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NEW HORIZONS

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LIVES CHANGED THROUGH
INNOVATIVE APPROACHES
IN NORTHEAST ANATOLIA

WILDLIFE IN
ANTALYA SARIKAYA

MERT FIRAT IN TROY

OUR GOODWILL AMBASSADOR
VISITED CULTURE ROUTE
SUPPORTED BY
FUTURE IS IN TOURISM



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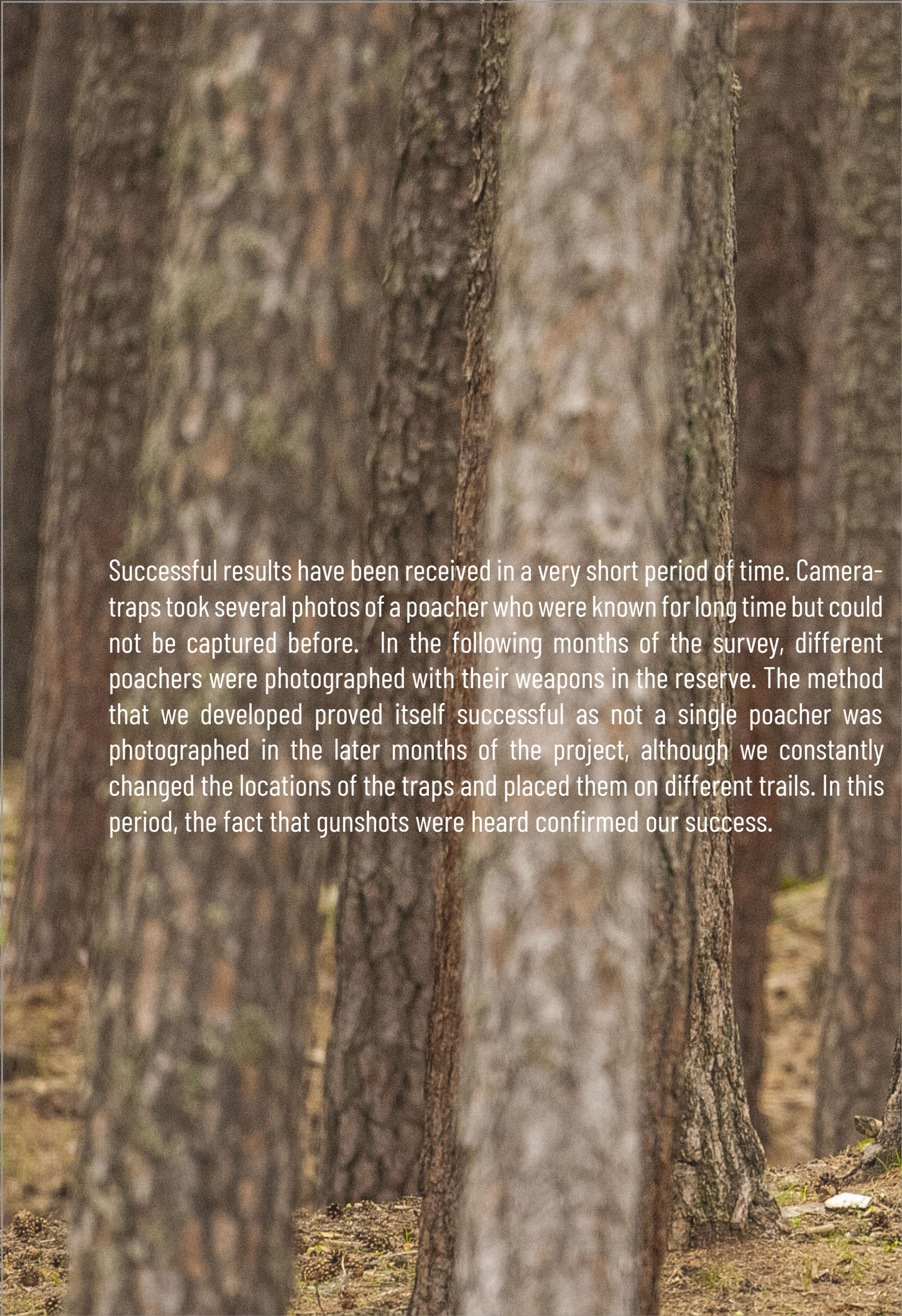
A SUCCESS STORY FROM ANTALYA SARIKAYA WILDLIFE RESERVE

Sarikaya Lynx Project that was initiated by the Society for the Protection of Natural Resources and Biodiversity (DoğaDer) in 2016 to develop a solution against an unusual human-carnivore conflict in the Sarikaya Wildlife Reserve (SWR) in western Antalya has been completed recently. During its preliminary survey in the villages around Sarikaya YHGS a year before the project, DoğaDer's discovered that the local people believed that the lynx was the reason of decrease in wild goat population and therefore have a negative attitude towards this cat species.


Unfortunately, the reason behind this conflict lies beneath the hunting tourism practices carried out in all wildlife reserves in Turkey for years. Half of the revenue derived from the hunting tourism in the wildlife reserves were transferred to the villages nearby the reserves by the Turkish Government. Although this practice included the villagers into wildlife protection and increased the number of wild goats in nature areas in recent years, the poaching could not be completely finished. The number of wild goats was greatly reduced in some conservation areas because of the old school practices used although their ineptness was well known. Both the villagers and the ministry of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry claimed that the reason behind the

reduction in wild goats was lynx and wolf, and consciously accepted them as "harmful species".

Calling large carnivores, which are keystone species for ecosystems, harmful is a serious problem. Instead of directly increasing awareness of villagers and the ministry personnel, which is usually conducted in most human-carnivore conflict projects, Sarikaya Lynx Project followed an indirect path that was of no interest of lynx. The project focused totally on solving the poaching problem and a team of villagers and ministry personnel was formed at the beginning stage. Possible trails used by the poachers in the wildlife reserve were identified by the villagers who know the area well and several camera-traps were purchased through the project. These traps were set on these trails and the ministry's 4-wheel drive trucks provided the transportation. When setting the traps, villagers and ministry personnel were trained on camera-trapping, i.e. selecting the trails, adjusting the camera settings, etc. in the field. The camera-traps were regularly checked by a team of villagers, ministry personnel and project team to establish their knowledge. All these activities were done in secret.



Successful results have been received in a very short period of time. Camera-traps took several photos of a poacher who were known for long time but could not be captured before. In the following months of the survey, different poachers were photographed with their weapons in the reserve. The method that we developed proved itself successful as not a single poacher was photographed in the later months of the project, although we constantly changed the locations of the traps and placed them on different trails. In this period, the fact that gunshots were heard confirmed our success.



So, how did we end the conflict between the villagers and lynx? We managed to establish the trust of villagers and ministry personnel by developing a reliable method to their main problem of poaching. We checked the camera-traps together with the villagers and ministry personnel and developed conversations while spending long days in a highly mountainous area. During these dialogues we indirectly mentioned the ecology of lynx and other carnivores and increased the awareness of all parties on these species. We did not bring villagers, nor ministry personnel in a room to train them the lynx ecology. We only chatted with them while we were climbing the cliffs together, that's all. When the project was completed, the villagers' awareness on lynx and other carnivores changed significantly. Today, even after months after the project is completed, the villagers are sending us lynx photos that they took in the reserve and write "Our pal is around". In their struggle for the protection of the wild goats, villagers accept the lynx as their partner now.



UNDP TURKEY'S GOODWILL AMBASSADOR
MERT FIRAT
VISITED "TROY CULTURE ROUTE"
SUPPORTED BY
FUTURE IS IN TOURISM PROJECT

The publicity launch of "Troy Culture Route", a project supported under the "Future is in Tourism" programme jointly implemented by the T.R. Ministry of Culture and Tourism, United Nations Development Programme, and Anadolu Efes was conducted with the participation of UNDP Turkey's Goodwill Ambassador Mert Firat, Çanakkale Governor Orhan Tavlı and project partners.

Having visited the various villages on the Troy Culture Route of 120 kilometres from Troy to Assos, UNDP Goodwill Ambassador Mert Firat took part in marking and cleaning of the newly completed locations of the route.

Mert Firat visited the antique city of Troy, and villages of Çıplak, Kalafat and Geyikli; and had conversations with village people, volunteers and officials on the road from Korubaşı village to the antique city of Assos.



The Ministry of Culture and Tourism announced 2018 as the “Troy Year” on the 20th anniversary of the inclusion of antique city of Troy in the UNESCO World Heritage List.



I have been closely following the efforts of developing the tourism-based local development model engaged in since 2007 by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, UNDP and Anadolu Efes. I am much excited to observe on site one of the three projects supported under the Future is in Tourism. Once fully operationalised, the hiking route will positively impact the lives of many people here. It is also exciting that such work will be completed in the Troy Year.

-Mert Firat

Hiking and biking on Troy Culture Route meetings.

Under the Troy Culture Route project jointly implemented by the Governorship of Çanakkale and the History and Culture Foundation of Çanakkale (ÇATKAV), the marking was completed in villages within Ezine and Ayvacık districts.

Encompassing more than 20 villages in the region, the route was built up to link the most important archaeological and historical assets such as Troy, Alexandria Troas, Apollon Smintheion and Assos. The hiking routes were set as GPS coordinates. Simultaneously held are the information meetings for villagers and sustainable tourism

Through the Troy Culture Route implemented in 2018, an internationally certified culture route will be built boasting various archaeological, historical, cultural and natural assets. In addition to the Troy Culture Route, the “Future is in Tourism” this year supports “A Day in Ovacık Village” in Şile, Istanbul, and “Women will light up Perşembe’s lights” in Perşembe, Ordu. The “Future is in Tourism” every year provides funding, training, planning, communication, consulting and technical assistance to three ideas of tourism on the basis of sustainability.

LIVES CHANGED THROUGH INNOVATIVE APPROACHES

Ardahan, Kars and Artvin are among the socio-economically least developed provinces of Turkey. In addition, rough topography, high elevation, long and severe winters, short growing seasons distances to other parts of the country exacerbate the socio-economic situation for the rural population.

Ardahan-Kars-Artvin Development (AKAD) Project is being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with funding from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

Now, under the Ardahan-Kars-Artvin Development (AKAD) Project that lasted 5 year, efforts of smallholding and non-farm investments to reduce rural poverty, investments in rural infrastructure and institutional capacity building are now bearing fruits.

Significant steps have been taken in the region whose major means of subsistence is livestock husbandry. One of such steps is the mobile shepherd's shelters with solar power. Now there are a total of 86 mobile shepherd shelters with 61 in Ardahan, 20 in Kars and 5 in Artvin.



During the design of the shepherd's shelters, shepherds and village masters were interviewed, shepherds' needs in the field were identified, and efforts were made to provide comfort on par with homes.

A shepherd's shelter with a trailer can be towed by a tractor up to the high plateaus where shepherds graze their animals. A solar panel on the roof generates electricity for own use. It enables the use of lighting, operating a television set, a mini refrigerator, 3 mobile phones and 1 laptop computer. The shepherd's shelter is made of non-flammable materials and insulated slabs. While stoves are fired in August in other tents where shepherds sleep, the insulated shepherd's shelters need no heating. With an available area of 8 m², each shelter features a kitchen counter, foldable table, shower cabin, 100-litre water tank, 20-litre solar-heated shower tank, fire-extinguisher and first-aid box. Before the project, shepherds had to live in make-shift tents, take showers out in the open, have problems of battery charge for their mobile phones due to lack of electrical power; not their lives are getting better every day with the shepherd's shelters project.



Compared to the earlier times, shelters are very useful, appropriate. Earlier, we used to live in difficult conditions. Now, we have electricity, generated from solar system, to charge our telephones, our lanterns, our light is on. Compared to the earlier times, it is very useful, very beautiful. In addition, it has a livestock pen next to it. With this practice in this project, interest in being a shepherd will increase. I am a certified shepherd. **If I were to be born again, I wish to be a shepherd;** I would graze animals, I would want this shelter.

-Shepherd İsmail Çakırcı, Alagöz Village / Ardahan



We did not have shepherd's shelters. The man would sleep by a rock. This shelter thing is a very special thing for the shepherd; it has electricity charging the man's phone and keeping lamps on. It even has a bath inside. Our shepherds are very happy. **Would those who see this want to become a shepherd or not?** Shepherds are now in competition asking me "please bring one for us too". All shepherds, be it for cattle or goat&sheep, they want one. The more shelters we have, the more shepherds we will have; and livestock husbandry improves, right?

-Gülmehmet Çerkez, Ardahan Alagöz, Village Master

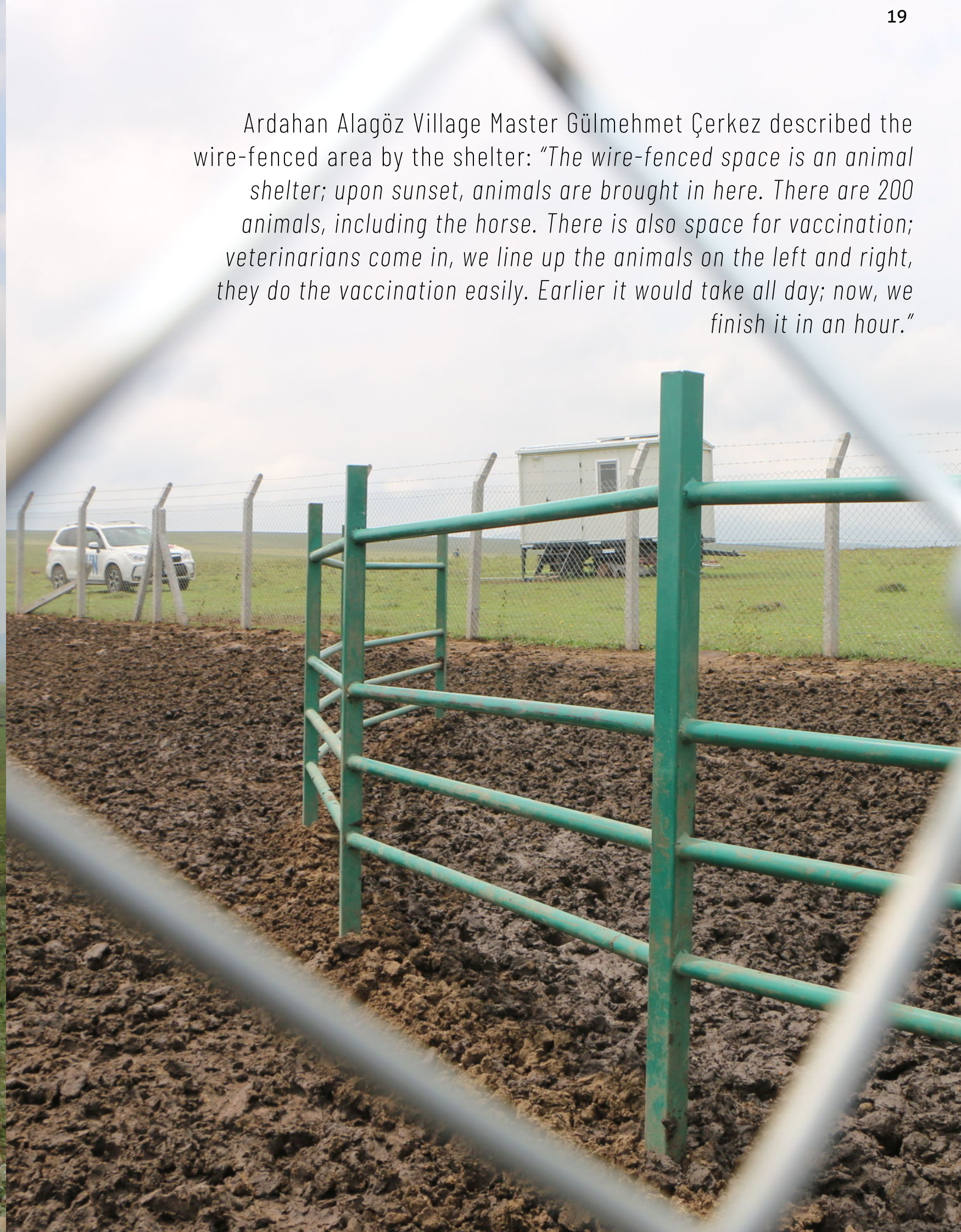


Reşat Akçay of Alagöz Village Committee said that *"We used to sleep by the rocks; now this shelter thing came very well. With such services, the villagers will remain in their places, no migration happens, and livestock husbandry is enjoyable."*

In addition, highland clustering fences were constructed to ensure animal safety and veterinary services in the highlands. This space was designed to keep animals at a safe space during the night, prevent theft, and provide more practically veterinary services such as mass vaccination. AKAD Project on the one hand improves challenging lives of shepherds, and improves safety and health conditions for animals on the other.



Ardahan Alagöz Village Master Gülmehmet Çerkez described the wire-fenced area by the shelter: *"The wire-fenced space is an animal shelter; upon sunset, animals are brought in here. There are 200 animals, including the horse. There is also space for vaccination; veterinarians come in, we line up the animals on the left and right, they do the vaccination easily. Earlier it would take all day; now, we finish it in an hour."*



*Modern livestock markets enable trade in healthier
and better conditions*

Another important work under the AKAD Project includes the construction of livestock markets. Many livestock markets operate without a license in our country, presenting an unhealthy environment both for animals and human beings.



A total of 7 livestock markets were intended to build in Center, Posof and Hanak districts of Ardahan; Selim, Sarıkamış and Kağızman districts of Kars; and Ardanuç district of Artvin. The livestock market at Ardanuç district was completed and commissioned in May 2015, that in Selim became operational in June 2018. The construction was completed for Posof, Hanak, Sarıkamış and Ardanuç livestock market; and the construction of Kağızman livestock market is about to start.

A prominent feature of the livestock markets commissioned under the project is that they operate on a license. These livestock market have indoor and outdoor paddocks, feedboxes, quarantine box, closed barn units, disinfection tunnel for vehicle entry, disinfection pit for animal entry on foot, animal weighscale, admin building and toilets.





Commissioned in 2018, Selim livestock market is held on Monday and Thursday. Mustafa Yücel, who has arrived at the market to sell his animals, stated that *"We are very happy with the livestock market; it has water; we can place animals at certain locations. Be it cleanliness or water, this place is comfortable for the animals. It has an animal loading-unloading ramp. Earlier, animals get lost in an unruly area, everywhere was mud and rocks."*

Selim Municipality's Veterinarian Ridvan Kaya narrated that *"This livestock market is much beautiful compared to the earlier one. This area has severe winters; the market was full of mud, and the citizens had difficulty. Now it is concrete under, there are paddocks, animal unloading location. Paddocks are full, here there are more than 1,000 cattle. This is a great service, great facility for citizens. It is also important for animal health. We get animals inspected, examined in general for existence of any diseases, we also have a quarantine room."*

Before the livestock markets were commissioned, merchant traders would go around in villages and buy villagers' animals at very low prices, thus the winner was not the farmer, but the intermediaries. Once the livestock markets were commissioned, intermediaries disappeared, making it possible to sell the animals at true worth.

Veterinarian Ridvan Kaya stated that *"This is a meeting place; **this market is important for improving animal health and also for human health.** The purpose is to provide better conditions for human beings to trade their animals."*

In this region whose major means of subsistence is livestock husbandry, challenging geographic and climatic conditions restrict agricultural production. Under the AKAD Project, family-style greenhouses aimed both to accustom women to raising crops in greenhouses, and change the uniform nutrition regime. The project provided all materials for the construction of greenhouses, and seedlings and saplings.

A total of 82 greenhouses were built, with 50 in Ardahan and 32 in Kars. Women operate the constructed greenhouses. They grow tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, lettuce etc. They are happy both for consuming what they grow, and for reduced kitchen expenses.

Aysun Zirh, a lady using the family-style greenhouse in Sulakyurt Village of Kars, stated that *"In the greenhouse built by the Provincial Directorate of Agriculture, we have for two years been growing cucumbers, tomatoes, peppers and lettuce needed at our home. We no longer buy from elsewhere. Once you do the irrigation and pruning, it is not difficult. Thereby we are in the win. We also have good time."*

Abdullah Zirh is too happy with the greenhouse: *"It gave us many things. Earlier, we did not grow vegetables, purchased from elsewhere. **Now we grow our own vegetables**, not for sale. Women take care of it. We have peppers, tomatoes, cucumbers, lettuce."*

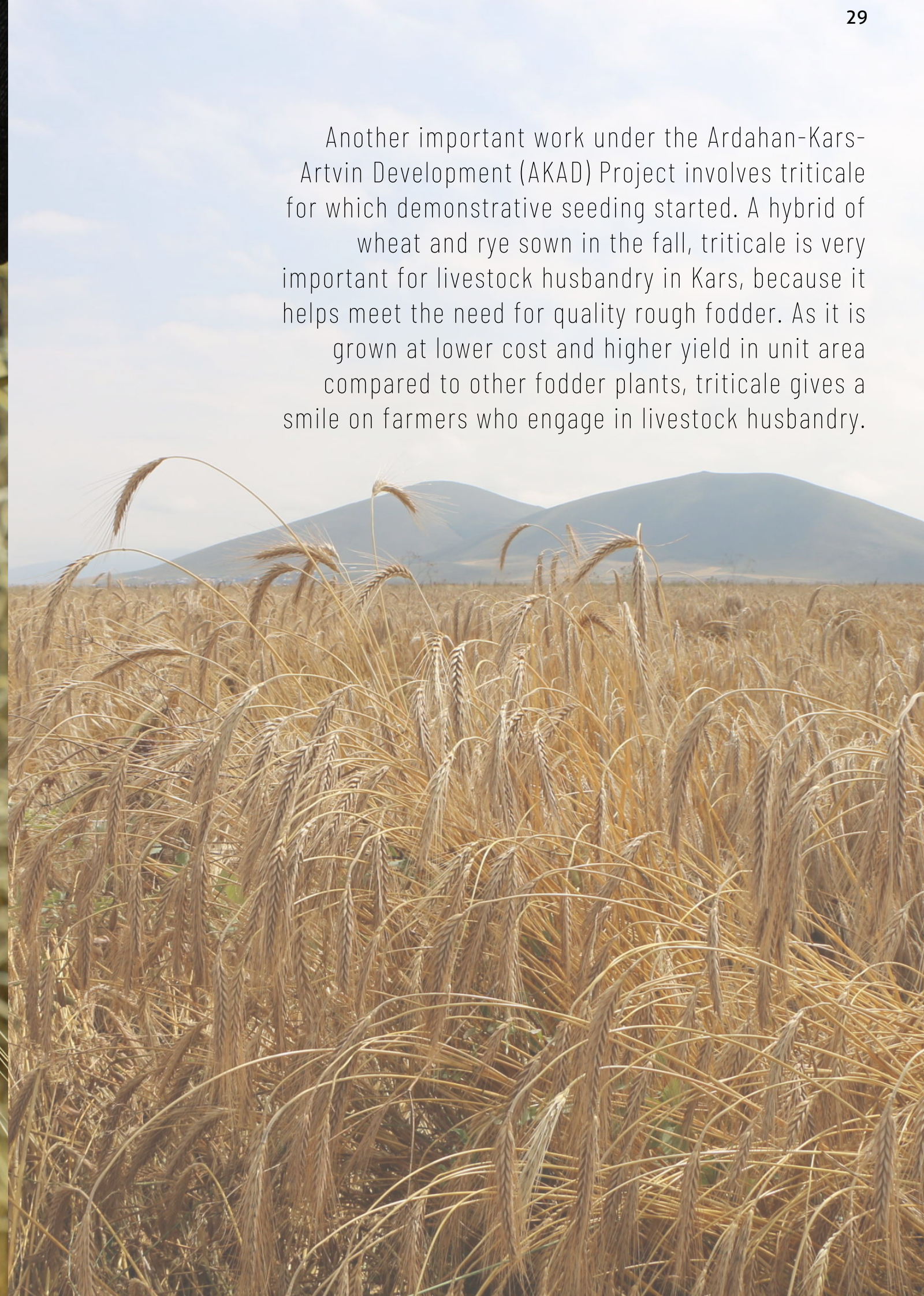
Women are happier in family-style greenhouses





Triticale is the new hope for farmers

Another important work under the Ardahan-Kars-Artvin Development (AKAD) Project involves triticale for which demonstrative seeding started. A hybrid of wheat and rye sown in the fall, triticale is very important for livestock husbandry in Kars, because it helps meet the need for quality rough fodder. As it is grown at lower cost and higher yield in unit area compared to other fodder plants, triticale gives a smile on farmers who engage in livestock husbandry.



Agricultural Engineer Mehmet Ali Dertli of Selim District Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry indicated that Mehmet triticale was being sown for a third year in Selim.



"We had people in the villages plant triticale this year as well. Triticale is a fodder plant, hybrid of wheat and rye. It can be roughly crushed and fed to the animals much the same as barley; it can be ground to flour, and then bread. Since livestock husbandry is advanced in our region, we use it as animal fodder. We have it sown in mix with common vetch varieties for demonstrative purposes. The average yield is 700-800 kg. This is our third year. Citizens welcome it; demand is high. It is sown in all villages. In the first year, we gave for a demonstration land of 5 acres. Next year, it will be 50,000 acres. When sown in mix with common vetch, the government aid is around 75 TL for the fodder plants.

When they see the state aid, they tend to sow more."

Kurbani Cüce, a pioneer farmer and engaging in livestock husbandry in Büyükdere Village of Selim, Kars said that *"I have been sowing this for 3 years. I am one of the first sowers around. We have a saying "friend for difficult times", that is what I call it. **Saves a man in a drought year.** We sow in in the fall. The yield is high, its hay is good. Triticale is a unique product for our region. Many observed and received samples, we are very happy."*

Adnan Gökdeniz is a farmer of 30 years. He narrated that he sowed triticale for the first time this year: *"We too sow triticale. To date, we have not seen such a thing. It is a different thing, it is more as product, it has higher yield. It is different than other fodder plants; it reduces costs in a drought season. **It could have saved us last year because last year we had really hard time with the drought.**"*



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