

THE NOMADS

ADRA Mongolia Official Newsletter

Q2 VOL 4 NO 12 April - June 2025



ADRA
Justice.Compassion.Love



CONTENTS

Editorial

EDITOR/DESIGNER
Bayasgalan Gansukh

SUPERVISING EDITOR
Windell M. Maranan

CONTRIBUTORS
Windell M. Maranan
Altantsetseg Sukhbaatar

GET CONNECTED



PUBLISHER
ADRA MONGOLIA

Adventist Development and
Relief Agency (ADRA) Mongolia

Palazzo Tower #8-401
Tokyo Street, 1st Khoroo
Bayanzurkh District
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
15160

+976-11-450738
www.adra.org.mn

2

welcome the summer season, our commitment to sustainable agriculture and improving the livelihoods of both herders and farmers remains steadfast. This marks the start of the school vacation, during which students from our partner schools have actively engaged in initiatives promoting healthy lifestyles and positive change for adolescents.

In the past quarter, we have strengthened our engagement with local communities through the implementation of practical, hands-on projects. In this edition of our quarterly newsletter, we are excited to share updates on our ongoing efforts, including major projects focused on advancing organic agriculture and enhancing the productivity of farmers through targeted training programs.

We are also supporting the livelihoods of fine wool sheep herders by helping to reintroduce local fine wool sheep breeds, many of which have declined in number since the communist era in Mongolia. In addition to our agricultural efforts, we remain deeply invested in adolescent health and education, particularly in raising awareness about the long-term impacts of unhealthy lifestyle choices.

We continue this important work, and we remain grateful for the collaboration and support of our partners and the dedication of the communities we serve. We look forward to exploring new opportunities to learn more about the progress and people driving positive change in our projects.

EDITORIAL



CANSAP PROJECT



NEXTGEN CELEBRATIONS! MONGOLIA



FINE WOOL SHEEP BREEDING PROJECT



UPOAg PROJECT



NEWS BITS

This quarterly newsletter highlights the key activities of our projects, focusing on our collaboration with beneficiaries during the agricultural season and our progress in addressing non-communicable diseases among adolescents in Mongolia.

THE NOMADS

VOLUME 4 | NUMBER 12
April - June 2025

The Nomads, launched in 2022, is the official quarterly newsletter of the ADRA Mongolia Country Office

Editorial

Dear friends,

As we welcome the summer season, our commitment to sustainable agriculture and improving the livelihoods of both herders and farmers remains steadfast. This period also marks the start of the school vacation, during which students from our partner schools have actively engaged in initiatives promoting healthy lifestyles and positive habits for adolescents as part of our non-communicable diseases (NCD) project activities.

In this 2025 quarterly edition of The Nomads newsletter, we are excited to share updates on our ongoing efforts, including two major projects focused on advancing organic agriculture and enhancing the capacity of farmers through targeted training programs.

We are also supporting the livelihoods of fine wool sheep herders by helping to restore traditional fine wool sheep breeds, many of which have declined in number since the post-communist era in Mongolia.

In addition to our organic agriculture and greening initiatives, we remain deeply invested in adolescent health and education, particularly in raising awareness of the long-term impacts of holistic lifestyle and positive behavioral choices.

As we continue this important work, we remain grateful for the collaboration of our partners and the dedication of the communities we serve. We invite you to explore this issue and learn more about the progress of driving positive change across all our initiatives.

The Editorial Team

CLIMATE ADAPTED NUTRITION-SENSITIVE AGRICULTURE (CANSAP) PROJECT

Year-2 of the project activities are now underway!

As part of the CANSAP project's mission to strengthen climate-resilient agriculture in Bayan-Ulgii, we've launched a specialized Passive Solar Greenhouse (PSGH) training program.

On April 16–17, 2025, our project team conducted an intensive training session on designing and building PSGHs — fully solar-powered greenhouses that require no fuel-based heating and are perfectly suited for our region's climate.

Twelve selected farmer households will build their own 6x4m PSGHs, co-financing 50% of the material costs.

During the training, participants learned:

- How to design energy-efficient greenhouses
- Site selection for best sunlight exposure
- Frame construction using wood or metal
- Insulated wall techniques and ventilation setup
- Practical foundation layout using compass tools
- Final construction touches using local materials



Production Planning and Marketing Training for Developing Marketing Strategy and Plans

At the end of March, a key training session on Marketing Strategy & Planning was successfully conducted for five members of a gardening group at the ADRA-CANSAP (Climate Adapted Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture Project) field office. This training was designed to provide home gardener beneficiaries with the knowledge and skills necessary to plan, coordinate, and implement market-driven agricultural production and sales strategies. The session was split into two parts, each focused on building practical and strategic marketing capabilities.

The first session, titled Understanding Market-Oriented Agriculture, focused on introducing the concepts of market-oriented agriculture, market research, identifying consumer needs, and planning for joint marketing and collective sales. Additionally, participants learned about organizing joint marketing events and raising consumer awareness.

The second session, Practical Planning & Implementation, focused on the development of a comprehensive marketing plan. It covered topics such as pricing strategies, sales channels, and the use of digital marketing tools.



In the previous year, the project successfully built 25 passive solar greenhouses. Unlike plastic greenhouses, these structures allow farmers to extend their growing season from 3 to 6 months — from early spring to late autumn. While last year's greenhouses were completed between May and July, this year, families started using them as early as mid-April for seedling production and expect to continue harvesting until November. Beneficiaries are now anticipating twice the harvest compared to traditional plastic greenhouses.

In 2025, the project continues with the construction of 24 more passive solar greenhouses:

- 12 greenhouses are already completed and actively in use,
- 12 are currently under construction and 60% finished.

These greenhouses are not just structures — they represent hope, resilience, and the power of sustainable agriculture in Bayan-Ulgii Province.



NEXTGEN CELEBRATIONS! MONGOLIA (NCD) PROJECT



At Erdmiin Orgil School in Nalaikh District, we launched a campaign titled "Let's Replace Sweets with Fruit," where we offered fresh fruit instead of sweets. The campaign was a great success, as children loved it and were excited to have the option of healthy snacks they truly enjoy.

As part of Ethics Week at Tusgal Secondary School, Project Manager B. Orgilzul led an engaging and informative lesson on healthy eating for elementary students. The children learned the importance of a balanced diet and discovered that consuming 5 servings, or approximately 400 grams, of fruits and vegetables each day helps keep their bodies strong and healthy.



On April 23, 2025, the project team welcomed Ms. Tsevelmaa B., the Founder of the Mongolian Volunteer Center, to Erdmiin Orgil School in Nalaikh District. She delivered a speech titled "My Friend" to approximately 700 students from grades 6 to 9.





Cooking Event was Held

Students in grades 6 to 9, along with their parents, were invited to participate in the “Let’s Cook Together” event at Erdmiin Orgil School.

The purpose of the event was to raise awareness among adolescents about the importance of having breakfast every day, as many students often go to school without eating. During the event, the project team demonstrated how to prepare a simple yet delicious breakfast recipe.

It was heartwarming to see both parents and students sharing kind words and supporting each other while preparing the meal, creating a meaningful bonding experience.

The project team, in collaboration with teachers, the principal, and social workers of Erdmiin Orgil School, organized a volleyball competition for the parents of students, titled “Let’s Make Exercise a Habit.”

Engaging in 60 minutes of physical activity each day not only supports both physical and mental health, but also reduces the risk of heart disease, improves sleep quality, and boosts brain function.





World No Tobacco Day is observed around the world every year on 31 May. This year, we are lifting the veil on how tobacco and nicotine companies target young people through the use of flavors, flashy packaging, and deceptive marketing to make harmful products seem appealing.

The project team, in collaboration with Erdmiin Orgil School, organized a parade with the participation of 300 parents, teachers, and students to raise awareness and advocate for stronger tobacco control policies.

During the parade, Enkh-Amar B., Finance Officer of ADRA Mongolia, Nayanbayer D., Governor of Nalaikh District, and Oyuntuya O., Director of Erdmiin Orgil School, addressed the youth, urging them to stand against tobacco use and protect future generations from its harmful effects.

The project team had a meeting with members of the “Tusgal” School Advisory Group to review the outcomes of a previously conducted project activities at Tusgal School in Chingeltei District and to explore strategies for ensuring its long-term sustainability.



FINE WOOL SHEEP BREEDING PROJECT PHASE - 2

On 11th April 2025, a renewal signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) took place between ADRA Mongolia, represented by Windell Maranan, Country Director, and the National Livestock Gene Bank (NLGB), represented by Gantugs Ch., Newly-appointed Director, accompanied by Alimaa U., Head of the Livestock Genefond Protection and Improvement Department under the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry (MOFALI).



This MoU highlights the importance of government support for the Fine Wool Sheep Breeding Project, which focuses on assisting herders and fine wool sheep breeders. The second phase of the project, funded by the Australian Embassy in Mongolia, seeks to improve the quality of Mongolian fine wool and promote the sustainable development of the sector as a source of livelihood for the Mongolian herders.

In Orkhon, Saikhan, and Tsagaannuur soums of Selenge Province, as well as the breeding farm affiliated with the Livestock Research Institute located in Khongor soum of Darkhan-Uul Province, a total of 279 female sheep born from Australian Merino ram semen will have their wool sampled. The micron thickness of the wool will be analyzed under laboratory conditions.

This work is part of a planned project to register the breeding results in the Australian Sheep Genetics international breeding database.

As part of this plan, wool sampling has already begun in Orkhon and Saikhan soums.



Views on long-term sustainability and planning of the Fine Wool Sheep Breeding Project was exchanged between the project team and Officials from Selenge Province.

ADRA Mongolia has been implementing the “Fine Wool Sheep Breeding” project in Selenge Province since 2022. The project is currently in its second phase. To improve the quality and breed of sheep raised by Orkhon and Khangai herders, artificial insemination was successfully carried out on 680 sheep using deep-frozen semen from high-yielding breeds imported from Australia. This work was conducted using advanced biotechnology and endoscopic methods.

Mr. G. Bat-Orkhon, Chairman of the Citizens’ Representatives Khural of Selenge Province, and Ms. U. Suvdaa, Head of the Governor’s Office, met with representatives of ADRA Mongolia. During the meeting, they exchanged views and held discussions on the long-term planning for the continued implementation of the project.



Sheep Shearing Training Conducted

As part of Phase 2 of the project, ADRA Mongolia, in partnership with Share Mongolia, conducted an advanced training on fine wool sheep shearing from June 2–6 in Orkhon Soum, Selenge Province.

This year’s training builds on last year’s activity by focusing on the continued development of previous participants. The goal is to enhance their skills and prepare them to become future trainers themselves.



UPSCALING PARTNERSHIP FOR ORGANIC AGRICULTURE (UPOAg) PROJECT



Capacity Building Training for Cooperatives

The 3-day training, jointly organized in Ulaanbaatar by ADRA Mongolia's "Upscaling Partnership for Organic Agriculture" project and the National Association of Mongolian Agricultural Cooperatives, is being held for over 40 leaders and members from 26 organic farming cooperatives in Selenge and Darkhan-Uul provinces.

Training Content Include:

- Revised version and key changes to the "Law on Cooperatives"
- Roles, responsibilities, and duties of cooperative chairpersons, board members, and audit committees
- Governance, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting/planning methodologies
- Knowledge of documentation and accounting principles

Training Outcome:

- Strengthen their legal knowledge
- Improve cooperative governance capacity
- Enhance their skills in reporting, planning, and documentation



Developing Dairy and Whey-based Product Processing

In April 2025, the project team organized a professional training under the theme "Technology for Producing Dairy and Whey-based Products" in Sukhbaatar soum, Selenge Province.



A total of 40 cooperative members from project beneficiary groups participated in the training. They learned hands-on how to process traditional dairy products such as milk, yogurt, curds, cottage cheese, cream, and sour cream, as well as innovative ways to utilize whey—a valuable by-product of milk.

The event brought together 40 participants from 20 cooperatives across 15 soums in Selenge and Darkhan-Uul provinces.

The training was conducted in partnership with experts from the Mongolian University of Life Sciences, the School of Animal Science and Biotechnology, and the Polytechnic College of Selenge

Province. It included PhD-level instructors specializing in dairy and food technology.

Participants practiced a wide range of techniques, from analyzing milk quality using the Lactoscan device to standardizing fat content, cream separation, fermentation, and learning industrial methods for producing yogurt, sour cream, curds, whey-based sweets, and honey jelly.

The instructor also guided the group in producing around 10 different dairy products using locally sourced high-fat milk, including fruit-flavored cottage cheese, sweetened sour cream, whey candy, and more—combining theory with hands-on practice.

By applying their new knowledge and skills, cooperative members aim to practice eco-friendly dairy production, contribute to environmental protection, increase their income, improve their livelihoods, and spread a creative, active mindset throughout their communities.

Guidance on Organic Plant Protection

As part of the project, around 300 members from 40 cooperatives across 16 soums in Selenge and Darkhan-Uul provinces participated in organic plant protection training ahead of the spring planting season. The training was led by Senior Agronomist Advisors of Mongolia, Itgel Ts., And Uranchimeg A..



Key topics:

- Integrated Plant Protection Methods in Organic Farming
- Greenhouse and Seed Sterilization
- Identification of Vegetable Diseases and Pests
- Use of Biological Products in Organic Plant Protection



In alignment with Mongolia's "Vision 2050" objective 9.2, which aims to ensure food security and establish a network of organic food supplies from rural areas, the Upscaling Partnership for Organic Agriculture Project and the "Selenge Tavan Khairkhan" Cooperative Union have partnered in Selenge and Darkhan-Uul provinces. Their combined efforts address challenges in expanding the organic supply chain and market by developing a unified system for management, transportation, marketing, and sales from rural areas.

The meeting brought together over 300 organic producers from 40 primary cooperatives across 14 soums and one village in Selenge Province, and two soums in Darkhan-Uul Province.

Discussions led to a consensus on tackling challenges in the organic vegetable supply chain and market expansion through collective fundraising. The meeting proved highly effective, generating innovative proposals for a sustainable plan to supply organic food to Ulaanbaatar residents. This initiative is crucial for strengthening the organic vegetable supply chain and connecting rural and urban areas.



Over 300 members from 40 cooperatives in Selenge and Darkhan-Uul provinces submitted an official request for support to establish a National Association of Organic Producers under the "Upscaling Partnership for Organic Agriculture" project.

As part of this initiative, the project team held meetings and discussions in 16 soums, gathering feedback from the cooperatives' members.

During these meetings, the necessity, goals, and future steps for establishing the National Organic Association were clearly defined, reaching a unified understanding.



To celebrate International Children's Day, the project, in collaboration with Selenge Organic and Darkhan Organic Store, organized an "Organic World" painting contest for children aged 6–9 on May 30, 2025. The participating children were introduced to the concept of organic food, its health benefits, and the environmentally friendly practices of organic farming through a fun and engaging animated video prepared by the project team.

Each child expressed their understanding of the "Organic World" theme through their artwork and even evaluated and selected the best drawing themselves, making the experience both meaningful and memorable.

Additionally, Oyungerel J., Project Senior Agronomist, taught the children how to grow organic tomatoes indoors through a hands-on demonstration and gifted them the organic seedlings they had planted themselves during the seedling event.

Also, small-scale agricultural equipment was distributed to 15 cooperatives on 10 June, 2025. The distribution event took place at the Office of the Cooperative Union in Saikhan Soum, Selenge Province.

In addition to the distribution of equipment, a consultative training workshop was conducted to demonstrate the extended usage of the provided tools. This workshop was attended by 62 members from the 15 cooperatives.

Furthermore, to gain a closer understanding of the activities of the Selenge Tavan Khaikhan Cooperative Union, officials from Selenge Province expressed their strong support for the project. This support included assistance in the sale of organic vegetables produced by 30 primary cooperatives, the construction of deep wells, and the creation of opportunities to collaborate with 35 schools within the province. They also focused on educating the public about the Selenge organic brand and organized activities aimed at raising awareness of the importance of organic products.



News Bits



Through the invitation of the Ministry of Health (MOH) and the World Health Organization (WHO) in Mongolia, ADRA Mongolia attended the launching of the Healthy Newborn Initiative to Promote the Health of Every Mother and Child in celebration of World Health Day at the Ministry of Health in the capital Ulaanbaatar yesterday, which included invited guests from different government agencies, the diplomatic community and embassies, development partners, and international organizations.

ADRA Mongolia was represented by its Country Director, Windell M. Maranan accompanied by Dr. Orgilzul Batsukh, Project Manager of NextGen CELEBRATIONS! Mongolia (NCD) project.



- ADRA Mongolia was invited to participate in the Consultative Meeting of Development Partners in the framework of the 17th Conference of Parties of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (COP17) to be held in Mongolia in 2026. The consultative meeting was organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, and the UN Representative Office in Mongolia, co-organized by the UN Development Program (UNDP) in preparation for the hosting of COP17 next year.



- The ADRA team met with Ms. Nomindari E., CEO of the Mongolian Nature's Legacy Foundation, to discuss potential collaboration on the development of the environmental conservation sector in Mongolia on 1 May 2025.

Staff Corner

Altantsetseg Sukhbaatar

Project Manager

Fine Wool Sheep Breeding Project



When did you first join ADRA and why?

I have been aware of ADRA's work since the early 2000s and officially joined the current project in August 2024. I chose to take on this role because ADRA's fine and semi-fine wool sheep breeding project closely aligns with both my academic background and the objectives of previous projects I have worked on. Drawing from my own experience, I felt compelled to contribute to this initiative. I also feel fortunate to have had the opportunity, between 2000 and 2008, to collaborate with livestock researchers and PhD holders from the Mongolian Research Institute of Animal Husbandry under a Norwegian government-funded project aimed at developing Mongolia's fine and semi-fine wool sheep breeds.

What do you love most about your position?

Mongolia is an agricultural country defined by its unique nomadic livestock heritage, customs, and way of life. Our livestock breeds are well-adapted to the country's harsh natural and climatic conditions and offer a wide

range of productive traits. Among these, fine and semi-fine wool breeds were developed through human innovation, representing their collective wisdom, scientific study, and dedicated effort of many individuals. I take pride in contributing, even in a small way, to the preservation of these valuable genetic resources and preventing their extinction.

Can you tell us about one of your most memorable experiences working in ADRA?

Shortly after I completed my interview and accepted the position, ADRA Mongolia celebrated its 30th anniversary. The event brought together a wide range of participants, including project beneficiaries, partner organizations, and representatives from ADRA member offices around the world. It was a deeply meaningful experience to learn about the organization's lasting impact on Mongolian society and to meet so many individuals involved in this work. It made me feel proud and even more confident in my decision to join ADRA.

What does the work of ADRA mean to you?

For me personally, working at ADRA presents an excellent opportunity for growth, both in developing my skills and in learning from my colleagues. From a project perspective, I see this as a critical, and possibly final, opportunity to protect and sustain high-productive fine wool livestock breeds that are already well adapted to Mongolia's environment.



*Justice.
Compassion
Love*

Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Mongolia

Palazzo Tower 8-401, Tokyo Street, Bayanzurkh District, Ulaanbaatar City ,P.O.Box 1038, 15160, Mongolia
+976 11 450738 | www.adra.org.mn