

90 trainers trained on GMP in 5 districts to reach thousands of farmers

Context

As part of Samarth-NMDP's ongoing 'Enhancing Quality Standard of Raw Milk' intervention in the dairy sector, it is currently working with dairy stakeholders such as dairy associations, dairy cooperatives and its chilling centers, and the Department of Livestock Services (DLS) to improve the quality of raw milk. Samarth has been supporting Nepal Dairy Development Board (NDDB) - a body that works on the policy level in the dairy sector - to draft a Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) standard for raw milk supply chain.

This brief is a follow-up to the brief that was sent earlier: A one-day project inception and stakeholder consultation workshop which was held on 06 March, 2016 had identified six sites to pilot the GMP. The major stakeholders of the dairy sector: Dairy Industry Association (DIA), Nepal Dairy Association (NDA), Central Dairy Cooperative Association Nepal (CDCAN) and Dairy Development Corporation (DDC) had selected six chilling centers and their milk-sheds in five districts: Kavre (2), Makwanpur, Bara, Tanahun and Nawalparasi for piloting the draft GMP.

After the workshop DLS agreed to mainstream pilot results in production, marketing and supply of raw milk up to the chilling center level. CDCAN agreed to take the key role in backstopping smallholders in adopting the GMP. Department of food Technology and Quality Control (DFTQC) proposed a central level technical committee of government agencies for next level of policy action on quality setting of raw milk, including mandatory and voluntary provisions on raw milk standards, auditing systems and regulation, once pilot results are available.

This brief is about the training of trainers (ToT) facilitated by Samarth to build the capacity of DLS's trainers and local resource personnel of the pilot sites to kick-off the execution of GMP activities at farm level and at milk collection/chilling centres (MCC).

ToT on Hygienic Milk Production, Chilling and Transportation Technique

Four ToTs were organized to train 90 nominees from milk collection/chilling centres in May 2016 in the selected GMP pilot sites. The training events were held at Gaindakot, Nawalparasi; Damauli, Tanahun; Simara, Bara; and Dhulikhel, Kavre. Each of the training session was of three days, where the trainers developed in-hand skills and learnt methods of delivering trainings on the ground to transfer technical knowledge to chilling centers and famers. **Among the 90 trainers trained, 23 trainers will be responsible to provide training at the milk chilling centers, including transportation level while 67 trainers will responsible to provide training to the farmers on hygienic milk production. A total of 41 female trainers were trained during this process.**

In preparation for the ToT, Samarth also developed posters and training manuals (in Nepali), in consultation with Department of livestock (DLS) and Central Dairy Cooperative Association Limited



Nepal (CDCAN). DLS and CDCAN have already taken ownership of the training materials and have included them in their regular programs. Senior officers of DLS were also trained so that they can provide ToTs in future and DLS's technicians of the respective pilot sites were trained to support/backstop the trainees while rolling out GMP training to farmers in the field.

"I had a great opportunity for me to learn from experienced trainers about some of the important issues on milk quality with milk chain workers. I am hopeful that such trainings and awareness programs will be continued through the Department of Livestock Services in the near future."

Mr. Jib Lal Lamsal Livestock Quality Management Laboratory, DLS, Hariharbhawan.

What next

The four training programmes were successful in preparing committed trainers who would roll out trainings in a "farmer to farmer" learning model. All the partners of the six pilot sites expressed their preparedness and commitment to conduct the trainings on the ground in the above mentioned 5 districts.

Samarth will backstop and facilitate these trainers to conduct trainings to more than 6000 farmers; and employees working in 27 Chilling centers and 6 Milk collection centers of the current pilot sites. A total of more than 300 trainings will be conducted in six pilot sites by Dec 2016. Intensive actions on GMP piloting with technical assistance, facilitation and monitoring from Samarth team and other key stakeholders including DLS, NDDB, CDCAN, DIA, NDA and partner MCCs will continue for next six months for the GMP validation on the ground.

Development impact

The engagement of wider spectrum of stakeholders in these training events has paved the way for creating awareness on raw milk quality issues among wider sections of the society. DLS is planning to mainstream GMP activities in its annual program from next year. It is also considering campaigning clean milk production program and the training materials developed by Samarth have already been used for such campaigns.

The validation of GMP will be endorsed at the national level and stakeholders will be encouraged to follow the principles of GMP in the supply chain of milk production. Milk produced hygienically based on GMP will not only be preferred by the processors for its quality, it will also protect the smallholders from the loss incurred through damaged milk due to lack of hygiene and provide a secure market to them.



Event pictures



Figure 1: ToT trainees at the training session in Gaindakot, Nawalparasi



Figure 2: ToT trainees at the training session in Damauli, Tanahaun





Figure 3: ToT trainees and trainers discuss the GMP gaps and areas of improvement as part of on-site training



Figure 4: Participants practice hands on skills for cleaning the critical parts of milk chilling centre equipments





Figure 5: A poster designed to aware farmers on clean/hygienic milk production