Foundation of Regional Artificial Insemination Distribution Centers

In the framework of the project "Foundation of Regional Artificial Insemination Distribution Centers", which is funded by the British Embassy, activities have started to establish five Regional AI Distribution Centers in Herat, Mazar, Kunduz, Jalalabad, and Kabul. The AI Distribution Centers will be equipped with liquid nitrogen transportation containers, storage containers, semen, and disposables kits etc.

Background

Artificial insemination (AI) programme is one of the key elements in dairy value chain development. Various assessments carried out in the field with farmers and Veterinary Field Units (VFUs) in Afghanistan suggested that AI is the main priority needs to improve productivity next to feed. The quality of AI interventions so far is questionable due to poor transportation and storage. Unpublished field report indicated that the conception rate of AI in the North-Eastern Afghanistan is about 24% while the minimum record is 42-46%. This poor performance is mainly attributed to poor handling of semen although other factors may also be involved. Cross breeding through AI can improve milk production potential from 75% to 140%.

Linked with other DCA projects such as improvement of animal feed production, extension packages, training etc; this project can help increased milk production of up to 100% to the farmers in the catchment areas of the AI distribution centers. The distribution centers will be handed over to the private sector (VetServ: the leading quality vaccines and veterinary medicine importing company setup by DCA). VetServ will contribute 25% above the project budget.

The key long-term impacts include:

- 15 permanent jobs created
- Increased income of targeted dairy farmers by 100%
- Improved stability and transition of farmers from illicit farming such as narcotics to dairy.