



Introduction & Objective

Share Mongolia is a not-for-profit group of New Zealand farmers supported by Rabobank New Zealand. The objective is to form a NZ-led international collaboration of organisations committed to supporting Mongolian herders and farmers to farm more efficiently, profitably and sustainably.

Share Mongolia includes New Zealand and Australian agricultural experts, veterinarians, horticulturalists and farmers with the common goal to connect relevant experts with Mongolian herder groups and aid agencies to teach and promote modern farming techniques.

Proposal

An initial focus area identified with potential to introduce modern technology is sheep shearing. Current Mongolian hand-shearing methods are extremely labour intensive and damage the wool and pelts, reducing their value and suitability for manufacturing. Mechanical sheep shearing produces superior quality of shorn wool, reduces damage to pelts and is significantly quicker and easier for shearers and less stressful for sheep.

The Share Mongolia proposal intends to promote and teach modern shearing techniques to reduce waste, improve product value, provide employment and increase returns to herders. Similar shearing courses were organised by Unido (a division of the United Nations) in 2019 & 2020 for a project now concluded. In 2019 the course was held in Khovd province using New Zealand and Australian expertise and considered to be very successful. In 2020 the scheduled programmes were carried out but limited by COVID as NZ instructors were unable to attend.

The Share Mongolia initiative is a continuation and expansion of the Unido project and will seek support for a range of initiatives that have now been tested in country and are showing returns for participants in line with Share Mongolia's objectives. UNIDO calculated that mechanical shearing has the potential to create 4,000 seasonal jobs in Mongolia, many of which would be filled by women. Mechanically shorn wool and pelts demand twice the price of the current product.

The initial objectives of this shearing course proposal are to:

1. Improve Mongolian sheep-herder incomes through improved financial returns from sheep pelts and fibre
2. Create additional employment opportunities, particularly among Mongolian youth, by giving them skills that they can on-sell in their rural domestic market to sheep-herders
3. Organise opportunities for trained Mongolian shearers to travel to New Zealand and Australia to assist with the seasonal shortage of shearers, improving their shearing skills and generating additional income.



Traditional Mongolian Sheep shearing

Shearing Courses

The project goal is to provide 150 Mongolian Herders per year with the skills and equipment to start their own businesses. This programme will be delivered by a team of New Zealand instructors who will visit and run the shearing courses during the Mongolian shearing season. We aim to hold six courses per year with twenty five trainees at each course. Mongolian shearers (from the 2019 course) will also be asked to assist with teaching at the course to further improve their skills with the intention of holding their own courses in future years. New Zealand based instructors will pay most of their own international travel costs and provide their time free of charge. Funding is being sought to purchase the shearing equipment and pay domestic travel and accommodation costs for the instructors.

Shearing Course Plan

Each shearing course will be held over five days. Skilled shearing and wool handling instructors will teach equipment set up and preparation, blade sharpening and maintenance, sheep shearing techniques, health and safety and wool sorting.

Course Equipment Requirements

- One shearing machine per five trainees
- One grinder per course
- Electricity source, leads and plugs capable of powering five electric shearing machines
- Sheep to shear (100 sheep required per day)
- Pens to restrain sheep
- Wool packs to store and transport shorn wool

Shear Mongolia will provide

- Experienced shearing instructors, including NZ champions and world record holders
- Wool handling experts to advise on wool sorting, storage and transportation
- Written instruction booklets
- Ongoing support after training

Mongolian Partner to provide

- Twenty-five trainee shearers
- Suitable location to hold the course
- 100 sheep to shear per day
- Transportation, meals and accommodation for shearing instructors
- Electricity source



Trainee sheep shearing at 2020 Gobi Course

Shearing course costs and funding

The major cost of each course will be the purchase of the required shearing machines. These will be gifted to the trained Mongolian shearers after the courses. The cost of purchasing shearing equipment and subsidising instructor expenses is (estimated) US\$14,000 per course. This may be partially funded by trainees or herder groups and Share Mongolia has approached government and aid agencies for additional support.

Other projects undertaken as part of this initiative

As well as organising the actual training in Mongolia, Share Mongolia is also working on a number of other projects to assist shearing in Mongolia. Projects we have completed to date include;

- Translating existing written shearing instruction booklets into the Mongolian language
- Adapting an on-line shearing training program to suit the Mongolian market with Mongolian translation

- Using NZ farmers to trial shearing equipment to ensure suitability for the Mongolian market (equipment needs to be lighter and more portable than traditional shearing equipment)
- Assisted to set up a shearing gear importer and retail outlet in Ulaanbaatar to provide shearing equipment and advise on what equipment to stock
- Promoted mechanical shearing as 'best practice' to various groups in Mongolia who are now potential partners

Potential Partners

With Unido's funding ending in January 2021, alternative sources of funding will be required. The international and Mongolian entities listed below have indicated their interest and support for this initiative.

- United Nations Industrial Development Organisation
- The World Bank
- Mongolian National Federation of Pasture User Groups
- Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Sustainable Fibre Alliance
- Mercy Corps
- United Nations Development Program
- Provalue
- Adra – Adventist Development & Relief Agency
- Tearfund
- German Association of Chambers of Industry and Commerce
- Swiss Cooperation in Mongolia

