THE POULTRY SECTOR IN NEPAL IS WORTH $240 MILLION AND EMPLOYS AN ESTIMATED 70,000 PEOPLE. AN IFC REVIEW OF THE SECTOR FOUND THAT INEFFICIENCIES COST PRODUCERS ABOUT $32 MILLION IN LOST PRODUCTION. MOST OF THIS INEFFICIENCY EXISTS WITH THE SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED PRODUCERS OF BROILER CHICKENS.

Production losses also stem from poor feed quality and problems with development of very young chicks. IFC is engaging with all players in the poultry value chain to ensure quality inputs lead to improved production and a stronger poultry sector in Nepal.

IFC is working with three poultry companies and about 3,000 small poultry farmers, who supply the companies, to improve operations. Advice is focused on ways to improve feed, day-old chick quality, and grower performance to reduce mortality and increase incomes for farmers. Particular emphasis is on training tailored to women—the backbone of the industry. IFC expects to train about 1,000 women.

EXPECTED RESULTS:

Upon completion, the project expects to provide fee-based training to 3,000 poultry growers on topics like farm management and biosecurity.

It contains specific targets for productivity, both through reductions in amount of feed per chicken produced and for increases in broiler livability. It targets a 15 percent increase in broiler sales revenues of small- and medium-sized farmers.

RESULTS TO DATE

The project has strengthened the technical skills of 3,700 poultry farmers, 38 percent of whom are women. This has directly affected about 40 percent of the poultry industry in Nepal. Ninety percent of farmers paid fees for the training, and 98 percent of farmers said they were satisfied with the training. Targets for reducing the amount of feed to produce a given amount of chicken produced and for increased survival of young chickens have been met, leading to a seven percent drop in the cost of production. This has led to higher profit margins for farmers and reduced costs to consumers.