

# Center for Agribusiness and Rural Development

## NEWSLETTER



### New Farm and Veterinary Service Center in Nor Gyugh Community

*The Center for Agribusiness and Rural Development (CARD) Foundation has established a Farm and Veterinary Service Center in Nor Gyugh community of Kotayk province, within the framework of the USAID-funded Partnerships for Rural Prosperity (PRP) program, implemented by the SME Development National Center (SME DNC) of Armenia and its partners.*



The Official Opening Ceremony of the Center was attended by the RA Minister of Agriculture Mr. Ignati Arakelyan, US AID Mission to Armenia director Ms. Deborah Grieser, ADA Yerevan Office deputy head Mrs. Nora Alanakyan, as well as representatives from Kotayk marz Governor's Office, Agriculture Development Foundation, Small and Medium Entrepreneurship Development National Center and CARD Foundation.

The new center will provide a package of services to local farmers and link them with international companies that provide supplies, equipment, and information on new technologies for animal husbandry management. The center will

be equipped with up-to-date equipment and tools for artificial insemination and veterinary practices. The center will also cooperate with veterinarians and artificial insemination technicians from nearby communities. The services of the Center will be available for more than 2,500 local farmers from 20 communities in Kotayk.

“The US Department of Agriculture designed this private extension model through CARD in 2011. This is the 7th among the USAID-supported centers, 3 of which are already self-sustaining. I want to encourage farmers and businesses to utilize the services offered here for the benefit of their communities”, – Ms. Deborah Grieser noted in her speech.



## Pig Genetic Center Opened in Nor Gyugh Community



CARD Foundation has established a Pig Genetic Center within the frames of “Animal Health Management in Armenia and Georgia, Phase II” program financed by Austrian Development Agency (ADA). The Center is targeted towards the development of the swine-breeding sector and will contribute to the improvement of pig genetics. The import of pure-breed pedigree animals and the production of semen for

the improvements of pig genetics will promote the increase in farmers’ income by transferring top level technologies existing in EU countries.

The Center will extend its operations throughout the whole territory of Armenia, providing high quality Topigs Norsvin boar semen to farmers, more than 45 private veterinarians and thousand of farmers through well-established 15 Farm and Veterinary Service Centers.



The new genetics will increase the number of piglets by 30%, as well as meat production per piglets by 25-30%, thus increasing the farm income significantly. At national level, as mentioned by the Ministry of Agriculture Mr. Arakelyan this ADA intervention in swine genetic improvement will address the very important issue of national food security.

“It’s been 5 years already since the Austrian Development Agency initiated projects to assist Armenia, and the agricultural sector in particular. This is already the

third Center established within the frames of the cooperation with CARD Foundation, and I hope it will promote the application of innovative technologies in the sphere of agriculture, fostering the cooperation with not only Armenian, but Georgian colleagues as well. I am also glad to note that as part of the priorities of the Austrian government, the application of the solar energy will soon be part of the Center’s operation”, ADA Yerevan Office deputy head Mrs. Nora Alanakyan mentioned in her speech.

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