



## Study of Female Participation in Pig Meat Processing Industry

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**Abstract:** Pig meat processing enterprise is one of the lucrative businesses in the field of livestock investment. With the increased investment as well engagement of investors in pig meat number and meat consumption has been increased. Eleven registered and several unregistered entrepreneurs were involved for pig meat processing. Sausage, ham, tender loin, bacon, pork chop, ham, salami, gammon, kashler, bratwurst were the processed products found in the market. Among different processed products, share of sausage ranks first followed by dried meat, bacon, ham, cooked ham, bratwurst, salami, gammon and others. Both men and women are working in pig meat processing industry but in packing, deboning and bratwurst preparations are dominant by women services. So by disseminating the knowledge of pig meat processing, its scope and opportunity for women in livestock labour sector could be increased.

**Keywords:** Pig meat, processing, women involvement.

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### INTRODUCTION

Agriculture is the mainstay of Nepalese farmers as more than 65% of economically active populations rely on it. About 34% of national GDP is contributed by agriculture and forestry sector. The contribution of livestock sector in AGDP was about 25.68 in (2009-10). Among different entrepreneurship pig rearing enterprise is also flourishing day by day and its number is about 1328036 and meat production 24535 Mt in 2018/19 [1]. Thus the pig industry is considered as a lucrative business among the investors of the livestock sector. Both men and women are involved in agricultural farming [2]. Although both men and women are working together; many studies have attempted to assess whether female farmers are as productive as male farmers, and have shown that women typically achieve lower yields than men do. This is not because women are worse farmers than men [2] but female farmers share their time on household and other biological roles. Women and men are responsible for different tasks in households as dictated by customary rules that define which are men's tasks and which are women's [3]. For example, rural women, in addition to shared

responsibilities with men such as working on crop farms, raising animals, working for wages, selling agricultural products, etc. have to be involved in all household chores (i.e. bearing children, caring for family members and their homes). These additional activities are essential to the well-being of households even though they are often not nationally accounted as economically active employment. Women are dominant players in small-scale pig production and marketing, accounting for two-thirds of the labor force in the sector. However, many existing policies and projects are inattentive to differences between men and women regarding access to resources, roles, and constraints. The lack of deliberate recognition of any existing inequities further contributes to maintaining the status quo at best or worsening the biases at worst. This somehow hinders women's productivity and reduces their contribution to the sector development [4]. For allocation of labor in pig production, traditional roles are at play, heavy tasks such as constructing pig shelters and treating pig diseases are assigned to men, while 'light' tasks such as cleaning and feeding are handled by women [5]. Slaughter of pigs at abattoirs are generally done by men, but women still support in some activities such

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as cleaning of the offal, gathering dung, carrying the quarters of meat to the wet market, etc. On the other hand, women are observed to be dominant players as retailers in traditional markets where most of fresh pork is being sold in Vietnam [6]. On an average, women comprise 43 percent of the agricultural labour force in developing countries; Almost 70 percent of employed women in Southern Asia but in Nepal women make up 62 per cent of the agricultural workforce, but only around 8 per cent of the female labour force receives equal remuneration for their work. The influence of women is strong in the use of eggs, milk and poultry meat for home consumption and they often have control over marketing these products and the income derived from them. In some countries, small-scale pig production is also dominated by women [7]. In Nepalese scenario the information relates to women involvement in processing of pig meat is yet to be explored. Therefore, following objectives are set to address the research gap.

## OBJECTIVES

- To find out the scenario of pig number and pig meat production in Nepal
- To identify priority issues on gender in pig meat processing

## METHODOLOGY

Primary information was collected from key informant survey and secondary information were collected from online literature and annual reports of various organizations. Analytical tools such as average, percentage and compound growth rate were employed to arrive at conclusion.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

### Socio-Economic Value of Pig

Livestock rearing is an integral part of Nepalese agriculture. Beside this pig have different aspects of social and economical values. The importance of pig in Nepalese scenario depends upon ethnic behavior and knowledge about pig meat. With increased awareness about pig meat and nutrition, consumption of pig meat and processed product has increased even though some of the communities still refused to touch pig.

### Growth rate of pig number and meat production (2000/1-2012/13)

The compound growth rate of pig number and pig meat production in Nepal is shown in Table-1. The table revealed that the pig number is growing at 2.08 per cent per annum while pig meat production is increasing at 1.70 per cent per annum and both are significant at 1 percent level. The compound growth rate indicates increasing trend of investment on pig industry and consumption of pig meat.

**Table-1: Compound growth rate of pig number and meat production**

Year	CGR	A	Std Error	t stat	P value	R2	F
Pig number	2.08**	13.67	0.00	14.40	1.74E-08	0.95	207.46
Pig meat (Mt)	1.70**	9.59	0.00	10.27	5.65E-07	0.91	105.50

Note: \* and \*\* indicates significant at 5 percent and 1 percent respectively.

### Share of entrepreneurs' involvement in pig meat processing and product diversity

Altogether eleven entrepreneurships were registered and involved for pig meat processing activities (Table-2). Beside this, several unregistered

processors are also involved in processing. Sausage, ham, tender lion, bacon, pork chop, ham, salami, gammon, kashler, bratwurst were the processed products found in the market.

**Table-2: Entrepreneurs involved in pig meat processing and product diversity**

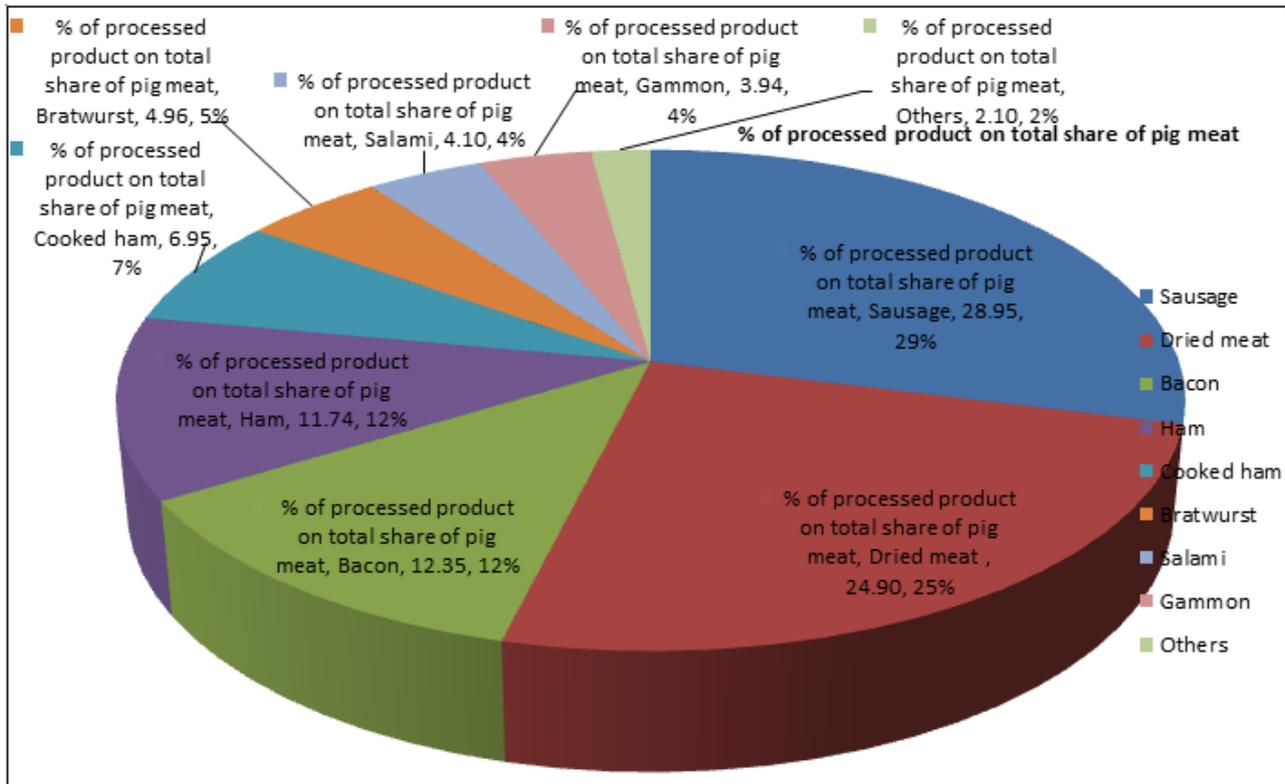
S. N	Name of enterprise	Processed Product diversity of pig meat
1	Meatco Food Nepal	Sausage, ham, tender lion, bacon, pork chop, pork leg
2	Urban Food Products	Sausage, dried meat, salami
3	Sea Food	Sausage, bacon, ham, salami
4	Kathmandu Sausage	Sausage, dried meat, salami
5	Swiss Gourmet, Ichengu	Sausage, salami, ham, bacon, cooked ham
6	Prasuma	Sausage, ham
7	Elen Food Products	Sausage, bacon
8	Nepal Sausage Company	Sausage
9	Rajbhandari	Dried meat
10	Bijaypur Food Products	Dried meat
11	Nina & Hager	Sausage, ham, bacon, gammon, kashler, bratwurst,

Source: Key Informant Survey (Jan 2015) and Shakya, P.M. 2014 [8].

### Share of different processed product of pig meat in Nepal (2015)

The share of different processed product is elucidated in the Fig-1. Among different processed

products sausage ranks first followed by dried meat, bacon, ham, cooked ham, bratwurst, salami, gammon and others (tender lion, kashler, pork chop, pork leg and pork means).



**Fig-1: Percentage of processed product**

Source: Key Informant Survey (Jan 2015) and Shakya, P.M. 2014 [8].

### Gender involvement in processing industry

Both men and women are working in pig meat processing industry but the involvement of women is higher in packing, deboning and bratwurst preparations as compared to male.

**Table-3: Percentage of gender involvement in pig meat processing industry (n= 10)**

Particulars	Men	Women
Sausage	60.0	40.0
Ham	60.0	40.0
Tender lion	60.0	40.0
Bacon	66.7	33.3
Pork means	66.7	33.3
Pork chop	66.7	33.3
Pork leg	66.7	33.3
Bratwurst	40.0	60.0
Kashler	50.0	50.0
Packing	20.0	80.0
Deboning	23.3	76.7
Heavy work	100.0	0.0

### Constrains in Processing Activities

- Inadequate processing facilities with hygienic standard.
- Difficulty in creating awareness to assure the quality of processed item to consumers.
- Inadequate technical assistance and knowledge for product diversification.
- Inadequate experience and knowledge about TRIPS and phyto- sanitary measures to meet the exportable requirements.
- Proper means of transportation was unavailable.

### CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Women are less likely than men to participate in community meetings and trainings related to pig production even though they are main players in this sector. The main reason given for women's low participation is that women are mostly tied up with household chores in addition to pig production, so they do not have enough time to participate in meetings/trainings and, in some cases, are not encouraged to do so by their husbands or their communities. In addition, some development

projects provide trainings without taking into consideration the specific needs of female farmers. Along with the rapid development of the pig sector in recent years, gender issues are now mentioned more in livestock projects. Several efforts have been done to help reduce the gender gaps. Lessons learnt from successful projects indicate that approaching farmer women via the Women's Union is an effective way to increase the active participation of women into trainings. Identifying and providing technical trainings that meet specific capacity development needs of women farmers could lead to productivity increase. Besides, it is important to facilitate collaboration and dialogue between men and women to encourage men's support of women's empowerment and to improve the positive impacts of project interventions. The compound growth rate indicates increasing trend of investment on pig industry as well as consumption of pig meat and concluded that the pig meat production and processing enterprise would flourish in coming days. Associated with the increased production and processing enterprise in the less prioritized field in the past, probability of labor market could be increased. Both men as well as women are working in pig meat processing industry but in packing, deboning and bratwurst preparations are dominant by women services. Therefore, there is good opportunity for women to be involved in pig meat processing.

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