



STRENGTHENING RURAL LIVELIHOODS THROUGH IMPROVED BREEDING STRUCTURES IN AZERBAIJAN

Cattle are the most important part of the livestock sector in Azerbaijan. Modern and well-managed processing facilities are therefore required in order to produce high-quality dairy products. Given the need for a regular supply of raw milk throughout the year and, which required farmers to improve the genetic quality of cows, the project aimed to improve breeding and service quality in the livestock sector through a better organized and high-quality system for delivering artificial insemination and animal production services to farms.



WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The project improved the quality of locally produced semen and achieved efficient and sustainable management of the Artificial Insemination Center in Goygol. The capacity of the existing artificial insemination technicians was developed through training in skills and modern farming technologies. Institutional efforts also played a crucial role in the project. Associations were established at regional level for inseminator, while a national artificial insemination technicians' association was also set up, with the ultimate objective of developing breeders' associations.

IMPACT

The project delivered durable outputs – improved capacity and skills and an efficient artificial insemination system – and an institutional structure that will remain in place beyond the project's lifetime. These factors will prove vital in enhancing rural livelihoods and improving food security. Continued technical capacity development for staff and for artificial inseminators will ensure that the breeding process in Azerbaijan is further modernized.

KEY FACTS

Contribution
USD 360 000

Duration
October 2014 – July 2017

Resource Partners
FAO

Partners
Artificial Insemination Center
of the Ministry of Agriculture

Beneficiaries
Farmers and inseminators (with the majority of inseminators working under the State Veterinary Service Control of the Ministry of Agriculture)



ACTIVITIES

- Review of methods of collection, freezing, storage and distribution of semen produced by an international specialist, as well as on-the-job training and improved practice of semen production and handling.
- Training materials developed and 29 practical training courses delivered for 199 artificial insemination technicians.
- 50 liquid nitrogen containers and 100 artificial insemination kits procured for the inseminators.
- Curriculum and training materials for AI courses developed and a special course conducted for six future artificial insemination trainers in Azerbaijan.
- Regional meeting organized with inseminators for the establishment of regional-level associations for and a national Artificial Insemination Technicians' Association.



Project Code
TCP/AZE/3502

Project Title
Development of Cattle Breeding and Artificial Insemination Services in Azerbaijan

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