



# REPORT ON RURAL WOMEN PARTICIPATION SURVEY

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## “IMPACT-IMPROVE&ACT! EN-GENDERING IN RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT” PROJECT

*“Prepared to the Project Unit of  
“IMPACT-Improve-Act! En-gendering in Rural  
Economic Development” project in Arkhangai  
and Khentii aimag*

*Ulaanbaatar, 2020*

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

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This report was developed under the project "MPACT-Improve-Act! En-gendering in Rural Economic Development" which Mongolian Women Fund (MONES) and its partner organizations have jointly developed. The contents of the report do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.

The study team successfully completed the baseline study of "IMPACT-Improve-Act! En-gendering in Rural Economic Development" project, funded by the European Union and implemented by the Mongolian Women Fund (MONES), Group for Environment, Renewable Energy and Solidarity (GERES) and Agronomes et Vétérinaires Sans Frontières (AVSF).

The study commissioned and supervised by the MONES was supported by IMPACT project team, including Otgonchimeg.A, MONES project coordinator, who provided valuable advice, guidance, and information during the survey. Special thanks go to Narantuya.R and Enkh-Ariunaa.U MONES gender officers in Khentii and Arkhangai.

We would like to thank the local field officers and drivers of the project unit for their sincere assistance in the successful implementation of the survey. We would like to thank the local authorities, officials, representatives of civil society organizations (CSO), banks and financial institutions, herders and farmers, who took an active part in the survey and discussed the local situations.

### **Research team:**

Research team conducted this "Rural Women Participation Survey" between April 06 and June 30 2020, under commission of "MPACT-Improve-Act! En-gendering in Rural Economic Development" which Mongolian Women Fund (MONES). This report expresses only the research team position.

researcher

Yanjinpagma Nyamsuren      Senior

Oyundelger Ravdanbyamba      Researcher

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## **ABBREVIATIONS**

ADB	Asian Development Bank
CRK	Citizens' Representative Khural
LWIF	Liberal Women's Intellectual Foundation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PUG	Pasture User Groups
NSO	National Statistics Office
WLA	Women Lawyers Association
WVIM	World Vision International Mongolia
CSO	Civil Society Organization
LDF	Local Development Fund
FFS	Soum Development Fund
MONES	Mongolia Women's Fund
NHRC	National Human Rights Commission
WWF	World Conservation Fund
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
MWF	Mongolian Women's Federation

## PROJECT LOGFRAME

Bases on the results of the Baseline Study, levels of the Project indicators were determined for the two output indicators and the four outcome performance indicators; as summarized in the following table.

<i>Results chain</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Source and mean of verification</i>	<i>Baseline level</i>	<i>Description</i>
<b>Impact (Overall objective)</b>				
<b>To contribute to empower women as agents of development and change in their productive activities and in the policy making process</b>	<p><u>OO Ovi1</u>: % of target National Authorities with supportive attitudes towards women's economic participation - disaggregated men &amp; women</p> <p><u>OO Ovi2</u>: % of target National Authorities who have supporting attitudes towards women's political participation – disaggregated men &amp; women</p>	<p><i>Baseline/endline study – specific <a href="#">adjusted</a> questionnaire</i></p> <p><i>Baseline/endline study – specific <a href="#">adjusted</a> questionnaire</i></p>		
<b>Outcome (s) (Specific objective(s))</b>				
<b>To strengthen rural women's groups role in agricultural productive systems and towards their local and national representatives</b>	<u>SO Ovi1</u> : average score on Women's Economic <a href="#">Decision-Making Index</a>	<i>Baseline/endline study – specific questionnaire, following <a href="#">OXFAM methodology</a></i>	<p><b>Arkhangai:</b> Decision-making of women herders - 44.7%, Decision-making of women farmers- 51.9%</p> <p><b>Khentii:</b> Decision-making of women herders – 34.7%, Decision-making of women farmers- 42.2%</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A number of children to have</li> <li>2. Decision to use contraceptives and condoms</li> <li>3. Decision to take health services</li> <li>4. Family procurement</li> <li>5. What to spend money on</li> </ol> <p>That summed up the sum of the 5 questions and the percentage of women who solved them alone</p>
	<u>SO Ovi2</u> : % of target LAs with supportive attitudes towards women's economic participation - disaggregated men& women	<i>Baseline/endline study – specific <a href="#">adjusted</a> questionnaire</i>	<p><u>Unemployment:</u></p> <p><b>Arkhangai</b> 48% of the registered unemployed are women</p> <p><b>Khentii</b> 56% of the registered unemployed are women</p> <p><u>Sector employment:</u></p> <p><b>Women of Arkhangai</b> Public sector-65.7%, Business sector-47%,</p>	Document study

			<p>Herders-42.7%</p> <p><b>Women of Khentii</b> Public sector-68.5%, Business sector-46%, Herders-44.3%</p> <p><b>Loan</b> 93.8% of herder loans and 88.9% of vegetable loans are in her husband's name.</p>	Baseline
	SO Ovi3: % of target LAs men & women who have supporting attitudes towards women's political participation- disaggregated men& women	Baseline/endline study – specific <i>adjusted</i> questionnaire	<p><b>% of women CRH representatives:</b> Arkhangai-12.8%, Erdenebulgan-45%, Battsengel-29%, Jargalant-14%, Tuvshruulekh-33%, Tsetserleg-19%, Khentii-, Kherlen-35%, Bayan-Ovoo-40%, Binder-24%, Murun-40%, Umnudelger-32%</p>	Baseline/Document study
<b>Outputs</b>				
<b>Result 1: Women's groups are empowered in their role in income generating activities, rural cooperatives and household financial management</b>	<b>Indicator</b> Ovi 1.1: % of CSO members (male/female) who increased their awareness of gender issues	<b>Source and mean of verification</b> Ex ante/ex post questionnaires	85% of local CSO leaders and members have not received gender education training in the last 5 years: Male-95% not covered Female-80% not covered	Baseline
	Ovi 1.2: # of women who participate in the strategic, financial and administrative management of their CSOs	Ex ante/ex post questionnaires	0%	Ex ante/ex post questionnaires
	Ovi 1.3: # of women-lead initiatives within the target CSOs induced by the project	Baseline/Mid-/Endline	0%	Ex ante/ex post questionnaires
<b>Result 2: High potential agriculture value chains (organic vegetable and sustainable cashmere) are supported for economic</b>	Ovi.2.1: # of people and organisations reached by the disseminated good practices	Project documents, attendance sheets, M&E	0%	Ex ante/ex post questionnaires
	Ovi.2.2: # of women led organisation starting to implement improved cashmere & vegetable production practices	documents, reports	0%	Ex ante/ex post questionnaires



<b>empowerment of women's groups</b>	<u>Ovi.2.3:</u> % of production following improved vegetable & cashmere systems sold	<i>documents, reports</i>	0%	Ex ante/ex post questionnaires
<b>Result 3: Women's groups are empowered in their dialogue capacities with Local Authorities for mutual support and conducive local policies</b>	<u>Ovi 3.1:</u> # and year-on-year increase of women participating in women's 1. network, 2 Herders & Farmers Council	Baseline/Endline - Ex ante/ex post questionnaires	Women's participation in cooperatives, groups and partnerships <b>Total</b> Herders-68.8% Farmers-82.5% and <b>In Arkhangai:</b> Herders-28.5% Farmers-88.9%, <b>In Khentii:</b> Herders-81.4% Farmers-81% нь women's participation is rated as medium to above average.	Baseline survey  How would you evaluate the participation of women members in your group?
	<u>Ovi 3.2:</u> # of initiatives officially submitted by Women groups to LAs	<i>Project documents, attendance sheets, M&amp;E documents, reports</i>	% of initiatives officially submitted by Womens to LAs Herders (women)-36.7% Farmer (women)-19.7%	Baseline survey:  % of responses from female participants only  Have you, as a member of your family, ever made a proposal to your local government about a problem in your community?
	<u>Ovi 3.3:</u> % of men members of CSOs aware of RBA gender equity issues	<i>Project documents, attendance sheets, M&amp;E documents, reports</i>	Herders (men)-16.3% Farmers (men)-35.3%	Baseline survey:  Percentage of responses from male participants only  Have you, as a family member, been involved in training and counseling on women's rights, women's financial capacity, and participation?
<b>Result 4: A bipartisan-, women caucus-oriented advocacy campaign mainstreams gender sensitive economic</b>	<u>Ovi 4.1:</u> # of high-level politics and civil servants with increased awareness of Gender related gaps & recommendations in policies and implementation plans	Baseline/Mid-/Endline Individual questionnaires	40% - Local policies and programs reflect gender identity and equality	Baseline/ Document study Whether the gender concept is reflected in the policy and program

<b>development towards policy makers</b>	<u>Ovi 4.2:</u> # and nature of actions taken by decision-makers on promoting the rights of women in agriculture sector	<i>documents, attendance sheets, M&amp;E documents, reports</i>	Is there domestic violence in your community or neighborhood? <b>In Arkhangai</b> Herders-51%, Farmers-77.8%, and <b>In Khentii</b> Herders-48.3% Farmers-71.9%	How often do you experience domestic violence in your community and in your neighborhood?
	Ovi 4.3: # and positions of decision-makers directly involved in the project activities	<i>documents, attendance sheets, M&amp;E documents, reports</i>	0%	<i>documents, attendance sheets, M&amp;E documents, reports</i>

## **One. STUDY METHODS AND METHODOLOGIES**

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The research team commissioned by MONES to conduct a baseline study on participation of rural women for the project “IMPACT-Improve-Act! En-gendering in Rural Economic Development” from April 1 to June 30, 2020. The study was guided by the “Terms of Reference” (ToR) issued by the client, MONES, and the “Operation and Analysis Framework” implemented by the client and contractor.

**Study objective:** The objective of the study is to collect data informing gender situation of vegetable farming and animal husbandry sectors in project intervention area, analyze data and develop recommendations for relevant and sustainable actions ensuring an efficient and successful implementation of the project.

Under the above mentioned overall objective, specific lens were defined as study entry point as follow;

- To identify Local Authorities’ support towards the women’s economic and political participation and their awareness and perception of gender issues
- To determine women’s participation in strategic, financial and management decision making of the local CSOs operating in the areas of women’s rights, empowerment, agriculture and vegetable.
- To identify the current situation of women working in the cashmere and vegetable sectors and determine their technological features

**Survey design:** The study uses a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods, and involves a wide range of stakeholders, providing a broader, more diverse perspective and a more reliable picture of reality. To achieve the identified objectives, the research team used a mixed methodology design, dominated by quantitative methods. The survey began with the collection of qualitative data, followed by the collection of quantitative data and the identification of participants, followed by quantitative analysis.

**Data collection stages:** Data collection is based on desk review and on-site primary data collection, targeting both quantitative and qualitative information.

### **One. Desk review:**

This part of the study includes assessment the current socio-economic situation in the agriculture and vegetable sectors in the target soums Herlen, Murun, Bayan Ovoo, Omnodelguer, Binder n Khentii aimag, Erdenebulgan, Tsetserleg, Jargalant, Tuvshruulekhand Battsengel in Arkhangai aimag.

- 1) At the inception stage of the study, analysis was conducted on the official statistics of the target aimags and soums, monthly bulletin statistics, secondary data. In the course of field data collection, detailed data and documents were gathered from the local authorities
  - 1) Livestock and cashmere market
  - 2) Agricultural data
  - 3) Local CSOs data
- 2) It also provides an overview of the review of the relevant legislation, the local policy documents on local development and gender and other similar projects.

## **Two. Field data collection:**

The following three tools were employed for the field data collection. The research did not use focus group discussion due to the emergency regulation during COVID 19 pandemic.

1. Herders questionnaire (tablet application)
2. Vegetable growers questionnaire (tablet application)
3. Key-informant interview (KII) guideline with local stakeholders

At the inception stage, the following proposed data collection methodologies were used. The collected data is shown by the below listed tools.

1. *Herders questionnaire*: The data collection was conducted in ten soums in two provinces, covering 200 households.
2. *Vegetable growers questionnaire*: A total of 91 interviews were conducted from the target 10 soums. Given the limited number of vegetable growers in the rural areas, all of them were covered in the study.
3. *KII*: KIIs including 9 types were carried out in each soum. In the project implementing soum of Arkhangai and Khentii aimag, a total of 95 interviews were conducted.
  - 1) Local governor
  - 2) Citizen representative leader
  - 3) Officer in charge of agriculture and small and medium enterprises
  - 4) Officer in charge of social policy
  - 5) Officer from veterinary and breeding department
  - 6) Citizen representative khural member
  - 7) Agriculture CSO (cooperative, partnership, Pasture User Groups (PUGs))
  - 8) Vegetable CSO (cooperative, partnership, PUGs)
  - 9) Women-led CSOs

## **Three. Analysis and report development stage:**

Following the field data collection, the data entry, data cleaning and report development stage was proceeded. MS EXCEL was used for the data entry. The margin of errors was  $\pm 2$  percent. The content check was performed for the accuracy and reliability of the data entered. Once the data quality check was conducted, the data analysis was carried out on SPSS 22.0<sup>1</sup>.

For the data analysis, frequency and comparative analysis methods were performed. For example, t-test and Chi square test were performed for checking the significance of the correlation of the two quality variables. Indicators with a 95% confidence level have been selected for statistical conclusions.

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<sup>1</sup> The number of herders and vegetable growers to be surveyed was calculated using the following formula.

$$n = Z^2 p(1-p) / C^2$$

n-sampling size, Z-confidence level (Z=1.96 for 95% confidence level), probability of occurrence p-interested variable error limit (confidence interval) C-error limit (confidence interval). The sampling error limit was chosen to be  $\pm 2\%$  and the confidence level to be 95%

## **Two. SITUATION OF UNDERSTANDING ON GENDER AND WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION AMONG LOCAL AUTHORITIES, RURAL WOMEN and MEN**

This part of the report summarizes the socio-economic indicators of the ten target soums and their distinctive attributes. According to the local authorities and citizens surveyed, the role of women in the soums is relatively high (80%). For example, about 80% of civil servants in each soum are women, while about 90% of employees in other industries and services are women. In other words, women make up about 80% of paid and permanent jobs in the soum.

**Table 1. Demographic indicators by soums (By numbers)**

<b>№</b>	<b>Soums</b>	<b>Number of households</b>	<b>Population size</b>	<b>Number of women in the total population</b>	<b>Proportion of women (%)</b>	<b>Number of baghs</b>
1	Arkhangai	27,055	94,324	47,052	49.9	
2	Erdenebulgan	6,045	21,517	11,116	51.7	7
3	Battsengel	1,141	3,759	1,867	49.7	6
4	Jargalant	1,172	4,383	2,190	50	5
5	Tuvshruulekh	7,77	2,904	1,415	48.7	4
6	Tsetserleg	1,098	3,780	1,846	48.8	5
7	Khentii	23,906	77,320	38,235	49.5	
8	Kherlen	6,987	23,765	12,287	51.7	8
9	Bayan-Oboo	5,76	1,894	9,28	49	4
10	Binder	1,299	4,034	1,961	48.6	5
11	Murun	6,94	1,868	8,86	47.4	5
12	Umnudelger	1,870	5,851	2,908	49.7	7

Source: National Statistics Office, [www.1212.mn](http://www.1212.mn)

According to the basic gender indicators of Arkhangai aimag, the average life expectancy of women is 5 years longer than that of men. 72.4% of single-parent households are headed by women. 42% of the labor force are women and 59% of the non-working population are women. In addition, 48% of the unregistered unemployed are women.

According to Khentii aimag's basic gender indicators, the average life expectancy of women is 3 years longer than that of men. 83.1% of single-parent households are headed by women. 47.7% of the labor force are women, and 51% of the non-labor population are women. In addition, 56% of the unregistered unemployed are women. Women predominate in local government and in the manufacturing and services sectors, but their participation in decision-making is low. These figures demonstrate women have less economic capacity as they are majority of unregistered unemployed population and non-working population while life expectancy of women is longer than men and majority of fulltime jobs in public sector. The women are more likely to work in the formal sector (government) due to working conditions in rural areas even the positions are not paid high, while men are more likely to work in the informal sector. For example, women in Arkhangai aimag make up 65.7% of civil servants, 47% of those working in the business sector, and 42.7% of herders. Women in Khentii aimag make up 68.5% of civil servants, 46% of those working in the business sector, and 44.3% of herders. These figures show that women have more secure jobs.

The low salaries of civil servants in rural areas are a factor in keeping women's incomes low. In addition, during the interviews with local authorities, soum men mostly go to aimag center and Ulaanbaatar due to the lack of jobs for men.

**Table 2. Baseline gender indicators, Arkhangai and Khentii aimag**

No	Indicators	Arkhangai	Khentii
1	Life expectancy (Average men and women)	71.76	72.75
2	Women	73.36	76.52
3	Single headed household	3,338	2,617
4	Women	2,417	2,176
5	Labor force	49,902	34,421
6	Women	21,298	16,431
7	People outside the labour force	11,655	20,433
8	Women	6,950	10,574
9	Unregistered unemployed	638	418
10	Women	311	237

Source: National Statistics Office, www.1212.mn

In Arkhangai aimag, despite women's predominance in the local government, manufacturing and services sectors, their participation in decision-making is relatively low. Out of 21 soum representatives in local CRK 6 (28%) women are elected in Battsengel, 3 (14%) in Jargalant, 7 (33%) in Tuvshruulekh and 4 (14%) in Tsetserleg respectively. For Erdenbulgan soum, the aimag center, there are 14 (45%) women elected from 31 representatives in local government khural. ***In the local governors and other senior positions are dominated by men, while executive positions are dominated by women.*** According to the survey participants, the tendency to elect women to the Citizens' Representative Khural (CRK) has increased in recent years.

In Khentii aimag, 11 (35%) out of 31 representatives of Kherlen soum are women, 6 (40%) out of 15 representatives of Bayan-Ovoo soum are women, 5 (24%) women out of 21 representatives of Binder soum, 6 (40%) women out of 15 representatives of Murun soum and 8 (33%) women out of 25 representatives of Umnudelger soum. There is no woman soum governor and senior positions are dominated by men, while executive positions are dominated by women. According to the survey participants, the tendency to elect women to the Citizens' Representative Khural (CRK) has increased in recent years.

**Table 3. Sex ratio of the local authorities by soums (number)<sup>2</sup>**

No	Soums	Number of CRK members	Number of Women	Percent of women	Number of CRK led	Number of the CRK led by women	Percent of the CRK led by women	Head of the local CRK by sex	Soum governor by sex
<b>Arkhangai aimag</b>									
1	Erdenebulgan	31	14	45%	6	2	33%	women	men
2	Battsengel	21	6	29%	7	3	43%	women	men
3	Jargalant	21	3	14%	7	1	14%	women	men
4	Tubshuuruulekh	21	7	33%	7	2	29%	men	women
5	Tsetserleg	21	4	19%	7	2	29%	men	women
<b>Khentii aimag</b>									
6	Kherlen	31	11	35%	7	2	29%	men	men

<sup>2</sup> Law on Administrative and Territorial Units and Their Management of Mongolia, 2006 10.3. The number of representatives of the Soum Khural shall be determined as follows, taking into account the population density and location of the administrative unit:

- 10.3.1. If the population of the soum is up to 2000, 15;
- 10.3.2. If the population of the soum is between 2000-5000 21;
- 10.3.3. If the soum population is between 5000-9000;
- 10.3.4. If the population of the soum is 9000 or more 31.

7	Bayan-obao	15	6	40%	4	2	50%	men	men
8	Binder	21	5	24%	7	2	29%	men	men
9	Murun	15	6	40%	5	3	60%	men	men
10	Umnudelger	25	8	32%	7	3	43%	men	men

Source: The primary data

According to female respondents, they take the initiative at the decision-making levels, but are less likely to be supported than men. The main causes are as follows;

- The women elected to the soum CRK are mostly women working in the herder and trade sectors, so there is a lack of participation and initiative due to their lack of knowledge about government policies, decisions and operational processes. Also, these women are most likely to left behind the meetings and conferences because of their exceeding workload.
- However, women working in the civil service are less likely to run for local CRKs because of the high risk of losing their jobs if they are not elected. However, as women who have been promoted and elected to public office, they have been successful and have been working mainly as chairmen/board of the CRKs and governors' offices.
- The local government and the party leadership are responsible for making decisions and initiatives in accordance with the party's platform whithin the limited space for women to be involved in decision making processes.  
There is also a tendency for both woman and man newly elected CRK representatives to make decisions for personal gain.

#### **In Arkhangai aimag, challenges for women's representatives:**

- Officers are most likely female in the soums. However, they are hesitant to work at the decision-making level or participate in politics. The reason is that in case of not being selected, there is a risk of losing the job and, consequently, a decrease in household income because of their dominant role in household income generating.
- Newly elected representatives lack understanding of civil service laws, gender and human rights. It is true both for men and women. There is also a lack of self-expression, active participation and initiative.
- Women delegates tend to represent party positions rather than work for citizens because of their lack of initiatives and knowledge. Also, their educational attainment is relatively low.

#### **In Khentii aimag, Challenges for women's representatives:**

- Women's participation in public sector is high in rural areas, but women's participation in decision-making is low.
- At the decision-making level, the elected women lack knowledge of public office, gender, and human rights. Women's participation in decision-making is weak due to the lack of leadership and the environment, and financial constraints. There is no system to empowerment the elected women at the decision-making level.
- There is a need to increase the meaningful participation of elected women in decision-making. In other words, there are fewer effective initiatives taken by women delegates.
- There are "Women's Councils", branches of Mongolian Women's Federation (a traditional organization which should play as one of the main CSO structure to promote the rights of women at local level) in all soums of Khentii aimag, but their operation is not regular/consistent. The activities of the Women's Council are mainly to celebrate the holidays

There are no specific programs for women in Arkhangai aimag and the target soums. In Arkhangai aimag, women elected to the 2016 CRK established women's councils in each soum. Each target soum has a women's council (Local branch of the Mongolian Women's Association), but it is inconsistent, inactive, and dependent on a single person. The reason for the inactivity of the Women's Council was explained that the groups is more likely dependent on ruling party and there is lack of funding, human resources, information, citizen participation, and lack of support from the local authorities. On the other hand, leadership of these councils is lacking.

Gender awareness of the local authorities, officials and citizens is considerably low. For example, the soum governor's office does not have a staff member who is knowledgeable about gender and equality, so local policies and programs do not reflect the concept of gender and equality. According to the interviews of the 5 soum officials surveyed, the soums are not able to incorporate gender concepts into their policies and programs.

In Khentii aimag, however, the "Aimag Sub-Program on Ensuring Gender Equality" is being implemented. However, the program is developed without setting certain activities how to integrate gender equality in different sectors of society, allocate budget and increase the number of women at decision making positions in government bodies as such. There is no specific program for women in the target soums.

<p><b>Sub program to ensure gender equality in Khentii aimag</b> <span style="float: right;">2020-2021</span></p> <p><b>The purpose of the program</b>          The goal of the program is to ensure equal opportunity and attitude of human rights of women and men and prevention from gender-based violence and discrimination by developing local gender equality policies and building capacity to support their implementation</p> <p><b>Program objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build capacity to implement gender-sensitive policies, planning and budgeting at the local level, and expand the activities of sub-committees</li> <li>• Increase gender awareness and build partnership within the public and civil society organizations and the private sector</li> <li>• Establish mechanisms at all levels to prevent gender-based violence and discrimination and to address complaints</li> <li>• At the decision-making level, supporting women's leadership in local development</li> <li>• increase women's participation</li> </ul> <p><b>Activities:</b>          At the decision-making level, supporting women's leadership in local development The following activities are planned to increase women's participation. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organize a "Share Best Practices" forum with female delegates</li> <li>• Organize participatory training to support women's leadership in cooperation with relevant organizations</li> </ul>
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*There are women's councils in the target soums, but they are inconsistent, inactive, and dependent on one person. The reason for the inactivity of the Women's Council of MWF was explained that there is lack of funding, lack of human resources, lack of information, lack of citizen participation, and lack of support from the local authorities*

*Gender awareness of local authorities, officials and citizens is relatively low. For example, the soum governor's office does not have a staff member who is knowledgeable about gender and equality, so local policies and programs do not reflect the concept of gender and equality. Out of*



the in each soum, Kherlen, Bayan-Ovoo and Binder soum employees aim to incorporate gender concepts into their soum policies and programs.

**Table 4. Incorporation of gender concepts into the local policies and programs**

No	Soums	Whether the local policies and programs incorporate gender concepts	Whether the local authorities have taken a gender and human rights related training in the last 5 years
Arkhangai			
1	Erdenebulgan	Yes	Yes
2	Battsengel	No	No
3	Jargalant	No	No
4	Tubshuuruulekh	No	No
5	Tsetserleg	No	No
Khentii			
6	Kherlen	Yes	Yes
7	Bayan-oboo	Yes	Yes
8	Binder	Yes	Yes
9	Murun	No	No
10	Umnudelger	No	No

Source: Interviews, the primary data

About 80 percent of the local officials surveyed have not received gender or human rights trainings in the last five years. In Erdenebulgan soum, the training was organized by the Liberal Women's Intellectual Foundation (LWIF) and the Women Lawyers Association (WLA).

About 60 percent of the local officials surveyed have not received gender or human rights training or counseling in the last five years. The following trainings on gender and human rights were organized in the project target soums. These include:

- In Bayan-Ovoo soum, Ergeh Kholboo NGO organized gender trainings.
- World Vision International Mongolia organized trainings on human rights, gender and women's rights in Binder soum.
- A series of trainings on women's participation in "Local Leadership" was organized in Binder soum.
- In 2016, Kherlen soum civil servants participated in a "Gender-Based Policy" training. He also participated in trainings in this field.
- In Kherlen soum, trainings related to the GBV prevention, gender and women rights are occasionally organized by WVIM.
- In Kherlen soum, child rights and protection related trainings are occasionally organized by the Human Rights Commission

**The respondents emphasized the importance of the followings, in the case of local women's projects, (i) the project goals should be elected as project focal point, (ii) feedback system should be established, and (iii) there should be close cooperation between the local authorities and administration.** The interviewees were advised to pay special attention to the following when selecting participants for the project. These include:

- Involve participants who have worked in the vegetable industry for many years. At the local level, the vegetable sector is seen as a tool to support the elite, which creates the basic conditions for the development of the vegetable sector.

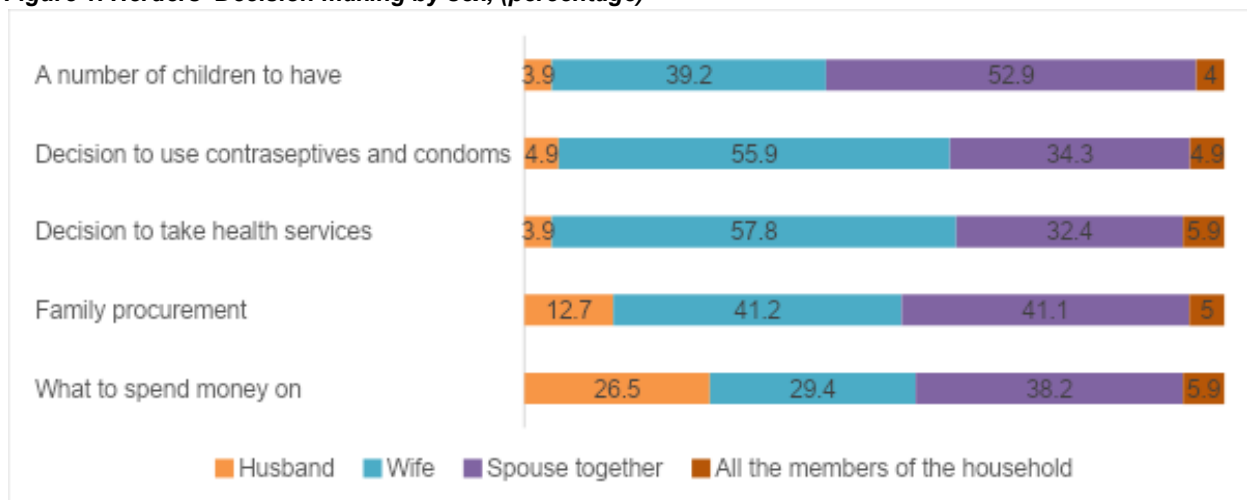
- Avoid involving participants suggested by political officials (governors, CRK chairmen). This is because it is common for these officials to use the project as the implementation of their platform.

**In Arkhangai aimag, herder women:**

- The situation of women herder has improved significantly in recent years, and the living standards of herders have improved significantly in recent years.
- There is a need to share best practices and support to improve the quality, standards, packaging of the products to support the household and women’s group businesses of herder women.
- There is a need to promote collaboration opportunities. Their activities are inconsistent.

The surbey result of the women’s decision making level at household level, the tendency of independence of women herder surveyed are increasing in decision making of doing purchase, family planning, savings, and a number of children to have at household level. The decision-making index methodology was used to clarify the research questions. Herder women have authority to manage and spend small level household finances. However, as the properties are registered and owned officially by ‘the man head of household’ following the tradition, they don’t involve activities related the other livestock except the cattle. They are also less involved in pasture selection and pasture issues.

**Figure 1. Herders’ Decision making by sex, (percentage)**



Source: The Primary Data

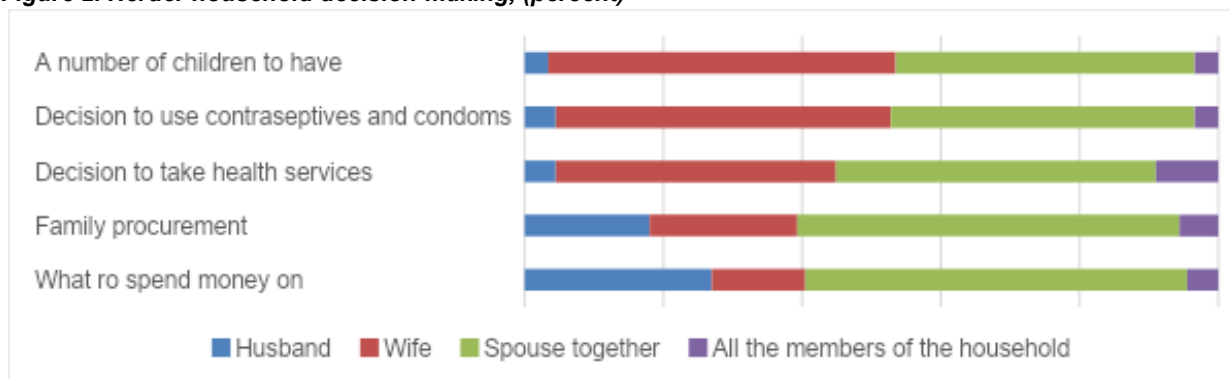
The above data clearly demonstrate patriarchy is still dominant as the decision of using the contraceptives and condoms are relied mostly on women and the number of men involved in deciding the number of children while both issues are the family matter that spouses need to decide together. The result that women are dominant in taking care of health and family procurement is the mirror that women are still taking double responsibility of household affairs at the same time they are more active in household businesses and farming. Only one of every three women can make decision for household expenditure independently.

**In Khentii aimag, Herder women:**

- A herder women's workshop was organized in Khentii aimag.
- The social participation of herder women is expected to increase in recent years. The social welfare and income of herder households are increasing due to the increase in livestock numbers. Local authorities have noted that the situation of women herders has

improved as a result of this process. The situation of herder women is expected to improve if prices of livestock raw materials and the number of livestock continue to rise. In terms of herder household decision-making, about 40 percent of decisions are made by couples together, while about 40 percent are made by women alone. There is a lack of male participation in decision-making on household health and financial issues. In particular, women are obliged to make decision to use contraceptives, condoms, and health care. It was noted that the majority of respondents reported that household financial decisions were made mainly by women.

**Figure 2. Herder household decision-making, (percent)**



Source: The survey primary data

The figures above also confirm again the herder women are taking more responsibility on household affairs and its farming activity. It is same the properties and real estate like land of the herders are mostly registered or owned by husband as a head of the family.

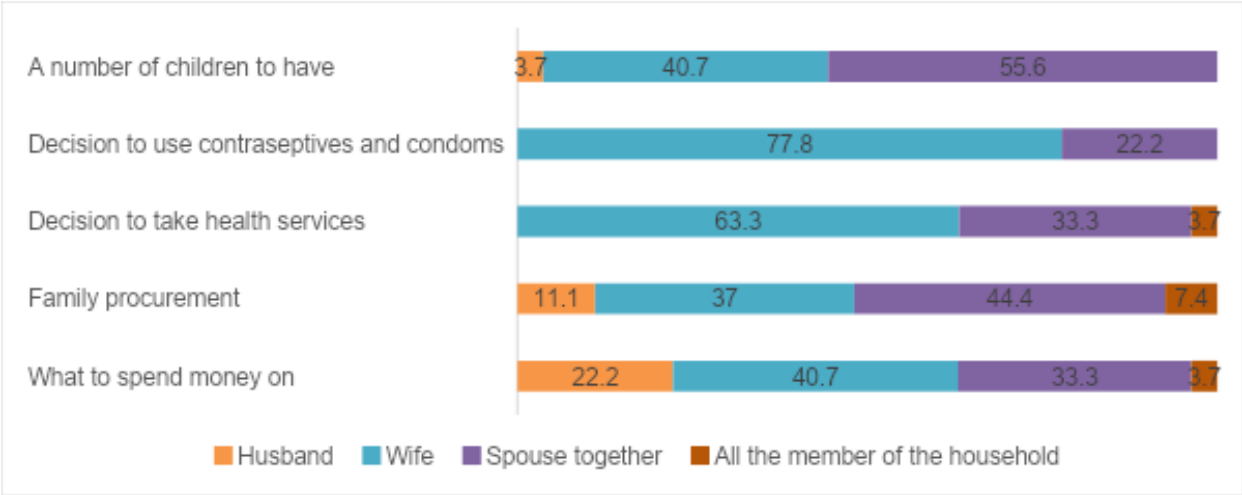
**In Arkhangai aimag, women farmers:**

The majority of women vegetable growers are dominant in decision making of doing purchase for household items, family planning, savings, and a number of children to have.

The family woman member, who is mainly responsible for growing potatoes and vegetables, manages the entire planting process and sales. The majority or 80% of those working in the potato and vegetable sector are women.

- Arkhangai aimag has been developing based on the livestock sector, so the vegetable sector is underdeveloped. Arkhangai aimag's social and economic guidelines and the governor's action plan include support for vegetable production. This goal is in line with the main activities of the GoM. Also, at the meeting of the GoM on May 16, 2018, the following regions of Arkhangai aimag were identified as "Agricultural Zones".
- In Arkhangai aimag, the potato and vegetable sector is not developing rapidly due to the low tradition of farming, the reluctance of herders to share pastures, and the lack of experience of local authorities in developing the agricultural sector.
- Potato and vegetable growers have become more interested in growing grain, wheat, and fodder in recent years, and local authorities have noted requests to use the land for growing potatoes and vegetables for crops.

**Figure 3. Vegetable growers' Decision making by sex, (percent)**



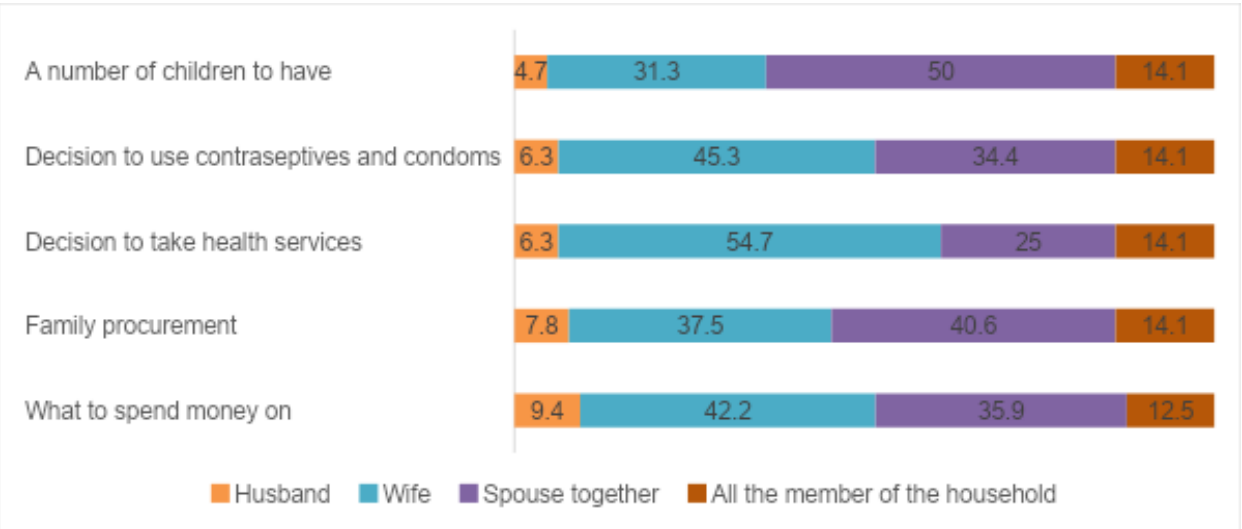
Source: The primary data

The results above demonstrate the most of Arkhangai women farmers are taking care of their household affairs while majority of them are running the vegetable farming. Men are not involved in making decisions on the use of condoms or contraceptives, taking health services which demonstrates they do not perceive they are also responsible for family planning and health care of family members.

**In Khentii aimag, Women Farmers:**

About 80 percent of vegetable growers in Khentii aimag are women over 40 years old. In terms of the proportion of decisions made by vegetable growers, about 40 percent of the decisions are made by couples together, and about 40 percent by women alone. There is a lack of male participation in decision-making on household issues. In particular, women need to decide to use contraceptives, condoms, and health care. Comparing the decision-making ratio of vegetable growers with the decision-making of herder households, the participation of family members (parents, grand parents and children) of vegetable growers in decision-making is slightly higher.

**Figure 4. Vegetable growers' Decision making at household level by sex, (percent)**



Source: The survey primary data

Farmer women are also taking care of family planning and health issues more than men. The figures above demonstrate the farmer women are not dominant to make decisions on family financial issues at the same level of being dominant work force in vegetable growing.

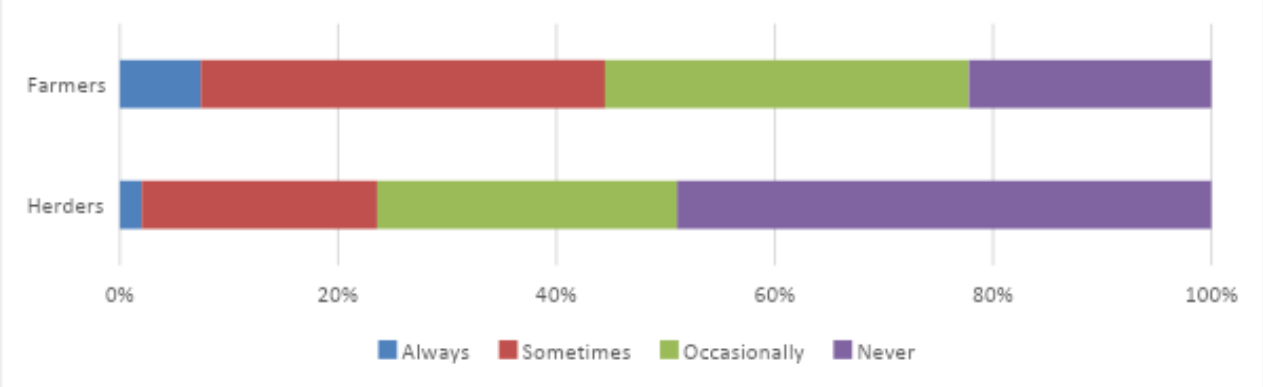
**In Arkhangai aimag, Efforts to protect women's rights and reduce domestic violence in the agricultural sector:**

- There is a high rate of domestic violence caused by men’s alcoholism in the rural areas. There is an urgent need to organize advocacy for men and fathers to reduce domestic violence. Unemployment, poverty, and stress also contribute to domestic violence.
- Local governments are implementing job creation programs to reduce alcoholism.
- Women need to be empowered and trained.
- Women's health issues needs to be addressed. According to the female representative of the local CRK and the local administration, there is a need to pay attention to the health of male and female herders and gardeners. For example, representatives of the Arkhangai aimag's CRK pointed out that herders do not receive health examinations when conducting medical examinations among herders, and that there are many health problems that arise as a result. Therefore, if the project is aimed at women / men herders, it is appropriate to focus on their health.
- In the countryside, a joint team, including the crime prevention council, is actively working on reducing domestic violence. The join team conduct a regular monitoring households at risk of crime.
- There is a domestic violence related training needs for young families.

Households living in the soum center are able to know better the domestic violence issues to their neighbors as they live closer community area. 49 percent of herder households and 22.2 percent of vegetable growers believe that there is no domestic violence in the rural areas, while 51 percent of herder households and 77.8 percent of vegetable growers say that domestic violence occurs in rural areas and in their neighborhood.

The reasons for the high level of domestic violence in vegetable growers are low income compared to herder households and people living in soum centers. In addition, gardeners are more likely to drink alcohol because they grow vegetables in the warmer months and are unemployed at home in the colder months. According to local authorities, alcohol abuse and domestic violence are on the rise during the holidays and when wages, pensions and benefits are falling.

**Figure 5. Whether there is a domestic violence in the herder and vegetable growers’ neighborhoods (By Arkhangai),%**

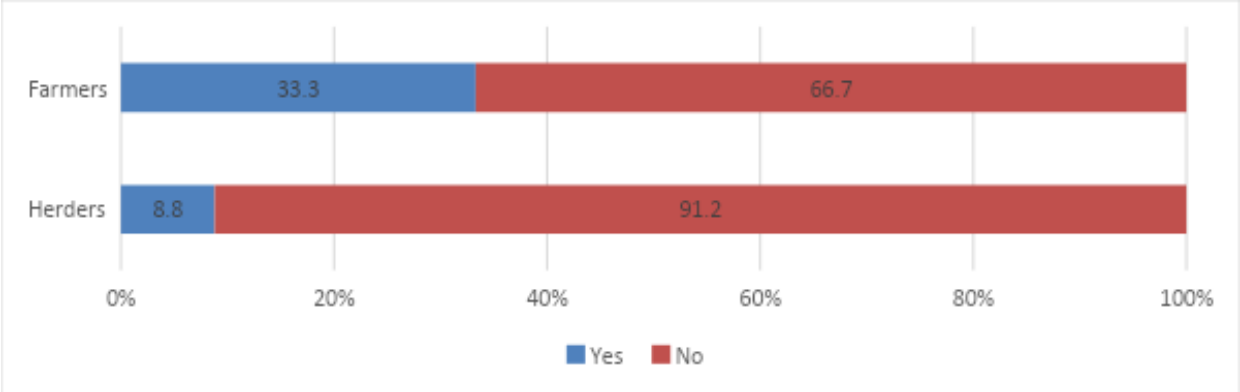


Source: The primary data

In the last two years, 91.2 percent of herder households (women/men) did not participate in trainings and workshops on protection of women's rights, women's financial capacity building

and participation. However, 33.3 percent of vegetable growers participated in the training, while 66.7 percent did not.

**Figure 6. Whether herder and vegetable grower household have taken trainings related to women rights and women’s capacity building, (By Arkhangai),%**



Source: The primary data

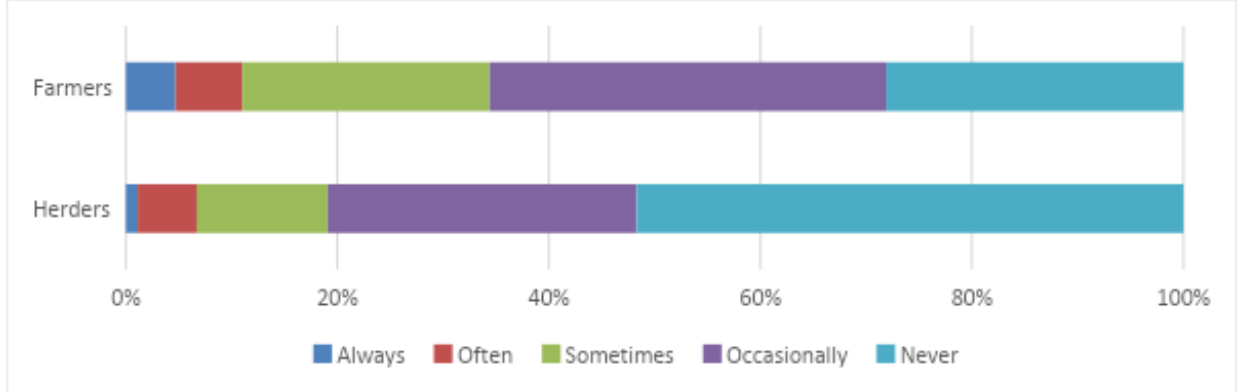
**In Khentii aimag, Efforts taken to protect women's rights and reduce domestic violence in the agricultural sector:**

- Local authorities have highlighted the high level of domestic violence caused by alcoholism. The Khentii Alcohol Free Program<sup>3</sup> is being implemented to reduce domestic violence.
- The local governor office provide financial support to “joint teams”. For example, in Murun soum, the ward leaders are paid in each bagh and regularly patrolled
- The local communities regularly organize joint team trainings.
- The local crime prevention council and child protection teams are working to reduce domestic and child violence, but latent violence is on the rise.
- In Khentii aimag, WVIM organizes prevention activities to reduce domestic and child violence.

48.3 percent of herder households said there was domestic violence and 71.9 percent of vegetable growers said there was domestic violence. In interviews with local authorities, the survey found that domestic violence was relatively low among herders and that living standards were relatively good, while those living in vegetable and soum centers were more likely to report poor violence and poor living standards. Local authorities pointed out that the majority of vegetable growers in the soum are vulnerable. During the survey, it was observed that the living conditions of households growing vegetables in the aimag center soum were relatively better than of people growing vegetables in the soum.

<sup>3</sup>General Audit Office, <https://archive.audit.mn/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/TAILAN-UZEH-4.pdf>

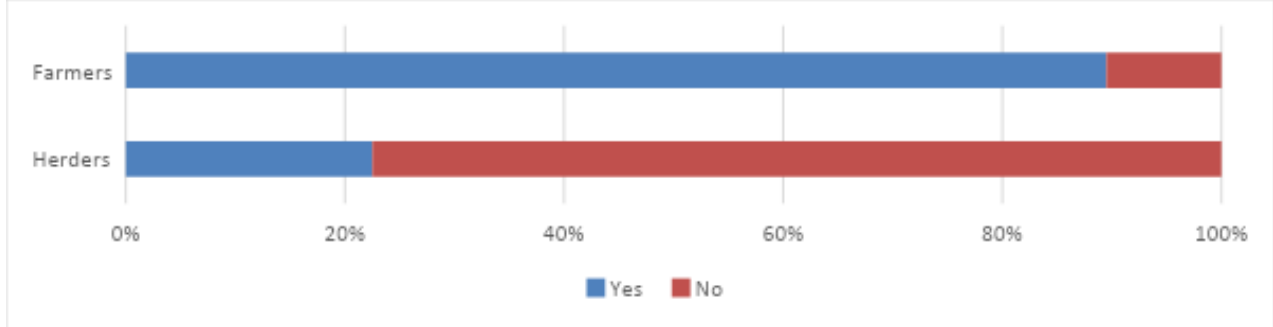
**Figure 7. Whether there is a domestic violence in the herder and vegetable growers' neighborhoods, (By Khentii),%**



Source: The survey primary data

In the last two years, 77.5 percent of herder households have not participated in trainings and workshops on women's rights, women's financial capacity building, and participation, while 37.5 percent of vegetable growers participated in the training.

**Figure 8. Whether herder and vegetable grower household have taken trainings related to women rights and women's capacity building, (By Khentii),%**



Source: The Survey Primary Data

**CONCLUSION:**

- Though the role of women in soums is relatively high according to local authorities and citizens informed, women in rural areas are less independent economically. Even the women's life expectancy is higher than men, they are considered as working force at the same level they are majority of non-working population, unregistered labour force and those employed have lower paid permanent jobs in soums. Women make up about 80 percent of permanent jobs in the soum. The low economic impact of men in the households increases women's responsibilities and limits women's development opportunities. Therefore there is a need to have gender sensitive policy at the ground which provides more opportunities for women to become economically empowered in order to develop soums and raise awareness among aimag and soum community.
- Women predominate in the soum government and in the manufacturing and services sectors, but their participation in decision-making is low. Men predominate in soum chairpersons while women predominate in executive positions. This is due to the fact that women are afraid of taking the risk of losing jobs for longer period in the years of the ruling political party in power if she cannot be elected or run for election of losing political parties and become the victim of discrimination by being politically active in soums and less interested in getting rid of a reliable source of income though the job is paid lower and less decision making power. It is also due to the lack of knowledge about the power



to take actions to influence in making decisions even the women are not running office in politics and decision-making among local authorities and the women living in soums.

- There are no specific programs for women or on gender in Arkhangai aimag and the target soums. Khentii aimag plans to adopt and implement a Gender Equality Program from 2020, but there is no specific program how to tie gender equality in development agenda, conduct specific activities to integrate gender equality and take steps to increase the number of women at decision making positions in government bodies. At the local level, women's issues are seen as limited to improving the social well-being of single mothers and preventing domestic violence. Gender awareness of local authorities, officials and citizens is relatively low (30%). For local government officials, there is a lack of experience in applying gender-based training in gender education. This is more related to their workload and work schedule. For example, a gender specialist is responsible for six issues other than gender. The local governors of Kherlen, Bayan-Ovoo and Binder soums of Khentii aimag who took training and information on gender issues and human rights protection express their willingness to incorporate gender concepts into their soum policies and programs. Therefore, there is a need to increase gender awareness of all levels of local government.
- In terms of the decision-making ratio of herder and vegetable growers, the couples together or women tend to make decisions alone on household issues. Depending on the stereotype of Mongolian households, decisions on housekeeping issues is concentrated in the hands of women and woman herders and especially the vegetable growers are taking double responsibility to run their household business. Women often neglect to improve their social well-being due to the management of inadequate household budgets.
- 51 percent of herder households and 77.8 percent of vegetable households in Arkhangai are somehow affected by domestic violence. 48.3 percent of herder households and 71.9 percent of vegetable growers in Khentii are affected by domestic violence in some way. The majority of vegetable growers are socially vulnerable or low-income people. According to local authorities, vegetables are grown during the warmer months, but domestic violence due to alcoholism and stress is common among vegetable growers due to unemployment during the cold season. Training on domestic violence and human rights highlighted the need for more male members of the family.
- Minority of respondents (8.8 percent of herder households and 33.3 percent of vegetable growers in Arkhangai and 22.5 percent of herder households and 37.5 percent of vegetable growers in Khentii) received information and training on women's rights and gender issues. Trainings in this area are not widely available in rural areas. The trainings are occasionally organized by the WIM and the NHR C. Because these trainings are unplanned and regular, access to herder and vegetable households is limited.

### Three. OVERVIEW OF THE WOMEN HERDERS' PARTICIPATION IN THE LOCAL CSOS AND THEIR BARRIERS

This section outlines the current situation of local social organizations and women's participation in these organizations. This section does not include all local CSOs. However, CSOs that are considered to be active by local agricultural experts who might be more related to the target group of the project are included in this section. In addition, access to all CSOs was limited during the survey.

#### ARKHANGAI AIMAG

##### Erdenebulgan soum

- There are 3 active cooperatives in Erdenebulgan soum. The aimag's "Cooperatives Association" is working. 50 livestock groups have been established but are not operating.
- The Erdenebulgan soum governor's guidelines support the activities of groups, cooperatives and partnerships in the livestock sector, but there is little interest from herders and growers to work together. There are a number of cooperatives, groups and partnerships registered in the document, but there are no actual groups, cooperatives or partnerships. For a small number of operating cooperatives, groups and partnerships, they are dependent on one person, are not regular in operation, and their members do not participate in their activities. For example, the "Od KR" vegetable partnership, which is active in Erdenebulgan soum, is 100% dependent on one person.
- There is a traditional structure to work for women a soum level is the women's council, branch of Mongolian Women's Federation (MWF), who has more potential to get support from the current government. The soum women's council has been working to intensify its activities for the last two years.

**Table 6. Information of the CSOs in Erdenebulgan soum**

No	Name of group	Head of group	Gender of group leader	Number of members	Number of female members in the group	Percent of female members in the group	Operational directions
1	Women's Association of Mongolia, Arkhanga Women's Council	Bolormaa.B	Women	8	8	100%	Women
2	Mongolian Democratic Socialist Women's Association	Amgalan.B	Women	25	25	100%	Women
3	Liberal Women's Association	Otgonjargal.Ch	Women	0	0	-	Men
4	Herders' Association	Baasanjav	Men	0	0	-	Agriculture
5	Trade Union	Enkhtaivan.L	Men	3	2	33.3%	For civil servants' rights
6	"Gyals Tugrug" Savings and Credit Cooperative	Soyolmaa.E	Women	3	2	33.3%	Savings and credit
7	"Od KR" partnership	Yanjinkham	Women				Savings and credit Vegetable farming
8	Aimag Association	Bat-Erdene	Men	7	0		Agriculture

of PUG						
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Source: The survey primary data

## Battsengel soum

- In four out of the six baghs of the soum, a group to combat livestock theft was established. 10-15 percent of all herders are involved in the fight against livestock theft. In 2011 and 2012, two herder groups were established in each bagh under the “Market and Pasture Management Project”. Under this project, a group of herders established their own mutual fund. The soum governor's office has established nine pasture user groups.
- There are 2-3 cooperatives in the each soum that regularly buy cashmere. Herders mainly deliver cashmere to their cooperatives in order to receive wool<sup>4</sup> and cashmere<sup>5</sup> premiums. However, these cooperatives in the soum operate on a one-person private exchange system. All herders in the soum are registered in the membership register of these cooperatives. However, the cooperative is not responsible to herders and is only responsible for selling raw materials of animal origin.
- The soum women's council has been working to intensify its activities for the last two years. The Women's Council, in cooperation with the soum governor's office, is organizing a competition to select the best milker. The number of women herders in the Women's Council is small. About 90 percent of registered women are the local residents. Family days are also celebrated in the soum to promote family well-being. Trainings on reducing alcohol consumption are being organized as part of the Family Day.

**Table 7. Information of the csos in Battsengel soum**

No	Name of group	Head of the group	Gender of group leader	Number of group members	Number of female members in the group	Percent of female members in the group	Operational directions
1	Agvai	Baasansuren.Ts	Men	126	30	23.8%	PUG
2	Khalzan Duulga	Erdenetuya.T	Women	153	43	28.1%	PUG
3	Undur Ovoo	Munkh-Uchral.Ts	Men	82	26	31.7%	PUG
4	Bayanbulag	Ganbaatar.E	Men	93	25	26.9%	PUG
5	Maikhan Tsagaan	Sukhbat.B	Men	63	19	30.2%	PUG
6	Bayan Khaikhan	Munkh-Erdene.D	Men	93	26	28.0%	PUG
7	Khaikhan	Gantulga.O	Men	59	17	28.8%	PUG
8	Khurliin Denj	Sanj-Ochir.S	Men	114	34	29.8%	PUG

<sup>4</sup> Procedure for providing cash incentives to herders and livestock owners who prepare sheep and camel wool and deliver it to the national factory, <https://www.legalinfo.mn/annex/details/10140?lawid=14682>

2.10. When purchasing wool from a herder, the representative shall make 3 percent accuracy without correcting the documents, record the information specified in 2.15 of this regulation as a herder, give 2 percent to the herder, keep 1 percent and hand over the wool to the producer.

2.15. The herder shall open an account in a commercial bank in his / her own name, and the representative shall provide the herder household with a guarantee mark by accurately declaring his / her name, registration number and account information.

<sup>5</sup> In 2020, cashmere was given a premium due to the scale of the COVID-19 epidemic.

### Jargalant soum

- There are 3-4 herder wool and cashmere cooperatives in the soum. However, herders joined the cooperative in order to receive wool and cashmere premiums. These cooperatives in the soum operate on a one-person private exchange system.
- Although there is a women's council, its activities are not consistent. Currently, women's councils do not operate in a participatory manner based on CSOs. CSOs do not operate due to funding, human resources, or citizen participation.

**Table 8. Information of the CSOs in Jargalant soum**

No	Name of group	Head of the group	Gender of group leader	Number of group members	Number of female members in the group	Percent of female members in the group	Operational directions
1	Women's council	Enkhtungalag.U	Women	15	15	100%	Women
2	Undran Orgilokh Bulag	Oyunchimeg.A	Women	9	4	44.4%	Wool
3	Mukhar Elegd	Chadraabal.P	Men	42	19	45.2%	PUG
4	Ajrag	Enkhsaikhan	Men	86	42	48.8%	PUG
5	Namiriin Davaa	Ganchuluun.B	Men	39	18	46.2%	PUG
6	Khukh Khad	Gan-Ochir.S	Men	34	16	47.1%	PUG
7	Khuvt	Yondonbal.L	Men	68	32	47.1%	PUG
8	Ulaan tsabag	Dorjjantsan.L	Men	5	2	40%	Wool
9	Zuslan Gurvan Gan	Dashdorj.B	Men	186	12	6.5%	Wool
10	Khan Dulaahan	Bolor.Kh	Women	9	5	55.6%	Wool
11	Jargalant Ireedui	Tserendejid	Women	10	5	50%	Increase the income of head family women and men

Source: The survey primary data

### Tuvshruulekh soum

- The Women's Council was renewed in 2019. Children's art performances and a conference for mothers with medals were organized. The Business Women's Meeting was attended by 35-36 women. In 2018, a forum for women herders was organized. It was organized by the local authorities to increase the participation of women herders.
- The "Market and Pasture Management" project implemented a group of local women. There are about 10 vegetable, garment, and dairy groups that support women's entrepreneurship. The GERES project<sup>6</sup> has three regular production groups. Two groups of growers received loans from the soum development fund.
- World Vision International Mongolia (WVIM) is a group of companies that produce products using felt and pearls.
- There are 10 local PUGs. The PUGs are not active.
- There are 2 cooperatives in the soum that cover 80-90 percent of herders. These two cooperatives operate with a one-person private exchange system to provide wool premiums to herders who do not operate on a cooperative basis.

<sup>6</sup> 'Vegetable Farming Sector Development in Arkhangai', implemented by GERES from 2013 to 2018

**Table 9. Information of the CSOs in Tuvshruulekh soum**

No	Name of group	Head of the group	Gender of group leader	Number of group members	Number of female members in the group	Percent of female members in the group	Operational directions
1	Mankhan	Duvchin.P	Men	150	70	46.7%	Herding
2	Moilt	Galbadrakh.R	Men	140	70	50%	PUG
3	Mogoi Tolgoi	Bayansaikhan	Men	80	40	50%	PUG
4	Rashaant	Purevjargal	Women	70	35	50%	PUG
5	Ikh Tsaluu	Zoljargal	Women	112	56	50%	PUG
6	Bayan-Undur	Purevsuren.S	Women	120	60	50%	PUG
7	Deliin Khooloi	Bold.P	Men	120	60	50%	PUG
8	Khangai	Ganbaatar	Men	78	39	50%	PUG
9	Uran Tolgoi	Bulgantamir	Men	27	11	40.7%	PUG
10	Ulaanchuluut	Tumendemberel	Men	8	3	37.5%	Forest cleaning and rehabilitation
11	Enkhnaran	Enkhtaivan.U	Men	296	1	0.3%	Crop farming
12	Arbayan Noos	Enkhtaivan.Du	Men				Hides

Source: The survey primary data

**Tsetserleg soum**

- Soum women established a women's council in 2018. The Women's Council is newly established and consists of nine members, mostly civil servants. The Women's Council plans to hold a workshop for women herders and milkers.
- There are 3 herder wool and cashmere cooperatives in the soum. These cooperatives are members of the aimag cooperative association. However, herders joined the cooperative in order to receive wool and cashmere premiums. These cooperatives in the soum operate on a one-person private exchange system.
- There are 10 PUGs organized in 2017. However, currently these PUGs are not operating.

**Table 10. Information of the CSOs in Tsetserleg soum**

No	Name of group	Head of the group	Gender of group leader	Number of group members	Number of female members in the group	Percent of female members in the group	Operational directions
1	Bayan-Ovoo Khukh Khaikhan	Damdin.Ch	Men	9	5	55.6%	Fodder
2	Ar Tovtsogt Mankhan	Lhagvasuren.L	Men	9	4	44.4%	Fodder
3	Khongorjuun Durvun Ikher Khorshoo	Losiimaa.D	Women	15	4	26.7%	Fodder
4	Bid Bugdiin Tuluu	Odgerel.G	Women	7	7	100%	NGO

5	Women's council	Chinbileg	Women	10	10	100%	Women
6	Alag Tsetsegs Partnership	Enkhtuvshin.J	Men	15	3	20%	Vegetable
7	Sanjiin Undur Malchin partnership	Dugarsuren.N	Men	9	5	55.6%	Vegetable
8	Suun Tengis	Bulgantamir.G	Women	9	4	44.4%	Vegetable
9	Tal Bulag Malchin	Uranchimeg.B	Women	9	4	44.4%	Vegetable
10	Tsagaan Moriton Khishig	Bat-Erdene.D	Men	5	3	60%	Vegetable
11	Baylag Urgatsiin Shim	Dolgorjav.Ch	Men	13	5	38.5%	Vegetable
12	Ikh Khudag Urguu	Gankhuu.D	Men	10	4	40%	Vegetable

Source: The survey primary data

## KHENTII AIMAG

### Kherlen soum

- There is a “Soum Women's Association” headed by the Deputy Governor, which includes representatives from each bagh.
- An annual herder women's workshop is organized in the soum to discuss issues facing by women herders.

**Table 11. Information of the CSOs in the Kherlen soum**

No	Name of group	Head of group	Gender of group leader	Number of members	Number of female members in the group	Percent of female members in the group	Operational directions
1	Mongolian Women's Association	Kherlenchuluun.G	Women	No member			Serves society.
2	Women Herders' Association	Tserenchimed.B	Women	215	215	100%	Capacity building of herder women and support their initiatives
3	Mongolian Democratic Socialist Women's Association	Shurentsetseg.M	Women	1520	1520	100%	Serves the members of the People's Party
4	Liberal Women's Association	Purevkhatan.T	Women	3450	3450	100%	Women
5	LEOS	Ulziisuren.T	Women	No member			Serves society.
6	Association of Women Lawyers	Tserendulam.L	Women	4	4	100%	Serves its members
7	Khan Khentii Women	Delgermurun.B	Women	No member			Serves society and its members
8	A Council of Human Rights Development Center	Erdenetsetseg.D	Women	100	90	90%	Serves society and its members
10	Trade Unions	Oyun.D	Women	5200	2567	49.3%	Serves its members
11	Maidariin Erin	Ganbayar.Ts	Men	No member			Serves society

13	Scout Council	Khos-Erdene.Ch	Men	530	305	57.5%	Serves society and its members
14	Wheelchair Users' Association	Oyunbat	Men	120	75	62.5%	Serves its members
15	Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry	Batbold.D	Men	184	30	16.3%	Serves business owners
16	Shine Zалуу Khentii	Batjargal.Ts	Men	No member			Serves society
17	Kherlen Business	Uranchimeg.D	Women	No member			Serves society
18	Khentii aimag branch council of Union of Journalists	Gan-Erdene.S	Men	25	14	56%	Serves society
19	Munkhiin Hairiin Ursgal	Ariunjargal.L	Women	No member			Serves society
20	Young Donor Club	Erdenesuvd.J	Women	No member			Serves its members
21	Wealth Creators' Association	Eriintovch	Me	No member			Serves its members
22	Undurkhaan	Odmaa.N	Women	5	2	40%	Serves society
23	Integrated Network of Vegetable Growers in Khentii aimag	Tserenchimed.B	Women	41 enterprises and partnerships	80%		Serves vegetable growers, building their capacity and provide people with vegetable

Source: the primary data

### Bayan-Ovoo

- The Women's Council of Bayan-Ovoo soum organizes events for women during the holidays.
- The "Aravt system" was established to organize herders in Bayan-Ovoo soum. On October 11, 2018, a joint meeting of 18 soum and 89 bagh governors was held in Chinggis Khaan, and representatives of the Cabinet of Ministers, the World Bank, and the Sustainable Livelihoods-3 Project <sup>7</sup>were invited to make a presentation on the project. Bayan-Ovoo soum has decided to implement the "Aravt" sub-project in all soums by initiating and piloting the "Aravt" sub-project during the planning stage of the local

#### <sup>7</sup> The project supports sustainable cashmere by improving pasture, livestock and cashmere production

• Environmentally and animal-friendly cashmere is considered sustainable cashmere, and the final product made from such raw materials costs 15-30% more in the international market and is expected to continue to grow.

• The Sustainable Cashmere Initiative is underway in Mongolia, but has not yet achieved results in reducing the number of livestock in line with pasture carrying capacity.

It is necessary to support the first stage of the cashmere value chain (raw material production, procurement, etc.) in order to meet the sustainable development of the sector, sustainable cashmere requirements, and to spread international best practices in this regard. Therefore, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) has announced a consulting service to test a comprehensive approach to sustainable cashmere, and the Center for Policy Studies has been selected.

The project will cover **20% of herder households** in Ulziit soum of Arkhangai aimag and **Bayan-Ovoo soum of Hentii aimag** and will benefit from activities such as pasture use contracts, livestock risk fund and improved cashmere production. The soum administration will be able to engage in livestock production in an environmentally friendly way and increase the income of herders.



development fund. The main idea of the “Aravt” project is to organize 10 nearby households into one group and involve citizens in all kinds of activities through this group. In addition, a “development facilitator” is assigned to each team, and these facilitators visit all ten teams in their baghs to provide information and discussions on the local development funds.

However, in the central and rural baghs, it is possible to organize differently depending on the location and population density. With the support of the World Bank’s Sustainable Livelihoods 3 project, the World Bank plans to train and empower ten leaders and development leaders, select well-performing soums and teams, and disseminate good practices.

- Bayan-Ovoo soum has implemented the following best practices using the Aravt system. Gurvan Tolgoi in Delgerkhaan bagh has a population of 56 people from 17 households and 12,472 livestock. Ten of them joined forces to wash and vaccinate animals, prepare fodder, improve the quality of livestock breeds, and each household has a shovel and three blowers. In addition, four out of ten households are involved in the Green Pasture project. 30 people over the age of 18 were fully involved in the local development fund discussion. Out of 33 adults, 57 percent pay social security contributions, 57 percent pay 73 health insurance, and 6 retirees. On the occasion of the National Tree Planting Day, Gurvan Tolgoi and his family are planting 50 poplar trees on Khar Yamaat Mountain on their own initiative. To date, there have been no outbreaks of highly contagious animal diseases or forest fires in the Tenth Territory.

**Table 12. Information of the CSOs in Bayan-Ovoo soum**

No	Name of CSOs	Head of CSO	Gender of group leader	Number of members	Number of female members in the group	Percent of female members in the group	Operational directions
1	Women’s Association of Mongolia	Narantsetseg.S	Women	947	947	100%	Serves society
2	Youth Federation	Davaadorj.Kh	Men	643	305	47.3%	Serves society
3	Traditional Wrestler’s Association	Batchuluun.J	Men	7	0	-	Serves society
4	Horse Race Trainers’ Association	Byambatjil.N	Men	113	0	-	Disseminate and preserve the heritage of horse race trainers
5	Traditional Ankle Association	Tumurpurev.Kh	Men	25	0	-	Serves society
6	Trade Unions	Bavuudorj.T	Men	108	79	73.1%	Serves society
7	Elders’ Association	Namjindorj.S	Men	207	140	67.6%	Serves society

Source: the primary data

### Binder

- There are different CSOs in Binder soum. For example, the forest user groups (FUGs), Pasture user groups (PUGs), and production groups are active. However, majority of their operations are not consistent.



- WVIM established sewing, vegetable, milk and dairy processing groups to provide women with financial support.
- Local governments provide loans and financial support from the sum development funds and local development funds.
- WVIM and women's financial savings groups are based on individual initiatives. These savings groups are developing by borrowing money from each other, which needs to be developed at the level of savings and credit cooperatives.
- Binder sum has implemented the following best practices using the “Aravt system”. The Bayanburd group in Bayan-Undur bagh has 22 households, and together they built two new deep wells, repaired four new wells, and built winter and spring shelters for three households. The group also began to save and meet the financial needs of its members.

**Table 13. Information of the CSOs in Binder sum**

No	Name of CSO	Name of head	Gender of group leader
1	Women's Association of Mongolia	Altansuvd.E	Women
2	Elders' Association	Altantsetseg.N	Women
3	Mongolian Social Democratic Youth Union	Khurtsbaatar.O	Men
4	Liberal Women's Association	Altansuvd.E	Women
5	Binder branch council of PWD Association	Altantsetseg.N	Women
6	Bidnii Huch Binder Development	Ayurzana.D	Women
7	Mongolian Youth Federation	Munkh-Ochir.E	Women
8	Khan Khentii father, Khatan Onon Mother	Tuya.Ch	Women
9	Partnership Association	Munkhtuya.Ts	Women

Source: the primary data

## Murun

- There is a women's council of MWF in the sum. The Women's Council has 15 members. Due to funding constraints, women members provide funding and organize activities. The main focus of the organization is addressing the social issues of women in the sum.
- Cooperatives and partnerships in the sum depend on one individual. PUGs and cooperatives have been established in the Market and Pastureland Management project sum, but are not operating.
- The local government has established two groups to support the livelihoods of single-parent and low-income households.
- A council for people with disabilities was established in the sum.

**Table 14. Information of the CSOs in Murun sum**

No	Name of CSOs	Head of CSO	Gender of group leader	Number of members	Number of female members in the group	Percent of female members in the group	Operational directions
1	Trade Union	Bayansuvd.B	Women	46	26	56.5%	For civil servants' rights
2	Herder Women's Association	Serjmyadag.J	Women	200	200	100%	Protect herder women's rights Increase their participation
3	Courage-Active Life	Ganhuyag.Ch	Men	20	0	-	Stopped the operation

## Umnudelger

- Despite a number of PUGs and cooperatives in the soum, the groups are not dependent on one person and do not operate consistently. There is also a lack of initiative and participation of members.
- “Sewing groups” are operating to support the livelihoods of low-income women headed by households in the soum.

**Table 15. Information of the CSOs in Umnudelger soum**

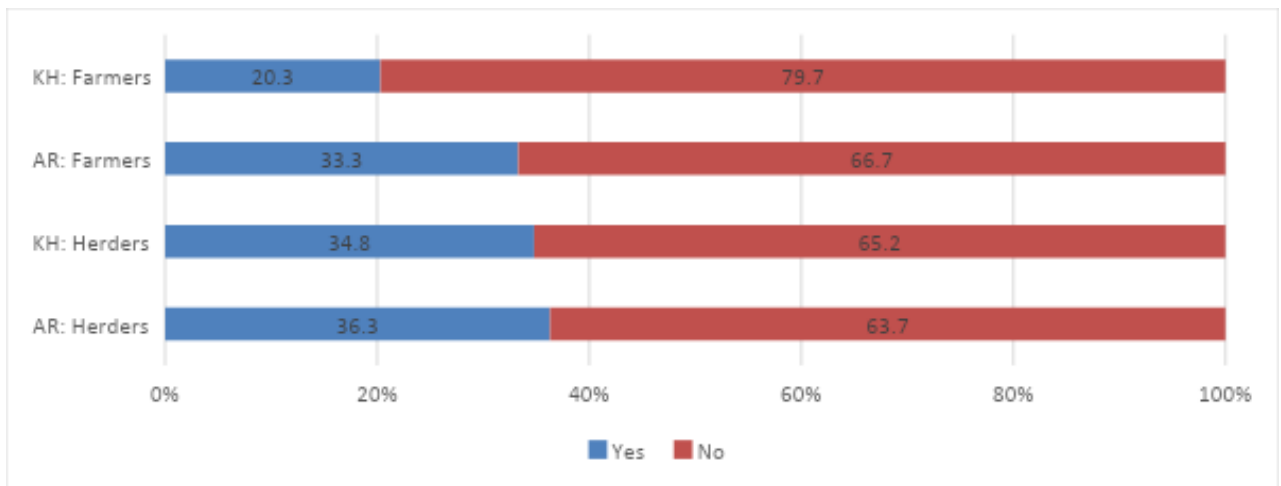
No	Name of CSOs	Head of CSO	Gender of group leader	Number of members	Number of female members in the group	Percent of female members in the group	Operational directions
1	Khangaliin Joloo	Khasbaatar.S	Men	45	1	2.2%	Human transport
2	Women's Council	Bayarmaa.L	Women	25	25	100%	Women
3	Elders' Association	Naranbaatar.Ch	Men	354	180	50.8%	Elders
4	"Umnudelgeriin hugjil kholboo" NGO	Amartemuulen.T	Men	120	50	41.7%	Youth
5	PWD Association	Tuvshinbaatar.I	Men	165	82	49.7%	PWD
6	Parents Association of CWD	Saranchimeg.B	Women	15		-	CWD

Source: the primary data

## SITUATION OF RAISING VOICES TO THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES

The question, whether there have been cases where the respondent and his/her family members approached to their local government about a problem in the community. There are cases that the herders and farmers raise issues to the local authorities and they were addressed. 34.8 percent of the herders did while 20.3 percent of the farmers approached to the local authorities for resolution of their facing issues. As the response to requests and complains issues by citizens are not considered well by the local authorities and there is a lack of information on how to approach to local authorities among soums community, most of the persons in soums are not approaching to the local government.

**Figure 9. whether the respondent use accountability system in the soum, (percent)**

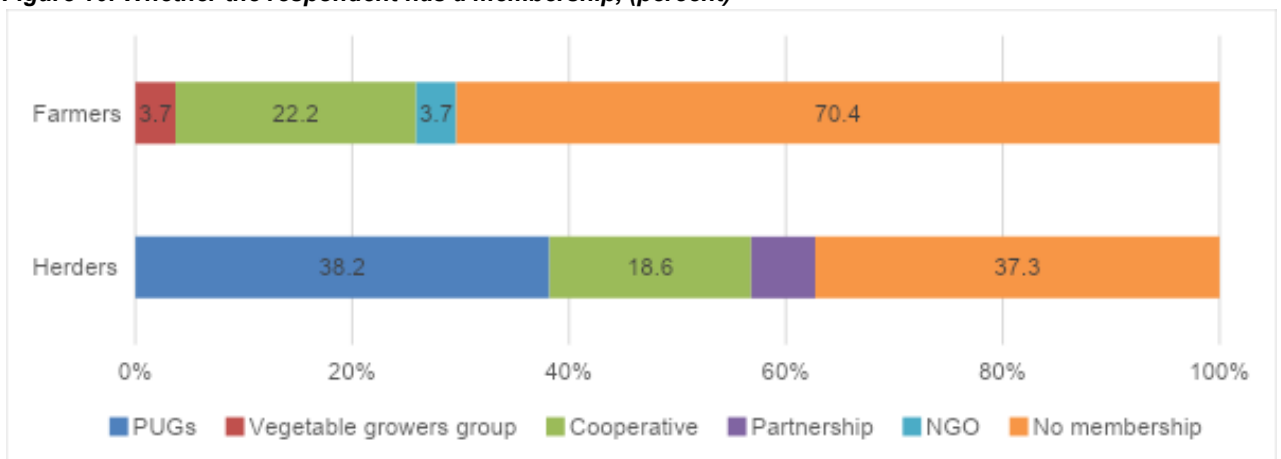


Source: The survey primary data

### Herders and vegetable growers’s participation in CSOs

38.2 percent of the herders in the target soums of the Arkhangai project are members of PUGs, 18.6 percent are the members of cooperatives, 5.9 percent are members of partnerships, and **37.3 percent** have no membership. However, 3.7 percent of the vegetable growers are members of families, 22.2 percent are members of cooperatives, 3.7 percent are members of NGOs, and **70.4 percent** have no membership.

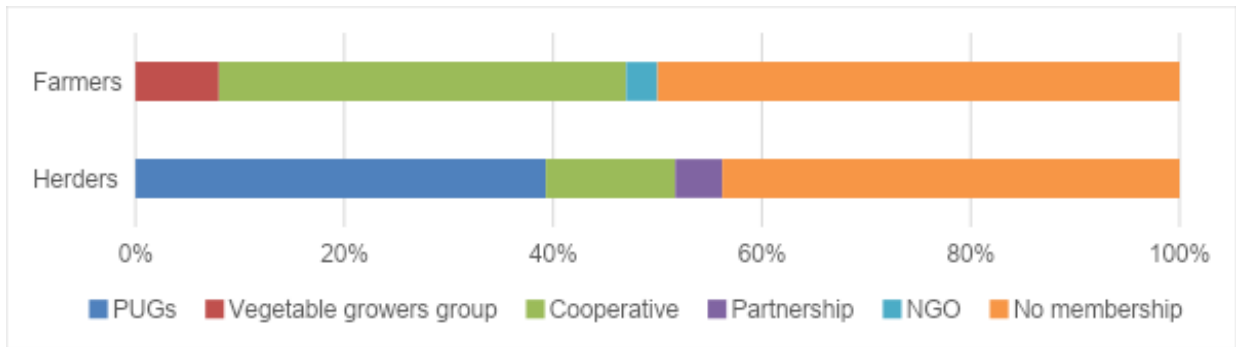
Figure 10. Whether the respondent has a membership, (percent)



Source: The survey primary data

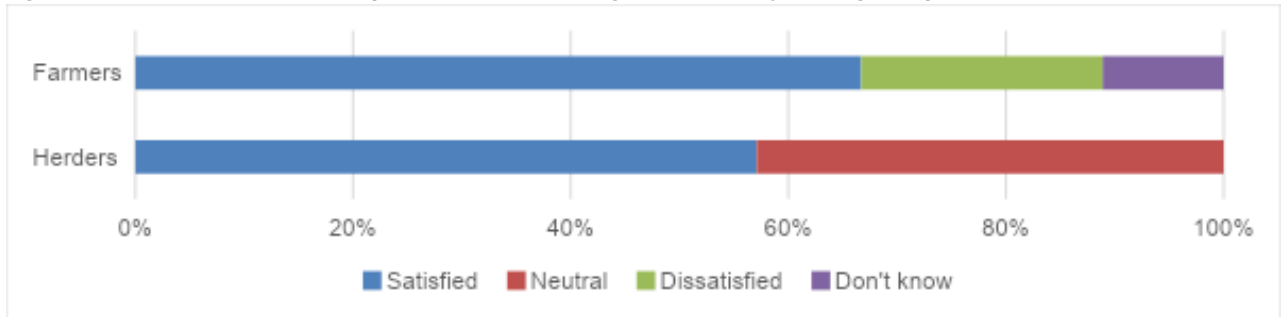
39.3 percent of herders in Khentii aimag are members of PUGs, 12.4 percent are members of cooperatives, 4.5 percent are members of partnerships and 43.8 percent have no membership. However, 8% of growers are members of families, 39% are members of cooperatives, 3% are members of NGOs, and 50% have no membership.

**Figure 11. Whether the respondent has a membership, (percent)**



In Arkhangai aimag, 57.1 percent of herders are satisfied with the activities of their member organizations, 42.9 percent are moderately satisfied, 66.7 percent of vegetable growers are satisfied and 33.3 percent are dissatisfied.

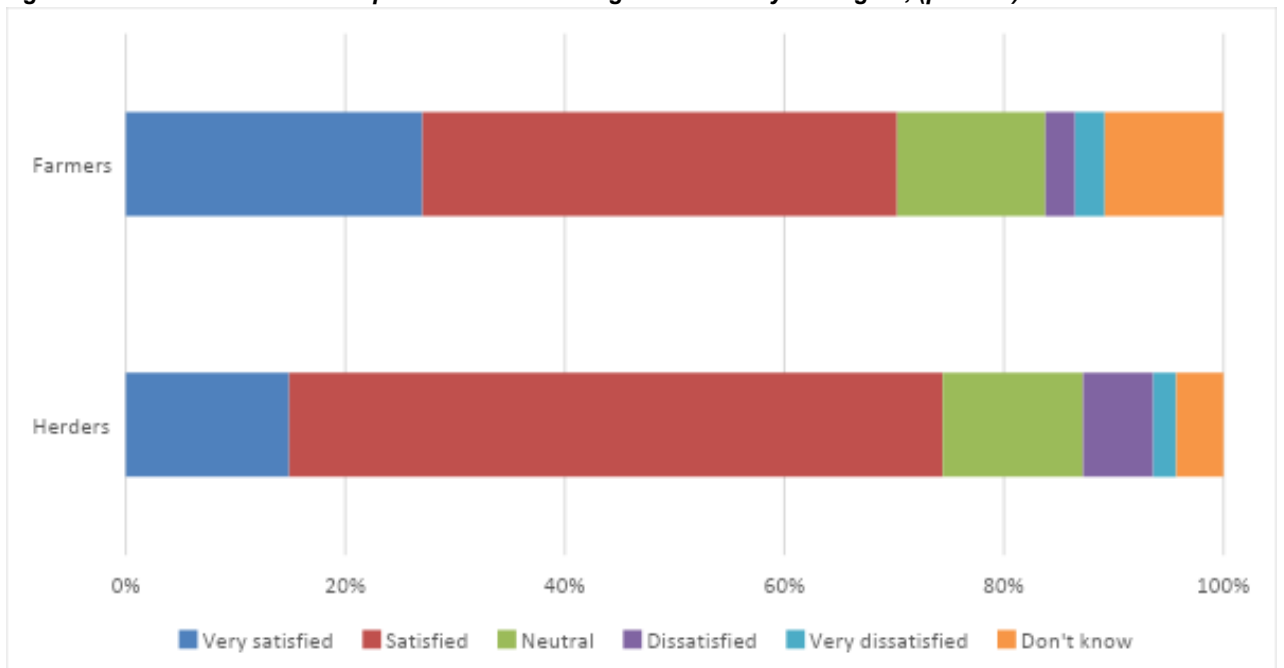
**Figure 12. Satisfaction of the respondents with the organization they belong to , (percent)**



Source: The survey primary data

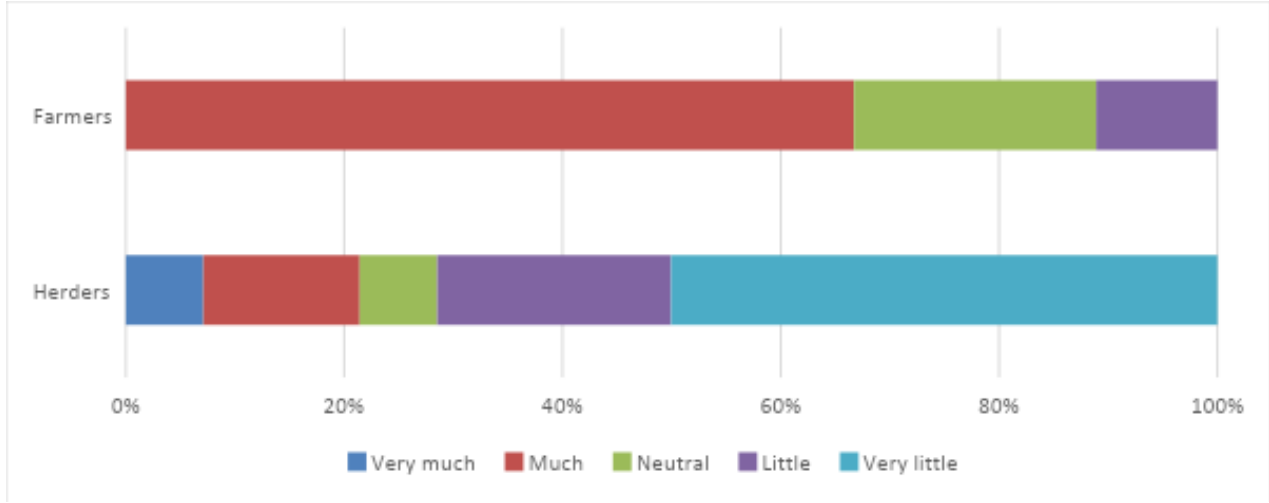
In Khentii aimag, 87.3 percent of herders are above average satisfied with the activities of their member organizations, while 83.7 percent of vegetable growers are above average satisfied. The rest are dissatisfied with the organization's performance.

**Figure 13. Satisfaction of the respondents with the organization they belong to , (percent)**



In Arkhangai aimag, when women of local CSOs are asked about the participation of women in the activities of their member organizations, 28.5 percent of herders said that their participation was above average, while 88.9 percent of vegetable growers said that their participation was above average. The rest believe that women are less involved in the organization's activities.

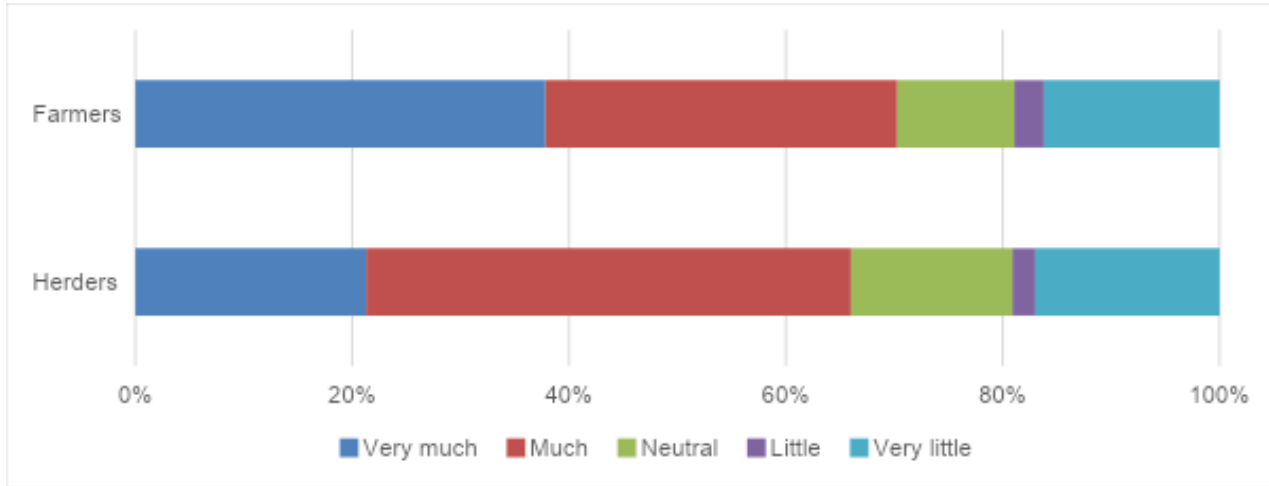
**Figure 14. Participation of the women in the activities of their member organization**



Source: The survey primary data

In Khentii aimag, when women of local CSOs are asked about the participation of women in the activities of their member organizations, 81.4% of herders said that their participation was above average, while 81% of growers said that their participation was above average. The rest believe that women are less involved in the organization's activities.

**Figure 15. Participation of the women in the activities of their member organization**



Source: The survey primary data

**CONCLUSION:**

- Women’s participation in the decision making and daily activities of the local CSOs is required to be relatively high. There are women leading in the herders’ and farmers’ groups, partnerships and cooperatives. However, official registration in the partnership is on the husband’s name while wives are likely to lead the activities. This situation becomes one of the factors limiting active women to lead for growing the small and medium enterprises and family businesses. During the survey, it was clear that women are more responsible for financial issues of the partnerships. However, the operation of the partnerships and cooperatives is inconsistent. For example, in the first six months of

the partnership, their activity is the most active and started losing their energy and involvement.

- There is a CSO unit built a local level from tradition stricture who has to be involved in actions for women and gender equality is definitely the “Women’s Council” in each target soum. Hopwever, it is inconsistent, inactive, and dependent on a single person. This is mainly because of lack of funding, lack of human resources, lack of information, lack of citizen participation, lack of support from local authorities and tend to operate like a partisan unit of the current political party in power. In addition, the Women’s Council’s activities are limited to celebrating holidays. There is no Women’s Council in the agricultural sector.
- Despite the increasing awareness of the women’s participation in the decision-making, there is still low support for women for power positions. Also, women are lacking knowledge of public decision making. The proportion of women members in soums CRKs are oftern lower There are are women members 34 (29.6%) in CRKs of 5 soums of Arkhangai and 36 (33.6%) woman members in CRK of 5 soums in Khentii. As the general public are not supportive for women being at decision making level and there are risks to women to be dismissed by the ruling party government losing their jobs and deteriorate their living condictions for the longer period the government serving for four years if they are not successful running for local elections, women in soums women are not represented equally in soum CRK and decision making positions.
- The CSOs and the women running offices at decision making level are weak to raise their voices as they have lack of knowledge to run advocacy to influence in policies and participate in decision making processes. Though, there are cases that the elected women officials have conducted activities to revive the traditional activities in the agricultural sector, such as producing the dairy products. The herder women have been provided with medical and health advice.
- There is a lack of understanding on incorporating gender equality and rights of women among CSOs participated in the survey. Also the current CRK members’ gender awareness is relatively low.
- There are 2-3 herder wool and cashmere cooperatives in the soums. These cooperatives are members of the aimag cooperative association. However, herders joined the cooperative in order to receive wool and cashmere premiums. These cooperatives at soum-level operate on a one-person private exchange system. Women make up 40 percent of the partnership and cooperative members. Although a number of partnership and cooperative members are high, woman members are passive in representing in the Booard of CSOs and participating in decision making processes at the same level with men. Some even don’t know they have a membership.
- In Arkhangai aimag, herders and farmers formed groups. Accessibility and quality as well as operation of these groups are considerably limited. They are ill-organized with poor collaboration. 39.3 percent of herders in Khentii aimag are members of PUGs, 12.4 percent are members of cooperatives, 4.5 percent are members of partnerships and 43.8 percent have no membership. However, 8 percent of growers are members of families, 39 percent are members of cooperatives, 3 percent are members of NGOs, and 50 percent have no membership.
- As for Khentii, “KHENNES” NGO, which brings together Khentii gardeners, provides excellent information and cooperation to gardeners.
- The “Aravt system” was established in order to organize herders introduced in Bayan-Ovoo soum, Khentii. This “Aravt System” can be used in future project activities.

- There are “women's financial savings groups” based on WVIM and individual initiatives in the soums, as well as sewing, vegetable, milk and dairy processing groups for women's economic empowerment.
- The local governments provide **SME fund, soum development fund** loans and financial support from soum development fund and local development fund support group activities.
- However, only 34.8 percent of herder households and 20.3 percent of vegetable growers in Khentii and only 36.3 percent of herder households and 33.3 percent of vegetable growers in Arkhangai expressed their views to local decision-making officials in order to address their concerns. Even if the local citizens' awareness and participation in accountability system, the resolutions of the issues raised by them are still poor. Majority of people in soums have lack of knowledge and information to create possibilities to influence in raising their voices for making decisions for their favour.

#### Four. SITUATION OF HERDER WOMEN AND CASHMERE SECTOR

This section discusses the livestock, cashmere production conditions, and social welfare of herder women in the 10 target soums in Arkhangai and Khentii aimag. 42.7 percent of herders in Arkhangai aimag are women and 44.5 percent of herders in Khentii aimag are women.

**Table 16. Information of herders households**

No	Soum	Number of households with livestock	Number of herder households	Number of herders	Herders women, %	Number of herder women
1	Arkhangai	19,102	15,240	25,688	42.7%	10969
2	Erdenebulgan	1,094	690	982		419
3	Battsengel	1,039	870	1362		582
4	Jargalant	1,049	880	1698		725
5	Tubshruulekh	602	520	828		354
6	Tsetserleg	966	860	1450		619
7	Khentii	11,073	7970	11834	44.5%	5266
8	Kherlen	1,347	660	867		386
9	Bayan-Oboo	439	340	529		235
10	Binder	151	100	160		71
11	Murun	431	280	427		190
12	Umnudelger	1,312	940	1355		603

Arkhangai aimag has 15,240 herder households and a total of 6,167,040 livestock, 27.7 percent of which or 1,708,410 are goats. Arkhangai aimag leads the country in the number of horses, cattle and sheep. It is an aimag based on a livestock economy. Arkhangai aimag mainly breeds “Gobi Gurvan Saikhan” and Erchmiin Black Goats. Khentii aimag has 7,970 herder households and a total of 4,868,360 livestock, of which 34.9% or 1,702,630 are goats. Khentii aimag breeds “Bayandelger Red Goat” and “Gal Shar Red Goat” originated Sukhbaatar aimag.

**Table 17. Information of livestock and goats**

No	Soums	Number of livestock	Number of goats	Proportion of goat in the livestock (%)	Average amount of cashmere from per goat (kg)	Total amount of cashmere per year (tons)
1	Arkhangai	6,167,040	1,708,410	27.7	0.3	513
2	Erdenebulgan	247,720	71,240	28.8	0.3	21
3	Battsengel	433,730	116,820	26.9	0.3	35
4	Jargalant	286,540	93,140	32.5	0.3	28
5	Tubshruulekh	180,770	66,580	39.8	0.3	20
6	Tsetserleg	382,060	121,110	31.7	0.3	36
7	Khentii	4,868,360	1,702,630	35	0.3	5108
8	Kherlen	520,420	191,460	36.8	0.3	574
9	Bayan-Oboo	208,970	68,290	32.7	0.3	205
10	Binder	266,860	93,890	35.2	0.3	282
11	Murun	192,520	69,400	36	0.3	208
12	Umnudelger	639,900	250,510	39.1	0.3	752

Source: National Statistics Office, www.1212.mn

**Erdenebulgan soum** has 274,720 heads of livestock, including 20,410 horses, 32,990 cattle, 123,060 sheep and 71,240 goats. The soum has more than 690 herder households out of 6,045 households. In Erdenebulgan soum, the following activities are being carried out for herders.

These include:

- Herders of Erdenebulgan soum are constantly improving their breeds by bringing good quality goats (goats) such as Gobi Gurvan Saikhan and Erchim Khar. Although the breed has improved, cashmere yields have improved, but goats are becoming more fragile and less resilient to climate change. This is because each herder has made voluntary,



non-scientific improvements, which made the above mentioned success. Local experts noted the need to link livestock breeding to the Law on Livestock Genetic Resources.

- Due to the natural features of Arkhangai aimag, cashmere has the advantage of having less dust. In terms of territory, livestock needs to be zoned. There is a risk of overgrazing due to the fact that herders' winter camps and summer camps tend to be joint. The causes of overgrazing include an increase in the number of livestock, overgrazing around water points, reduced rainfall due to climate change, and increased wind storms.
- Herders have a lack knowledge on how to classify and sort goat cashmere.
- Local organizations organize herder meetings, workshops and exhibitions.

**Battsengel soum** has more than 870 herder households out of 1141 households and as of 2019, it is estimated that there are 87 herders who have more than thousand cattle. Battsengel soum is the third largest soum in Arkhangai aimag in terms of the goat population. The following activities are being carried out in Battsengel soum for herders. These include:

- Milkers' Day is organized every year to promote milk and dairy products. The soum also provided support to one group with tanning equipment.
- Within the framework of the Mongolian National Livestock Program, herders are taking the initiative to improve the livestock breed with high quality pedigree animals. In addition, herders were provided with support to purchase pedigree and pedigree livestock with funding from the local development fund.

**Jargalant soum** has 286,540 heads of livestock, including 14,770 horses, 32,350 cattle, 146,280 sheep and 93,140 goats. The soum has more than 880 herder households out of 1172 households. In Jargalant soum, the activities carried out for herders include;

- Herder activities have not taken place in the last 5 years.

**Tuvshruulekh soum** has 180,770 heads of livestock, including 12,150 horses, 16,110 cattle, 85,930 sheep and 66,580 goats. The soum has more than 520 herder households out of 777 households. The activities carried out for herders in Jargalant soum include:

- The locals wash their animals twice a year and once a year to keep them healthy. In order to prevent parasites and diseases of livestock, the herders are having their livestock washed and disinfected.
- Herders' incomes are decreasing due to declining productivity of livestock raw materials due to environmental and climate change. For example, respondents noted a decrease in rainfall and an increase in the number of windy days in recent years.

**Tsetserleg soum** has 382,060 heads of livestock, of which 17,980 are horses, 17,960 are cattle, 225,010 are sheep and 121,110 are goats. The soum has more than 860 herder households out of 1,098 households. In Tsetserleg soum, the activities carried out for herders include;

- Most of the goats in Tsetserlegt soum are black goats. Intensive black goat cashmere is fine-grained. The soum is working to create a core herd to improve the quality and breed of goats. They plan to breed good quality rams from spring 2020. In order to improve the quality of cashmere, herders are interested in breeding good quality livestock.
- Local people wash their animals twice a year and once a year to keep them healthy.
- Herders need scientific advice and support to improve the quality of cashmere.
- Herders emphasized that in order to improve the quality of cashmere, it is necessary to work together and deliver the cashmere to the final producers through a single channel, rather than through a changer.

Herders in **Khentii aimag** are improving their herds with Bayandelger's Red Goat and Gal Shar's Red Goat in Sukhbaatar aimag. Although the breed and the cashmere yields have improved, but goats are becoming more fragile and less resistant to climate change.

Kherlen soum has 520,420 head of livestock, including 31,240 horses, 36,980 cows, 430 camels, 260,310 sheep and 191,460 goats. The soum has more than 660 herder households out of 6987 households. The activities carried out for herders in Kherlen soum included;

- Organized activities to protect pastures and improve pasture ecosystems by organizing herders from the local area into tens. Herders in “Aravt System” working together to grow fodder and prepare animal originated law products.
- Mercy Corps Mongolia is implementing an international project in Khentii aimag, which provides veterinary treatment, sanitation, disinfection and training.

**Bayan-Ovoo soum** has 280,970 head of livestock, including 18,270 horses, 18,580 cattle, 350 camels, 103,490 sheep and 68,290 goats. The soum has more than 340 herder households out of 69 households. The activities aimed at herders in Bayan-Ovoo soum included;

- Herders are organized into groups of ten, and each of the ten is working to protect pastures and to work together to produce livestock raw materials. For example, as informed by Ganbaatar, chairman of the Bayan-Ovoo soum CRH, herders in Naran bagh are organized to grow vegetables together.
- “Sustainable Cashmere” and “Green Pasture” projects are being implemented in Bayan-Ovoo soum.
- The “Sustainable Cashmere” project has signed a cooperation agreement with 71 households in Bayan-Ovoo soum, and plans to work together to reduce animal diseases and improve the quality of cashmere how to prepare it.
- If the soum administration and staff plan to implement projects aimed at herders and citizens in Bayan-Ovoo soum, it is more effective to work based on the “Aravt system”.

**Binder soum** has 266,860 head of livestock, including 18,590 horses, 38,400 cattle, 180 camels, 115,800 sheep and 93,890 goats. The soum has more than 100 herder households out of 1299 households. The following activities are being carried out for herders in Binder soum. These include:

- Binder soum had great potential for potato, vegetable and livestock production. In addition, local women are involved in the collection and sale of dairy products, beekeeping, bread, and natural fruits.
- Local herders are organized into PUGs, partnerships, and cooperatives, but their activities are inconsistent and flawed.

**Murun soum** has 192,520 head of livestock, including 14,580 horses, 11,070 cows, 430 camels, 97,040 sheep and 69,400 goats. The soum has more than 280 herder households out of 694 households. The activities undertaken for herders in Binder soum included;

- Local herders are organized into PUGs, partnerships, and cooperatives, but their activities are inconsistent and flawed. Most of the soum's pastures are degraded.

**Umnudelger soum** has 639,900 head of livestock, including 31,820 horses, 44,360 cows, 100 camels, 313,110 sheep and 250,510 goats. The soum has more than 940 herder households out of 1,087 households. The activities carried out for herders in Umnudelger soum included;

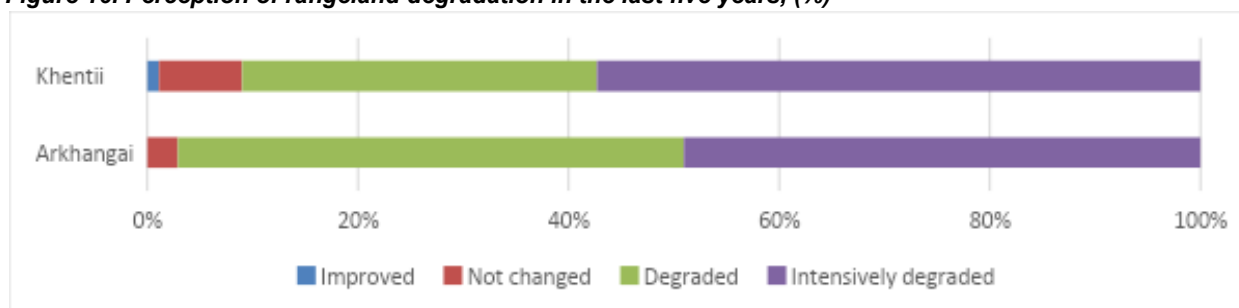
- The “Eastern Region Young Cooperatives” workshop is organized every year to support young herders, cooperatives and collaborations.
- The stakeholders emphasized that there is an urgent need for local herders to work together, but they are not able to work together

## SITUATION OF HERDER WOMEN

A total of 102 participants were surveyed in herder households in Arkhangai aimag, 48 of whom were male and 54 were female, all of whom were over 30 years of age. When asked if pasture conditions have changed compared to five years ago, 97 percent said pasture condition has deteriorated.

Khentii aimag herder household survey covered 89 participants, 45 of whom were male and 44 were female, all of whom were over 30 years of age. When asked if pasture conditions have changed compared to five years ago, 91 percent said it has degraded. The pasture degradation is caused mainly by an increase in the number of livestock, overgrazing around water points, reduced rainfall due to climate change, and increased wind storms. For example, in recent years, climate change has been reflected in declining crop yields, declining rainfall, and an increase in windy days. The survey was conducted in late May in Arkhangai aimag, and noted that herders who did not grow vegetables during the drought were growing vegetables later in the spring each year. Herders also identified ways to cope with climate change as improving the quality of their livestock.

**Figure 16. Perception of rangeland degradation in the last five years, (%)**



Source: The survey primary data

Prices, seasonality, natural disaster (drought, dzud), and transportation are the main factors influencing the sale of livestock raw products in the market. Herders generate about 90 percent of their annual income from cashmere and meat.

**Price changes:** Leather is the most expensive commodity of herders. For example, five years ago, cow skins cost MNT 30,000, but now they cost MNT 5,000, and herders emphasize that other skins are not bought on the market. Cashmere prices have been stable for the past five years, but this year has seen a sharp decline in herders' lives due to Covid-19. Herders are also concerned that sheep's wool and horse tails are very cheap.

**Small market size:** Herders can make milk and dairy products as a final product, but they are not able to cover their expenses because they do not buy much from the local people to process and sell in their soum. The reason for this is that locals are more interested in buying for free from relatives than in buying.

**Natural phenomena (dzud):** It has been pointed out that due to climate change, the number of livestock is not gaining weight and they are not able to get milk and dairy products due to not being able to get offspring.

**Remoteness:** It is not uncommon for raw materials to be sold one by one, rather than in bulk. For example, herders spend a certain amount of money on gasoline and food to sell their raw materials, but the raw materials they sell do not cover their costs.

**Seasonal effect:** Cashmere and meat have the greatest seasonal impact. For example, in the case of fattening, the supply of meat for slaughter increases in the autumn, which creates a situation where it has to be sold cheaply.

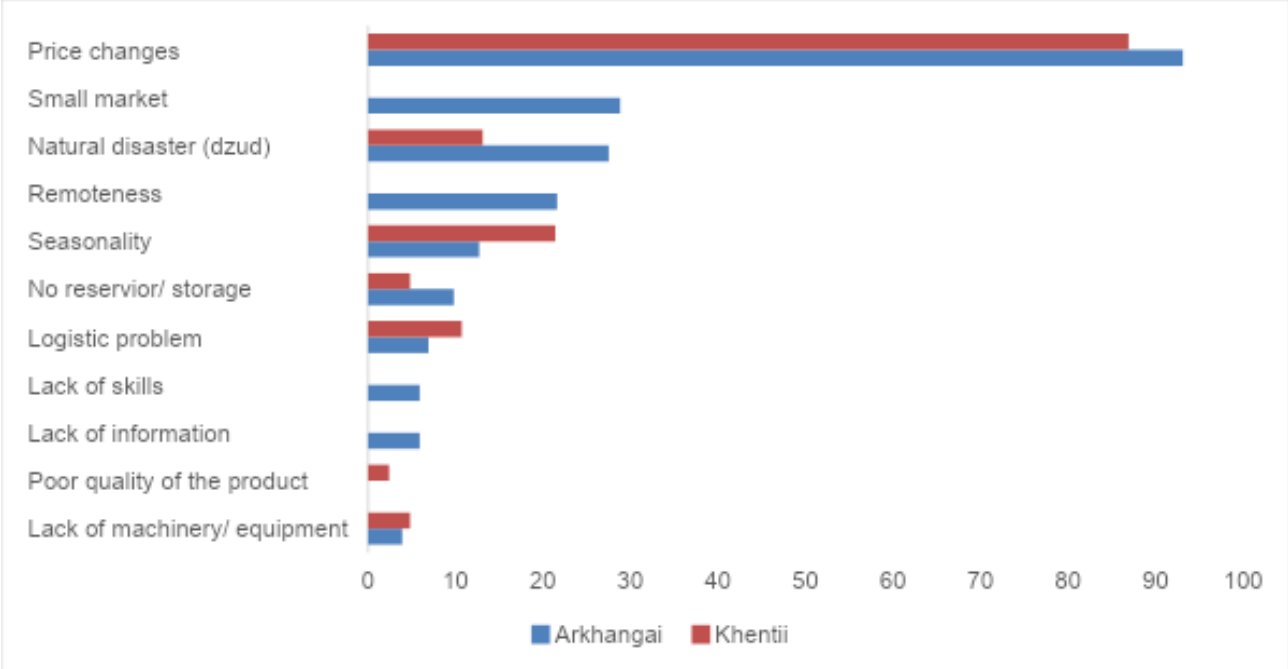
**Warehousing, storage and transportation issues:** There are animal originated raw materials that require storage and transportation, such as meat, milk and hides, but are dependent on seasonal effects.

**Lack of skills:** Herders are interested in processing animal originated raw materials, but lack skills in this area. The skills to sell products in the market is lacking.

**Lack of information:** Herders lack information on the sale of livestock products and market prices.

**Manufactured by hand without equipment:** Herders emphasize that processing raw materials by hand is time consuming. For example, one female herder is interested in processing milk and dairy products, but is unable to process them due to limited time due to the increase in the number of livestock.

Figure 17. Factors influencing commercialization of livestock raw products, (%)



Source: The survey primary data

Herders said that the factors such as establishing partnerships and cooperatives, acquiring production equipment, financial support (loan and grant), equipment and tools and improve their knowledge would be helpful to increase their income from livestock raw materials.

**Establish partnerships and cooperatives:** 62.7 percent of herders in the target soum of Arkhangai aimag have membership, while 56.3 percent of herders in the target soum of Khentii aimag have membership. Herders are dissatisfied with the current organization and do not participate in its activities. However, herders acknowledged the importance partnerships and cooperatives in increase of their income, mainly based on livestock raw materials.

**Financial support:** Herders believe that financial support is necessary to increase their income based on livestock raw materials. Herders responded that they did not have cash.

**Purchase of production equipment and tools:** Herders were interested in processing their raw materials. For example, there was a high level of processing of hides and skins that were

not sold in the market. However, given the lifestyle, workload, and knowledge and experience of herders, there are few opportunities to process products.

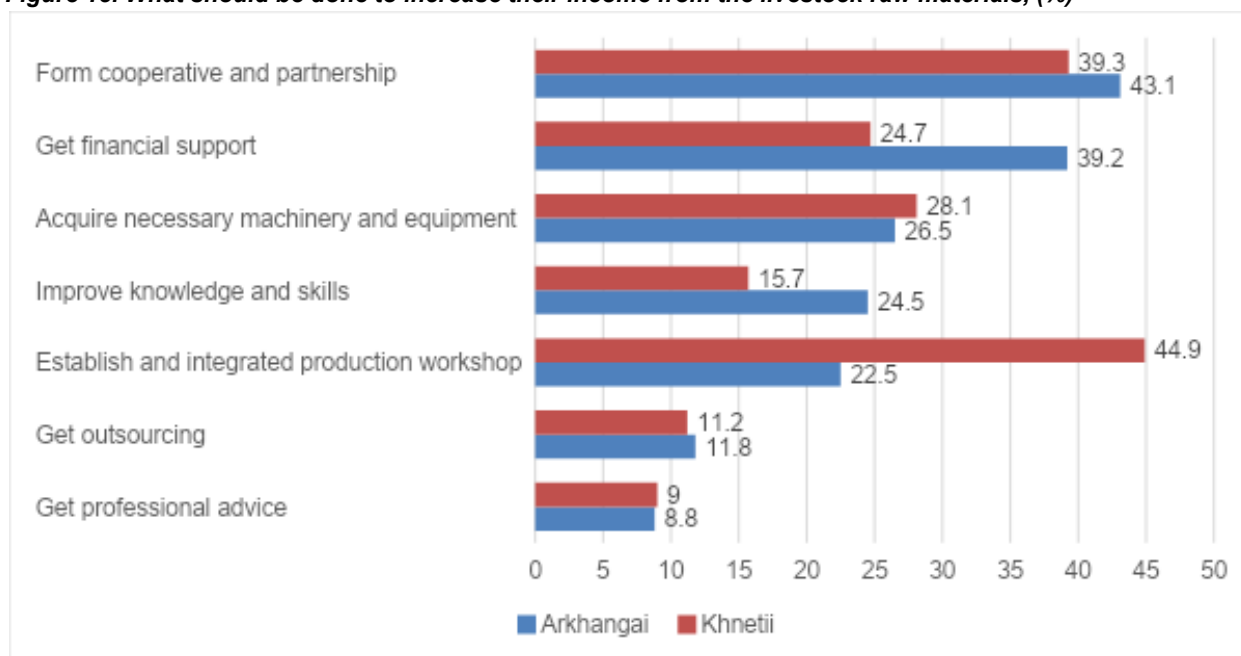
**Improving knowledge and education:** Herders were interested in gaining value-added knowledge about livestock raw materials and gaining knowledge and information about the market and business environment.

**Establish a full-scale, joint venture:** Herders believe that having a local processing plant for livestock products could increase herders' incomes. However, herders are more interested in dealing with the part of the market that offers the highest price. Therefore, there is no guarantee that herders will support local industries and supply their products.

**Recruit additional laborforce:** Herders' workload has increased due to the increase in the number of herders' livestock, which has limited their interest in processing livestock raw materials and the need for low-cost additional labor.

**Get professional advice:** It was emphasized that herders need professional advice in order to add value to livestock raw materials and start production.

**Figure 18. What should be done to increase their income from the livestock raw materials, (%)**



Source: The survey primary data

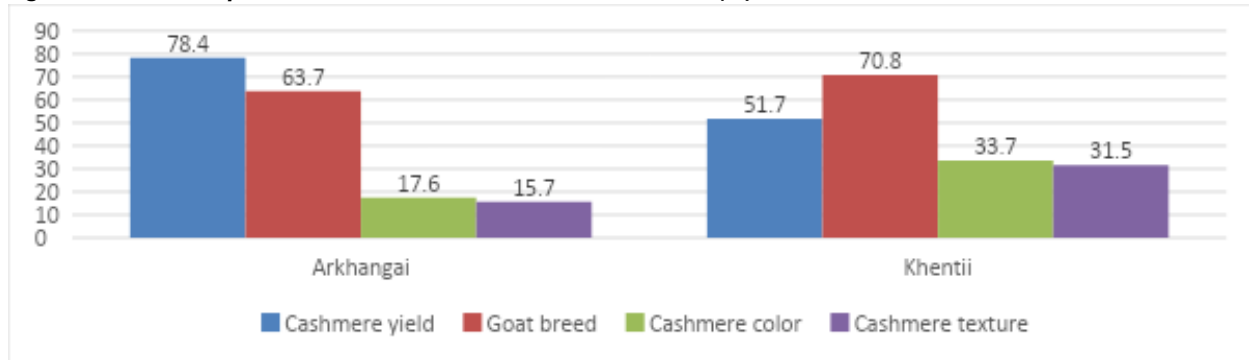
**Herders' preference in cashmere indicators:**

In Arkhangai aimag, the herders give importance to the following cashmere indicators, including yield (78.4 %), goat breed (63.7 %), color (17.6 %) and texture (15.7 %).

In Khentii aimag, The herders give the importance to the following indicators of cashmere, including cashmere yield (51.7 %), goat breed (70.8 %), cashmere color (33.7 %) and cashmere texture (31.5 %).

For herders, cashmere yields and goat breeds are important. Herders are only interested in yielding large quantities of cashmere from goats. Herders are also focusing on improving the goat breed in order to get more cashmere from goats. However, herders are lacking knowledge of the color and texture of cashmere.

**Figure 19. Herders' preference in cashmere related indicators, (%)**



Source: The survey primary data

In Arkhangai aimag, 99 percent of the herders comb their goat on a clean surface while 37 percent of them comb reversely. They also classify the cashmere by its color (2 %) and age and sex (1 %). In Khentii aimag, 100 percent of the herders comb their goat on a mat, which mainly made from different materials. 37.1 % of them comb internally and 13.5 percent of them back-comb. They also classify the cashmere by its color (7.9 %) and age and sex (6.7 %).

**Combing on a clean surface/ mat:** Herders comb their goats with a small and thin mat. In the spring, due to the high dust, it is necessary to put a mat under the goats being combed. However, the mat does not meet the requirements because of it is deteriorated and worn out. Herders surveyed also said that in some soums of Khentii aimag, goat combs, sorting bags and mats were distributed to herders within the framework of the “Sustainable Cashmere” project.





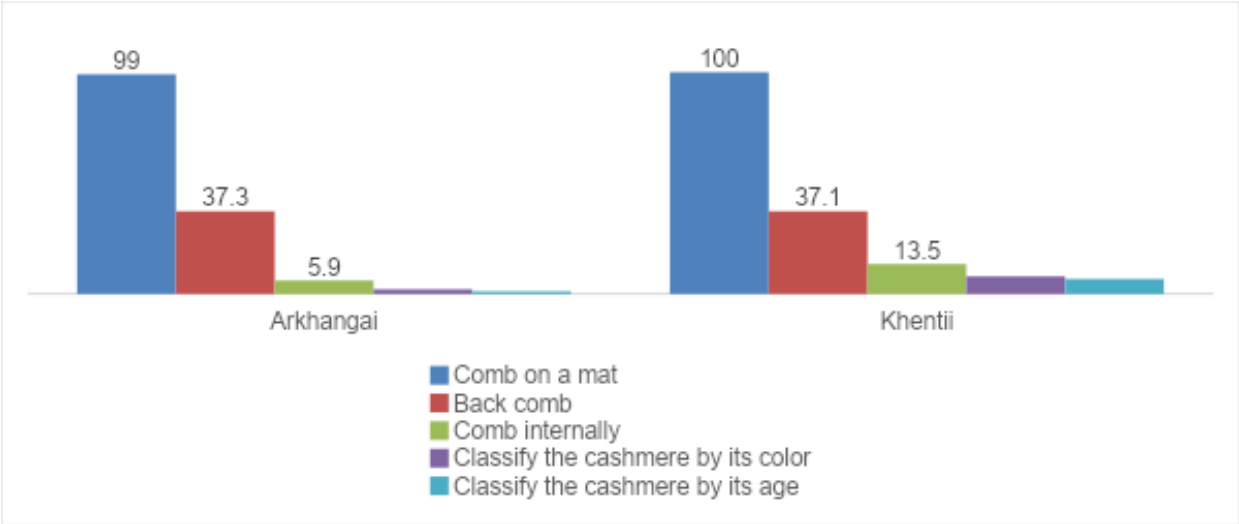
**Back combing:** There are households that back comb their goats to lessen hair strands in the cashmere. It was also mentioned that most herders collect hair strands from their combs in order to reduce the amount of hair.

**Indoor combing:** For herders, unless it is windy or goats combed are high in number, herders usually comb outside. Depending on the weather and goat numbers, herders sometimes prefer to comb in their ger or barns.

**Color-coded:** There are few households that differentiate goat cashmere by color. These households usually classify the cashmere into two colors, black and white. This is because some cashmere buyers buy white cashmere at slightly higher prices. Prior to 1990, during the centrally planned economy period, cashmere was classified by color. The four households surveyed in Khentii aimag had mastered the method of sorting cashmere from that period.

**Cashmere packed by age and sex:** There are few households that classify cashmere by age and sex, but it is possible to classify cashmere by age and sex depending on the time of goat cashmere. For example, adult male goats are usually combed in March and April, female goats in May, and toothed (2-year-old) goats in early June. Cashmere buyers are less interested in buying cashmere and sell it at a lower price. Prior to 1990, cashmere was classified by age and sex during centrally planned economy period. The four households surveyed in Khentii aimag had mastered the method of sorting cashmere from that period.

*Figure 20. Combing and sorting practices for cashmere collection*



Source: The survey primary data

In Arkhangai aimag, whenever the herders don't use the above-mentioned techniques, they are asked if they are interested in doing these activities in the future. The results show that 77.5 percent of the herders are interested in learning how to do these activities in the future, 15.7 % said they have no interest and 6.9 percent said they don't know. In Khentii aimag, whenever the herders don't use the above-mentioned techniques, they are asked if they are interested in doing these activities in the future. The results show that 76.4 percent of the herders are interested in learning how to do these activities in the future, 10.1 % said they have no interest and 13.5 percent said they don't know.

Herders are interested in differentiating goat cashmere by color, age and sex, and preparing goat cashmere cleanly, but they are not interested in doing so if the cashmere produced is not expensive. However, for participants who are less interested in doing these activities, it is time

consuming to differentiate, and there is no expectation that the price will be significantly different.

In Arkhangai aimag, 79.5 percent of herder households sell the cashmere in soum centers, 44.1 percent sell their cashmere to individual traders, 16.7 percent in aimag centers, and 15.7 percent in Ulaanbaatar respectively. In Khentii aimag, 44.5 percent of herder households sell the cashmere in soum centers, 20.7 percent sell their cashmere to individual traders, 22.8 percent in aimag centers, and 12 % in Ulaanbaatar respectively

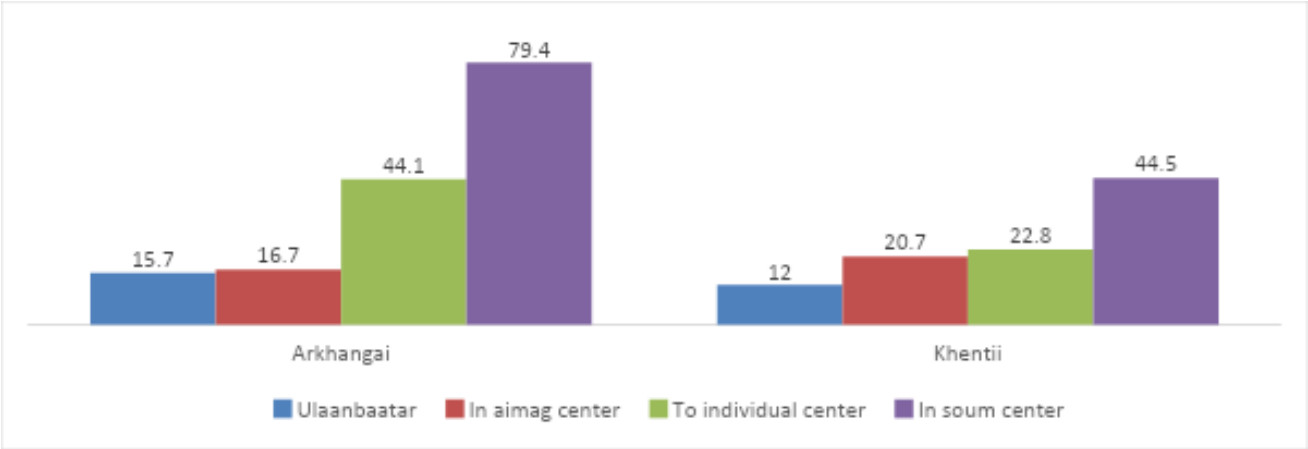
**Soum center:** Local herders usually sell their cashmere to their registered cooperatives in order to receive wool and cashmere bonuses. This year, the cashmere was sold to the cooperative due to the government's premium. However, herders do not give all their cashmere to their cooperatives. This is because some cashmere is sold at a high price in Ulaanbaatar and aimag centers.

**Mobile money changers:** In Arkhangai and Khentii aimags, due to their proximity to Ulaanbaatar, mobile money changers often go to herders to buy cashmere. For these mobile traders, cashmere is purchased directly for cash.

**Aimag center:** About 20 percent of herders sell small amounts of cashmere to the aimag.

**In Ulaanbaatar:** Households that buy large quantities of cashmere with a large number of goats in the spring are more interested in supplying it to Ulaanbaatar in bulk at a higher price. In addition, herder families with children in Ulaanbaatar often sell their cashmere in Ulaanbaatar.

Figure 21. Where the herders sell their cashmere, (%)



Source: The survey primary data

**CONCLUSIONS:**

**In Arkhangai aimag:**

- Herders are bringing in good quality goats (goats) such as Gobi Gurvan Saikhan and Erchim Khar, and are constantly improving their breeds.
- ADB's "Agricultural Value Chain Project" and the World Bank's "Agricultural Marketing" projects have been implemented in the target soums, working with local herders and vegetable growers. A memorandum of understanding has been signed to implement the second phase of the Agricultural Marketing project, the Livestock commercialization project. In addition, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) funded the "Market and Pasture Management Development – additional financing" project.



- Local herders are organized into PUGs, partnerships, and cooperatives. However, their activities are inconsistent and sustainable.
- Pasture conditions have deteriorated compared to 5 years ago.
- Prices, seasonality, natural phenomena (drought, dzud), and transportation are the most common problems in selling livestock products to the market.
- Herders have identified the importance of the following factors, including the establishment of joint ventures, partnerships and cooperatives, the acquisition of industrial equipment, financial support, and education to increase their income.

**In Khentii aimag:**

- Herders are improving the herd structure with Sukhbaatar's "Bayandelger's red goat" and Khentii's "Gal shar's red goat".
- Mercy Corps Mongolia is implementing the Livestock Business Development and Animal Health Veterinary programs in the target project soums. The implementation of this program is welcomed by local authorities.
- "Sustainable Cashmere" and "Green Pasture" projects are being implemented in some soums, and the project has started to work together to reduce animal diseases and improve the quality of cashmere and how to prepare it.
- Local herders are organized into PUGs, partnerships, and cooperatives, but their activities are inconsistent and flawed.
- Pasture conditions have deteriorated compared to 5 years ago.
- Prices, seasonality, natural phenomena (drought, dzud), and transportation are the most common problems in selling livestock products to the market.
- Herders have identified factors such as the establishment of full-scale joint ventures, partnerships and cooperatives, the acquisition of industrial equipment, financial support, and education to increase income based on livestock raw materials.

## Five. SITUATION OF FARMING AND VEGETABLE GROWER WOMEN

Arkhangai aimag has a short history of farming. At the time of the survey, the cultivated area dedicated to potatoes and vegetables was small and the number of farmers was small. As of the end of 2019, potatoes and vegetables are grown on a total of 390.7 hectares in Arkhangai aimag. Of this, 48.2 ha are owned by enterprises and 342.4 ha are planted by households with potatoes and vegetables.

Among the soums selected for the project in Khentii aimag, Kherlen, Binder, Murun and Umnudelger soums had a historical tradition of growing vegetables, and vegetable cultivation was well established. Bayan-Ovoo soum, on the other hand, had little experience or knowledge of vegetable growing. Local authorities in Kherlen, Murun, Binder, and Bayan-Ovoo soums supported local support for potato and vegetable growing. In Umnudelger soum, however, support was weak due to the lack of pasture accessibility.

As of the end of 2019, Khentii aimag is growing potatoes and vegetables on a total of 403.61 hectares. Of this, 149.28 ha are owned by enterprises and 254.34 ha are planted by households with potatoes and vegetables.

**TABLE 18. SIZE OF THE AREA WHERE VEGETABLE ARE BEING PLANTED IN THE SOUMS (HECTARE)**

No	Soums	Potato (ha)	Vegetable (ha)	Size of the area where the enterprises plant potatoes	Size of the area where the enterprises plant vegetable	Size of the area where households plant potatoes	Size of the area where the households plant vegetable
1	Arkhangai	264.25	126.46	42.3	5.99	221.95	120.46
2	Erdenebulgan	195	96.8	33.1	2	161.9	94.8
3	Battsengel	1.04	1.5	-	0.6	1.04	0.9
4	Jargalant	0.6	-	-	-	0.6	-
5	Tuvshruulekh	10	1.85	-	-	10	1.85
6	Tsetserleg	4.1	0.6	4.1	0.6	-	-
7	Khentii	243.02	160.59	100.8	48.48	142.22	112.12
8	Kherlen	75.6	39	62.6	26.95	13	12.05
9	Bayan-Ovoo	2.02	0.26	-	-	2.02	0.26
10	Binder	20	12.5	-	-	20	12.5
11	Murun	26.2	29	3	13.57	23.2	15.44
12	Umnudelger	19	3.1	-	-	19	31

Source: National Statistics Office, www.1212.mn

As of 2019, 2,462.10 tons of potatoes and 1,226.20 tons of vegetables were harvested in the Arkhangai aimag. Cabbage, carrots, yellow turnip, beets, onions, garlic, cucumbers, and tomatoes were the most popular crops.

As of 2019, 3,289.8 tons of potatoes and 2,066.1 tons of vegetables were harvested in the Khentii aimag. Cabbage, carrots, yellow turnip, beets, onions, garlic, cucumbers, and tomatoes were the most popular crops.

**TABLE 19. AMOUNT OF POTATO AND VEGETABLE HARVESTED IN THE SOUMS (TONS)**

No	Items	Arkhangai	Erdenebulgan	Battseten	Jarungalant	Tuvshruuleh	Tsetserleg	Khentii	Khovd	Bayan-Ovoo	Bindur	Murun	Umnudger
1	Potato	2,462.1	1,950	8	1	95	5.3	3,289.8	1,360.8	27.2	124	649.8	167.4
2	Vegetable	1,226.2	1,095.7	9.2	-	17.1	0.62	2,066.1	852.4	3.15	61.8	555.8	10.9
2.1	Cabbage	222.8	196.7	-	-	4.7	0.1	338	187	0.5	16	50	2.4
2.2	Carrot	223.1	190	1.6	-	2.25	0.26	446.9	121	0.5	13.2	187.5	3
2.3	Beet	245.6	200.5	2	-	2.25	0.26	317.3	110	0.4	12.5	65.1	1.3
2.4	Beetroot	145.2	139.6	1.5	-	2.4	-	216.6	99	0.95	3	60.6	1.3
2.5	Onion	148.4	137.9	1.2	-	4.5	-	230.6	112.2	0.5	8.4	52.5	1.3
2.6	Garlic	63.7	62.7	-	-	-	-	103.9	55	-	0.2	47.6	-
2.7	Cucumber	56.8	52.8	1	-	-	-	148.2	58.2	-	4	55	1.3
2.8	Tomato	25.1	22	0.6	-	1	-	68.8	55	-	1	2	-
2.9	Watermelon	-	-	-	-	-	-	107.3	0	-	-	30	-
2.10	Sweet melon	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.2	-	-	-	-	-
2.11	Pumpkin	0.3	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-
2.12	Belly pepper	0.8	-	0.4	-	-	-	1.3	-	-	-	0.5	-
2.13	Other	94.4	93.5	0.9	-	-	-	87.2	55	0.3	3.5	5	-

Source: National Statistics Office, www.1212.mn

As of the end of 2019, **Erdenebulgan soum** planted a total of 291.8 hectares, of which 195 hectares were planted with potatoes and 96.8 hectares were planted with vegetables. Of this, 35.1 ha are owned by enterprises and 256.7 ha are planted by households with potatoes and vegetables. Also, 1,950 tons of potatoes and 1,095.70 tons of vegetables were harvested. The current situation of potato and vegetable cultivation in Erdenebulgan soum is as follows;

- Residents of Erdenebulgan soum are growing vegetables in two locations. In addition, many people grow vegetables in their backyards for their own needs. Recently, there is a growing interest in producing vegetables in greenhouses for these people cultivating vegetables in their backyards. The soum's agricultural expert noted that the number of people growing vegetables in greenhouses for their own needs is increasing. For example, about 10 households are currently growing vegetables in greenhouses.
- There is a growing interest in producing vegetables, but there is a lack of arable land. Most vegetable growers in Erdenebulgan soum grow in Ikhtamir, Bulgan and Tuvshruulekh soums. Two farming sites in Erdenebulgan soum are irrigated from wells with limited water supply.
- Due to lack of equipment, manual cultivation is used. For example, in Erdenebulgan soum, there is only one tractor put into operation in 1970. During the survey, Od KR reported that the cooperative was borrowing a new tractor from the SME Fund.
- The local government is reluctant to provide pastureland for agriculture because of its support for livestock production. There are also many cases of herders entering the vegetable crops and destroying with their livestock.

- There is a lack of water in two areas used for vegetables.
- There is a significant lack of financial support from banks and financial institutions for vegetable growers due to lack of collateral and lack of business organization.
- There are no standard cellars for storing vegetables in the soum, so vegetables are sold at low prices during the warm season.
- The majority of current vegetable growers are elderly. As a result, the vegetable sector has stagnated due to declining productivity. However, young people are not employed in the vegetable growing sector due to the nature of their work and low wages.

As of the end of 2019, **Battsengel soum** planted a total of 2.54 hectares, of which 1.04 hectares were planted with potatoes and 1.5 hectares were planted with vegetables. Of this, 0.6 ha is for enterprises and 1.94 ha is for potatoes and vegetable. Also, 8 tons of potatoes and 9.2 tons of vegetable were harvested. The current situation of potato and vegetable cultivation in Battsengel soum is as follows;

- There are no organized vegetable groups in Battsengel soum
- There are 2 households in the soum that cultivate for sale. One in two of these households is a female-headed.
- There are no households that produce value-added products using vegetables
- No training or consultation on growing vegetables and producing value-added products using vegetables.
- Pre-1990 fallow lands are divided into three parts.

As of the end of 2019, **Jargalant soum** planted a total of 0.6 ha, 0.6 ha of which was potatoes and 0 ha were vegetables. Of these, 0 ha are for enterprises and 0.6 ha are for potatoes and vegetables. Also, 1 ton of potatoes and 0 tons of vegetables were harvested. The current situation of potato and vegetable cultivation in Jargalant soum is as follows;

- Potato and vegetable production is not well developed in Jargalant soum
- 2 vegetable partnerships were established in the local area with a focus on vegetable growing and 3 hectares of land were fenced. However, it is not profitable for farmers to grow vegetables, so they plan to grow vegetables and fodder.
- There is a lack of knowledge and skills for people to grow potatoes and vegetables.
- There is a lack of machinery and equipment for people to grow potatoes and vegetables.

At the end of 2019, **Tuvshruulekh soum** planted a total of 11.85 hectares, 10 hectares of which were planted with potatoes and 1.85 hectares were planted with vegetables. Of these, 0 ha are owned by enterprises and 11.85 ha are planted by households with potatoes and vegetables. In addition, 95 tons of potatoes and 17.1 tons of vegetable were harvested. The current situation of potato and vegetable cultivation in Jargalant soum is as follows;

- There are 8 groups of potatoes and vegetables in the soum. One group has 6-10 members and the group includes a spouse.
- Tuvshuurlekh soum was a former farming area. Therefore, citizens have the knowledge and experience to grow potatoes and vegetables. People grow potatoes and vegetables in their backyards for the needs of most households.
- The local government is implementing measures such as allocating land to vegetable growers and providing loans from the local development fund.
- The technological regime has been lost due to the fact that every citizen interested in growing vegetables is doing it.
- There are 45-50 households in the soum, but they are not able to produce enough due to equipment problems.

As of the end of 2019, **Tsetserleg soum** planted a total of 4.7 hectares, 4.1 hectares of which were planted with potatoes and 0.6 hectares were planted with vegetables. Of this, 4.7 ha are

owned by enterprises and 0 ha are planted by households with potatoes and vegetables. Also, 5.3 tons of potatoes and 0.62 tons of vegetables were harvested.

- Potato and vegetable production is not well developed in Tsetserleg soum. With the implementation of the “Agricultural Marketing Project” in this soum in 2015, 18 hectares of land were prepared and 8 cooperatives were established by supplying people interested in growing potatoes and vegetable from vulnerable families. In doing so, the operation was supported by equipment and financial support.
- As of 2019, about 5 hectares have been planted with vegetables and the rest have been planted with green fodder.
- However, due to the lack of knowledge and experience in growing potatoes and vegetable, and the lack of water supply, these people have been forced to stop their activities.
- With the support of the Agricultural Marketing Project, equipment, including small tractor seeder small hand irrigator was provided for the production of additional salads using vegetables. However, this activity also stopped.
- With local support, two plots of land, one 50 hectares and the other 30 hectares of green fodder, is fenced. However, due to financial and climatic difficulties, the area is not fully utilized.

***During the survey, the cooperation and organization of growers in 5 soums of Khentii aimag where the project is being implemented was very good.*** The Khentii Integrated Vegetable Network NGO, a member of the Khentii Aimag Growers’ Association, have had a positive impact on the sustainability of vegetable growers’ cooperation and information exchange. “HENNES” NGO was established by 5 CSOs, 10 cooperatives and 7 families of Khentii aimag’s agricultural sector.

The organization was established within the framework of the “Project to strengthen civil society and local cooperation in the agricultural sector in Khentii aimag” implemented by Caritas Czech Republic and its partners. ***“HENNES” NGO has developed a sub-program to develop the “Vegetable” sector in Khentii aimag.*** The program aims to develop the potato, vegetable and fruit sectors by supporting the leadership and cooperation of growers, and to achieve sustainable development goals to ensure local food security and reduce unemployment and poverty. HENNES is currently working with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) -funded Women Farmers’ Association, Kherlen soum governor’s office, and DZOUB Bor-Undur 2 ADP to support low-income households living in urban ger areas through shared water sources and group farming. The “Mongolian Vegetable-Standard Street” project to create a new model is being implemented at 6a and b streets in the first bagh of Kherlen soum.

“HENNES” NGO stated that in case of cooperation with the IMPACT project, it is possible to jointly carry out the activities included in the “Vegetable” sector development sub-program.

As of the end of 2019, **Kherlen soum** planted a total of 114.6 hectares, of which 75.6 hectares were planted with potatoes and 39 hectares were planted with vegetables. Of this, 89.55 ha are owned by enterprises and 25.05 ha are planted by households with potatoes and vegetables. 1,360 tons of potatoes and 8,52.4 tons of vegetables were harvested. Current situation of potato and vegetable cultivation in Kherlen soum. These include:

- The majority of gardeners in Kherlen soum are women and the elderly.
- The Governor’s Office of Kherlen soum is implementing a program called “Every household is a producer” and within the framework of this program, the potato and vegetable growing sector is being supported.
- The Governor’s Action Plan and activities are to implement the “Vegetables” sub-program approved in Khentii aimag.

- Women in Kherlen soum work more as a group and as a family in growing vegetables and sewing.
- “HENNES” NGO is working to strengthen the cooperation of vegetable growers in Kherlen soum and to develop value-added products.
- Growers are producing moisture-proof beet humus on their own initiative. This bio-compost is profitable for sale and they intend to work with the project in this area in the future.
- The local government has introduced provisions to promote vegetable pickling plants with the loan from the LDF and LFS.
- The most pressing issue for vegetable growers was the need for a single, low-cost point of sale for their vegetables.

As of the end of 2019, **Bayan-Ovoo soum** planted a total of 2.28 hectares, of which 2.02 hectares were planted with potatoes and 0.26 hectares were planted with vegetables. Of these, 0 ha are owned by enterprises and 2.28 ha are planted by households with potatoes and vegetables. Also, 27.2 tons of potatoes and 3.15 tons of vegetables were harvested. Current situation of potato and vegetable cultivation in Bayan-Ovoo soum. These include:

- In Bayan-Ovoo soum, there are 5 households growing vegetables in greenhouses and about 50 households growing vegetables in their plots. WWF and FTF are jointly implementing fruit tree planting projects in 15 households. Two streets in the soum center have been selected to grow potatoes and vegetables, and eco-streets are being built based on households.
- Bayan-Ovoo soum residents have little experience in growing potatoes and vegetables, so there is a great need for training, advice and experience on how to grow vegetables.
- There are 20 hectares of fallow land in the soum where potatoes and vegetables can be grown. The local government is planning to put this 20 hectares of land into circulation.
- Terbish, a vegetable grower from Bayan-Ovoo soum, joined HENNS in 2018 and was very satisfied with HENNS. There are 5 households in Bayan-Ovoo soum that regularly grow potatoes and vegetables.
- Problems with growing vegetables include poor quality and lack of equipment.

At the end of 2019, **Binder soum** planted a total of 32.5 hectares, of which 20 hectares were planted with potatoes and 12.5 hectares with vegetables. Of these, 0 ha are for enterprises and 32.5 ha are for potatoes and vegetables. Also, 124 tons of potatoes and 61.8 tons of vegetables were harvested. Current situation of potato and vegetable cultivation in Binder soum. These include:

- There are 89 households growing potatoes and vegetables in Binder soum. In Binder soum, free vegetable seeds have been provided to vegetable growers as part of the “Let's live well in our land” program since 2019. There are 16 cellars in the soum. Vegetables are being watered on the surface of the Onon River. Most people grow their own vegetables by hand.
- In Bider soum, there are problems with growing vegetables, such as insufficient supply of cellars, lack of seed quality, seed storage, and irrigation system.
- World Vision International Mongolia is organizing a group of vulnerable people to grow potatoes and vegetables.
- Support in the field of vegetables may remain the property of one person. This is resulted from the poor cooperation practice.

As of the end of 2019, **Murun soum** planted a total of 55.2 hectares, of which 26.2 hectares were planted with potatoes and 29 hectares were planted with vegetables. Of this, 16.57 ha are owned by enterprises and 38.64 ha are planted by households with potatoes and vegetables.



Also, 649.8 tons of potatoes and 555.8 tons of vegetables were harvested. Current situation of potato and vegetable cultivation in Murun soum. These include:

- Growers in Murun soum account for 60% of Khentii aimag's potato and vegetable consumption.
- More than 100 households in Murun soum grow potatoes and vegetables.

#### CHALLENGES

- Due to lack of machinery and equipment, it is cultivated by hand.
- The farmer are highly reliant on river water supply. However, every year, there is a problem with water supply because of the disruptions of river continuity. Irrigation needs to be addressed.
- We have been sowing the same seed for many years, so we need to renew the seed.
- We need to pay attention to the stockpiling of the "Murun Tsagaan Garlic" brand
- There is a need for a modern standard cellar for storing potatoes and vegetables
- Soil quality has deteriorated due to the fact that every household cultivates according to their own interests and opportunities. There is an urgent need to control the use of fertilizers in the soil. Since this area has been cultivated since 1940, it is necessary to organize works to improve soil fertility.
- There are 48 hectares of land for potatoes and vegetables in the soum, but 28 hectares are under cultivation due to irrigation issues.
- Soum growers have established cooperatives and families but are not able to work together. This is caused by little experience and knowledge of cooperation. They said that there are little benefits seen from cooperation.

As of the end of 2019, **Umnudelger soum** planted a total of 22.1 hectares, of which 19 hectares were planted with potatoes and 3.1 hectares were planted with vegetables. Of these 0 ha are for enterprises and 22.1 ha are for potatoes and vegetables. Also, 167.4 tons of potatoes and 10.9 tons of vegetables were harvested. Current situation of potato and vegetable cultivation in Bayan-Ovoo soum. These include:

- 25 ha of arable land was allocated from the local area and 10 ha of this land was provided with irrigation system. In addition, we are providing seeds to growers within the framework of the "Mongolian Vegetables" program.
- The problems faced by the growers of Umnudelger soum is the lack of cellars and all equipment.
- In order to support the activities of gardeners, the local vegetables from soum gardeners for lunch at soum schools, kindergartens and hospitals should be promoted.
- The agricultural sector is dominated by women and the elderly. Mr.Tseveen, a senior agronomist, pointed out that there is a risk of losing the continuity of vegetable growing. He also noted that young people are mainly involved in growing grains and wheat due to the unprofitability of growing potatoes and vegetables.

The study involved a total of 27 potato and vegetable growers from 5 target soums of Arkhangai aimag, 12 of them were male and 15 were female, all aged over 40. In addition, 13 of the 27 participants cereals than potatoes and vegetable.

In addition to growing potatoes and vegetables, there were 13 households growing fruits and vegetables and fodder. 34.6 percent of the respondents have under 5 years of experience, 7.7 percent have 6-10 years of experience, 7.7 percent have 11-15 years of experience, 15.4 percent have 16-20 years of experience, and 34.6 percent have over 21 years of experience. In

addition, all the survey participants (100 percent) operate during the warm season. 18.5 percent of the total respondents are reliant only on agricultural income, while the rest have side jobs. For example, 37 percent are self-employed, 25.9 percent work in government organizations, and 18.5 percent are herders. Potato and vegetable growers earn 20,000-5,000,000 MNT.

A total of 64 participants were included in the survey of vegetable growers in the target soums of Khentii aimag, 22 of whom were men and 42 were women. All the of the participants were over 40 years old. In addition to growing potatoes and vegetables, there were 30 households growing fruits, grains, and fodder. 12.5 percent of the respondents worked in the potato and vegetable sector for up to 5 years, 25 percent for 6-10 years, 14 percent for 11-15 years, 10.9 percent for 16-20 years, and 37.5 percent for more than 21 years. existing households are covered. In addition, 6.3 percent of respondents operate during the four seasons of the year, while the remaining 93.8 percent operate during the warm season. 45.3 percent of the total respondents live only on agricultural income, while the rest have secondary jobs. For example, 32.8 percent are self-employed, 9.4 percent work in government organizations, 9.4 percent are herders, and 3.1 percent work in private organizations.

In Arkhangai aimag, 100 percent of potato and vegetable growers own of their land, 40.7 percent have greenhouses, 44.4 percent have warehouses, and 33.3 percent have machinery. In Khentii aimag, Potato and vegetable growers own 100 percent of their land, 32.8 percent have greenhouses, 25 percent have warehousing, and 15.6 percent have machinery.

**Land:** Potato and vegetable growers all officially possess their land. The first major measure to support local potato and vegetable growers is to provide them with land. The local government is also providing them with fencing of potato and vegetable plots and water supply as part of job creation measures.

**Greenhouses:** In recent years, potato and vegetable growers have become more interested in growing vegetables in greenhouses. In addition, each soum has the opportunity to obtain a greenhouse on concessional terms from the local SME and Soum Development Fund to support potato and vegetable cultivation. It is also available at a discounted price from the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. The most pressing issues for growing potatoes and vegetables in rural areas include water issues and the low use of water in greenhouses to meet the needs of growers. Caritas has also provided greenhouses as part of a previous project implemented by the Czech ISO.

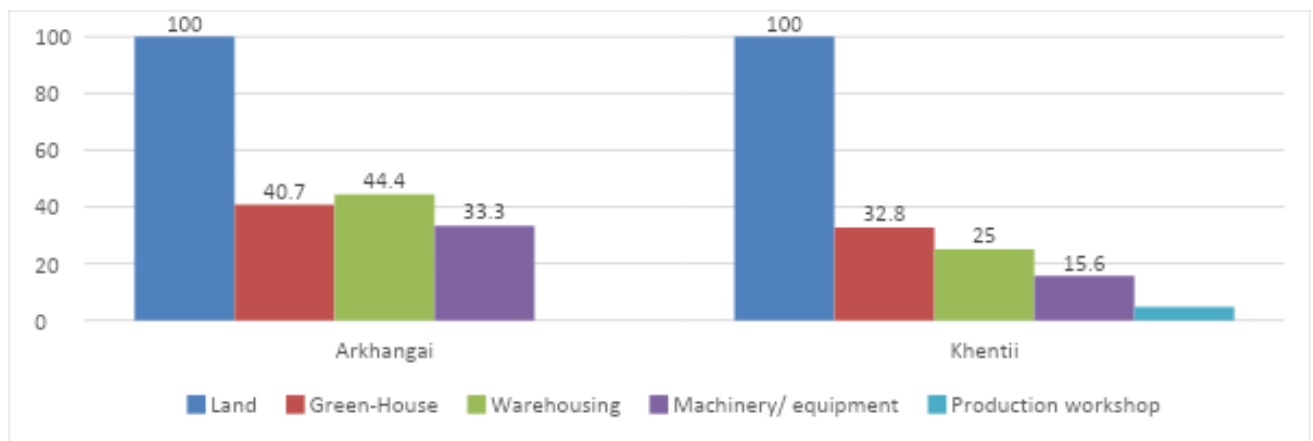
**Cellars:** Each soum has one cellar used before 1990, and these cellars do not meet operational requirements. In recent years, there has been a growing tendency for growers to build their own small cellars due to increased supply of vegetables in the fall and lower vegetable prices, as well as interest in storing and selling vegetables at higher prices in the spring. Yangjinkham, the head of Od Kr Cooperative in Arkhangai aimag, has experience in building his own vegetable storage cellar, and in recent years, cellars have been built for 10 households in Erdenebulgan soum.

**Machinery:** In Khentii aimag, agricultural machinery/equipment has never been used before, but in the last two years, with the Prime Minister, U. Khurelsukh's support, each soum was provided with a set of agricultural kits. In Arkhangai aimag, there is no machinery other than two tractors and small hand tools.

**Small production workshop:** There is one workshop established in Khentii aimag within the framework of the previous project. However, there is poor communication among the growers in this workshop.

*FIGURE 22. LAND INFORMATION, (PERCENT)*





Source: The survey primary data

In Arkhangai aimag, The factors influencing the Increase of the production instead of product sell included lack of all equipment (48.1%), lacked warehousing and storage facilities (44.4%), price changes (25.9%), no outlets (22.2%) and small market (18.5%).

In Khentii aimag, The factors influencing the product sell included lack of equipment (43.8%), lacked warehousing and storage facilities (51.6%), price changes (50%), seasonality (28.1%) and small market (21.9%).

**Prepared by hand without equipment:** Potato and vegetable growers earn less from potato vegetables. Due to the lack of equipment and the lack of storage facilities, large-scale cultivation is not possible. The majority of potato and vegetable growers in the soum are low-income people. Growers do not have the opportunity to purchase machinery / equipment for a small income. The most necessary equipment for gardeners is plowing tractors, seedlings and irrigation equipment.

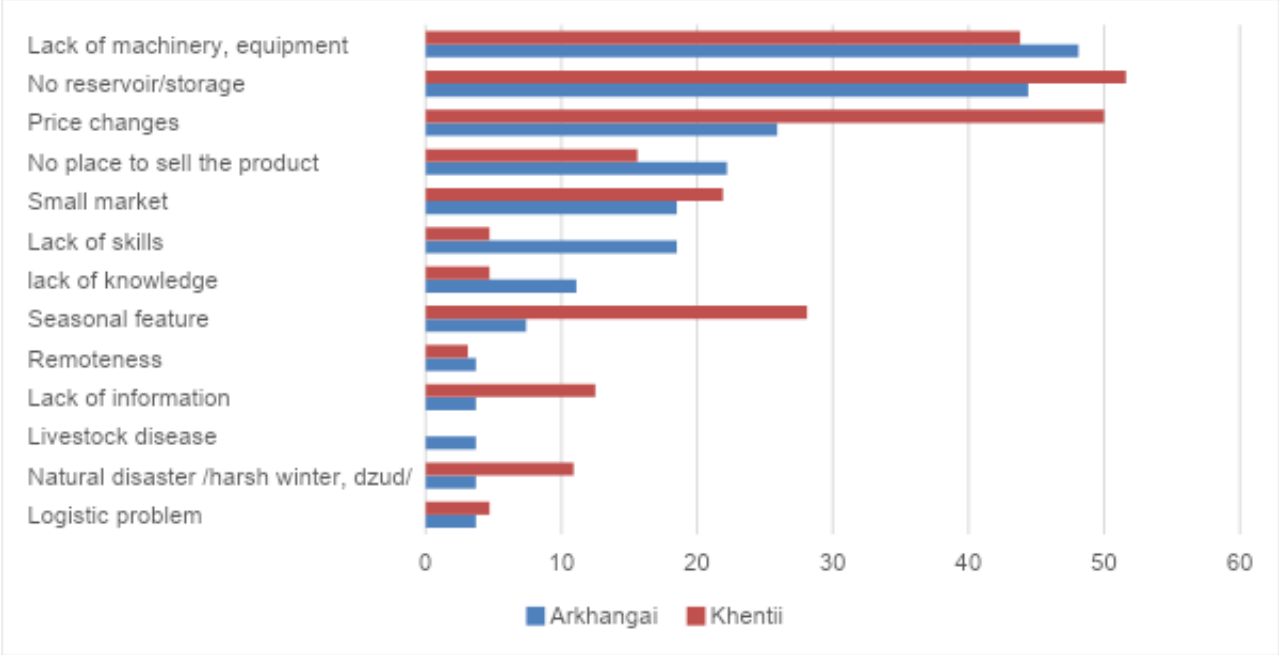
**Lack of storage containers:** The most common problem faced by growers is storage containers. Due to the lack of storage facilities, growers are forced to sell their vegetables cheaply in the fall. Also, the few existing cellars do not meet the standard.

**Price changes:** Prices for potatoes and vegetables vary from year to year depending on harvest conditions. There are no outlets: Growers do not have outlets for potatoes and vegetables. There is a rental fee for the sale in the mall.

**Small market size:** it is difficult for locals to sell vegetables and there are few consumers.

**Lack of skills:** Gardeners lack the skills to manage their crops properly. The skill to grow a variety of vegetables is lacking.

**Figure 23. Challenge to sell the vegetable in the market, (percent)**



Source: The survey primary data

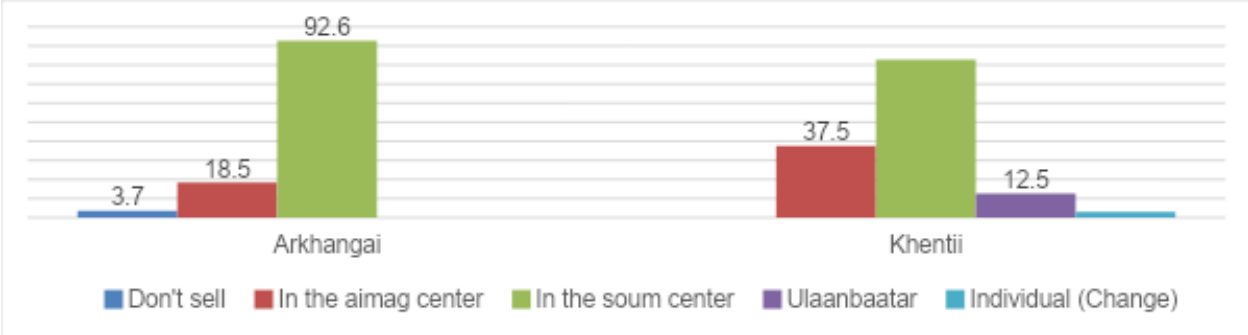
In Arkhangai aimag, 92.6 percent of the vegetable growers sell the products in the soum center, 18.5 percent in the aimag, and 3.7 percent for their own market.

In Khentii aimag, 82.8 percent of the vegetable growers sell the products in the soum center, 37.5 percent in the aimag, and 12.5 percent in Ulaanbaatar and 3.1 sell to individual traders.

**In soum center:** Vegetable growers tend to sell their vegetable in the soum because of small amount of cultivation and high transportation cost.

**In aimag center:** The local farmers usually sell their cultivation during the annual autumn fair.

**Figure 24. Where vegetable growers sell their products (percent)**



Source: The survey primary data

Vegetable growers have the following suggestions related to the development and acceleration of the vegetable growing sector. In Arkhangai aimag, They included producing value-added products (36 percent), providing financial support (36 percent), increasing machinery and equipment (32 percent), creating sales channels (28 percent) and increasing irrigation systems (24 percent).

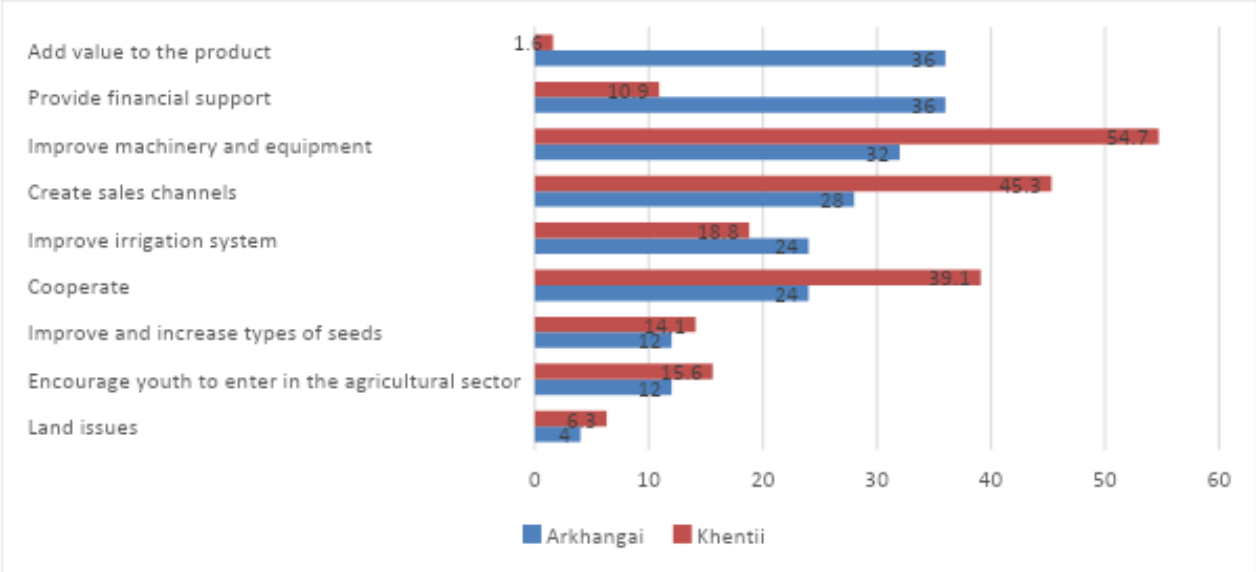
In Khentii aimag, Vegetable growers have the following suggestions related to the development and acceleration of the vegetable growing sector. They included cooperating (39.1 percent),

encouraging youth to the agriculture sector (15.6 percent), increasing machinery and equipment (54.7 percent), creating sales channels (45.3 percent) and increasing irrigation systems (18.8 percent).

**Production of value-added products:** Growers of Arkhangai aimag are interested in producing value-added products. In Khentii aimag, however, this interest is low. In the case of value-added production, collaboration among growers needs to be improved. For example, it was noted that there is a lack of raw material supply, cooperation and financial resources for the operation of a small workshop in Khentii aimag.

**Financial support:** Growers need a lot of cash when spring planting begins, and growers have limited access to credit due to a lack of bank collateral.

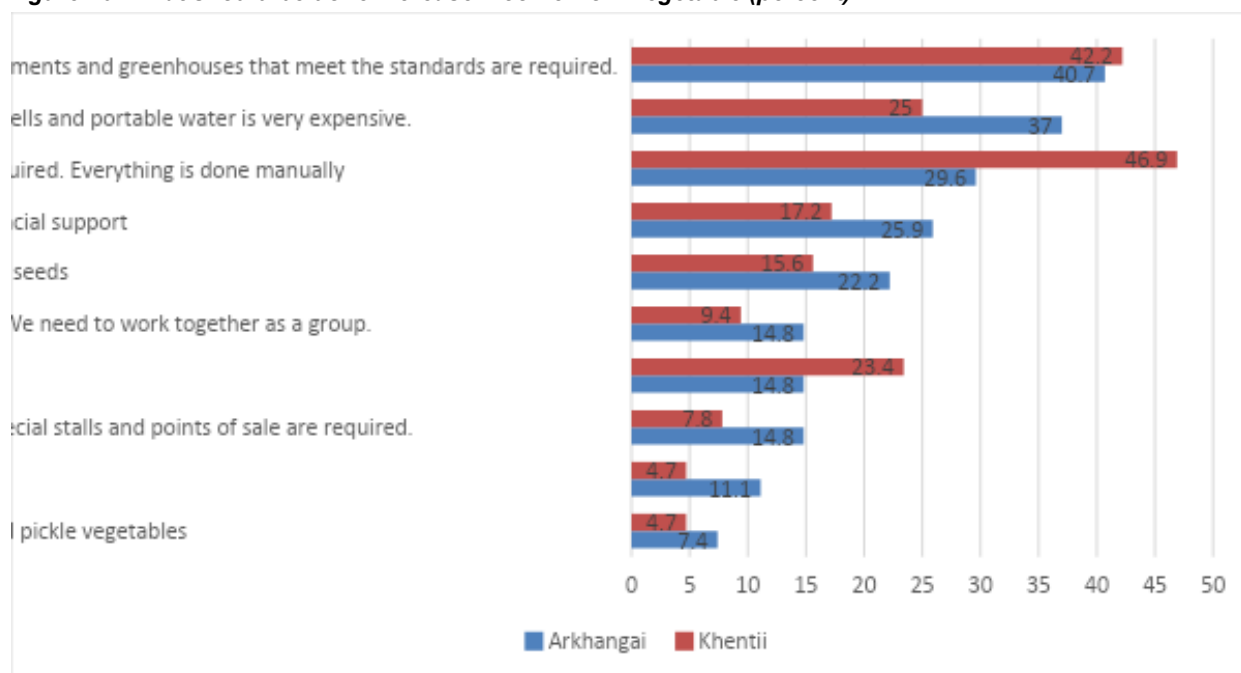
**Figure 25. What should be done to develop argiculture sector? (PERCENT)**



Source: The survey primary data

The following suggestions are related to improving vegetable production and services. In Arkhangai aimag, 40.7 percent of growers emphasized they need to build standard warehousing and greenhouses, 37 percent to increase the availability of irrigation, 26.9 percent to increase machinery and equipment, 25.9 percent to provide soft loans and financial support, and 22.2 percent to upgrade soil fertilizers and seeds. In Khentii aimag, 46.9 percent of gardeners mentioned the increase of machinery and equipment, 42.2 percent the construction of standard cellars and greenhouses, 25 percent the increase of irrigation supply, 23.4 percent the increase of fencing and area, 17.2 percent the increase in soft loans and financial support.

**Figure 26. What should be done increase income from vegetable (percent)**



SOURCE: THE SURVEY PRIMARY DATA

**CONCLUSION:**

**In Arkhangai aimag:**

- The biggest problems in selling vegetables on the market are the lack of storage facilities, price volatility and lack of equipment.
- In order to improve the production and service of vegetable growing, it is necessary to increase the number of machinery and equipment, build standard cellars and greenhouses, increase the availability of irrigation, fencing and increase the area, and provide soft loans and financial support.
- In terms of vegetables, farmers emphasized the importance of increasing the number of machines and equipment to develop and accelerate the vegetable farming sector, as well as creating sales channels, working together and attracting young people to farming.

**In Khentii aimag:**

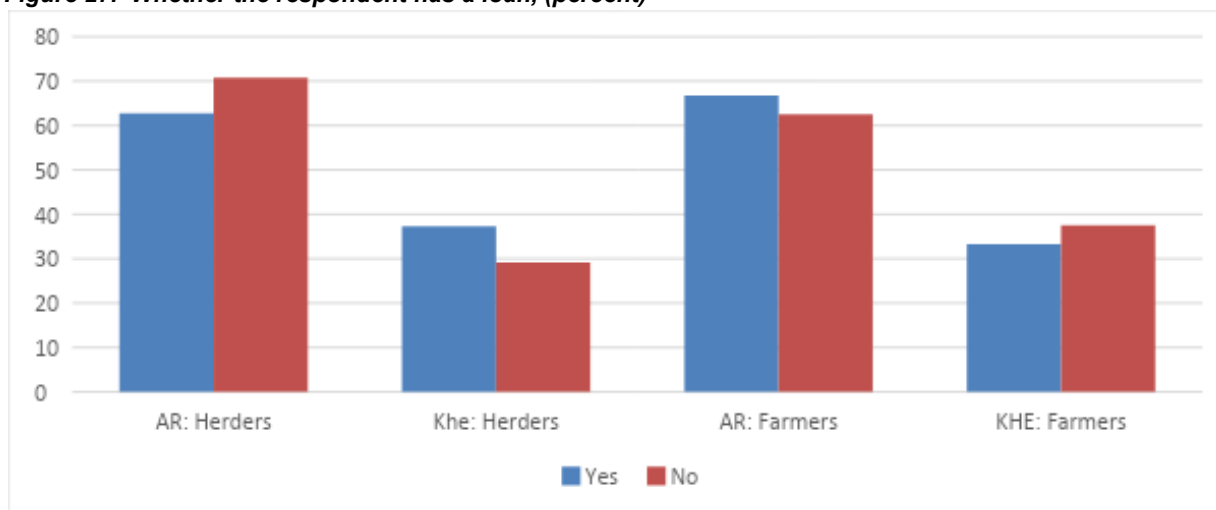
- Target soums have a long tradition of growing vegetables, and vegetable cultivation has been well established. However, in Bayan-Ovoo soum, vegetable growing and farming are not well developed.
- The cooperation and organization of growers in the soums was very good.
- The “Khentii Integrated Vegetable Network (KHENNES)” NGO, a member of the Khentii Aimag Growers' Association, has had a positive impact on its sustainability. For example, “KHENNES” NGO was established with 5 CSOs, 10 cooperatives and 7 families in Khentii aimag.
- In 2019, the Prime Minister of Mongolia U. Khurelsukh worked in Khentii aimag within the framework of the “Mongolian Vegetable Program”.
- Within the framework of the “Mongolian Vegetable Program” implemented by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, funding was provided for the construction of potato and vegetable growing equipment, vegetable irrigation systems and wells in Murun and Kherlen soums.
- However, vegetable growers face the problem of lack of machinery and equipment to increase vegetable production and increase their income based on it.

- In addition, the area is not fully utilized due to the lack of irrigation systems in areas where vegetables can be grown.
- The majority of soum gardeners are women and the elderly.
- The biggest problems in selling vegetables on the market are the lack of storage containers, price changes and lack of equipment.
- In order to improve the production and service of vegetable growing, it is necessary to increase the number of machinery and equipment, build standard cellars and greenhouses, increase the availability of irrigation, fencing and increase the area, and provide soft loans and financial support.
- In terms of vegetables, growers emphasized the importance of increasing the number of machines and equipment to develop and accelerate the vegetable growing sector, as well as creating sales channels, working together and attracting young people.

## Six. THE CURRENT FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE HERDERS AND VEGETABLE GROWERS

This section of the report examines the current household loan outlook and future loan needs and requirements, their purpose, and develops recommendations for loan services. 62.7 percent of herders surveyed have loans and 66.7 percent of vegetable growers have loans. The average one-time loan for herders is MNT 5,000,000. Herders tend to take out loans secured by livestock, while growers tend to take out loans secured by pensions and benefits. About 70 percent of herders and growers receive loans once a year, while the remaining 30 percent receive loans twice a year.

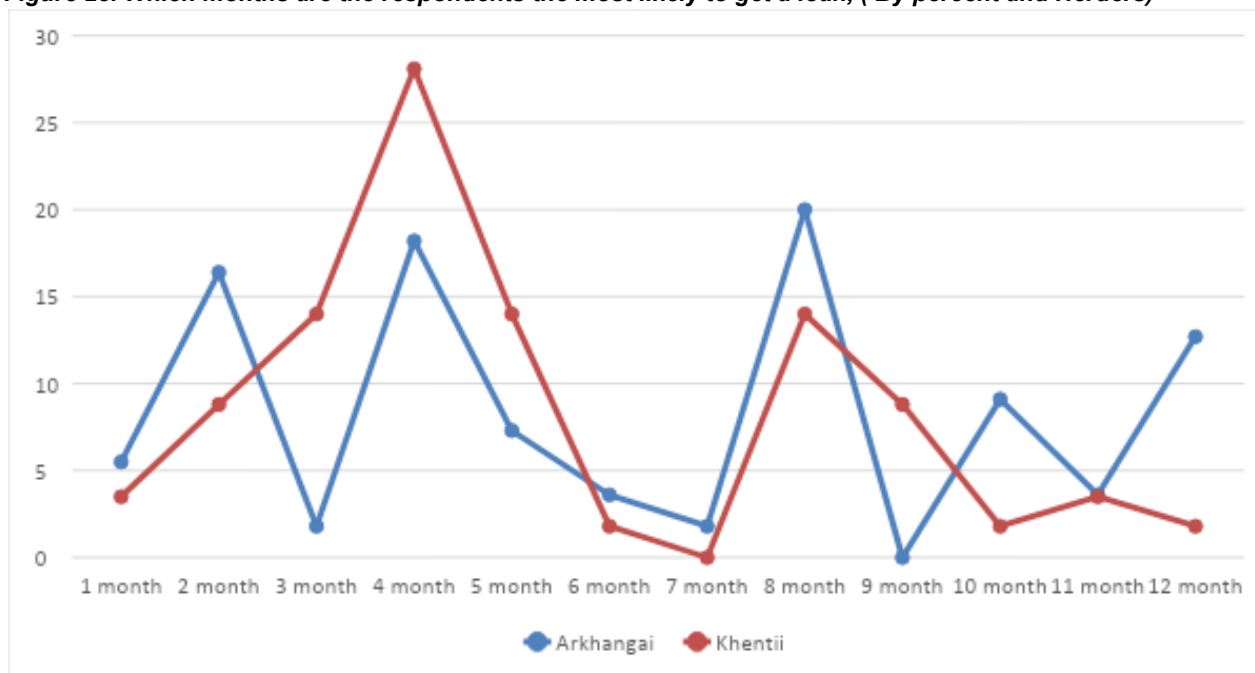
**Figure 27. Whether the respondent has a loan, (percent)**



Source: The survey primary data

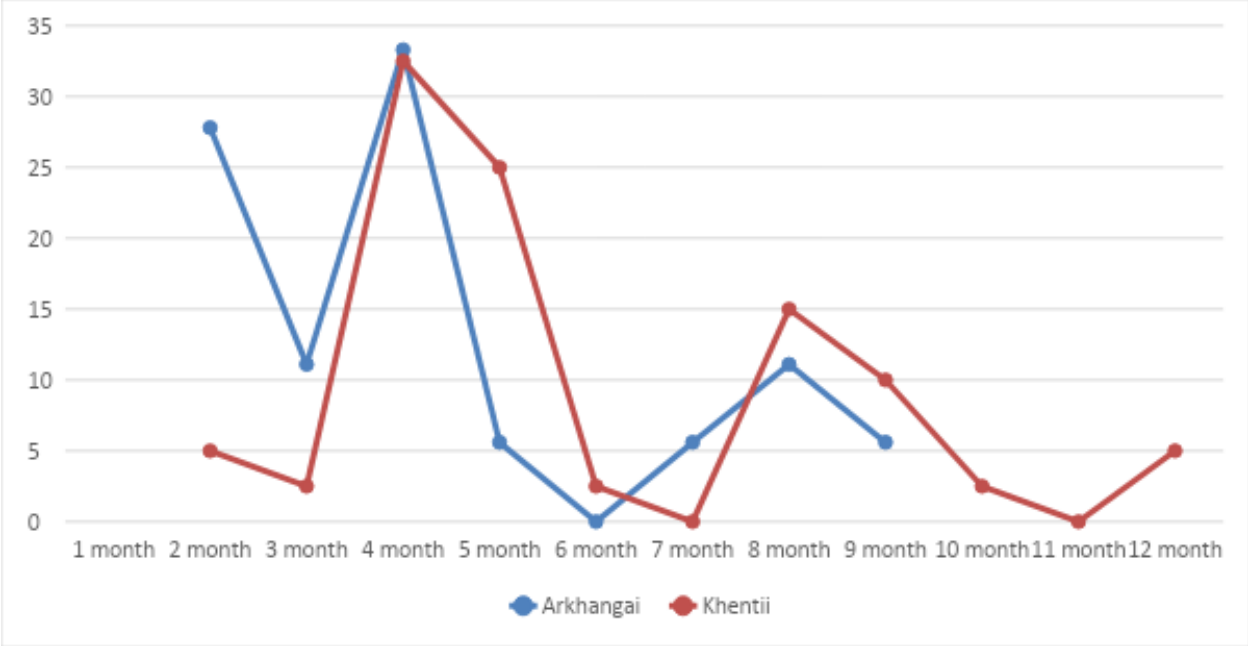
Herders and vegetable growers usually take out loans in April and August. The purpose of the loan is mainly for household needs and student tuition fees. Herders repay their previous loans with cashmere income when cashmere is released in April. Vegetable growers often need cash before the spring planting season, such as buying seeds and fueling machinery.

**Figure 28. Which months are the respondents the most likely to get a loan, ( By percent and Herders)**



Source: The survey primary data

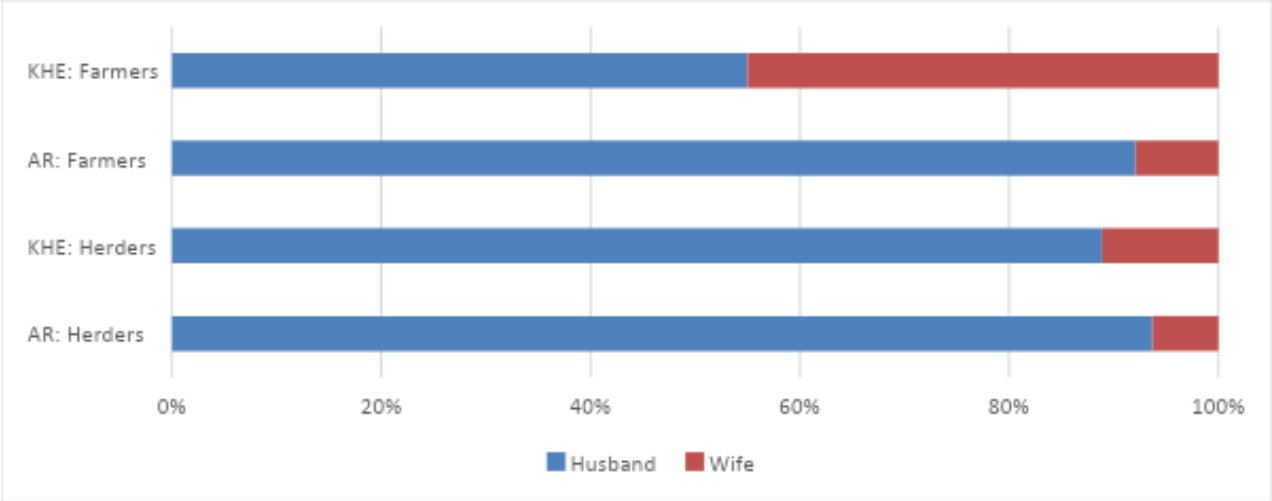
**Figure 29. Which months are the respondents the most likely to get a loan, ( By percent and Farmers)**



In Arkhangai aimag, 93.8 percent of herder loans and 88.9 percent of vegetable loans are on husband’s name. Women are responsible for all types of bank loans. Because herders register their livestock in the name of the head of the household, loans are issued in the name of the head of the household.

In Khentii aimag, 92.1 percent of herder loans and 55 percent of vegetable loans are on husband’s name. Women are the guarantors of all types of bank loans. Because herders register their livestock in the name of the head of the household, loans are issued in the name of the head of the household.

**Figure 30. On which spouse’s name the loan is taken, (percent)**



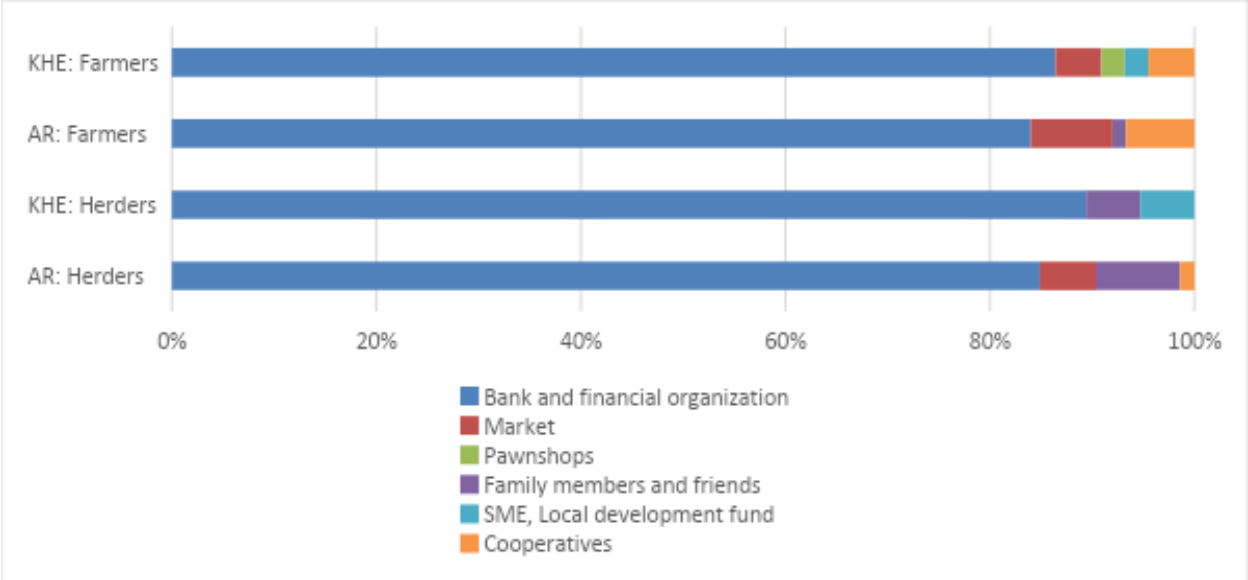
Source: The survey primary data

In Arkhangai aimag, About 85-90 percent of herder and vegetable households receive loans from banks and financial institutions, while the rest receive loans from pre-borrowers (pawnshops), product pre-borrowers (shops), family / friends, SME support funds, financial

institutions, and cooperatives. Local people have a high level of trust in banks and financial institutions.

In Khentii aimag, About 85 percent of herder and vegetable households receive loans from banks and financial institutions, while the rest receive loans from pre-borrowers (pawnshops), product pre-borrowers (shops), family / friends, SME support funds, financial institutions, and cooperatives. Local people have a high level of trust in banks and financial institutions.

**Figure 31. From whom do the respondents usually get a loan, (percent)**

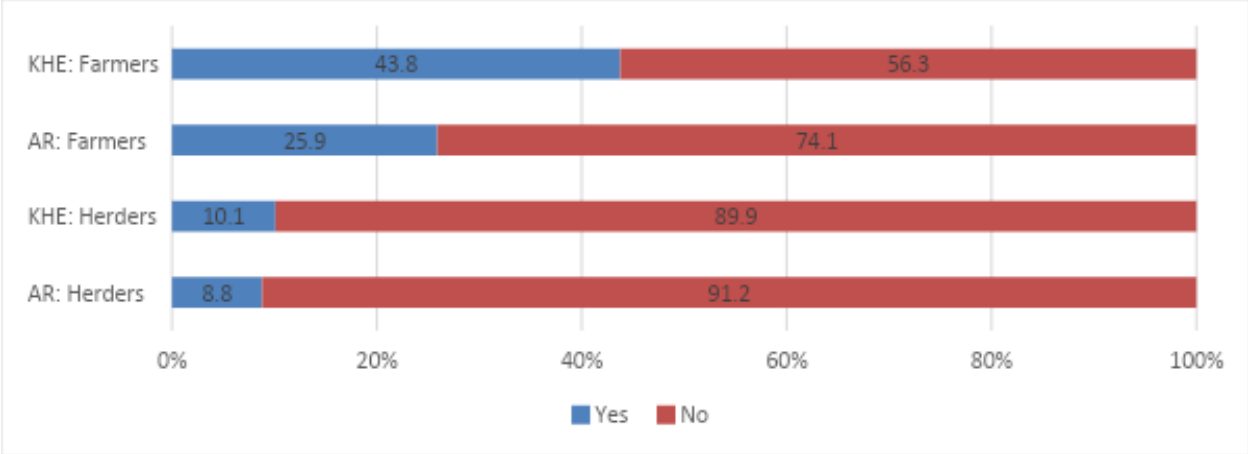


Source: The survey primary data

In Arkhangai aimag, 8.8 percent of herder households and 25.9 percent of vegetable growers have been trained in how to manage their household finances.

In Khentii aimag, 10.1 percent of herder households and 43.8 percent of vegetable growers have been trained in how to manage their household finances.

**Figure 32. Whether the respondents have taken any financial management trainings, (percent)**



Source: The survey primary data



## CONCLUSION:

- 70.8 percent of herders have loans and 62.5 percent of gardeners in Arkhangai and 70.8 percent of herders have loans and 62.5 percent of gardeners in Khentii have loans, mostly in April and August. The size of loans in average is 5,000,000 Tugriks and for 12 period. 47 percent of the household responded to the survey are living with lower income of living condition.
- 92.1 percent of herder loans and 55 percent of vegetable loans are from husbands. Wives act as guarantors for all types of bank loans. Though the herder and farmer women take more responsibility running the family business in agrivulture, they do not have equal right to have properties with men, who is traditionally considered as family head. There is a need to integrate the actions to eliminate the inequality in bringing up the development agenda and economic empowerment.
- About 85 percent of herder and vegetable households receive loans from banks and financial institutions, and 10.1 percent of herder households and 43.8 percent of herder households have received training on how to manage their household finances. There is a need to deliver information and training to herder and farmer women to introduce the possibilities to strengthen their literacy on the household finance and family businesses, seek loans or supports from diverse resurces from LDF, SDF, SMEF not only relying on the bank or credit unions.

## **Seven. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

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This part of the report summarized the main findings of the survey.

1. Women are active in herder and vegetable groups, cooperatives and partnerships. However, these groups of herders and growers, cooperatives and partnerships are not sustainable. About 40 percent of group, cooperative, and partnership members are women. So when you start a project
  - Firstly; focus on activating group, cooperative and partnership activities, stabilizing activities and improving cooperation
  - Secondly; focus on making women's positions in groups, cooperatives and partnerships more formal
  - Thirdly; in order for groups, cooperatives and partnerships to operate on a regular basis, it is necessary to establish a production-based, income-generating mechanism, without which there will be no cooperation among herders.
2. There is a lack of knowledge on gender equality among local civil servants. There are no provisions on women's rights in local policies and programs.
  - The project needs to provide knowledge and information to local government officials on a step-by-step system and repeated gender equality.
  - Within the framework of the training, it is necessary to conduct a detailed analysis of local policies and programs and incorporate provisions on gender equality and participation in policies and programs. It is necessary to create conditions for the implementation of gender equality provisions in the local development policy and program by the CRK.
3. Citizens' support for women at the local decision-making level is growing, but support for women at the local and party levels remains weak. Local women groups, CSOs and even the elected women representatives also lack knowledge on how to participate in government decision-making processes.
  - First; create a network of women who have worked, worked at the local decision-making level, competed in the CRK, and at the decision-making level
  - Second; there is an urgent need to empower and educate potential women at all levels of local decision-making. This is the need to provide basic knowledge of the basic political system, relations and markets.
  - Third; establish women's voluntary and independent groups independent of political parties
  - Fourth; provide information and advice to potential women in local decision-making on gender equality and how to incorporate women's issues into policies and programs.
  - Fifth; to support women to raise their voices to provide opportunities for women to implement their own agricultural projects and programs
4. For herder women, 41.2% of household purchases are made by women alone and 41.1% by couples. For herder women, 29.4% of decisions on spending and saving household income are made by women alone and 38.2% by couples. Though women are in making decisions on financial expenditure for household issues, they have no equal right to own properties. This is demonstrated in the survey result that 62.7% of herders have loans and 66.7% of growers have loans. 93.8% of herder loans and 88.9% of vegetable loans are in the name of male heads of households. Herders and gardeners are completely dependent on loans. 10% of

herders were trained in household financial management, while 43.8% of gardeners were trained.

- Provide women with knowledge and information on how to manage and build finances; The content of this training is more appropriate in the areas of loan management, savings, and household financial management.
  - Provide information on how to process livestock raw materials and market opportunities
5. Growers in the target soum are vulnerable and low-income.
    - It is not enough for vegetable growers to harvest a very small amount of vegetables after spending a lot of labor, time, equipment and money. Therefore, financial management training is needed, such as how much vegetables to grow and how income and expenses should be linked.
    - There is also a need for knowledge on how to properly grow potatoes and vegetables. For example, growers are not able to build up their first seed stock. There are many things that need to be done in the vegetable sector.
  6. Livelihoods of herders have improved in recent years and incomes have increased. Herder households are not able to fully process their livestock raw materials due to the workload and lack of equipment. For example, the number of households processing milk and dairy products in rural areas has decreased.
    - Herders are interested in processing their raw materials and supplying them to the market at high prices
  7. Use best practices such as “Aravt system” mentioned in the report when working with herder households within the project.
  8. In cooperating with households in the field of vegetables, it would be appropriate to operate based on the best practices building and developing “KHENNES” NGO. HENNES is interested in cooperating with the project as part of the implementation of the Khentii Aimag's Vegetable Sector Development Sub-Program

