

“Goat Rearing with Improved Management is better than job abroad for my family”

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Some women in Hansapur voluntarily formed a group in 2002 with 26 members including 5 Dalit (so called untouched caste) and 6 from ethnic group. In order to run their group smoothly, they started collecting 5 Rupees levy every month from each member with the inherent desire to improve livelihood through goat rearing. They were not able to start on their own because of lack of technical knowledge, investment fund and skills. A sheer coincidence of meeting with DLSO staff led them to discover opportunity from KUBK in supporting farmers in goat rearing. With the support from project staff, this group developed proposal on **‘Improving livelihoods of poor through goat rearing’**.

Manisha Nepali, as a member of the group, acquired 1 Boer-cross buck (50%) along with other support. She had bought 6 doe of local breed on her own. From this initial herd, she has managed to sell 14 goats. Being a woman from Dalit community, Manisha faced multiple discrimination and it was not easy for her to remain resilient to sarcasm and satirical words about her intention to increase livelihood opportunity. But now, the scenario has been changed. She says “there are still such sarcasm and satirical words from so called elites, however I don’t bother and react them, and rather I feel myself stronger”. Behavior of those, who used to ridicule on her endeavor has changed. They have started to come to her to ask about management of improved goat rearing. She also feels it is her obligation to help others and so she shares her experiences and learning of goat rearing in the group. People consider her as a leader.



Ms Manisha with 50% Boer cross kid

Although, ISFP has organized several events of training, excursion tour, and workshop etc. in the district, she has participated only two events so far, i.e. ***‘One day training on Gender and Social Inclusion’*** and ***‘Training on Improved Goat Rearing and Management’***. She says “I actually do not get leisure time to participate in such events due to daily house hold chores and other social activities. But I perform my project successfully”. She learns about improved technologies of goat rearing from other members of her group, in case she needs more idea.

Her association with Phirphire Bakhara Palan Samuha (Goat Rearing Group) has enabled her getting involved in other social organizations like; Mother Group, Micro Finance Bank etc. Not enough, she remains proactive in other social affairs also. Manisha has turned herself from a shy and hesitant woman into a self confident entrepreneur woman out of her motivation and commitment. She is leading the group in the case of ***‘Improved Goat Farming’***. There is always someone from the group and community visiting her to ask about the technologies of ***‘Improved Goat Farming’***. She says, “I have earned more than 2.5 lakhs rupees by selling goats since I received support from ISFP. This income was almost impossible from other enterprise at my level. I have become able to satisfy the demands of my children only due to the money that I get from goat selling”. She further adds, “due to the increased

income, I feel my livelihood is more secure than earlier and society also has begun to respect my family". She seems enthusiastic to increase the size of herd. She is also optimistic that her income from this enterprise will increase in the future as the size of herd grows. She further adds "I have already scaled up the size of shed, number of goats and area of forage cultivation. In addition, my management skill has enhanced". She says, "I believe, the smallholders like me, can improve their quality of life through improved goat rearing. Because, as far I know, the market and price of goat will never decline, rather it will increase over the time". Finally she says **"Goat Rearing with Improved Management is better than a job aboard for my family"**.