



IMPROVING LIVESTOCK GENETIC RESOURCES IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Cattle rearing is important for the livelihoods of subsistence farmers in the Republic of Moldova. Despite great potential to further develop the dairy sector, cattle populations are decreasing and total milk and beef production levels remain relatively low. Neither a national cattle breeding programme nor a performance record keeping system exist, further stifling potential growth. Thus, this project aimed to improve genetic resources in the livestock sector and develop a strategy to manage and monitor animal genetic resources, improve cattle breeding and re-introduce milk quality analyses and performance recording.



WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The project facilitated and actively supported the development of the dairy sector through training and capacity building activities. Under the guidance of a national advisory group, a national strategy and action plan on animal genetic resources was prepared and approved by the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment (MARDE).

A master plan to re-introduce performance recording and milk analysis was also developed, and a milk analysis centre was established at the State Agrarian University of Moldova, the only laboratory in the country providing this service. Moreover, a dairy cattle improvement programme was presented to stakeholders and policy-makers, which will be used for future planning and development of the dairy sector.

IMPACT

The sustainable management of genetic resources and re-introduction of milk performance recording enhanced dairy cattle breeding and husbandry practices. Theoretical, as well as practical, training on modern methods in milk quality analysis further support growth and development of the dairy sector and can help improve farmer livelihoods. Better milk productivity rates reduce the number of cattle needed to meet domestic demand, thereby reducing pressure on natural resources to produce fodder and feed and enhancing environmental sustainability in the longer term.

KEY FACTS

Contribution

USD 320 000

Duration

March 2015 – October 2017

Resource Partner

FAO

Partner

Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment (MARDE)

Beneficiaries

Dairy farmers, including women;
Stakeholders in the dairy sector; Milk laboratory staff at the State Agrarian University of Moldova; Extension workers; Artificial insemination technicians; Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment (MARDE)

RESULTS

- National strategy and action plan on animal genetic resources developed and approved by the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment (MARDE).
- Master plan to re-introduce performance recording for the dairy sector developed.
- Milk recording system piloted and capacity strengthened on artificial insemination.
- Conceptual framework and dairy cattle improvement programme developed.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Project Code

TCP/MOL/3503

Project Title

Development of the national strategy and action plan for animal genetic resources and dairy cattle genetic improvement programme

Contacts

FAO Office in the Republic of Moldova
FAO-MD@fao.org

Andriy Vasylovych Rozstalnyy (Lead Technical Officer)
Andriy.Rozstalnyy@fao.org



Resource Mobilization Division
 Marketing, Outreach and Reporting Unit
Reporting@fao.org