

“Mongol Örkh” is a Foundation for National Development in Mongolia (Summary)

LKHAGVASUREN Lkhagva

Executive Director, Northeast Asian Environmental and Agricultural Research Center (NGO), Dornod Province, Mongolia

The “Mongol Örkh” pilot project aims at improving the quality of life in rural communities. The economic focal point of the project is a sedentary agro-pastoral household (to be expanded into a small community), the eponymous “Mongol Örkh,” that serves as a reliable purchaser of livestock from surrounding mobile pastoralists and produces export-worthy meat through operating an organic, quarantined, environmentally sustainable feedlot system. Crucially, the key nodes of the Soviet-era meat-export supply chain infrastructure are still

latently intact and in operation today across the border in the Russian Federation, and an insatiable demand for meat exists across the border in the People’s Republic of China. Connecting this market to the rural citizens directly by developing the capacity to physically handle this transaction at the local level builds wealth for the producers. Moreover, the social focal point of “Mongol Örkh” is a rural elementary school at this location, which provides for a foundation to concentrate social services at the local level.