



Web: www.ids-af.org
 Email: info@ids.org
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DAIRY.15>
 Twitter: DairyKabul

JUNE 2016- VOLUME 4

DAIRY NEWSLETTER

World milk day commemorations in Afghanistan - 1st June 2016



Mr Tomio Shichiri, FAO representative presenting dairy products to Rabia Balkhi school students during the celebration of World Milk Day

The World Milk Day was celebrated in the 4 Afghan provincial capital cities of Kabul, Herat, Jalalabad and Mazar – e - Sharif on 1st June 2016. This was the first time the event was celebrated in Afghanistan. In the 4 provinces FAO planned for the celebrations together with the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL), the provincial Directorates of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock and the Ministry of Education.

The objective of the World Milk Day celebrations was to increase the public awareness about the importance of milk and milk products, and dairy industry development in Afghanistan.

5,500 students and officials from MAIL, provincial governors' offices, dairy unions, DAILS, FAO, WFP, and WHO participated in the celebrations in girls' high schools. In every location dairy companies displayed their milk and milk products. Students received some brochures on the importance of milk. The school children presented various drama acts, poems, songs and speeches acknowledging the importance of milk as a food

especially for children.

There was distribution of milk and yoghurt to students from selected girls' high school in the respective cities. The schools were Alayee (Jalalabad), Fath (Herat), and Khursan (Mazar - e - Sharif and Rabia - e Balkhi (Kabul)

In Kabul Mr Mir Amanudin Haidari, Deputy Minister, MAIL Deputy Minister, Mr Tomio Shichiri (FAO Representative) and Mr Abdul Maheed Hashimi, Head of Public Awareness in the Ministry of Education officiated at the celebrations. Mr Tomio Shichiri particularly urged stakeholders to look into the possibility of introducing a pilot school milk programmes in the country. "Drinking milk and school milk programmes do not only improve the nutritional status and growth rate of children but also improves school attendance and their academic performance" he said.



Mr Amanudin Haidari, Deputy Minister MAIL presenting dairy products to Rabia Balkhi school students during the celebration of World Milk Day

Business communication training for field staff

In April 2016, the FAO Dairy Project conducted the business communication training for the field staff. The course was delivered by Mr Zia Najeeb, the Dairy Project's Knowledge Management and Communications officer following a request by FAO Afghanistan senior management. It was attended by 29 staff from sdairy project field staff. The objective of the course was to improve the quality of visibility and extension materials within FAO Afghanistan with particular focus on photos and using cameras at field level. The purpose of the training was sharing of experiences and demonstrations of techniques by in communication field. Among other topics, the training covered the fundamentals of using a camera, and knowledge and skills needed to take professional and quality photos.

"We hope to see an improvement in the quality of the promotional materials, reports and success stories at field level by our field staff especially in the Dairy Project" said Dr. Lutfullah Rlung, National Professional Officer in Dairy Project

In this issue



World milk day commemorations
Page 1



Field day - sharing experiences...
Page 2



Dairy industry development...
Page 3



Greater income for an Afghan woman...
Page 4

Field day: sharing experiences



Berseem seed production plot

The FAO CLAP Dairy Project facilitated a field day for farmers in Shehak Village of Mohammad Agha District, Logar province on the 31st of May 2016. The field day was attended by 132 people including staff from MAIL and the DAILs of Logar, Parwan and Kabul provinces, technical staff from ICARDA, CLAP, Executive and Monitoring Committee members of Kabul Dairy Union (KDU), 100 members of milk producer cooperatives societies from Parwan, Kabul and Logar Provinces and 5 FAO staff.

The main objectives of the field day were to:

- Demonstrate to participants some achievements of the artificial insemination, fodder crop production, feeding, cattle housing, animal health, milk collection and capacity building activities and dairy cooperatives at village and district levels and how this is helping increase livestock production and milk collection activities.
- Share and exchange technical experiences for increasing capacity of farmers and technical staff in livestock production and health, and dairy cooperatives management.
- Develop the participants' ability to solve field level problems in livestock production and animal health.

In his remarks during the field day Engineer Hamayun Omar the Agriculture director of animal health and livestock production in Logar province advised the participants to learn from each other's experiences and apply the acquired skills and knowledge in their own dairy farming activities. He appreciated FAO and MAIL for the generous support and implementation of the dairy project in Logar province. He also highlighted the importance of the dairy project in increasing income generation by farmers, and improving their food security and livelihoods. He encouraged the stakeholders to extend the dairy project to other districts of Logar province.

The chairman of KDU Mr Zekria Ahmadzai led the participants on a visit to fodder crops seed production and demonstration plots, a demonstration on using a forage cutting chopper machine, improved cattle housing system, animal health and cooperative activities. During the visit technical discussions and exchange of experiences took place between farmers and visitors from Parwan province focusing on artificial insemination and animal breeding in general, cattle housing, activities implemented by women, animal health, eco-



Hay making demonstration

nomics analysis of fodder crop production (comparing local and improved fodder seeds), milk collection and the role of cooperative societies in dairy development in Afghanistan.

At the end of the field day, participants expressed appreciation to MAIL and FAO for the valuable support through the dairy project which continues to deliver tangible results for the beneficiaries. They also expressed appreciation for the strong support offered to the project by the leadership of Logar and Parwan provinces. The field day was also important for the strengthening of coordination between MAIL and DAI through the desire to support improvement of dairy cooperatives and implementation of dairy field activities.



Lucerne improved fodder demonstration plot

Dairy project artificial insemination results in 2016



AI results- a three day old calf

The FAO CLAP Dairy Project launched the Artificial Insemination (AI) programme for cows in Kabul, Parwan and Logar provinces in the second half of 2014. The project's AI workers provide farmers with improved frozen bull semen straws resulting in crossbreed cows that yield more milk, along with training on how to breed the cows and care for the livestock. Cows inseminated by the AI workers produce offspring capable of generating more milk, which then helped to strengthen the dairy enterprise. The imported frozen bull semen straws are mainly from Holstein Friesland breeds.

Under the AI scheme, 8 artificial insemination centres cover a breedable cattle population of about 6,300. To date 5,415 artificial inseminations have been conducted. In 2016 about 68% of the pregnancy tested cows that had been inseminated were pregnant. The female offspring have a high value on the market. Farmers willing to sell the crossbreed heifers can fetch up to USD XX - about XX times the normal price for a similar heifer from local breeds. Crossbreeding programmes are supported by other activities such as extension on improved fodder production, animal husbandry and animal health. Although they produce more milk, crossbreed cows have a higher requirement for feed and animal husbandry practices. They are also more susceptible to disease outbreaks.

Livestock vaccinated against foot and mouth disease



Dairy field staff vaccinating livestock against FMD in Logar Province

Smallholder dairy farmers in the 3 provinces of Kabul, Parwan and Logar are benefiting from Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) vaccinations of their livestock. The vaccinations are being implemented through collaboration between the FAO / MAIL International Fund for Agriculture Development funded Dairy Industry Development in Kabul, Logar and Parwan provinces project and the FAO Japan International Cooperation Agency funded Building Resistance and Self - reliance of Livestock Keepers by Improving Control of FMD and other Transboundary Animal Diseases project, an OSRO project. FMD, a highly contagious disease, causes major production losses. It results in marked reduction in cow milk production - bad news indeed for any dairy farmer.

The FMD vaccinations are conducted twice a year. Through the intervention, XX livestock have been vaccinated since 2014. More Afghan farmers are set to benefit as the FAO OSRO project is in the process of extending the FMD vaccination programme to other provinces working through the provincial Directorates of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock and existing dairy unions as part of the Progressive Control Pathway for FMD. The 2 projects are also collaborating in efforts to improve milk quality and safety. A survey on aflatoxin in cow milk was recently launched in the 3 provinces of Kabul, Logar and Parwan.

Greater income for an Afghan woman and her family



The FAO CLAP Dairy project has facilitated the establishment of a network of village level cooperatives of smallholder dairy farmers for about 3,000 households in Kabul, Parwan, and Logar provinces. The farmers deliver milk to milk collection centres and access extension services on animal husbandry and animal health, and artificial insemination services through their dairy union and Veterinary Field Units.

Mrs Aziza Gul is a project beneficiary from Jelga Kolnagar district of Logar Province. She lost her husband some few years ago and she heads a family with 5 children. After her husband's death she strug-

gled to look after the family and educate the children as she had no reliable source of income. Fortunately Mrs Aziza received a cow from a livestock restocking programme through a different organization. When she joined the dairy cooperatives she started delivering milk to the local milk collection centre. The also benefited from technical services and inputs provided under the Dairy Project. Her herd size has since increased and she now has two cows producing a total of 15 litres per day and sells the milk at an average price of Afs 22 / litre. "Through dairy farming my income has increased to

At least Afs 2,000 a week. I am now able to secure basic family needs and send the children to school" said Mrs Aziza Gul. The extra income enables her to purchase school books, soap, medicines and other basic household needs and to save a bit.

Integrated Dairy Scheme Success Story



Dairy field staff during an interview with a beneficiary of the project

Poverty in Afghanistan is widespread throughout rural and urban areas. The government estimates that 42 per cent of the country's total population lives below the national poverty line. Another 20 per cent of the people live just above that line and are highly vulnerable to the risk of falling into poverty. Agriculture (and livestock's) is traditionally the major activity for a large portion of the population, but the sector has suffered from nearly 30 years of conflict, low investments and natural disasters. The average size of landholdings is small, and as a result agriculture is rarely the main source of food or income.

Mrs. Maymoona (41) who lives with her 5 children in Elyas Khil village in the north of Kabul Province is a beneficiary of the FAO/MAIL Dairy project. Her husband passed away 12 years ago and livestock is the only livelihood and source of income for her and the family. Through the project she was facilitated to join a milk producers' cooperative in her village.

Before joining the dairy cooperative her animals suffered from various diseases as she had no access to a veterinary clinic and animal health services for her two cows. "The Dairy project's field staff introduced to us new technical skills and technology such as modern animal husbandry methods and artificial insemination services as well as better access to veterinary services" she said. As a result her cows 'milk production has increased. Mrs. Maymoona now produces 9 liters of milk per day and sells to the village milk collection center earning 250 AFS per day.

