



The head of the Veterinary Department of the Georgian Food Safety Agency, Koba Dzamishvili, had an interesting presentation on state veterinary services, problems related to access to veterinary supplies and medicine, knowledge and information, and the attitude of farmers

“TRAIN THE VET-TRAINER” PROGRAM BY AUSTRIAN AGENCY FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY (AGES)



Three veterinarians from Armenia and two from Georgia participated in the “Train the Vet-Trainer” program from May 29 to June 1 in Austria. This program was organized by the Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES) and financed by the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC).

Trainings were held in the Institute for Veterinary Disease Control, Mödling, (<http://www.ages.at/ages/en/divisions/veterinary-medicine/ivet-moedling/>) which acts as National Reference Laboratory for a wide range of animal diseases, focusing primarily on diseases that endanger the health of livestock or humans. The Institute is equipped with state-of-the-art laboratories and runs Austria’s only high-security veterinary laboratory.

The training course was made possible with the support of the following personnel from AGES - Alois Leidwein, the Head of Research/Knowledge transfer; Heimo

to veterinary services provided by state and private veterinarians.

These issues are of particular interest to the project stakeholders. Participants agreed that close cooperation with Government agencies will be one of the most important elements of the project.

At the close of the round table discussion, Sevak Manukyan discussed the future steps of the project related to key aspects of the organization of trainings, including a train-the-trainer program to be held at the Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES), cooperation with all stakeholders of the project, and other cross-border cooperation issues.

Participants concluded that the round table was very well organized and provided useful information and a good review of the main components of the project.

Lassnig, a key expert in Animal Health; and Hermann Schildorfer from local support.

Presentations were made on several topics, including trans-boundary infectious diseases; veterinary information systems; the Animal Health Service; sheep and goat farming in Austria; electron microscopy; and private veterinary practices. Participants were introduced to culturing pathogens in a special environment in the laboratory, observed the active movements of the bacteria with the help of the microscope. Moreover, the vets were introduced to serological tests to detect the infectious agent in order to diagnose the disease, and they learned about laboratory diagnosis of the important trans-boundary animal diseases, prevention, control and eradication plans for these diseases, veterinary information systems, and the Animal Health Service in Austria.





In addition, veterinarians visited a private vet clinic in Vienna **TIERARTZ GmbH Dr. GLATZL** (<http://www.glatzl.at/>) and were introduced to the business structure of a private veterinary practice, the daily work

organization, and record keeping. A tour of a vet clinic was conducted and the vets saw the laboratory where microbiological and PCR tests are done for diagnosis, the pharmacy where all medicines and vaccines are kept, the veterinarians' offices, and the veterinary records. The clinic has eight vets and, correspondingly, eight vet trucks for their use. Those specialized vet trucks have freezers, and special drawers for medicine, vaccines, and vet tools.

The Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES) is responsible for carrying out diverse tasks related to public health and food safety. The main areas of responsibility of AGES are the prevention and control of diseases in plants, animals, and humans. Also, as an authority the agency is responsible for licensing medicinal products, medical devices, seeds, or pesticides.

GENETIC IMPROVEMENT AND AI TRAININGS IN SHIRAK AND LORI REGIONS



From April 3 to April 6, under the framework of the Animal Health Management in Cross Border Areas of Armenia and Georgia project, financed by the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC), a training session in Genetic Improvement and Artificial Insemination (AI) was held for 30 veterinarians, including 2 females, from the Shirak and Lori regions. Most of the participants were state veterinarians, and some also provide private veterinary services.

The introduction of the new methods and technologies of genetic improvement and Artificial Insemination (AI) was the main purpose of the training. The topics covered in the training were the anatomy and physiology of cow reproductive organs; bull selection for taking sperm for

AI; detection of animals in heat; semen handling; AI technique in cattle; and estrus cycle synchronization. The questionnaires and the participants' opinions showed that the training and the materials provided were very useful and effective. The trainees expressed a lot of interest in AI techniques and genetic improvement technologies and in applying those practices in their own cattle farms. Moreover, the participants expressed their gratitude and asked for some additional topics to be taught in the near future tailored to their needs. In addition, they indicated a preference for more hands-on training which will lead to a better understanding and successful application of current methods and technologies in AI.

