

British Ambassador's visit to Pokhara to assess Samarth's activities

A field visit was planned for His Excellency Richard Morris, British ambassador to Nepal, in Kaski district from 10 to 11 December, 2015, to showcase Samarth's work in Pokhara and Dhamphus, particularly in pig and tourism sector respectively.

Pig Sector: Visit to Pokhara Livestock Private Limited

On 10 Dec, a meeting was scheduled with Mr. Chhyam Thapa, owner of Pokhara Livestock Private Limited. Samarth-NMDP, through DFID funding, supported Pokhara Livestock Private Limited on establishing Artificial Insemination (AI) lab and importing frozen semen to produce better quality pigs in order to improve the quality of pigs in Nepal. Pokhara Livestock Private Limited started AI from imported frozen semen which has already produced pedigree piglets. Samarth team updated Mr. Morris about Pig sector, its constraints, and the ongoing interventions to address these constraints of the sector. The team also elaborated on pig sector beneficiaries such as poor farmers and how they benefit from the program.

During the visit, the ambassador exhibited keen interest to understand the farm's prospects, its sustainability and future aspects of becoming a training center for upcoming future breeders. Mr. Chhyam Thapa who is keen on exploring these possibilities added that he wanted to add more value to the farm by hiring experts on different divisions such as feed, health, AI etc. The visit concluded with the possibility of more such visits by the ambassador in the future.

Tourism Sector: Visit to Dhamphus

On 11th December, an interaction programme was scheduled with tourism stakeholders in Dhamphus which is the trail head of the Annapurna Sanctuary Trek in the Annapurna Conservation Area (ACA). Samarth-NMDP is closely working with ACA for trail development activities and trainings. Mr. Lal P Gurung, project director, ACA project, facilitated the interaction programme in Dhamphus. The interaction programme helped in providing beneficiary views on how tourism has supported/ will support livelihoods and skills development. Samarth team updated Mr. Morris about the contributions made by tourism development in Nepal and how the Samarth Tourism programme has been designed to continue support to rural tourism destinations.

The ambassador showed interest in alternative trail development to sustain trekking tourism and improving entrepreneurial skills for women entrepreneurs. The visit concluded with a short trek through Gurung village to exhibit current trail development activities of the ACA.



Visit to Pokhara Livestock Private Limited