

## Livestock development project in Bamyan Centre II

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| Donor / contractor | Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) |
| Budget             | US\$ 179,417                                     |
| Period             | March 2014 – February 2015                       |
| Area               | District of Bamyan Centre                        |

After successfully implementing a one-year project funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in 2013, DCA-VET was awarded a new one-year project by this donor.

The objectives of this project were building on the objectives and results of the previous project:

- Improved access to livestock services;
- Increased income of vulnerable families by consolidation of small enterprises developed in the earlier phase of this project;
- Enhanced livestock production through piloting artificial insemination and local breeds selection;
- Strengthened capacity of government departments and improved cooperation between private and public services.

Lack of animal food, especially in the winter season is considered as a major problem of livestock owners all over the country especially in colder areas such as those targeted under this project. Considering this problem, DCA established a fodder bank to provide livestock fodder to farmers at a lower price and included winter feeding as a topic to the extension package. This was used to teach the farmers on how to use the opportunities available from storing feed and to manage their animal herd properly. The project demonstrated significant impact in terms of improved farmers' access to veterinary services, standard fodder availability, livestock extension, livestock value chain development, institutional capacity and partnership with local and central Government departments.

The project successfully trained three local female extension workers who after graduation started to provide services to the female farmers. Male and female FFS (Farmer Field Schools), extension groups, and Self Help Groups (SHGS) were arranged and received livestock extension messages on a regular basis.

Based upon a value chain assessment which was conducted in 4 villages as well as on a national level, the traditional product called *Qurot* (dry cheese) was identified for value chain development. One of the main constraints in the value chain was the poor quality of the Qurot due to contamination with dust during drying. In response, DCA-VET field staff developed an innovative wire-meshed drying rack; of which 58 were distributed to female headed households.

Joint planning and monitoring of the project with various Government agencies and JICA proved to be an outstanding measure to strengthen the public-private partnership. The initial launching Workshop of the project, the organisation of participatory project site visits, and the project transitioning period (final review workshop) were key elements of this cooperative approach. These workshops were greatly appreciated by our partners. Of key importance have been the capacity building efforts that targeted different departments of government. Such efforts included provision of training on "project cycle management", M&E and Value Chain, and Small Scale Enterprise with a focus on the role of public sector. The five-day training session has helped two senior government officers to significantly enlarge their scope of understanding on project planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.