



Mongolia and FAO

Partnering for sustainable agriculture and natural resources management

FAO is currently assisting Mongolia in the implementation of a recently adopted animal health law, the promulgation of a pastureland management law and the development and protection of seed varieties. Assistance is also focused on building capacity for post entry quarantine management systems and improving livestock health through effective control, containment and prevention of foot-and-mouth disease outbreaks. Successful Early Warning Early Action projects have been implemented to protect the livelihoods of vulnerable households at high risk of “dzud” in drought affected areas, while emergency response and assistance has also been provided. Conservation and sustainable forest management for adaptation and mitigation of climate change is another key feature of cooperation. Other projects address disaster resilience; mainstreaming agrobiodiversity; value chain development, in collaboration with the European Union; crop diversification, integrated livestock-based livelihoods support; and enhanced food and nutrition security.

Partners and contributors

FAO-Mongolia maintains regular discussions with development partners and investors.

Currently, FAO is collaborating with the European Union, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation for implementing projects to supporting development of value chain in agricultural production, forestry sector and legal framework in vegetable sector. FAO and UNDP is jointly supporting Mongolia UN-REDD National Programme. Mongolia is one of the beneficiary countries of the project on strengthening pastoral production funded by IFAD. A project proposal, to be funded by the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency, is under process.

Matching FAO's expertise to Mongolia's development priorities

Mongolia successfully organized the Eighth multi-stakeholder partnership meeting of the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock, in June 2018. Attended by experts and international development partners, it promoted development of sustainable livestock in Mongolia through improved herd quality, health, feed, fodder and grazing/pasture management.

One of the keys to sustainable livestock is the promulgation of the pastureland management law to improve grazing land and increase foreign direct investment in the countries livestock industry.

A major step forward has been the recently passed law on animal health and the establishment of the General Authority of Veterinary Services. This provides a single authority for the management of animal health and transboundary animal diseases (foot-and-mouth disease, sheep pox, *peste des petits ruminants*), with whom FAO can work closely on implementation matters. Successful management of animal health will help overcome a major barrier to the export of Mongolian meat and agricultural products and encourage investment in these areas.

Stimulation of the Mongolian economy outside the mining sector will provide a boost to herders and those working in the non-mining sector. FAO through its project “Support to employment creation in Mongolia” funded by the European Union is seeking to develop the five key value chains, namely meat, vegetables, dairy, hides and skins, and fibers in target Aimags in Mongolia.

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Supporting rural investment

In 2012, FAO's Integrated Livestock-based Livelihoods Support Programme was implemented to develop strategies and guidelines and to strengthen human and organizational capacities in the areas of animal health, breeding and nutrition. The overall goal of the project was to improve rural livelihoods and food security in five provinces through enhanced productivity, market access and diversification in livestock-based production systems. Achievements included the following:

Value chain development FAO's RuralInvest (RIV) is a methodology and software application designed to help with the preparation and analysis of sustainable agricultural and rural investment projects and business plans.

"Food security and adequate nutrition for all is where sustainable development starts."

FAO Director-General

A total of 205 investment tools were approved for investment grants from the Mongolia Livestock and Agricultural Marketing Project Livestock and Agricultural Marketing Project (LAMP), 79 of which are being implemented under

the supporting activities of value chain production, 18 for improvement of fodder production, 41 for animal breeding and genetic improvement and 67 for animal health improvement. The amount invested for the subprojects exceeded US\$5 million. As a result, one of the project's *soums* (country subdivision) became self-sufficient in terms of its winter supply of fodder crops. The project was successful in creating nucleus flocks for improved yields and quality wool and cashmere.

Improving animal health, breeding and nutrition

A genetic improvement programme was introduced, which contributed to preserving the best indigenous Mongolian breeds that are currently at risk. An assessment carried out on *aimag* (administrative subdivision) laboratory capacities and buffer-zone veterinary checkpoints led to increased public investment.

Institutional and governance development

Through 17 sets of training courses, farmers gained substantial knowledge and skills in the technology of planting fodder crops and vegetables in open as well as protected fields. Breeders' skills were also greatly enhanced through the implementation of breeding programmes in rural areas. Moreover, a number of studies were carried out during the Programme, including a study of animal productivity, which provided protocols for animal health investigations and feeding trials, and contributed to the establishment of benchmarks and monitoring systems for livestock productivity. National strategies to fight Brucellosis and foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) were also developed and were approved by the Government.

Project: Integrated Livestock-based Livelihoods Support Programme. Implemented under FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme (US\$1 502 580, 2012-2017)

Safeguarding the livelihood of herders

Pastoral herding is the primary livelihood and asset of 164 000 herder households, 40 percent of which own up to 500 head of livestock. In the past three years, Mongolia has experienced a prolonged drought, affecting large agriculture producing areas and pasture rangelands. The situation has led to an elevated risk of severe winter conditions, known as *dzud*, threatening the livelihoods of herders. The situation was further aggravated by concurrent outbreaks of several other animal disease outbreaks such as Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) and Sheep and Goat pox viruses. The country also faced a shortage of vaccines. In order to address these issues, FAO implemented a series of emergency projects.

As a result, over 1.2 million head of animals owned by 14 000 vulnerable herder households as well as 54 state owned nucleus flock breeding centres were protected. A vaccination programme supported at least 5 000 herders' livelihoods, guaranteeing their food security and increasing resilience. Through a two-phase early action programme, cash was exchanged for meat, food aid was given to vulnerable urban households, and animal feed packages were provided. This was the first intervention of this type in Mongolia.

A training workshop on Good Emergency Management Practices (GEMP) was organized for 30 veterinary officers, national emergency agency officers and private veterinarians. The purpose of the workshop was to increase the country's awareness on the importance of risk-based preparedness for animal disease outbreaks. The participants discussed issues encountered when dealing with the various zoonotic diseases and shared experiences from different regions. Additionally, basic and advanced trainings on outbreak investigation were conducted by the European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (EuFMD) for over 70 central, regional and local veterinarians. The objective was to ameliorate the capacity to conduct appropriate disease outbreak investigations, in particular for the priority diseases of FMD, PPR and capripox viruses.

