

## ASLP Dairy Project

Improving dairy production in Pakistan through improved extension services  
Summary of current status and achievements – 22<sup>nd</sup> of November 2007

**Getting started:** The project started in August when the project co-ordinators, Dr Peter Wynn and Dr Russell Bush, as well as the project manager David McGill travelled from Australia to Pakistan to meet with the main collaborators. During this trip they hired two highly qualified research co-ordinators, Hassan Warriach and Saadia Hanif, to look after the two main themes of the project. With the team selected and all collaborators on board for the start of the project, Peter and Russell returned to Australia and the team started work to establish an office and work diligently at initiating the field survey.

### **Our new personnel**

#### **Saadia Hanif**

Saadia is a graduate in veterinary medicine from the University of Faisalabad (UAF) and has a Masters degree in Livestock Management. She has recently been lecturing in Economics and Business at the University of Veterinary and Animal Science (UVAS) in Lahore after an outstanding career in business management and extension with dairy, rural development and pharmaceutical companies. Saadia has investigated extensively the role of women to subsistence livestock production enterprises in Pakistan and published widely on a range of topics relating to livestock production.

#### **Hassan Warriach**

Hassan is a graduate in veterinary medicine from UVAS who has wide experience in the dairy industry. Hassan completed a PhD on investigations into reproductive physiology in the buffalo through UVAS while at the same time lecturing in reproduction to undergraduate students. To prove his versatility he has recently been working with Punjab Rural Support Program in the establishment of a milk processing plant. He also has wide experience in consulting to dairy farmers.

**Our office:** The office is situated in Lahore in the same building as the Livestock and Dairy Development Board (LDDDB). Our address is:

30 Tariq Block, New Garden Town, Lahore

It is now fully furnished and functioning with laptops, printers, desks and all the other necessary items. Furthermore with the help of the LDDDB, a car has been purchased and a highly competent driver, Mr Muzhar Hussain, has joined the team.



Hassan Warriach, Saadia Hanif and David McGill prior to the Livestock and Dairy Development Board Ceremony at the Pearl Continental on the 20<sup>th</sup> of November, 2007.

### **Achievements to date**

Before establishing our training program for small holders it is important to identify the major limitations to production in these enterprises. Thus we have developed a survey for farmers in two regions of the Punjab which differ in rainfall and the level of services available to them.

- An initial questionnaire was developed for a pilot survey that was conducted in the districts of Okara and Bhakkar. This was conducted with the help of staff from L&DD Department, Idara-e-Kissan and NRSP, to whom we are most grateful. Although all surveyed farmers will be included in any training provided, this survey is being used to identify the farmers who will be most suitable for our longitudinal survey work.
- We have entered the information from 280 farm surveys into our farm database. This pool of data is now being analysed to give a good idea of current production and farm practices in two distinct areas of the Punjab.
- From this data we will select 120 farms in both districts for the project activities and for participation in a year long longitudinal survey.
- We are developing a “Farmer Record Book” to help with data recording collection during the longitudinal survey.
- We have discussed in detail the incentives we need to offer to both extension workers and farmers to reward them for their loyalty to the project. These incentives will be decided and finalised during meetings with collaborators and Dr Peter Wynn in December.

In addition to this we have been networking extensively with universities and research institutes as much as possible to discuss potential collaborative studies and to identify sources of data from studies conducted previously throughout our region of study. From this we can determine what information is readily available and what is missing and critical to boosting on farm productivity. So far we have visited:

- The University of Veterinary Sciences Lahore
- The University of Agriculture Faisalabad
- Livestock and Dairy Development Dept.
- Bahadurnagar Research Institute, Okara
- Buffalo Research Institute, Pattoki
- Fodder Research Institute, Sargodha

Furthermore we hope to visit all these places again in the near future to discuss these points in finer details as well as visit the Arid University Rawalpindi and Sindh Agricultural University Tandojam.

Finally, we are busy preparing for Christian Roth (a manager from the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research) and Dr Wynn’s visit to Pakistan in December. During this 10 day trip we hope to meet again with all our collaborators to discuss our achievements and how we intend to progress our project over the next 6 months. Also we will be carrying out our first training sessions in both Bhakkar and Okara.

Lastly, thanks again for all your help so far with the project. We have enjoyed some measure of success to date and look forward to further co-operation from our partners as our dairy education program takes shape. Inshallah.

Regards from the whole team