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Sustainable Cashmere: the case of an integrated value chain support to the benefit of small-scale livestock keepers
AVSF - 14 YEARS OF CONTINUOUS PRESENCE IN MONGOLIA

Key facts and figures about AVSF

1. Support herder organizations for a more sustainable collective management of pastoral resources, and reduced vulnerability to climate risks.

2. Contribute to the improvement of herd productivity and better market valuation of livestock products by supporting (a) improved genetic and zootechnical management of livestock breeding and (b) improved animal health follow-up.

3. Support herdies in the transformation and commercialization of livestock related, high quality products on local and international markets.

General objective: contribute to strengthen the resilience and improve the livelihoods of Mongolian pastoralists through more efficient and sustainable livestock herding.
The Sustainable Cashmere Concept

Herders make decisions to sustainably manage rangeland, vulnerability to Dzud is decreased, desertification is slowed down.

Herders commit to improve the quality of their cashmere and resilience of their herds.

Herders obtain a price premium for better quality and certified sustainable cashmere.

Herders are compensated for land management efforts, including when relevant, destocking.
Main Achievements

ECONOMIC
- Quality management (sorting, grading; animal health/nutrition/breeding)
  - Access to market
  - Premium

SOCIAL
- Structuration in Cooperatives
- Conflict resolution
- Collective actions improving resilience
- Dialogue with authorities

ENVIRONMENTAL
- Structuration in Pasture Users Groups
  - Collective and adaptative land management actions

From a pilot to a proof of concept
Main Challenges

- Scale
  - The problem of a niche market
  - The side effect of a qualitative approach
  - Access to finance for cooperatives
    - Replication mechanism
    - Ensuring economic viability of PUGs system
  - Measuring environmental impact
- Keep up to pace with the demand (size but also animal welfare, wildlife related concerns)

Ways forward

- Scale!
- Income diversification (other value chains)
- Engage more with Mongolian processors
  - Work on sustainable processing
  - Support to other value chains
    - Partnering!
- Joint work with banking sector on funding solutions
  - Climate Adaptation finance
  - Advocacy and communication
Thank you!