

Tajik Veterinary Associations in Panjikent District of Tajikistan

Veterinary service is important for livestock sector in Tajikistan, as livestock is the main source of livelihood of rural Tajiks comprising 80% of population. Delivery of veterinary services was disrupted after the collapse of Soviet Union as it was fully financed by the state budget. The situation exuberated in the aftermath of the Civil War in early ninetieths of the last century in Tajikistan. As a results, animal losses from outbreaks of diseases, loss of animal productivity, absence of medicines and vaccines, and migration of the veterinarians to Russia because of low salaries deteriorated the lives of rural Tajiks.

In response to this, FAO initiated an emergency project in 1999 and established Veterinary Field Units (VFU) utilizing funding from several donors.

The emergency project was mainly focused on support of vets through provision of refresher training, equipment and transportation means and the supplies of medicines and vaccines through a revolving funds so that vets can provide veterinary services on user pays system for the first time. In 2008, FAO supported Tajik veterinarians to establish their Veterinary Association to manage the revolving funds for veterinary supplies and other services. In addition, district based veterinary associations were established and their share of revolving funds were distributed to be managed locally.

The Panjikent district veterinary association also received their share of the revolving funds. However, their members (23 veterinarians) agreed to manage their association on voluntary basis, register the association, pay regular taxes, increase their membership fee 10 fold, provide soft loans to their members for construction of veterinary clinics, purchase of transport and establishment of livestock related small businesses. A private veterinarian and his young trainee treating in the field

They contract suppliers directly for bulk supply of medicines and vaccines with a better rates.

With support of the Association, the members built six veterinary clinics and some of them purchased cars for their visit to animal farms. They make joint awareness activities among population, lobbying for their rights, advertising of private veterinary services and etc.

Now the vets in Panjakent are secured, as they have legal entity that assists them in practicing their occupation, and more important, they are not dependent on funding from the State budget or donors. The major achievement is that all farmers in this district have access to quality veterinary services and got used to paying for the veterinary services.

In order to share successful experiences of the Panjikent Veterinary Association, FAO organized study tours for the chairs of other districts' veterinary associations to Panjikent who are trying to follow the Panjikent's module and are competing with each others.

A major success indicator of this program can be seen in the form of stopping migration of veterinarians to Russia. Hundreds of Tajik veterinarians used to go to Russia annually for work before the private veterinary service and the Tajik Veterinary Association was established.

As a result of careful and step by step privatization and cost recovery of veterinary services with good public awareness campaigns, the farmers agree to pay for brucellosis vaccination services in southern Tajikistan.

Related information:



Privatizing Central Asia - success against brucellosis in Tajikistan (Video)

http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/resources/documents/multimedia/popup/Brucellosis_Tajikistan.html



Victory of the veterinarians (Video)

http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/resources/documents/multimedia/popup/Victory_veterinarians.html



Pathways to Success: Brucellosis Control Programme in Tajikistan

http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/home/en/news_archive/AGA_in_action/BCPT_project.html