



IMPACT STORY

Access to Technology: Enhances Productivity and Growth of Businesses

Durga Rayamajhi, age 46 resides in Roshi Rural Municipality, Kavre east of Kathmandu. She lives with her husband, son and her parents-in-law. Her husband is a teacher in a local community school. Durga was living her life like a usual rural woman of Nepal doing household chores and taking care of the family. With her self-knowledge and traditional practices, she was rearing a cow and four goats.

After the intervention of TA-9334 NEP: Strengthening the Capacity of the Energy Sector to Deliver Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Results project, she has become an entrepreneur and got the opportunity to increase her knowledge in business orientation and business management. Durga said *"Talking honestly, I did not want to participate in the training. I was looking for excuses to avoid the training. I was asking myself why the project was wasting time on us. Moreover, the training was being held in a hotel at Dhulikhel, which is away from the home. I did not want to go there as I have to look after my family and I have never left my home before.. Fortunately, I participated in the training. It has become a turning point in my life. I learnt so many new things. Besides the knowledge received, I felt the importance of entrepreneurship. The training ignited a kind of courage, motivation and confidence in me."*

Durga has now constructed a new goat farm with the investment of USD 11,913. She sourced the capital through equity investment of USD 5,105 and remaining USD 6,807 as loan from Agriculture Development Bank Limited at the interest rate of 2.5%. She received the subsidised loan after registering her goat farm. Now she has around 60 goats in her farm. She also received skills-training on commercial goat farming to rear the goats profitably.

After her goat farming business started to grow smoothly, she faced issues in providing sufficient feeding regularly. She felt that harvesting and cutting of grass and hay was too time consuming and onerous to maintain the business as desired. This is when she came to know about the electric chaff cutter machine. She discussed the opportunity with Ms. Indu Aryal, Enterprise Development Coordinator (EDC) of the project, and bought the new appliance for USD 250. The chaff cutter helped Durga to feed the goats and cattle efficiently. The use of the chaff cutter has reduced drudgery and helped her to save time. She has been utilizing the time saved in planning for growth of her goat farm as well as maintaining her household and social activities.

Durga said "With a chaff cutter, there is no waste of hay. I can feed 20 goats with the same amount of fodder that I used for 2 goats. This machine is a small step but I have found it highly productive. As it runs on electricity, it has saved my time, energy and has made my life much easier. I am also thinking of expanding my farm."

A chaff cutter is just one example of how access to energy can benefit an enterprise. Access to affordable, energy efficient machines not only reduces the expenses in an enterprise, but also saves time and physical energy resulting in the growth of enterprises. It not only provides the economic benefit but also boosts entrepreneurship.