

Launching-workshop JICA project Bamyan province

In December 2012, DCA-VET started implementation of the JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) funded Livestock Project in Bamyan Province. At the onset of this project a launching workshop was organized. The aim of this workshop was to share the goals and planned activities of the project with all relevant stakeholders, and to learn from their feedback and suggestions.

For attending the workshop on the 12th of December 2012 the main stakeholders were invited, among whom government officials, representatives of related NGOs and targeted beneficiaries. In his opening speech, Eng. Tahir Atayee, Director of the Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock of Bamyan, stressed that it is not the quantity, but the quality of the work which makes the difference. Hygiene must be taken into account in all product processing activities, and animal health must be taken very seriously. After this, Dr Faridoon elucidated the objectives of the project, i.e. improved access to veterinary services, value chain development, assessment of opportunities for breed improvement, and strengthening of the capacity of the public sector. And he elaborated on the main activities that are planned.

In group discussions the participants exchanged ideas about these four objectives and the accompanying activities. Valuable suggestions were given, e.g:

- Suitable locations of three new VFUs
- Establishment of male and female extension and self-help groups to improve livestock health, production and sales of livestock products
- A proper market research must be conducted before a value chain will be developed
- Before AI is implemented, to first conduct a baseline survey on the local breeds
- Topics of training courses and workshops for public sector staff

At the end, Dr Haider, Head of Department, thanked DCA for its efforts and hard work, and JICA for its financial support. And he called upon all farmers to cooperate with DCA for a successful and effective completion of the project.