**Personal Statement**

I, [NAME OF PERSON], belong to poor agrarian family in Nepal and the only source of income for living to my family was agriculture. Spending most of my childhood days helping my parents in farming, I had a sturdy interest towards agricultural sector. Being a son of a farmer, I have evidenced the pitfall of this sector caused by lack of skilled manpower, poor agricultural infrastructure and vocational as well as academic education. To obtain the scientific knowledge, after my high school, I persuaded myself to take my first step on learning academic agriculture course by joining Bachelor of Science in Agriculture.

The bachelors’ degree in agriculture included the myriad of courses (theory and project work) out of which Principles of economics, Agricultural and environmental economics, Agribusiness management and marketing, Farm management, Agriculture project planning, Production economics and planning, Nepalese agriculture development and policy, Aquaculture and fisheries, Statistics, and Plant science and Animal science were the major courses. As a part of project work, I participated in various field trips and national and regional level seminar, from which I came to know that commercial Aquaculture was getting national attention for its potential contribution in the production of affordable and sustainable means of animal protein. Being a fairly new concept in Nepal, agriculture students, farmers and entrepreneur were inquisitive to learn about this practice. So, I was also intrigued by this fact which motivated me to join Masters in Aquaculture Science. Two most scholastic years of my masters helped me to understand about fish production strategies. Completing my masters, I worked in the production sector for three years where I contributed to initiate two high yielding fish (pangasius and monosex tilapia) culture first time in Nepal. The production business was roughly shaping. Meanwhile, I encountered the problems of low productivity, short supply of quality fish seed and lack of skilled and trained manpower. For the additional experience, I joined [WORK UNIVERISTY], Nepal as an instructor. [WORK UNIVERISTY] is renowned for its measures and tactics to address the key issues of Nepalese agriculture through teaching, research and extension. Teaching undergraduate student, working with farmers on research extension and guiding students in their lab and project work were my day to day job activities. During the early years at [WORK UNIVERISTY], my hard work had a significant impact in fish production as I was able to motivate many farmers to initiate commercial aquaculture. But, engagement of most of the farmers in production sector, the products were more of stocked and couldn’t get the befitting market value which led to serious crisis between production and marketing. Though, national data shows the increasing seafood import in the country, local farmers were unable to sell their product on time and in reasonable price. I realized bumper production without its management via strategic economic planning is not going to be successful. As a matter of fact, this triggered me to explore the in-depth hallmarks of production economics and marketing. Spending four years of my life in teaching, research and extension; I also participated in various national and international level trainings, workshops, seminars and conferences. Yet, my understanding of economic planning wasn't enough to create a considerable effect in solving the economic issues related to production and marketing. Hence, in search of advanced curriculum based agri-economics study, I joined [UNIVERSITY] as a best destination to start with. Privilege of being a permanent faculty of [WORK UNIVERISTY], I can get up to 7 years of study leave which also can be extended if required and with this prerogative I joined [UNIVERSITY] in Spring 2018. “After all it’s never too late to start, if you have a strong desire and will power to reach to your goal.”

At [UNIVERSITY], I learned about Aquaculture Economics, Marketing, Quantitative Methods in Fish and Aquaculture Economics, Statistics and Program Evaluation and Survey Methods. Besides coursework, I conducted experimental auction to study the consumer preference and willingness to pay for five newly developed value-added convenient Catfish products as my thesis research. During my stay at [UNIVERSITY] I realized the how important are product diversification and innovative marketing for the success of products in market.

I am fascinated by the innovative agricultural production and product marketing strategies such as farm management, production economics, demand analysis, product development, and consumer economics. I aim to work in these areas and contribute to the best of what I know in the respective field. Thus, to fulfill my gap of knowledge, I am eager to explore more of demand and price analysis, consumer behavior and agricultural marketing in my Ph.D. study. While exploring universities offering courses of my interest, I found Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at University of Connecticut is one of the best destinations in terms of both courses offered and human capital. I strongly believe that, guidance from magnificent faculties in combination with my hard work, dedication and commitment would materialize my enthusiasm to become an outstanding agricultural economist. **It is compulsion for me to get any sort of funding to join Ph. D. so I would like to consider myself for any sort of funding available (teaching assistantship or research assistantship) there.**

After completion of my PhD, I would rejoin [WORK UNIVERSITY], back in my country. As [WORK UNIVERISTY] has mandate of teaching, research and extension, with the knowledge gained at this Department, I would work on all of those three aspects. I intend to teach graduate student about agricultural marketing, consumer economics and econometrics including experimentation of respective field with its way of application in real case scenario which would envision them to conquer their potential ability to be an independent researcher. I would conduct collaborative research with government/ non-government organization and private sector for the development of marketing modelling that would possibly solve the production and marketing issues experienced by the Nepalese agriculture sector.

I thank you for considering my application to your department.