



## Sector Brief – Goat

### Vision

Small scale goat farmers, including women and disadvantaged groups, have improved market access to improved breed and goat breeding services, quality veterinary services and products, knowledge and extension services, and to markets for the goats and therefore increase their income.

### Why Goat Sector?

Meat consumption is growing and goat meat is popular in Nepal. Goat meat is the second biggest meat sector in the country. It makes up roughly a fifth of the total meat production and 51% of the households in Nepal rear goat (DLS, 2017).

Small scale goat farming, which mostly engages women, is very common in Nepal. Sahaj targets poor goat farmers who farm at a small scale, including women and people from disadvantaged backgrounds, with the objective of increasing their income from goat farming.

### What are the problems?

Although goat farming is very common in Nepal, the meat yield from the goats often fall below par. Moreover, the average time it takes for the goats to grow is much longer than the optimal standards.

One of the reasons for this is that the farmers have limited access to improved breed of goats and breeding services to improve their herd quality. Additionally, there is high prevalence of inbreeding in goats at the farm level resulting in depletion of genetic quality of the goats. Moreover, the farmers do not follow proper goat farming practices. They have limited information on and access to farm management techniques. This includes information on goat health management practices and veterinary products and services. Limited availability and quality of nutritious fodder and forage for goats also results in slow growth and low meat yield.

There are problems in the forward market as well. Larger traders and slaughterhouses in major market hubs favour imported goat because of high carcass weight. Major processors for diversified meat products do not yet see market opportunities in the goat sector. Despite the fact

Sahaj, also known as the Nepal Agricultural Market Development Programme, is a joint initiative of the Government of Nepal and the Government of Switzerland. It is mandated by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and designed as a 12-year programme. For the first phase from March 2016 to December 2019, Sahaj works in the goat, maize and vegetable sectors, and crop protection and post-harvest cross-sectors.

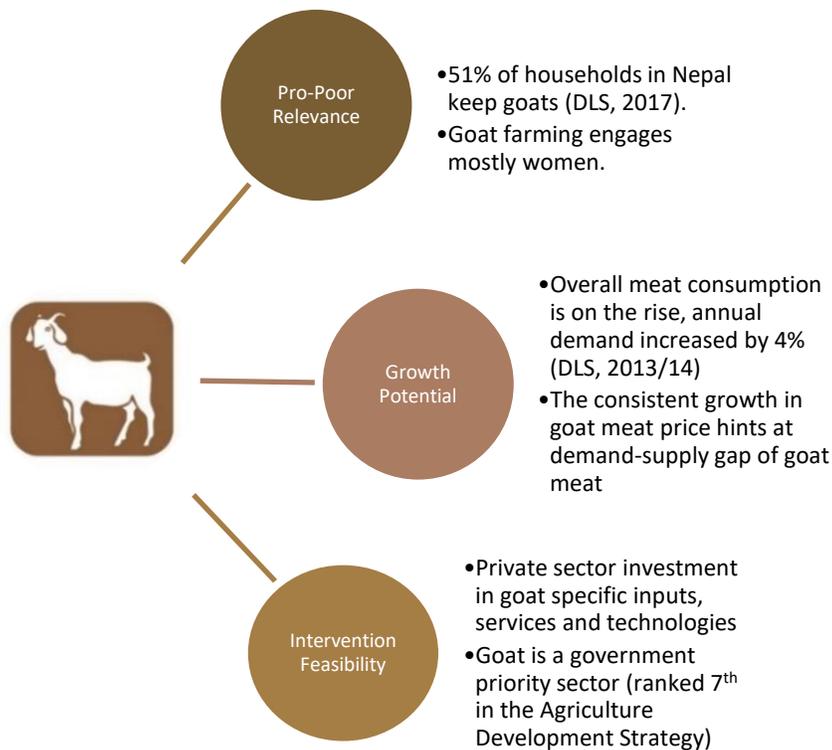
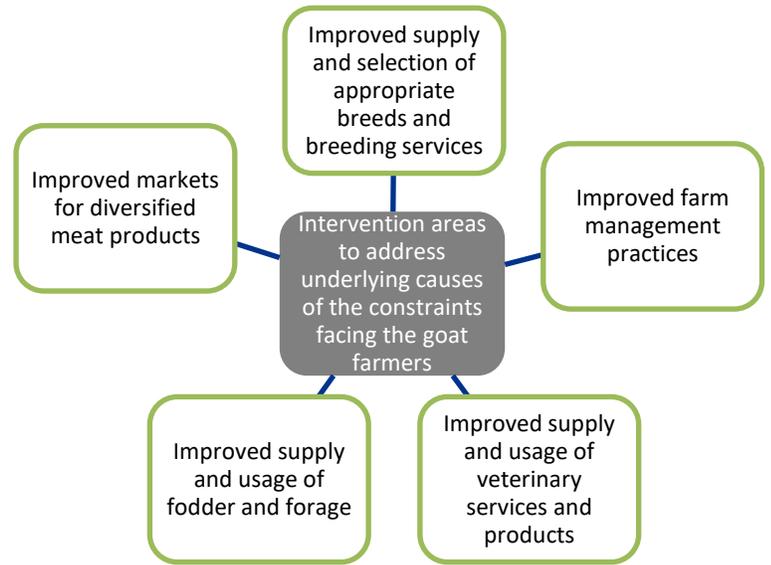
Sahaj, during the first half of Phase 1, focused on two geographical clusters in Nepal. Based on the poor market potential of the selected sectors, Sahaj has gradually been expanding with a national focus to other road corridors from mid-2017. While maintaining the national mandate, Sahaj has been intensifying its activities in Province 1 and in the Terai region.

that goat meat is the second biggest meat sector in Nepal, majority of the goat farmers are engaged in small scale farming and lack commercial focus.

**What are the opportunities?**

In spite of the problems, the goat sector offers many growth opportunities. Over the last five years many private sector breeding farms have been established. Alongside the government farms, these commercial breeding farms provide diverse and more productive breeds of goats. In addition, suppliers of veterinary products and services are looking to reach out to more goat farmers within the country.

The commercial supply of fodder and forage also has potential to grow. There are breeding farms that are interested in expanding their business by supplying and promoting fodder and forage to goat farmers. The government also encourages an increased commercial supply of fodder and forage.



**How do we plan to bring changes?**

Following the Inclusive Markets approach, Sahaj, in partnership with different market actors, analyses the constraints facing the poor farmers and addresses the root-causes of the constraints in the goat sector with targeted interventions. It adopts an indirect and facilitative approach where the market actors lead the design and implementation of pro-poor business models and activities.

In the goat sector, Sahaj works with key market players such as breeding farms, veterinary product suppliers, and fodder and forage suppliers to improve small scale farmers’ access to better goat breeds, information on breeds, quality fodder and forage, veterinary services and products and knowledge on farm management. In the long run, Sahaj will explore opportunities to diversify goat meat products in market. Business Enabling Environment (BEE) is also a cross-cutting intervention area of the programme in the sector.

