

## THE TALE OF THE LITTLE RED HEN

(Old story, new twist)

Once upon a time there was a little red hen. She lived on a pleasant farm and ate the food she grew there. One day the little red hen found a grain of wheat. She thought she would plant it to grow more grain for herself.

“Who will help me plant this grain of wheat?” asked the little red hen.

“Not I,” said the duck, “but I’ll sell you some coffee bushes. You’ll make lots of money if you grow coffee instead of wheat.”

“Not I,” said the pig, “but I’ll buy the coffee from you when you’ve grown it.”

“Not I,” said the rat, “but I’ll lend you the money you need to start with.”

So the little red hen planted the farm with coffee instead of wheat.

“Who will help me to grow this coffee?” asked the little red hen. “Not I,” said the duck, “but I’ll sell you some fertilizer to help it to grow.” “Not I,” said the pig, “but I’ll sell you some pesticides to keep it free from disease.” “Not I,” said the rat, “but I’ll lend you the money to buy the fertilizer and the pesticides you need.”

So the little red hen worked long and hard. She spread the fertilizers, and sprayed the insecticide on her coffee bushes. Even though it was costing her so much more than it had done to grow her wheat, she kept thinking of the money she would get for it. Then came harvest time.

“Who will help me to sell my coffee?” asked the little red hen.

“Not I,” said the duck, “but you’ll need my factory to roast and pack it.”

“Not I,” said the pig, “everyone’s growing coffee now and the price has hit rock bottom.”

“Not I,” said the rat, “but you have to repay all your debts now.”

So the little red hen realized that she had made a mistake growing coffee instead of wheat, because she was deep in debt and had nothing to eat.

“Who will help find me something to eat?” asked the little red hen.

“Not I,” said the duck, “you haven’t got any money to pay for it.”

“Not I,” said the pig, “there’s not enough to go round since everyone started to grow coffee.”

“Not I,” said the rat, “but I’ll take your land instead of the money you owe me and perhaps I’ll let you stay and work for me.”

(“UNICEF - Caring for children everywhere”)

