



## CARD AND WORLD WIDE SIRES (WWS) COOPERATION



Under the auspices of the World Wide Sires (WWS) “Emerging Markets Program” (EMP) funded by the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), the US Accelerated Genetics Specialist, Humberto Rivera, conducted seminars, consultations, and analyses on cattle herd reproductive and genetic improvements in Sisian, in the Syunik region.

The purpose of his visit was to update the knowledge of the AI specialists, and to carry out an analysis for community herd cross-breeds production and reproduction by collecting data and developing a spreadsheet.



The seminars were conducted for eight AI specialists in the Farm and Veterinary Service Center

(FVSC), established by CARD. The specialists closely cooperate with the manager of the Center, Suren Vardanyan, who has also participated in several trainings organized by WWS and CARD specialists.

Creating a database of genetically improved herds using data from farms and communities was an idea which came up during the discussions. A new and innovative technology was introduced by Mr. Rivera to set up data collection and record keeping for animal breeding and reporting.

Almost 10 years ago, the US specialists developed the Web-based software, Global Ag Connection, which enables animal husbandry specialists to register farms



online, conduct economic analysis, and do data collection and record keeping. Now farmers in the Syunik region can access the Global Ag Connection software and register their livestock and record the improvement.

A chart and questionnaires were developed to collect data from the communities in order to use this software. Afterwards, Mr. Rivera will make it possible to summarize information about the production and reproduction of genetically improved herds in the region with the program.

## GLOBAL GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES (GAP) FOR ARMENIAN HORTICULTURAL FARMERS



Within the framework of USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) funded Food Safety project, training on Global Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) was initiated and an expert from the USA, Dr. David Picha was invited to conduct the course.

To help farmers enhance their produce handling procedures and practices and to become competitive in the international market, primarily the European market, CARD invited the USAID Enterprise Development and Market Competitiveness program (EDMC) to join this initiative.

During his visit, from April 22 to May 1, Dr. Picha visited several orchards, vineyards, cold storage facilities, and exporters. He provided a two-day training course on the GLOBAL GAP (Good Agricultural Practices) certification, which is a key requirement for enhancing the export potential of Armenian fruits and vegetables



and bringing their quality in compliance with internationally accepted rules and norms. Practical and useful one-day training on the proper post-harvest

handling of fruits and vegetables was conducted and it highlighted some modern and innovative techniques used in horticulture.

The participants included farmers, representatives from the Agricultural Academy and the Ministry of Agriculture, post-harvest handlers and exporters, as well as a number of NGOs, including CARD.

Dr. Picha believes there are many market opportunities for Armenia's horticultural products in the international market, but the exports need to be attractive, of high quality, and be part of a consistent supply. He provided recommendations for increasing the export value of the produce, including the intro-



duction of new varieties of crops, particularly the new types of dwarf and densely planted fruit trees, improvement of the post-harvest care and the introduction of up-to-date cold storage technologies, development of crop-specific production guides for the growers, as well as updating the existing information and knowledge on the crop cultivation, harvesting, proper storage and distribution techniques.

On the last day Dr. Picha debriefed the Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM), Bruce Donahue, on the implemented activities and future plans, which Mr. Donahue considered to be very applicable and important for the future of the Armenian horticultural sector.

Finally, it should be mentioned that this was the first joint activity between USDA/CARD and USAID EDMC.

Supported by



1/21 Azatutyan Ave., Yerevan 0037, Armenia  
Tel. (374 60) 440-550  
E-mail: [card@card.am](mailto:card@card.am); Website: [www.card.am](http://www.card.am)