

FROM MOUNTAINS TO MARKETS:

The Power of South-South Cooperation in Revolutionizing Kyrgyz Agriculture

Farmers have long been the lifeblood of the Kyrgyz Republic and have underpinned its economy for generations.

But making a success of agriculture in this landlocked Central Asian state with its towering Tien Shan Mountain range along its border with China, is a major challenge as less than 10% of land is deemed suitable for cultivation.

So, livestock is the cornerstone of this industry - employing 40% of the country's workforce but contributing just 20% of its GDP.

Held back by outdated technology, limited resources, and a lack of modern breeding techniques, the Kyrgyz Republic and its rich agricultural tradition stood at a crossroads.



Recognizing this vital need for transformation, it embarked on a groundbreaking collaboration in partnership with the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB).

The project, a paragon of South-South Cooperation, paired Kyrgyz Republic with Indonesia - a nation renowned for its pioneering developments in livestock breeding at the Singosari National Artificial Insemination Centre (SNAIC).

Through IsDB's Technical Cooperation Program and its innovative "Reverse Linkage" initiative, a unique environment was created for these two nations to work together for their mutual benefit.

The IsDB leveraged its strong relationship with Indonesia to facilitate an exchange of knowledge and resources.

So, the Kyrgyz Republic gained access to Indonesia's expertise and scientific advancements, optimizing the cooperation and reaping mutual benefits.

Both countries contributed financially – demonstrating a joint commitment and a shared vision for success.

The collaboration thrived on the perfect synergy between the two partners. The Kyrgyz Scientific Research Institute of Livestock and Pastures (KSRILP) was constrained by inadequate methods and produced just 10% of the frozen semen needed to artificially inseminate the country's cattle. However, SNAIC boasted a production capacity exceeding 3.5 million high-quality doses annually, backed by a team of over 100 specialists and decades of experience.

From 2015 to 2018, this transformative project revolutionized the Kyrgyz livestock sector.



A series of targeted training sessions equipped Kyrgyz experts with more skills in modern artificial insemination program management, animal reproduction techniques and the establishment of progeny testing systems tailored to their local breeds.

This was bolstered by the procurement of essential equipment and high-quality frozen semen from Indonesia, laying the groundwork for sustainable livestock development. Additionally, the project ushered in the use of cutting-edge frozen semen production technology and established an effective nationwide distribution network.



This leap forward in genetic improvement practices promises a significant boost in the quality and productivity of local livestock breeds. Ultimately, it will empower farmers and communities across the nation by enhancing their income and food security.

The culmination of the project saw a revitalized KSRILP ready to spearhead the national artificial insemination program with newfound capabilities and a robust distribution network.

"At the end of the project, KSRILP will be able to develop the national artificial insemination program...improving the genetic make-up of local breeds," said one key stakeholder.

The Kyrgyz-Indonesian success story provides a model for future initiatives, showcasing the transformative power of South-South cooperation in tackling common challenges and unlocking shared opportunities.

The multiplier effect of this collaboration is yielding substantial benefits to IsDB Member Countries with wide development opportunities and prospects. It has created a legacy of prosperity, innovation and mutual support within the global community.