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Solar Powered Scooters Ease Transportation Challenges for Poultry Producers



Melody Zvakare is a 41-year-old poultry farmer from Domboshava, Mashonaland East province living with a disability. She is part of a group of women who benefited from the project's first and final mile egg distribution intervention in Domboshava. The IPVC project collaborated with Mobility for Africa and provided 20 solar powered scooters to the Harare Poultry Business Association sub-hub in Domboshava. Mobility for Africa assists with charging ports for the scooters. This intervention is set to ease egg transportation and distribution to the Live Bird and Egg Market in Domboshava. The tricycles are electric and solar powered and have a capacity of 400 kg payload and 40km on single charge.

The results of the project baseline and mapping indicated that egg producers in Domboshava are sparsely located, with an average radius of 12km from the Poultry Business Association sub-hub centre where the Live Bird and Egg market is located. Therefore, this intervention bridges the transportation gaps by assisting egg producers to transport their eggs from their farms to the market on time, while at the same time being able to transport their feed and day-old chicks purchased from the PBA sub-hub back to their farms.

In total, twenty-six women egg producers from 20 groups were trained to ride the scooters.





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As a woman living with disability, Melody faced challenges in transporting her produce to the market as well as when handling transportation of inputs for her poultry business. She states that the scooter has helped her variedly.

“I cannot push a wheelbarrow, but now, this scooter is my wheelbarrow. The scooter has helped me a lot. First, it has helped me morally by boosting my confidence. Secondly, I can now easily go to the market. I can be there on time while being able to carry as much produce as I want, since this scooter carries up to 400kgs” said Melody.

The strategy below outlines the key components of the strategy to reduce costs and improve market linkages for egg farmers in the Domboshava area.

Egg aggregation: Egg farmers in different locations around Domboshava grade and bulk eggs for transport to the egg storage facility located at the Poultry Business Association Sub Hub

Egg distribution: The Business Management Units (BMU) of the association coordinates with women vendors in the high population low-income residential egg markets as well as institutional markets (e.g. schools, restaurants, company canteens, etc.) to compile bulk orders for eggs. It also coordinates delivery of eggs using environmentally friendly electric scooters. 20 scooters were allocated to 20 farmer groups (each group comprising of five female members).





Green technology: Solar charging stations were set up at the business Centre to provide power for charging the batteries for the electric scooters.

Inclusive growth: Organized women egg producers get supplies of eggs without having to go to central wholesale market reducing the transportation costs and their ability to pass on benefits to their customers in the form of less expensive eggs.

Melody further alludes that the scooter has helped cut her transportation costs;

“Before, I would spend between US\$5.00 to US\$6.00 depending on the mode of transportation I used. But now I only use US\$1.00, which is for charging the scooter battery, and I will be on my way. On top of that, the scooter is helping me do other things like transporting inputs for my poultry production. I do not have to rely on other people to assist me, as I used to before”.

The distance from Melody’s house to the live bird and egg market is approximately 30 minutes on foot. The electric scooter has helped Melody travel for just 5 minutes for the same distance, making her time efficient, while cutting down on her carbon footprint.