



Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
General Directorate of Programs Implementation and Coordination
Rural Microfinance and Livestock Support Program (RMLSP)
Community Livestock and Agriculture Project (CLAP)



Launching Ceremony of CLAP and Exhibition of the Products and Achievements of RMLSP

Report

Prepared by

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Date: January 26th, 2014
Place: Intercontinental Hotel – Kabul
Duration: 09:00 Am to 01:00 PM

INTRODUCTION

Rural Microfinance and Livestock Support Program (RMLSP) and Community Livestock and Agriculture Project (CLAP) are development programs of the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The overall goal of these programs is to reduce poverty and vulnerability, and improve food security in the targeted provinces of Afghanistan. The implementation of RMLSP is going on whereas CLAP is just launched by awarding contracts to the service providers (DCA, FAO, and ICARDA).

The launching ceremony of CLAP and exhibition of the products and achievements of RMLSP was organized on January 26th, 2014 in the Intercontinental Hotel, Kabul. The purpose was to award the contracts of CLAP components to the service providers and to promote the products and achievements of RMLSP. Participants were relevant government officials, members of parliament, members of provincial councils, representatives of implementing partners, MAIL programs and Media. They acknowledge the development efforts of MAIL and announced their support from implementation of the projects. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) was also appreciated for funding such development project of MAIL.



Picture 1: Participants visit products of the Backyard Poultry Project of RMLSP.

Objective of the Event

This ceremony was organized to officially award the contracts, and launch three components of CLAP, and to promote the products and achievements of RMLSP.

Details of the Event

The launching ceremony of CLAP and exhibition of the products and achievements of RMLSP was planned and organized by Program Coordination Unit of RMLSP and CLAP in coordination with MAIL and the service providers. The event was conducted on January 26th, 2014 in the Intercontinental Hotel, Kabul. Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, Governors of Kabul, and Parwan Provinces, President of Logar Provincial Council, relevant members of parliament, representatives of various departments of DAILs of Kabul, Parwan, and Logar provinces, representatives of the service providers, representatives of the projects and programs of MAIL, representative of Ministry of Finance, representative of donor and media participated in the ceremony.

The event was organized in three distinct parts:

In the first part, the dignitaries and the other participants visited the exhibits that were put on a display by the project team. The exhibit included some of the tangible items of the projects such as veterinary kits, medical instruments/tools, project activity models (Atriplex demonstration plots, dairy model, FFS model etc.), chicken nests (locally made), extension materials etc. They praised and appreciated RMLSP for the achievements the project has made so far



Picture 2: Participants visit Products of the Veterinary Services Project of RMLSP.

In the second part, speakers delivered their speeches. Mr. Mohammad Ismail Sabawoon was the announcer who started the event by inviting Mr. Mohammad Yaqoob to recite some verses from the Holy Qur'an. Afterwards, the participants were invited to watch the documentary film of RMLSP that shows its activities, achievements, and impact. Subsequently, H.E. Minister of agriculture, irrigation and livestock delivered his speech to the audience. Besides welcoming the participants and describing the purpose, components, and activities of Community Livestock and Agriculture Project (CLAP), he acknowledged IFAD for funding RMLSP and CLAP. Governors of Kabul and Parwan provinces, parliament members of Kabul and Parwan provinces, and head of the Logar provincial council were, respectively, the next speakers. All of them appreciated the development activities of MAIL, and announced their support from the implementation of CLAP in the targeted areas of their relevant provinces. They also thanked IFAD for funding such development projects of MAIL and taking active part in the agricultural development of the country.



Picture 3: H.E. Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock during His Speech.

In the third part, contracts were awarded to the services providers. The contract of Dairy Development Project was awarded to Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (UN-FAO) which was signed by H.E. Minister and the representative of FAO (Mr. Tim Vaessen) on their own parts. The contract of Improved Food, Fodder, and Vegetable Crops project was given to International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) which was signed by H.E. Minister and the representative of ICARDA (Dr. Javed Rizvi) on behalf of their own organizations. Finally, the contract of Livestock Development among *Kuchis* project was awarded to Dutch Committee for Afghanistan (DCA) which was signed by H.E. Minister and the representative of DCA (Mr. Raymond Briscoe) on the part of their relevant organizations.



Picture 4: H.E. Minister and Mr. Tim Vaessen Representative of FAO during Signing of Contract.

The ceremony was well-covered by local media such as TVs and Radios. People from media participated in the ceremony and broadcast the news through their TV and Radio channels. The news was also uploaded on IFAD Asia portal. The event was ended by Minister's press conference and offering of a lunch to the participants. In total there were over two hundreds participants attended the event.