



🔑 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. Utilising our breeding skillset and Dtreo, our flagship breeding software, Dtreo enables farmers globally to collect quality data to generate actionable genetic insights for tangible long-term genetic improvements - 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 went to India in collaboration with Nimbkar Agricultural Research Institute (NARI) and the Aga Khan Foundation, to establish a genetic improvement strategy in (India's) Bihar state. Project Mesha improves the quality of life for marginalized landless people and empowers and raises the incomes of female goat keepers, by improving the productivity of their goats.

Indian women care and nurture the goats in 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 not only improve their status within the homes, but 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 rural support program in partnership with the Aga Khan Foundation. Funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation it aims to empower Indian women and their families via livestock improvement. Together with NARI, AbacusBio was involved in educating "Pashu Sahkis" - a term that translates to "friends of animals", providing breeding expertise, and genetic evaluation. In addition, implementing Dtreo within project Mesha to allow these women to select bucks for breeding based on objective recorded criteria.

In the future, AbacusBio is hoping to expand and advance these community-based breeding programmes across India. Ideally, the knowledge will naturally flow between villages and communities, the Pashu Sahkis educating others to expand the knowledge. The presence of Dtreo software supports an effective scale-up of CBBPs to the point of having a 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 world's largest producer of milk

