ASMITA NAGILA
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Academic qualification

- Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas
  PhD. in Horticulture (Expected graduation: Summer 2025)
  Current GPA: 4.0

- New Mexico state university, Las Cruces, NM
  Master's in agriculture biology (2018-2020)
  GPA: 4.0

- Institute of agriculture and animal science, Tribhuvan University, Nepal.
  Bachelor's in agriculture (Merit Scholarship)
  Major: Agriculture economics (2013-2017)
  Grade: 81.45%, Top 10% rank

Research Experience

- Graduate Research Assistant: New Mexico State University (Aug 2018-Aug 2020)
  - Evaluation of biofumigation potential of brassica cover crop for weed control in Chile pepper in commercial fields of Southern New Mexico (completed)
  - Evaluation of mustard seed meal for integrated management of Palmer amaranth and Phytophthora disease in Chile pepper (completed)

- Graduate Research Assistant: Texas A&M University (Aug2021-now)
  - Screening chile pepper varieties for abiotic and biotic stress tolerance, as well as for superior fruit quality.
  - Developing a complete approach for profitable chile pepper production in Southwest U.S using microbial and non-microbial biostimulants and grafting for organic and protected production systems.

- Undergraduate researcher under Undergraduate Practicum Assessment, Tribhuvan University (November 2016-November 2017)
  - Impact assessment of irrigation project under Integrated water resources management program (IWRMP) in the socio-economic condition of farmers in Tanahun, Nepal (Fiscal year 2072/73)
  - A report on Fertilizer use trend in Tanahun District of Nepal (Fiscal year 2072/73)

Teaching Experience

- Teaching Assistant for an advanced Plant physiology class: New Mexico State University
- Teaching assistant for an Introductory Entomology, Plant pathology and Weed science class: New Mexico State University

Key Skills and Attributes:

- **Interpersonal and communication skil**l: Extension-communication skills at all level of work and ability to work with diverse group of people.
- **Academic skills**: Grant writing, data collection, Data Analysis through MS-excel, Sigma plot, SPSS, SAS, and R, data interpretation and scientific and extension writing.
- **Plant Physiology**: Measurements of plant photosynthetic gas exchange (Li-COR 600,6400,6800), leaf chlorophyll content, plant root morphology, fruit quality attributes (titratable acidity, soluble solid content, secondary metabolites as phenols, flavonoids)
- **Analytical chemistry**: High pressure Liquid Chromatography (HPLC), UPLC run and result analysis.
- **Plant Pathology**: Weeds, Pests, Nematode Identification, Isolating fungi from plant tissues and pathogen culture
- **Soil Science**: Incubation study, soil sampling, soil enzyme assay, soil nutrient management, soil respiration measurements.
- **Plant Breeding**: Seed harvest, cleaning, and Pollen crossing, Cultivar trials
- **Data Analysis**: Linear, mixed model and multivariate analysis with supervised and unsupervised learning methods with R software

Organizational Involvement

- Past Student Member, WSSA (Weed science society of America)
- Past Student Member, ASA-CSSA-SSSA
- Past Student member, WSWS (Western Weed science society)
- Past Regional Coordinator, Young Professionals for Agriculture Development, Nepal
- Active Student Member, ASHS (American Society for Horticulture Science)
- Active Student Member, SR-ASHS (Southern region - American Society for Horticulture Science)

Scientific Publication

- Nagila, A., Schutte, B. J., Sanogo, S., & Idowu, O. (2021). Chile Pepper Sensitivity to Mustard Seed Meal Applied after Crop Emergence, *HortScience 56*(2), *254-260*.

- Nagila, A., Schutte, B. J., Sanogo, S., & Idowu, O. (2022.) Biomass Production of an Overwiinter Cover Crop with Biofumigation properties in New Mexico. *HORTTECH 32(6), 559-566*

- Lee, C., Harvey, J. T., Nagila, A., Qin, K., & Leskovar, D. I. Thermotolerance of Tomato Plants Grafted onto Wild Relative Rootstocks. *Frontiers in Plant Science*, *14*, 1252456.

Awards and Honors

- Merit list Scholarship throughout Undergraduate Study (2013-2017)
- Alumni Honor Department scholarship (2029-2020), New Mexico State University
- Awarded travel grant to go to any academic conference of choice as a poster competition winner in National Chile Pepper conference 2020, organized by Chile Pepper Institute, New Mexico
- Third position in Weed science section poster competition in Tri-society meeting 2019.
- Honor student by Sam Steel Society, NMSU for 4.0 GPA throughout Masters' Degree
- Awarded travel grant to attend ASTA 62ND Vegetable and seed conference, Florida 2023

Trainings and Conferences

- Presented the weed control techniques to growers in New Mexico in two different field-days in two places of New Mexico.
- Participated in Symposium on agricultural data sharing and services hosted by Asia pacific economic cooperation (APEC) held in Beijing, China representing Nepal on December 7-9, 2017.
- Participated in Grant writing and scientific writing training workshop conducted by ICIMOD in collaboration with California State University, Fresno, USA on December 11-15, 2017.

Presentations

- Nagila, A., Schutte, B., Sanogo, S., & Idowu, J. (2019, November). Evaluation of Post Emergence Applications of Mustard Seed Meal for Weed Control in Chile Pepper (Weed Science Society of America,2020, Hawaii)
- Nagila, A., Schutte, B., Sanogo, S., & Idowu, J. (2019, November). Evaluation of Post Emergence Applications of Mustard Seed Meal for Weed Control in Chile Pepper (Tri-Society meeting, San Antanio, TX, 2019)
- Nagila, A., Schutte, B., Sanogo, S., & Idowu, J. (2019, November). Evaluation of Post Emergence Applications of Mustard Seed Meal for Weed Control in Chile Pepper (Chile Pepper Conference, 2020)

- Nagila A., Lee, C., Harvey, J., & Leskovar., D. (2022). Transplant Quality of Pepper seedlings in Response to Organic amendments. ASHS Conference 2022, Chicago)

Abstracts

- Nagila A., Crosby K. M., and **Leskovar, D. I.** (2023). Evaluating Potential rootstocks for Pepper grafting under sub-optimal organic fertilization. American Society for Horticultural Science Annual Conference, Orlando, FL.
- Nagila A., Crosby K. M., and **D. I. Leskovar**. (2023). Rootstock breeding and selection: Way forward to Pepper grafting. 62nd American Seed Trade Association Vegetable and Flower Seed Conference.
- Nagila A., Harvey, J. T., and **Leskovar, D. I.** (2023). Crop phenology-based application of microbial inoculants for organic pepper production. Southern Region American Society for Horticultural Science Annual Conference, Oklahoma City, OK.
- Nagila A., Lee, C., Harvey, J., & Leskovar., D. (2022). Transplant Quality of Pepper seedlings in Response to Organic amendments. HortScience 57(9) Supplement (Part 1) 2022 ASHS Annual Conference
- Nagila, A., Schutte, B., Sanogo, S., & Idowu, J. (2019, November). Evaluation of Post Emergence Applications of Mustard Seed Meal for Weed Control in Chile Pepper. In *ASA, CSSA and SSSA International Annual Meetings (2019)*. ASA-CSSA-SSSA

References

- Dr. Daniel I. Leskovar, (Daniel.Leskovar@ag.tamu.edu), Professor and Center Director, Texas A&M AgriLife center, Uvalde, Texas
- Dr. Kevin Crosby (k-crosby@tamu.edu), Professor, Vegetable Breeding, Texas A&M University
- Dr. Brian Schutte (bschutte@nmsu.edu) (M.S advisor) . Associate professor, Entomology, Plant pathology and Weed science, New Mexico State University.
- Dr. Soum Sanogo (ssanogo@nmsu.edu) , Professor, Entomology, Plant pathology and Weed science, New Mexico State University