

September 2007



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

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CONFERENCE

Thirty-fourth Session

Rome, 17-24 November 2007

PRESENTATION OF THE B.R. SEN AWARDS 2006 AND 2007

1. The Awards for 2006 and 2007 will be presented during a special ceremony at the beginning of the Thirty-fourth Session of the FAO Conference. For 2006, the recipient of the Award is Mr Brian Dugdill from the United Kingdom, and for 2007, the recipient is Mr Shin Imai from Japan. Brief notes on the two Award winners and their achievements follow.

Mr Brian DUGDILL

2. Mr Brian Dugdill was born on 22 March 1945 in the United Kingdom. He holds a Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) degree in Dairy Science.

3. Mr Dugdill began his career in the private dairy development sector in the United Kingdom. In 1976 he joined FAO as a Dairy Technologist for six years on a UNDP-funded project in Bangladesh (BGD/73/003), followed by another four years in that country as Project Manager of the Dairy Cooperative Project (BGD/79/033). In 1986, Mr Dugdill was appointed Team Leader/Dairy Development Adviser for the Dairy Development project in Uganda (UGA/84/023); from 1993-1998 he carried out several short-term assignments and consultancies, including for the successful Community Livestock and Dairy Development project in Bangladesh (BGD/98/009), after which he became a Dairy and Meat Officer in the Animal Production Service at FAO headquarters. In 2004, Mr Dugdill returned to the field as Chief Technical Adviser for the Special Programme for Food Security: Increase of the Supply of Dairy Foods in Mongolia by Reducing Post-harvest Losses and Restocking (GCSP/MON/001/JPN).

4. Mr Dugdill and his team helped rebuild the dairy sector in Mongolia by introducing an innovative, complete cow-to-consumer dairy food chain system, which

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gets milk safely and affordably from rural areas to urban centres. Within a very short time span of two summers, given the harsh weather conditions the rest of the year, the project managed to reverse the downward trend of fresh milk production and reduce the huge government expenditure on imported milk and dairy products.

5. By the end of 2006, milk was already being collected from 1 500 herding and farming households and quantities produced and collected had increased five-fold to a total of twelve million litres over the 2003 base year; 40 000 school children had obtained fresh milk from distribution schemes established by Mr Dugdill; the number of dairy industry partners was expected to increase to 200 000 in 2007; twenty new dairy products were produced, tested and launched in urban markets; and 800 dairy cows were involved in a genetic improvement (re-stocking) scheme.

6. Mongolia is now on its way to self-sufficiency and food security in milk and dairy products again. In 2003 the country was importing nearly all of its processed milk at a huge cost; a great part of consumer needs can already be met now, with the goal of reaching milk self-sufficiency by 2010.

7. The results produced by Mr Dugdill and his ability to show Government and other stakeholders that milk can be produced, collected, processed and marketed to replace imported milk powder to the benefit of thousands of herders and milk producers, has convinced Government to invest heavily in sustainably developing the dairy sector. This includes a changed national policy on dairy development under Government Resolution 239/2006 and a government-led investment programme, supported by the Government of Japan. His unique contribution to development in Mongolia was recognized with an award from the President of the country and a letter of commendation from the Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

8. Mr Dugdill's vision, leadership, guidance, and strong ability to motivate others, backed by his sound technical expertise, are the catalytic factors behind such a large achievement in such a short period of time. These qualities have been evident throughout his long distinguished career with FAO, and the B.R. Sen Award is also framed within the context of his outstanding contributions towards the goal of improving food security and helping countries reduce poverty.

Mr Shin IMAI

9. Mr Shin Imai was born on 4 February 1949 in Japan. He has a Doctorate (Ph.D.) degree in Agriculture (Project Economics) from Nihon University of Japan.

10. He began his career in the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of Japan with increasingly responsible positions leading to that of Deputy Director for Overseas Technical Cooperation. His service in Japan was interrupted by a posting as Water Management Expert in Malaysia and another in Mexico as Adviser for the Director General of International Affairs in the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Development.

11. Mr Imai joined FAO in 2001 as the Regional Coordinator of the Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS), based in Indonesia and covering the SPFS project in that country as well as in Bangladesh, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Sri Lanka.

12. Mr Imai has successfully applied to the SPFS projects an innovative and comprehensive rural development approach to poverty reduction and livelihoods improvement, comprised of three instruments: the Farmers' Group Development Plan, a field intervention planning tool; the Revolving Fund System, a microfinance management tool; and Vectorial Project Analysis, a project monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment tool. This approach focussed on the poor and disadvantaged segments of the community, enhancing farmers' planning capacity. This enhanced capacity, as well as the introduction of appropriate institutional arrangements, has proven indispensable for the success and sustainability of field interventions.

13. Under Mr Imai's guidance, the SPFS has been able to improve the institutional and technical capacity of farmers' and related community-based organizations to ensure food security at community level. The projects have significantly improved the living conditions of targeted villagers, and have resulted in transforming "passive day-labourers" to "active entrepreneurs" in all four countries.

14. The SPFS projects have had remarkable impacts in all four countries to reduce poverty, attain food security and improve livelihoods among the poorest. Due to the empowerment of the poor, especially women, and the triggering of community spirit through the above-mentioned approach, the potential sustainability of these impacts has been enhanced.

15. The governments have each taken concrete actions to replicate this approach to wider areas as part of their own initiatives. In the case of Indonesia, the Government has already started applying this approach in 604 villages in 180 districts under the name of Desa Mandiri Pangan (Village Food Security Programme) under a five-year project starting in 2006. The Government of Sri Lanka expressed its strong commitment to expand this approach to 15 000 villages all over the country under the name of Gama Neguma (Village-Awakening Programme). The Government of Bangladesh expressed its strong commitment to expand it to 100 poverty-stricken upazilas (subdistricts), and Lao People's Democratic Republic also expressed its strong commitment to initiate the "National Growth for Poverty Eradication Strategy (NGPES)" through expansion of the SPFS approach to other villages across the country. The expansion of this approach in each country is envisaged to contribute to poverty reduction significantly in the near future.

16. The achievements are a result of Mr Imai's leadership, his strong personal and professional commitment, and his tenacious efforts, despite the geographical distances involved, to encourage the project management units of the four countries to realize the full potential of the approach.