presenting at the NepAFP 2025 virtual research symposium <u>from Nepal</u>
IAFP membership for low middle income countries / \$25	Asmita Parajuli For being selected for and presenting at the NepAFP 2025 virtual research symposium <u>from Nepal</u>
IAFP student membership/ \$40	Sandesh Chapagain For being selected for and presenting at the NepAFP 2025 virtual research symposium <u>from USA</u>
IAFP student membership/ \$40	Pratiksha Shrestha For being selected for and presenting at the NepAFP 2025 virtual research symposium <u>from USA</u>
IAFP student membership/ \$40	Dikshya Shilpakar For being selected for and presenting at the NepAFP 2025 virtual research symposium, <u>from USA</u>
IAFP student membership/ \$40	Nikita Bhusal For being selected for and presenting at the NepAFP 2025 virtual research symposium <u>from USA</u>
IAFP student membership/ \$40	Unishma Ghimire For being selected for and presenting at the NepAFP 2025 virtual research symposium <u>from USA</u>

5. Web Communication

Please be sure to keep the IAFP office on your mailing list for newsletters, email, and other communications to your general membership.

Please provide your existing Affiliate's Web site address AND date last updated:
enter Web address here and last update

Website domain was purchased and website is in progress.

Did you launch a new Affiliate Web site in 2025? Y ☐ N ☒

Attachment A (completion required)

Association Officers List

Provide the contact information requested below for all current officers of your Association. **Please indicate if each officer is an IAFP Member (reminder: Your President and Delegate are required to be IAFP Members).** The information you provide here is published on our website and in select membership materials. The information may be typed in the fields below or may be sent to our office by email, fax or regular mail.

Indicate the term dates (e.g., 2025–2026) for your current Executive Board:

10/01/2024 – 08/31/2026

Officer Title: President
Officer Name: Achyut Adhikari
Address 1: 261 Knapp Hall
Address 2
City, State ZIP Country: Baton Rouge,
LA 7080
Phone Number: 225-578-2529
Email address:
ACAdhikari@agcenter.lsu.edu
IAFP Member? Y ☒ N ☐

Officer Title: Vice President
Officer Name: Vijay Chhetri
Address 1
Address 2
City, State ZIP Country
Phone Number
Email
address: vijay.chhetri@FAMU.EDU
IAFP Member? Y ☒ N ☐

Officer Title: Affiliate delegate
Officer Name: Karuna Kharel
Address 1: 289 Knapp Hall
Address 2
City, State ZIP Country: Baton Rouge,
LA 70803
Phone Number: 318-557-0114
Email address: kkharel@agcenter.lsu.edu
IAFP Member? Y ☒ N ☐

Officer Title: President-elect
Officer Name: Subash Shrestha
Address 1
Address 2
City, State ZIP Country
Phone Number
Email address:
subash1109@hotmail.com
IAFP Member? Y ☒ N ☐

Officer Title: Secretary
Officer Name: Janak Dhakal
Address 1: 30921 MARTIN CT
Address 2
City, State ZIP Country: PRINCESS
ANNE, MD, US
21853
Phone Number: 4106516327
Email address: jdhakal@umes.edu
IAFP Member? Y ☒ N ☐

Officer Title: Liaison Coordinator
Officer Name: Siroj Pokharel
Address 1: 1078 Terra Way
Address 2
City, State ZIP Country: San Luis
Obispo, CA 93405
Phone Number: 805-550-3356
Email address:
sirojpokharel@yahoo.com
IAFP Member? Y ☒ N ☐

Officer Title: Treasurer
Officer Name: Manoj Shah
Address 1: 19523 Highgrove Ln
Address 2
City, State ZIP Country: San Antonio,
TX 78258
Phone Number: 4052096244
Email address:
manoj.shah@treehousefoods.com
IAFP Member? Y ☒ N ☐

Officer Title: Liaison Coordinator
Officer Name: Manita Guragain
Address 1:
Address 2
City, State ZIP Country: Phone Number:
Email address:
Manita.Guragain@usda.gov
IAFP Member? Y ☒ N ☐

Before continuing, please check one of the boxes below:

☒ **CHECK HERE and return electronically by 3/3/26 IF YOUR AFFILIATE REQUESTS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR ONE OR MORE 2026 AFFILIATE AWARDS. (You are required to complete Attachment B.)**

☐ **CHECK HERE IF YOUR AFFILIATE DOES NOT WANT TO BE CONSIDERED FOR A 2026 AWARD. (You are done! It is not necessary to complete Attachment B.)**

Attachment B (optional)

Affiliate Award Considerations

*To be considered for one or more of the five Affiliate Awards to be presented at IAFP 2026, Affiliates are **required** to check the box next to the award(s) for which you wish to be considered and provide the related criteria (in English). (REMINDER: Please confirm IAFP Membership of your Affiliate President and Delegate **before** completing Attachment B to avoid award disqualification.)*

☒ Affiliate Membership Achievement Award

How did your Affiliate grow **AND** retain members during the past year? Please provide details on:

- how new members were recruited throughout the year;
- the number of new members joining the Affiliate;
- the percent of increase in membership from 2025 to 2026;
- specific efforts on how you retained existing members; and
- other methods related to helping grow and maintain your membership.

You may cut and paste copy in the space below or use a separate page if necessary; please limit your explanation to 500 words or less in 12-point type.

~~~~~

The Nepalese Affiliate of IAFP was established in 2024 to unite the small but growing number of Nepali origin food safety professionals working in the United States and abroad. Despite being a new Affiliate with limited initial membership, we achieved significant growth and engagement over the past year. Our most effective recruitment opportunity came during the IAFP 2025 Annual Meeting in Cleveland. The Affiliate meeting space allowed us to bring together Nepali students and professionals who had been working independently across the U.S. What we believed to be a community of only a few individuals turned out to be nearly twenty five. This gathering revealed a much larger network than expected and became the foundation for our membership expansion.

Following the meeting, we maintained active communication and organized community focused events, including a research seminar series, sessions on applying to U.S. colleges, and workshops on graduate school preparation. These programs attracted Nepalese professionals and students, residing in US or Nepal, who were eager to learn about food safety research and career pathways.

Recognizing the financial barriers faced by members in Nepal (where credit card systems are limited and bank transfers are costly) we offered free NepAFP membership to all attendees of our first Annual Research Symposium. This ensured that interested individuals could access our resources without financial hardship and experience the value of membership firsthand with hopes they continue the membership in future.

We also provided IAFP memberships to all selected oral presenters at the symposium, made possible by IAFP's reduced rates for low and middle income countries. This investment supports long term retention by giving students access to webinars, Food Protection Trends, networking opportunities, and the mentor-mentee program. These benefits help them stay engaged and see a clear pathway for professional growth within

IAFP.

Our inaugural Annual Research Symposium was a major milestone. Designed to connect Nepali-origin food safety professionals globally, it featured distinguished speakers from academia, government, and industry, including Dr. Don Schaffner, Dr. Joshya Gurtler, and Dr. Joyjit Shah. The event successfully bridged time zones and brought together presenters from both the U.S. and Nepal. It also allowed us to highlight IAFP's mission and opportunities for developing nations, strengthening our Affiliate's visibility and credibility.

#### Membership Growth

- New members added this year: 114
- Total membership in 2024 (inaugural year): 8
- Total membership in 2025: 8
- Total membership in 2026: 122
- Percent increase from 2025 to 2026: 1425%

Despite operating with limited financial resources, funded primarily through modest contributions from our founding members (approximately \$100–\$120 per person), we have built a strong and sustainable foundation for continued growth. We intend to maintain this momentum by offering high value technical webinars, including the upcoming session on rapid pathogen detection in foods sponsored by Bio-Rad, and by continuing to host our annual virtual research symposium along with other meaningful events and resources for our members. These early achievements reflect the dedication of our community and reinforce our shared mission to advance food safety in Nepal and beyond.

☐ **Affiliate Communication Award**

How did your Affiliate communicate information to your Members during the past year? Please provide a description of the types of communication sent to your general membership and include samples with your Annual Report. Samples can be printed copies/screen shots of blast emails, website (include frequency of updating), electronic/print newsletters, brochures, etc., along with respective dates sent. If available, provide how effective specific communication was toward meeting your goals. You may cut and paste copy in the space below or use a separate page if necessary; please limit your explanation to 500 words or less in 12-point type.



## Affiliate Education Award

What types of food safety education program(s) did your Affiliate provide to its members during the past year? Provide the following details on all technical meetings, educational conferences, webinars, workshops, classes, and other methods pertinent to the interests of the membership:

- Background;
- Objectives;
- Agenda;
- Target audience;
- Dates held; and
- Numbers of attendees.

Describe any awards provided to students or young professionals. You may cut and paste copy in the space below or use a separate page if necessary; please limit your explanation to 500 words or less in 12-point type. *(Do not submit copies of speaker Power Point slide presentations.)*

~~~~~

Established in 2024, within a year, the Nepalese Association for Food Protection (NepAFP) conducted multiple educational programs focused on strengthening exchange, building professional capacity, and promoting food safety collaboration in Nepal, the United States and globally. The following are the major education highlights NePAFP had in 2025:

1. Annual Virtual Research Symposium (December 10–12, 2025)

Background: As a newly established affiliate, NepAFP launched its three-day inaugural Virtual Research Symposium to create a global platform for Nepalese-origin food safety professionals and students.

Objectives: (1) Showcase current food safety research; (2) foster international networking; (3) provide mentorship and professional development; and (4) strengthen engagement with IAFP.

Agenda: The symposium included 10 oral research presentations (9 delivered by undergraduate, MS, and PhD students), keynote speakers from internationally recognized experts in food microbiology, antimicrobial interventions, and rapid pathogen detection, interactive Q&A sessions, a live demonstration of IAFP resources, and a judged student presentation competition.

Target Audience: Students, early-career researchers, academic faculty, government scientists, and industry professionals in food safety from Nepal, the U.S. and globally.

Attendance: 117 registrations; 105 attendees (Day 1), 78 (Day 2), and 50 (Day 3).

2. Educational Webinars and Professional Development Sessions

A. Introduction to IAFP and NepAFP

Date: February 22, 2025

Background & Objective: To formally introduce NepAFP, promote IAFP membership benefits, and build community engagement.

Attendance: 94 participants.

B. Navigating U.S. Graduate School Application (Grad School 101)

Date: May 10, 2025

Objective: Provide practical guidance on graduate applications, research preparation, and career pathways in food safety.

Target Audience: Undergraduate students and early-career professionals.

Attendance: 62 participants.

C. Enhancing Meat Safety: Case Studies on Antimicrobial Interventions

Date: July 3, 2025

Objective: Present applied research and evidence-based pathogen control strategies in meat systems.

Target Audience: Students, researchers, and food industry professionals.

Attendance: 33 participants.

Awards and Scholarships

NepAFP strongly supports student recognition and professional growth. During the 2025 Virtual Research Symposium, the **NepAFP Developing Scientist Award** was presented to six student researchers (three from Nepal and three from U.S. institutions), with first, second, and third place awards in each category based on scientific quality, research depth, and presentation skills. Additionally, NepAFP sponsored IAFP and NepAFP membership scholarships to all the presenters from Nepal and the U.S., reducing financial barriers and promoting sustained engagement with IAFP resources.

Through these initiatives, NepAFP delivered high-impact, accessible, and globally connected food safety education while prioritizing student development and international collaboration.



Best Overall Affiliate Meeting Award

Did your Affiliate hold an outstanding food protection meeting (not sponsored/co-sponsored by IAFP*) which you consider 'over and above' those normally held? If so, provide the following details, if applicable, on what led to a highly successful meeting:

- Type of meeting and the value it brought to Affiliate Members/attendees (does not need to be your Annual Meeting);
- Objective for the meeting (if relevant);
- Activities/Topics (e.g., poster competition, vendor tech talks; a printed copy of the agenda may be included with your award application);
- Numbers of attendees:
 - Number of and overall percentage of Affiliate Members (for example, 100 total attendees with 75 of them being Affiliate Members = 75%)
 - Number of Guests (non-dues-paying Affiliate Members) and their relationship to the Affiliate Chapter and/or meeting's topic(s);
- Audience participation (through roundtable discussions, exercises, etc.);
- Student involvement;
- Partners (e.g., other associations or affiliates);
- Speakers and their affiliations (if available);
- Sponsors;
- Engagement of attendees with exhibitors;
- Diversity of meeting participants (range of sectors represented, e.g., students, academia, extension, government, NGO, industry representatives, etc.), which can be broken down

- into services (e.g., retail, education, research, manufacturing, etc., if available); and
- Other information (e.g., whether the meeting included a celebration of a milestone Affiliate anniversary and related activities).

You may cut and paste copy in the space below or use a separate page if necessary; please limit your explanation to 500 words or less in 12-point type. *(Do not submit copies of speaker Power Point slide presentations.)*

**Does not include funds provided under the IAFP Executive Board Speaker/Expanded Speaker Program*

~~~~~

The Nepalese Association for Food Protection (NepAFP) proudly highlights its 2025 Annual Virtual Research Symposium as an exceptional meeting that went beyond typical affiliate activities. This threeday online conference served as a highimpact platform for scientific exchange, professional networking, and global collaboration in food safety. Three core objectives of the symposium were 1) to showcase cuttingedge food safety research conducted across continents, 2) to build and strengthen international professional networks, 3) and to foster collaboration among food safety professionals representing academia, government, and industry. Participants gained significant value from exposure to diverse scientific insights and from opportunities to connect with experts working in different sectors of food protection.

The symposium featured an oral presentation competition and a wide range of research topics spanning microbiological food safety in pre-and post- harvest environments, nutritional quality, valueadded product innovation, antimicrobial interventions, and molecular mechanisms. Presenters represented two countries- Nepal and the United States- enhancing crosscultural scientific exchange and reinforcing NepAFP's international mission.

The meeting had 117 registered participants, with 105 attendees present on the first day, followed by 50 to 78 attendees each of the next 2 days. Twenty five participants were NepAFP members, while the remaining nonduespaying guests were professionals and researchers interested in food safety, quality, and potential collaboration opportunities with NepAFP. This balance helped expand the affiliate's visibility and strengthened community engagement. As a result, number of memberships has increased by 1425% (122 members) in one year.

Audience participation was consistently high. Each presentation was followed by interactive Q&A sessions, and the symposium included a live demonstration of IAFP's website and resources to enhance member familiarity with available tools. Further participant involvement was ensured by endofsymposium discussion and an online feedback poll, and continued conversation was supported through followup email communications.

Students played a central role in this event. Of the ten oral research presentations, nine were delivered by undergraduate, master's, or PhD students. The symposium also recruited three student volunteers who assisted with program coordination as a

professional development opportunity, demonstrating NepAFP's strong commitment to developing next generation of food safety leaders.

The scientific program was strengthened by distinguished and diverse keynote speakers: Prof. Donald Schaffner of Rutgers University; Dr. Joshua Gurtler of USDAARS; and Dr. Jyojit Saha of Kerry's Food Protection and Preservation division. Oral presentations included contributions from students and earlycareer researchers affiliated with the University of Georgia, Tribhuvan University, Louisiana State University, the National College of Food Science and Technology, Central Campus of Technology, and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

Although the symposium had no sponsors or exhibitors, its success was reflected in the diversity of participants—students, academic researchers, government scientists, and industry professionals engaged in education, research, manufacturing, and extension services in the first meeting since the affiliates' establishment. The meeting also served as an opportunity to educate participants about the goals of IAFP and its affiliate network, strengthening alignment with the broader mission of protecting the global food supply.

 **C.B. Shogren Memorial Award**

***NOTE: Applying for the Shogren Memorial Award does not automatically include your application for any of the other Affiliate awards. If applying for this award, you must apply separately for one or more of the other Affiliate awards which may have contributed toward meeting the criteria of the Shogren Award. (Note: Your Affiliate is not required to win one of the other Affiliate awards.)***

How did your Affiliate demonstrate exceptional overall achievement during the past year in promoting the mission of IAFP (“To provide food safety professionals worldwide with a forum to exchange information on protecting the food supply”)? The judges will also consider how the Affiliate has demonstrated its commitment to food safety over the years. “Overall achievement” should encompass at least several of the following activities/accomplishments of your Affiliate:

- Exceptional achievement in membership;
- Types and effectiveness of communication and education;
- Awards and scholarships presented;
- Attendance numbers at meetings;
- Collaboration with other professional organizations;
- Whether the Affiliate has been considered for and/or won other Affiliate awards in the past;
- Involvement in the IAFP Affiliate Council Meeting (e.g., participation at the Affiliate Council Meeting held during the IAFP Annual Meeting and in online Affiliate Council meetings throughout the year; submissions to the *Affiliate View* newsletter, sharing Affiliate Council information with Affiliate members); and
- Other pertinent information.

While not a requirement, strong consideration will be given to an Affiliate whose officers (beyond the requirement for the President and Delegate) are also IAFP Members. Provide a description and include any supporting documents. You may cut and paste copy in the space below or use separate pages if necessary; please limit your explanation to 1,000 words or less in 12-point type.

~~~~~

**Dear Members of the Selection Committee,
C. B. Shogren Memorial Award
International Association for Food Protection**

On behalf of the Nepalese Association for Food Protection (NepAFP), we respectfully and enthusiastically submit our application for the 2026 CB Shogren Memorial Award. It is a privilege to be considered for this prestigious recognition honoring affiliates that demonstrate exceptional achievement in advancing the mission of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP): to provide food safety professionals worldwide with a forum to exchange information on protecting the food supply.

Since its establishment a year ago, NepAFP has rapidly grown into a dynamic and highly engaged affiliate committed to expanding scientific exchange, fostering professional development, and strengthening global collaboration in food safety. In a relatively short period, we have developed impactful programming that bridges students, researchers, industry professionals, and international experts—directly aligning with and actively promoting the IAFP mission.

Our inaugural program, “Introduction to the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP) and Nepalese Association for Food Protection (NepAFP),” laid a strong foundation by formally connecting Nepalese food safety professionals with the global IAFP network. This event increased awareness of IAFP resources, encouraged membership engagement, and inspired participation in international food safety dialogue.

Recognizing the importance of mentorship and future leadership development, we organized “Grad School 101: Application Seminar,” designed to equip students and early-career professionals with practical guidance on graduate applications, research preparedness, networking strategies, and career pathways in food safety. By investing in emerging professionals, NepAFP is strengthening the next generation of food safety leaders.

Scientific excellence remains central to our programming. Through the NepAFP Research Series, we have consistently delivered high-quality, research-focused seminars addressing current and emerging food safety challenges. Dr. Siroj Pokharel’s presentation, “Enhancing Meat Safety: Case Studies on Antimicrobial Interventions,” provided evidence-based insights into pathogen control strategies in meat systems. Continuing this momentum, we have scheduled an upcoming seminar by Dr. Manoj Shah on the “Use of Rapid Test Methods for Pathogen Detection in Foods,” highlighting advancements in rapid diagnostics and their practical applications in industry and regulatory settings.

NepAFP has demonstrated exceptional engagement with IAFP at the international level. At the 2025 IAFP Annual Meeting in Cleveland, Ohio, more than 25 NepAFP members actively participated in scientific sessions, networking events, and professional development activities. All the board members within NepAFP, including the student representatives, are members of IAFP. The affiliate delegate or at least a board member from NepAFP has attended affiliate council meetings both in-person and the virtual meetings throughout the year and shared the information with our members. This strong representation and involvement underscore our affiliate’s commitment to global collaboration and reinforces our dedication to supporting IAFP’s international mission.

A defining achievement of our organization was the successful Virtual Research Symposium held December 10–12, 2025. The symposium attracted over 100 registered participants and received numerous abstract submissions, reflecting growing research capacity and enthusiasm within our network. The event highlights was also submitted to *Affiliate View* newsletter in January 2026. The three-day program featured globally recognized experts:

- Day 1: Dr. Don Schaffner delivered comprehensive presentations on the scientific efficacy of proper handwashing, quantitative microbial risk assessment of the 2006 U.S. leafy green outbreak, predictive microbial growth modeling, and recent food safety events and emerging risks.
- Day 2: Dr. Joshua Gurtler presented on biochar-sand filtration systems for reducing *Escherichia coli* in irrigation water and provided invaluable editorial insights into the

Journal of Food Protection peer-review process, including practical guidance on scientific writing and manuscript preparation.

- Day 3 Keynote: Dr. Joyjit Shah (Kerry) offered an industry-focused perspective on food protection, preservation technologies, and innovative antimicrobial interventions to combat foodborne pathogens.

This symposium not only facilitated international knowledge exchange but also elevated research visibility among Nepalese and global food safety professionals. By integrating academic rigor, industry expertise, and mentorship, NepAFP created a comprehensive platform that embodies the core purpose of IAFP.

Collectively, our initiatives demonstrate measurable impact: high member participation, international engagement, multidisciplinary collaboration, student mentorship, and expanded research dissemination. NepAFP has moved beyond foundational programming to establish itself as an active, forward-thinking affiliate that meaningfully contributes to the global food safety community.

We believe NepAFP exemplifies the spirit of the CB Shogren Memorial Award through sustained excellence, innovation in programming, and unwavering dedication to advancing the protection of the food supply. Receiving this award would further empower our members and reinforce our commitment to serving as a strong and collaborative affiliate within the IAFP network.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of our application. We deeply appreciate the opportunity to be considered for this distinguished honor.

Respectfully submitted,
Nepalese Association for Food Protection (NepAFP)