

Processing of cashmere by nomads in southern Iran



Cashmere characteristics

The characteristics of cashmere such as [hard-wearing durability](#), [resilience or springiness](#), [moisture absorption](#), [comfort](#), [fineness](#) and [smoothness](#) make it ideally suited to many applications in the apparel and textiles.

Pure cashmere can be dyed and spun into yarns and [knitted](#) into [jumpers](#)



Raw Cashmere



Dehaired Cashmere

Dehairing

Cashmere must be de-haired to separate the coarse hairs from the fine hair. After dehairing, the resulting "cashmere" is ready to be dyed and converted into yarn.



Dehaired cashmere in an Iranian factory

COMPONENT 2. Work on formation and capacity building of women's groups to develop cashmere processing at pilot site

3 cooperatives were established for 60 nomad women to produce cashmere yarn and knitwear



Zarab cooperative



Baft cooperative



Goushk cooperative

Yarn making

The aim of the project is to work with nomad women spinners to produce luxury yarns for export.



Cashmere yarn made by nomad woman using traditional methods

Yarn making

The project team worked with nomad women spinners to develop high quality yarn that can successfully compete with other countries.



Cashmere yarn before training

Yarn making



Using traditional spindles to make cashmere yarn by nomad woman



Iranian spinner, making yarn by Imported electric spinning machine

**2 spinning wheels and one electric spinning machine
were imported**



4 workshops were held for 120 nomad women on how to make yarn using electric spinning machine



Yarn dyeing

**Two cashmere yarn dyeing workshops were held
for 60 nomad women**



Dyeing cashmere yarn
using artificial dyes



Dyeing cashmere yarn using natural dyes like
Henna , Walnut husk, Onion, Rubia (Madder)

Cashmere yarns produced



Natural cashmere colors

Raeini goats have three naturally colored cashmere which can be used for products.



White, light and dark brown cashmere

Natural cashmere colors



Raeini goats with different cashmere colors

5 Knitwear workshops were held for 150 nomad women



Knitting cashmere yarn

Training nomad women to produce high quality products ([hats](#), [gloves](#), [socks](#) & [scarves](#)) for local and international markets.

The national project team works with nomad women knitters to make products locally produced cashmere.



Different cashmere knitwears



Cashmere socks



Cashmere hats



Challenges

Nomad women have been trained to make yarn using electric spinning machine. They also have been trained how to make different cashmere knitwears. They are interested in dehairing the cashmere locally using small and handy devices.



Challenges

To speed up the process of yarn making more electric spinning machines are needed. Presently only one electric spinning machine is available.



Challenges

Knitters are currently making samples of scarves, hats and socks, but we have to start to knit fashionable clothing and accessories from our Cashmere yarn to compete with other international products.

