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KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

SUCCESS STORY

Quality Feed Improves Milk Production

Kyrgyz farmer adopted better cattle feed and nearly doubled milk production on her farm.



Tatyana Belinskaya in Sokuluk Village, Northern Kyrgyzstan, enjoys higher yields of milk at her farm. Photo: IFDC

“USAID assistance has changed my attitude to managing the farm.”

- Tatyana Belinskaya, owner of Mriya cattle farm in northern Kyrgyzstan.

“USAID assistance has changed my attitude to managing the farm,” said Tatyana Belinskaya who has almost doubled milk production in her farm with USAID support. Thanks to USAID’s Kyrgyz Agro-Input Enterprise Development Project, implemented by IFDC, Belinskaya has also significantly improved the farm management and enhanced cattle health.

Belinskaya is one of thousands of small farmers in Kyrgyzstan, where agriculture is one of the mainstays of the economy. She owns a small farm in Sokuluk Village, Chui Province in Northern Kyrgyzstan, where she raises six cows and 15 calves. Like many fellow farmers, the woman never felt that she can afford quality feed to her cows due to expensive prices. She fed her cows only straw. The milk yields were low and the farm was not profitable, and Belinskaya already planned to sell her cows altogether.

In 2008, Belinskaya’s farm was offered to become the first dairy demonstration farm of USAID’s. The USAID project promised the farmer help to improve farm operations in exchange of hosting demonstration days for the area’s farmers. The USAID project provided Belinskaya’s farm with high-protein livestock feed and mineral supplements for the cows, helped revise cattle feed rations, improve management practices, introduce modern veterinary services, and improve the stock through artificial insemination. Moreover, project consultants worked with Belinskaya to upgrade the sanitary conditions on the farm.

These advanced methods of dairy cow care helped increase milk production from 14-15 liter a day to 24-25 liters a day. “I now understand that balanced feed rations with proteins and minerals as well as constant veterinary care are key to better yields and healthier animals,” said Belinskaya. She is planning to plant more alfalfa in her farm and buy soybean meal, both of which are critical to proper feeding of livestock. Additionally, “this program helped me to establish close links with veterinarians and other milk producers. I’m sure that I will continue to work with them in the future,” said Belinskaya.

In cooperation with Belinskaya’s farm and five other demonstrations farms, the USAID project now trains farmers in the North and South of Kyrgyzstan about modern livestock management techniques.