



Success Story CLAP Kuchi, Producing More Milk

The CLAP-Kuchi project, contracted by MAIL (Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock) and funded by IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development), was awarded to DCA in 2014. The aim of this DCA project is to provide animal health related services and home-based business opportunities to the pastoralist and agro-pastoralist Kuchi in the three central provinces of Kabul, Logar and Parwan. This aim contributes to the overall goal of the Community Livestock and Agriculture Project (CLAP) to reduce poverty in rural Afghanistan. More specifically, the project objective is to improve food security of 50,000 rural households in selected districts in the provinces of Kabul, Parwan, Logar as an existing and Baghlan, Balkh, Herat, Nangarhar, Khost, Pakteya and Laghman as additional provinces by increasing agriculture and livestock productivity.

Miakhela, a 35 years old woman, lives with her 4 children. She is a DCA/CLAP Extension Group member in Chaman village, Bagrami district of Kabul province. She was discontent of the way she was milking her animals because she was trained to traditional methods of milking by her mother, which remained wastes at the end. She tells her story as following:

"I remember the days when my husband blamed me why I could not manage to produce more milk and there remained wastes of milk. Those days were bitter. The only method I learned was the way my mother taught me, and she learned from her mother and so forth. Neither my husband nor I had any idea of new methods with more productivity until I met a woman of neighborhood who talked about DCA/CLAP project and the Extension Group she was a member of. She said that she had learned about keeping the stables clean,



learning new methods how to milk the animals and how to have a healthier family by applying simple techniques every day while visiting stables. I became keen and curious how to get membership of the group. She took me to DCA/CLAP staff and after a while, by the mediation of head of village, I participated in the first session of Extension Group sessions."

She adds "I found the extension sessions and messages very useful, since I was new. Day after day, I was learning where my faults were hidden, while the faults could be

resolved by really simple techniques. One day, a special kit was distributed to the members of our extension group in which I received a 13-item package including pot, facemask, gloves, churning machine and other items. In the same time, extension workers came visiting us twice a month, teaching us methods how to use these tools. I was very keen, and I could not wait for 2 weeks until they came, and I could learn something new. I saw changes in my life – especially in my milking methods – and I witnessed my husband becoming happier as result of the sessions. Now I produce around 4 kilos milk per day, while it used to be 1.5 to 2 kilos per day.”



Miakhela thanks DCA/CLAP for teaching her new skills, which has enormously transformed her life. She now intends to deliver her new skills to her sister and sister-in-law so that they can produce more milk too.