

## **ASAP project: Broad-based Livestock Development (part of the Accelerating Sustainable Agriculture Program)**

Donor / contractor	USAID / Chemonics
Budget	US\$ 9,193,576
Period	January 2007 – September 2011
Area	Provinces in north-east, central, south and east Afghanistan

### **Background**

This extensive project more or less was the follow up of the successful DCA-RAMP-project (January 2004 – July 2006). The most important target of the RAMP-project was the establishment of a network of veterinary field units (VFUs) all over Afghanistan. During this RAMP period, DCA-VET and its local partners AVA (Afghanistan Veterinary Association) and PRB (Partners in Revitalization and Building) achieved excellent results; the number of VFUs increased from 100 to 400. These VFUs were staffed with 600 graduated paravets and veterinary assistants.

### **ASAP from year to year**

During 2007, the ASAP project aimed at extension of the number of VFUs and training of new paravets. By January 2008, 55 new paravets were trained and 55 new VFUs established. In 2007, the VFU staff administered almost 8million vaccinations and medications. From January 2008, ASAP focused on increasing the turnover of VFUs. The network of VFUs is almost completed now, and the next step is to ensure the sustainability of these veterinary field units, without financial support. For this reason, DCA-VET worked on expansion of the VFU services. Paravets were being trained (during so called refresher courses) in artificial insemination, animal health and nutrition advice, and in harvesting and storage of cashmere wool. Also an extensive educational campaign was held to draw the farmers' attention to the importance of proper veterinary care of their animals.

In 2009, the cashmere harvesting campaign was a focal topic for ASAP. Over 200,000 goat herders were taught how to harvest cashmere from their goats. In total, some 100 metric tons of cashmere could be sold to regional traders. In the same year, all 387 ASAP VFUs combined administered 14 million vaccinations and medications and reached a turnover of more than US\$ 3 million. Five new VFU were established especially for female paravets, who graduated from the DCA Herat training centre. In 2009 also the first Herd Health Package, on small ruminants, was launched.

Originally, the ASAP project would come to an end on March 31, 2010. But in two subsequent modifications, the ASAP project was extended until September 30, 2011. The total estimated DCA budget was increased from US\$ 7,539,236 to US\$ 9,193,576.

In this final ASAP period, the focus was pinned to the southern and eastern provinces of Afghanistan, a new working area for DCA. Here some 70 VFUs were supported. The successful Small Ruminant Herd Health Package was translated in Pashtu and introduced in the southern and eastern provinces as well. In the northern provinces, the activities to improve the sustainability of the VFUs continued with a focus on extension and marketing campaigns. Day-to-day veterinary services in most of the northern provinces were supported by other donors, like European Union, USAID – IDEA-NEW, GIZ, and IFAD.

A final ASAP **closing conference** was held on **13 September 2011** to share the key lessons learnt and the transition strategy of the ASAP livestock project with stakeholders. The 38 workshop participants comprised government officials, donors, private sector representatives, and NGO partners.