



🔑 CASE STUDY

# PROJECT MESHA

FOOD SECURITY

AbacusBio consultants have been working hard on the ground in rural communities in both developed and developing countries to boost self sufficiency and improve production outcomes. We have utilised our breeding skillset and our flagship breeding software: Dtreo. Dtreo enables farmers globally to collect quality data to generate actionable genetic insights, for tangible long term genetic improvements. Ultimately ensuring they are farming sustainably and profitably, with an environmental conscience.

AbacusBio consultants have initiated food security projects in several emerging economies including Africa, India, Brazil, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. Recently, consultant Peter Amer travelled to India in collaboration with the Nimbkar Agricultural Research Institute (NARI) and the Aga Khan foundation, to establish a genetic improvement strategy in (India's) Bihar state. Together improving the quality of life for marginalized landless people. Alongside this, empowering and raising the incomes of female goat keepers, by improving productivity of their goats.

Indian women care and nurture the goats which they can then sell or breed. As highlighted by Bill Gates "The money women earn from their goats stays in their hands, with more control of their finances, women improve their status within the home. They also have greater ability to make their own decisions, -

- and have greater power over their own lives." Studies have proven that women when in possession of cash will spend it on beneficial products and services that improve the quality of life such as education, nutrition and health.

"Project Mesha" was established in 2016 by the Aga Khan foundation's rural support programme. Funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation it aims to empower Indian women and their families via livestock improvement. Together with NARI, AbacusBio were involved in educating "Pashu Sakhis" – a term that translates to "friends of animals", as well as providing breeding expertise, and genetic evaluation. The implementation of Dtreo within project Mesha allowed these women to select bucks for breeding based on objective recorded criteria.

In the future AbacusBio are hoping to span and advance these community based breeding programmes (CBBPs) across India. Ideally the knowledge will naturally flow between villages and communities, the Pashu Sakhis educating others to expand the knowledge. The presence of Dtreo software supports an effective scale up of CBBPs to the point of having national level impact. As global citizens, we have a mission focused vision of using genetics and innovative technology to successfully secure the worlds food supply.



PROJECT MESHA IS THE SANSKRIT NAME FOR "RAM"



AGRICULTURE ACCOUNTS FOR 1/4 OF THE INDIAN ECONOMY



INDIA IS THE WORLDS LARGEST PRODUCER OF MILK

