

Baghlan Dairy Company registered at AISA

The 26th of March 2012 was an important day for the DCA-VET Baghlan Dairy Factory. That day, at the Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA) the Baghlan Dairy Company was officially registered. The registration of the Baghlan Dairy Company is a first step towards commercialization of the Baghlan Dairy Factory (BDF).

Some five years ago, DCA-VET established BDF as Baghlan Cheese Factory with funding of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. From the start it has been the intention that the factory would become an independent commercial entity. Dutch as well as German funding enabled BDF to invest in equipment for the production of cheese and later on yoghurt and other fresh dairy products. Part of the funding was also used for exploring the local dairy market. Now with all equipment in place, and marketing started to bear fruit, time has come to work on commercialization of the factory.

In the newly registered Baghlan Dairy Company three main shareholders participate. These are Fazl Yakubi, a businessman who is interested in developing BDF into a commercial company, DCA itself, Bram Schreuder (as founder of BCF) and Zubair Haqani, manager of the Baghlan Dairy Factory, together with his co-workers. Zubair is registered as president of the Baghlan Dairy Company, Fazl Yakubi as Vice President. Fazl Yakubi was a DCA staff member during its early days in Peshawar. He started his own commercial enterprise and is presently a very successful business man. It is hoped that in a few years' time the Baghlan Dairy Company will guide BDF towards an independent, self-sustainable entity.

During 2012, the Baghlan Dairy Factory will (indirectly) be supported by German funding. This funding by GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit) is mainly targeted to increase the milk production around the factory. Main activities will be dairy extension, improving of fodder crops and winterfeed, establishment of an effective farmers' cooperative, and upgrading of the milk collection system.

Besides, a proposal has been submitted by DCA-VET to USAID to establish a demonstration farm with some twenty cattle to develop best practices on dairy farming and to extend these to the farmers.

These are two promising developments that surely will assist the Baghlan Dairy Company in its goal to commercialize the Baghlan Dairy Factory.