

Dairy Development in Baghlan Province

Donor / contractor	German government / GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)
Budget	€ 324,914
Period	May 2012 – September 2014
Area	Baghlan Province

The Baghlan Dairy Factory, the cheese and dairy products plant in Baghlan Province, was one of the eye catching projects of DCA-VET.

In 2006, with financial support from the Dutch government, DCA-VET built Baghlan Cheese Factory (BCF) alongside the ruins of a former cheese factory that was destroyed in 1987. The factory has been equipped with Dutch cheese making equipment, like a pasteurising device, churns and cheese moulds. In 2008 the factory has been enlarged by renovation of part of the old factory. And in 2009 a new yoghurt line has been installed. About 550 local farmers are delivering their milk to the factory. Thanks to BCF, these farmer families are able to raise their slender income. During the first months of 2007, only Gouda cheeses were produced, but from July 2007 onwards other dairy products were made as well: mozzarella, fresh breakfast cheese, yoghurt, quark and butter milk. In 2010 BCF focused on a smaller number of successful products: yoghurt, pasteurised milk and fresh breakfast cheese. As cheese is no longer the primary product of the factory, BCF was renamed Baghlan Dairy Factory.

On April 1st, 2010, Dutch funding ended. This funding has enabled DCA-VET to build up a milk intake of 250,000 litres a year, develop the production process of various types of dairy products and reach a yearly sales value of almost US\$ 100,000. From April till November 2010, DCA-VET supported the Baghlan Dairy Factory from her own funds. From November 2010, the Baghlan Dairy Factory was supported for two subsequent periods by GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit). The first period extended from 15 November 2010 through 31 March 2011 (budget € 156,214), and the second from 15 July 2011 through 31 March 2012 (budget € 89,949). These projects enabled BDF to do some additional investments to increase production capacity of the factory, to organise extension activities on dairy farming in the surroundings of the factory, and to improve marketing and distribution. A sister GIZ project on livestock production also contributed to the extension activities in Baghlan.

GIZ again supported the Baghlan Dairy Factory with a grant. With this grant, covering the period of 1 May 2012 through 30 September 2014, the provision of dairy extension services, improvement of the organisation of milk collection centres and cooperatives, and an increase in fodder production and winter feed storage were envisaged.

At the end of the project the number of members of the Cooperatives amounted to 250, but more farmers are interested to join. To increase fodder production 140 farmers grew improved alfalfa seeds and 120 tried improved Sorghum seeds. Especially the last fodder species proved popular: many farmers intend to purchase these improved Sorghum seeds next year. For storage of winter feed a covered shed has been constructed and a feed mill was constructed for producing concentrate feed. Besides, 3000 molasses blocks (an energy-rich additive for dairy cattle) were produced from a by-product of the neighbouring sugar factory. As a result of all these interventions, the milk supply to the factory was raised from on average 11,000 litres to 23,400 litres a month.