

RMLSP Success Story: Okhuwat Agriculture & Livestock Cooperative: Animal Feed Bank

The Okhuwat Animal Feed Bank was established in October, 2011, under the RMLSP project, in the Gawsawaran village of Poli Khumri District, Baghlan province. Funding was provided by MAIL/IFAD.

During the winter season, livestock owners face shortages of food for their animals. To address this problem, 91 farmers organised themselves as a Cooperative and registered with DAIL and MAIL. Subsequently, the Cooperative asked DCA-VET for assistance in constructing a Feed Bank. The Feed Bank building was constructed, and initially stocked with 11,900 kg of cotton oil cake for animal feed.

The cooperative model is proving successful in allowing members to purchase necessary animal feed, which they pay back at full cost plus 5%. This has created a sustainable, revolving fund and permits the Cooperative to buy additional agricultural products such as fertilizer, which can then be purchased by members.

Having the Feed Bank as a secure place for storage permits the Cooperative to take advantage of market conditions, and buy products when the price is low, to be sold at a later date when they are needed by the farmers. In October 2012 the Cooperative bought 14,000 Kg cotton oil cake to help feed animals over the winter.

The members of the Okhuwat Cooperative and Feed Bank are thankful to DCA-VET for technical support, constructing the feed bank building, and helping to establish the system for the successful financial management system. This has resulted in increased income for the Cooperative, which now provides better services for its members, with potential for other livestock owners in the future.



Okhuwat feed bank in Gawsawaran village