

A Poultry Farmer's First Loan Hatches Dozens of Future Ventures

FIRST+, the Financial Institution Resilience and STrengthening program, accelerates job creation through small business growth powered by access to finance. It is led by CapitalPlus Exchange in partnership with the Mastercard Foundation, Bank of Ghana, and Ghana Microfinance Institutions Network.

Victoria Agambire, CEO and founder of Agamvic Enterprise, is a poultry farmer in Ghana's Western Region who loves everything about owning chickens and has a voracious appetite for learning and sharing her knowledge with other women. But as economic headwinds caused her costs to skyrocket, Victoria found herself struggling to stay in business. Last December, a timely loan from Ahantaman Rural Bank enabled Victoria to endure and even significantly expand her business, securing an optimistic future for her family and her 15 employees.

The Right Loan at the Right Time

To stop the devaluation of her capital, Victoria took her first-ever loan from Ahantaman Rural Bank, a pivotal step for her business' resilience. "As a result of elevated inflation in the country, poultry feed and other inputs have become more expensive, so I needed a loan to shore up my working capital. It was crucial for my business. It took one week to receive my loan after the application. With the help of the loan, I purchased sufficient livestock, bought 8,500 one-day-old chicks, and renovated a chicken shed. Now I'm growing quickly - I hired two more young people as well," she explains proudly.

Ahantaman Rural Bank is refocusing on MSME lending and betting heavily on women in agriculture. By the end of 2022, the

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Bank's loan disbursements to the underserved agriculture and small business sector had grown by 53%, and loans to women business owners had grown by 119%. The Bank's improved capacity to increase lending to MSMEs results from new loan appraisal tools and extensive training delivered by CapitalPlus Exchange (CapPlus) through the FIRST+ program. These new skills equipped the Bank to quickly assess and approve a sizeable loan to sustain Victoria's business.





Victoria and her young employees at the Agamvic Enterprise, Agona branch

An Investment in People

In addition to two poultry farms, Victoria owns an egg shop and a poultry feed shop. She sells the feed on credit to farmers who cannot afford to pay when they need the feed. Victoria uses her 18 years of experience to help other women who want to venture into the poultry business. "I have helped seven women establish poultry farms with the practical knowledge I have acquired over the years, combined with the knowledge I've gathered in literature," Victoria says.

"I love birds. I have a passion for them, so I love my job. I am thankful for the other incentives this job offers too. I want to further my education at the Agric College, and this job is helping me to save towards that," says Farm Supervisor Samuel Anabil. "I find my work dignified and fulfilling, and this is what I love doing," adds Lucky Atta Wuniah, Farm Manager.

Jobs With a Promising Future

Victoria intends to establish her young employees by helping them start poultry farms so they can thrive on their own. With this "head start" model, each youth can own a poultry farm after completing agreed installment payments. "I always envision the future for the young people I work with, and I want them to be independent and financially stable. That is why I give them continuous training to perfect their skills, and I plan to establish them to ensure decent livelihoods for them and their families."



Edward Tiroug collects eggs



Joseph Kolag Mbabon holds crates of fresh brown and white eggs

“ I can support my family and pay my kids’ school fees, and support my two siblings in university - all from this job.”
– Lucky Atta Wuniah, Farm Manager

“ I feel proud as a woman at the success of my business, and I serve as an inspiration to my family, neighbors, and friends.”
– Victoria Agambire



Victoria and George Owusu Buabin, Head of Credit Risk at Achantaman Rural Bank