



SUCCESS STORY

A Hero's Victory

Dairy Project trained WLEW earns a profit of Rs 57,863 in one month



Photo by USAID-DRDF Dairy Project

Rukshanda preparing to vaccinate an animal as preventative medicine

“When I started the training, I had no assets, job or family support; however, in a matter of two years, I have proudly married two daughters, bought four cows as well as a motorbike to make work-related travel easy.”

Rukshanda Naz, Dairy Project trained WLEW from 35WB, Vehari.

Rukshanda Naz, a single mother of four daughters is a project trained Woman Livestock Extension Worker (WLEW) who defines the attributes of prudence, persistence and practicality. Having lived in a small village of 35WB in Vehari, 34 year-old Rukshanda has single handedly brought up her family and battled financial difficulties that came her way in the absence of a male supporter. She heard about the Dairy Project's training through the project's social mobilization team that visited her village and sought an introduction of educated females in the area to enroll them in the training. The *Numberdar* (community leader) of the village connected the team to Rukshanda and she immediately signed up for the WLEW training.

“Throughout the training my trainers and the field team guided and counselled me. Often my family had no food to eat while I was taking the month long training, however, I chose to make short-term sacrifices for long term gain,” says Rukshanda. After receiving the training and graduating at the top of her class, she was excited to start her own business and began informing villagers of her newly acquired skill. After receiving the free medicine kit given by the Dairy Project to its beneficiaries, she rented a small shop in her neighborhood and started selling medicines to the dairy farmers in her area.

Soon after, she started visiting dairy sheds and vaccinating, treating and deworming animals not only in her own village, but also in neighboring villages. Her profit in December 2013 was Rs 57,863 and her average quarterly profit is Rs 30,755 per month. “When I started the training, I had no assets, no job or family support, however, in a matter of two years, I have proudly married two daughters, bought four cows as well as a motorbike to make work-related travel easy,” says a beaming Rukshanda.

These goals have not been easy for her to achieve. Often farmers she worked with would tell her that she wouldn't be able to control and restrain an animal. “Sometimes it seemed like farmers would wait for me to fall or get hurt while I was treating their animal. However, I believed in myself and did not stop working which is why I am successful.”

Rukshanda is a firm believer of gender equality and is very grateful to the USAID Dairy Project for empowering her and giving her a steady source of income. “When there was nothing and no one whose support I could count on, the Dairy Project's training gave me a beacon of hope for my family's future. Today I own assets, can talk confidently to anyone and make all my decisions myself.”



SUCCESS STORY

Increasing Household Incomes

Dairy Project trains artificial insemination technician to improve livestock productivity



Zahid Iqbal with his family

“By becoming an Artificial Insemination Technician I feel confident of my family’s future.”

Zahid Iqbal from Chak No. 36 WB Tehsil and District Vehari.

Photo by USAID-DRDF Dairy Project

Zahid Iqbal is a project trained Artificial Insemination Technician (AIT) from Chak 36WB, District Vehari. He is 27 years old and supports a family of four dependents. The Dairy Project’s social mobilization team conducted a survey in his village to find interested candidates to participate in the Dairy Project’s training. When Zahid interacted with them, he immediately decided to get enrolled in the training and after taking a proficiency test and an interview, he was finally selected as a trainee.

Through the AI training, Zahid learnt about heat detection, semen handling and the process of artificial insemination. He graduated from the training in February 2013 in Batch 14. The Dairy Project provided him with a kit to kick start his business and after reviewing his work, he was also awarded a motorbike so that he could provide breed improvement services to other remote villages.

Zahid’s average monthly profit is Rs. 10,000. Through this income he sustains his family and has also bought a buffalo, one sheep and a goat. “By becoming an Artificial Insemination Technician I have not only increased the capital reserve of dairy farmers by improving their animal breeds, but also created a reliable source of income for myself and my family,” he says.

Zahid has inseminated over 400 animals and his animal conception rate is nearly 65 percent. In the future, he wishes to grow his business and provide his services to a greater number of dairy farming villages.



SUCCESS STORY

Expanding Horizons

Dairy Project's training helps dairy farmer grow his business



"I am grateful for the USAID-DRDF Dairy Project's farmer training. In the future I will continue to invest in my dairy business and keep modernizing my farm for improved milk yields."

Muhummad Naeem Akhtar
from village115/10-R, Tehsil
Jahaniya, District Khanewal

Mohammed Naeem Akhtar from village115/10-R, Tehsil Jahaniya, District Khanewal, took part in the Dairy Project's four day farmer training in December 2013. His family has always been in the dairy farming business; however, they were practicing traditional dairy farming methods, which resulted in low milk yields of their animals.

USAID-DRDF Dairy Project's social mobilization team visited village 115/10-R and informed the dairy farming community about the Dairy Project's capacity building initiatives. Naeem signed up for the four day farmer training as he was interested in modernizing his dairy shed. Through the training he learnt best practices such as deworming, vaccination, Vanda feeding, free access to water, silage making etc. "It was very beneficial to learn about the advantages of breed improvement as it is an inexpensive way to increase milk yields" he says.

Soon after Naeem received the training, he adopted the practices he had learnt. He used the services of the project's Artificial Insemination Technicians to inseminate 10 cows he owned. He also started deworming and vaccinating his animals and now gives them free access to water. By implementing these practices, the daily average milk yield per animal increased from 8 liters to 13 liters. This results in an additional profit of Rs 35,000 per month.

"I am proud of my growing dairy business. In the future I will continue to modernize my dairy farm to ensure that my animals are healthier and more productive," says Naeem.



SUCCESS STORY

Achieving Economic Stability

Dairy Project trains artificial insemination technicians in breed improvement



Photo by USAID-DRDF Dairy Project

“After becoming an AIT, I achieved better economic and social position. I am very grateful to the Dairy Project which blessed me with this opportunity.”

Ali Muhammad

Dairy Project trained AIT from Toba Tek Singh

Artificial Insemination Technician Ali Muhammad s/o Khushi Muhammad is a resident of 312/GB, Tehsil Shorkot, District Toba Tek Singh. He lives with his parents and five children and being the head of the household his financial disposition was always a concern for him. He often did small plumbing jobs and electrical work, but did not have a steady source of income which he could consistently rely on.

Ali Muhammad heard about the Dairy Project’s Artificial Insemination Technicians training through the *Numberdar* of the village and attended a community meeting hosted by them. Through this meeting he learnt about the Artificial Insemination Technicians training for unemployed, educated rural men and upon consultation with his family and the *Numberdar*, decided to apply for it.

Through the training he learnt about practical exercises such as safe handling and maintenance of insemination guns, liquid nitrogen cylinders as well as gained theoretical knowledge. After getting hands on training from the Dairy Project he started his business and got a trust worthy status in the community.

Now Ali Muhammad is able to bear all the household expenses including education for his children. His average monthly profit from providing AI services is nearly Rs18,300. During the period August to October 2013 Ali made a profit and has now established a clinic at *Mehar Ali Chok*, Shorkot city. He is delighted to have received the training and to be able to contribute to the burgeoning dairy sector.

“Before becoming an AIT, I was depressed about my economic condition which was also affecting my social status in the community but after becoming an AIT, I achieved better economic and social position. I am very grateful to the Dairy Project which blessed me with this opportunity, and I pray that Allah may run the Dairy Project successfully which helps the poor people” remarked a heartened Ali Muhammad.



SUCCESS STORY

Bringing Hope to Traditional Dairy

USAID-DRDF Dairy Project helps traditional farmer to adopt modern dairy farm practices and techniques for improved livelihoods.



Photo by USAID-DRDF Dairy Project

“Being a part of USAID-DRDF Dairy Project’s farmer trainings has taught me the importance of better animal breeding, feeding and free access to water. I did not know animals had to be vaccinated or dewormed. In the future, I wish to continue implementing these modern dairy farming techniques and further upgrade my farm for better income”.

Azmat Bashir, Dairy Project trained Farmer from Chak 341/WB, tehsil Dunyapur, district Lodharan.

Azmat Bashir is a progressive dairy farmer who belongs to a traditional system of livestock holding. He lives in Chak 341/WB, tehsil Dunyapur, district Lodharan, with his wife and two children. He heard about USAID-DRDF Dairy Project’s trainings for dairy farmers through a loud speaker announcement in village mosque, followed by project team visit at his village.

“Belonging to a family involved in traditional methods of agriculture, I was never exposed to modern dairy farm practices and techniques, such as, deworming, vaccination, balanced diet, calf rearing and silage feeding. Through the USAID-DRDF Dairy Project’s dairy farmer training, I learnt to improve my dairy business through adoption of best dairy farm practices,” says Azmat.

Azmat’s income was stagnant and it was becoming difficult for him to fulfill the basic needs of his family. He did not see any hope of increasing income until he learnt the best dairy practices for his farm. It has helped him increase the milk yields by 2 liter per animal. Dairy Project’s training has given him a steady source of income. Now he is able to provide better health and educational facilities to his family.

“In addition to this four-day training, I got knowledge about farm up-gradation through a newspaper advertisement. I applied for my consideration in this component and after few days Dairy Project’s team visited my farm and short-listed me for the interview. Interview committee asked questions about my set up as well as future plans and finally I got selected for this opportunity; where Dairy

Project provided me with 50 percent cost-share support to up-grade my local farm, in to a model, dairy and training farm”, says Azmat.

USAID-DRDF Dairy Project is upgrading local farms of selected dairy farmers to model farms. The upgraded farm will facilitate farmers in implementing best dairy farming practices, and these farms will serve as a model for neighboring dairy farmers. As of June 2015, the project has trained over 15,000 dairy farmers—78 per cent of whom have adopted at least three best farming practices leading to 17 per cent increase in the average milk yield.

“I want to continue these practices to ensure that my animals are healthy and more productive. I often guide my village community about the best practices that USAID-DRDF Dairy Project taught me. They appreciate it and want to become a part of it as well,” remarks Azmat.

Azmat has moved from a traditional farmer, who was barely able to make ends meet, to one with a secure future with the help of USAID-DRDF Dairy Project’s trainings. In future, he plans to further upgrade his farm and purchase better breeds for improving his animals for increased income.



SUCCESS STORY

Taking the Lead

Dairy Projects farm manager training helps youth strengthen family's dairy farming business



Photo by USAID-DRDF Dairy Project

“Thanks to the USAID-DRDF training I have developed my family's dairy farm and added 18 more cows of the best breed.”

Muhammad Fayyaz from Chak No. 95/15L, Mian Channu, Khanewal.

Muhummad Fayyaz Rana, from Chak no 95/15L, Mian Channu, Khanewal participated in the USAID-DRDF farm manager training in October 2012. Belonging to a family traditionally involved in dairy farming, Fayyaz wanted to get formally trained in best dairy practices so that he could expand his family's business. He read about the Dairy Project's Farm Manager training in a newspaper and reached out to the project's team to participate. After conducting an entrance test and an interview, the project's team selected him for the four week long training.

During the training, Fayyaz learnt about shed design, construction and management, best practices such as free access to water, vaccination, calf rearing and other such skills related to farm management. Before taking the training he had nine non-descriptive breeds of cows and the average milk production was 2.5 liters per animal per day. After taking the training he bought 18 more animals belonging to the best breeds and his farms average milk production increased to 12 liters per animal per day. He sells an average of 85 litres of milk a day and keeps the rest for his family's consumption. His profit has subsequently increased by Rs 30,000 per month.

The surplus of milk has been a great benefit for his family. “My family is delighted as there is more milk to consume and I am presently also operating as a commercial dairy farmer!” says a beaming Fayyaz.



SUCCESS STORY

Women Empowerment in Rural Punjab

USAID-DRDF Dairy Project trains Woman Livestock Extension Worker to provide basic animal health care in her village



Photo by USAID-DRDF Dairy Project

Farhat at her clinic and selling medicine to a client

“By receiving this training, I am now in a position to protect my community’s livestock. I never thought that this kind of an opportunity will be given to women in our small village.”

Farhat Latif, Dairy Project trained WLEW from district Sahiwal.

Project trained Woman Livestock Extension Worker, Farhat Latif, provides medicine and basic health care to dairy animals based in village 34/14/L, located in tehsil Chichawatni of district Sahiwal

After completing her undergraduate studies, Farhat wanted to study further; however, her family did not have sufficient resources to fund her education. Her only brother had been unemployed for five years and her father was often bed ridden due to old age. While she wanted to support and provide for her family, there were no opportunities in her village which she could undertake to ensure a steady income. Henceforth, when she heard about the Dairy Projects training, she immediately decided to participate in the training

Farhat took the Dairy Project’s WLEW training in September 2012 and learnt about animal management, vaccination, deworming, mastitis control and other such hands on skills required to address basic animal health care concerns. Farhat is now earning an average monthly profit of Rs 7,000 through which she funds her Master’s degree in Physical Education and has recently also bought a computer to further her learning.

“I have always liked dairy animals. By receiving this training, I am now in a position to protect my community’s livestock. I never thought that this kind of an opportunity will be given to women in our small village. Many women in my community desire to get the WLEW training as it is a great business opportunity,” remarks Farhat.

The training has not only helped Farhat and her family, but has been beneficial for other dairy farming households in her village. Her neighbor, Rehmat bibi who owns 13 animals highlighted that she was very comfortable working with another female “I have called Farhat several times even if it’s late at night to treat my animals. Having a WLEW in the neighborhood has been a source of great convenience since Vanda (high quality fodder) is available at my doorstep and animals can be treated on an emergency basis.”



SUCCESS STORY

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SUCCESS STORY

Breaking Free From Poverty

Dairy Projects artificial insemination technicians training lifts youth out of poverty



Photo by USAID-DRDF Dairy Project

Hakim Ali explain the insemination process to a client

“Thanks to the Dairy Project training I have improved my income and additionally I have gained respect in my community for my services.”

Hakim Ali Watoo, Artificial Insemination Technician from Kot Sadaat, District Vehari.

Hakim Ali Watoo is a resident of Kot Saadat, Teshil and District Vehari. He is 31 years old and after passing his matriculation exams he had to drop out of higher education as his parents needed him to earn a living for the family. However, Hakim was unable to find a good job and consequently decided to become a street hawker who sold fruit to his community. He earned a profit of Rs 1,500 a month through this business which was insufficient for him to feed four dependents. Desperate to improve his family’s economic status, Hakim Ali constantly looked for other opportunities that could increase his income.

The Dairy Project’s Social Mobilization team visited his village and informed the religious leader of the community about the trainings who made announcements in the mosque to create awareness of the Projects training. Hakim immediately signed up for the AIT training and after taking a written test he got selected as a trainee of Batch 14. The training taught him practical skills such as heat detection, process of insemination and customer management.

Hakim finished the month long training in February 2013 and has been practicing as an artificial insemination technician since then. He earns an average monthly profit of Rs 30,000 which has enabled him to construct a new house for his family comprising of one room and a bathroom. “My family has seen very tough times as we did not even have permanent shelter and lived under a thatched roof of a mud house. Ever since I took the USAID-DRDF training our fortunes have changed. Now we have sufficient food and shelter.”

In the future Hakim plans to expand the geographical area of his work and reach out to a greater number of farmers. His dream is to send his parents for Hajj.



USAID | **PAKISTAN**
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

SUCCESS STORY

Emerging Triumphant

Dairy Project trained Woman Livestock Extension Worker reports outstanding profits



Photo by USAID-DRDF Dairy Project

Kiran getting ready to vaccinate a dairy animal as preventative medicine.

“My earnings give me a great sense of accomplishment and I use them to support my family. My father had a heart surgery and my savings enabled him to be treated.”

Kiran Zulfiqar, Dairy Project trained WLEW from Tehsil Shorkot, District Toba Tek Singh

Kiran Zulfiqar is a confident, 19-year-old girl who lives with her family of seven including four sisters and a brother. After completing her metric exams she wanted to study further but due to financial constraints could not do so. Having an old, unwell father at home, the responsibility of providing for her family members fell on her and her elder sister's shoulders.

When the USAID Dairy Project's team visited Kiran's village and informed the residents of the Women Livestock Extension Workers (WLEWs) training, her family immediately got her enrolled. “I signed up for the training as I knew it will bring benefits to my family through increased income and also help my community. I learnt about basic animal health care and developed related skills such as deworming and vaccinating dairy animals,” remarked Kiran.

After the successful completion of the training, Kiran spread awareness about her newly acquired training in her village and started door to door canvassing. She inspected the quantity and breed of the animals in her village and consulted various farmers on the health of their animals. Her average monthly profits from livestock extension work are Rs 7,000. “My earnings give me a great sense of accomplishment and I use them to support my family. My father had a heart surgery and my savings enabled him to be treated. I also pay for my younger sibling's education.”

In the future Kiran hopes to study animal health care and management in greater detail. Being dynamic and inquisitive, she is always on the lookout for new opportunities to learn. She believes that women should not be confined to their homes and said that “I continuously visit new places and meet different people to improve my understanding about dairy animals. I am extremely grateful that the Dairy Project has opened up this new avenue of interest and income for me.”



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SUCCESS STORY

Expanding Horizons

Dairy Project's training helps dairy farmer grow his business



Photo by USAID-DRDF Dairy Project

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Muhummad Naeem Akhtar
from village115/10-R, Tehsil
Jahaniya, District Khanewal

Mohammed Naeem Akhtar from village115/10-R, Tehsil Jahaniya, District Khanewal, took part in the Dairy Project's four day farmer training in December 2013. His family has always been in the dairy farming business; however, they were practicing traditional dairy farming methods, which resulted in low milk yields of their animals.

USAID-DRDF Dairy Project's social mobilization team visited village 115/10-R and informed the dairy farming community about the Dairy Project's capacity building initiatives. Naeem signed up for the four day farmer training as he was interested in modernizing his dairy shed. Through the training he learnt best practices such as deworming, vaccination, Vanda feeding, free access to water, silage making etc. "It was very beneficial to learn about the advantages of breed improvement as it is an inexpensive way to increase milk yields" he says.

Soon after Naeem received the training, he adopted the practices he had learnt. He used the services of the project's Artificial Insemination Technicians to inseminate 10 cows he owned. He also started deworming and vaccinating his animals and now gives them free access to water. By implementing these practices, the daily average milk yield per animal increased from 8 liters to 13 liters. This results in an additional profit of Rs 35,000 per month.

"I am proud of my growing dairy business. In the future I will continue to modernize my dairy farm to ensure that my animals are healthier and more productive," says Naeem.



SUCCESS STORY

Recording Accomplishments

Dairy Project trains farm manager to improve livestock productivity



Photo by USAID-DRDF Dairy Project

Ramadan maintaining record of his ear-tagged animals.

“The biggest difference that the training made to increase my profitability was to reduce the cost of labor on my farm. Secondly, the productivity of my animals increased and now each animal on average produces two liters more than it used to.”

Muhammad Ramadan

Dairy Project trained farmer from Multan

Muhammad Ramadan is an ambitious and progressive dairy farmer who hails from the village of Basti Goharwala, Multan. He is the father of four children and owns 12 acres of land. Living in a small village he heard about the Dairy Project’s Farm Manager training from his neighbor, who is also a project-trained beneficiary. Keen to learn the best practices that his neighbor had learnt, Ramadan signed up for the Farm Managers training when the Dairy Project’s Social Mobilization team visited his village.

“I wanted to get trained because although dairy farming is our age old profession, we have not seen any progression or development in this field” says Ramadan. “I wanted to learn how to adopt modern practices and improve the productivity of 35 animals that were in my shed.” While his family has always been involved in dairy farming, Ramadan did not have a clear idea of the profitability of his animals as he maintained no records. The month long farm managers’ training teaches concepts such as animal handling, feeding, nutrition, recordkeeping, shed management and breed improvement.

After completing the training, Ramadan constructed new feeding passages which were 14 feet wide and fenced his dairy shed so that animals could move around freely and consume water as they desired. He also started record keeping and learnt that these practices resulted in an increase of two liters of milk per animal per day. Confident by his progress, Ramadan bought 15 more animals of the best dairy breed. His average monthly profit is now Rs 70,000 and his average milk yield per day is 150 liters.

“The biggest difference that the training made to increase my profitability was to reduce the cost of labor on my farm. Secondly, the productivity of my animals increased and now each animal on average produces two liters more than it used to” says Ramadan. In the future he wishes to further upgrade his farm by constructing a modern dairy shed. “Thanks to the Dairy Project, I have extra income which will enable me to send my children to the best schools in Multan” remarks a happy Muhammad Ramadan.



SUCCESS STORY

Moving Up the Ladder

Dairy Project trains dairy farmer to adopt progressive dairy farming practices enabling him to double his milk yield and income



"My profits have nearly doubled since I participated in the USAID-DRDF Dairy Projects' four-day training. My improved understanding of dairy farming has made me confident that I can take my business to the next level. Thank you Dairy Project!"

Muhammad Rasheed Ahmad, Dairy Project trained farmer from Chak no. 6/MR, Multan.

"Providing for 11 dependents at a time of rising costs is a daunting task" says Muhammad Rasheed Ahmad who is a dairy farmer and resident of Chak 6/MR Makhdoom Rasheed Adda, Vehari Road Multan. "Despite all my hard work and struggle, I kept running into dead ends and could not meet increasing living expenditures. However, upon my introduction with USAID-DRDF Dairy Project, my economic situation has finally improved."

Rasheed's keen interest to know about techniques that could increase productivity and boost income from dairy farming lead him to attend a community meeting held in his village organized by USAID-DRDF-Dairy project. Here he met the Dairy Projects' social mobilization team and learnt about the training on progressive dairy farming practices. Rasheed made use of this opportunity and got selected for a four day training program at Kamalia Farm in January 2013. He was trained in the best practices like de-worming, vaccination, silage, free access of water, shed improvement, vanda feeding, artificial insemination for quality breed animals and proper record keeping of farm animals.

Prior to the training Rasheed had eight milking animals. The average milk production of his animals was 25 liters per day earning him a profit of Rs 14,400. Upon the successful completion of his training Rasheed applied the best practices that he had learnt. He replaced animals with low productivity with better breeds and now he has 10 milking animals. His average milk production increased one liter per animal per day making his average income increase to Rs. 28,500

Given the significant positive change in Muhammad Rasheed Ahmed's farm, he is now planning to invest in a modern shed to increase the scale of his business. "My profits have nearly doubled since I participated in the USAID-DRDF Dairy Projects' four-day training. My improved understanding of dairy farming has made me confident that I can take my business to the next level." Rasheed thanked the USAID-DRDF team and acknowledged their efforts by saying that the training was no less than a "golden opportunity" and he feels very lucky to have benefited from it.



SUCCESS STORY

Realizing Dreams

USAID trains dairy farmer to improve animal health and productivity



Photo by USAID-DRDF Dairy Project

“My animals are stress free and healthy. My neighbors keep asking me the secret to my animals increased milk yields.”

Muhammad Shehzad

Dairy Project trained Farmer from Multan

Muhammad Shehzad lives with his joint family of eight members in Village Gohar Wala, Multan. To make ends meet, Shehzad sold 30 liters of milk every day and earned a net profit of Rs.35, 000/month from milking animals. He used to practice traditional methods for rearing his animals, however, he had a strong desire to establish his dairy business at commercial level but did not have the confidence required to expand his business.

Determined to realize his dream, Muhammad Shehzad kept a look out for ways to grow his business. His wish was fulfilled when a social mobilizer from the USAID Dairy Project came to his village and in a community meeting provided information about the project trainings. He immediately applied for the four day farmer training and got selected by the Dairy Project’s team to participate. During the training, Shehzad learnt concepts such as vaccination, deworming, silage making and giving animals free access to water. Upon being successfully trained, the project supported him with an equipment kit to implement various best dairy farming practices.

After the training, Muhammad Shehzad started implementing the best practices that he had learnt. He constructed a modern dairy shed and proceeded to cull his old animals in exchange for younger ones. Presently, he has 10 milking animals and the total milk production of his dairy farm is 50 liters per day. He is now selling 10 more liters of milk everyday which has increased his net profit to Rs.55, 000 /month.

Muhammad Shehzad has also started planting corn to make silage for his animals. According to him, silage storing has greatly helped him cope with fodder scarcity during the summer season enabling him to give good quality fodder to his animals all year round. “My animals are stress free and healthy. Dairy farmers in my neighborhood keep asking me the secret to my animals’ increasing milk yields” remarked Shehzad mischievously.

Today he is able to increase his dairy productivity and is planning to start a commercial dairy farm in the coming year. “Thanks to the USAID-DRDF Dairy Project I am now on the road to prosperity” exclaimed a beaming Shehzad.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

PAKISTAN

SUCCESS STORY

Realizing Potentials

USAID-DRDF Dairy Project trains rural woman with new skills and techniques to provide timely basic livestock health and extension services.



Photo by USAID-DRDF Dairy Project

“I feel proud to be a breadwinner for my family and to contribute towards improved health and education of my younger siblings and myself.”

Nadia, Dairy Project trained Woman Livestock Extension Worker (WLEW) from Basti Mullah Faqeer, Tehsil, district Multan.

19 years old, Nadia is a resident of Basti Mullah Faqeer, Tehsil, district Multan. She had an opportunity to hear about the USAID-DRDF Dairy Project at a community meeting of her village. After which she appeared in an interview and got selected for Livestock Extension Service training.

USAID-DRDF Dairy Project through its Women Livestock Extension Services trainings select the unemployed, marginalized rural women and empower them through the provision of knowledge, such as animal vaccination, deworming, animal health management, importance of nutrition and vaccinations against diseases. It provides official certification from the University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences as well as skills and tools to provide much-needed timely basic animal health care and management extension services in their villages.

“I received Dairy Project's fifteen-day advanced training which helped me get advanced techniques on animal health and management and to boost my entrepreneurial skills”, says Nadia.

She was provided with a free medicine tool kit and a mobile phone so she could contact suppliers whenever needed. She jointly works with AITs of her village and surrounding villages and shares 50 percent of her profit, i.e, PKR.30, 000 per month on an average.

“I am lucky to be part of USAID-DRDF Dairy Project Women Livestock Extension Service Training Program. Sitting idly at home bothered me. I wanted to do something productive for my village and now after this training, I have become a helping hand for my family and my village”, Nadia says on a positive note.

“It is nice to have a certified lady at door step. She provides timely services in case a doctor is out of reach for us.” says a village farmer.

As of June 2015, 5,523 women have been trained in basic animal husbandry and livestock management. These WLEWs are providing extension services to dairy farmers in more than 4,000 villages with estimated earnings of PKR 1,091/- (\$11) per month.

With improves socio-economic conditions and knowledge, Nadia is now able to realize the potential in herself and wants to become a well-known practitioner in her village and provide timely basic animal health care and management extension services to the community at wide-scale.



SUCCESS STORY

Improving Livelihoods

USAID trains dairy farmer to improve animal health and productivity for increased income



Photo by USAID-DRDF Dairy Project

“The productivity of my animals has increased clearly ever since I applied the best practices I learnt through the Dairy Project’s training.”

Muhammad Shehzad , Dairy Project trained Farmer from District Multan

Naveed Iqbal lives in a remote village Chak 6/MR Makhdoom Rasheed Adda, Vehari Road Multan. Like his forefathers, he also cultivated land and kept animals as a means of earning his and his family’s livelihood. His family comprising of 15 dependents consumed 8 liters of milk and there was a small remaining amount which was sold in the market.

Given his background in dairy farming, Mr Iqbal was interested in participating in the Dairy Project’s two-day farmer training. He applied and after passing through the selection procedure, he was sent to the project’s Khanewal Training Farm in January 2013. After successfully completing the training he obtained an initial support kit for his farm animals. He learnt several important best practices such as deworming, vaccination, silage making, free access to water, shed improvement, Vanda feeding, artificial insemination for quality breed animals and proper record keeping of farm animals.

Upon returning to his farm, Iqbal began to apply what he had learnt. He made one acre silage to produce better and timely nutrient filled fodder for animals and sowed maize at 10 acres land for silage production. Silage is fermented, high moisture preserved fodder that, along with providing good nutrition to animals, also serves as an important way for farmers to feed cows and sheep during times when pasture isn't good. By feeding silage to animals and applying other practices Iqbal had learnt at the training, his average milk production increased to 4 liter per animal per day. Enthused by his success, Iqbal purchased 20 new calves of an improved breed. Now, he has a total 60 animals which produce 50 liters of milk per day. He also reported that his average income is now Rs. 57,000.

Confident by the key insights the Dairy Project’s training had given him, Iqbal decided to build a modern dairy shed for greater care of his animals and increased milk production. Appreciating the work of the Dairy Project he said “the productivity of my animals has increased clearly ever since I applied the best practices I learnt through the Dairy Project’s training.”



SUCCESS STORY

Making a Difference

Dairy Project trained Woman Livestock Extension Worker reports outstanding profits



Photo by USAID-DRDF Dairy Project

"I am really proud of my newly acquired skills and the ability to contribute to my household expenditure."

Rukhshanda Yaqoob, Dairy Project trained WLEW from Khanewal.

Rukhshanda Yaqoob belongs to the small village of 104/10-R new Tehsil Jahania, Khanewal. Being the eldest in her family of six sisters she felt an immense responsibility towards her family from an early age. While being a good student, Rukhshanda was pulled out of school after the completion of her secondary education. Her parents could not afford to send her to college and she was delegated the task of babysitting her sisters.

However, with the passage of time Rukhshanda realized that she must also extend a helping hand to assist her parents in financial matters. Unfortunately, her lack of education limited her from pursuing the careers of her choice and because of this conundrum she remained unemployed.

Opportunely, Rukhshanda and her mother met with USAID-DRDF Dairy Project's mobilization team in a community meeting in their area. Through this meeting she learnt that the Dairy Project was providing training to educated women to become Livestock Extension Workers. Realizing that this training would benefit her, Rukhshanda sent in her application.

Fortunately, she was selected for the training in the twelfth batch of Dairy Projects WLEW's. She learnt about animal disease prevention and basic livestock management. After she successfully completed the training, Rukhshanda obtained an initial support kit of medicine, Vanda and a mobile phone for easy communication with her clients and she immediately started her business.

Rukhshanda's sound communication skills and willingness to travel enabled her business to grow significantly. Since her graduation in July 2013, her average monthly profit has been around PKR 13,063. Being an enterprising individual, Rukhshanda reinvests her profits and deals in the trading of Vanda bags. "I am really proud of my newly acquired skills and the ability to contribute to my household expenditure is extremely satisfying. I am most thankful to USAID-DRDF Dairy Project as this training has given me a source of income and raised my standard of living" remarked a beaming Rukhshanda Yaqoob.



SUCCESS STORY

A Hero's Victory

Dairy Project trained WLEW earns a profit of Rs 57,863 in one month



Photo by USAID-DRDF Dairy Project

Rukshanda preparing to vaccinate an animal as preventative medicine

“When I started the training, I had no assets, job or family support; however, in a matter of two years, I have proudly married two daughters, bought four cows as well as a motorbike to make work-related travel easy.”

Rukshanda Naz, Dairy Project trained WLEW from 35WB, Vehari.

Rukshanda Naz, a single mother of four daughters is a project trained Woman Livestock Extension Worker (WLEW) who defines the attributes of prudence, persistence and practicality. Having lived in a small village of 35WB in Vehari, 34 year-old Rukshanda has single handedly brought up her family and battled financial difficulties that came her way in the absence of a male supporter. She heard about the Dairy Project's training through the project's social mobilization team that visited her village and sought an introduction of educated females in the area to enroll them in the training. The *Numberdar* (community leader) of the village connected the team to Rukshanda and she immediately signed up for the WLEW training.

“Throughout the training my trainers and the field team guided and counselled me. Often my family had no food to eat while I was taking the month long training, however, I chose to make short-term sacrifices for long term gain,” says Rukshanda. After receiving the training and graduating at the top of her class, she was excited to start her own business and began informing villagers of her newly acquired skill. After receiving the free medicine kit given by the Dairy Project to its beneficiaries, she rented a small shop in her neighborhood and started selling medicines to the dairy farmers in her area.

Soon after, she started visiting dairy sheds and vaccinating, treating and deworming animals not only in her own village, but also in neighboring villages. Her profit in December 2013 was Rs 57,863 and her average quarterly profit is Rs 30,755 per month. “When I started the training, I had no assets, no job or family support, however, in a matter of two years, I have proudly married two daughters, bought four cows as well as a motorbike to make work-related travel easy,” says a beaming Rukshanda.

These goals have not been easy for her to achieve. Often farmers she worked with would tell her that she wouldn't be able to control and restrain an animal. “Sometimes it seemed like farmers would wait for me to fall or get hurt while I was treating their animal. However, I believed in myself and did not stop working which is why I am successful.”

Rukshanda is a firm believer of gender equality and is very grateful to the USAID Dairy Project for empowering her and giving her a steady source of income. “When there was nothing and no one whose support I could count on, the Dairy Project's training gave me a beacon of hope for my family's future. Today I own assets, can talk confidently to anyone and make all my decisions myself.”



SUCCESS STORY

Changing trends

USAID trains artificial insemination technicians in breed improvement



"I feel satisfied with my work as it generates my income and benefits my community. Dairy farmers demand my services so that they can have improved breed animals with high milk yields and greater market value."

Sarfaraz Ahmed Dairy Project trained AIT from Chak no. 752, Kamalia.

While working in a low paying temporary job, Sarfaraz Ahmed residing at Chak No. 752 GB Tehsil Kamalia, District Toba Tek Singh with his wife and four children was always looking for better job opportunities. Although Sarfaraz and his wife are both educated and have passed their matriculate examination, work wasn't easy to find.

Sarfaraz's keenness to improve his circumstances connected him to USAID Dairy Project team where he found out about Artificial Insemination Technician (AIT) and Women Livestock Extension Worker (WLEW) training. Excited at the prospect of improving livestock health and breed as well as personal income, he applied for training as AIT and his wife applied for training as WLEW. Both of them got selected by the Dairy Project's team and started their respective trainings.

The AIT training includes a mix of theory, demonstrations and practical exercises which acquainted Sarfaraz with the safe handling of an insemination gun, liquid nitrogen cylinders for transporting semen and other AI equipment.

According to Sarfaraz, "After training my wife and I opened a shop where our clients could easily approach us both. On average, I undertake 50 pregnancy diagnosis cases in a month and earn an average profit from AIT services of PKR10,000. My wife works alongside and is also contributing to the household expenditures. I am supportive of her work and want her to expand her business."

Recently, Sarfaraz and his wife purchased a cow and two goats from their additional income and have also renovated their house. Expressing his gratitude for USAID's training he said "I feel satisfied with my work as it generates my income and benefits my community. Dairy farmers demand my services so that they can have improved breed animals with high milk yields and greater market value."



SUCCESS STORY

A Hero's Victory

Dairy Project trained WLEW earns a profit of Rs 57,863 in one month



Rukshanda vaccinating a cow against foot and mouth disease.

“When I started the training, I had no assets, job or family support; however, in a matter of two years, I have proudly married two daughters, bought four cows as well as a motorbike to make work-related travel easy.”

Rukshanda Naz, Dairy Project trained WLEW from 35WB, Vehari.

Photo by USAID-DRDF Dairy Project

Rukshanada Naz, a single mother of four daughters is a project trained Woman Livestock Extension Worker (WLEW) who defines the attributes of prudence, persistence and practicality. Having lived in a small village of 35WB in Vehari, 34 year-old Rukshanda has single handedly brought up her family and battled financial difficulties that came her way in the absence of a male supporter. She heard about the Dairy Project's training through the Project's social mobilization team that visited her village and sought an introduction of educated females in the area to enroll them in the training. The numberdar of the village connected the team to Rukshanada and she immediately signed up for the WLEW training.

“Throughout the training my teachers and the field team guided and counselled me. Often my family had no food to eat while I was taking the month long training, however, I chose to make short-term sacrifices for long term gain” says Rukshanda. After receiving the training and graduating at the top of her class, she was excited to start her own business and began informing villagers of her newly acquired skill. Much to her dismay, the project was unable to provide her the free medicine kit that it gives its beneficiaries and she had to wait for a month before she could kick start her business. However, upon receiving the medicine kit, she rented a small shop in her neighborhood and started selling medicines to the dairy farmers in her area.

Soon after, she started visiting dairy sheds and vaccinating, treating and deworming animals not only in her own village, but also in neighboring villages. Her profit in December 2013 was Rs 57,863 and her average quarterly profit is Rs XXXX per month. “When I started the training, I had no assets, job or family support, however, in a matter of two years, I have proudly married two daughters, bought four cows as well as a motorbike to make work-related travel easy” says a beaming Rukshanda.

These goals have not been easy for her to achieve. “Sometimes it seemed like farmers would wait for me to fall or make a fool of myself while I was treating their animal. However, I believed in myself and dint stop working which is why I'm so successful.” Rukshanada is a firm believer of gender equality and is very grateful to the USAID Dairy Project for empowering her and giving her a steady source of income. “When there was nothing and no one whose support I could count on, the DRDF-USAID Dairy Project's training gave me a beacon of hope for my family's future. Today I own assets, can talk confidently to anyone and make all my decisions myself.”



SUCCESS STORY

Making Education a Priority

Dairy Projects training ensures a stable source of income for rural woman



Photo by USAID-DRDF Dairy Project

Shehnaz Bibi sending her children to school

“By taking USAID-DRDF’s Women Livestock Extension Workers training I am now regularly contributing to my household expenditure.”

Shehnaz Bibi from Chak No. 36 WB Tehsil and District Vehari.

Shehnaz Bibi is a Dairy project-trained Woman Livestock Extension Worker from Village 94/15L, Tehsil Mian Channu, and District Khanewal. As a contractual farmer, her husband could not provide the family a steady source of income and therefore, Shehnaz Bibi’s children were not regularly attending school. As an educated woman she wanted her children to study in an English medium school, however, private educational institutions were unaffordable for the family.

The Dairy Project’s Social Mobilizations team visited her village to look for candidates interested in their trainings. The team briefed Shehnaz Bibi on the Women Livestock Extension Workers training component and she registered herself to participate in the training.

The month long WLEW training focuses on animal health management and basic disease prevention care along with hands on skills such as deworming and vaccination. After receiving the training, Shehnaz sat for exams conducted by the University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, and upon clearing the exam, she received a medicine kit from the Dairy Project to kick-start her business.

Shehnaz Bibi has been working as a livestock extension worker since March 2013 and earns average monthly income of Rs 3,500. She is now proudly sending all her children to the best private school in her area. “Thanks to my income as a livestock extension worker, I can afford the tuition, stationary and books that my children need. I am indebted to the project’s master trainers and follow up teams, who have regularly provided me technical assistance to create and strengthen market linkages which make my business sustainable.”



USAID | PAKISTAN

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

SUCCESS STORY

questionnaires
Monitoring and
Evaluation Officer and Assistant Zonal Manager at two
different stages to ensure the quality of data. Even
though the data is received after rigorous
scrutinization, the analyst further cleans it and checks for errors and outliers to have a refined data set for
analysis.

A Hero's Victory

Dairy Project trained WLEW earns a profit of Rs 57,863 in one month



Rukshanda preparing to vaccinate an animal as preventative medicine

“When I started the training, I had no assets, job or family support; however, in a matter of two years, I have proudly married two daughters, bought four cows as well as a motorbike to make work-related travel easy.”

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“Throughout the training my trainers and the field team guided and counselled me. Often my family had no food to eat while I was taking the month long training, however, I chose to make short-term sacrifices for long term gain,” says Rukshanda. After receiving the training and graduating at the top of her class, she was excited to start her own business and began informing villagers of her newly acquired skill. After receiving the free medicine kit given by the Dairy Project to its beneficiaries, she rented a small shop in her neighborhood and started selling medicines to the dairy farmers in her area.

Soon after, she started visiting dairy sheds and vaccinating, treating and deworming animals not only in her own village, but also in neighboring villages. Her profit in December 2013 was Rs 57,863 and her average quarterly profit is Rs 30,755 per month. “When I started the training, I had no assets, no job or family support, however, in a matter of two years, I have proudly married two daughters, bought four cows as well as a motorbike to make work-related travel easy,” says a beaming Rukshanda.

These goals have not been easy for her to achieve. Often farmers she worked with would tell her that she wouldn't be able to control and restrain an animal. “Sometimes it seemed like farmers would wait for me to fall or get hurt while I was treating their animal. However, I believed in myself and did not stop working which is why I am successful.”

Rukshanda is a firm believer of gender equality and is very grateful to the USAID Dairy Project for empowering her and giving her a steady source of income. “When there was nothing and no one whose support I could count



USAID | **PAKISTAN**
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

SUCCESS STORY

Increasing Household Incomes

Dairy Project trains artificial insemination technician to improve livestock productivity



Zahid Iqbal with his family

“By becoming an Artificial Insemination Technician I feel confident of my family’s future.”

Zahid Iqbal from Chak No. 36 WB Tehsil and District Vehari.

Photo by USAID-DRDF Dairy Project

Zahid Iqbal is a project trained Artificial Insemination Technician (AIT) from Chak 36WB, District Vehari. He is 27 years old and supports a family of four dependents. The Dairy Project’s social mobilization team conducted a survey in his village to find interested candidates to participate in the Dairy Project’s training. When Zahid interacted with them, he immediately decided to get enrolled in the training and after taking a proficiency test and an interview, he was finally selected as a trainee.

Through the AI training, Zahid learnt about heat detection, semen handling and the process of artificial insemination. He graduated from the training in February 2013 in Batch 14. The Dairy Project provided him with a kit to kick start his business and after reviewing his work, he was also awarded a motorbike so that he could provide breed improvement services to other remote villages.

Zahid’s average monthly profit is Rs. 10,000. Through this income he sustains his family and has also bought a buffalo, one sheep and a goat. “By becoming an Artificial Insemination Technician I have not only increased the capital reserve of dairy farmers by improving their animal breeds, but also created a reliable source of income for myself and my family,” he says.

Zahid has inseminated over 400 animals and his animal conception rate is nearly 65 percent. In the future, he wishes to grow his business and provide his services to a greater number of dairy farming villages.



SUCCESS STORY

Expanding Horizons

Dairy Project's training helps dairy farmer grow his business



Photo by USAID-DRDF Dairy Project

"I am grateful for the USAID-DRDF Dairy Project's farmer training. In the future I will continue to invest in my dairy business and keep modernizing my farm for improved milk yields."

Muhummad Naeem Akhtar
from village115/10-R, Tehsil
Jahaniya, District Khanewal

Mohammed Naeem Akhtar from village115/10-R, Tehsil Jahaniya, District Khanewal, took part in the Dairy Project's four day farmer training in December 2013. His family has always been in the dairy farming business; however, they were practicing traditional dairy farming methods, which resulted in low milk yields of their animals.

USAID-DRDF Dairy Project's social mobilization team visited village 115/10-R and informed the dairy farming community about the Dairy Project's capacity building initiatives. Naeem signed up for the four day farmer training as he was interested in modernizing his dairy shed. Through the training he learnt best practices such as deworming, vaccination, Vanda feeding, free access to water, silage making etc. "It was very beneficial to learn about the advantages of breed improvement as it is an inexpensive way to increase milk yields" he says.

Soon after Naeem received the training, he adopted the practices he had learnt. He used the services of the project's Artificial Insemination Technicians to inseminate 10 cows he owned. He also started deworming and vaccinating his animals and now gives them free access to water. By implementing these practices, the daily average milk yield per animal increased from 8 liters to 13 liters. This results in an additional profit of Rs 35,000 per month.

"I am proud of my growing dairy business. In the future I will continue to modernize my dairy farm to ensure that my animals are healthier and more productive," says Naeem.



SUCCESS STORY

A Hero's Victory

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Rukshanda preparing to vaccinate an animal as preventative medicine

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SUCCESS STORY

Increasing Household Incomes

Dairy Project trains artificial insemination technician to improve livestock productivity



Zahid Iqbal with his family

“By becoming an Artificial Insemination Technician I feel confident of my family’s future.”

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