

Extension GIZ Livestock and Poultry projects

Although already pending for some time, now the extension proposals for both the livestock and the poultry GIZ projects have received green light. Donor of these projects is the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). The projects started in June 2010 for one year and were extended through August 2011 (poultry project) respectively September 2011 (livestock project). Targeted provinces are Kunduz, Takhar, Baghlan, and Badakhshan. Both projects are now further extended through April 2012.

The livestock project originally focused on strengthening of the veterinary field units and on extension on animal production. Special extensionists were trained to teach the farmers how they could improve the health and production of their livestock. As these activities were successfully completed, during the extended project period the focus will shift towards strengthening of public / private partnership, strengthening of national structures on the provincial level and on new activities as gender extension and dairy extension. For this extension period an additional budget of € 635,342 is available.

In the poultry project, 600 women (20 women per village, in 30 villages) were trained in poultry husbandry. They all received pullets and poultry feed to start a small backyard poultry farm. Special women groups were set up for empowerment of the beneficiaries. This poultry project was not completely finalized in August 2011, so during the extension period the women will be further trained in poultry health and production. They will also receive training in business skills, so they will be able to turn their small poultry farms into successful businesses. In 10 of the villages special feed mills will be constructed to process the necessary chicken feed. These activities will all be financed through the remaining funds of the original budget, some € 205,000.

DCA-VET is grateful to GIZ, offering us the opportunity to further improve the livelihood of the poor farmers in the four north-western provinces of Afghanistan.