Anishabanu decided to start Goat rearing to get some additional income and to become economically independent. She lives in Nawada village of Bakshi ka Talab (BKT) block in Lucknow district with her family of eight members including three daughters and two sons. Her husband is working as fabrication worker and few years back started a small shop of his own.

She joined The Goat Trust (TGT) four years back when she came to know about the TGT through one of her fellow villagers. At that point of time, TGT was looking for an active woman in her village who can work as Pashu Shakhi. She studied till class 8 and was also looking for an opportunity to do some independent work. She joined TGT and took 3-4 rounds of training.

“I was not doing goat rearing earlier and have very little idea about it, but after coming in contact with TGT and getting several rounds of training I started it” shared Anishabanu. She was aware that with hard work small enterprise can be converted into a good business. Her husband started from a very humble background and established his own business to run the family. She always assisted and witnessed the growth journey of her husband and it inspired her to do something on her own. Unfortunately, she was not getting any such chance where she can manage her family and also do some business to earn. The Goat rearing comes up as a solution which she was looking for some time. She needed some organization and technical support to help her initially and she was confident that she can manage it independently.

To start this business of goat rearing she bought 5 kids worth of Rs 3500 each from her own saving. In 2020, she received support from the National Schedule Caste Finance Development Corporation (NSFDC) to create animal shed, doing some flooring work, fencing and building feed stand. This helped her in increasing the productivity, managing less mortality and also now goats are
safe from any stray dogs. The NSCFDC support was provided through TGT. She gets 5 vessels, 1 feed stand and 1 weighing machine for better management of herd.

Currently there are 11 goats and 4 kids with her as there is no mortality in her kids so productivity is very high.

She is very happy that entire earning from the goat rearing remains with her and her husband doesn’t ask anything about this money. She proudly claimed that this is my own hard-earned money. Sometime seeing her working so hard her husband asks to stop goat rearing but she refuses to do so. She shared that it gives her lot of confidence and the income she receives from it provides independence to take her own decisions.

Now other villagers also approach her to get technical advice for goat rearing. She charges Rs. 30 for visiting and treating 1 goat. In this village total 25-30 villagers are doing goat rearing and approximately there are 120-140 goats. Anishabanu proudly claim that “I do all sorts of treatment and provide medicines to these farmers. Now they treat me as a veterinary doctor”.

She feels that in her village as most of the people are from very weak economic background and mostly have no other source of income so they will prefer to get the goat through microleasing. After seeing her example several other womens approached her and seek her advice to do better goat rearing and earn from it. Although they don’t have much resources and also will not be able to manage loan at this point of time, they are ready to get goats on microleasing. In her opinion, the farmers also prefer to have pregnant goat or at-least good support from TGT to get it pregnant through Artificial Insemination (AI).

Anishabanu feels that with her new identity there is a different type of respect she is getting from her family and relatives. She shared “I am also trustee of the Goat Farmers Trust (GFT) and it is a very proud moment for me. Till date no one was even aware about my name in my village and now I go for training, meeting and different work to Lucknow and also attended some big meetings. I am more confident that earlier”.

“I sale my goats to TGT as traders provide some lumpsum amount but in TGT I receive as per the weight of my goat. In last 6 months I sold 2 big goats of Rs 11000 and Rs 11500 each, and 3 kids of Rs 21000. I bought a two-wheeler for my second daughter to go college by paying 40000 from this goat business. I want her to study and do something better than me and become independent”. -- Anishabanu