

# Center for Agribusiness and Rural Development

## NEWSLETTER



### STUDY TOUR FOR ABKHAZIAN COLLEAGUES

*Within the frames of Georgian ENPARD project, CARD hosted a group of veterinarians and farmers from Abkhazia with the guidance of project implementers from Action Against Hunger (ACF) in Tbilisi, Georgia. The main purpose of the study visit was exchange of knowledge and experience related to agricultural extension services in Armenia. During the three-day stay CARD experts presented the challenges and opportunities on the path of development of Armenian agriculture, with a special attention to extension services. Complementing the thorough discussions, the study tours also included visits to Farm and Veterinary Service Centers (FVSC), as well as leading farms and agribusinesses in Armenia.*



Considering that CARD has already established 17 FSCs in Armenia and is successfully operating them the experts were more than happy to share their experience with Abkhazian colleagues. Within the frames of the tour, the group visited FSCs located in Darakert, Artashavan, Pokr Vedi, and Yeghegnadzor, as well as ARID goat breeding center, Golden Goat cheese production plant and Nor Yerznka Farm, where participants were introduced to dairy production and processing in Armenia.

Even though visit agenda was very intense, the participants were happy to get acquainted with CARD group

operations and extension service provision in Armenia.

The project implementers mentioned that huge and high-quality work has been done in the establishment of private extension service provision, and this study tour was very useful from the aspect of experience replication in Abkhazia. Currently, the extension services are being provided by Agriculture Training Centers (ATCs) which have unsustainable governance system and need constant support for operations.

Upon completion of the study visit, the sides agreed to organize a needs assessment for the mentioned ATCs to improve the quality and sustainability plan.



## Ajarian delegation in Armenia

*Since August 2016 CARD Foundation has been implementing “Animal Health Management (AHM) in Armenia and Georgia: Phase II” project, in collaboration with the Agro-service-Center of the Ministry of Agriculture of Ajaria, Georgia and funded by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA). The project aims at the improvement of animal health and productivity in Armenia and Georgia. The focus is the improvement of regulatory framework in the field of animal disease control, improvement of practices, and capacities of farmers and veterinarians through the development of Farm and Veterinary Service Centers to better provide veterinary services and control animal diseases, as well as the improvement of the animal breeding practices contributing to animal genetics and farm income.*

March 30 - April 03 CARD Foundation hosted a delegation from Ajaria, headed by the director of the Agro-service Center, Mr. Gocha Beridze, representatives of the Center, as well as several veterinarians. The visit aimed at the exchange of experience and know-how and familiarization with the new technologies.



Within the frames of the visit, the delegation members met the RA Deputy Minister of Agriculture Mr. Ashot Harutyunyan. He was very interested in Ajarian experience and had a number of questions regarding the vaccination program, implemented in Ajaria, as well as control of different infectious diseases, and the Foot and Mouth disease in particular. Mr. Beridze introduced the program, initiated in Georgia, focused on the vaccination against several diseases, including brucellosis. He provided a detailed description of the control measures, entities involved in the response and the role of veterinarians. This was a rather informative discussion for both sides.





In order to familiarize with the dairy and beef farms, as well as Farm and Veterinary Service centers, the group members visited Eko dairy farm in Jermuk, ARID Goat Breeding Center and Darakert Farm Service Center.

A training on animal husbandry and artificial insemination was conducted for Ajarian veterinarians in Azatan FVSC, Shirak. Mr. Vardan Papoyan shared his experience in providing the community veterinarians, farmers and agribusinesses with technical and business assistance to address animal health and animal husbandry issues and develop the private veterinary and business service capacities in the country.

Ajarian guests were impressed by Armenian hospitality and professionalism and expressed a desire to continue the cooperation in the future.

