

Healthy Animals, Happy People



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Anu heard her two neighbors speaking worriedly as she fetched water at the well.

“Some of my goats are having discharges from their noses and eyes,” Neena said.

“Mine too. Do they have diarrhea as well?” Rana, Anu’s neighbor, asked. Neena nodded.

“I have tried different herbs but there has been no change,” she sighed.

“I lost a goat yesterday,” another woman cried.

Anu got worried for her three goats that she had bought recently with the money Raju, her husband, sent from Kathmandu.



After two days, Anu met her friend, Aadya, in the temple. Aadya owned a lot of goats in the village and lived close to the community center. Anu told Aadya about her worry for her goats.



“My neighbors’ goats are facing the same challenge. I heard that it is the peste des petits ruminants (PPR) disease,” Aadya replied.

“What is the PPR disease?” Anu asked.

“It is a disease that causes goats to cough, sneeze, and suffer from bad diarrhea. It can kill the goats,” Aadya answered.

“However, the spread of the PPR disease can be stopped if the healthy goats get vaccinated. The village animal health worker is coming to our village tomorrow to vaccinate the goats that are not yet sick and treat those that are sick,” Aadya added.



Anu knew that the village animal health worker would not reach her home because she did not have many goats. Besides, she did not have any money to cater for his fees. But she wanted to get her goats vaccinated.

Later that day, Anu went to Aadya's place.

"Can I bring my goats here to be vaccinated with yours?" Anu asked.

"No problem, my friend. You can bring your goats for vaccination," Aadya smiled.



The next day, Anu woke up very early and took her goats to Aadya's place. As the village animal health worker vaccinated her goats, Anu asked him if the PPR disease would come back.

"The PPR disease will go away if all animals in the village get vaccinated," Keshav, the village animal health worker, responded. Anu got worried. Many of her neighbors had not got their goats vaccinated. They lived far from the village center and belonged to Dalit caste.



After a month, Anu's husband did not have any money to send Anu to cater for the household. Anu sold one of her goats in the market at a good price. With that money, she took care of her children and the household.



Days later, Rana visited Anu.

“Your goats look very healthy. How is it possible when ours are sick and dying?” She asked. Anu smiled.

“A month ago Aadya told me about goat vaccination that prevents goats from getting a disease. I got my goats vaccinated,” she responded.

“I have lost many goats in the past month. What should I do?” Rana cried.



Many other women had asked Anu for help too. Anu got an idea.

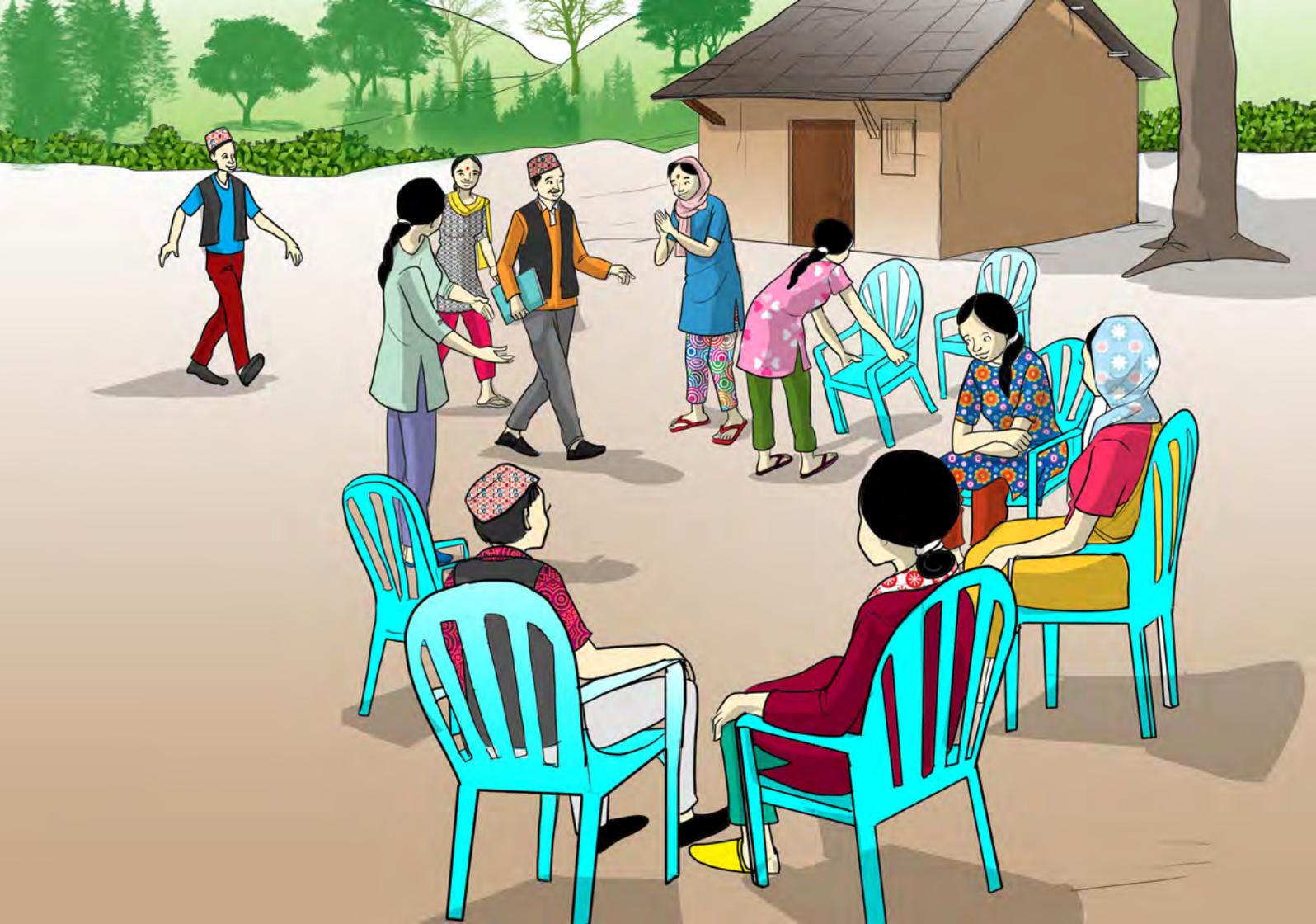
“You know that the village animal health worker usually goes to homes that have many goats. Let’s have all the women with fewer goats come together and invite Keshav to vaccinate and treat our goats,” Anu suggested.

Rana thought that it was a good idea. If the women came together, they would be able to pay for the village animal health worker’s fees.



Anu and Rana mobilized a lot of women to attend a health campaign with the village animal health worker. They talked to those that had many goats and those that had few goats.

All the women felt that there was a need for them to come together and manage the health challenges of their goats in their neighborhood. After a few days, Keshav came to the village.



Keshav talked to the women and men about the benefits of vaccination. "Vaccination is one of the measures to control the disease outbreak among livestock," he said.

"The other day, I took my sick goat for vaccination, but it later died. Won't all my goats die when I vaccinate them?" Neena asked.

"Vaccination does not treat sick animals. It helps to prevent the disease from spreading to healthy animals. You must treat all the sick animals first before vaccinating them," Keshav said.



After the session, the women asked Anu how she managed to get her goats vaccinated.

“I took them to my friend, Aadya’s home. It is important for us to create and maintain friendships with everyone in this village. When we work together, we are able to build a strong bond that can help us overcome our daily challenges,” Anu told the women. Aadya smiled and nodded in agreement.



Days later, many women formed small groups that would lead to the creation of a goat cooperative to serve the community. They invited Keshav to come and have their healthy animals vaccinated and the sick ones treated.

Some husbands helped their wives contribute some money to the cooperative. Most of the animals became healthier and the PPR outbreak subdued in the village.



COOPERATIVE

VAHW

Anu saw the need to become more useful to the cooperative. She trained as a village animal health worker to serve her neighborhood. She supported all women and men, the young and the old, the Dalits and others to take part in the animal health campaigns and trainings that happened in her community.

Anu went door-to-door to share information about benefits of livestock vaccination and explained to the villagers the difference between vaccination and treatment. She also shared tips on good goat husbandry practices. She made sure that everyone was engaged in animal health activities.



BENEFITS OF
GOAT
VACCINATION

VAHW

