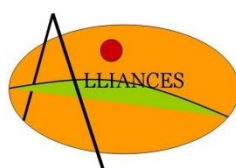


Livestock Sector Research in Kvemo Kartli Region

Conducted by International Association of Agricultural Development

IAAD



ALLIANCES KVEMO KHARTLI



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Methodology

Research into the livestock sector was carried out from 1st to 12 of June 2011. The purpose of the research was to study the current status of sheep and cattle sectors of Dmanisi, Tsalka and Tetrtskaro municipalities. The problems which were revealed during the survey will be considered during the planning of future interventions of Alliances KK.

Meetings at various levels were necessary during the research, in the mentioned municipalities as well in Tbilisi and Marneuli. Please see the list of meetings below in the [Annex 1](#)

Research components:

Research component	Purpose of research
Veterinary Sector	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Studying of activities of the National Food Agency (NFA) at the municipality level (e.g. cooperation with farmers, kinds of services they provide and kinds of help they provide in case if farmer address them);2. Veterinary conditions in the regions (number of vets, the status of veterinary supply shops and accessibility to medicines);3. Functionality of the private veterinary sector;4. Epizootic status in the municipalities;5. Livestock movement route status (disinfection points, route signs and epizootic status);
Meat Sector	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Existence of slaughterhouses in the municipalities;2. Studying of the Marneuli livestock market;3. Meet export;4. Export of cattle and sheep to the foreign markets;5. Network of livestock traders;6. Wool sale;
Livestock Status	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Number of heads of a livestock, their identification according to their types;2. Livestock breeds;3. Reproductive services (artificial and natural inseminations);4. Livestock inventory;
Nutrition	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Capacity and status of pasture and mowing lands in the municipalities;2. Agricultural machinery services;3. General Nutrition;

Inception Phase Activities

Two project interventions were carried out at the time of the inception phase within the framework of the Alliances KK program, in which the IAAD representatives are actively involved together with Mercy Corps Alliances KK Business Development Officer's.

Artificial Insemination

Co-financing of Caucasus Genetics took place due to pilot AI in the project area. The Caucasus Genetics Ltd (CG) established regional Kvemo Kartli Agency of the Caucasus Genetics in the village Jorjiashvili of Tetrtskaro municipality, pilot villages were selected and 5 AI practitioners who were trained in AI by CG.

Currently the Caucasus Genetics practitioners of are carrying out Artificial insemination. The IAAD employee Mr. Elioz Khachapuridze, together with the Alliances Breeding BDO carries out the monitoring of the activity (the report about the current status of the intervention is available in Georgian).

Minimizing environmental degradation caused by overgrazing in Tetrtskaro region

The Eurasia Foundation in conjunction with a smaller input¹ from Alliances KK is funding Imprescon Partners Caucasus and local NGO Algateli in their implementation of the establishment of a rotational grazing and business model for minimizing environmental degradation, attributed to overgrazing. The project aims to introduce local farmers to sustainable pasture management methods, improving their livelihoods through better yields from the pastures and have organised practical experiments during the 2011 grazing season. Controlled rotational grazing is being practiced and demonstrated in Tetrtskaro region. It is anticipated that the development of an environmentally sustainable pasture management model will be replicable for other areas and will be developed and promoted to all interested stakeholders in Georgia.

The plant growing specialist of IAAD, Mr.Koba Kobaladze, is involved in the monitoring of this intervention. (Reports about the current status of the intervention is available in Georgian).

1. Dmanisi Municipality

1.1 General review

The main industry of the Dmanisi Municipality agriculture is a livestock production. The municipality is rich in natural foddors and pastures. According to the data of the Dmanisi NFA (National Food Agency), the municipality has 34, 800 ha of pasture and 13, 328 ha of mowing

¹ Total budget \$69,729 and Alliances is funding \$15,000 for mowing equipment, solar fencing and seeds.

land. 22, 000 ha of pasture, which is used by Marneuli, Bolnisi, Tetrtskaro, Gardabani and Sagarejo municipalities for over 15, 700 cattle and sheep grazing per season, is rented out.

The municipality has 23, 900 heads of cattle and 26, 000 heads of sheep. The animals do not have identification numbers.

1.2 Veterinary status

The Dmanisi Municipality department of the National Food Agency of Kvemo Kartli (NFA) operates in the municipality. Only rabies and FMD (Foot and Mouth Disease) vaccinations are carried out by the department due to a lack of material and financial resources. The department is only able to provide limited recommendations to farmers about disease related issues. Only one veterinary supply shop operates in the municipality. Approximately 15 to 20 farmers /day use the veterinary supply shop. The shop belongs to the Dmanisi Agricultural Service Center. The shop is poorly supplied and it does not meet the demands of farmers. There is a lack of qualified vet specialists². Currently Phiroplazmos (caused by parasites) is spread in the municipality³. The sheep diseases Bradzot, Phastereloizis and Monezios are also frequent there. There was a FMD in 2010⁴. However only a small number of livestock were vaccinated for FMD; only 2, 399 heads of cattle were vaccinated for FMD this year (2011). There has been no tuberculosis research carried out during the last 15 – 20 years. In the past there were recurrent source of outbreaks of tuberculosis in Dmanisi.

The livestock movement route, which passes through the municipality, also complicates the epizootic status of the municipality. Over tens of thousands of cattle and sheep pass through this route every year. Part of them stay on the territory of the municipality and part of them go on to the territories of other municipalities. Sheep carry various types of disease-causing parasites, which lead to new disease outbreaks, because there is no any animal disinfection point on the route. The Dmanisi NFA does not hold any information about the number of cattle and sheep which move on this route⁵.

1.3 Meat sales

Nobody exports meat and dairy products from the municipality. They cannot sell wool because nobody buys it despite the low price (1kg wool costs from 1 to 1.5 GEL)⁶.

Livestock sales are carried out from the house, bought mostly by Azerbaijanis. A small livestock market is arranged in the municipality once a week and approximately 10 – 15 heads of livestock are sold every week. The municipality does not have a slaughterhouse⁷.

²According to the evaluation of veterinary supply shop employee and farmers;

³According to the evaluation of Dmanisi Food Safety Agency, farmers and specialist

⁴According to the information of Dmanisi population and private veterinary

⁵According to the information of Dmanisi Food Safety Agency;

⁶According to the information of Dmanisi Food Safety Agency, farmers and specialist;

⁷According to the information of Dmanisi Food Safety Agency;

1.4 Breed status of livestock

Breeding development has not been implemented in the municipality during 20 years. Cow AI (Artificial Insemination) began in the village Gantiadi under the framework of Alliances KK only in 2011. The project implementation in the region however started late, and a large part of cows would have already been inseminated by local bulls. A data base of livestock registration does not exist in the region.

1.5 Nutrition production

The municipality does not have any improved grasslands and pastures. The cattle are fed by natural forage. The total area of the summer pastures is 34, 800 ha, and natural mowing land is 13328ha. “Kuliashvili Service Center”, “Nodar Tsikhelashvili” Service Center and “Mekanizatori” LTD carry out the haymaking activity in the municipality⁸.

2. Tsalka Municipality

2.1 General overview

The main industry of Tsalka Municipality is livestock production. There are 31, 000 cattle and 18, 4000 sheep in Tsalka municipality. It has 36, 703 ha of pastures and 9, 163 ha of hay land.

The livestock movement route, which is used by 500, 000 cattle and sheep every year, passes through the territory of Tsalka Municipality. 100, 000 heads of sheep stay on the summer pastures of Tsalka⁹.

Sheep pass through the Beshtasheni Village, despite an official prohibition, due to it reducing the distance of the route. It leads to discontent of the local population as the village is polluted and their livestock becomes infected by various disease. This process takes place every year. Despite the protests and complaints of the local population there was no reaction from the local government. People from the village say that this controlled by local officials¹⁰.

2.2 Veterinary status

There is a similar situation to Dmanisi in terms of livestock diseases in the Tsalka Municipality. The NFA carries out vaccinations against FMD but it does not take any responsibility for the carrying out of any other measures due to the lack of funds and means. The agency does not take any responsibility in respect to breed development and forage production.

There are no governmental or private veterinary services in the municipality which assume responsibility for the provision of veterinary services. Farmers cannot receive help in the case of cattle diseases. There are only two veterinary supply shops in the municipality: Individual

⁸According to the information of Dmanisi Food Safety Agency;

⁹According to the information of Tsalka Economic and Property Management Service and the National Agency for Food;

¹⁰According to the information of residents of the Beshtasheni Village

entrepreneurs “Roin Abuladze” and “Tsalka agriculture service center” LTD who’s services cannot fully meet the demands of the local farmers. There is lack of qualified vets in the municipality¹¹.

2.3 Meat sales

Nobody takes an activity in exporting of meat and milk in Tsalka Municipality. Live cattle are basically sold on places from farmers’ houses without any check and vet certificate. This is caused by official prohibition on vet certificate issuing. Vet services are not allowed to issue the above mentioned certificate¹² and issued certificates of a private veterinary has no legal power and function. A private veterinary cannot issue any kind of certificate on animal and its health status.

The most purchasers of a livestock in the Tsalka Municipality are Azerbaijanis. They take purchased livestock to Azerbaijan or other neighbor countries. As for sheep, they are sold in great batches mainly from Tsalka or other municipalities’ summer pastures in order to take them to Iran, Iraq, Kuwait or other Arabic countries. Sold cattle stay in quarantine during 10-12 days and then they are transferred to the Tbilisi International Airport or a sea ports by “Kamaz” trucks, in which two-floor facility is arranged for sheep. Approximately 200 sheep (which is much more than the standard norm) are transferred by the above mentioned truck. Mortality rate of animals, which is caused due to density during transportation, is high. Over 18, 000 sheep are sold every year only from Tsalka Municipality pasture. Sheep are also sold from Ninotsminda, Akhalkalaki, Borjomi and other municipalities¹³.

2.4 Breed status of livestock

Breed development of a livestock has not been implemented in the municipality during last 20 years. Only this year, within the Mercy Corps program, Artificial Insemination of cattle has begun at two units: Tsalka municipality center and the village Trialeti. Data base records about livestock and their types do not exist in the region.

2.5 Forage production

There is no service of agricultural machinery in the municipality and haymaking is basically carried out manually. The population suffers a deficit of nutrition and seeds for field crops. The municipality does not have crop hay lands and pastures. Population use only natural forage lands. Overgrazing takes place due to overloading of pastures.

¹¹According to the information of Tsalka Food Safety Agency, private veterinaries, farmers of the villages Beshtaneti, Gumbati, Bareti and Tsalka centers;

¹²According to the information of Tsalka Food Safety Agency and private veterinaries;

¹³According to the information of Tsalka Food Safety Agency and private veterinaries;

3. Tetrtskaro Municipality

3.1 General overview

The main industry of the Tetrtskaro Municipality agriculture is a livestock. There are 30, 000 cattle and 13, 000 sheep in the municipality.

3.2 Veterinary status

Currently the Tetrtskaro National Food Agency of Kvemo Kartli does not take any steps in respect of breed development of a livestock and support of nutrition producing and veterinary. The agency does not have any relationship with farmers and it is not able to provide any kind of assistance to them due to lack of appropriate funds. The food safety agency of the municipality basically provides vaccination only for foot and mouth disease which is considered within a state program however it is partially accomplished. For example: only 3, 150 heads of cattle were vaccinated on foot and mouth disease, and the rest of the cattle still remain without vaccinations. The National Food Agency of the municipality is instructed to register those people which have bitten by wild or domestic animals and also to control food services and markets.

There are no vaccinations planned on such diseases as are brucellosis and anthrax.

There is the only one veterinary supply shop in the municipality and it does not function. The local population is forced to purchase vet preparations out of the municipality. More often they purchase vet preparations in Tbilisi¹⁴.

The livestock movement route is a problematic issue for the municipality. It passes through the populated territories (villages: Khaishi and Tsintskaro). Besides the fact that villages are polluted, the local cattle become sick too. The reason is that there are not disinfection points for sheep. Besides, starting from Marneuli there are no water cattle resting point along 42km distance¹⁴. Governmental or private veterinary services, which would take responsibility for implementation of the certain part of vet services, do not exist in the municipality.

3.3 meat sales

The Tetrtskaro Municipality does not have a livestock market. Part of the farmers takes cattle at the Marneuli market for selling. Some farmers sell their cattle on place to traders. The main market of livestock is the Marneuli livestock market which operates every Sundays.

3.4 Breed status of livestock

Breed development of livestock has not been implemented in the municipality during the last 20 years except the village Jorjiashvili, where an artificial insemination is carried out by the Caucasus genetic program in frameworks of the Mercy Corps project. Data base records about livestock and their types do not exist in the region.

¹⁴According to the information of Food National Agency of municipality of Kvemo Kartli, Tetrtskaro Municipality

3.5 Forage production

Natural forage pastures and grasslands of the municipality are overloaded by cattle during whole summer till late autumn. Overgrazing takes place due to overload of pastures. Botanical components of plants are changing because of overgrazing.

“Petriashvili Agricultural Service Center” operates in the municipality, which suffers lack of agricultural machinery.

4. Marneuli livestock market

On Sunday, June 12 IAAD carried out a survey at the Marneuli livestock market, where the most part of selling cattle are brought at this time and at the end of autumn. This season coincides with livestock movement season.

The selling livestock is basically brought to the Marneuli Livestock Market from Tsalka, Tetrtskaro, Gardabani municipalities and Samtskhe – Javakheti Region. The basic part of traders is represented by resellers and most of them are from Azerbaijan. The traders and resellers do not have any certificates on health of selling and sold animals.

The recent state decree about “slaughtering of cattle only at slaughterhouses” raised a great protest of farmers and traders, as taking the animal to a slaughterhouse raises the prices of beef. Farmer has to pay additional 1, 30 GEL for 1 kg of beef, accordingly he has to pay 325 GEL for 250 kg of beef and also transportation expenses which composes minimum 100 GEL. All these expenses compose over 425 GEL in total¹⁵ and it increases cost of the product. As a result beef delivery on the market has reduced and its price has increased. Currently the price of 1 kg beef composes 16-18-20 GEL. Price of 1 kg live cattle composes from 4 to 5 GEL at the Marneuli Livestock Market. Due to these facts farmers prefer to sell cattle on place to avoid additional expenses and problems.

The above approach to the issue forced traders to take cattle on the markets of neighbor countries, in particular on the markets of Azerbaijan and Armenia.

Iraq, Kuwait and other Arabic countries are interested in purchasing of Georgian sheep. Representatives of these countries purchase sheep at summer pastures of Tsalka and other municipalities. From 16, 000 to 18, 000 heads of sheep are taken abroad from the mentioned municipalities every year.

More than 90% of respondents at the Marneuli livestock market did not want to answer the question about where they would take purchased cattle. They did not want to admit that they purchased it for farther sell for better price.

5. Conditions on movement routes

We were unable to arrange a meeting with representatives of the Food Safety Agency but we have met with a former head of livestock movement routes.

The following circumstances revealed during the meeting:

- The adjacent territories of the movement routes are captured.
- The rout maps were made over again.
- There are no signs of movement routes on the routes
- There are no resting areas and water points and their signs on the routes
- There is no vet service operates during movement

6. Problems of the populations of all three municipalities

1. Breed development of a livestock (availability of AI and nonexistence of bulls)
2. Livestock health protection (lack of vet preparations, low level of qualification of vet specialists, lack of veterinary supply shops, lack of vet services, availability of special literature, low level of farmers' knowledge and lack of vet labs in the municipalities).
3. Nonexistence of slaughterhouses.
4. Poorly arranged livestock movement routes. Deficit of agricultural nutrition producing, deficit of seeds for field crops, overgrazing, incomplete management, low quality nutrition, low level of knowledge of farmers in nutrition and its producing.
5. The difference between Samtskhe –Javakheti and Kvemo Kartli regions is that in livestock movement route does not pass through Samtskhe – Javakheti municipalities. There is a comparatively better epizootic situation than in Kvemo Kartli.
6. As for above problem, they are similar in both regions. Besides there are better and more vet services centers.

Table 1 Data of sheep movement routes according to the municipalities

#	Municipality	Area (Ha)			Rout length (km)
		Rout	Resting area	total	
Samtskhe - Javakheti					
1	Aspindza	293.6	263.6	557.2	60.1
2	Akhalkalaki	258.9	0	258.9	26.3
3	Borjomi	77.7	183.6	261.3	17.7
4	Ninotsminda	714.6	0	714.6	62.1
5	Tetritskaro	618	312.5	930.5	49.8
6	Tsalka	759.2	823	1582.2	59.6
	total	2722	1582.7	4304.7	275.6
Kvemo Kartli					
7	Bolnisi	136.9	232.8	369.7	62.6

8	Dmanisi	122.5	57.7	180.2	20.7
9	Gardabani	89.5	137.4	226.9	11.6
10	Marneuli	352	135.2	487.2	29.3
11	Rustavi	25.3	300	325.3	9.2
Total		726.2	863.1	1589.3	133.4
Kakheti					
12	Akhmeta	222.5	208.8	431.3	69.9
12	Dedoflistskaro	1125	258.9	1383.9	154.5
14	Gurjaani	104	81.3	185.3	33.2
15	Sagarejo	669	605	1274	50.1
16	Signagi	631	9.4	640.4	75.4
16	Telavi	398.7	247.2	645.9	86.1
17	Kvareli	10.4	80.2	90.6	4.4
Total		3160.6	1490.8	4651.4	473.6
Mtskheta – Mtianeti					
18	Dusheti	75.9	11.3	87.2	65.7
19	Tianeti	107.2	44	151.2	43.7
Total in Region		13400.7	7928.5	21329.2	109.4

As a result of the conducted research the following priorities in the project activity were revealed and also primary problems were revealed too. Farmers' social and economic conditions will be significantly changed in case of solution of these problems.

Recommendations

- In order to improve livestock breeds, in conjunction with AI, bull replacement could be used, the selection and purchasing of which is available in the Ninotsminda Municipality.
- Improvement of veterinary and livestock control services in particular vaccination and disease notification
- Facilitation of slaughterhouses to improve marketing and access of SSLP-s to cattle slaughtering facilities.
- Support to machinery selling centers and improved marketing, so farmers to have access to nutrition producing equipment e.g. balers
- Installation of route signs and disinfection facilities on livestock movement routes

Annex 1. Key Informant Interviews

Annex 2: A Summary of the Outbreak of Anthrax in Dmanisi,

#	Organization	Municipality / Village	Position	Name, Surname	Contact
1	National Food Agency	Tsalka municipality office	Head	IuriKokorovi	5 95 222 169
2	National Food Agency	Tsalka municipality office	Vet. Specialist	Jemal Dekanadze	5 91 914 899
3	National Food Agency	Tsalka municipality office	Specialist-Agronomist	Iura Samurganovi	5 93 736 729
4	Service for economy and procurement management	Tsalka municipality	Chief Specialist	OtarVanadze	5 93 429 135
5	Vet.pharmacy	Tsalka municipality	Head / P.E.	Roin Abuladze	
6	LTD “Rural Service Centre”	Tsalka municipality			
7	Residents of Tsalka	Tsalka municipality		Jemal Abashidze, OtarAbashidze, VasilSuraevi, SamvelGalustiani, BezhanVashakmadze, MerabAsanidze, George Vashakmadze	593 343 416, 893 316 603, 599 918 246, 893 419 061, 593 382 031, 577 176 098
8	National Food Agency	Dmanisi municipality office	Head	Valodia Beruashvili	595 221 116
9	“Agricultural Service Centre”	Dmanisi municipality	Head / Deputy Head	Nugzar Girgvliani, AlastanriVerdievi	5 95 253 112, 5 95 221 620
10	Sheep breeding cooperative “Zezva”	Dmanisi municipality, village Didi Dmanisi	Head	Eva Selimashvili	5 93 414 722
11	National Food Agency	Tetrtskaro municipality office	Head	Nodar Tetrushvili	5 91 914 821
12	Residents of village Tsintskaro	Tetrtskaro municipality		ManucharBakuradze, Tengiz Resuridze, ZurabTchelidze, Boris Lambrianovi, KharlampiOskoevi, AnzorGorjomeladze, NoshrevanMamuladze, TamazMosidze	5 91 210 921, 5 93 216 405, 5 99 151 092, 5 91 221 031, 5 55 121 729, 5 77 955 082
13	Tinned Stewed Beef Enterprise	Tetrtskaro municipality, village Manglisi	Head / P.E.	Gela Berikashvili	5 99 701 291
14	LTD “Mechanizatori”	Tetrtskaro municipality	Head	Jimi Loladze	5 99 271 877, 5 91 404 410
15	LTD “Mechanizatori”	Tetrtskaro municipality	Specialist	Soso Abuladze	5 99 924 559, 5 77 204 643
16	Office for Managing Livestock Driving Roads, National Food Safety Agency	Tbilisi	Head	ZurabBezhanishvili	599 356 212, 599 681 111

Tetrtskaro and Tsalka Municipalities.

Twenty six cattle died due to contracting Anthrax in Tsalka and Tetrtskaro municipalities in July and August 2011. Tbilisi Veterinary Laboratory have subsequently confirmed that the animals deaths were caused by Anthrax. Twenty four carcasses have been burned and buried however two carcasses were slaughtered and their meat sold into the food chain.

Ten days of quarantine were imposed in Khaishi and Tsintsikaro villages on 20th of July 2011 during which time access into these villages were controlled by the police. 10,750 heads of livestock have been vaccinated in Tsalka and Tetrtskaro Municipalities since the outbreaks began.

Two local residents of Tsalka, a father and son, became infected by Anthrax after slaughtering an infected animal and the processing of its meat. Eight people have become infected in Tetrtskaro municipality villages: six cases in Khaishi, where one of the infected men has died due to medical treatment being administered too late, and two cases in Tsintsikaro; one of whom became infected at the time of the slaughtering of an infected sheep and the processing of its meat, another one became infected whilst vaccinating cattle.

Tsalka, Dmanisi and Tetrtskaro municipalities and one employee of the Food National Agency per municipality are coordinating measures to contain and control the disease.

*** *Reference: Case Study of Anthrax Disease. IAAD*

News concerning anthrax in the project area (From the local media and internet sources)

20. 07. 2011 / Anthrax case in Tetrtskaro Social Healthcare / Tetrtskaro

The National Disease Control Center is asking the population to be careful when eating meat because anthrax cases have been increasing this month. A 65 years old man from Tetrtskaro died last night.

21. 07. 2011 / Another case of anthrax in Tetrtskaro Social Healthcare / Tetrtskaro

Cases of anthrax are increasing. Currently a 24 year old man from Tetrtskaro is being treated at the Tbilisi Infectious Disease Hospital. The young man became infected 6 days ago. The infected man is undergoing medical treatment. Doctors stated that condition of the patient is stable.

21. 07. 2011 / Increase vaccinations took place in Tetrtskaro villages Social Healthcare / Tetrtskaro

Increased Vaccinations are being carried out in Tetrtskaro villages. Cattle are being vaccinated against anthrax by the Tetrtskaro Municipality Office of the National Agency for Food Safety. The reason for increased vaccination was death of local resident Revaz Chkadua who died from anthrax. The man supposedly became infected at the time of slaughtering of a bull.

28. 07. 2011 / Anthrax case in Bolnisi

Social Healthcare / Bolnisi

A 46 year old man from Bolnisi was transferred to the Tbilisi Infectious Disease Center with the skin form of anthrax. He purchased infected meat from Marneuli market.

28. 07. 2011 / Condition of an anthrax infected patient is stable

Social Healthcare / Dmanisi

Two infected patients are being treated at the Tbilisi Infectious Disease Hospital. One of the infected men is from Dmanisi.

08.08. 2011 / Condition of an anthrax infected man in Tsalka is stable

Social Healthcare / Tsalka

A middle aged man from Tsalka has become infected after slaughtering his own cow. The disease has spread to the neck and face of the man.

The patient contacted a medical facility quite late and it has complicated his condition.

After appropriate medical treatment doctors consider the patient's condition to be stable.

10. 08. 2011 / Four people have become infected by anthrax in Marneuli

Social Healthcare / Marneuli

The head of the Marneuli Social Healthcare Center is looking for ways to prevent and control the spread of anthrax.

“Four cases of anthrax in humans have been observed in Marneuli. I would like to mention that none of our Meat Selling Points have accepted infected meat brought from Dmanisi. The only way to become infected by Anthrax is contact with an infected animal or its meat. We ask the population not to slaughter an infected animal in order to avoid the infection and to please contact the Veterinary Service because this is a very dangerous disease” – The Head of the Social Healthcare Center of the Marneuli Municipality, Eter Laferadze said.