

## Appreciation letter for finalized GIZ Dairy project

The 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2014 the GIZ Dairy Project came to an end. This project was contracted to DCA-VET by the German Government through GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit).

The Dairy project has been implemented successfully in Baghlan province for more than two years, starting in May 2012. This project was a follow-up of a series of Dutch and German funded projects, starting in 2006 with the establishment of the Baghlan Cheese Factory (later on Baghlan Dairy Factory) in Baghlan with financial support by the Dutch government. From November 2010 onwards, the German Government took over funding Baghlan Dairy Factory (BDF) by several short projects to increase production capacity of the factory, and marketing and distribution of the dairy products.

The recent GIZ project focused on provision of dairy extension services, improvement of the organization of milk collection centres, and the increase of fodder production. As project manager Dr Noor Alam, a well-known specialist in extension services, was appointed. During the project adjacent to BDF a Veterinary Field Unit was constructed to serve the dairy farmers in the vicinity with animal health care and artificial insemination services. Six new milk collection centres (MCCs) were established and the existing MCC was refurbished. The MCCs were officially registered according to the new law of the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock as a Dairy Cooperative with seven clusters.

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.

The outstanding results did not go unnoticed; the Baghlan department of Agriculture awarded DCA-VET in the person of Dr Noor Alam an appreciation letter for the successful implementation and completion of the GIZ Dairy project. Moreover, the Department of Agriculture expressed the hope that the dairy project and extension services could be continued in future.