

In the spotlight: Mrs Dil Jan, beneficiary of the GIZ poultry project

Mrs Dil Jan is one of the 600 beneficiaries of the GIZ poultry project that intends to improve the livelihood of poor women in Northeastern Afghanistan through poultry packages. The DCA field staff, in coordination with the provincial Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL) established 30 village women poultry associations of 20 members each in Kunduz, Takhar and Badakhshan provinces. The package includes distribution of 18 layer pullets and 2 cocks of hybridized 'Rhode island red', 100 kg chicken feed for each family, equipment for construction of coops, and a gas-incubator for each association. Also training on poultry farm management for all beneficiaries, and one basic veterinary worker for veterinary care of the chickens are part of the package.

"Many community members and myself refused to participate in this project at the beginning," Dil Jan says. "We couldn't even maintain the hardy local chicken, let alone introducing new breeds. However, when I realized that the project has several integrated components such as training, a poultry doctor, feed and housing; etc; I thought it is worth trying."

With technical support of DCA poultry community workers the village women constructed the poultry coops. They contributed labor, wood, stones, and mud while the project supplied mesh wire for construction of windows to improve ventilation.

"No matter how long it may take," says Mrs. Dil Jan "I am determined to expand my poultry farm on my small land of 3 Jeribs (0.75ha) and scale it up to a commercial level".

Unfortunately, the project is not extended due to unforeseen circumstances from the donor side. Activities such as strengthening of the groups to semi-commercial poultry cooperatives, establishment of local feed processing initiatives, egg value chain development and market linkages were planned in the second year of the project. DCA-VET is currently looking for alternative funding; we are optimistic that a new donor may allow the project to be extended for another year or two to ensure sustainability.

