

Appreciation letter for extension packages on food safety

The Afghan Animal Health Directorate has awarded DCA-VET an appreciation letter to thank the organisation for developing and improving two new extension packages: one on Food Safety, and another on Meat Inspection. The Animal Health Directorate praised the DCA-VET team for the valuable information and guidelines that are disclosed by the two packages. The European Union, one of DCA-VET's largest donors, funded developing of these two packages as well as many other packages.

The extension packages on Food Safety and Meat Inspection are part of DCA-VET's contribution to the One Health concept. This concept, which is an important focus of DCA-VET's activities, recognizes that the health of humans is connected to the health of animals and the environment. The One Health approach needs an interdisciplinary collaboration on a local, national, and global scale to attain optimal health for people, animals, and the environment. Main aim of DCA-VET's One Health activities is to prevent the spread of infectious diseases from animals to humans.

The Food Safety package focuses on recognizing safe food and on hygienic handling of food. Topics discussed are such as differentiating high quality meat from low quality meat, controlling meat, hygienic ways to store meat, vaccination of chicken, characteristics of fresh and healthy eggs, characteristics of fresh and unspoilt milk, storing milk safely, washing the milk dishes, milk heating methods, milk pasteurization, milk sterilization, and a safe environment.

The Meat Inspection package describes inspection of an animal before and after slaughtering, and presents information about slaughtering of three kind of animals, inspection tools, judgment of the carcass, possible changes after slaughtering, internal inspection, animal diseases and how to diagnose them, stamping the meat to prove its safety, hygiene measurements in the slaughterhouse, and other related issues.

Being more aware on food safety will help the consumers to choose safer food of animal origin and to prevent diseases brought about by spoilt food or by unhygienic handling of food. And, a proper meat inspection will lead to better quality meat and will decrease foodborne infectious diseases. Although DCA-VET feels honored by being awarded an appreciation letter for developing these two comprehensive packages, there is still a lot to be done, so certainly more extension packages on topics of public and animal health will follow.