



Farmers' Perceptions of Water Policies: A Case Study from the Jordanian Badia

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1 Livestock Production Systems and Integrated Feed/Livestock Management

In Central Asia, livestock plays an important role in the agricultural economies. In Central Asia livestock does not only contribute to the livelihoods of the most vulnerable rural sector, particularly in isolated regions and highlands, such as in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, but also played a critical role in the period of transition when other sources of income were substantially reduced. However, livestock production has been severely affected by the economic transition, which resulted in the disruption of the former Soviet markets for traditional products such as wool and pelts, fragmentation of large production units into small and unproductive flocks/herds, the collapse of production support services and animal health control, a lack of technology transfer services and disruption of livestock research. In Central Asia livestock does not only contribute to the livelihoods of the most vulnerable rural sector.

Specific objectives included:

- To increase the overall productivity and performance of the goats through testing a number of low-cost farming methods to improve flock productivity and farmers' income;
- To assess the quality of Tajik mohair through collection and analysis of mohair samples from multiple farms, and production and test-marketing samples of yarns and knitted products from different types of mohair;
- To improve some of the main shortcoming of Tajik mohair such as the high %age of kemp and medullated fibers and the high average fiber diameter through an organized community based breeding program;
- To improve the quality of value-added products from mohair goats in order to access international markets.

Main project activities included:

- Improvement of the goat flock productivity through implementing affordable management practices;
- Development a new draft standard for classification of mohair based on international commercial requirements;
- Creation of a decentralized and joint plan for breeding for farmers' access to improved animals;
- Local processing of mohair by women to add value to Angora mohair and market opportunities for processing.

1.1 Better livelihoods, more opportunities for rural women

A four-year initiative by the International Fund for Agricultural Development has increased employment opportunities and income options for poor rural populations, particularly vulnerable women, in Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Iran. Launched in 2009, the initiative targeted specifically rural women artisans and small livestock breeders, and aimed to improve their livelihoods and income through improved production, processing and export of value-added fiber in these three countries. Angora goat production in Sughd Region and the processing of mohair fiber is of high socioeconomic significance for Tajikistan. Approximately 250,000-300,000 people are involved in production of mohair primarily in the northern and some southern districts. Tens of thousands of residents (women) are involved in processing (yarn and finished products: mittens, socks, shawls, scarves, pullovers, etc.) and hundreds are involved in the sale of raw materials and semi-finished products.

1.1.1 Specific objectives

The main project objective in Khujand was to improve the productivity of Tajik mohair goats and at the same time facilitate access of mohair producers and processors to global markets to receive higher prices for fine, quality mohair yarns and other products. Testing and implementing low-cost management practices to

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and implementing low-cost management practices to improve goat productivity

A number of acceptable and affordable management interventions were pilot-tested and implemented with the aim of improving flock

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