

Livestock development project in Bamyan Centre

Donor / contractor	Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
Budget	US\$ 122,000
Period	December 2012 – November 2013
Area	District of Bamyan Centre

This JICA-funded project aimed at:

1. Increasing productivity of livestock through improved access to quality veterinary services,
2. Improving the lives of vulnerable woman headed families through development of livestock products value chains,
3. Assessing potentials for livestock breed improvement,
4. Building capacity of DAIL to deliver efficient public sector livestock extension and value chain development services to the farmers.

Target area was the District of Bamyan Centre in Bamyan Province. Here, 500 households were targeted including 240 woman headed families.

The project includes professional training in horticulture, conservation for wheat and other cereals, and practical management of ruminants and poultry. It is designed to stimulate immediate impact in improving household food security and income generation.

During the project, one new paravet and three new Basic Veterinary Workers were trained. Three women farmers Self-Help Groups were established for extension training and demonstrations. These SH Groups as well as male farmers received Business skills training, and marketing training. Government staff received a Training of Trainers as well as a Project Cycle Management training.

Based on a value chain assessment conducted in six villages and the markets at village and province levels the traditional product called qurut (dry cheese) was identified for value chain development. One of the main constraints in the value chain was poor quality of the qurut due to contamination with dust during drying. In response, DCA-VET field staff has developed an innovative wire-meshed drying rack; and 60 of them have been distributed to female households for piloting.

A comprehensive impact analysis showed that after the one-year project

- More lambs were born
- Mortality rates decreased considerably
- Full access to veterinary services rose from 0% to 87.5%
- Marketing of livestock products increased thanks to improved marketing skills