DAIRY INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT IN AFGHANISTAN

2005-2014

BACKGROUND

Afghanistan is a traditional livestock country and was in the past self-sufficient in livestock products. In 2002, FAO started dairy sector development activities with the support of the Government of the Germany and the United Nations Development Programme, followed by the Government of Italy and IFAD/MAIL. The interest for the development of the dairy sector came from both consumers and producers.

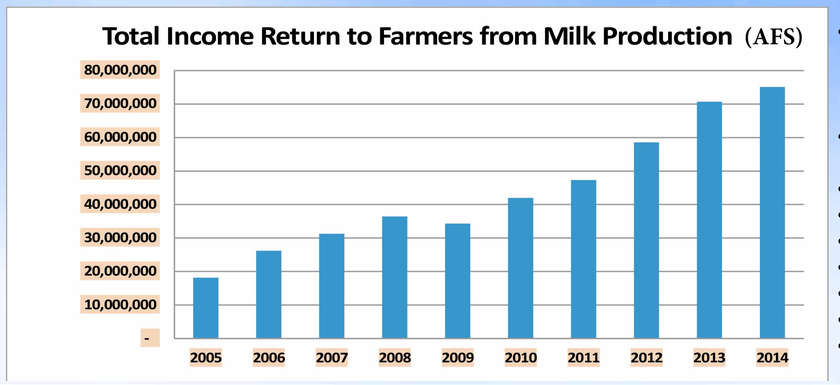
Method Integrated Dairy Scheme Approach

Improvement of fodder resources
Training in improved animal husbandry and animal health practices
Setting up of milk processing and marketing centers
Organization of farmers into milk producer groups
Formalization of enterprises through milk producer cooperatives
Organization of cooperatives into regional bodies

Development of Integrated Dairy Scheme in Kabul, Parwan and Logar Provinces (UTF/AFG/060?AFG

RESULTS

- Annual income of farmers has increased from 374 USD to
- 807 USD from selling surplus milk production (2005 – 2014)
- Rural women control over 80% of the cash earned from milk and have full authority on how this income is spent at the farm level milk production per animal has more than doubled
- Dairy Unions have been established in Kabul, Balkh , Herat and Nangarhar



CHALLENGES

Some of the key challenges faced by the project includes:

- Need for market expansion due to increased milk intake followed by increased plant capacity.
- Competition of dairy imports.
- Environmental changes including drought and cold weather conditions.
- Security

LESSONS LEARNED

This project has successfully demonstrated the possibility of local farmers to effectively respond to the domestic demand for milk and milk products through improved knowledge, appropriate farmer-friendly tools, market linkages and the formation of producer and processor groups.

- The initiatives taken by the project can also be recommended to other countries whose geographical and socio economic status is similar to those in Afghanistan.
- The participatory approach encouraged community participation that led to the setting up of cooperatives and unions by the communities themselves.
- The establishment of the Milk Collecting Centers was a key facility to encourage beneficiaries to bring milk on daily basis.
- Farmers were motivated to participate in the dairy business and understood the importance of the sector.
- An unexpected benefit was that beneficiaries reported an increased willingness to allow female members of the household to participate in other social and group activities including developmental programmes.
- 80 % of dairy cash income was given to women, who have decision- making power in how it is spent,
- Following the below prioritization:
- Education for children
- Food
- Clothing
- Medicines
- Feed for dairy animals
- Traditional expenses, such as ceremonies, etc