

## DCA starts third FAO funded PPR project

The World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and FAO formulated a pathway for the control and eradication of PPR worldwide. The goal is to have eradicated the disease by 2030. In 2016, Afghanistan was assessed as being in stage 1 of this PPR control pathway. The aim of the current project, 'Vaccination of small ruminants against Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR)', is to bring the country to stage 2, moving a step further toward eradication of PPR. Stage 2 assumes that the country is implementing targeted control activities in productive sectors which are either considered key for the national economy or are to be considered key for disease control purposes. The project will start May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and will terminate on September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

In 2015/16 and 2016/17, DCA already implemented two successful FAO PPR vaccination campaigns, the first being a pilot, reaching 270,000 sheep and



goats; the second covering 4.5 million small ruminants in twenty provinces. In the current PPR project, in the areas covered last year (17 provinces) all new-born goats and sheep will be vaccinated, while in the new provinces (6) all small ruminants regardless of age will receive vaccinations. The project is mainly aimed at the

nomadic pastoralists of Afghanistan, the Kuchi, owning the majority of the goats and sheep in Afghanistan

Overall objectives of this project are:

- Small ruminants of Kuchi are protected against PPR
- Kuchi are aware of the clinical signs of PPR, how to minimize exposure, and which benefits preventive vaccination has

Most important outputs will be:

- 2.7 million ruminants will be vaccinated
- 1512 serum samples will be taken to assess previous exposure of the animals to the PPR virus
- 54,000 Kuchi families will receive PPR awareness material

To achieve the objectives, DCA will implement the following activities:

- Select VFUs to administer the vaccinations
- Establish vaccine distribution centres and cold chains
- Schedule and organize the vaccination campaign
- Establish a monitoring and evaluation system working with MAIL and FAO
- Assess the baseline prevalence of PPR
- Assess the efficacy of the vaccine
- Distribute awareness material for PPR and other zoonotic diseases