

NEWSLETTER

EVERY END IS A NEW BEGINNING

Beginning of the year was marked by two important initiatives, the closure of the “Animal Health Management in Armenia and Georgia, Phase II” (AHM II) project on one hand, and the launch of the “Holding and Animal Identification and Registration (HAI&R) in Armenia: Preparation Project”, on the other. Both projects were made possible due to generous support and financing from the Austrian Development Agency.



The 3.5 year-long AHM II project focused on the improvement of animal health and animal productivity in Armenia and Georgia, reaching more than 3,000 cattle farmers, 220 veterinarians, more than 2,000 pig farmers and 35 veterinary students.

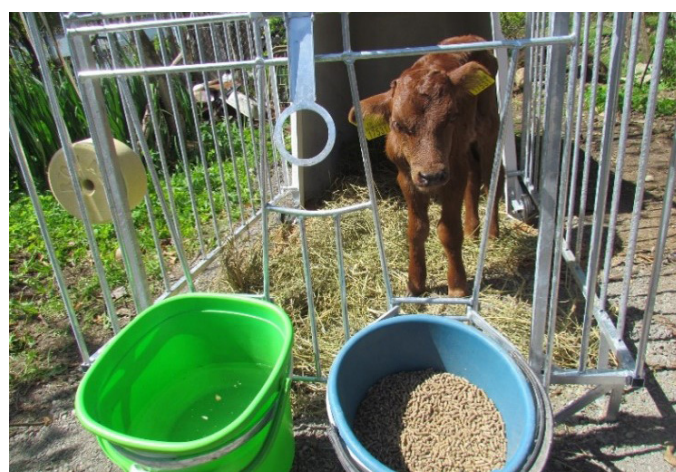
The main project objectives were reached, including the improvement of the animal health regulatory framework, improvement of practices and capacities of farmers and veterinarians to better provide veterinary services and control animal diseases, as well as the improvement of proper breeding practices contributing to animal genetics and farm income.



Among the main achievements of the project was the establishment of the PEDIGREE ANIMAL BREEDERS ASSOCIATION, consisting of 62 members, as well as the NATIONAL VETERINARY ASSOCIATION, including 50 members. They will unify the farmers under a single umbrella, serving as a platform for the discussion and solution of the problems they face.



A number of projects have been implemented jointly with the Agroservice Center, aimed at improving the economic viability at cross-border areas of Armenia and Georgia through awareness building campaigns on prevention and control of trans-boundary diseases, improvement of herd management strategies and development of private veterinary business capacities through application of new techniques and establishment of the Farm and Veterinary Service Centers (FVSCs).



One of the important components of the project was the capacity building of the young generation and close cooperation with the Armenian National Agrarian University. Almost 40 students have been involved in the project and had an opportunity to apply their knowledge and skills in practice and grow. Two of them joined our company as interns and are currently our employees.



Within the frames of the project the Pig Genetic Center was established in Nor Gyugh community, targeted towards the development of the swine-breeding sector and the improvement of pig genetics. Pig Genetic Center will contribute to the pig productivity increase, pork taste improvement, and will suffice the demand of high-quality pork in the market.



As a result of the project the Animal identification and registration preparatory project document was prepared, later being approved by the Austrian Development Agency and marking the start of the Holding and Animal Identification and Registration in Armenia: Preparation Project". The new project will focus on the strengthening of the animal health surveillance in the country by identifying and tracking specific animals. Healthy animals and developed agriculture will provide consumer confidence and protect domestic and international markets.

