

our farm in malawi



PROJECT 2013

New project in 2013 in cooperation with DanChurchAid and the local Christian Service Committee (CSC) of the churches in Malawi.

Read about the project background on page 5

BUILDING ASSET BASE FOR POOR COMMUNITIES WITH CHICKENS

This edition of “Our farm in Malawi” will tell you the story of 3 families in Malawi who have received help from SANOV TECHNOLOGY GROUP:

Case 1: Stroke patient find hope in chickens

Case 2: ‘Early Christmas Gift for Hanock Shirita’ another chicken beneficiary

Case 3: SANOV TECHNOLOGY GROUP brings joy to disabled farmer

STROKE PATIENT FIND HOPE IN CHICKENS

By Joseph Scott, Communications Officer- DCA Malawi

Rose Chaula, 52, from Mzimba district in Malawi, suffered a stroke that left her right hand and leg disabled. Despite all the signs that she would not be able to use her arm and leg again, her husband felt there was still a chance for recovery and sold all their goats and chickens to pay for her medical bills.

“The animals were all we had,” says Rose from Chang’ombe village. “When we had no food, we could sell a goat or a chicken to buy maize but my illness forced us to sell the animals leaving us exposed to hunger,” she says.

SANOVO SHINES LIGHT IN ROSE LIFE

Early in June, Rose got news from her village development committee that almost made her cry with joy. Dan Church Aid (DCA), with funding from SANOVO TECHNOLOGY GROUP, recently launched a chicken project for the poorest families in the area so that they can have somewhere to fall on during hard times.

The project, which is being implemented by DCA local partner, Christian Services Committee (CSC), identified Rose as one of its beneficiaries and she received 10 disease resistant chickens commonly known as Black Australorps, which are good egg-layers as well as a meat birds.

TRAINING FOR THE BENEFICIARIES

Before the distribution of the Black Australorps chickens, CSC trained the beneficiaries in construction of modern chicken enclosures,

identification of diseases and treatment and general hygiene in livestock farming.

“I was so happy when I finally received the chickens,” says

Rose. “However, because of my disability, I was not able to help in construction of the enclosure but my husband got support from the community to have it ready by the time the chickens came,” she adds.

HOPE FOR A BETTER LIFE

Rose now looks to the future with confidence as the chickens will start laying eggs in a few weeks. In her plans, she hope to sell some and the rest will be re-invested for nesting to grow her flock. “I will sell some of the eggs to help my family and will also eat some of the chickens when they multiply because my body is now frail and need nutritious food,” she says adding, “I will also use some of the money from the egg sales to buy fertilizer for my field.”

When the chickens start laying eggs, Rose will, as part of spreading the project’s reach to the poor, give back 10 eggs which will be passed on to another vulnerable family in the area. The beneficiaries’ also contribute a minimal fee of MK50 for the drug revolving fund.



FACTS

- ▶ Price of 1 egg- MK70
- ▶ Price of 1 chicken- MK3,000
- ▶ Drug revolving fund monthly contribution by each farmer-MK50
- ▶ Well looked after Australorps lay approximately 250 light-brown eggs per year
- ▶ 100 farmers have benefitted from the SANOVO TECHNOLOGY GROUP funded Chicken project

EARLY CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR HANOCK SHIRITA ANOTHER CHICKEN

After being bedridden for close to two months due to tuberculosis, Hanock Shirita, 60, says nothing could have been sweeter than the news that he was going to be a beneficiary of the Sanovo funded chicken project in his area.

A WORTHY GIFT IN TIMES OF NEED

"I had just recovered from my illness when I was told that I should attend a training in livestock farming as I was chosen to benefit from the chicken project," says a visibly delighted Hanock, who is also the village chief.

After the training, Hanock was given 10 Black Australorp chickens for egg and meat production and 5 local chickens that would be used for nesting the eggs.

"Since it's a pass on project, we need to grow the flock so that others can also benefit from the initiative hence the reason why we are also going to produce chicks," says Hanock.

MEAT AND EGGS TO FIGHT MALNUTRITION

With decreased food output due to poor rains, many children in the village have been suffering from diseases linked to malnutrition.

And Hanock's family also was affected, "My grandchild was recently ill from malnutrition but with

the chickens, he will now have a better source of nutrition in the eggs and the meat," he says.

A CHANCE TO EARN EXTRA INCOME

Hanock also says the chicken venture will help him have some extra money to buy basics such as soap and to pay school fees after he sells eggs from his flock, "I have two children in secondary school who had dropped because in my illness I couldn't manage to pay their fees. These chickens are my god sent gift to see them through with their education."

He concludes, "This is a very good project. I see this village transforming in two to three years' time as almost every household will have chickens. It's now up to us to make sure that we make a contribution to keep our drug box full to protect our chickens from diseases."



SANOVO BRINGS JOY TO DISABLED FARMER



Its nearly noon and the sun is at its fiery best in Pakhati village. On the verandah of a small repair shop, that also is a house to Henry Shawa, 26, is a flock of healthy chickens picking on the left overs of the day's lunch.

And watching closely is Henry, a beneficiary of the chicken project Dan Church Aid is implementing in the village with funding from SANOVO TECHNOLOGY GROUP. Henry, who was attacked by polio when he was a child, cannot walk but use his limbs for mobility. However, his disability has not affected his life, "I was selected by the community to be part of the chicken project because they saw that I am a hard worker," says Henry, who also earns his living by repairing radios and as a tinsmith.

Henry received 10 chickens and ever since the bond with his birds has grown making him to always keep

an eye on them as he fears they will be killed by predators, "Every day I wake up in the morning to feed them," he says.

"I have never owned so many chickens and I don't want to lose any of them from sickness or predators, that's why I always make sure that someone is watching over them when I am away."

"For now, I just look to the future because I know if the chickens start laying, I will have some income through selling the eggs. I will also use some to feed my child so that she doesn't become malnourished," says Henry whose wife has just delivered a bouncing baby boy.





PROMOTING CHICKEN FARMING IN CHAMPHIRA, MALAWI

New project in 2013 in cooperation with DanChurchAid and the local Christian Service Committee (CSC) of the churches in Malawi.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Small-scale poultry rearing in Malawi are reared in two management systems:

- a) Free range system, in which chickens are left to scavenge for food during the day, and are housed overnight, or
- b) intensive system in which broilers or layers are kept in specially built chicken houses or cages, and provided with feed and water in a controlled way.

This management system is practiced by some in Champhira. Most farming families keep an average of four chickens per household which serve as a source of protein (in the form of meat and eggs), used for ritual rites, paying fines and as gifts to friends. Chicken are kept to provide meet and eggs

but also to provide as insurance for money or food in hard times. Poultry also provide manure to improve soil fertility. However, farmers are denied maximum benefits from this farming practice due to lack of knowledge and skills as most of their game is lost to diseases, predators, and bad weather.

Christian Service Committee with support from SANOVO TECHNOLOGY GROUP and Lactosan-SANOVO Ingredients Group would like to implement a project to improve farmers' skills in poultry farming practices with the aim of not only to compliment household dietary needs, but also to ensure poor small holder farmers are economically empowered to successfully manage small poultry farming enterprise to uplift their livelihood.

OBJECTIVES

- ▶ To increase intake of protein among resource poor farmers
- ▶ To increase source of organic manure, which in the long run could totally substitute need to apply costly chemical fertilizers.
- ▶ Turn poultry farming into a sustainable income generating activity for the rural poor.



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

CONSTRUCTION OF CHICKEN PENS (HOUSING)

The project will train farmers in a semi-intensive system of rearing chickens which combines feeding and watering the chickens under controlled conditions, and allowing them to scavenge within an enclosed area. The semi-intensive system will encompass the following minimum requirements:

- The chickens will be housed overnight, in order to protect them from cold, bad weather and predators.
- The houses will be designed in such a way to provide adequate ventilation for the chickens while at the same time ensuring that the ventilation holes do not allow predators such as vultures, snakes and rats.
- Chicken houses will be raised at least one meter from the ground. Houses will be designed so that they are easy to clean. Chicken droppings will fall through the floor and not build up in the house. For affordability purposes, locally available materials will be used to construct the structure which will have few places where insect pests such as ticks can hide. Plastic sheets will be embedded in the thatched roof of the structure to ensure that it is rain proof.



CHICKEN FEED

The chickens will get most of their food from scavenging within the areas. The Black Austrorop chicken breed, commonly known as the Mikolongwe chicken is bred for this type of feeding regime. However at certain times of year, particularly during the rainy season, food may become scarce. Farmers will therefore be encouraged to save some feeds - such as maize bran to supplement the chickens' diet during these periods.

DISEASE CONTROL

Whilst farmers will be trained on basic hygiene to limit spread of poultry disease. There will be need for the chicken to be vaccinated against the major devastating poultry diseases, Newcastle disease, infectious bronchitis, Marek's disease and fowl pox. Other important poultry diseases such as coccidiosis would be protected against using suitable drugs. A drug revolving fund will therefore be established where farmers can use the funds when necessary to procure drugs and timely vaccinate the chickens against diseases.

Good management keeps poultry flocks healthy. In order to prevent outbreaks all chickens in the surrounding project areas will have to be vaccinated together with the project chickens brought. The 'all-in, all-out' system will be utilized to minimize the risk of re-infecting new batches.

TARGET GROUP

The project will target 85 households to directly benefit from the project. The selected households will comprise poor and vulnerable families special consideration will be given to women and child headed households.

It is expected the project will on average benefit about 425 individuals in the Champira area.



PROJECT ACTIVITIES

The selected farming families will be trained in two cohorts of 45 per session to equip them with knowledge and skills to manage a chicken enterprise to improve poultry (egg and meat) production. The trainings will be coordinated by CSC but facilitated by veterinary department personnel.

A drug revolving fund will be established which will serve as a source of funds for procuring essential veterinary drugs and vaccines for the chickens for preventive treatment and disease control. The project will provide a start-up capital of MK30,000 to establish the fund. Each participating households will be expected to make regular contributions of a fixed amount as agreed among the farming families to sustain the fund.

Participating households will get 10 chicks of the Mikolongwe breed as a starter pack. In addition, each family will also get 2 local chickens for cross breeding. The distribution will be done after the participating households construct standard chicken houses and had been duly inspected and verified by extension staff in the area. Subsequent distribution of chickens to new farmers will be on pass-on basis.

CSC field staff will supervise construction of chicken houses to make sure that specifications are adhered to. To ensure that good practices are followed, field staff will also monitor how farming families are managing the chickens at every stage of growth and provide relevant advice where necessary.

First generation beneficiaries will pass on first five offspring chickens to a second generation beneficiaries.

At the end the project will be conducted to assess the implementation and impact of the project and draw lessons for input in future projects.

The beneficiaries will provide their own labour and locally available materials for the construction of the chicken houses. They will also be responsible for the day to day management of the chickens.

The project will be a component of the Food Security Project, which is promoting agricultural diversification as a means of improving nutrition as well as increasing resilience to adverse weather due to climate change. Project staff will work hand in hand with government extension staff from the veterinary department and other stakeholders in the impact areas to ensure follow-up of project activities after project phases out.

