



CARD AND PUM SIGN MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The Foundation PUM Netherlands Senior Experts (the Netherlands), represented by Country Coordinator for Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia Otto Wagenaar and the Center for Agribusiness and Rural Development Foundation (Armenia), represented by Deputy Director Sevak Manukyan, signed a Memorandum of Understanding on April 21, 2011.



The objective of signing the MoU was to contribute to the development of Armenian agricultural sector through provision of targeted and efficient support to the SMEs, small scale farmers and farmers' cooperatives, as well as government initiatives.

Both organizations contribute to improve the value added production in agriculture and food processing according to

the local and international market needs through trainings, technical assistance and demonstration projects.

Among the honorary guests were Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Georgia and Armenia Pieter Jan Langenberg, Deputy Minister of Agriculture Armen Poghosyan, Deputy Minister of Economy Karine Minasyan and others.

"Our Foundation imports various agricultural substances from Holland, especially biosystems that made great revolution in Armenia's agriculture. We have prospective projects on greenhouses and we hope that the signing of the memorandum will contribute to developing the country's agriculture," said Sevak Manukyan.

"We are grateful to CARD for their open and productive cooperation with PUM, hopefully it will give effective results to Armenia and its farmers," said Otto Wagenaar.

Dutch Government organization PUM Netherlands Senior Experts has over thirty years of experience in advising businesses in developing countries and emerging markets. Since its foundation in 1978, PUM has expanded to become Europe's largest 'temping agency' for the deployment of professional volunteers, applying the motto of 'entrepreneurs for entrepreneurs'. PUM provides assistance to small and medium sized enterprises through sending out retired entrepreneurs (experts) as volunteers thus contributing to the improvement of economic performance in general.

FIRST ORGANIC ASPARAGUS IN ARMENIA GROWN BY ARMENIAN WOMEN

In April 2011, Armenian women gave the first production of organic asparagus. Three years ago, in March 2008, women of Akunk village of Kotay marz through support of Shen NGO started zero-lift production of high-value agriculture. The main focus of the women-owned businesses was the organic asparagus, the growing of which was based on the local market demand.

CARD Foundation supported the group with the traditional and non-traditional organic greens and vegetables production.

About 15 different organic seeds were provided to diversify organic vegetables in Akunk village.

In addition, CARD introduced the group to Shen NGO, a support organization specialized in providing technical assistance for organic production.



The women passed a number of trainings on organic farming production and management.

On August 5, 2010, the U.S. Ambassador to Armenia Marie L. Yovanovitch visited the women and got acquainted with the group members and their businesses. The Ambassador was very much interested to see how the first product of organic asparagus would be marketed.

On April 25, 2011, the first production of asparagus was sent to clients for tasting. The other production will be introduced to the consumers in supermarkets and restaurants.



CARD, HEIFER INTERNATIONAL AND WORLD VISION REAP RESULTS OF EFFECTIVE COOPERATION

In 2010 CARD, Heifer International, Tavush and Gavar branches of World Vision Armenia aimed their cooperation at replenishment of farmers' knowledge on management, animal behavior, care, feeding, genetic improvement, etc. This was especially important in Areni and Arpi communities of Vayots Dzor marz, and communities of Ijevan in Tavush marz, where animal breeding has a secondary role.



Areni community – Brown Swiss crossbred from the right born as a result of artificial insemination, on the left – a local calf, which is one month older than the other one

Due to consultation of CARD Rural Development Specialists, about 500 farmers, over 10 veterinarians and artificial insemination specialists were trained within the above-mentioned cooperation. As a result, artificial insemination of 1000 animal

heads was implemented with Brown Swiss, Jersey, and Simmental breed semen. Open-air barns and livestock shelters were built and animal water troughs were provided.

At the beginning, Ditavan community farmers of Tavush marz were skeptical about the artificial insemination, but as there were no bulls in the herd of cattle, everybody wanted



Simmental crossbred in Ditavan community of Tavush marz

to have highbred calves.

Heaving reaped effective results, the cooperation continues; this time Talin and Stepanavan branches of World Vision Armenia have also joined the project. It is expected to increase the indices this year.

CARD ANIMAL HEALTH TEAM PARTICIPATES IN VEYX-PHARMA TRAININGS IN GERMANY

The Animal Health Team of CARD Foundation participated in technical trainings on animal health medicine organized by Veyx-Pharma GmbH veterinary pharmaceutical company in Schwarzenborn, Germany, on April 11-15, 2011. The main goal of the training was to introduce to the participants the variety of Veyx-Pharma products for cattle and pig and to explain the effectiveness of every medicament in comparison with their analogues, as well as to present the efficiency of their medicine based on the results of the research conducted by Veyx-Pharma.



Veyx-Pharma GmbH Schwarzenborn, Germany

Apart from the classroom trainings, Veyx-Pharma GmbH organized tours through the company and farm visits. In their warehouse the Animal Health specialists got acquainted with the

Company's daily work, such as packaging and labelling facilities, organizing medicine orders and maintaining in the warehouse.

Within the program, CARD specialists Tigran Gabrielyan and Nazeli Grigoryan also visited pig and cattle farms. The pig farms impressed the participants with their advanced approaches and methodology of keeping sows in individual pens with separate area for newborn piglets and keeping the record of any veterinary service delivered to each of them. After the movement of each group the pens were disinfected.

The cattle farms were impressive with responders on the necks of cows, which collected data from each cow during milking (udder condition, mastitis control, milk yield). Vaccination and veterinary service delivered to each cow was again recorded. Besides, near the barns the farmers had constructed big biogas stations to get energy from manure and farm waste.

The training was a good chance for the AH team to take up new information on medicine and farm care to introduce them to Armenian farmers with the aim of improving the AH in Armenia.

Supported by



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