

Improved Backyard Poultry Project of WB NHLP/MAIL

Donor	World Bank
Contractor	MAIL (Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock)
Budget	USD 667,661
Period	November 2013 – April 8th, 2015
Area	Parwan, districts of Charikar and Bagram

The Improved Backyard Poultry (IBP) Project was one of the components of the National Livestock and Horticulture Project of the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL), funded by World Bank. The project contributed in poverty alleviation and food security of the local population, especially of vulnerable woman-headed families. Target area were twelve districts in six provinces. DCA-VET implemented the IBP project in two districts (Charikar and Bagram) of the province of Parwan.

In each of the targeted districts, 417 vulnerable women were selected as beneficiaries. They attended a three-month comprehensive poultry training, constructed a chicken coop supported by DCA-VET staff, and received 30 pullets, necessary equipment to build the coop and 250 kg of mixed chicken feed. The 417 women were organized in twenty Village Poultry Producers Groups for self-help support, collective actions and sustainability of the poultry production after the project ended. The Poultry Groups were linked to VFUs for poultry health services and to poultry input suppliers for provision of food and equipment. For marketing of the eggs, the Poultry Producer Groups were linked to egg traders.

In both districts about 2 million eggs were produced during the first production cycle of the chicken. Some 10 to 15% of the produced eggs were used for consumption by the households, a small part was given to family and relatives, and the greater part was sold on the market with good margins. The Afghan consumers prefer the, brown-shelled locally produced eggs, that are fresh and clean, over the imported white-shelled eggs and are willing to pay a 30-40% premium for these eggs.

The social impacts of the project were significant. The beneficiary women with no in-house job opportunities are now self-employed and are running their poultry farms as

successful enterprises. Their social status has increased, since they can contribute to the household income. The organization of the women in Poultry Groups enabled them to discuss problems together, take collective decisions and take a stronger position in negotiations with input suppliers and egg traders. By its economic as well as social impacts the NHLP Poultry project contributed significantly to the empowerment of the poor village women. Thanks to the project they now run profitable businesses, and are embedded in a producers' network that will help them to sustain their enterprises in the future.