



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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**Swiss Cooperation Office
South Caucasus**

Livestock Development in Syunik Region – phase III



Project title

Livestock Development in Syunik Region –phase III

General information

Region: Syunik (Armenia)
Duration: 01 September 2011 – 31 August 2014
Budget: CHF 3'995'000

Project partners

- Implementing partner: “Strategic Development Agency” NGO
- Institutional partner: Ministry of Territorial Administration of RA, Syunik regional Administration of RA

Project objectives

The overall goal is the strengthening of livestock sector in the regions of Goris and Sisian and increase of income of farmers in the target communities. By the end of the project it is expected that at least 50% of the 7'000 households in target communities will increase their income by at least 25% compared with the baseline survey.

Background

Agriculture is one of the most important sectors of the Armenian economy and employs almost 40 percent of the country's population. Armenian farmers are the most disadvantaged and vulnerable population groups with about half of them living in poverty. The province of Syunik¹ is one of the poorest regions of Armenia due to its extreme remoteness, bad roads and unfavourable climatic conditions. Farmers in the villages of Syunik practice mostly subsistence agriculture but have limited access to markets. Agriculture – in particular animal husbandry and cultivation of low value grains and potato – and food processing have always been the main economic base of the region. Small fragmented farms dominate agricultural production, which impacts negatively the volumes and quality of production and consequently limits market opportunities. As all

¹ The Syunik province exists of four regions: Kapan, Goris, Sisian and Meghri.

over Armenia, the two most important problems of the agriculture sector in Syunik province are low efficiency and limited access to markets. The project is fully in line with the *Strategy for Sustainable Agricultural Development of Armenia* which aims at supporting the increase of agricultural production and the promotion of value-added crops, fosters the use of advisory services and the introduction of modern technologies in production and processing, and facilitates contractual relationships between producers and processors. The selected region and the support to economic development are key government priorities, as expressed also in *the Sustainable Development Programme*.

Project activities

The project delivers certain training and consultancy services to the different stakeholders involved in the livestock sector (milk processors, veterinaries, input suppliers, etc). Final project beneficiaries are about 7'000 farmers/small-holders families (about 30'000 people) in the regions of Goris and Sisian.

Project activities envisaged within this project framework are:

1. Ensuring access to Milk Market
2. Ensuring access to Meat Market
3. Ensuring access to Farm Support Services and Inputs
4. Improving capacities and skills of farmers
5. Strengthening the capacities of local self-governance bodies to support rural economic development

Project results

The outcomes expected at the end of the third project phase are the following:

- A. Access to the milk market: A minimum of 1'400 farmers deliver stable qualities and quantities of milk and have access to reliable markets for their products. It is envisaged that the volume of milk will increase by 35% as a result of the interventions.
- B. Access to the meat market: A minimum of 800 farmers deliver stable qualities and quantities of meat and have access to reliable markets for their produce. The project interventions will lead to a 25% increase of meat traded.
- C. Access to farm support services and infrastructure: 1. At least 4'500 farmers have improved access to relevant support agricultural services; 2. The purchase of agricultural inputs and services has increased by 25%; 3. The quality of livestock (in terms of genetics, productivity etc.) is improved; 4. Productivity and volumes of raw milk and meat are increased (milk: 15%; meat 20%).
- D. Capacities and skills development: At least 1'400 farmers have improved their farm practices by improved capacities in farm management and business planning.
- E. Performance of local authorities in livestock sector development: 1. Local authorities play a conducive and effective role in the livestock sector based on their responsibilities in accordance with national legislation (e.g. data management, pasture management, disease control); 2. Rural producers, communities and local authorities reflect principles of DRR (Disaster Risk Reduction) and environmental concerns within rural economic development.



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