

CASE STUDY:

LIVESTOCK AND DAIRY A LONGSTANDING TRADITION REKINDLED

Background

Dairy farming is part of a long and proud agricultural tradition in Kosovo. Good growing conditions and substantial pasture area of around 178.000 hectares throughout Kosovo offers a great opportunity for people in rural areas to work in the dairy sector. With the migration of people from rural areas to urban centres, the number of livestock has decreased drastically. This has led

to an increase in imported milk and cheese products and the loss of expertise in many areas for improving production practices.



Recent changes in Kosovo have begun to reverse this trend. The as-

sociation of dairy processors has successfully lobbied for more support from the Kosovo government, as well as changes to tax law which makes it simpler to deal with small farmers. Skills for Rural Employment (S4RE) initiative to organize dairy trainings in Dragash, Shterpce, Novo Brdo and Kamenica aims to help farmers to capitalize on these renewed market opportunities for local milk.

Intervention by S4RE

Despite reduced production, the system for collecting milk from farmers and transporting it to processors exists in the target regions. These local businesses were keen to work with S4RE to increase the quality and quantity of milk being supplied to them.



Meetings were organized with all actors in the value chain to identify farmers and training topics to be supported by S4RE.

S4RE engaged experts and trained 180 farmers, of which 12% were women and 39% minorities. Trainings were held in 13 groups of around 15 farmers. Training topics ranged

from production and animal health to hygiene and milk standards. During the training sessions, farmers were given the opportunity to exercise practical and theoretical work. The trainings have improved the professional and technical capacities of the farmers in the field.

Results of the collaboration

In light of the number of beneficiaries, interest shown in this field and initial promising outcome, the S4RE expects considerable results from this commitment. 20% of the beneficiaries have been supported by different donors for inputs, milking equipment and farm machinery. 30% of the beneficiaries have increased the number of livestock and have increased the number of workers in their farms. Furthermore, milk collection centres have reported the quality and quantity of milk has increased considerably, in particular coming into the winter season, traditionally a period of low milk production.

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