



College of Agriculture
Office of the Dean and Director of Research/Administrator of Extension
3500 John A. Merritt Boulevard
Nashville, TN 37209
Office: (615) 963-7561
Fax: (615) 963-5888

November 04, 2022

Southern Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education
2023 Research and Education Grant

SUBJECT: Letter of Support to Dr. Pramir Maharjan

To Whom It May Concern

On behalf of the College of Agriculture at Tennessee State University, I am pleased to write this letter in support of Dr. Pramir Maharjan's proposal, "An approach to building a sustainable small flock poultry operation through improvement in nutrition, food safety, and marketing" to be submitted for Southern Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education, 2023 Research and Education Grant.

The mission of the College of Agriculture is to lead, support, conduct, and promote scholarly research projects at Tennessee State University (TSU). We accomplish our mission by establishing multi-disciplinary teams consisting of faculty, staff, and students, which enable creative solutions to complex problems, provide students with mentors and learning opportunities that enhance their education and experience, and facilitate partnerships with the public and private sectors that encourage the cooperative exchange of information and resources.

The proposed project encapsulates the mission of the College of Agriculture by studying feeding management strategies in small flock poultry operation while also improving food safety and economic aspects of farm management system and contributing to overall sustainability of farm operation. The TSU recently hired Dr. Maharjan as Poultry Extension Specialist as the campus did not have extension faculty in poultry science for the state. Given the funding and successful completion of the proposed research activity, it will be a tremendous opportunity for TSU and Dr. Maharjan to initiate and extend outreach roles through poultry production knowledge gained in this project dedicated to small flock producers in TN. Dr. Maharjan's effort to bring a great team together for the success of this project is a testament of his work ethic and dedication to poultry science. Dr. Maharjan is fully qualified to lead the project as he has gained expertise in poultry science geared towards poultry production and management through his research and extension roles in the US institutions with renowned poultry departments. I am very supportive of new Extension faculty, Dr. Maharjan, to grow his own program at TSU. Helping early career faculty establish his/her research and Extension program is essential to our success as an institution and helps provide students with research opportunities in the coming years.



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The College of Agriculture is fully committed to providing all the research and mentoring support that Dr. Maharjan will need to execute the goals associated with this project. We will provide needed release time, facilities, and equipment to ensure the success of the project. In relation to this project, TSU will provide the research farm facilities located in Davidson County and Cheatham County as necessary for conducting the bird trial needed for this project. In addition to the graduate student budgeted for this project, an additional graduate student will be provided by the Dean's office, which will assure full-time involvement of two graduate students in this project. If further information is required, feel free to contact me at fbaysalg@tnstate.edu.

Sincerely,

Fulya Baysalgurel

Fulya Baysal-Gurel, Ph.D.
Interim Associate Dean of Research, College of Agriculture
Tennessee State University