

EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH NEW SOLIDARITY SPACES

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IDRC GRANT / SUBVENTION DU CRDI : - GENDER INCLUSIVE VACCINE DISTRIBUTION AND DELIVERY SYSTEMS FOR NEWCASTLE DISEASE AND PESTE DES PETITS RUMINANTS AMONG SMALLHOLDER FARMERS IN KENYA



COOPERATIVE COMPONENT

Empowering women through new solidarity spaces

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Presented at the Close-out Meeting held at the Fort Hotel, Makueni County on the 26th Jul 2023

GIVE project Overall Aim of Cooperative Component

- To form or strengthen Cooperatives/groups within the 6 project sites, with the aim of:
 - ✓ Providing a social support system and forming the basis of support networks
 - ✓ Building up numbers to facilitate distribution of ND vaccines
 - ✓ Facilitate aggregation of produce to facilitate better prices

Baseline survey

Objective: To establish the baseline status of groups and cooperatives

Baseline situation:

- Few active Cooperatives/women groups on chicken farming
- Cooperatives/women groups were short lived (not sustainable)
- Most were not working effectively

Recommendations:

Encourage cooperatives and women groups to work effectively, collaborate and share information on poultry farming and collectively access inputs and markets for their poultry and poultry products;

Action Points

- ✓ GIVE follow up,
- ✓ Group leaders,
- ✓ Cooperative leaders
- ✓ Cooperative officers

GIVE Project Cooperative Activities

1. Consultative Meetings on Coop Formation/Group Strengthening

- **Objective:** Buy in engagements with key stakeholders before commencing cooperative formation/group strengthening.
- **Outcome:** Received great support and guidance by the Director, Cooperative officers and sub-county administration officers

Challenges encountered

- Resistance by some farmers to join cooperatives due to past experiences (lost money before-problem of trust),
- Non-transparency among some group leaders making farmers very skeptical about accountability
- Inability to raise 200 shillings (Ksh. 100 for registration & 100 share capital for membership). *The economic effect of COVID 19 pandemic made it more difficult for some farmers to raise the sum.*



Women were however more willing to join and take the lead compared to men

2. Pre-cooperative training

Objective: To train community members/Farmers on cooperative values, principles, members roles; entrepreneurship; procurement, financial management and marketing

Baseline Situation:

- Most farmers had little or no knowledge on cooperatives, their structure & management
- This influenced the decision of some of them not to join the cooperative
- Farmers were very receptive to the training (knowledge and skills) offered.

Recommendations: Continued training on cooperative principles, values, roles & benefits.



Action Point:-

- Give team
- Cooperative officers

3. Formation of Cooperatives

- **Objective:** To form cooperatives & enable them contribute to the improvement of their chicken farming productivity and ultimate member's livelihoods by:



- Sharing information
- Social Capital - collaboration and networking,
- Collective access and procurement of agricultural inputs (including New Castle Disease Vaccine),
- Aggregation of produce & collective access to markets and Marketing
- Accessing training opportunities

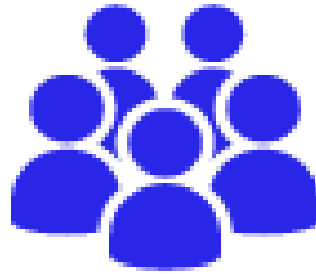
Outcome of Cooperatives/SACCO formation exercise

Kikwambuka Farmers' Co-operative



- **Membership:** about **350** members
- **Location:** Makueni Sub-county (Kathonzweni zone)

Makindu Farmers' Co-operative



- **Membership:** About **200** members
- **Location:** Kibwezi West Sub-county (Makindu)

KINOSO Farmer's Cooperative

Initially constituted as a cooperative but transformed to Savings and Credit Co-operative Society (SACCO)



- **Membership:** About **200** Members
- **Location:** Kibwezi West Sub-county (Kikumbulyu)

4. Strengthening Existing Groups & Coops

Objective:

To strengthen cooperatives / groups & enable them contribute to the improvement of their member's livelihoods



Outcomes:

- Kitise Rural Farmers' Cooperative
 - ✓ Introduced women chicken farmers groups to the cooperative
- Strengthening groups (most were chicken keeping groups) in Masongaleni and Mtito Andei

Recommendations on Formation of Cooperatives

- ✓ Continued Capacity building and close monitoring of operations of the cooperatives / Saccos;
- ✓ Implement strategies to increase membership and improved member benefits
- ✓ Address socio-economic and cultural barriers to women's leadership & participation in cooperatives
- ✓ Create an enabling environment for the effective functioning of the cooperatives (eg facilitate annual AGMs)

Action Point

- ✓ County director of cooperatives
- ✓ Sub- county Cooperative officers

Recommendations for strengthening of existing groups & Coops



- ✓ Encourage existing groups to be registered and if possible join cooperatives
- ✓ Continued support and training for group leaders and members
- ✓ Implement strategies to encourage collective input procurement and collective marketing.
- ✓ Address socio-economic and cultural barriers to women's participation & leadership in groups

Action Point

- Cooperative Development Officers-
director of cooperatives and Sub-

5. Training of group and Cooperative leaders

Objectives:

- Poultry cooperatives and women groups leaders are more involved in vaccine distribution and delivery
- To ensure sustainability of the co-operatives/Groups which is one of the core outcomes of the GIVE project



Output

221 Leaders trained on:

- ✓ Entrepreneurship and Marketing in Chicken and Shoats farming
- ✓ Costing, Pricing and Record Keeping
- ✓ Co-operative and Leadership

Baseline findings

- Most farmers had little or no knowledge on cooperative structure and management
- The lack of knowledge influenced the decision of some not to join the cooperative
- They had already articulated their main group activity to poultry keeping

Outcome of Training of Group and Cooperative leaders



Some groups /coops are now scheduling weekly, twice a month, or monthly meetings



Some groups already formulated their vision, Mission, objectives, core values, annual work plan & bylaws/constitution



Most groups are keeping a record of the minutes of the meetings



Change of attitude from the men in that they allowed the women to take the lead on matters chicken and participation in vaccination exercise



Some groups were engaging in collective input procurement and collective marketing

Action Point:

Cooperative leaders

- ✓ Director Coop,
- ✓ Cooperative Officers
- ✓ Other Coop leaders)

Recommendation:

We encourage follow-up/ monitoring mechanisms be put in place to enhance best and ethical poultry farming practices that will promote chicken productivity , collective input procurement and collective marketing necessary for sustainability

6. Market Linkages

Objective:

- Actors identification and linkages that will benefit the farmers

Outcomes:



- ✓ Farmers were linked to a market through their groups / cooperatives;
- ✓ Farmers collectively sold chicken in bulk at relatively better prices

7. Follow-up

Objective: To ensure sustainability

Outcome:

- ✓ We have seen the impact and indeed change of behaviour in some wards where we did the follow-up
- ✓ Some groups that had been a bit dormant earlier started being active in poultry keeping because of the available market
- ✓ Some submitted that they had increased their flock size and made chicken structures after our sensitization/ linkage.
- ✓ Farmers had started keeping chicken and selling in groups and the greater beneficiaries are the women.

Recommendation

- Follow-up on performance in all the wards to not only ensure best ethical practices, assess the impact but also sensitize the groups on collective chicken input procurement, group chicken vaccination and collective marketing

Action Point:

- Director of Cooperatives
- Sub- County- Cooperative officers