

Maximizing Livestock Assets & Scaling up

Search for a real doer and visionary recipient among project beneficiaries is like searching for a jewel, but it seems PICRAIL may have found one.

Yongyua Vang is remarried after a divorce with his former wife. The separation came after they had had three children together—two boys and a daughter. Two have moved out on their own, and one is still living with him. His new marriage brings two more young children.

Before joining PICRAIL, Yongyua said life was difficult. All his three older children, who were still in school, were left under his care. The divorce means that he was one person short in the field. He only had a few small animals and grew rice and corn. Labour shortage was at its worse.

One day a meeting was held in his village about a new project. He attended and learned that PICRAIL targets households with disabilities, female-headed households, and poor families. He remembers that the project would do many things—water construction, cultivation/home garden, animal raising, etc. “I was curious. I want to learn all that the project had to offer and apply it in my household,” said he. “I literally did not know improved agricultural techniques.” Sure enough,



after I participated in the project and learnt volumes from the project, I was eager to implement the lessons—livestock management, vaccination, and disease prevention; clean home garden techniques, food security, and environmentally friendly agriculture; natural resource conservation; and gender; social inclusion. Furthermore, he participated in a couple of cross visits organized by the project team.

With regard to livestock inputs, Yongyua has received two goats from the project as well as grass seeds and essential training. It is unfortunate that one died of infectious ophthalmia. The surviving female has given birth twice—the first time with one kid and the second time with two. In addition, he is also caring for another female goat from another project beneficiary who has become unable to raise it. The added female also gave birth to another kid. All in all, he has two female goats and four kids to raise.

Yongyua lays out a good plan for his goats. “This year I will grow more forage grass and construct pens like what I saw in Savanakheth province where we visited a farm there. Young goats and parent goats need to be in different enclosures, but all need to be vaccinated on schedule,” said he. He plans to increase the number gradually and sell out male goats after selecting healthy ones for breeding because male goats like to fight and injure each other. Female goats will also be sold after selection.

“I want to try something I saw from my ancestors. They had big bucks because they castrated and raised them well,” said he firmly.

Contemplating the future, Yongyua wants to have more opportunities for his children, a good house, and adequate income. He thinks the livestock inputs the project provides are the key and wants to start with, as mentioned above, increasing the number goats along with farmed forage grass which is more sustainable.

Yongyua has not just received material support and practical knowledge from the project. He has also given opportunities to share his knowledge with friends and neighbours through meetings and cross visits. People also come by to ask him at home.

While appreciating every support from project, Yongyua wonders if the project can further provide roofing materials—20 corrugated iron sheet for his goat pens. He hopes village vets are more active and provides closer support. He also wants the project to monitor the assets biannually.

To everyone who has a part in this project, Yongyua said, “Thank you for everything—the animals, information, lessons, ideas, and wisdom. I am extremely pleased. I have received everything you provide.”