



Center for Agribusiness and Rural Development MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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TRAINING COURSE BY THE GALILEE INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE, ISRAEL



CARD Foundation specialists Anna Karapetyan and Karen Harutyunyan along with farmers and specialists cooperating with CARD participated in a training course on "Greenhouse Management, Post Harvest Technologies, Marketing, Cooling and Storage Facilities for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables" organized by the Galilee International Management Institute in Kibbutz Mizra, Israel, on November 16-28, 2011.

The training course was designed in cooperation with CARD and included many topics related to current urgent agricultural issues in Armenia. Overall the training was well structured and informative. It consisted of lectures, demonstrations and site visits. The training covered modern research and developments in post harvest technologies, technologies for intensive vegetable growing in greenhouses, advanced technologies to increase quality of fruit production, and cooling and storage of fresh agricultural produce.

The course consisted of several lectures provided by the leading specialists on the following topics: An introduction to the agriculture of Israel and the automation of technological processes; Marketing management of fresh produce; Greenhouse climate control; Greenhouse farming; Integration of bio control; Fertigation and irrigation systems; Orchard management systems; Plant genetic improvement; and, Decision making in agriculture.

The study course included visits to numerous companies working in these areas including Ginegar Plastic Products, the producer of plastic films for greenhouses and open fields; Netafim, the producer of drip irrigation hoses and greenhouses; Origene Seeds, which produces vegetable seeds; Ovits Farm, that produces peppers of different colors; Jordan Nurseries, a tree nursery specializing in Mango, Avocado, Kiwi, Pomegranate and Citrus; Kibbutz Baram, that deals with the production, cold storage, grading and packaging of fruits (apples, pears, kiwi, etc.); and Supersal, a supermarket and supply chain that incorporates 258 large supermarkets in Israel.

The knowledge gained during the training will be used for design and implementation of CARD Foundation's future projects. In addition, the valuable contacts with the experts, lecturers and producers made in Israel will be used to guide and facilitate the implementation and development of the agricultural technologies in Armenia.



The Galilee International Management Institute has more than twenty years of experience in designing and implementing advanced leadership and management training programs and capacity building seminars for senior-level planners,

managers and decision makers from transitional countries around the globe. It provides advanced leadership, management and capacity building seminars to professionals from more than 160 countries around the globe, and has designed a special training course for advanced solutions in horticulture and greenhouse sectors.

DAIRY FARMING IMPROVEMENT THROUGH COW COMFORT



CARD Foundation in cooperation with the DeLaval Company organized trainings for 75 farmers and veterinarians from Sarnakunk village (Syunik marz), Akunk village (Gegharkunik marz) and Stepanavan town (Lori marz) of Armenia during November 21-26, 2011. These three regions were selec-

ted because of their potential for dairy farming.

The main objective of the training was to introduce local farmers, veterinarians and dairy consultants to standard world-wide practices in cow milking and comfort technologies, which will eventually lead to increased milk and meat yields.

In each region, the training consisted of one full day of class training, with two sections designed to cover a number of aspects of dairy farming.

For the section on Dairy Cow Feeding and Housing, the topics taught included: feed requirements; water, air and light (basic information); ventilation, optimal temperature and heat stress; bedding requirements and available solutions; stall construction, maintenance, and cleaning; feeding technology, feed ration formulation, and feeding times; feeding of calves and heifers; water consumption; and the pre and post calving care of cattle.

The second section was devoted to milking and covered the benefits of machine milking; different methods and technologies of machine milking; milking hygiene and sanitation; machine milking rules and steps; and mastitis prevention and control.

OPENING CEREMONY FOR FARM AND VETERINARY SERVICE CENTER IN SYUNIK MARZ



The opening ceremony for the Farm and Veterinary Service Center (FVSC) was held in the Sarnakunk community of Syunik marz on November 17th, 2011, with the participation of USDA representatives among them Elizabeth Leonardi from the USDA/Office of Capacity Building and Development, Regional Program Manager Greg Booth (USDA/ FAS Armenia), and Dzirkvadze Demna and Shainidze Gocha (USDA/FAS Georgia).

More than 70 community members attended the event including farmers, veterinarians and government officials from throughout Syunik marz.

The mission of the center was emphasized in the opening remarks made by Elizabeth Leonardi, CARD Deputy Director Sevak Manukyan, the manager of the FVSC Suren Vardanyan and the Village Mayor of Sarnakunk community Manuchar Mkrtchyan.

"I want to thank everyone for coming to the opening ceremony for the FVSC, and those who worked very hard and supported the development for the FVSC -both the concept and the construction. This is the community's center and it will serve veterinarians and farmers across all of Syunik Marz. I hope veterinarians and farmers will come back soon and often to take advantages of the trainings, reference materials, access to supplies and information that it offers", said Elizabeth Leonardi.

The demand for good quality vet medicines, farm inputs is so big that Suren Vardanyan on one hand organized and led the opening event, on the other hand provided tools and medicines to farmers and vets who came to attend the event.

The Farm and Veterinary Service Center is part of the USDA-supported



Community Animal Health Network (CAHN) project designed to generate effective ways for reducing incidences of priority animal health diseases in the regions at the community level. Apart from the veterinary and artificial insemination (AI) services the center will provide, it will also serve as a network building center for farmers and veterinarians of Syunik region, as a venue for trainings and seminars, and with this center people will have access to high quality veterinary medicines, AI supplies, farm input supplies and equipment, and so on.

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MILKING AND MILK HYGIENE TRAINING BY PUM EXPERTS FOR ARMENIAN FARMERS



PUM experts Betsie Slaghuis and Adam Lindeboom were in Armenia from November 20 to December 4, 2011, through the invitation of CARD to conduct

a series of trainings on Milking and Milk Hygiene for local farmers.

The trainings were held in Yerevan, Armavir, Shirak, Gegharkunik and Syunik marzes. A total of 98 farmers and processors participated in the training which covered essential issues on milk quality. In addition to the lectures and discussions, the farmers also had an opportunity to visit the farms of their peers for a hands-on component.

The training covered cow hygiene, keeping and housing, feeding and feed production, maize silage, milking methods and milk hygiene, milk cooling and transportation, milk content and quality, and mastitis and mastitis control by CMT (Californian mastitis test).

During the seminars, the trainers answered the questions of the farmers, and suggested solutions to the problems encountered by Armenian farmers.

As a result of the seminars, many farmers realized the advantages of clean milk, became more interested in advanced technologies, e.g. milking machines, and started to signify the regular control of the cows by CMT (Californian mastitis test) for the early identification of the problems and hence prevent all the factors causing and aggravating mastitis cases.

Supported by



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