

As of mid-2013, GEMS1 is on track to achieve and most likely exceed its feed finishing output targets for enterprise numbers involved in feed finishing of small ruminants (including women and the poor) as well as the number of animals finished. In addition to mobilization of target groups for feed finishing campaigns by partner Paravets, GEMS1 is now receiving many new participation requests directly from communities.

GEMS1 visits women feed finishing entrepreneurs **Hajiya Habiba** and **Laraban Ali** in Dawakin Tofa and Sarina respectively. Here is their feedback...

### *Hajiya Habiba...*



“Before feed finishing, I was fattening rams for 20 years. It has been my only source of income.

This (2013) is my first time on finishing and there are advantages for me over traditional fattening. Doing ram fattening once yearly for Salah took me over 5 months. As finishing with the feed concentrate takes just 50 days, I can increase my income as I can do finishing of rams 3 times a year.

Feed finishing is more profitable too as more weight is added. I am doing 8 goats for this year’s Salah. Tomorrow I will sell and expect a total profit of NGN 100,000 (c. \$667). At that, I expect my net income from finishing will be about 3 times more than from fattening.

With my extra income, I will buy younger animals as recommended by GEMS, and finish these for Christmas. I will also keep enough income for educating my five children.

Feed finishing is a very good and suitable business that many more women can easily do in Dawakin Tofa (Town): it does not place high demand on women’s time needed for daily household work and minding children. There are few other income opportunities for us around here. Many friends and neighbours have seen what I am doing and now want to start it themselves”.

### *Laraban Ali...*



“I used my savings to buy and finish 2 rams and ten goats for Salah. I have just sold nine of these making a profit of between NGN 7-10,000 (\$47-67) each.

Before, I used to do fattening of goats and sheep for Salah which took 6 months. I will earn around twice as much income from feed finishing as the animals are heavier and look better. I was introduced to the opportunity by the GEMS Paravet who provides vet services, and was trained in finishing by the feed supply company.

This is the first good business opportunity for women I’ve seen in Sarina.

After Salah, I will buy and finish younger animals for sale again, and then keep doing this and add more goats: while prices are not as high as during Salah, regular demand and selling prices are still good. This will help make a better life and future for our nine children”.

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