

Afghan students in Holland learn about DCA-VET

The 30th of March, twenty Afghan students gathered at the Forum in Wageningen for an informative meeting on the work and achievements of DCA-VET. Those Afghan students, fifteen men and five women, have come to Holland for the purpose of a one year train-the-trainer programme. This programme is organized by Van Hall Larenstein, University of Applied Sciences, in Wageningen. After their studies, the students will return to Afghanistan and become teachers at the National Agricultural Institute in Kabul, to be developed by WUR (Wageningen University).

Dr. Bram Schreuder, founder of DCA-VET and Dr. Ab Emmerzaal, CEO, introduced the students to the field of activity and achievements of DCA-VET, covering the period of the early beginning of DCA in Peshawar, more than twenty years ago, till date. A period in which the DCA support to Afghanistan livestock evolved from small-scale emergency aid to extensive development assistance. Ab Emmerzaal also confronted the students with the various challenges that DCA-VET is facing. At the end of the evening, Prof. Dr. Akke van der Zijpp, who is an emeritus professor in Animal Production Systems and member of the DCA-VET Advisory Board, presented some propositions on agriculture and livestock that gave rise to a lively discussion.



Ab Emmerzaal, CEO DCA-VET



Bram Schreuder, Founder DCA-VET

The students were highly interested and raised many well-thought questions and remarks, based on their own experiences. According to their opinion, some of the main factors limiting livestock populations in Afghanistan are: drought (no rain – no pasture), scarcity of winter feed, low productivity of local breeds of animals, unwillingness of farmers to pay for high-quality vaccines and medicines. To conclude, it has been an informative meeting in an agreeable and cordial ambience, to students as well as to DCA-VET staff.



Akke van der Zijpp, Advisory Board member



Students attending the evening