

## Strengthening of livestock production in the North East Provinces of Afghanistan

Donor / contractor	German government / GIZ
Budget	€ 1,412,358 (€781,330 + €631,028)
Period	June 2010 – 30 April 2012
Area	Provinces of Kunduz, Takhar, Baghlan, Badakhshan

Targeted areas were the provinces of Takhar, Kunduz, Baghlan and Badakhshan. In these provinces, DCA-VET was implementing two complementary projects: the GIZ project and the RMLSP project. The GIZ livestock project aimed at improving and increasing livestock productivity and extension, while the RMLSP project focuses at improving the veterinary services by the VFUs. It was estimated that some 300,000 local livestock holders could be reached with this GIZ project. Total budget for year 1 amounted to € 781,330.

The GIZ livestock project focused on strengthening of the VFU network and on additional extension to create awareness among the local farmers on animal productivity. During year 1, the VFU network has been expanded by the construction of 5 new VFUs. To staff these VFUs, 5 new paravets were trained. The present paravets received refresher training with focus on livestock health and production. The training also emphasized on how to use the standard extension packages (Herd Health Packages) for the dissemination of the extension messages to livestock farmers. To make the farmers aware of measures to improve the health and productivity of their livestock, 30 extensionists (25 men and 5 women) were trained. They taught 9,500 farmers each year on nutrition management, feed production and conservation, and fodder banks.

For the extension period, September 2011 through April 2012, a new budget of €631,028 was available. During this extension special attention was paid to consolidation of activities already commenced and to introduction of new activities like gender extension and dairy extension.

Extension campaigns were conducted on topics like animal housing, animal feeding, deworming and vaccination and reduction of zoonotic diseases. Assessments were made of the role of rural women in livestock production and gaps were prioritized. Based on this gap analysis, hundreds of women were trained in various aspects of animal husbandry. 55 female livestock producer groups were established as well as 17 poultry and livestock producer groups. The project has established strong links between farmers' groups and VFUs and built the capacities of the VFU staff to improve their services to the farmers. Besides, several contracts were signed between the livestock producers groups and the dairy traders for milk and dairy products marketing.