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## **Press Release**

Buyers from the EU and the US and the consumers of their products are increasingly becoming sensitive to transparency about leather supply chain.

Now factories in Bangladesh face difficulties in obtaining information on the origin of the raw hides and skins and generally have no knowledge of recognizing and preventing the procurement of raw material from unsustainable sources, therefore, government intervention is very crucial for ensuring traceability.

Sustainability campaigns demand transparency at every stage of the value chain. Environmentally-friendly brands and buyers increasingly opt for making information regarding their suppliers freely available to end consumers.

International standards group, such as the Leather Working Group (LWG), has already included hide traceability as a relevant criterion into their protocol. Hence, traceability is becoming an essential business practice for sourcing companies.

In this context of sustainability, traceability is a tool to assure and verify sustainability claims associated with products, ensuring good practice and respect for people and the environment all along the supply chain.

Leather traceability in particular goes down to slaughterhouses and the farming level. There are technical solutions for how each final product (e.g. footwear or bags, etc.) carries a passport with relevant information.

Therefore, in order to understand the gaps and requirements to implement hide traceability in Bangladesh and considering this critical issue, **LFMEAB** in association with **Leather sector Business promotion Council (LSBPC)** jointly organized a knowledge workshop on Traceability and Sustainability in the Leather Supply Chain **at a local hotel in Dhaka on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017.**

**Consulting Service International Ltd (CSI)** a leading research organization in this area, conducted the session. In their presentation, experts elaborated on the requirements of traceability: such as background information, benefits, requirements, relevant actors, potential technical solutions, etc.

Thank you for your coordination.

With Thanks & Regards,

**Kazi Roushan Ara**  
Executive Director