



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
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Swiss Cooperation Office  
South Caucasus

# Facilitating Access to Animal Resources and Markets in Agcabadi and Beylaqan Districts of Azerbaijan (FARMS)



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## Project title

**Facilitating Access to Animal Resources and Markets in Agcabadi and Beylaqan Districts of Azerbaijan (FARMS)**

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## General information

Region: Agcabadi and Beylaqan Districts (Azerbaijan)  
Duration: May 2011 - August 2013  
Budget: CHF 2'205'000

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## Project partners

- Implementing partner: HEKS-EPER (Switzerland) and local sub-contracting partners.
- Institutional partner: Ministry of Agriculture of the Azerbaijan Republic.

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## Project objectives

The overall project objective is to contribute to poverty reduction of target communities through sustainable increase of incomes of male and female farmers in animal husbandry and aims specifically to

- Ensure access of small and medium scale cattle holders (both male and female) to affordable and customer-oriented veterinary services.
- Ensure access of small and medium scale cattle holders to appropriate and affordable inputs for cattle nutrition for meat and dairy production.
- Ensure more advantageous markets access and terms of trade for male and female cattle holders.
- Ensure identification, prevention and mitigation of the environmental risks related to the selected value chains.

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## Background

Agcabadi and Beylaqan are two districts situated in central Aran economic region, which is of great agricultural importance as roughly 35% of Azerbaijan's meat and milk production originate from the region. The area is suitable for all year livestock production, with 90% of all farmers having cattle. 13% of the population in this region lives below the national poverty line. It is expected that by improving the relevant market systems in the districts of Agcabedi and Beylaqan, poor farmers will have better access to services and inputs, which will have a positive impact on their economic situation.

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## Project activities

The project tackles the low profitability of the livestock sub-sectors to increase the income of small and medium scale cattle holders and hence to contribute to reducing their poverty. The project is active in four main areas of intervention: 1) animal health, 2) animal nutrition, 3) market access and 4) disaster risk reduction.

Major particular activities are as follows: 1) promote establishing of a network of veterinarians and improving the capacity of vets; 2) facilitate the access to quality drugs, the improvement of storage, sale (labeling) and recycling; 3) provide technical, economical and organizational advice to feed distributors and millers; support them in business plan development; 4) facilitate the access to fodder additives and minerals; 5) strengthen capacities of Local Self-Government towards improved cooperation with feed distributors and fodder mills; 6) support veterinarians' network to develop members' capacity; 7) organizational appraisal of the disaster risk reduction (DRR) committee in the municipality, re-constitution; etc.

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## Expected results

By the end of the project:

- 120 farms increase their alfalfa yield from 12 t to 15 t;
- Additional 800 cows are treated by veterinarians (increase of 50%);
- Daily weight gain of cattle increased by 45%;
- Income of direct beneficiaries from milk sales increased by 10% ( 20% in winter);
- The gross margin of small and medium scale cattle holders from meat and milk sales increases by 10%;
- Cattle farmers in Agcabadi and Beylaqan increase their market share in the meat and milk markets by 1.5% from the current 13.6% in meat and 14.8% in milk;
- Women's access to supported services increase up to 33% compared to the current 15%.



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