

Step-by-Steppe

HIGH BREED GOATS AND SHEEP A HIT IN ZAVKHAN

From March to April, the SPADE Zavkhan team was in Zavkhan to monitor progress of its 10 community cooperatives and provide advice and training in preparation for the approaching growing season. A highlight of the monitoring trip was the observation of the first offspring of the recently adopted high breed sheep and goat (Ram; Darkhad, Buck; Erchimiin Khar) At the time of the visit 528 lambs and 519 kids had been delivered. Cooperative members were very happy with the new animals that have proved to be healthy, relatively big and strong.

Global positioning coordinates were used to identify and map locations of each cooperative vegetable garden. This information will inform a larger mapping project that will enable cooperatives to identify proximity to resources such as rivers and soums and identify distances to possible trading markets. April was also a key time to provide advice and training to each of the ten cooperatives on preparation and plant selection as they prepare for the growing season.

Hygiene and sanitation training was



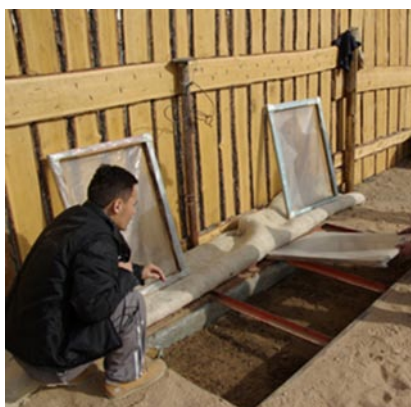
Newly delivered high breed goats and sheep are proving to be a good choice for the cooperatives

delivered in Uliastai. Training included topics such as hygiene, environmental health, first aid, reproductive health and drug habits. A first aid box was provided to each cooperative. Since the monitoring visit, cooperatives have received seeds and green house materials and have prepared their land.



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THE FUTURE FOR GARDENING IN THE GOBI



Glasshouses used to nurture the crops

Recent observations of Environmental Engineer, Tamara Midwinter indicate that Food Security in the desert needs to take steps to forestall the effects of climate change. Most of the landscape of Bayankhongor (the location of Canadian Food Grain Bank funded vegetable gardens) is ringed with mountains with flat, sandy ground covered in stones and very limited vegetation. It is a very harsh climate, with complete lack of apparent natural resources. There is little surface water,

very poor soil and no vegetation. The food security garden project introduces an unusual land use that provides a response to issues of limited food supply, transport, resources use and availability. The fragility of the ecosystem raises questions as to what the long term impact of farming might be. Climate change will affect food security in the desert through changing weather patterns and resource availability.

Recommended actions to improve outputs of the project that are currently being undertaken or introduced include;

- Seed saving (to commence after 2009 growing season)
- Companion planting; and
- Moving towards sales crops and not purely subsistence cropping

Additionally, ADRA Mongolia's Food Security staff are looking at issues such as re-use of green waste, cooperation with local herders to use manure as fertilizers, and protection of fortified soil to help overcome climate change factors affecting their project.

SMALL BUSINESS EVENT WELL ATTENDED

A recent event held by the Cultivating Urban Economic Strengths (CUES) program saw 60 small business owners in Ulaanbaatar attend a seminar to hear the latest on small business strategy.

Attendees were treated to a number of presentations from various key speakers including: Micro Business Advisor of the Governmental Implementation Agency; Loan Officer from Xac Bank; Member of the Self Help Group of the Selenge Province; and a member of the Wool Ganglion Cooperative. Advice on government regulations, business strategy and overcoming obstacles was presented to attendees. This project is funded by ADRA Australia.



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UPDATE ON PEER-EDUCATOR TRAINING

As a part of the Action on Gender-violence Awareness through Peer Education (AGAPE) project 'refresher' training with school-based peer educators has been delivered to our three partner schools in Ulaanbaatar.



Peer educators participating in 'refresher' training

This refresher training comes after the initial training camp held in March 2009. Refresher training covers topics such as gender, gender-based violence and domestic violence and aims to equip students with information and life-skills which they can then pass on to peers. AGAPE Project Officer S. Byambatseren indicated that often these topics are not easy to deliver, however the refresher training has re-emphasized topics learnt in the initial training, ensuring student's knowledge of the topics was current.

Positive changes have been noted since the initial training. Peer educators are becoming enthusiastic and proactive and have come up with a lot of ideas on how to share information with their peers. There have been behavioural shifts in some students. Those who were inattentive and nonparticipating are now displaying positive attitudes. In particular Byambatseren has noticed changes in the way male students interact with female students and their increased enthusiasm as peer leaders, "That is exciting for me!" she exclaimed.

Peer-educators are busy planning ideas and activities for the upcoming training they will deliver to peers. Students from School 34 are planning to make a video about bullying in schools and will include relevant issues such as domestic violence. It is encouraging to see student ownership of the program.

STUDENTS SPREAD THE TRUTH ABOUT STI'S

Over 360 university dormitory students recently participated in "Safe Choices" training and will shortly spread this new found knowledge to their peers. This project is made possible due to generous support from the German Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation, through ADRA Germany.

"Safe Choices" is a project focused on giving students correct information about sexually transmitted infections, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). Students are taught about methods of prevention and good sexual health practices. A large aspect of the training is dispelling myths about sexual health. At conclusion of the training students will have the skills and knowledge to help others



University students learning about "Safe Choices"

with questions or concerns. Via the peer educators the "Safe Choices" message will spread to thousands of students. Our dedicated donors are giving us the opportunity to save more lives.

PUBLICISING THE FIGHT AGAINST TOBACCO

The communication strategy adopted by the Health Education Against Tobacco (HEAT) project has been successful in taking the anti-tobacco message to the Mongolian community.

Khoroods (Districts) against tobacco. District leaders from Ulaanbaatar Khoroods (Districts) came together in early April to sign contracts showing their support for anti-tobacco measures.

Teenagers to teenagers against tobacco. Teenage "peer educators" from four Ulaanbaatar based schools recently completed four months of training. Participants are now certified and confident to pass on their knowledge about tobacco and its affect on health to other students. Students also recently attended "Our school is smoke free", an event organized by HEAT which included a drawing competition, stage performance, and a logo and essay competition.

No more smoking at home. Training and the dissemination of health information about the effects of tobacco is beginning to change attitudes and behaviors towards tobacco and smoking in the home. "We didn't know how bad our smoking affected our children at home", one participant

commented "Our grandfather has stopped smoking at home

Radio and TV against tobacco. HEAT's message is reaching the masses with three advertisements being run on FM radio and being broadcast on Mongolian television during a popular drama series.

"Daily News" in fight against tobacco. Mongolia's leading daily newspaper recently featured articles pertaining to tobacco, its use and legislation in Mongolia. With a readership that is approximately 40% of the population, this equates to excellent coverage.

Positive audience feedback. Mongolian's Olympic wrestling champion A. Badaruugan's interview and comments about tobacco on a prominent chat show led to a flood of calls from viewers.



Peer educators complete training

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Without their support we would be unable to improve the lives of many

Mongolians.

ADRA Mongolia has been serving people locally since 1993 and we need **your** support and resources to continue this necessary and important work. To find out how you can help improve the lives of Mongolians, contact us via email: director@adra.org.mn

"Changing the World, One Life at a time"