



# Center for Agribusiness and Rural Development **NEWSLETTER**

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## **BUILDING ANIMAL HEALTH SERVICE CAPACITIES**



In 2013, CARD initiated and implemented a need assessment of Armenian private veterinary sector to reveal the challenges and problems encountered by the local veterinarians. To address the sector issues, CARD undertook several measures among them provision of the capacity building programs. For this purpose, different local and foreign experts were involved in conducting trainings to enhance the private veterinary sector in Armenia.



As part of this initiative, CARD, in the frames of the “Animal Health Management in Cross-border Areas of Armenia and Georgia” project funded by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), invited Dr. Robert Back and Dr. Wim de Jong from the PUM Netherlands Senior Experts to conduct a two-week training sessions for local veterinarians and a three-day joint-workshop for the Armenian and Georgian veterinarians.

The trainings provided by the experts were aimed at improving the livestock management and disease prevention capacities in Armenia.

In total, 65 veterinarians participated from the Shirak, Lori, Tavush, Aragatsotn, Gegharkunik and Syunik regions of Armenia.

The topics covered during the sessions were: feeding and housing of dairy cattle; calf rearing; herd health management; disease prevention and control; reproduction ma-

agement; feed ratio balance; milking and milk hygiene and silage production.

Apart from the classroom sessions, the PUM experts paid also a visit to a farm and provided additional consultation on feeding and housing, as well as feed ratio improvement.

During their mission visit, the PUM experts had a great contribution to another significant event– conducting the joint-workshop funded by the ADA.



The event was attended by nearly 30 veterinarians from the cross-border areas of Armenia and Georgia (Kvemo-Kartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti regions).

Dr. Robert Back and Dr. Wim de Jong made presentations and tackled issues on livestock management and trans-boundary disease prevention followed by the question and answer sessions.

The workshop served as a good opportunity for knowledge and experience share. Upon the completion, all the veterinarians from both countries were handed certificates of participation.



It is worth to mention that this was Dr. Robert Back’s last mission in Armenia. “It makes me very emotional that my “PUM life” has ended for the reason of my age. For more than 3 years I was in Armenia and working together with the CARD staff members was unforgettable. My “PUM-Armenia life” is a very important part in my whole life”, said Dr. Back.



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