Community Managed Poultry Mother Unit

Maharashtra State Rural Livelihoods Mission (UMED) aims at improving the livelihoods of the rural poor, primarily through mobilisation of poor women into self-managed and self-sustained community based organisations. In the year 2015, AFARM partnered with UMED for working on Sustainable Agriculture Promotion and Development of Producer Organisations of women farmers in 20 villages of Kalamb and Ralegaon Block of Yavatmal district.

From the livelihoods portfolio assessment of SHG members, AFARM realised that Backyard Poultry is one of the important component of socio economic improvement among the weaker sections of the project area; especially amongst landless labour, small and marginal farm women. Backyard poultry generates self employment, provides supplementary income with protein rich food at relatively low cost. Further, AFARM realised that availability of good quality poultry chicks is one of the major challenges being faced by the poultry raring households. Keeping this in view, AFARM has provided training and technical support to Shri Sant Mattu Malak Mahila SHG in Kotha village from Kalamb block to establish Poultry Mother Unit. Subsequent to training, the SHG has prepared the business plan of Poultry

Mother Unit Management with the support of AFARM and submitted business plan to MSRLM for obtaining financial assistance. In turn MSRLM has provided a grant of Rs.3/- lakhs and SHG members themselves contributed Rs. 72,600/- for construction of mother unit of size 1000 sq. ft.

Immediately after completion of construction, SHG members started rearing of "Satpuda" poultry breeds. So far 3 batches of 2500 birds were reared. Each batch is of 38 days duration. This has resulted in availability of good quality chicks to interested and trained women members in and around the village, as a result 590 families have started successfully backyard poultry enterprise as an additional source of income. So far this SHG achieved net profit of Rs. 61,315/- from the poultry mother unit.