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LAUNCH OF A NEW CENTER IN THE SHIRAK MARZ



CARD launched the second Farm and Veterinary Service Center (FVSC) on the 25th of September in Azatan community of the Shirak marz with the financial support of OPEC Fund for International Development and Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC). The first such center was established in 2011 as part of the USDA-supported Animal Health Project in Sarnakunq community of the Syunik region which served as a unique model.



The establishment of such centers is aimed at developing the private veterinary and business service capacities in the country. The Center in Azatan community is going to offer a number of services including veterinary services – disease prevention and treatment, access to animal medicines, veterinary input supplies, farm supplies, technical assistance, links to supply market, as well as business development information and financial services. The FVSC will be a venue for meetings, trainings and will serve the local veterinarians, livestock farmers, small and medium enterprises and private entrepreneurs throughout the region.

At the event, among the honorary guests, present were the RA Minister of Agriculture Mr. Sergo Karapetyan, Head of World Bank Project Implementation Unit, Gagik Khachatryan, First Deputy Minister of Territorial Administration, Mr. Vache Terteryan, Deputy Governor of the Shirak marz, Mr. Harutyun Arshakyan, Azatan commu-

nity mayor, Vardan Ikilikiyan, representatives from CARE International and Heifer International Georgia, a specialist from the Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES), Mr. Hubert Weinberger.

“I highly welcome this initiative and want to congratulate the livestock farmers of the region for the gift and chance to run their cattle farms with modern methods and technologies”, said the RA Minister of Agriculture.



In his remarks the CARD Director, Gagik Sardaryan, thanked the RA Ministry of Agriculture and Mr. Sergo Karapetyan in particular for their trust and support in the establishment of such centers through CARD. Mr. Sardaryan also highlighted CARD-Heifer Armenia and Heifer Georgia cooperation. Along with Heifer Armenia, Artificial Insemination (AI) projects are implemented in Armenia, and with Heifer Georgia, ADC-funded trainings are organized for the vets of both countries.



At a new Center, through ADC funds, within the JOIN project, CARE International, in cooperation with CARD Foundation, has also established Business Development and Information Centers (BDIC) as a platform for information exchange. The BDICs will source information that is demanded by their existing and potential clients – not only local farmers but also private sector enterprises.



Once the ribbon was cut, a tour was organized, after which the FVSC hosted its first group of participants for the joint workshop which was conducted by the AGES specialist, Mr. Hubert Weinberger, under the auspices of the ADC-funded “Animal Health Management in Cross Border Areas of Armenia and Georgia” project.



The joint workshop was designed for 25 state and private veterinarians both from Armenia (Shirak and Lori regions) and Georgia (Samtskhe-Javakheti and Kvemo-Kartli regions), among them 4 women vets.

The vets were taught about the Anatomical Pathology of Animal Diseases spread in Armenia and Georgia and in cross-border areas. During the theoretical part, more than 15 PowerPoint presentations were made on animal diseases including: Anthrax, ASF, Bluetongue, Bradsot, BVD, CSF, Erysipelas, Leptospirosis, Listeriosis, Rabies, Pasteurellosis, IBR, Tick borne blood parasites, PI-3, Bovine rota-coronavirus infection.



For the hands-on session, Mr. Weinberger presented findings on the death of 2 animals, showed different organ-sys-



tem related problems, presented the pathological changes of the diseases and showed which organs to take samples from for laboratory examination.



Upon the end of the workshop, the vets were handed certificates. They thanked the AGES specialist, Mr. Weinberger, for sharing the foreign experience with them and expressed a high interest for additional practical trainings.