

FINAL REPORT
“HERDER’S TRAINING IN MONGOLIA”

UNEVOC CENTRE
ULAANBAATAR, MONGOLIA
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TABLE OF CONTENT

Abbreviations	3
Background	4
Objectives	5
Activities	5
Outcomes	7
Conclusion	7

ABBREVIATIONS USED

ADB	Asian Development Bank
VET	Vocational Education and Training
MECS	Ministry of Education, Culture and Science
MSWL	Ministry of Social Welfare and Labor
SWLA	Social Welfare and Labor Agency
SWLD	Social Welfare and Labor Departments
NMC	National Methodological Centre
RMC	Regional Methodological Centers

BACKGROUND

In Mongolia, grasslands and steppes are currently home to over 25 million head of livestock and 192,000 herding families. Nomadic livestock producers are the backbone of the economy. Most of the herders are poor people. Young herders do normally not complete the secondary education and school dropouts. Mongolia has a high rate of literacy among young boys because they left the school for the purpose looking after herds. In addition, herder families use their cattle such as cow, horse, sheep, goat, yak and camels for food supply, transportation and making clothing. They have sold herds for paying schools fees and access the medical services due to lack of cash money at their hands. Therefore if loss the herds, they would be survive or exist.

Naturally, these people are trying to improve their living condition by migrating to urban areas. But they still are facing a number of problems namely as lack of housing, access to social services, hospital, secondary school, kindergarten, and employment. Thus these issues will be negatively impacted on further contributing to increase of deprived and disadvantaged groups in urban areas.

Mongolian herders may need to be trained with new skills especially entrepreneurial skills. I think that entrepreneurial skills are the important addition to their living capabilities. **Existing both formal and non-formal types of vocational education and training system in Mongolia could not correspond to training needs of this target group.** Lacking information and experience makes them to limit the possibility to develop themselves and learning within the society and staying in the environment that only depending from the weather and natural changes.

In the recent years, the situation is getting worse because of ecological and environmental changes coming with the mining activities in the country. More than 3000 companies have been operating actually in Mongolia by exploring different natural resources including gold. As a result of human activities, our country is facing the environmental pollutions including air, ground and water pollution influences to people's health, herders' existence as well as the pasture degradation. In other side Mongolian herders are at risk of lack of access to information and educational opportunities in their childhood.

Mongolian UNEVOC centre has focused on the herders' education needs since 2005. In 2007 we organized the travel training in 37 bags /smallest administrative unites in Mongolia/ of 17 soums in 3 Eastern provinces (Dornod, Khentii, Sukhbaatar). Over 800 herders were participated in the activity. During the training, herders in the provinces were looking for our handbooks, published in 2006 and asking to continue our activities. Thus we have requested UNEVOC International Centre to assist us with publishing handbooks focusing on ecology, health, and farming practices produced by respective experts and writers.

OBJECTIVES

Publication of those handbooks will deliver knowledge to herder on how to solve health problems, prevent different diseases, prepare new mothers and fathers, giving essential health and hygiene instructions, prevent all chemical toxicities, protect own health, herding environment, and will give them some opportunity by cultivating vegetables and fruits and have some more incomes, help them to extend their businesses and improve their livelihood.

ACTIVITIES

According our contract we published next handbooks for the herders use:

1. "Herders Health"

The content of this book is: health assumption, hygiene and sanitation, healthy food and alimentation, environmental condition, pernicious hebits, infectiouse disease, non communicable disease, reproductive health, sexually transmitted infectious disease, AIDS prevention, proper use of drugs. The handbook include also special instruction and consultation for a new mathers and a new father: how to identify the pregnancy, when it is necessary to visit doctor and check-up, why it is important to passe all medical tests, recognition of different sexually transmitted infections including AIDS, prevention of different infectiouse disease, consultaions for a new father.

Autors : Mrs. Chimeddambiin Oyun - medical doctor and consultant for ADB project.

R.Erdenetuya Ph.D – curriculum, standards specialist, VET National Methodological Centre

2. "Environmental pollution"

The fast growing mining industry have brought devastating blow to rivers and mountain forests which existed thousands of years in peace and serenity. The effect of this blow badly influenced to the nature including people and animals, causing serious health problems. Mercury is used in small scale, often gold prospection still. Total use of mercury in placer mining in Mongolia has been roughly estimated about 4-5 tons annually. There mercury pollution took place in 145 points in 40 soums in Mongolia. The government of Mongolia is spending 3 mln USD to clean up these sites and bury 250000 tons of contaminated sands with mercury and cyanides.

It is our duty to let people understand about the properties and harsh effects of uncontrolled usage of hazardous chemicals in mining, especially mercury, that have brought dangers to human gene.

This book contains the answers to common questions about air pollution, ground pollution, trash, water pollution, poisonous chemicals, promotion of elementary knowledge concerning the dangers of mercury, symptoms of mercury poisoning, information about the

properties of plastic and aluminum that are common found in food containers. The book also attached the laws and regulations on storage, shipment, and usage of the dangerous chemicals.

Author: Sh.Purevsuren Ph.D – Environmental and social impact officer, MCA-M (Mongolian Millennium Challenge Account)

3. "Farmer cultivator "

The handbook include instructions to cultivate the vegetables and fruits: tith process(irrigation, agricultural tools and equipments, preparation of crops), cultivating the vegetables (vegetables, potato, cabbage, carrot, ruth abaga, onion, garlic, technology cards), protected soil cultivation (soil protaction, green-house, develop sprouts, cultivate the vegetables in green-house), cultivating the fruits (cultivating process, sea-buckhorn, blackberry, raspberry), vegetable reservation (storage regulation, pit)

Autor: J.Zolzaya – ecologist, head of department, Mongol-Farmer College

Delivering:

We published 500 copies of each 3 handbooks and delivered those handbooks to SWLDs and RMCs of Uvs, Hovd, Zabkhan aimaks which are responsible for the training in local areas but have some limited financial recourses for develop and publish new training materials.

1.	Uvs aimak	SWLD and RMC	100 copy x 3
2.	Hovd aimak	SWLD and RMC	100 copy x 3
3.	Zavkhan aimak	SWLD and RMC	100 copy x 3
4.	Authors	4 person	50 copy x 4
5.	SWLA	Training department	50 x 3
6.	UNEVOC	other related institutions / MECS, MSWL etc	50 x 5

OUTCOMES

- Cultivating vegetables and fruits herders will increase family income
- They will have more healthy food and alimentary products with vitamins cultivated by own self

- Herders will better manage own health problems
- Herders can be protected from chemical toxication by obtaining basic knowledge
- The living standards of herders will improve
- Receiving more knowledge and opportunities on environmental condition, land and water protection, health protection local people and herders family can provide more sustainability in own territory

CONCLUSION

- Publication and distribution of those handbooks will be useful for the herders living in far located areas as first information and will help the peoples to solve different problems
- The handbooks will be useful training materials for the short term training organized by the different training providers
- MSWL, Social Welfare and Labor Departments in regions (21 aimags) will republish and distribute all our handbooks for the employment related training and poor herders training

Reported by D.Bujinkham

Director of Observatory and UNEVOC Centre of Mongolia

20 November 2009