

## **Community Action in Integrated and Market Oriented Feed-Livestock Production in Central and South Asia**

### **Minutes of the Second Project Steering Committee Meeting**

**26 November 2008, Dushanbe, Tajikistan**

The goal of this Integrated Feed and Livestock project is to develop productivity enhancing and market oriented technologies and community-based strategies for the management of integrated fodder/rangeland/livestock production with a focus on small ruminants. The three year project started on 1 June 2006. The Second Steering Committee Meeting of the ICARDA-IFAD Community Action in Integrated and Market Oriented Feed-Livestock Production in Central and South Asia Project was held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, on 26 November 2008. The event was hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture of Tajikistan and Tajik Research Institute of Livestock. The workshop brought together a representative from IFAD, national coordinators and principal investigators of the project from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Pakistan and scientists from ICARDA Headquarters in Aleppo, Syria, and its Regional office for CAC in Tashkent.

#### **Second Project Steering Committee Meeting, 26 November 2008 (Wednesday)**

Dr. A.Karakulov has opened **The Second Steering Committee Meeting** with a welcome address to the participants and chaired the opening session. He highlighted that livestock production is the most important sector in agriculture of Tajikistan and wished success to the meeting. Dr. Antonio Rota, Senior Technical Adviser on Livestock and Farming Systems, IFAD, made a welcome speech in the opening session. He emphasized that for the success of the project it is necessary to organize meetings and field days with participation of the policy makers to widely extend the results of the project on local, regional and global level.

Dr. Barbara Rischkowsky, Project Coordinator, ICARDA, emphasized that the Second Project Steering Committee Meeting is focused to observe progress reports and to discuss project workplan and budget for next year. She also said that three professional officers from Tashkent office will make presentations of progress reports in Central Asia for each theme, and Dr. Azeem Khan will make a presentation on progress report in Pakistan. National Coordinators of the project will present work plans and budget for 2009.

Three Professional Officers from Tashkent office made the presentations on results of the project on socioeconomics, range and forage productivity, and livestock productivity in Central Asia. Talking about the difficulties occurred during implementation Nariman Nishanov, Professional Officer on Socioeconomics, highlighted that there were certain difficulties on collection of reliable income and flock size data during households survey because households were afraid of being additionally taxed. Dr. Aziz Nurbekov, Professional Officer on Range and Forage Productivity, emphasized that all Central Asian countries are facing abnormal weather conditions such as harsh cold during winter time and severe drought during spring period of the year. As a result, in some experiments, the yield potential of tested crops was less compared to the normal year. Dr. Habibullo Hamdamov, Professional Officer on Livestock Productivity, mentioned that winter in

2007/2008 was very harsh, and birth and vitality rates of ewes decreased in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. There were fruitful discussions after each presentation in the meeting.

Dr. Azeem Khan, Principal Investigator on Socioeconomics, made a presentation on behalf of Dr. Sartaj Khan on progress achieved in 2008 in Pakistan. He highlighted that there were certain problems on theme 2. Dr. Azeem Khan informed that households do not have access to the high yielding varieties of fodder crops when they need them and listed other problems which occurred during project implementation in both sites.

The second SCM continued with the presentations of workplans and budgets by the Project National Coordinators in the four countries for the period January – December 2009. After a discussion of the national workplans and budgets the Steering Committee members said it can be approved with minor changes, and the last version of the workplan should be sent to ICARDA on 3 December, 2008.

Dr. Rischkowsky made two presentations at the steering committee meeting in Dushanbe. Her first presentation was on regional activities, and the second presentation was on budget utilization for the third year of the project. She emphasized that total initially planned budget for the period January – December 2009 was USD 317,000.00 but the actual amount of approximately USD 266,162.00 left for next year. Taking into account the particular circumstances with the budget Dr. Rischkowsky suggested to cut the budget for 2009 by 10 %. All National Coordinators of the project said that they can send the final version of the budget for 2009 by Wednesday next week after consultation with the principal investigators of the themes in their respective countries.

It was also agreed that all progress reports should be submitted to IFAD by the end of February 2009. Steering Committee members from Central Asia agreed to send the last version of the progress reports to Tashkent office at the end of this year, then professional officers will translate them from Russian into English, and the final version will be sent to ICARDA.

In his closing remarks, Dr. Antonio Rota of IFAD mentioned that project made a big progress in terms of positive results in all three themes. He made a few suggestions. Dr. Rota emphasized that the positive results are very good but we should think about extension part of the achieved results. This is a way to reach the poorest layers of the households. He highlighted that he is looking forward to seeing in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan the participatory breeding strategy that is already shared with policy makers in Nepal and Mongolia. This kind of community breeding strategy meets IFAD objectives and requirements. This is very good that project started work on Community Breeding Programme which was developed in Argentina is nowadays widely spreading all over the world very rapidly. He also suggested that in the regional and steering committee meeting households or farmers should participate in the workshop. Finally, Dr. Rota mentioned about budget and workplans of the project which were already discussed during the meeting. The budget and workplans should be sent to IFAD as soon as possible to extend the project duration from July to December 2009.

At the end of the Meeting, Dr. Karakulov thanked all members for attending the meeting and for active participation in both Regional Workshop and Steering Committee Meeting. He wished success to the next Regional Workshop and Steering Committee Meeting to be held in Pakistan or Kazakhstan in October 2009.

## **Decisions of the Project Steering Committee**

The following decisions were made at the Meeting:

1. All National Partners of the project agreed to reduce budget by 10% and the last version of the budget should be sent on 3 December 2008.
2. The Steering Committee members decided to approve workplans with minor changes and the last version of the workplan should be sent to ICARDA on 3 December, 2008;
5. Wrap-up Regional Workshop and Steering Committee Meeting of the project will be hosted by Pakistan or Kazakhstan in October 2009. One or two policy makers should be invited to the Regional Workshop from each Central Asian country participating in the project and Pakistan;
6. Proceedings of the First Regional Workshop and Steering Committee Meeting and presentations made during both meetings should be provided to all participants soon.