United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund
Project #: A5-24
Date and Quarter Updated: Apr.-Jun. 2012 (2nd Quarter)

Participating UN Organisation: FAO	**Sector:** Agriculture, Food Security Environment, And Natural Resource Management
Government of Iraq – Responsible Line Ministry:	**Ministry of Agriculture**

Title	Modernization and Development of the Dairy Cattle Sector in Iraq				
Geo. Location	Wassit and Salah Al-Din (all outputs);				
Project Cost	USD 4,424,670				
Duration	24 months + 25 months extension				
SC Approval Date	11.10.2008	**Starting Date**	15.10.2008	**Completion Date**	15.10.2010 extended to 15.11.2012
Project Description	The proposed project will build upon achievements of recently completed FAO emergency assistance programs in Iraq for the re-establishment of essential livestock services which had collapsed due to widespread looting and damage during the last war in 2003. The programme will introduce innovative techniques for efficient cattle breeding and management, and will work closely with government institutions and producers to build their capacities in organizing the production base at a grassroots level with the aim of increasing milk production quantitatively and qualitatively, reducing post-harvest losses, and creating market and employment opportunities along the dairy value chain in both rural and urban areas. The Iraqi population will benefit from improved income, nutrition, health and well being.				

Development Goal and Immediate Objectives

The development goal of the project is to increase income, nutrition, health and well being of the Iraqi population. Its objectives are to enhance the production and to increase the productivity of milk and meat of the dairy herds in Iraq, to strengthen rural, institutional, technical and management capacities and to create market and employment opportunities along with the dairy value chain in both rural and urban areas.

The immediate Objectives are:

- Development and adoption of embryo transfer technologies, along with generalization of artificial insemination techniques for accelerated breeding and genetic improvement of the dairy herds;
- Strengthening extension services to achieve an increased milk production and productivity;
- Organizing the production base through the formation of producers groups and associations;
- Setting-up an efficient milk collection and marketing systems.

Outputs, Key activities and Procurement

Outputs	1.1: Regional semen distribution centres established, equipped and active 1.2: Embryo transfer techniques implemented for dairy cattle breeding 1.3: Efficient milk collection and outlet systems established 2.1: Strengthened rural and institutional compatibilities 2.2: Milk performance recording and monitoring schemes initiated at farmers level 3.1: (Macro level) policy frame work for the dairy sector formulated 3.2.1: (Meso level) Technical skills programme implemented 3.2.2: Financing scheme implemented for small dairy producer groups 3.3: 3:(Micro Level) Value added products

Activities	1) Conduct a detailed cattle production system study in the targeted governorates with particular reference to feeding systems, forage development potential and production constraints in order to highlight the main issues, strategic options and development priorities. 2) Identification of project beneficiaries using the results of the livestock survey and additional field investigations and wide consultations with local livestock extension staff, village and farmers representatives 3) Identification of milk collection/semen distribution centres to be rehabilitated and the exact location of the centres to be newly established based upon the location and geographical spread of the beneficiary farmers 4) Civil works for the centres to be rehabilitated or constructed, procurement and installation of equipment. 5) Finalization of the development and adaptation of embryo transfer techniques at the government research laboratories, procurement of additional equipment and delivery of additional training of the technical staff as required .The frozen embryos selection criteria will be based on the family pedigree recording system. 6) Identification of a group of relatively large dairy farmers within the project areas to serve for the initial implementation of embryo transfer and as demonstration units for the project small-medium size beneficiary farmers 7) Establishment of systems of milk collection from the farms, quality control, pricing according to quality, transport, cooling, storage and marketing 8) Establishment of producers groups and associations with selected farmers among those delivering milk to the collection centres and provision of the necessary initial training, advise, incentives and encouragements to ensure ownership, viability and sustainability 9) Initiation of animal identification in the herds of participating farmers and performance recording schemes to be linked to the milk collection and delivery process. 10) Organization of a series of field days, training sessions and demonstrations to raise awareness about the good practices in dairy herd management, milk quality and hygiene, and the importance and benefits of farmer's organization into groups or cooperatives 11) Preparation of a national dairy development plan based on experience and achievements gained at the pilot scale in the targeted governorates 12) Validation of the plan in a series of workshops involving all stakeholders, to be conducted at the end of the project
Procurement	• Two mobile laboratories and one central ET lab. with full equipment as well as 600 frozen embryos • Equipment and supplies for embryo transfer techniques • Equipment for milk collection centres • Two milk trucks

Funds Committed	$ 3,943,541	**% of approved**	89.13%
Funds Disbursed	$ 3,503,731	**% of approved**	79.18 %
Forecast final date	15/11/2012	**Delay (months)**	25 Months

Direct Beneficiaries	Number of Beneficiaries	% of planned (current status)
Men	897	80%
Women	0	0%
Children	0	0%
IDPs	0	0%
Others	All the people who are working in milk collection centres and marketing dairy products in the two targeted governorates. All cattle owners nationwide will benefit from the AI	90%

	services	
Indirect beneficiaries	All the families' of the cattle owners, milk processers and marketing.	80%
Employment generation (men/women)	0	0%

Quantitative achievements against objectives and results		% of planned
IP Output 1.1 : Regional semen distribution centres established, equipped and active	Carry out a detailed inception / dairy cattle production system study completed	100
	Identify project beneficiaries	100
IP Output 1.2 : Embryo transfer techniques implemented for dairy cattle breeding	Finalize development & adaptation of embryo transfer and implantation techniques	100
	Identify project beneficiaries using results of Livestock survey. Due to delay in releasing the data from MOPD, an initiative was taken by the field staff and a data regarding the	100
	Identify pilot dairy farmers for initial field implementation of embryo transfer	100
	Training of technical staff abroad	100
	Organize field demonstrations for small and medium size farmers	50
	Local training of technical staff	100
	Procurement and installation of equipment	90
IP Output 1.3 : Efficient milk collection centres established	Identify suitable existing milk collection centres.	100
	Identify rehabilitation needs. BOQs and digrammes of the buildings of Al-Wehda, Al-sawara and Al-Taji milk collection centres were completed. Rehabilitation of Al-Sawara centre was completed. Rehabilitation of Al-wehda centre was completed Rehabilitation of Al-Taji centres	100 100 100 100
	Procurement & installation of equipment	100
	Training/field demonstrations on dairy handling	100
	Establish systems of milk collection including quality, storage, marketing etc	80
	Training of milk collection centre staff Training on milk collection tanker	100 100
IP Output 2.1 : Strengthened rural and institutional capabilities	Establish producer groups and associations with selected farmers delivering milk to the centres	100
	Provide technical, policy and legislative advice to MOA and beneficiaries on producer groups	80
	Conduct training for groups, organize field days, awareness campaigns and demonstrations on the above topics	50
	Conduct MOA staff training on artificial insemination techniques, system and managements	100
	Conduct MoA staff training on dairy development, breeding, milk collection, handling, processing, marketing, dairy association	100
	Study tour for production groups and MoA Staff on dairy production system, establishing association milk production marketing and processing system.	100
Output 2.2: Milk performance recording and monitoring schemes	Training Workshop on Animal ID and Recording Systems was conducted in Amman 18-22/1/2010, 15 Iraqi, 4Jordainian and 4 Palestinian were participated.	100

Qualitative achievements against objectives and results

The project has completed the most important rehabilitation and training work components. The project plays in important role in introducing new techniques for increasing dairy production and providing greater economical impact in the sector.

Training has been an important component of the project, An additional international training course on pregnancy diagnosis (using sonar device) for nine vets in Amman, Jordan, FAO-Iraq in coordination with National centre for agricultural research and extension (NCARE) provided the participants with the knowledge and skills that contribute to the development of ministry of agricultural capabilities and raising the effectiveness of their performance, and promoting positive attitudes they have towards their responsibilities in the field of Pregnancy Diagnosis, the training took place between 20-23 May, 2012.

local training sessions and demonstrations that were successfully conducted in Iraq by Iraqi participants in international trainings organized by the project in Tunisia, Morocco and Lebanon on good practices in dairy herd management, milk quality, hygiene and benefits of farmer's organizations into groups.

For the Procurement Component, all equipment and supplies planned under the project have been either delivered or are been in the process of delivering

- Procurement of frozen embryos: the second batch of the frozen embryos will be delivered soon.
- Procurement of 10 Friesian bulls: the specifications were endorsed from MoA and cleared from the technical departments, the procurement process was initiated but no offers were received. We are now in the process of contacting all invited bidders for feedback.
- Local procurement for extra equipments requested by MoA, the list includes Incubators and other equipments which are necessary for the adaptation of embryo transfer technology has been delivered to Baghdad airport.

For the Milk Collection Centre Component, the Installation of the milk collection equipments of Al-Sewera, al-Wehad and AL-Taji centres were completed. All equipments, including the second patch of cooling system had been received, installed and tested. MCC started receiving fresh cow's milk from Dairy Cattle Breeders that is good indicator response by delivered their products to the Centre.

Main implementation constrains & challenges (2-3 sentences)

A confusion occurred between the supplier and ministry of agriculture regarding the imported frozen embryos from New Zealand which caused delay in implementing some of the project activities, since the initial test done by a specialized team from ministry showed that the imported embryos are dead and not valid to be implanted, so it was decided by project steering committee members to conduct an examination on the imported embryos to check the vitality of embryos. Due to fact that there is no standard test for this type of examinations, they finally came up with the decision to start implanting few embryos into cows. Some embryos already implanted into cows in Iraq by MOA officials who have been recently trained in Australia. While other samples were moved by land to Jordan and implanted into cows over there.

This issue caused several delays in the project related activities.