

DCA-VET co-organiser of the National Conference on Livestock Sector Development

The Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock in close collaboration with Dutch Committee for Afghanistan (DCA) and FAO organised the first National Conference on Livestock Sector Development that was held from **14 to 16 February 2016** at MAIL Pameer hall.



Livestock farming is one of the major agricultural activities in Afghanistan that is contributing significantly towards achieving development goals of national growth and poverty reduction.

Afghan farmers are working hard to rear livestock and they face many challenges. Secure access to basic production inputs (such as land, water and feed), risk coping mechanisms, enhancing livestock productivity, access to animal health service deliveries, and accessing markets are only few among those challenges.

Economic growth generated by growth in agriculture has stronger poverty reduction impacts than the same growth in non-agricultural activities and the benefit of investments in the livestock sector will expand well beyond the immediate beneficiaries. Investing in livestock means investing in people's livelihoods.

The conference aimed at preparing the ground for developing a strategic plan for the livestock sector for the next five years with the purpose of creating an enabling environment that will promote and facilitate more investments in the livestock sector.

The Conference also hosted a specific workshop dedicated exclusively to pastoralism to better focus on the peculiar challenges of this important livestock sector.

Presently a special committee is appointed for drafting the five-year strategic plan for Livestock Sector Development in Afghanistan, based on the results of the conference. Dr Abdul Qader Fakhri, DCA Programme Director, is one of the main members of this committee.