



News Bulletin

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Building Sustainable Livelihoods in Tavush (BSLT) project supports farmers in the poorest communities



Started: August 2004
Duration: 3 years
Region: Tavush marz
Beneficiaries: 66,430 people in 40 communities
Funded by: The European Commission, World Vision Germany, World Vision Ireland

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In May 2005, 60 members of farmer associations and agriculture-oriented NGOs in Tavush marz participated in a Training of Trainers on Diverse Agricultural Practices.

The training was organized by World Vision Armenia's BSLT project, which aims to contribute to poverty reduction by supporting the poorest and most disadvantaged people in achieving sustainable livelihoods.

Specialists from 12 farmer associations and agriculture-oriented NGOs will get trained during the first year of the project implementation.

and market-oriented agriculture, initiating off-farm income generating activities, strengthening conservation and rehabilitation of the environment and supporting community initiatives in infrastructure improvement.



Extremely poor families living in communities located close to the border, in highland areas or in small remote villages not covered by other projects, as well as refugees/internally displaced and landless people will benefit from this project.

The BSLT project aims to add value to the activities started by WV Armenia's long-term Tavush Area Development Program.

The participants of the training will later pass their knowledge to other community members and especially farmers.

The BSLT Project is focused on building the capacity of farmer associations to promote more diversified

In the project mobilization stage three workshops were organized in Ijevan, Noyemberyan and Berd with the aim of introducing the BSLT project activities, objectives and implementation plan to major

governmental and non-governmental stakeholders.

Representatives of local authorities, the Agriculture Support Centre, farmer associations, local business support centres (BCs), representatives of local and International NGOs and members of communities Civic Action Groups (CAGs) initiated by WV Armenia, were among the 119 participants of the workshops.

In accordance with the project implementation plan, the training needs assessment was carried out in 40 target communities.

Market research on actual and potential agricultural and off-farm market-oriented products and services was conducted by a national consultant to identify possible market opportunities within Armenia and across the borders.

The results of the market research will be used for the development of a capacity building program with local training institutions. This will considerably improve the quality of up-to-date training packages and will impact the achievement of project goals and objectives.

The Market Research Report has been distributed to 30 main stakeholders and other interested parties.

In April-May 2005, 382 CAG members from 40 communities participated in a training on "Community Development Strategic Planning and Proposal Writing".



CAG training session

The training session was conducted in cooperation with three BCs and two certified local trainers and highlighted the following topics:

- pre-feasibility study and priority evaluation
- proposal writing for community-based infrastructure projects,
- internal local conflicts and the role of CAG in conflict resolution,

- principles of democracy and RA law on Local Self-Governance,
- community development strategic planning.

BSRLT project accepts micro-projects proposals on infrastructure improvement and environment protection from the communities.



More than 11,600 people in five communities benefit from the community-initiated micro-projects

More than 11,600 people benefit from the projects that have improved drinking and irrigation water systems in Achajur, Artsvaberd, Ditavan, Paravaqar and Navur communities.

A database has been developed with the aim of providing potential buyers with the necessary information on market-oriented products and services.

The database will be used by BCs in Ijevan, Noyemberyan, Berd and Dilijan to conduct business transactions and establish business links between producers, service providers and potential buyers in Tavush and outside the region.

It is also planned to use the database for BCs in the neighbouring countries of Georgia and Azerbaijan.

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