

JICA Project Extended In Bamyan Province

On March 10, 2014 a Project Launch Workshop was held in Bamyan City for the start of Phase II of the Rural Livestock Development Project funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The successful implement by DCA-VET for the 1st phase of the project, led to a 1-year extension from March 2014 through February 2015.

The workshop was attended by farmers, the local head of the Department of Women's Affairs, the Provincial Head of DAIL – Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, Head of PRRD – Provincial Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, partner NGOs, and DCA staff.

The extension of the project has expanded DCA's work from 3 to 4 areas within the District of Bamyan Center. The project's goal focuses on strengthening the livelihood and living standards of male and female farmers and herders living in the selected villages by improving the productivity of livestock which is their key livelihood asset. Specific objectives include:

- Improving the lives of vulnerable families headed by women
- Piloting Artificial Insemination programs to enhance performance and production of local livestock
- Strengthening collaboration between private sector, NGOs and MAIL

DCA-VET will use its expertise and experience to achieve these goals. Refresher training for Paravets and Basic Veterinary Workers will be provided, as well as support to strengthen VFUs. Three new LFEWs (Livestock Female Extension Workers) will be trained. LFEWs are an increasingly effective means for DCA to work with women livestock owners and women's self help groups. New Extension materials will be introduced.

A new Feed Bank will be established, and links will be strengthened between farmers and markets, farmers and VFUs, and VFUs to government. Cooperatives will be formed to improve the business skills and impact of men and women's groups.

A significant emphasis will be placed on increasing the capacity of public sector staff for Monitoring and Evaluation, and Value Chain development.



Participants Launch Workshop JICA Project