



Urban migration in Mongolia is leading to ever-growing settlements of once nomadic rural populations on the peripheries of the capital and other cities across the country. (Jean-Yves Hamel, 2014)

Des Volontaires de l'ONU auprès de la FAO créent des opportunités pour l'emploi agricole en Mongolie

UN Volunteers with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) are serving in a project creating employment opportunities for vulnerable rural people, women and youth. Operational 2016-2019, the project entitled “Support to Employment Creation in Mongolia: Piloting Quality Private Sector Work in Selected Livestock and Vegetable Value Chains” is supported by the Government of Mongolia, the European Union, and the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), in partnership with the national ministries for agriculture, industry and labour, government support institutions and services, as well as vocational training institutions, trade associations and the private sector.

In Mongolia, agriculture employs 35 per cent of the total labour force and, more importantly, it accounts for over 70 per cent of employment in rural areas. The livestock sub-sector accounts for almost 10 per cent of export earnings and approximately 80 per cent of total agricultural production. The agriculture and food sectors offer the best opportunity to grow inclusive employment (Ministry of Labour, 2014). There is a clear need to match the agro-industry's increasing demand for a skilled 'employable' workforce with 'decent work' opportunities. New green jobs are expected to reduce environmental impacts of added-value products while providing diversified income sources to diverse stakeholders.

Promoting quality employment in the livestock and agriculture sector

The Project contributes to inclusive and sustainable development in Mongolia through the promotion of quality employment focusing on the livestock and agriculture sector, and strengthens conditions and capacity of private sector employment. It focuses on employment creation through improved competitiveness and greening of meat, dairy, vegetable, fibres and leather sectors. A key tool for assessing the potential in these sectors is the application of value chain analysis, including supply chain and economic analysis to identify and unblock key bottlenecks.

The main activities of the Project include support for decent employment and income opportunities in the meat, dairy, cashmere, wool, leather, and vegetable value chains while contributing to employment policy development with mainstream inclusive decent work and eco-friendly practices. In addition to development of value chains, the project aims to improve the quality of food products, safety standards and marketing.

Reaching the most vulnerable and remote first

Target groups for this Project are owners and personnel of private sector companies, including cooperatives, which operate in the five value chains, with a particular focus on the inclusion of unemployed and employed vulnerable groups such as youth, women, migrant workers living in rural and peri-urban areas, and indigenous peoples.

“ The data collected from the survey will show what needs to be improved, what policy needs to be supported, for quality education and creation of a skilled employable workforce.

Two UN Volunteers are working for this project, both of them fully funded by the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA). One of these is UN Volunteer Project Coordination Assistant Sugyeong Kang (Republic of Korea). “I'm working on a catalogue book, which introduces labour-saving techniques and contact details to herders and small and medium enterprise (SME) owners in the five target industries of the project. Since the

biggest difficulty herders and SME owners keep saying is the lack of access to proper techniques, the catalogue book is expected to provide them with the better access to such information,” Sugyeong shares. “I’m also working on a survey to identify the capacity and current situation of technical vocational education and training centres and the food and agriculture department of local governments.”

The way forward

The project is expected to contribute to SDG Goal 8, decent work and economic growth. As people migrate to Ulaanbaatar seeking better opportunities, people become subject to rising unemployment and poor living conditions. The government is challenged by the growing need for infrastructure and the problems that arise from a growing urban population. Strengthening value chains and diversifying employment opportunities can contribute to dispersing the growing urban population and balance regional development.

“I find every experience I get through the field visits fabulous. On the first field trip to Dundgobi, I stayed with a herder family and helped them cook, milk the animals, collect horses, and experienced the real nomadic life. It was a big honour to listen to their story in person and a great opportunity to put myself in their shoes,” Sugyeong shares. “As for now, more people give up herding and come to Ulaanbaatar every year due to the climate change, too low and seasonal income of herding, and other reasons. I’m looking forward to the success of this project bringing hope again to rural areas and herders so that the true beauty of Mongolia can remain.”

Asie et Pacifique

• Mongolia • FAO • agriculture • livelihood • urbanisation • fully funded

Sustainable Development Goal: [SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth](#)