

LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT IN ARMENIA: SOUTH-NORTH

PROJECT AREA: 100 rural settlements of Shirak, Lori, Tavush and Gegharkunik marzes

FUNDING: Austrian Development Agency, the operational unit of Austrian Development Cooperation, and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

PROJECT IMPLEMENTER: “Strategic Development Agency” (SDA) NGO

PARTNERS: Ministry of Agriculture of RA, Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development of RA, Regional Administrations of Shirak, Lori, Tavush and Gegharkunik marzes, Local Self-Governing Bodies (LSGBs)

PROJECT DURATION: December, 2017 – December, 2020

“Livestock Development in Armenia: South-North” Project was developed taking into consideration the “in-house” knowledge and expertise generated by “Strategic Development Agency” NGO team over the past 10 years of practical field work and implementation of livestock development projects in Syunik, Vayots Dzor, Tavush and Gegharkunik marzes.

The Project long-term goal (impact) is to contribute to inclusive and sustainable agricultural growth of livestock-dependent rural communities in Northern regions of Armenia through facilitation of private sector development and intensified cross-border economic relationship.

The Project targets households involved in cattle breeding, actors of milk and meat value chains and Local Self-Governing Bodies of 100 rural settlements of the Northern marzes of RA, including Shirak, Lori, Tavush and Gegharkunik. The project predominantly focuses on developing sustainable and inclusive service delivery and systemic change with the livestock sector through development of about **200** local actors’ (private and public) capacities and strengthening cooperation and linkages amongst market players and stakeholders involved in milk and meat value chains.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Livestock farmers/producers benefit from reliable market access and diversified opportunities in the milk and meat local and export markets: The project enhances access to markets through: expanding market linkages between dairy processing companies/cattle traders and farmers; supporting consolidation efforts by smallholder suppliers to ease logistical challenges and expanding export opportunities for Armenian livestock produce.

Livestock farmers/producers benefit from improved access to inputs and business development services and enhanced regional linkages: The project enhances the input and service markets to farmers in strategic areas (such as veterinary, cattle artificial insemination, and essential farm inputs) which can deliver direct impact on farms’ productivity. Access to essential farm inputs, such as tools and equipment for milking, milk storage, feeding and

animal care, as well as inputs and services for fodder production are enhanced by strengthening the supply chain (wholesale and retail) of farm inputs through expanded market linkages between wholesalers (including from Georgia) and retailers of farm inputs.

Livestock farmers/producers benefit from sustainable natural resource management: Improved natural resource management activities (i.e. development and implementation of pasture management plans, promoting application of good practices in integrated crops and livestock farming) allow for a revitalization of degraded land areas, contribute to stopping desertification and further degradation.

CORE PRINCIPLES OF THE PROJECT:

- The project is based on **inclusive market systems development principles (IMSD)** focused on developing sustainable service delivery and systemic change with the livestock sector through development of direct beneficiaries (200 private and public actors¹) capacities.
- The project applies a holistic approach in promoting gender equality through supporting female and men farmers to perform their productive functions more effectively and enhancing women's involvement in decision making at farm and community level.

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¹ (a) milk processors, milk and cattle consolidators/buyers; (b) veterinarians, artificial insemination service provider, input suppliers for veterinary and AI services; (c) commercial suppliers of farm tools, equipment inputs and services for animal husbandry and fodder production lead producers, cooperatives, producers' groups, associations; (d) representatives of local and regional authorities, working group members responsible for development and implementation of socio-economic programs in line with regional/marz programs and state policy.