



## Trip Report

Project:

Developing institutions and capacity for sheep and fiber marketing in Central Asia

**Traveler:** Carol Kerven, consultant to Colorado State University (CSU)\_\_\_\_\_

**Location (s):** Kazakhstan & Kyrgyzstan **Dates of Travel:** 6-26 Oct 2005 (13 days for GL CRSP)

### Purpose of Trip:

- Discuss Year 3 workplan activities with national partners and consultants in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan
- Meet with USAID Central Asia agricultural staff and World Bank representatives to discuss new projects on cashmere market development
- Meet with project partner in local commercial wool and cashmere processing company to arrange buying of raw cashmere from farmers in target areas of Kazakhstan, spring 2006.
- Review progress on extension messages for cashmere goat breeding with national partners in Kazakhstan.

### Brief summary

The trip costs were partly supported with leveraged funds from another project (NFS SCALE, Natural Resources Ecology Lab, CSU).

Work was conducted jointly with Aidos Smailov, who will be a consultant in Year 3, as extension and liaison manager for cashmere activities in Kazakhstan under this project.

USAID Kyrgyzstan is planning a cashmere assessment and marketing project in southern Kyrgyzstan, using results from this GL CRSP project. There is little interest at present in funding a regional meeting of cashmere-supplying countries in Asia. Other funding sources are therefore being approached.

The World Bank Agricultural Competitiveness project in Kazakhstan is interested to receive funding proposals for a cashmere standards lab and training, applied research on cashmere goat husbandry and marketing, and market information dissemination. Joint applications on these topics are being planned with Kazakh government and private organizations.

The Centre for Livestock and Veterinary Research (Ministry of Agriculture) is increasingly supportive of cashmere goat research and market development. The Centre has bought an OFDA 2000 to assess animal fibers for their livestock product standards and certification lab, and needs training on international



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methods and market demand assessment. Agreement was made to prepare joint proposals to the World Bank Agricultural Competitiveness project.

Work plans, timetables, contracts and costs for cashmere activities planned in Year 3 were discussed with all the national project partners. The Kyrgyz project partner (KSBA) was not aware of funding allocations and plans for the cashmere component in Kyrgyzstan. No further information on budgets is available.

Agreement was reached with the project partner at the large commercial textile company operating in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, to arrange sorted and bulked cashmere purchases from the project target area at premium prices in spring 2006.

### **Itinerary, persons met and results of meetings**

**Thurs 13 Oct:** Departed London-Frankfurt-Almaty, arriving 10.30 pm.

**Friday 7 Oct:** Meeting with USAID Central Asia (Almaty) Agricultural Specialist, Dave Besch. Discussion on (a) designing a cashmere assessment and marketing project for USAID Kyrgyzstan. (b) funding for a regional meeting of cashmere-supplying countries in 2006.

**Sat 8 Oct.** Discussed Year 3 GL CRSP work plan, timetable and outputs with Aidos Smailov, on his duties as a consultant extension and liaison manager.

**Monday 10 Oct.** Obtained visa for Kyrgyzstan, from Almaty Embassy. Arranged trip to Bishkek to meet USAID agricultural project manager.

**Tues 11 Oct.** Drove to Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan and met with Martin West, Chief of Party, AgFin+ project (Winrock, Development Alternatives Inc. USAID-funded) in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Discussed plans for a cashmere assessment and marketing project in southern Kyrgyzstan 2006, to be financed by AgFin+.

**Weds 12 Oct:** Bishkek. USAID HQ. Met with Jamila Amodeo (Development Assistance Specialist) and Zachary Shelton (USAID Ferghana Valley Program Coordinator) to discuss new cashmere assessment and marketing project in southern Kyrgyzstan. Drove back to Almaty.

**Thurs 13 Oct.** Mynbaevo Sheep Breeding Institute: meeting with Director (Bishtai Seidaliyev), Serik Aryngaziev (Deputy Director and GL CSRP project partner) and Berik Aryngaziev (Goat Dept and GL CRSP project partner).

The Director expressed his disappointment that 650 doses of frozen sheep semen promised by Univ. Wyoming had not been sent in time for the 2005 breeding season with Berik Aryngaziev from his Sept. trip to Colorado for training.

Berik Aryngaziev summarized his training experience in Denver USA, which was mostly spent on wool analysis, with one day on cashmere assessment. He enjoyed the trip and visiting a ranch with 8,000 sheep.



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The details of the Year 3 cashmere field workplan timetable, costs and outputs for Berik's work were discussed with him, on the basis of a draft contract which was amended with inputs from Serik Aryngaziev, who will oversee this work in Year 3.

**14 Oct:** Almaty. Meeting with Maurizio Guadagni, senior rural development specialist at the World Bank. Discussion of joint applications with Kazakh government and private organizations, to the World Bank Agricultural Competitiveness Project in early 2006. Applications are sought for cashmere standards testing laboratory, market information dissemination and applied research on cashmere goat breeding and husbandry.

**15 Oct:** Almaty. Meeting with Dr. Aiban, Director of the Scientific Centre for Livestock and Veterinary Research (under which Mynbaevo Sheep Breeding Institute is administered). He expressed his appreciation for the collaborative work being carried out on cashmere by the GL CRSP project with Mynbaevo Institute. He noted that he is personally taking a greater interest in the development of cashmere goats in Kazakhstan, as this had potential for increasing incomes from livestock. He presented me with an honorary award (*Gramatica*) from the Ministry of Agriculture, for "Contribution to scientific research on problems of developing extensive pasture-based livestock production in Kazakhstan".

The Director recommended that I meet with the new personnel at the Centre's Livestock Product Standards and Certification Laboratory.

Meeting with Amanjulov Zhusipbaevich, head of this laboratory, and a senior staff member, Almagul Orkinbaeva, an accountant recently put in charge of the new fiber testing equipment, OFDA 2000. The Ministry of Agriculture just purchased this equipment for the Standards and Certification Lab. The OFDA 2000 is intended for use by the lab to check wool from pedigree sheep, under the Ministry's subsidy scheme to support large farmers keeping pedigree livestock. The head of the lab wished to make joint proposals to the World Bank project for training on fiber testing by international methods, and requested assistance in finding out world demand for fibers available in Kazakhstan.

**Sat 22 Oct:** Visit to Mynbaevo Institute and meeting with Serik and Berik Aryngaziev. Finalized terms of reference on contract with UWYO for Year 3 cashmere work. Discussed village sampling method and plans for collection of 300 cashmere samples in four provinces of south and west Kazakhstan, February 2006.

**Sun 23 Oct:** Almaty, meeting with Murat Otyshiev, GL CRSP project partner, a director of Semtex (ST) textile company in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. He recently became head of the Kasiet wool and textile mill in Tokmok, Kyrgyzstan, where he plans to set up cashmere dehairing facilities.

Since participating in the June 2005 study tour on Mongolia's cashmere industry (funded by the British Embassy Kazakhstan), he had business contacts with Mongolian companies that are interested in buying processed cashmere yarn produced by his ST company in Kazakhstan/Kyrgyzstan. At several international meetings he attended, he has been promoting the quality of Kazakhstan raw cashmere available.

An OFDA 4000 has been set up by his company for assessing wool and cashmere. This needed calibration and servicing from the Swiss agents, as results were not comparable with OFDA 2000 results from KSBA in Kyrgyzstan.



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We agreed to travel together in early 2006 to Chimkeynt in south Kazakhstan, to visit a Chinese-Kazakh factory processing cashmere, and travel further to the project target areas in Kyzyl Orda region to make arrangements for villages to sort and bulk up their cashmere in spring 2006, to sell to ST Company.

**Mon 24 Oct:** Almaty. Meeting Catherine Inglehearn, Deputy Ambassador British Embassy Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. Discussed possible new funding for farmer group training on cashmere marketing in Kyrgyzstan and agreed to submit a proposal. Also met with Murat Zhunusov, Commercial Secretary at the Embassy, on UK commercial companies' new investment into the textile industries of Kazakhstan.

**Tues 25 Oct:** Almaty. Meeting Akylbek Rakaev, Director of Association of Kyrgyz Sheep and Goat Breeders (KSBA) Kyrgyzstan and GL CRSP project partner. Mr. Rakaev drove to Almaty from Bishkek, as he was unable to meet in Bishkek on my visit 10-11 Oct. He was unaware of the project's Year 3 workplan, activities and budget. He thought that KSBA did not have funds to support GL CRSP project activities on farmer cashmere training and assessments in Kyrgyzstan. We discussed the involvement of KSBA in the proposed new USAID project on cashmere assessment and marketing in southern Kyrgyzstan.

**Weds 26 Oct.** Depart Almaty 03.20 a.m. for Frankfurt and London.

#### **Publication**

Kerven, C., H. Redden and A. Smailov. Fine diameter cashmere available in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

*Wild Fibers* (Maine, USA) (in press November 2005)