



## SNAPSHOT

# Mocho small farmers give back to local social enterprise



*Chicken coop of a livestock farmer trained under the Mocho Citizens' Association Livestock Farming project*



*Livestock farmer from Mocho, Clarendon*

Mocho, Clarendon – The farming community of Mocho has a long history of supplying Jamaica with its agricultural products. However, in recent years, with the increasing impact of climate change on the agricultural sector, many farmers in Mocho have been reduced to subsistence farming.

The Mocho Citizens' Association is looking to change things around for small farmers in Mocho by providing support for farmers to invest in livestock farming. The Association, an umbrella group representing local farmers, received a grant to launch a social enterprise from the USAID-funded Community Empowerment and Transformation Project II (COMET II). The grant supported the organization to create a livestock farming project in early 2017. Livestock farming is less susceptible to the harsh fluctuations brought on by climate change.

Moreover, Development Manager for the Mocho Citizens' Association, Al El, believes social enterprises can propel sustainable livelihoods for small farmers in Mocho. He reckons that “the effort has given farmers a more sustainable way forward. With the support of our project, we are making our farmers better-rounded”.

The project involves training livestock farmers and providing them with chickens or pigs, and initial feed for the animals. To date, 38 small farmers, with ages ranging from 18-70, have received livestock from the organization and additional training through COMET II's project partner, the Rural Agriculture Development Agency (RADA).

The aim El explains, is for local farmers to earn enough profits to be able to give back to the Association, the key feature of the Association's social enterprise model. Farmers commit to returning a portion of their profits in order for the Association to use those funds to support and train other farmers.

And the model is working. Already 90% of the poultry farmers have returned their committed amounts to the organization.

Thirty-year old Kevaughn Golding, a poultry farmer who operates his coop in his backyard, has sold more than 150 pounds of chicken since April 2017, returning 15% of his sales to the Association. Golding says, he strategically targeted a private school in the parish capital, May Pen, and it has become his primary market.

“I was able to sell four batches of chickens to the school, which was almost 50% of what I received through the project”.

Another poultry farmer, Shanna Gillian (23) was also able to make returns on her sale just by targeting her own community.

Following this initial success, the Mocho Citizens' Association will implement other phases of the project, including training in resilient crop production and other methods for small farmers.