

NEWSLETTER

AI&R and Animal Welfare Workshop

A three-day workshop and on-farm trainings on Animal Identification and Registration and Animal Welfare for veterinarians and farmers were held in the Lori region on 15-17 December 2020, in the frames of the Holding Animal Identification and Registration (HAI&R) project, funded by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA). More than 35 farmers and veterinarians from 7 communities participated in this workshop.



During the first day, eight professionals in the field of veterinary, animal breeding, feeding, housing, milking, sanitation, representing the National Association of Veterinarians, CARD Foundation, and the private sector, made presentations on AI&R, Disease Control and Prevention, Smart Farms, Hygiene and Milking, Cow Comfort and Feeding, Cattle Breeding Technologies and Pig Genetics.



Farm visits and on-site trainings were held during the second and third days of the workshop, aimed at the identification of opportunities for AI&R project implementation and animal welfare conditions improvement. Local veterinarians and farmers participating in the workshop were proactive and interested in advanced technologies in their areas of activity. The lecturers fulfilled their interest in knowledge and updated them on the best international practice during face-to-face and group discussions.



As a potential way of assistance, the following options are being discussed to identify the most productive ones, which will assist the farmers and communities in development and capacity building by:

1. organizing follow-up trainings and demo projects for farmers on modern farming technics, such as cattle breeding, dairy production, feeding, and housing,
2. organizing visits to already existing smart farms,
3. introducing Artificial Insemination into the communities by organizing trainings for veterinarians, providing A.I. equipment, demonstration of artificial insemination with controlled herd, etc...,
4. assistance in dairy production through demonstration of machine milking,
5. assistance in using solar energy to minimalize the cost of production and prevent the negative impact on the environment.

As a result of the follow-up visits to farms, an improvement program has been developed for the long- term intervention to improve cattle farming in the given communities.

