

## Meat Cattle Development Project in Baoshan, Yunnan Progress Report (May 2018)

### 1. Project profile

This project will co-operate with the local government to help a total of **1, 200 families (400 original and 800 POG families)** from poor communities in **Wadu Township of Longyang District, Baoshan City, Yunnan Province** to relieve their livelihood and alleviate poverty. Most of the families here are defined as impoverished families with average annual income less than RMB 3,000. The land is barren with insufficient resources in the community, farmers do not use the woodland resources effectively. They are living in an old tradition with conservative ideas. Their breeding technology is backward, and they lack the ability to enter the market.

The project duration will be five years begin in FY 2016. . A total of 400 original families will receive gift animals along with agricultural supports such as tree plant, forage seeds for animal feeding. With the assistance from community facilitators (CFs), the 400 original families will pass on their knowledge, skills and physical inputs to the 800 passing on the gift (POG) families.

Through the project, **16 Self-Help Groups** will be formed, activities, trainings and capacity building will be organized. Families will receive gift animals along with trainings related to Livestock and Agriculture Development and marketing skills. Self- help groups will be formed to improve the economic and social capital of the project families and communities. The project aims to assist target families to run cooperative which will be connected to an established enterprise for sustainable profit.

### 2. Project Progress

**Objective 1: By the end of FY20, all the project families' income will have 50% increases through improving animal management, cooperatives with functioning business hubs.**

#### Trainings

1. Trainings on building and improving barn to help build 1200 square meters new cattle barn, and 360 cube meters silage silo, bought 22 grass cutting machines.
2. Workshop of meat cattle raising skills, cooperative construction and management
3. Provided technical services to cattle raising families
4. Trainings on animal disease control and animal management. Distributed supplements that are necessary for raising animals, includes ryegrass seeds, insect repellents medicine & veterinary drug.

**Objective 2: By the end of FY20, all the project participants will achieve solidarity and social harmony, by participating in cooperatives and practicing effective & efficient application of VBHCD.**

**Self Help Group (SHG)**

1. Women SHGs conducted activities regularly, such as group dancing and other social gatherings
2. Villagers conducted regular meetings and worked together to improve the road, repair drinking systems, and other basic facilities in the village.

**Trainings:**

1. Cornerstone trainings and to teach villages about community development and project implementation
2. Conducted self-help group training sessions for leadership capacity building, finance management and project management.
3. Regular site visits and evaluation of the project

**Objective 3: By the end of FY20, all the project participants have improved the community environment through agro-ecological production and enhanced management of natural resource.**

**Trainings**

1. Training on ecological and environmental conservation

**Measurements**

1. The project participants planted 800 mu grasses and 180 trees.
2. Organize community activities such as sanitation and mass cleaning activities.

**3. Project Achievement**

- Since the project launched in Wadu Township, we can see obvious economic, social and ecological improvements in the project area
- Heifer project staff provided regular and frequent training sessions to villagers, included beef cattle rearing, breed improvement, cattle barn improvement, silage making, compound feed, breeding cows management, calves management and beef cattle fattening.
- The project team delivered professional technical services to the doors of the project participants. They visited the participants' houses regularly, talked with them about how they had been raising their cattle, and gave them on-the-spot technical instructions.
- The project fund guaranteed financial support of all activities. The participants were able to build quality beef cattle barns and silage pools, and purchase grass cutting machines. After attending technical training, they began to change to zero-grazing, which is more environment-friendly. They also learned how to best utilize the natural resources, such as corn stalks.
- The project provided excellent resources support. All participants got free supplies, such as vet kit and fine quality grass seeds which enable villagers to be benefited from the steady source of fodder for their cattle.

#### 4. Project photos



Distribute grass cutter to farmers



New cattle barn



Planting forage grass



Training of Heifer Cornerstone and silage making



Heifer staff provides technical support to farmers