

# Blue Gold Program success story

## Women empowerment through Homestead FFS

Through their Homestead Farmer Field School (FFS) approach, Blue Gold aimed for greater inclusiveness in polder communities by targeting the functionally landless. Apart from the homestead FFS, Blue Gold also conducted crop FFS as part of their Commercialisation of Agriculture approach, focusing on the households with access to land. These crop FFS are not addressed in this success story.

With homestead production largely undertaken by women, Homestead FFS was an opportunity to contribute to the empowerment of women in the polders, as well as to reduce poverty.

### Problems with homestead production

- Low productivity and hardly any surplus for sales
- Profits generated are too low to sustain livelihoods
- Lack of knowledge and skills relating to key technologies
- High failure rates in areas such as mortalities of poultry and poor germination
- Limited access to market actors to buy quality inputs and to sell surplus production
- Social barriers to women inhibit their initiatives

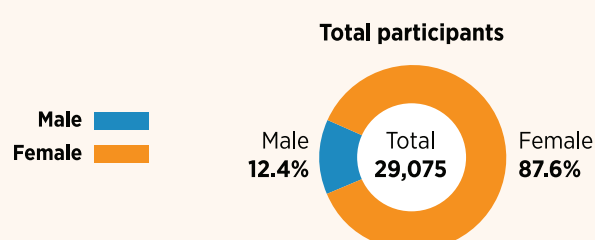
### Insights

- The poultry and homestead gardening modules contribute more to women empowerment than the beef fattening and pond aquaculture modules:
  - Poultry and homestead gardening allow women to more easily undertake all purchase, production and marketing activities by themselves
  - Income from surplus selling can traditionally be retained more readily

By proper selection FFS participation benefits the neediest households. Main learnings are:

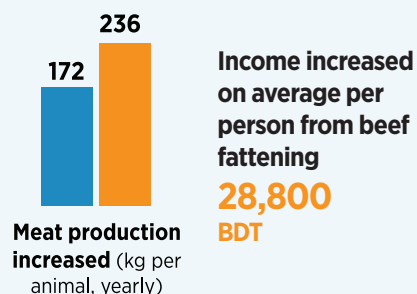
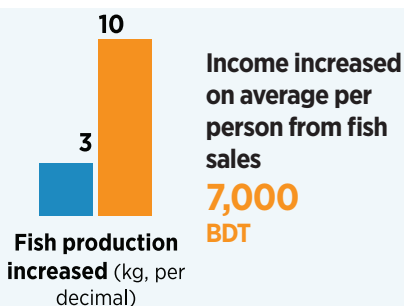
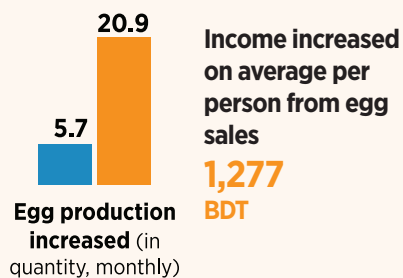
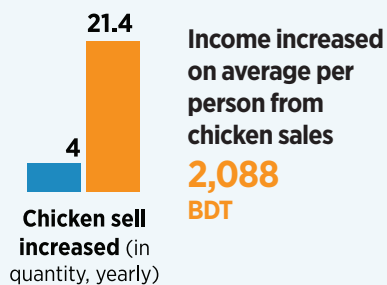
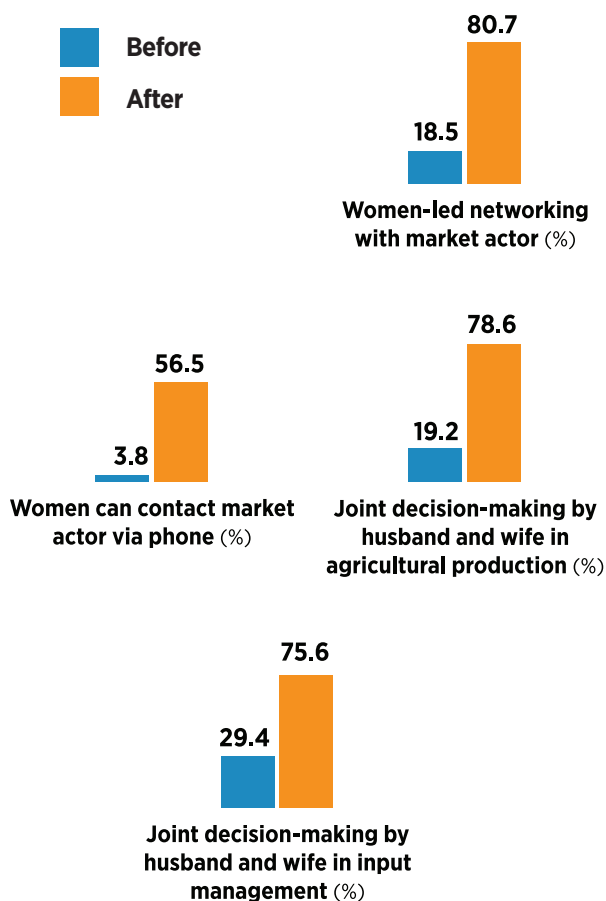
- The use of mobile phones provide farmers with virtual access to markets for goods, information and services. This is complemented by capacity strengthening of female Resource Farmers (RFs) and physical market visits
- Women more readily share what they have learned through Horizontal Learning (HL). Households in close proximity to Homestead FFS participants indirectly benefit from Homestead FFS
- A small percentage of men from marginally 'better-off' households in the FFS membership mix is positive for both empowerment and learning objectives

### Participation in Homestead FFS modules



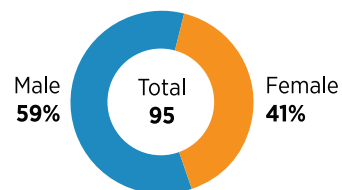
	Total	Female
Homestead gardening	453	90.3%
Poultry	726	94.1%
Beef fattening	302	76.2%
Pond aquaculture	288	74.6%

## Impact of FFS

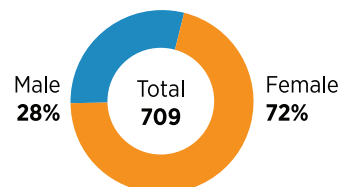


## Capacity strengthened

### TA Farmer Trainers (FTs)



### Resource Farmers (RFs)



### Community poultry workers



### Community livestock workers

