

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

FIELD DAYS

24 November, Khujand

Field day to the project sites in the Soghd province was organized on 24 November, 2008. Participants got acquainted with the nucleus flock of mohair goats owned by farmers Suleyman and Turgunboy. Dr. Matazim Kasymov briefly explained the idea of the experiment on community based breeding plan, and participants were provided answers to the questions related to the feeding, grazing, and shearing practices, identification of mohair quality. Then participants visited household of farmer Rajabboy where the principal investigators of the three project themes made short presentations of the progress achieved on project implementation in the Sogd province of Tajikistan.

27 November, Dushanbe

Field day to the project sites in Dusti community near Dushanbe was conducted on 27 Nov. 2008. Participants were demonstrated mung bean and alfalfa fields of farmer Abdumajid Boboshoev, alfalfa field of Latipov Gulmurod's farm, and farmer Niyazov's winter wheat and mung bean fields. Drs. Madaminov and Nurbekov explained the experiments being conducted on these fields. Then the participants were demonstrated the sheep flocks of farmers Mamasharif (experimental) and Tojiddin (traditional). Later participants visited hayfields where farm trials on improvement of the carrying capacity of degraded hayfields were demonstrated.

SUMMARY OF THE SECOND REGIONAL WORKSHOP, DUSHANBE, TAJIKISTAN

The Second Regional Workshop 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 25 November, 2008. The Regional Workshop was attended by a representative from IFAD, the Heads and the collaborating scientists from Pakistan, the CAC-NARS and scientists from ICARDA Headquarters in Aleppo, Syria, and its Regional office for CAC in Tashkent. The Meeting was hosted by the Institute of Livestock located in Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan.

Minutes of the Second Regional Workshop, 25 November 2008 (Tuesday)

In his welcome address, Academician Amir Karakulov, National Coordinator in Tajikistan, thanked all participants for their continued support and cooperation. He emphasized that ICARDA and IFAD are helping to achieve sustainable agricultural development and natural resource management in the region by promoting cooperation for research in non-tropical arid areas, capacity building and human resource development. Academician Amir Karakulov also pointed out that livestock, especially production of small ruminants, is very important for the rural poor in arid areas.

In his welcome address, Mr. Davlat Saidov, Head of the Science Dep't of the Ministry of Agriculture, Tajikistan, thanked all participants for their participation in this Workshop organized by ICARDA and IFAD. He mentioned that such collaboration will led to a reduction of poverty and hunger in Tajikistan and Central Asia.

In her welcome address, Dr. Barbara Rischkowsky, Project Coordinator, ICARDA, expressed her gratitude to Tajik scientists for hosting this conference and to ICARDA-Tashkent office for

the excellent organization of this conference. Also she introduced the agenda of the regional workshop and time schedule for other related issues.

In his opening statement, Dr. Antonio Rota, Senior Technical Advisor on Livestock and Farming Systems, IFAD, provided a brief introduction of IFAD grants. He informed the participants that an IFAD grant is directed to reach 3 objectives that are mainly dedicated for developing modern agricultural technologies on a base of local institutes and further implementing them in the rural communities, identifying new area for development and further investment, exploring models which can be upscaled through government and IFAD's investments. He mentioned that successful activities on mohair fiber give opportunity to develop a new project which will start in near future.

The Workshop continued by the presentation of Dr. Nuradin Alibaev, Principal Investigator on Theme 1, Kazakhstan, on socioeconomic activities conducted in Kazakhstan. During his presentation, results of the cost-benefit analysis of the early lambing, fattening of the early weaned lambs, and cow and sheep milk processing were demonstrated.

In the next presentation, Dr. Gulomqodir Safaraliev, Principal Investigator on Theme 1, Tajikistan, described the marketing chains of sheep meat and lambs' markets. Farm types in Tajikistan, dynamics of the sheep flock in Tajikistan, per capita production and consumption of livestock products in Tajikistan, breed distribution of sheep sold at the markets, dynamics of lamb price were pointed out in his presentation. It was stated that because food markets in Tajikistan are not protected and domestic production of livestock products is extremely low, imports of these products is gradually increasing.

In his presentation on Baseline studies and socioeconomic evaluation of technologies in Pakistan, Dr. Azeem Khan, Pakistan Agricultural Research Council, explained the impact evaluation framework, baseline survey results, and on-going technology evaluation. At the end of presentation, he concluded that scaling up mechanism of hay making technique needs to be worked out; before feeding trials were mainly conducted with large farmers. He emphasized that in the next plan, small and medium (not involved in milk business) categories of farmers should also be included in the feeding trial of lactating animals; animal vaccination against seasonal diseases is important. Farmers bear heavy economic losses due to these diseases. Dr. Azeem Khan concluded that in this context, awareness sessions and vaccination training program needs to be included in the future R & D plan.

Options for including forage resources on small scale farms in Tajikistan were presented by Dr. Abdumutalib Jamoliddinov, Principal Investigator on Theme 2, Tajikistan. He explained about introduced none traditional crops into existing crop rotation, agronomic traits of the crops, on-farm demonstration of improved agronomic packages, effect of planting date to the corn biomass and grain yield. It was mentioned that last summer was very hot, and temperatures were high reaching up to +47-49⁰C, and at the same time hot wind (with sandy wind) was recorded in the first and second decade of July. This high temperature led to decrease of yield potential of corn in the Uskanov's farm. It was mentioned that field performance of the plants sown on 10 and 20 May was in satisfactory conditions as well as yield potential of the crop was higher than previous dates.

In his presentation on integration of legumes into cereal cropping systems, Dr. Abdullo Madaminov, Principal Investigator on Theme 2, Tajikistan, explained double cropping system using mung bean after winter wheat harvest, effect of planting rate on productivity of mung bean, effect of ammophous application on alfalfa yield productivity and plant height.

Then Dr. Ghulam Mahyuddin, Pakistan Fodder Research Institute, Sarghoda, described community based testing of improved forages in Pakistan. He explained the present status of fodder crops in Pakistan, availability of forage during the year, and listed the issues facing the forage production systems at village level. It was mentioned that berseem seed crop is more economical than fodder crop alone, and that cereal-legume combination of berseem and oats gave high green fodder yield.

In their presentation on improving productivity of hayfields, Drs. Kenesh Joldoshev, Kyrgyz Research Institute of Livestock and Abdullo Madaminov, Tajik Research Institute of Livestock, explained the effect of fertilization on productivity of hayfields, plant cover and plant density at different nitrogen rate and at different tillage methods (in Kyrgyzstan). Dr. Madaminov explained the experiment on improving carrying capacity of degraded hayfields (in Tajikistan).

Describing milk production with Awassi sheep in Kyrgyzstan Dr. Asanbek Ajibekov, Principal Investigator on Theme 3, Director of Kyrgyz Institute of Livestock and Pastures, explained opportunities for dairy sheep production and community based breeding plan in Kyrgyzstan. It was mentioned that further milk obtained from experimental sheep will be processed into dairy products and market opportunities will be studied.

In next presentation, Dr. Marat Tuekbasov, Principal Investigator on Theme 3, explained feasibility of early lambing and early weaning technologies in Kazakhstan. It was mentioned that early (winter) lambing gives an opportunity to obtain additional profit from sale of lambs at a higher price during Naryz holyday in March. However, the technology requires a special control of feeding and maintenance during the winter lambing.

Then Dr. Matazim Kosimov and Mr. Farhod Kosimov, Tajik Research Institute of Livestock, Sogd Branch, explained activities on Angora goat conducted in Khujand site. Results on fiber characteristics of mohair goats were presented by Farhod Kosimov, Ph.D. student. Dr. Kosimov showed the results of activities on mohair goat breeding. It was mentioned that poor region's natural and forage conditions can be rationally used only by breeding of mohair goats. Breeding of these goats is economically and socially important for local population, adaptation of the successful goat breeding in the communities to the new market oriented stage creates promising perspective.

In his presentation on improving management of Gissar sheep in Dusti community, Dr. Fazzlidin Ikramov, Director of Tajik Research Institute of Livestock, explained activities conducted at Dushanbe site including additional feeding strategy of ewes during their preparation for mating; additional feeding strategy of ewes during gestation period; lambs early weaning technology and fattening for meat. It was mentioned that grazing of sheep on pastures leads to better productive abilities, health and prolificacy, and improved reproductive features of animals. Lambs weaned at a 3 month age and grazed on good pastures exceeded their contemporaries in life weight.

Dr. Imdad Mirza, NARC Pakistan, made a presentation on improved feeding of buffaloes for increased milk and meat production (rainfed and irrigated site) in Pakistan. He explained comparison of improved summer hay and concentrate with conventional feeds, feedlot fattening of calves under traditional versus improved feeding practices; and adding value to livestock products through processing and preservation of milk.

In the closing remarks, Drs. Abdurahman Ombaev and Antonio Rota thanked all participants for attending the Regional Workshop and taking part in the fruitful discussions of the project related issues. They also thanked ICARDA-Tashkent office for excellent organization and conducting of the Regional Workshop.