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# EMPOWERING SMALLHOLDER FARMERS THROUGH GOAT VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT



27th September, 2024 | 10:00 AM - 03:00 PM

**Bihar Agriculture Management & Extension Training Institute (BAMETI),  
Patna, Bihar**



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# EMPOWERING SMALLHOLDER FARMERS THROUGH GOAT VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA : A SPECIAL FOCUS ON BIHAR

Goat farming plays a vital role in enhancing the livelihoods of marginal farmers in India. With a goat population **148.88 million (20th Livestock Census 2019)** and contributing approximately 4% to India's agricultural GDP (Source: National Sample Survey Office, 79th Round, 2024), it is a crucial sector for rural economies. Bihar, with its focus on rural and agricultural development, has significant potential for goat farming despite challenges such as poverty and infrastructure gaps.

The Bihar Livestock Master Plan 2018-19 to 2022-23 emphasizes that livestock, especially goats, are essential for achieving the state's development goals. Most of these goats are held by scheduled castes and marginalized women, who rear them in a traditional and subsistence manner. These disadvantaged groups, including landless laborers, find goats to be a more manageable and economically viable alternative to larger animals. Agriculture Today, in association with Passing Gifts (A subsidiary of Heifer International) will organize a workshop **on 27th September 2024 at Bihar Agriculture Management & Extension Training Institute (BAMETI) Patna**, with focus on empowering smallholder farmers through goat value chain development, with special emphasis on Bihar.

The event aims to bring together key stakeholders, experts, and community leaders to discuss innovative strategies and solutions that can enhance the productivity and profitability of smallholder farmers in the goat value chain. The special focus on Bihar underscores the importance of regional approaches in agricultural development, and how targeted interventions can lead to sustainable improvements in this vital sector. The event will see the participation of over 100+ dignitaries, including esteemed personalities such as state agriculture ministers, state animal husbandry minister, **State rural development minister**, heads of institutions, CEOs, farmer leaders and other key stakeholders from this specific sector.

## ***The event would also see the Launch of Goat Livelihood Toolkit***

In an effort to further enhance the impact of goat farming on poverty alleviation and livelihood opportunities, **Passing Gifts – a subsidiary of Heifer International with the support of GIZ**, is set to launch Goat Livelihood Toolkit as part of its intervention strategy. These toolkits are being developed after thorough reviews of successful goat farming interventions under the **ERADA (Empowering Rural Areas with Dairy Agriculture)** initiative across multiple states in India. We are seeking support from the government to bolster our BSLD intervention and address the challenges encountered. This support will help us scale up our initiatives, expand our reach to more districts, and increase the number of families benefiting from improved goat farming practices.



## WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES :

- **Highlight the Impact:** Emphasize the role of goat farming in enhancing the livelihoods of marginal farmers in Bihar.
- **Identify Challenges and Opportunities:** Examine key issues and opportunities within the goat value chain in Bihar.
- **Facilitate Knowledge Sharing:** Promote networking and information exchange among stakeholders.
- **Develop Actionable Strategies:** Fostering sustainability throughout the value chain development.
- **Explore Convergence of Stakeholders:** To create and strengthen enabling environments for further improvement of goat value chain in the country.

## PROGRAMME SCHEDULE :

Registration and Welcome Tea	09:00 AM - 10:00 AM
Inaugural Session	10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
<b>SESSION 1 :</b> Diversifying Income of Smallholder Farmers through Small Ruminant and Livestock Development through Convergence	11:30 AM - 12:30 PM
<b>SESSION 2 :</b> Role of Private Sector in The Livestock and Agri Value Chain Development	12:30 PM - 01:30 PM
<b>Session 3 :</b> Conclusion And Way Forward	01:30 PM - 02:00 PM
Lunch & Networking	02:00 PM - 03:00 PM

## ABOUT PASSING GIFTS - A SUBSIDIARY OF HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

Passing Gifts - a subsidiary of Heifer International, offers a diverse range of services, including consulting, training, advisory, and technical support to individuals, associations, and organizations both in India and abroad. Our efforts aim to develop sustainable, scalable models that enhance livelihoods, increase incomes, and provide access to larger markets—ultimately promoting self-reliance, resilience, and stronger food systems in rural communities. With a focus on social advancement and sustainable development, we collaborate with key stakeholders to deliver impactful solutions that create lasting social, environmental, and economic change. At the core, our work is the development of robust agricultural and livestock value chains. We prioritize supporting Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) across Bihar, Odisha, and Andhra Pradesh. With a proven record of transforming the lives of over 120,000 plus smallholder farmers across Bihar, Odisha, and Andhra Pradesh, Passing Gifts excels in project design, management, research, and strategic consultancy. With support from GIZ, we recently contributed to the “Enhancing Rural Resilience through Appropriate Development Action (ERADA)” project. As part of this initiative, we developed a comprehensive toolkit for goat farming, which includes a handbook for farmers and a detailed training manual. This toolkit consolidates best practices, policies, and strategies to strengthen goat-based livelihoods through collective action, addressing critical needs identified during project implementation.

## ABOUT BIHAR SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (BSLD)

The Bihar Sustainable Livelihood Development (BSLD) Project was launched by Heifer International in six districts of Bihar: Madhubani, Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Vaishali, and Sitamarhi which is being managed and monitored by Passing Gifts, A subsidiary of Heifer International. This ambitious initiative aims to reach 70,000 small and marginal farmers, with a particular emphasis on women, by providing sustainable livelihood opportunities. The BSLD project places a strong emphasis on increasing production and fostering inclusive community groups by building robust market systems along the goat, backyard poultry, and organic vegetable supply chains. The project specifically focuses on empowering women farmers, recognizing their pivotal role in driving community development and improving household incomes. By leveraging Self-Help Groups (SHGs) to establish Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), the project seeks to aggregate bulk products, thereby enhancing access to larger markets and essential financial services. This approach is designed to ensure that, as the project progresses, the role of Passing Gifts will gradually diminish, allowing private sector partners to increasingly take on the support services required for smallholders to thrive. The project also prioritizes convergence with key government departments such as Animal Husbandry, Agriculture, Rural Development, and Horticulture, along with collaboration with like-minded agencies, to ensure holistic support and resource alignment for smallholder farmers.

## ABOUT AGRICULTURE TODAY

Indian Agriculture has been and continues to be the cornerstone of the Indian economy for thousands of years. It has played a crucial role in the gross economic growth of the nation and touches the lives of a major chunk of the country's population. In today's time, this sector holds considerable potential of stimulating growth. It has become one of the fastest growing sectors of the nation with the rapidly changing scenario of modern technologies. Agriculture Today Group, has been on the forefront of giving voice to the sector, creating opinions and awareness and providing platform for informed discussions and networking. The annual leadership summit is much awaited event for everyone involved in Indian agriculture. The Group, besides bringing out India's leading agriculture magazine, Agriculture Today, also hosts a number of policy, trade and knowledge events in partnership with the industry and institutions. The magazine covers the latest news and analysis of pressing agricultural issues of national and international importance. Over the last 25 years, Agriculture Today has emerged as the most trusted and admired agriculture magazines in the country.

**To know more, please contact**

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