



Center for Agribusiness and Rural Development MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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USDA COCHRAN FELLOWSHIP REUNION AT CARD



Lev Kuchevski, International Training Specialist, USDA/FAS visited Armenia August 29-31 to interview candidates for Cochran Fellowship Program (CFP) 2012. The Program topics were "Greenhouse Management" and "Sustainable Approaches to Extension". On August 30, 2011, USDA Caucasus Agricultural Development Initiative (CADI) Yerevan office organized Cochran Fellowship Alumni Reunion Reception which was held in CARD premises.

Lev Kuchevski opened the ceremony. Karen Robblee, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Embassy, made an opening speech and wishes the alumni further successes in their endeavours. Gagik Sardaryan, CARD Director, described how CFP assists CARD staff in their professional growth and international experience to provide better services to Armenian farmers and agribusinesses. Arshaluys Tarverdyan, Rector, Armenian State Agrarian University (ASAU) expressed his gratitude to CFP for assisting over 30 professors of the University to meet their colleagues overseas, upgrade their knowledge improving quality of lectures and curricula of ASAU.

After the official opening, Cochran alumni Nazeli Grigoryan, Sergey Chakhmakhchyan, Levon Movsisyan and Arman Ohanyan made a PowerPoint presentation which was a kind of accomplishment report after the CFP training on Animal Health Program.

The Cochran fellows, participants of the event and other guests enjoyed the opportunity to share information and experience during the informal part of the reception.

Since 1993, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Cochran Fellowship Program has provided U.S.-based agricultural training opportunities for 180 Armenian senior and mid-level specialists and administrators from public and private sectors, working in the agricultural trade, agribusiness development, management, policy, animal health, food safety, plant protection, marketing, extension, and many other areas.

The main objective of the Program is to provide high quality training to help middle-income countries, emerging markets, and emerging democracies improve their agricultural systems, strengthen and enhance trade links with the United States.



JUP TRAININGS FOR ARMENIAN VETS

Cooperative Biological Engage Program of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency in the frame of the Joint University Program (JUP) organized a series of Response Veterinary and Field Veterinary Trainings in Yerevan, on August 16-20, 2011.

Veterinary training modules are geared toward developing and implementing dynamic animal health practices to improve and strengthen national animal health system capacity.

The objectives of the veterinary trainings are to enhance veterinary capability to recognize report and respond to suspect infectious diseases and enhance familiarity with diseases presentation and diagnosis of endemic, highly pathogenic infections.

The trainings covered different aspects of the Especially Dangerous Infections: Recognition of Especially Dangerous Pathogen (EDP) Diseases, Methods of the EDP testing, On-farm disease investigation, Clinical Examination of the Livestock, Packaging and shipping of the infectious samples, Postmortem Examination of the animals, Necropsy, etc.

Among the participants were veterinary specialists of the Agrarian State University of Armenia, Ministry of Agriculture and CARD vet staff.

New series of JUP Veterinary Trainings are envisaged to take place in September-October, 2011. About 300 response and field veterinarians from different marzes of Armenia will participate in the upcoming trainings.

CARD TO REAP HARVEST OF SPRING CROPS

In spring 2011, German Satimex Quedlinburg Handelsgesellschaft mbH seed breeding company provided 10 varieties of onion for trial plot, which served as a basis for CARD and Satimex to implement pilot onion-growing program in Armenia.

With this purpose, CARD specialists started cooperation with Armenian farmer Arthur Suvaryan, head of Vaghashen village of Gegharkunik marz. On volunteer basis, the farmer agreed to allocate some part of his plots to grow the trial onion varieties.

On August 5, 2011, Satimex Director Hartmut Klein arrived in Armenia, and with CARD specialists visited Vaghashen village to meet with the farmer and follow the growing process and the trial plots.

Sown in spring, the crops are to be harvested at the end of October to see which species are better adapted to the climate of Armenia, especially in the region of Gegharkunik. With a positive outcome, CARD will continue its cooperation with Satimex and import more seeds for Armenian farmers.

In 2010, CARD and UMCOR implemented a joint project of imported vegetable seeds from Satimex intended to open fields. The seeds of several vegetables were distrib



uted among Armenian farmer associations for testing. After the effective harvest, during the second stage of implementation Satimex decided to provide varieties of onion seeds to Armenia to check the adaptability of the vegetable to the Armenian climate.

Satimex is a German seed breeding enterprise that offers a competitive assortment of vegetable, flower and herb seeds for professional growers. It also provides a complete seed and planting material program for packaging companies working with pictorial seed bags and other items for amateur gardeners.

SWEET CORNS CAN ACQUIRE GOOD POPULARITY IN ARMENIA



In mid-August 2011, USDA FAS International Agricultural Development Specialist Kirsten Luxbacher together with CARD specialists visited sweet corn farms of Jrahovit village of Ararat marz of Armenia. During the trip they met

with the local farmers to talk about the strategies, innovations, problems and other issues they have to deal with while growing the sweet corn, which seems to acquire great popularity in the country.

“First and foremost, I would like to thank CARD for arranging the visit to Jrahovit Village’s sweet corn farms. It is great to be able to observe firsthand how Armenian farmers are benefiting from the collaboration between USDA and CARD,” says Kirsten.

According to Ms. Luxbacher, the sweet corn program appears to be a successful initiative that is growing in popularity with farmers due to the price it can command in the market. If this goes on there will be a need to open new markets for the crops and look for new ways to process the corn and add value to its growing.

In case of good strategy and promotion not only the capital and the adjacent villages but the whole country will acquire the taste for sweet corns.

GRASS FED BEEF IS HEALTHIER CHOICE THAN GRAIN FED BEEF

The meat provided by grass fed cattle has 1/3 less fat than that of a grain fed bovine. The flavor of the meat will taste better and more gamey, as the flavor comes from the grass and flowers that animal has eaten. rather than flavoring provided by fat typically marbled through grain fed beef.

In addition, grass fed beef contains two times more conjugated linoleic acid per serving (26 mg as compared to grain fed beef which only contains 13 mg). Conjugated linoleic acid not only eases weight loss but also reduces the risk of heart disease and some cancers.

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