



Center for Agribusiness and Rural Development

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 6, Issue 1, January 2011



CARD ANIMAL HEALTH ASSISTS VETERINARIANS OF KAPAN REGION

As a part of USDA funded Animal Health (AH) project CARD veterinary and animal health experts held a three-day practical training in Kapan region of Armenia on January 25-28, 2011. The main objective of the training was to assist veterinarians, improve their skills, teach and/or introduce them new vet services in the area.

After the theoretical part of the training, the AH team chose the most active specialists as target vets and the farms and communities serviced by them as target farms to conduct the trainings. This week the AH team visited the farm of Lyudvig Poghosyan, veterinary from Davit Bek village, and VaMax dairy farm with 300 milking cows in Kapan.

16 people participated in the training; among them nine veterinarians and farmers, five of which were target vets who stood out for active participation, the chief of regional vet office, the regional vet inspector, one student from veterinary science department of Armenian State Agrarian University (ASAU) and farmers.

The workshop included the following topics: hoof trimming, calf and cow dehorning, introduction of ultrasound scanner, pregnancy check (by rectal palpation and by ultrasound scanner), obstetrical disease diagnosis (clinical signs, ultrasound scanner), surgery (if necessary), blood sampling from tail (for

laboratory testing of brucellosis), other (if some veterinary intervention is needed in the farms). Based on the knowledge obtained during the training, local vets had the chance to practically demonstrate their skills of dehorning, hoof trimming, pregnancy checking, etc. Due to AH experts, these procedures became simpler and more effective to perform.

This was only one part of the serial trainings to be implemented also in Goris and Sisian regions by mid-March.



SERVSAFE CERTIFICATE TRAINING FOR ARMENIAN REGULATORY AND INDUSTRY



On December 7-10, 2010, the Center for Agribusiness and Rural Development (CARD) Foundation offered ServSafe training program to key food safety stakeholders. This training is important, since CARD food safety specialists, Zaruhi Davtyan and Mkhitar Hakobyan conducted the ServSafe training as Certified ServSafe Instructors and Registered ServSafe Proctors for the first time in Armenia.

ServSafe is the industry's leading food safety training and certification program, created by the U.S. National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation. The program is designed for the foodservice industry to assist in setting high food safety standards. ServSafe is recognized by US federal, state, and local jurisdictions.

There were 20 participants, among them restaurant managers (12), university students (6), as well as CARD staff (2). In addition to the theory, the training manual included practical assignments for the four teams.

Demonstration supplies, such as digital thermometers, gloves, hairnets, and food safety posters, were placed on display throughout the training and information was provided how to obtain these items. At the end of the training, these items were distributed to the participants as prizes for teamwork assignments.

Finally, the management of the "ArtLunch" catering agreed to organize a tour for the participants to their kitchen located in Beeline Company facility. This tour helped everybody visualize the training material. Thus, not only the host facility makes sure everything meets the standards, but also the participants learn about the bad and good practices.

At the end of the training, all trainees passed the test and received certificates of successful completion from the National Restaurant Association Solutions. The average class score was about 91 out of 100.

Thus, the training demonstrates successful capacity building effort sponsored by USDA/FAS and provided by well qualified and well recognized team of experts and specialists from CARD. Being one of the sequential activities implemented in the framework of the Technical Assistance to Support the Armenian Food Safety System Program, it demonstrates how CARD is gradually evolving into an independent and sustainable organization.

CARD HELPS SMALL-SCALE ENTREPRENEURS DEVELOP POST-HARVEST PRE-PROCESSING AND MARKETING CAPACITIES



The Center for Agriculture and Rural Development (CARD) implements "Development of post-harvest pre-processing and marketing capacities of cooperatives in Armenia" funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The main objective of the program is to support agricultural cooperatives in Ararat, Armavir and Vayots Dzor regions, and to assist

the sustainable development of newly founded and operating cooperatives.

In the frames of the project CARD Foundation supported agricultural associations by providing 962 vineyard and orchard tools, about 500 plastic boxes for post-harvest handling, 30 hay mowers/cultivators, 50 sprayers and over dozen of equipments for viticulture. 872 members of 21 cooperatives of Ararat, Armavir and Vayots Dzor marzes benefited from the project.

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Armenian agriculture has been facing severe problems. Levels of food consumption for large percentage of the population fell far below the poverty line. The production yield has been low as a result of poor qualities of agricultural inputs and inadequate farming practices. A major change took place in the cultivation of basic food crops at the expense of fodder crops, fruit trees, vineyards and industrial crops.

In support of these problems and above-mentioned goals, many initiatives have been implemented to assist the Armenian agricultural sector. These includes design and research of potentials and constraints of sustainable fruit and vegetable production at farm level, development of refrigerating and packing, marketing and branding, milk production improvement, strengthening of local capacities for technical assistance, food safety and sanitation, establishment of local input distribution network, friendly pest/disease control products, plant nurseries, etc.

Gender Mainstreaming in STAGE II

Gender roles, gender relations, gender discrimination, gender equality, gender equity, gender analysis, gender balance, gender mainstreaming are the topics discussed over the past decade and all of those terms have been accepted into all kinds of different development projects and programs, declarations, plans of action and policies.

STAGE II project is not an exception as well. Moreover, it has a special focus on gender issues and incorporation of those in the project activities. With this purpose, training and a workshop were organized for the project team, i.e. CARE International in the Caucasus, Center for Agribusiness and Rural Development (CARD), Civil Development Agency (CiDA) Georgia and local Armenian and Georgian trainers. The trainings were aimed at enhancing the capacities of the team to share their knowledge with the target groups and organize the project activities in a gender mainstreamed context.

At the end of November 2010, training on "Gender Mainstreaming" was organized for the Armenian target Civil Society Organizations, namely "Shirak Competitiveness Center" in Shirak region, "Spitak-Farmer Association" in Lori and "Yerevak" NGO in Tavush. Representatives from local and regional authorities were also invited, as the issue is very topical for them as well. The goal of the training was to introduce gender mainstreaming and its basic principles to the participants, show the gender importance in organizations as well as in developing and implementing different projects.

To ensure the understanding of the terms in a practical context, the training was complemented with the elaboration of Monitoring and Evaluation plans for each target CSO. Those plans are guiding tool for the CSOs while implementing small grant projects

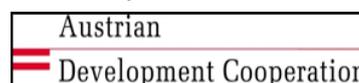


approved within the STAGE II Project and exercise application of those concepts in their daily work.

"Poverty Reduction and Confidence-building in Border Areas of Georgia and Armenia by Strengthening Civil Societies in Sustainable Rural Development" (STAGE II) Project is financed by the Austrian Development Cooperation and Cooperation with Eastern Europe (ADC) (for more information please visit: www.mfa.at/adc, www.ada.gv.at), implemented by CARE Österreich and CARE International in the Caucasus, along with the partner organizations – Civil Development Agency (CiDA) in Georgia and Center for Agribusiness and Rural Development (CARD) in Armenia.



Financed by:



1/21 Azatutyun Ave., Yerevan 0037, Armenia
Tel. (374 10) 54-57-11, 54-57-12, 54-57-13; Fax: (374 10) 58-79-28;
E-mail: card@card.am; Website: www.card.am