

Small Holder Farmer Livelihood Sustainable Development Project of Kalaqin County in Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region (Updated by Feb 2016)

1. PROJECT OVERVIEW

This project will co-operate with the local government to help a total of 3000 families from poor communities in Xiaoniun Township of Kalaqin County in Inner Mongolia to relieve their livelihood and alleviate poverty. A total of 1,000 original families will receive livestock along with agricultural supports such as tree plant, forage seeds for animal feeding. All project participants will receive training on Heifer's 12 Cornerstones,



Participatory Self-Review and Planning (PSRP), Values-Based Holistic Community Development (VBHCD) and other associated social development trainings in order to improve the economic and social capital of the project families and communities.

Value chain development is another key component to generate more income for project farmers in addition to improved animal management. Within 5 years, the project aims to assist target families directly and to cultivate a well-run cooperative which will be connected to an established enterprise for sustainable profit out of sheep production and marketing business.

2. PROGRESS SUMMARY

Objectives	Progress during this reporting period
1. By the end of FY19, 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) activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project partners and project families received 3 days of cornerstones trainings and they had a deep understanding of project philosophy and project model. • Through trainings on SHG management, 29 SHGs were set up and 15,780 Yuan was collected as gift fund. SHG management rules and action plans were made. • The lack of trust in community causing little communication between people. The community was very in cohesive. Through cornerstones trainings, SHG members came together to discuss the difficulties they meet and they made the group planning.

2. By the end of FY19, all project participating families' income will have reached RMB20,000 annually through improving animal management, cooperatives with functioning business hubs.	
Family selection & animal distribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first 1000 original project families were assisted on time and the Passing on the Gift (POG) ceremony was held.
Training in animal husbandry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trainings on sheep management were provided. Project families were guided and assisted to purchase high quality sheep. Project families were guided to create their raising files and normalize their animal management.
3. By the end of FY19, all project participants have improved the community environment through agro-ecological production, resources recovery and Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction (CMDRR).	
Training & other activities on natural resource management & environment protection etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project families rebuilt their animal barns and a new animal barn with coverage of 6000 square meters was built. Training on grass planting was provided. Project families planted grass in the sloping field to produce more forage grass for the sheep in winter. 1,800 mu of grass was planted.

3. PROJECT STORY

Han Ruiling, The female leader of SHG

Han Ruiling is a traditional rural woman in northern village. She was afraid to talk in front of strangers, wrote words with pens; she didn't have her own thoughts and opinions, and had no complaint about the lagging life conditions, dirty farm work and years of bitter life half year ago when Heifer Project just entered in the village. However, with the project and the 12 cornerstones training processing, she gradually liked the training of Heifer. She actively joined in SHG's each training. She became more and more confident, could be spontaneous to communicate with people and started considering things. Soon, she was selected to be the leader of the SHG, and she was the only female leader among the 22 leaders. Han Ruiling, who would be shy even when she talked loudly, was going to convene SHG meeting and gathered members to make summaries and plans at regular intervals. She reminded that: 'I could not fall asleep at night to organize a SHG meeting, and ruminated over about how to talk to everyone. And I was too scared to say a word when I saw line-up at the first meeting.' Apart from conducting the training for members in SHG, Han Ruiling also contacted with left-behind women in the village, introduced Heifer to them, and encouraged them to join in the community activities and make positive changes to life. Everybody said that Han Ruiling changed.

4. PROJECT PHOTOS



Project launch ceremony



Community mobilization



Farmers happily received the sheep



12 cornerstones training



PSRP training



Feeding sheep

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