



<b>Project title</b>	<b>Syunik Livestock Development Project</b>
<b>General information</b>	Region: Syunik (Armenia) Duration: October 2008-August 2011 Budget: CHF 2'500'000
<b>Project partners</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementing partner: Strategic Development Agency</li> <li>• Institutional partner: Ministry of Territorial Administration and authorities of the Syunik province</li> </ul>
<b>Project objectives</b>	<p>The overall project objective is the strengthening of the livestock sector and the increase of income opportunities for farmers in the area of Goris. The project focuses on the dairy and meat value chains and aims specifically to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase farmers' knowledge in farm management and breeding techniques</li> <li>• Support farmers' access to vital services such as agricultural inputs, artificial insemination, machinery services, financial services, and others</li> <li>• Strengthen farmers' access to sales markets, processors and traders</li> </ul>
<b>Background</b>	<p>Agriculture is one of the most important sectors of the economy in Armenia and employs almost 40 percent of the country's population. But as a result of low productivity, the share of agriculture in GDP has decreased to below 20 percent over the past years. Farmers are the most disadvantaged and vulnerable group among the Armenian population with most of them producing at subsistence level and about half of them living in poverty.</p>

The region of Syunik is particularly vulnerable due to its extreme remoteness, bad road and unfavorable climatic conditions. Farmers in the villages of Syunik suffer particularly from limited access to markets. An important potential is the large-scale dairy processing company “Elola”, which serves the Yerevan and exports market and with whom the project has a cooperation arrangement.

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### Project activities

The project’s activities extend to 16 villages in the Goris district. They include

- Advisory services and capacity building of farmers in the field of livestock breeding, improvement of milk quality, farm management, entrepreneurship, and others
- Capacity building of village veterinaries, in particular in the field of artificial insemination
- Replacement of poor-quality animals
- Liaising with the “Elola” cheese factory and other processors to foster standing milk supply arrangements for Goris farmers
- Capacity building for district and village authorities in the field of pasture management, disease control and use of IT applications relevant for rural development

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### Project results

The project covers 16 distant rural communities in the Goris district with a total of 3100 households (or 13’600 persons). 24 percent benefit directly from capacity building in the field of farm management and breeding techniques.

As a result of project intervention, the use and cost efficiency of artificial insemination has dramatically increased, with more than 1000 cows inseminated in 2010.

Milk and meat production of involved farmers has risen by 9 and 26 percent respectively in 2010. This has helped to set off the negative effects of a dramatic decrease in milk prices in Armenia.

The number of market transactions in the field of agricultural and veterinary inputs has risen to 3200 in 2010.

Improved access to markets and veterinary services within the project framework allowed hundreds of indirect beneficiaries to improve their practices.

Cooperation with regional and village authorities included support in the field pasture management and prevention of infectious diseases in livestock.

Provision of basic IT equipment and support in data collection and analysis has led to significantly increased capacities of municipal authorities to support economic development in their villages.



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