



TRAINING FOR ARMENIAN DAIRY PROCESSORS



Cheese production is an important part of USDA funded dairy value chain approach. Cheese producers provide critical service to thousands of farmers by opening market for raw milk produced by small holders.

CARD invited Chr. Hansen dairy specialist Mindaugas Vizgaitis to Armenia from March 12 to March 17. The purpose of his visit was to conduct seminars and on-the-job training for dairy processors in Yerevan, Lori, Vayots Dzor and Syunik regions.

The first training was held in the “Dustr Melania” dairy processing plant in the Lori region. The topics included cheese making and the technology of brining.

Mr. Vizagaitis offered solutions to the problems the processors encounter. His advice was to control the quality of the milk, to regularly use high quality laboratory equip-

ment, including measuring pH, to monitor the processes, and to use high-quality ingredients which will not only improve the flavor and extend the shelf-life of the products, but also facilitate the elimination of alien microflora in the milk.

The target training in Vayots Dzor was the “Golden Goat” cheese plant. The attendees for the training were plant director Khachik Martirosyan and 2 technologists. The technological process of feta and Tommy cheese production was covered.

New starter cultures were introduced for the trial production of Mozzarella cheese in the “Borisovka” dairy processing plant in Syunik marz.



In addition, training was organized in the Farm and Veterinary Service Center in Sarnakunk, Syunik marz, on the production of homemade brine-ripened cheese.

The final training was organized in the “Ashtarak Kat” dairy processing plant in Yerevan

for the improvement of the quality of sour-cream and yogurt through the introduction of new cultures and proper application of production technology.

FOOD SAFETY COURSES FOR ARMENIAN FOOD SAFETY STAKEHOLDERS

During March 27-30, 2012, CARD Food Safety specialists Sergey Chakhmakhchyan, Nara Serobyan, Anna Harutyunyan, Arman Badalyan and Zaruhi Davtyan conducted an introductory “HACCP: A Systematic Approach to Food Safety” certificate course for key food safety stakeholders.

The goal of the training was to provide an introduction to the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) food safety programs, which are recognized as one of the few effective methods to prevent and control food safety hazards.

This training course was designed to review the philosophy and principles of the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point system and to discuss how to implement HACCP in food plants. The training curriculum was based on the information presented in the 1998 National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods

(NACMCF) HACCP document with approved subsequent revisions. The HACCP training program was consistent with the intent and scope of the USDA, FSIS Pathogen Reduction HACCP regulation.

Earlier, in September 2009, the International HACCP Alliance, housed within the Department of Animal Science at Texas A&M University accredited CARD as an Introductory HACCP training provider and Ms. Davtyan as a Lead Instructor. The training curriculum has also been approved by the Alliance.

This was the second HACCP certificate training conducted by CARD Food Safety specialists. Eventually these specialists should also attend the train-the-trainer HACCP course approved by the International HACCP Alliance and become recognized as Lead Instructors, which will provide enough capacity for CARD to offer regular HACCP courses to more food safety stakeholders.

TRAINING IN NEW VETERINARY MEDICINES IN THE SYUNIK REGION/ANIMAL HEALTH PROJECT



Many veterinarians today lack information on the latest European and U.S. medicines available in Armenia. The medicines being used sometimes are obsolete and ineffective, and treatment results are poor because of resistance animals have to those medications. This results in animal health problems and diminishing of farm income.

To enhance the knowledge and skills of veterinarians about veterinary medicines available in Armenia, and to introduce the techniques and methods to better implement veterinarian and artificial insemination (AI) services, within the framework of the USDA- supported Animal Health Project, project coordinator Tigran Gabrielyan and project assistant Nazeli Grigoryan organized trainings for nearly 50 veterinarians from the Syunik region in March and early April.

The main topics taught and discussed during the training sessions were: effective veterinary medicines registered and available in Armenia; the best schemes for the use of those medicines; veterinary medicines available through the Animal Health project as an opportunity for the veterinarians to procure trial samples on a cost sharing basis; and the introduction and the mission of the

Farm and Veterinary Service Center, which provides advanced AI and veterinary services to farmers in the region.

The training was followed by an active answer and question session. An additional ten veterinarians from the region expressed interest in trying the new medications thanks to the excellent feedback provided by those veterinarians who have already been using them.

Armen Orbelyan, the community veterinarian from Kapan, said, "Calci Veyxol is the best solution for milking fever and when the cow loses lot of calcium right after birth. In my practice, I had cases when the farmers didn't even believe that the cows will recover, but I had good results with the injections of Calci Veyxol".



Another community veterinarian, Vahagn Sargsyan from Kapan, stated, "All the medicines I have tried in the scope of the AH project are very effective. Veyxyl-LA works best for diarrhea in calves, and Trimetox is the best choice for respiratory system diseases in calves".

SCHMALLEMBERG: A NEW VIRUS IN EUROPEAN HERDS

Schmallenberg virus (SBV), a previously unknown virus that was first detected in Germany in November 2011, now affects large numbers of cattle, sheep and goat farms in northern Europe. France has not been spared: as of 10 February 2012, 94 sheep farms in eighteen departments of northern France were affected.

Scientists consider that contamination dates back to the summer of 2011. At the time, in the Netherlands and Germany, there were dairy cows suffering from severe diarrhea, along with a fever and lower milk yields, al-

though no known infectious agent or food or environmental cause had been pinpointed.

It was German laboratory that in the autumn of 2011 identified Schmallenberg virus (from the name of the German town near the first foci). Since December, many cases of foetal infections and multiple malformations in lambs and a small number of calves and kids have been seen on farms in the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, the United Kingdom and France.

Supported by



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