

# UPDATE

SECTOR - PIG

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## Initiating public-private dialogue in the pig sector

In Nepal, pig rearing has traditionally been a common practice among disadvantaged groups such as Dalits and Janajatis. Farmers were typically small-scale and scattered, locked in a low-input, low-output production cycle. However, the pig sector in Nepal is growing and, albeit nascent, there are signs that it is becoming increasingly commercialised. Rural and urban market centres have experienced growth in demand for pork and derivative products - driven by the relatively low and stable price of pork meat and the breaking down of cultural barriers as more ethnic groups embrace the consumption of pork meat.

Many youths are involved in pig farming and meat enterprises because of the emerging market opportunities, but there remain significant constraints to pro-poor growth around access to affordable inputs and market opportunities. The sector has received comparatively less attention from the Government of Nepal and the private sector does not have an organized or strong 'voice' to articulate conditions needing to be in place, to drive improved industry productivity and competitiveness.

Samarth-NMDP, therefore, set out to lay the foundations for improving the enabling environment, for inclusive growth in the pig sector. A critical first step in this initiative was to bring together – for the first ever time in Nepal – public and private actors engaged in



the industry, to identify challenges and issues facing pork production and marketing, with a long-term view to have the industry themselves drive the identification of critical policy issues required to unlock growth.

Working with the Government of Nepal's Agricultural Research Council (NARC) and Department of Livestock Service office (DLSO) – part of the Ministry of Agricultural Development – Samarth-NMDP played a facilitative role to involve the private sector in organizing a dedicated workshop, focused on the functioning of the pig and pork industry in Nepal. A variety of enterprises, from small-scale farmers to larger processors and retailers, were involved as co-organizers of the workshop - leading, planning, chairing and facilitating discussions, along with the representatives from the government.

### 'First National Workshop on the Pig and Pork Industry in Nepal'

The national workshop took place from 10<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2013 in Kathmandu. Through a series of interactive sessions, the conference delved into a range of policy issues around bio-security, environment and public health considerations. Improvements in

"This workshop was necessary to bring all the concerned stakeholders together and discuss the present scenario. The recommendation obtained from the workshop was an eye opener. We now know what kind of issues we have to deal with, and which line agencies are responsible for the follow -up. Since our agency is responsible for producing quality breed seed stock, our focus now is to meet the expectations of the pig entrepreneurs. We are also planning to use our networks, which are spread all over the country, to further strengthen the newly formed association's reach and impact."

**Damodar Neupane**  
Coordinator, Swine and Avian Research Programme, NARC

terms of breed, feed, farm management and effective production system were discussed. In addition, issues of processor linkages, slaughterhouse management, meat safety, product diversification, import-export, meat transportation, storage and marketing network were considered.

The event was attended by a diverse range of stakeholder groups including pig farmers, processors and government offices. This conference was the first of its kind in Nepal, to be completely dedicated to promote the pig sector, and marked the first time that public-private dialogue had been initiated in the sector.

## A market-driven approach to creating a business association

A key and unanticipated achievement of the workshop was the formation of 'Nepal Pig Entrepreneurs' Association'. After the first day of the workshop, the pig farmers themselves organized an ad hoc meeting, to discuss the need of a cohesive pig entrepreneurs association in Nepal. Following the discussion, the pig entrepreneurs formed a formal committee, for the newly created association. This was not a part of the



"Pig Farmers are dispersed across the country and accessibility is extremely limited. The voices of these farmers had not been heard by the concerned stakeholders. The workshop provided an excellent platform to highlight the issues faced by the pig entrepreneurs. The biggest achievement was that, all types of people, related to the pig industry, participated in the event. Our agency has planned to partner with the newly formed association and develop new activities. We will also be focusing more on the development of trainings, based on the pig farmers' needs."

**Keshab Acchame**  
Chief, Pig and Pork Promotion Central Office,  
Department of Livestock Services ( DLS)

"The most important achievement of this workshop is the recognition by the government that there are pig farmers in this country. Many entrepreneurs and farmers involved in the pig sector had been fighting their battle alone, just like me. The formation of an association will allow us to collectively deal with the issues facing the pig sector."

**Dilli Raj Regmi**  
General Secretary, Nepal Pig Entrepreneurs'  
Association (NPEA)

workshop plan, it was an innovation driven by the private sector enterprises themselves.

By bringing together for the first time, the key actors of the pig sector, Samarth-NMDP created the conditions and 'space' necessary for the industry to drive change; maximizing the chances that the newly formed association has a lasting function to play in growing the competitiveness of the pig sector.

## About Samarth-NMDP

Samarth-NMDP is a five year DFID-funded program that aims to reduce poverty in Nepal. The programme follows a market systems development approach, addressing underlying causes in the performance of the market systems, to bring about more competitive and sustainable markets that work better for the poor.

## Samarth-NMDP in the Pig sub-sector

Samarth-NMDP is working with CEAPRED to improve the enabling environment for inclusive growth in the pig sector by initiating public private dialogue and encouraging private sector investment in pig breeding system as well as the pig and pork marketing in Nepal.