

## GREEN GOLD PROJECT (2013-2016)

### FACTS

**Project name:**

Green Gold Project

**Duration:**

2013-2016

**SDC Budget of phase:**

CHF 9,880,000

**Target group :**

75,000 herder households

**Target area:**

The western region of Mongolia:  
Zavkhan, Uvs, Khovd, Gobi-  
Altai, Bayan-Ulgii, Arkhangai and  
Bayankhongor aimags

### BACKGROUND

With more than 45 million animals (sheep, goats, cattle, horses and camels), livestock husbandry of Mongolia is the economic backbone of the country. More than 140,000 herder households are earning their livelihoods from extensive and semi-nomadic livestock herding. The Green Gold Project aims to contribute to improved livelihoods of herder households by ensuring the sustainable management of rangelands and securing better access to technological knowledge management and markets.



*S. Dugersuren, leader of the Ikh Myangan Pasture Users' Group, Tsagaankhairkhan soum, Zavkhan aimag*

### KEY RESULTS

Since 2004, community-based organisation of herders – Pasture-User Groups (PUGs) - have been promoted for the sustainable use of rangeland resources and for improved economic opportunities. As of 2014, 960 PUGs and 67 herders' marketing cooperatives have been formed in 96 soums in the western part of the country, involving more than 53,000 herder households (30 percent of all herder households). The PUG system is increasingly being recognised by the Government of Mongolia for improved planning and management of rangelands at the local level and for ensuring the participation of nomadic herders.

- The number of herders and PUG leaders elected in Soum and Aimag Citizens' Meetings increased from 42 people in 2008 to 266 in 2012.
- 66 Soum Associations (a total of 329) of PUGs (APUGs) were created and five Aimag Federation (a total of 21) of APUGs were formed, providing extension and marketing services to herders.
- A national rangeland monitoring methodology was streamlined with international standards.
- 50,000 herder households benefited by being able to overcome seasonal cash shortages, and 16,873 herder households implemented income-generation projects from Herders Matching Funds created in 66 soums.

**SDC's Strategic Goal:**

To contribute to equitable and sustainable social and economic development in Mongolia.

- 130 PUGs (23 soums) rehabilitated 5.6 million hectares of degraded rangeland. A total of 6,200 ha of hay fields were fenced for improved yields and production; 80 ha has been cultivated for fodder production; annual sales for livestock products (meat, milk, skin, wool) has reached MNT 1.6 billion.

## MAIN GOAL OF THE PROJECT

Herders – organised through collective action - manage rangeland sustainably and have better access to technological knowledge management and markets.

The project focuses on four areas:

- Collective actions for sustainable rangeland management and income generation;
- Applied research;
- Demand-driven extension services;
- Yak and camel wool marketing

## EXPECTED RESULTS

- Pasture-User Groups (PUGs) will be key institutions to promote sustainable pasture management and economic development at the herders' level. More than 75,000 herder households will benefit from the PUG system that will be established in about 126 soums by 2016 (reaching 38 percent of the total), doubling the existing number of PUGs in 2013.
- The applied agricultural research will support Mongolian authorities and herders in their attempt to manage pastures sustainably and productively according to their ecological potential, and in monitoring the effects of management on rangeland health. Green Gold will support key research institutions in introducing Ecological Site Description (ESD) at all levels as the key standard for rangeland monitoring, as well as rangeland management. Furthermore, it will conduct research on such demand-driven topics as animal husbandry, market access and pasture-management practices. Research results as well as good practices will be used to develop and test extension messages and materials and to disseminate them via the Government Extension Service and the PUG system.
- The Agricultural Extension Service will deliver useful services (knowledge and services) to all herders. The provision of useful and demand-driven extension services to herders will support the livestock sector in developing into a more profitable and ecologically sustainable economic pillar. Hence, SDC will support the national programme by training extension staff on methods and content, by linking research, extension and the collective action system, and by facilitating the dissemination of such information to herders.
- Proper processing and marketing of valuable yak down and camel wool will bring greater benefits for vulnerable yak and camel herders. Herder communities will be trained to value-add to yak and camel wool products, such as combing the yak down. This simple process increases the market value of the product by a factor of two to three.

## Implementing partners:

- Aimag Federations of Pasture-User Groups (Zavkhan, Uvs, Khovd, Gobi-Altai, Bayan-Ulgii, Arkhangai and Bayankhongor aimags)
- ART (Agroscope Reckenholz-Tanikon Research station), USDA-ARS (US Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Research Service).
- The Association for Sustainable Rural Development of Mongolia, Queensland University of Australia
- GFA/GEFAK Consortium of German Consulting Companies

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Stone fence around 1000 ha hay making area of 300 herder families, Tsengel soum of Bayan-Olgii aimag, 2013