

Center for Agribusiness and Rural Development

NEWSLETTER



MINISTER VISITS DARAKERT CENTER



RA Minister of Agriculture Mr. Ignati Arakelyan paid a visit to the Greenhouse Service Center functioning in Darakert community of Ararat marz and founded by CARD Foundation in 2014.

Specialized in the greenhouse and horticulture sectors, the center aims to help the farmers who need help and access to trainings, extension services, specialized expertise as well as access to inputs and finance. The Center is equipped with up-to-date laser laboratory equipment for the implementation of advanced soil, water and plant analyses. Three different greenhouses from Israel and Italy have been established for the demonstration of advanced greenhouse management techniques, as well as new cultivation tools, equipment and supplies. The demonstration greenhouses are used for trials of new vegetable seed varieties, technologies,

and innovations in the industry.

The Minister's visit aimed at the introduction to the Center activities, up-to-date methods and new technologies applied in the greenhouse management sector, as well as familiarization with the priority issues the community farmers face. Mr. Arakelyan mentioned that there are a lot of small and medium farms in the Ararat valley that can envision the establishment of greenhouses in their development prospects.

During the meeting with the leading farmers of the community, Mr Arakelyan expressed his willingness to support them in their future initiatives. The raised issues like the establishment of corresponding infrastructures , including cold-storage facilities, collection centers, etc. will be considered for the further vision of the Ministry.



“Pedigree Animal Breeders Association” establishment

October 12, 2017 was marked by an important initiative, expected to be undertaken in the country long since. Acting upon the problem, frequently voiced by the farmers, CARD Foundation initiated the establishment of the “Pedigree Animal Breeders Association” within the frames of the ADA funded Animal Health Management project and with the direct support from the Ministry of Agriculture.



Since its establishment, CARD Foundation has carried out activities of artificial insemination and genetic improvement of cattle throughout Armenia. Due to the use of high-quality genetics imported from the United States and European countries, a number of farms have already been replenished with genetically improved animals as a result of a cross-breeding with local breeds. Currently these farms face the problem of proper pedigree animal management and they see the establishment of an association and joint implementation of activities as the only solution to the problem. Thus, the organization of the association-founding meeting was more than timely and actual.

Leading farmers, Head of the Veterinary and Stockbreeding department of the Ministry of Agriculture Mr. Levon Ter-Isahakyan, expert of the Rural and Agricultural Support Fund Mr. Ashot Grigoryan, as



well as CARD representatives, attended the meeting. Mr. Levon Ter-Isahakyan noted the commitment and readiness of the Ministry of Agriculture to assist in the implementation of this idea and its sustainability provision.

The meeting was adjourned with the establishment of the “Pedigree Animal Breeders Association” to overtake the role of the farmers unification, registration, provision of pedigree animal cards, serving as a platform for interaction and discussions.

By joint voting farmer Armen Avetisyan was elected as the president of Association. Adjacently a five-member council was set up and the draft charter was discussed. We hope that the Association will successfully fulfill its mission promoting pedigree cattle breeding and creating new prospects for farmers.

We also hope that the number of farmers willing to join the association will increase with time.

