

World Bank Horticulture and Livestock Project – Veterinary Training activities

Donor / contractor	World Bank / AVA (Afghan Veterinary Association)
Subcontractor	DCA-VET
Budget	US\$ 706,222 (AFS 31,780,000)
Period	1 November 2010 - 31 December 2011
Area	Afghanistan

The World Bank's HLP project is a comprehensive project, aiming at the improvement of agriculture and livestock in Afghanistan. The animal health part of the project was contracted to the Afghanistan Veterinary Association (AVA). AVA subcontracted DCA-VET to implement the veterinary training activities of the HLP animal health component because of our extensive experience in veterinary training. DCA-VET was also subcontracted for this project from October 2007 through December 2009.

The HLP project focuses around three main objectives:

1. Privatization of the veterinary daily care

The Afghan government aims at privatization of veterinary daily care, as is common practice in other countries. That is why practicing government veterinarians were retrained to transfer to private sector clinics. The training curriculum of these privatization courses included business skills training as well as practical training.

2. Linking the public and private animal health care

Private VFU staff can be of great help to the government in campaigns on animal disease control as well as in signaling of highly contagious diseases. The training on sanitary mandates (e.g. on PPR eradication) and the basic disease surveillance and reporting training provided the VFU staff with the necessary knowledge and skills to fulfill these tasks.

3. Enhancing the sustainability of the VFUs

The World Bank strives to ensure that eventually VFU staff can continue their activities without any (inter)national support. By training the VFU staff in additional services they can provide to livestock owners, their earning capacity and hence the sustainability of their VFU business will be enhanced. Additional services could include artificial insemination techniques, pregnancy diagnosis and livestock nutrition.

The main aim of the DCA-VET subcontract was 'to improve the technical capacities of Afghanistan's veterinary professionals and paraprofessionals through training'. The Charikar Veterinary Training and Service Centre, DCA-VET's main training centre, took care of the curriculum development and the effectuation of the training courses.

DCA-VET conducted five different categories of training courses:

1. Refresher training of government veterinarians transferring to privatized clinics (80 trainees, six-week course)
2. Training of selected VFU staff to properly undertake sanitary mandates (200 trainees, one-week course)
3. Basic disease surveillance and reporting training (200 trainees, one-week course)
4. Livestock extension training for VFU staff (200 trainees, one-week course)
5. Training of VFU staff to broaden their scope of activities to livestock owners (520 trainees, two-week course).

Targets for all but one category were met; the number of veterinarians attending the privatization courses was 46 instead of 80, due to the fact that not enough trainees could be selected by HLP.