



PROGRESS REPORT

Mid-year -2016

Project	Aid for Trade for Central Asia (phase III)
Reporting Period	January – June 2016
Date	1 st July 2016
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Approvals	Approved by the Project Board
Purpose	As per the project document, the project is monitored through annual and bi-annual reports. The report is prepared to give a summary of progress, present the overall project situation and provide sufficient information for the Project Board to take decisions and to make recommendations.



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1. Summary

UNDP's main aim is to support sustainable, inclusive economic development that creates opportunities for all spheres of society. Within this trade and private sector development can play a fundamental role in improving human development. Growing productive capacities and exports mean new opportunities for enterprises to create more and better jobs, ultimately benefitting people. Trade-led growth only promotes human development when it benefits and empowers the less fortunate, and when it does not place unsustainable burdens on ecosystems.

Regional

Evaluation of AfT project Phase II interventions, conducted by UNDP evaluator and which took place during March 2016, confirmed the overall positive results of interventions and assessed highly project's relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and impact. The evaluation was approved by the Board in March/June 2016.

The <u>evaluation of the Wider Europe Initiative</u> (WEI) conducted by the Government of Finland highlighted that the WEI "brought Finnish added value to the development cooperation programme and benefited both parties. UN specialized agencies are considered to implement projects competently and cost-effectively but their projects are complicated and partly too ambitious. Challenges are also posed by concerns related to the operating environment, such as difficulties caused by economic problems in the region and complicated regional cooperation. The evaluation notes that the target countries' strong ownership and active interaction between different projects have enhanced the effectiveness of development cooperation." Furthermore, the evaluation recommended: "For future projects, Theories of Change should be drafted with well-underpinned causal relations and explicit programme/project strategies. Closer attention should be paid to the different elements of capacity development and the best practices should be observed. The evaluation also noted that the Ministry is facing cuts in appropriations and human resources and suggests that the expertise of the special advisers at the Department for Development Policy, outsourcing and cooperation with other donors be used more in the future."

The Aid for Trade project has received one recommendation:

Recommendation 10

In order to enhance AfT sustainability and efficiency at the micro-level, the system of financial support to selected entrepreneurs and enterprises should be revised.

Possible Implementation modalities:

- 1. The approach to distribution of grants and credits in the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan needs to be replaced by a more sustainable program of loan distribution (using and further developing the Tajik experience)
- 2. The Tajik scheme also needs to define a more realistic interest rate which would cover the related expenses of the micro-credit institutions and be attractive for other investors (local state structures or external investors),
- 3. Supported businesses have to be interconnected to enhance systemic social and economic impact, e.g. development of chains of house rug weaving, souvenir production or agricultural products with export potential.

The evaluation has also highlighted the issue of high support costs at 53%, as per our calculations the actual operational cost is lower at 40% and with a targeted 35% in 2016. These calculations include the cost of trade and business specialist which are not necessarily related to the operational cost, as they provide expert advice to the government. A large chunk of the salary cost comes from the internationally hired project manager. The project

will continue to strive to lower its operational cost by all means possible. The board will discuss proposals on how to address the above during its annual meeting in August 2016 in Tashkent.

The project in Kyrgyzstan has made strong efforts in supporting the Government in its export promotion activities. A very strong relationship has been established with the Single Window which is also linked back to activities under component III where Single Window also will provide support to the project supported business projects. For example, the project provided expert advice for the merging of the Export Promotion Agency and Single Window, effectively increasing the staff from 5 to 15 people. This will allow the Government to streamline its export promotion efforts under one single agency. Considering that much of the projects effort were made in supporting the Single Window, this will support out future activities. The project also helped the Government to develop financial products and mechanisms addressing this area for investment within the economy. Finally, the project has supported the Government in launching a Help Desk for Single Window related enquiries either online or through phone. The main aim is to facilitate the information flow within the business communities but also to provide for a greater level of transparency by ensuring that all information is publicly available.

The project in Naryn is now delivering and installing the different equipment for participating cooperatives/businesses. The biggest activities will be in yak and cheese processing, where the cheese processing has the biggest impact as well as the highest potential for increasing exports. The yak meat production is the first of its kind in the region and the project is working with the Fee Economic Zone in Naryn, as well as the Single Window to ensure good B2B practices.

Tajikistan

The project in Tajikistan has made good progress so far in 2016 continuing its support to the government in its post-WTO accession plan. The project continues its work on the law on trade and consumer services with three new by-laws expected to be completed by the end of 2016. The project also supports the government in the upcoming WTO trade policy review.

The AIMS system is also witnessing a strong growth. By the end of June it has registered 153 005 unique users. In the whole of 2015, the system registered 164 924 unique users, it is expected that in 2016 this figure will be surpassed. The users of the SMS agroconsulting have also increased to 2 670 (+361 from 01.01.2016) and the unique users of the app stands now at 8 101 (+3296 from 01.01.2016).

The Business Challenge Fund has also supported 9 new business ideas, 7 in the Rasht valley and 2 in Khatlon (revolved). It is expected that by the end of the year the total number of jobs created will be at 55 out of which 60% will be for women.

Uzbekistan

The project continues to make good progress in Uzbekistan. Legislative work undertaken in previous years has also started to bear fruits with the approval of the new customs code by the President on 20th January 2016. The project supported the development of customs code in 2014 with harmonizing customs regulation to international standards. Furthermore, to improve business processes, the new customs code empowers ICT based interaction of businesses with customs authorities. The work started in 2015 on Global GAP standards also is starting to bear fruits, with the first client company having successfully completed the external audit and received its certification on 4th April 2016 for lettuces. On 3rd of May the project launched the export promotion platform - UzTrade (tradeuzbekistan.com). The online platform, staffed by back-end professional support from Uztadbirkorexport, foreign trade company, is the first of its kind in Uzbekistan and aims to support exports of national producers reaching out to bigger markets. The platform already has more than 1200 registered companies with more than 3000 product items.

In order to facilitate policy and practical level discussions on improving business processes in export oriented value chains, the project will conduct jointly with UNECE an international workshop on agri-food supply chains in cross-border trade of nuts and dried fruits during July 11-13, 2016 in Tashkent.

The pilot projects launched in 2015, created 18 new and decent jobs mostly for women in rural areas. However, the project has been facing delays in the implementation of new pilot projects mostly due to long procurement processes.

2. External factors and assumptions

In Uzbekistan, the government created a new export company 'UzAgroExport' to conduct market research, promote and facilitate exports of fresh and processed fruits and vegetables. Functions and services related to sales of agro produce of Uztadbirkorexport, the major partner and client of the AfT project, were transferred to UzAgroExport. So far the project has been mostly building the capacities of Uztadbirkorexport with strong results. Given the new arrangements for exports from Uzbekistan, capacity building and technical assistance envisioned will need to be adjusted to include 'UzAgroExport'.

Overall, exporters and producers have suffered from the devaluation of the rubble and the tenge, the economic crisis as well as the influx of returning migrants. Although in the short term, the returning migrants will allow for an increase in national consumption over the long-run it is expected that national demand will weaken due to decreasing purchasing power of segments of societies dependent on remittances.

In Kyrgyzstan, the ministerial structure changed once again in June 2016. The food industry portfolio was transferred from the Ministry of Economy to the Ministry of Agriculture.

3. Report on results: Progress towards the achievement of the targeted objectives and expected results/outputs

Regional

The regional output, under the leadership of the Aid for Trade team in Uzbekistan is organising a regional workshop *Agri-food supply chains in cross-border trade of nuts and dried fruits* in Tashkent on July 11-13, 2016. The workshop will train participants on improving business processes of exported agri-goods, practical application of international quality and food safety standards, as well as issues of export readiness and potential of export markets. The workshop will be organised jointly with UNECE. UNECE, GIZ and UNDP are financially contributing to this event.

The regional output, organised jointly with the UNDP Sustainable Development Cluster, the *Employment, Trade and Sustainable Development in Central Asia* conference. ILO and EBRD were co-organizers to this event. The participants of the forum included the government, the private sector, and the civil society representatives from the 5 countries, together with staff from UNDP, ILO, and EBRD working on these issues. Among the participants of the conference were also other national and international partners that are actively engaged in employment and social inclusion issues in the sub-region. Participants were also looking at the role of trade and the private sector in promoting employment-rich and sustainable development. Trade can contribute to raising living standards and creating quality jobs, but small producers in the sub-region still face significant barriers in accessing markets abroad due to the high costs of taking goods across borders. The presentations and background materials to the conference can be found at jobs4prosperity.org.

The regional output launched its *green product space mapping* for Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The project is using this approach - initially developed by UNCTAD – to identify sustainable labor intensive products with high export capability. The approach first uses the comparative advantage methodology to identify the products best for exporting, then using the WTO core group of green groups it identifies products that are

sustainable. The Aid for Trade project will try to add an additional layers identifying products that are also labor intensify thereby identifying products that have a high export potential, are green and create jobs. Once the data mining has been finished the project will undertake control workshops to verify the data in each country.

The regional output has also launched its first Kyrgyzstan 2 Finland activity under phase III. First results are expected by the end of the year and if the pilot is successful to expand the activities to other participating countries. The main idea is to link producers in Kyrgyzstan directly with retailers in Finland.

The regional output supported the organisation of a study tour to India to visit the fresh grape production there. India during the past five years has emerged as a market leader in early fresh grapes managing to transform its production from non-compliant to market leader in a few years. Participants from Tajikistan and Uzbekistan visited production centers in India. Indian producers will visit Tajikistan and Uzbekistan in the fall to further discuss on potential collaborations.

The Contract with the Czech Trust Fund has also been finalised, after a delay due to a pending approval from the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In autumn, trade support institutions from Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan will visit the Czech Republic to exchange on experiences and approaches. In addition, this forum will allow for the three countries to also exchange between themselves and create stronger linkages.

The project has also continued its cooperation with ITC with the last installment of trainings for trade support institutions. ITC and the AfT project decided to continue to collaborate on establishing a regional platform on trade information linking countries between each other and strengthening the existing national platforms.

The regional output has also supported a study on the barriers women entrepreneurs face in Tajikistan, as this is a country specific study the results will be reported under the respective country.

Kyrgyzstan

Under the trade policy component, the project supports the Government in developing stronger mechanism for access to finance with concrete recommendations that include new financial products that the Government can implement to support its business community.

The project has also supported the Government in developing the decree that will merge the Agency for Investment and Exports and the Single Window. This will allow the Government to have a more streamline approach in its investment and export promotion.

The project also supports the Government in developing a helpdesk service for the Single Window Centre. The helpdesk will be available via email, as well as through telephone. It is currently in testing mode and will be officially launched in the second half of 2016. The Single Window supported 2 companies in finding trade partners in Russia, 9 companies in business matching with foreign distributors, one company in sending samples, 2 companies in the preparation of commercial proposals, 4 companies in the preparation to exhibitions, as well as 10 companies with general information and export information requests.

In February, on **Osh**, the project presented its results to the pilot local authorities on oblast, rayon and ayil okmotus levels and discussed the 2016 activities to capture the feedback and ideas from relevant stakeholders.

Jointly, with GIZ, the project conducted the following trainings (20, 0 women):

- 1. Development of business projects for agroprocessors;
- 2. Financial literacy for cooperative members (for "Nookat Altyn Almasy" and "Ozgon guruch" cooperatives).

In collaboration with the USAID "Farmer to Farmer" programme, a rice expert from the USA gave field consultations on agrotechnology and crop protection to the AfT supported cooperatives "Ozgon guruch" and "Ozgon shaly uroon".

The honey cooperatives supported by the project managed to establish a buffer zone for beekeeping in Kara-Kuldja rayon of Osh oblast. This will allow to avoid cross-breeding between different bee varieties and result in better productivity and quality. In addition, a training on beekeeping, bee vermin and diseases was held for the cooperatives and interested beekeepers.

The clients from the other value chains – apple, honey, rice and corn, took part in seminars on export strategy development, technical regulation of EEC. The Osh clients participated in the B2B meeting held by the Association of food producing companies with the support of the regional output. "Agroelita" cooperative from Osh succeeded in identifying a partner in Russia and already supplied over a 1 ton of barberry, Agroelita continues the negotiations to expand the contracts and range of products.

Clients in Osh were also made familiar with the EU Generalized System of Preferences.

In **Naryn**, the Association of Beekeepers Naryn Uyuk received the beekeeping equipment. The equipment was transferred to the members of the association on a pay-back principle. 40% of the cost of the equipment will be paid back in honey (approx. 14 tons of white honey). The FEZ Naryn will support the beekeepers in establishing export links to Kashgar (China). The Association arranged training on good practices in honey collection in May. In parallel, the Single Window Centre is providing business matching initiative to access German and Japanese markets.

The cheese production line received the equipment and launched production in May. Based on first observations the quality of the cheese was improved. Before the start of the season of milk collection, the representatives of the company arranged meetings with milk collectors and farmers on issues related to vaccination, as well as food safety issues during milking. The company is continuing work on the implementation of HACCP requirements.

The company is in process of hiring technologist of new technologies of meat processing. A specialist will be hired to ensure that all phytosanitary requirements are met. In July, a dedicated training for the laboratory expert will be provided on the correct usage of the laboratory equipment.

The project has had to delay its activity for the felt cooperative, unfortunately the supplier of the equipment was unable to deliver all the equipment. As a result, the equipment had to be returned and the project has to re-tender the sewing machines. The project will conduct jointly with GIZ a training on design for felt products.

Tajikistan

The project continues to frame its policy work on the post WTO accession plan, working together with concerned ministries, state agencies and technical partners. The project supports the coordination and engagement of over 60 agencies and state structures (inter-ministerial working group). The **State Programme on "Export Promotion and Increase of Competitiveness" (EPIC)** 2016-2020 was completed in 2015 and submitted to the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade which has adopted the EPIC. The action matrix of the EPIC, which includes concrete activities and timelines will be consulted with relevant line-Ministries. This will be a lengthy process but the project expects that the EPIC will pass through parliament in 2016.

In addition, following priorities of Tajikistan were supported by the project:

• Law on trade and consumer services: the project continues to support the government in the adjustment of the law (adopted in 2013), as well as the development of by-laws through technical expertise, as well as

through supporting working groups both at the national and regional level. Currently, the project supports the government in the formulation of by-laws on commission trade, consumer services and public catering in schools;

- Law on Free Economic Zones (FEZ): the law on Free Economic Zones is a post-WTO accession plan priority. In 2015, the project supported the adjustment of the law through technical expertise, as well as through supporting working groups. The project also organised a study visit to Turkey to learn from the Turkish experience in establishing and managing FEZs. In 2016, the draft law was discussed in the parliament and it is expected that, the newly adjusted law will be adopted in September 2016;
- Capacity development on WTO issues: this activity targets the capacity development of government officials and is a priority of the post-WTO accession plan. The project supported capacity building actions relating to priorities set in the WTO Post Accession plan: capacity building trainings for 250 (70 female) government officials and 200 (60 female) representatives from the business community on trade policy and WTO rules. The project also supported trainings on forecasting, modelling, developing trade indicators, WTO and analyzing the impact of regional trade integration processes (9 key staff from MEDT 4 females);
- Trade Development Programme for the Khatlon region: the project supported the Khatlon region in the development of a Trade Development Programme. The draft Trade Development Programme was elaborated and submitted to the Khatlon administration. The programme was adopted by decree on the 30th March 2016;
- **Consultative Council for the Khatlon region and Rasht Valley**: the project has announced the next call for submission of projects for associations targeting legislative priorities defined in the National Development Strategy and EPIC. It is expected, that by the end of year, new proposals on improving the business environment will be submitted to the government;
- **Capacity development for entrepreneurs**: in the first half of 2016, over 132 entrepreneurs were trained and supported by the national and oblast TPCs, of which 16% were female;
- Expansion of AIMS: the project continues to support the expansion of the AIMS. The AIMS is an online and mobile-based information system that provides market prices, as well as agricultural information to farmers. The system is currently available in the Sughd region, Khatlon region, as well as the Rasht valley. By the end of June it has registered 153 005 unique users. In the whole of 2015, the system registered 164 924 unique users, it is expected that in 2016 this figure will be surpassed. The users of the SMS agroconsulting have also increased to 2 670 (+361 from 01.01.2016) and the unique users of the app stands now at 8 101 (+3296 from 01.01.2016).
- **Business Challenge Fund**: During the reporting period, the project supported 9 business ideas, 3 SMEs were women-headed. 7 SMEs in DRS and 2 in Khatlon supported.

Uzbekistan

During the first 6 months of 2016, the project in Uzbekistan focused on providing concrete recommendations on improving the foreign trade regime and exports. The project, jointly with the Center of Economic Research (CER) developed the *Analysis and improvement of the foreign trade regime as a factor in raising competitiveness of the economy of Uzbekistan*. The analysis advances ideas on how to raise the country's competiveness through improving the foreign trade regime.

Following up on the trainings provided in 2015 and in order to practically demonstrate the effectiveness of the business process re-engineering (BPR) in exporting, the project supports the pilot implementation of BPR recommendations for the issuance of certificates of origin in UzbekExpertiza. The issuance of certificates of origin was re-modeled and modified for electronic processing. The software was installed for testing.

One analytical report on the current state and perspective of non-raw-materials exports was prepared jointly with the Institute for Forecasting and Macroeconomic Research (IFMR), using econometric models emphasising the need to diversify from resource based exports to more value added goods and promote the development of labor intensive sectors such as textile, leather and footwear, food industry, construction materials and others. The analysis also confirmed the competitiveness and recommends to further develop the sector of fresh and processed fruits, vegetables and nuts.

The project also prepared an analytical note on the technical regulation system of the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) and analysis of trade-related sanitary, phyto-sanitary and veterinary control measures for market access of agricultural goods of the EEU. The analysis provided an overview of existing requirements and recommendations to access the EEU market. To complement the regulatory analysis, a marketing research: *status and perspectives of export of fresh and processed fruits and vegetables of Uzbekistan* was conducted. The research highlights the need to diversify export destination and product lines. The project also supported the updating and re-publishing of the Guidebook *'Cost of Doing Business in Uzbekistan'* (last updated in 2012) in Russian and English versions.



One of the main project achievements in the trade promotion area was the development and testing of Uztrade (tradeuzbekistan.com) online export promotion platform and its successful launch on May 3rd, 2016. Uztrade platform enables registered companies to create individual websites within the platform thus creating presence in virtual markets and benefit from the professional support of specialists of Uztadbirkorexport in undertaking negotiations and making sales. As of June 2016, the platform has more than 1200 registered companies with more than 3200 export oriented product items and already generated more than 50 requests for purchase of products featured on the platform.

In order to further promote exports of

fresh and processed fruit and vegetable products and diversify its geographical target areas, the project assisted 'Uztadbirkoreksport' and 'Markazsanoatexport' foreign trade companies and 4 agricultural companies ('Turon Agro Fresh' LLC specializing in fresh produce, 'Spectrum ITG' with dried products, 'Mega Nuts' focusing on nuts and beans, 'Kishmish Savdo' with dried raisins) to participate in the 'Fruit Logistica 2016' in Berlin (Germany). The companies were able to make contacts with more than 70 potential clients and reach preliminary agreements for 6 mln. US\$. Until June 2016, Uztadbirkorexport was able to export goods worth 700,000 US\$ to Turkey and Markazsanoat assisted companies to export goods worth 163,000 US\$. The preliminary agreements reached at the exhibition are now transferred to the newly established UzAgroExport, specialized exclusively on the export of fresh and processed agro products.

The work on the Global Good Agricultural Practices (Global GAP) initiated at the end of 2014 and continued throughout 2015, has yielded positive results in 2016. Following the trainings, in 2015 the project provided expert advice to 4 farms/agro-companies from Tashkent, Samarkand and the Syrdarya regions. On April 4th, 2016 upon international audit inspection, Green Agro Food LLC met all Global G.A.P. requirements and issued Global GAP certification for lettuce. The certification will make it easier to offer the lettuce to retail chains in Russia and the European Union.

In February 2016, the project organised a study tour for 5 agro companies to India on modern technologies and marketing approaches on grape export to European markets. The main take-away from the study tour were: 1) Global GAP certification of grape is required for exporting, 2) processing and individual packaging of grapes is important so the grapes can be easily shelved in supermarkets. The packaging needs to be carried out in logistics center near the farms 3) transition from wooden crates to corrugated cardboard boxes with the capacity of 5-7 kg

is important 4) the widespread introduction of drip irrigation systems maximizes efficiency, and 5) India increasingly grows seedless grape for exporting; 6) investment in pre-cooling and cold storage practices.

The implementation of 2 eco-sustainable business pilot projects started. The project assists 'Davron Agrosanat' in Buloqboshi district in the Andijan region with the introduction of renewable energy (biogas) for greenhouse production. Construction and installation works were completed in March 2016 and a biogas facility with a 340m3 (two bioreactors 170m3 each) bioreactor was created. Since March 2016, the facility is being tested. It is expected that the production will be expanded and 10 new jobs will be created. In addition, the seedlings which will be distributed to nearby households and farmers will create additional 20-25 jobs.

The project also assisted the 'Imron Textile Group' to ensure more efficient production and reduce waste in the production of child and adult garments. 14 new types of products are now being produced and 18 (14 women) staff hired on a permanent basis. Imron Textile Group managed to conclude an export contract for the supply of knitted garments (T-shirts) to Russia and got the first order for 7000 USD.

The project is facing delays in its business project for the bag production line mostly due to an insufficient number of offers complying with procurement requirements. The purchase of the equipment is expected for August – September 2016. The project will help to develop local skills, improve product quality, speed up production process, and support the creation of 15 new jobs for women and college graduates.

During the first months of 2016, the *Climate Change Baseline Assessment Report* based on the survey of farmers in Namangan and Fergana Region was finalized. The aim of the baseline assessment was to capture views and reflections of farmers on the climate change based on their recent and previous experiences. According to the survey results, almost all acknowledged that climate change influences productivity of the farming business, affects crops yields and quality. In particular, the 5 most mentioned negative impacts that climate change has are 1) decrease of crop yields, 2) increased water deficit and 3) increase of pests and plant diseases, 4) instability of nature, 5) increased costs for achieving targeted crop volumes. Findings of the report were shared with local authorities, ministries and agencies to take into account in developing measures for improving agricultural sector and increasing exports.

4. Cross-cutting objectives

Gender – the project continuously strives to ensure gender equality and improve the situation of women entrepreneurs and female employees. Kyrgyzstan is implementing direct activities with cooperative which have pre-dominantly female members. In Tajikistan, the project has developed a micro-finance product which focuses exclusively women. In Uzbekistan, the project focuses on sectors that have high female employees. On the regional level, the project has piloted a micro-narratives study with more than 1000 participants to identify perception of women on the barriers for women entrepreneurs. Overall the project is reaching its goal of 30% female participation, but still faces problems in finding sufficient amount of female participants for more technical activities or its policy activities.

Environmental sustainability – the project is implementing dedicated environmental sustainability activities in Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and on the regional level. On the regional level the study on green products will help the respective Governments in taking sustainable decision for economic diversification. In Uzbekistan, the project targets concrete business ideas to demonstrate the profitability on green approaches. Whereas, in Tajikistan the project is implementing a green microfinance product.

5. Risks and opportunities update

Issue 1: Mr. <u>Goran Sumkoski</u> has joined the project as of 13.06.2016. Mr. Sumkoski is a long-term consultant which will be working part-time for the AfT project (50%). His title will be Local Economic Development and Trade

Specialist. He will work on Local Economic Development and Trade issues in the Sustainable Development. Mr. Sumkoski received his B.Sc. in Engineering from the St. Cyril and Methodius University in Macedonia and his M.Sc. in Development Management from the London School of Economics. He is currently finalizing his Ph.D. at the Meiji University in Tokyo, Japan and he has also spent a year as a Visiting Fulbright Fellow at the University of Minnesota, USA working on Corporate and Investment finance. Beyond working and studying in Europe, the United Kingdom and the United States, Mr. Sumkoski was a programme/project director and consultant on number of economic development, investment promotion and trade projects for organizations such as the World Bank, EU, UNDP, ADB, GIZ, SDC, etc. He has implemented projects in regions and countries ranging from East Asia and the Philippines, South Asia, Central Asia and FSU countries, to the Eastern Europe and the Balkans. Mr. Sumkoski supported the Kyrgyz Republic's successful Doing Business reform programme (the country was recognized as the 2nd top reformer in the Doing Business 2010 report), worked on introducing the Local Economic Development approach in Tajikistan for UNDP. He also served for three years in Bangladesh, Nepal, India, Bhutan and Sri Lanka as a regional Program Manager in the World Bank Group, leading the Investment Climate and Regulatory Simplification pillar of a program financed by the Department for International Development (DFID).

Issue 2: The Euro/US\$ exchange rate remains volatile and needs to be closely observed.

Description	Туре	Countermeasures / Management response
Regional cooperation on trade policy, between national trade support organisations and cross-border cooperation between value chain actors may be reduced and/or delayed due to political reasons.	Political	 Project actively promotes regional cooperation between countries using trade as a means. Develop and disseminate evidence based policy papers showing benefits of cooperation and cost of not doing so.
Implementation of national level activities on building productive capacities may be delayed during times of security instances	Security	Liaison with UN security officer and continued monitoring
Recommendations from papers on regional and national trade policy issues not or only to a limited extended implemented due to political nature. Lack of commitments may affect consultative/participatory process more broadly.	Organizational	 Early involvement of key client countries Focus on consensus building before starting regional activities Selecting bottom-up and other approaches to pre-test political sensitivity Establishing Steering Committees at the national level Strongly linking major activities to national/local development programmes and strategies
Capacity development for national trade support institutions provide only limited impact. Technical support for upgrading value chains counterbalanced by raised transaction costs.	Organizational	 Project actively seeking to address specific barriers to trade and business development Coordinating all activities with other projects addressing systematic private sector policies

Risk Log:

New risk:

Risk 1.2016: as identified in previous issue logs the project is facing cash shortages due to fluctuations of the US\$/EURO exchange rate.

Management response:

- 1. careful monitoring of the exchange rate development;
- 2. Conservative spending on the regional output to mitigate any sharp falls in the cash flow

6. Resources and budget

Countries are on track spending there funds. The project has achieved the 50% total budget disbursement despite the weak performance of the project half way through the implementation of the project.

A detailed breakdown can be found in the 2016 financial report.

7. Findings and recommendations

The AWP for 2018 should be formulated based on analysis of implemented actions during past project years and achieved results. Draft AWPs for 2018 will be submitted during the board in February 2018, after the fourth tranche has arrived to ensure sufficient cash availability.



Part of the AfT team during the meeting in June 2016

Annexes

RRF targets

Regional output

Indicator	Target	Progress
1.1 Number of recommendations incorporated at the policy level,	2016: Study on employment and trade including concrete recommendations finalised	2016/6 - Almaty Trade and Employment conference took place in June 2016. Initial discussions were held to concretise vision and ensure stakeholder engagements.
improvements at institutional structures and/or piloting of best practices to promote employment	2017: At least one recommendation in at least two countries incorporated at the level of policy level improvements, institutional structures and/or piloting of best practices.	
2.1 Number of recommendations integrated into policies, institutional	2016: Study on green productive capacities including concrete recommendations finalised	2016/6: Study on green product space with an employment focus was launched and initial presentation made during the Almaty conference on Trade and Employment which took place in June 2016
measures and/or piloting of best practices in at least 2 countries at the national and/or sub- national levels to promote greening value chains/technologies.	2017: At least two recommendations integrated into policies, institutional measures and/or piloting of best practices in at least 2 countries at the national and/or sub-national levels to promote greening value chains/technologies	
2. 2. Number of green schemes established to expand and diversify the productive base on the use of sustainable production technologies	2017: at least three schemes established.	
3.1 Number of trade related issues addressed through	2015: 1 Intra-regional collaboration at least 1	2015: 0

cooperation and number of new knowledge functions applied	2015: 1 Inter-regional collaboration at least 1	2015: (3 trainings) Jointly with FAO, training on agricultural technologies and trade policy in Central Asia (Bishkek, May 2015). Jointly with FAO and UNITAR, one e-course on resolving contentious trade issues through international and regional trade-related agreements (11 participants -July 2015). Jointly with UNECE, training on strengthening capacities of trade support institutions (TJK, KGZ and UZB) (Oct. 2015). Jointly with ITC, trainings for trade service providers (Dec 2015 in Kyrgyzstan) 20 trainees from Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.
	2015: At least 1 study supported	2015: Two country studies (TJK, KGZ) and regional assessment resulting in changes in the legal base in TJK
	2016: 1 Inter-regional collaboration at	2016/6: Agri-food supply chains in cross-border trade of nuts and dried fruits,
	least 2	Tashkent June 2016. Participants from KGZ, UZB and TJK. Second plan is joint participation to the World Food Moscow of Tajik and Uzbek producers.
	2016: 1 Intra-regional collaboration at least 4	2016/6: Exchange visit to India for fresh grape production. Participants from Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Indian producers will visit Tajikistan and Uzbekistan in the fall, the aim is to sign contracts. Study tour to the Czech Republic (processing and trade support institutions) planned for the second half of 2016.
	2016: At least 3 studies supported	2016/6: 0
	2017:1 Inter-regional collaboration at least 1	
	2017: At least , two new knowledge functions applied (east-east)	
	2017: 60% of participants to the trainings use new skills (trainings	
	2017: Intra-regional collaboration at	
	least 3	
	2017: 10% of the recommendation	
	were applied	
Number of innovative ideas in	2015: At least two innovative ideas	2015: 4 agro-innovation camps organised
productive capacities or related field supported	implemented (reported to 2016)	2016/6 - two ideas identified and will be implemented by the end of the year

Kyrgyzstan

Output 3: In Kyrgyzstan trade-related policy makers are better qualified to support favourable pro-poor trade promotion environment, local authorities, selected business association and service providers are enhanced in their capacity to promote pro-poor trade, and the agriculture and agro-processing in selected value chains increased its productivity and exports volume.

Indicators	Targets	Progress
Indicator: K.I.1.1. Number of	K.T. 1.1. At least 2	2014- 3 strategies revised:
policy recommendations on	policy	- 1 Strategy on trade for the development of Naryn Oblast was submitted to the Naryn Oblast Office of
improving the existing	recommendations by	Government (2014), adopted in the Oblast Sustainable Development Strategy;
regulatory framework.	EoP.	- 2 Plans for Osh city and Osh oblast of practical activities on improving and enhancing trade potential were developed by the work groups and then approved by local authorities (in 2014) as annexes to the existing local development strategies.
		2015 -1 policy recommendation developed and provided to the Ministry of Economy on analyzing the consequences of customs tariff amendments (EEU) and preparation of recommendations on customs tariffs for WTO negotiations.
		2016- 1 package of recommendations on trade finance mechanisms is being developed. Action plan on cross-sector Access to Finance of Export Development Plan is being developed;
		- Supported the elaboration of 1 analytical note on merging the Investment Promotion Agency with the Single Window Center (export promotion dimension). The UNDP AfT project coordinator provided substantive input and guidance in the development of the relevant governmental decree. The decree is awaiting adoption.
Indicator: K.I.1.2. Number of	K.T.1.2. At least 2	2015 - 1 proposal on the regulation of rules of identification of origin of goods manufactured in Free
policy issues related to trade	proposed revisions	Economic Zones in the Kyrgyz Republic developed and submitted to the Ministry of Economy and
barriers identified and	by EoP.	approved by Governmental Decree #761 on 6 November 2015;
proposed revisions		1 set of policy recommendations developed and submitted to the Ministry of Economy on the basis of
submitted to government.		the FEZ study.

Indicator: K.I.1.3. Percentage of supported decision- makers self-assessing improved job qualification.	K.T.1.3. At least 70% (gender- disaggre- gated).	 2015 - Regulatory impact analysis training - 17 participants (6 women). Data on self-assessment (overall assessment as improved: 13% good, 60% more than good, 27% excellent); Trade and Human Development training. 90% of self-assessed as improved (17 participants, 13 women); Trainings for pilot Ayil okmotus in Osh Oblast on strategic plans development and integration trade issues. 151 participants (104 -males and 47 - females); 2016 - Roundtable on food safety issues in Osh. 57% of participants self-assessed as improved. Total # of participants: 70 (47 men, 23 women). The satisfaction level was low, as the trainings were made in Russian, participants would have preferred Kyrgyz.
Indicator: K.I.1.4. Number of strategies revised to incorporate trade and sustainable development issues.	K.T.1.4. At least 2 by EoP.	 2014- 3 strategies revised: 1 strategy on trade for the development of the Naryn Oblast was submitted to Naryn Oblast Office of Government (2014), adopted in the Oblast Sustainable Development Strategy; 2 plans for the Osh city and Osh oblast of practical activities on improving and enhancing trade potential were developed by the working groups and then approved by local authorities (in 2014) as annexes to the existing local development strategies. 2016- NHDR report on Trade and Human Development is under clearance of Government.
Indicator: K.I.1.5. Number of regular coordination meetings among CA countries on cross-border issues	K.T.1.5. At least 8 coordination meetings conducted (2 per year).	 2015 - Participation at 2 coordinating meetings supported (COMCEC conference on Eximbanks, Regional Public-Private Dialogue platform forum): Supported 3 coordination meetings among CA countries on cross-border issues: Regional workshop to enhance the connections among trade support institutions and capacity development on trade promotion. Partners: Chambers of Commerce, state agencies, NGOs, business associations. Countries: Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan. 22 participants: 6 women, 16 men; Regional workshop on findings for the regional Free Economic Zones study. Partners: Ministry of Economy, state bodies, FEZs' administrations, companies, development projects. Countries: Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan. 46 participants: 25 women, 21 men. Regional workshop on export promotion strategies for TSIs and business consultants jointly conducted with EBRD. Partners: Chambers of Commerce, export promotion agencies, business associations, business consultants. Countries: Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan. 29 participants: 17 women, 12 men. South branch of ME KR conducted (independently) series of seminars on EEC on the basis of the development plans for Osh city and Osh oblast on the basis of the practical activities on improving and enhancing trade potential developed by the project. 2016- Kyrgyz-Finnish Business Seminar. Participants: 40 participants (25 men, 15 women). Trainings on the development of local strategic plans with the integration of trade issues for 22 pilot communities were conducted. As a result, 8 ayil okmotus developed and provided their profiles.

Indicator: K.I.2.1. Number of clients of Export Promotion Agency report as benefiting from services provided.	K.T.2.1. At least 100 entrepreneurs, of these at least 60% stating benefits, disaggregated by gender.	 2015- 58 services were provided to 137 clients of the Single Window Centre. 47 clients (22 female led businesses, 35 male) stated having benefiting from the services. All services provided after the roundtables on service portfolio development (supported by AFT); Published catalogues of service providers are being disseminated to traders and businesses. 10 clients surveyed (9 stated having benefiting, 1 - not benefiting); Nookat Altyn Almasy cooperative participated in the WorldFood Kazakhstan Exhibition 2015 sold apples worth 2.5 mln KGS. 2016- 23 companies satisfied by received services. Total number foo companies served: 23.
Indicator: K.I.2.2 Establishment of integrated trade promotion information system.	K.T.2.2. Fully functional integrated trade information system accessible to clients by the EoP.	2016 - Helpdesk service was developed and launched (January) for testing. The short phone number 1220 and web-page: http://info.trade.kg/ are available. Technical specs on business intelligence services were elaborated.
Indicator: K.I.2.3. Increased export volume at companies after having received information services (including female headed companies).	K.T.2.3. At least 10% increased export volume six months after having received information services.	 2015- Agroexportservice LLC started to export after a pause since 2012. Export of 4.1 tons of horse placenta to Japan (∞ %) (in 2015). The export was facilitated by the Single Window Centre. 2016- Supply contracts for the following companies (rate of export turnover will be calculated by the end of 2016): Agroproduct Asia supplied 120 tons of carrot and 20 tons of cabbage to Russian retail companies; Agrologistics Group LLC supplied 40 tons of onions out of 300 tons contracted to a Russian retail group. It also supplied 40 tons of carrot to a Russian company. CCI requested expert support for the August-September 2016 (Agroprodexpo exhibition).
K.I.2.4. Number of SMEs having participated at regional and international exhibitions increased their export turnover in percentage.	K.T.2.4. At least 10 of participating SMEs increased their export turnover by 10 %.	 2015-15 SMEs increased their export turnover: 10 members of the Association of Food Industry Enterprises - 15%, including 2 cooperatives led by women Agroelita and Fair LLC. Zoloto Doliny cooperative 200% (in 2015); EUM LLC 44% (in 2015); Too Baly cooperative just started to export 110 tons of honey (∞ %); Shagdar and Zakym (felt cooperatives) 10% (in 2015) both female headed 2016- B2B Meeting of food production companies with Kazakh and Russian trading companies. Total participants: 74 (56 men, 18 women). 17 companies are negotiating contracts or started to export (figures on turnover will be available by the end of 2016).
Indicator: K.I.3.1. Percentage increase in production at targeted clients in supported value chains, one year after	K.T.3.1. At least 30% increase of production.	 2015-2 companies out of 12 target clients increased production in 2015: EUM LLC - 125% (in 2015); Too Baly cooperative - 52% (in 2015) 2016-Data will be available at the end of the year.

having received support.		
Indicator: K.I.3.2 Percentage	K.T. 3.2 At least 20%	2015 -2 companies out of 12 target clients increased sales:
increase in sales at targeted clients in supported value	increase of sales.	Shagdar and Zakym (felt cooperatives) 15% (in 2015) 2016 -Data will be available at the end of the year.
chains, one year after having received support.		
Indicator: K.I.3.3. Female	K.T.3.3. At least 30%	2015- 47% (1770 women, 1963 men - clients in VCs)
participation rate at the	female participants.	2016 - 30% (188 men, 81 women)
interventions supporting		
trade		
Indicator: K.I.3.4. Number of	K.T. 3.4 At least 100	2015 -102 (69% women) (70 women, 32 men)
decent jobs created.	additional jobs	2016 - Data will be available at the end of the year.
Percentage of jobs created	created, 30% for	
for women.	female (in 2014 – 20,	
	2015 – 20, 2016 – 30,	
	2017 – 30).	

Tajikistan

Output 4: In Tajikistan, trade policy documents developed and adjusted to international trade agreements, trade promotion institutes and stakeholders strengthened in international trading and promoting sound business environment, selected agricultural value chains are based on sustainable use of natural resources, and supported information technology applied to improve business links and innovative economic activities.

Indicators	Targets	Progress
Indicator: T.I.1.1. Number of national trade related policy documents adjusted to WTO (and in case of relevance, CU)	T.T.1.1. At least 2 national trade policy documents adjusted (1 latest in 2015, 1 –	 2014: Two inter-ministerial Working Groups (WGs) at the national level created to adjust national trade policy documents. The WGs will work on the law on trade and consumer services and WTO obligations; 2015: Law on FEZ elaborated (expected to be adopted in September 2016), law on trade and consumer services - 2 by laws elaborated and submitted to the government (date of codification: 28.05.2015);
requirements.	2016).	2016/6: Law on trade and consumer services - 3 by laws (commission trade, consumer services, and catering sector for schools) to be finalised by November 2016. The project will also provide technical support for Tajikistan's upcoming WTO Trade Policy Review.

Indicator: T.I.1.2. Number of priorities from WTO post- accession plan implemented.	T.T.1.2. At least 2 priorities (1 in 2016, 1 – 2017).	 2014: WTO related knowledge exchange to Turkey for 6 (1 female) government officials. As a result, a National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC) was established; '2015: The State Programme on Export Promotion and Increasing competitiveness including Action Matrix for 2016-2020 elaborated and submitted to the MEDT. Submitted to the Government for adoption on the 28.12.2015; 2016/6: WTO Post Accession plan paragraph 9, #3: capacity building trainings for 250 (70 female) government officials and 200 (60 female) representatives from the business community on trade policy and WTO rules; WTO Post Accession plan paragraph 1, #17: development of a monitoring mechanisms and early warnings for anti-dumping measures; WTO Post Accession plan paragraph 9, #2: capacity-building trainings for MEDT staff on forecasting, modelling, developing trade indicators, WTO and analyzing impact of regional trade integration processes on the Republic of Tajikistan conducted (9 key staff from MEDT trained on forecasting and modelling - 4 females); WTO Post Accession plan paragraph 9, #2 capacity building on TPR via South-South cooperation (July 2016).
Indicator: T.I.1.3. Number of national and Oblasts' strategic trade related policy documents developed.	T.T.1.3. At least 2 documents developed (1 – 2015, 1 – 2016).	 2014: Working and Expert Groups for TDP formulation established in the Khatlon region. An international consultant for the elaboration of the TDP hired. Two (2) meetings of the WG conducted; '2015: TDP for Khatlon region elaborated and submitted to the Administration of Khatlon. Adopted on 30.03.2016 by decree; 2016/6: Elaboration of new TDP for the Sughd region for 2016-2018 initiated and adoption envisaged by the end of August 2016.
Indicator: T.I.2.1. Trade/Export Capacity Development Programme (TCDP) established at national and Oblast level.	T.T.2.1.TCDP established latest in 2016.	2014: TCDP established
Indicator: T.I.2.2. Number of Trade Promotion Centres (TPC) established with improved capacity on providing services to clients.	T.T.2.2. On national level at least 1, on Oblast level at least 2, latest until 2016	2014 : TPCs established in 2014
Indicator: T.I.2.3. Number of SMEs/entrepreneurs served by national and Oblasts TPCs.	T.T.2.3. At least 400 entrepreneurs trained and consulted, of which at least 20% are female.	 2014: 252 individuals trained and supported by the national and oblast TPCs, of which 13 % are female; 2015: 444 individuals trained and supported by the national and oblast TPCs, of which 23 % are female; 2016/6: 132 individuals trained and supported by the national and oblast TPCs, 16% female.

Indicator: T.I.2.4. Number of Business Associations providing improved capacity on advocacy and providing services to members. Indicator: T.I.2.5. Served TPC clients are satisfied and % of paying for the services.	T.T.2.4. At least 5 business associations (2 – 2015, 2 – 2016, 1 – 2017). T.T.2.5. At least 50% of clients are satisfied and paying for the services.	 2014: five (5) Business Associations trained and providing improved capacity on advocacy and services to members; 2015: 3 business associations; 2016/6: Call for grants announced. 2015- 75% of TPC clients satisfied with the services, 20% cost contribution; 2016/6: 75% of TPC clients satisfied with services, 0 cost contribution.
Indicator: T.I.2.6. Number of recommendations on improving business climate elaborated and submitted by Business Associations to government and PPD platforms.	T.T.2.6. At least 6 recommendations submitted.	 2015: 3 BAs identified 30 recommendations on taxation, agriculture and agroindustry. 10 recommendations were submitted to relevant government structures and 4 recommendations already considered by government and CC under the President of Tajikistan 1 proposal related to taxation of users of natural resources was approved and it is expected that changes will be adopted to the new version of Tax Code starting from the January 01, 2016 3 proposals related to improving Agro industry issues were considered at the CC under the President of the RT and included into the action plan for the elimination of barriers in this sector 2016/6: Call for grants was announced, recommendations will be elaborated until the EoY.
Indicator: I.T.2.7. Number of SMEs having participated at regional and international exhibitions, increased their export turnover in percentage.	T.T.2.7. At least 10 of participating SMEs increased their export turnover by 10 %.	 2014: four (4) out of 5 SMEs participated at the international exhibitions are increased their export turnover by 17 %; 2015: 14 out of 21 increased their exports on average by 15%. Average increase was 10% (all 21): - 6 (six) SMEs participated in the 22nd "ProdExpo -2015" in Moscow (February 2015). Direct contracts for the over 1 mln. USD were signed. 5 out of 6 companies improved their export volume on average by 15% - 15 Tajik SMEs participated at international exhibitions in Xian (China), Astana (Kazakhstan) and Minsk (Belarus). MOU and direct contracts signed for the amount of 1mln 450 thousand USD. 9 out of 15 participated in previous exhibitions SMEs increased their export volume in average by 15%.
Indicator: T.I.3.1.1. Number of innovative green business ideas supported through Business Challenge Fund.	T.T.3.1.1. At least 28 business ideas supported by BCF (in 2014 – 7 , reprogrammed for 2015 2015 – 14, 2016 – 7, 2017 – 7).	 2015: 18 business ideas supported through BCF (15 Khatlon, 3 DRS) poultry farm, greenhouse, beekeeping, F&V warehouse, confectionary, macaroni production, plastic packs for oil, and handicrafts; 2016/6: 9 business ideas supported (7 in DRS and 2 in Khatlon, revolving fund) - greenhouses, fruit juices, confectionary, sewing, furniture, aquaculture.

Indicator: T.I.3.1.2. Number of decent jobs created. Percentage of jobs created for women.	T.T.3.1.2. At least 100 jobs created, 30% for female (in 2014 – 10 reprogrammed for 2015, 2015 – 20 40, 2016 – 40, 2017 – 30).	 2015: 47 jobs (25 female) in Khatlon, plus 25 through AIMS. Total: 72 (25); 2016/6: data to be provided at the end of year but expected 55 jobs 60% for women.
Indicator: T.I.3.1.3. Number of female headed enterprises supported by BCF.	T.T.3.1.3. At least 8 enterprises (2014 – 2 reprogrammed for 2015, 2015 – 4, 2016 – 2, 2017 – 2).	2015: 6 enterprises (female) through BCF, 12 female headed enterprises through capacity development; 2016/6 : 3 enterprises (female) through BCF.
Indicator: T.I.3.1.4. Percentage of productivity increase at supported businesses one year after start of support.	T.T.3.1.4. At least 10% p.a.	 2015: 3 out of 15 SMEs supported by BCF in Khatlon region increased their volume of production and sales on average by 25%. The rest 12 SMEs are new businesses and the data will be available next year. On average, 15 supported SMEs in Khatlon region increased their volume of production by 5 % p.a.; 2016/6: data available at the end of the year.
Indicator: T.I.3.1.5. Percentage of export (changed to sales) volume increased at companies receiving BCF services (including female headed companies).	T.T.3.1.5. At least 10% increase p.a.	 2015: 15 SMEs in Khatlon increased their sales volume by 5%; 2016/6: data available at the end of the year.
Indicator: T.I.3.2.1. Number of additional Oblasts covered by AIMS.	T.T.3.2.1. At least 2 additional Oblasts/areas (1 – 2014, 1 – 2015).	Completed

Indicator: T.I.3.2.2. Number of additional (gender- differentiated) subscribers stating to have benefitted from AIMS.	T.T.3.2.2. Nation-wide subscribers of AIMS, of which at least 30% are female, increase by at least 100% (30% - 2014, 40% - 2015, 30% - 2016).	 2015: On average subscribers of AIMS, of which 30% are female, increased by 50% 1) The web-portal annual unique visitors on 01.01.16: 164 924 2) The web-portal average daily unique visitors 01.01.16: 451 3) Annual subscribers of the newspaper on 01.01.16: 3 225 4) Subscribers of the SMS-agroconsulting on 01.01.16: 2 309 5) Annual unique users of the mobile apps on 01.01.16: 4 805 2016/6 : During the period of June 2014 - June 2016, On average subscribers of AIMS, of which 30% are female, increased by 100%. 1) The web-portal annual unique visitors on 01.06.16: 153 005, out of them 47,74% women 2) The web-portal average daily unique visitors on 01.06.16: 457 3) Annual subscribers of the newspaper on 01.06.16: 2 670 4) Subscribers of the SMS-agroconsulting on 01.06.16: 8101
Indicator: T.I.3.2.3. Number of demand-oriented new services of AIMS and mobile phone applications developed.	T.T.3.2.3. At least 5 new services (1 - 2014, 2 - 2015, 2- 2016, 2017).	 2015: "Mobile plant protection guide" app developed and placed on Google Play; The mobile application "Market prices of Tajikistan" upgraded to "Market prices of Central Asia"; -"Farm gate prices" app developed; 2016/6: "Database of agricultural producers" completed. Development of a new mobile application "A to Z" for livestock ongoing (jointly with KRG partners).
Indicator: T.I.3.2.4. Percentage of spatial coverage of Tajikistan by Agricultural Map and Trade Platform of AIMS.	T.T.3.2.4. At least 40% in 2014, 55% in 2015.	 2015: 75% coverage. Agricultural Map of Tajikistan upgraded with the information of Sughd, Khatlon and DRS regions; 2016/6: Agricultural Map of Tajikistan updated with the information from Sughd, Khatlon and DRS regions progress towards targets 95%).
Indicator: T.I.3.2.5. Number of Marketing Information Systems in CA region interlinked.	T.T.3.2.5. At least 3 Marketing Information Systems of CA region.	 2014: Collaboration with marketing information provider from KRG - agro.kg established and negotiations on interlinking of CA producers and exchanging information started; 2015: Collaboration with another private information marketing system of KRG – Agro-asia.com was established. Market prices of TJK and KRG will be available in both systems; MoU with the Centre of Agro Information-Innovation of Uzbekistan signed. A joint action plan elaborated and implementation of this action plan started. 2016: The collaboration with all 3 systems continues.

	T.T.3.2.6. at least 10 agro processors linked to regional and international trade platforms.	 2014: LLC "Mevai Tilloi" linked to the platform; 2015: LLC "Oro Isfara" (dried fruits) LLC "Mevai Tilloi", Mahsuloti Oftobi (Isfara), Shahrinav (Muminobod), Oro Isfara (Isfara) and "Obi Zullol" (Istaravshan) platform. LLC "Mevai Tilloi" was linked with buyers from Altay region of Russian Federation and Shenzhen Huaxin Decheng Trade Co. Ltd (China); 2016/6: 3 SMEs - LLC Zoda (Khujand, production of fruit beverages), LLC "Iskandari Istaravshan" (Istaravshan, export of onion) and LLC "Abdukhafiz Sarkor" (B.Gafurov, production and export of FV) interlinked to the trade platform Foodmarket.Ru and trained on its usage.
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Uzbekistan

Output 2 (Uzbekistan): In Uzbekistan trade policy makers are better qualified on easing trade with neighboring countries, research and extension service providers are enabled to promote innovative trade approaches and sustainable agricultural ago-processing practices in Central Asia.

Indicators	Targets	Progress
Indicator: U.I.1.1. Number of trade policy papers with practical recommendations on implementation of WTO, CIS FTA and CU regulations circulated among decision makers.	U.T.1.1. Three papers	 2015 - 1 policy paper on the <i>Trading Across Borders</i> indicator of the <i>Doing Business</i> report developed resulting in a better ranking of Uzbekistan. 1 analytical report on the role of national quality infrastructure including technical barriers to trade (standardization and conformity assessment systems) with recommendations to harmonise them with international and WTO requirements. 1 analytical note on harmonizing the national legislation on custom valuation with international norms developed and submitted to MFERIT. 2016/6- Analytical notes on market access (technical regulations, sanitary, phyto-sanitary and veterinary control) requirements of Eurasian Economic Union prepared and concrete recommendations developed.
Indicator: U.I.1.2. Number of recommendation papers on improving regional trade and transport linkages developed with stakeholders and submitted to the governments.	U.T.1.2. At least 3 recommendation papers after being coordinated at regional level by EoP	 2015 - 1 analytical paper developed with IFMR on current levels and perspectives of trade development between Uzbekistan and CA countries (including concrete recommendations). 2016/6 - Analytical Paper with recommendations on improving foreign trade regime as a factor of raising competitiveness of the economy of Uzbekistan is prepared jointly with CER; - Draft of Analytical Report on the analysis of the status and prospects of non-raw-material exports development is prepared and submitted for comments;

Indicator: U.I.2.1. Number of new clients taking advantage of existing and new trade opportunities.	U.T.2.1. At least 100 new clients receiving support services (starting from year 2)	 2015 - TSIs, which received support in 2014 and 2015 were able to attract 73 new clients taking advantage of trade opportunities. "Uztadbirkoreksport" expanded its client's base by 23% (adding 53 companies). "Uzmarkazimpeks" was able to expand its client base by 25% (20 companies on the Russian market). 2016/6 - UzTrade Export Promotion Platform, supported by UzTadbirkorexport launched in May 2016 and more than 1200 companies registered on the platform.
Indicator: U.I.2.2. Number of new linkages facilitated among trade and business support institutions in the region.	U.T.2.2. At least 5 linkages with trade and business support institutions facilitated	 2014 - 3 linkages established: World Food Moscow 2014, China Business Forum, International Trade Exhibition on Gardening, Beekeeping and Floriculture 2014. 2015 - 5 linkages established during Fruit Logistica 2015 International Fair in Berlin (Germany), Textillegprom International 2015 Fair in Moscow (Russia), World Food Moscow 2015 (Russia), Tyumen Business Forum in Russia, Food Week Korea Fair in Seoul (Korea). 2016/6 - 1 linkage established during the participation at Fruit Logistica 2016 International Fair in Berlin (Germany); 1 linkage, established with an Indian importer (study visit to India during February 2016) developed.
Indicator: U.I.2.3. Increased export volume achieved at companies receiving support services.	U.T.2.3. At least 10% one year after having received support services	 2015 - Due to the economic crisis and price decreases (in USD term) in main target markets, Uzmarkazimpeks and project's other major beneficiaries were able to increase export volumes on average by 10.3% in quantity terms, and manage to maintain export volume in USD terms. 2016/6 - To be assessed in the 2nd half of 2016.
Indicator: U.I.3.1. Number of cooperation channels facilitated.	U.T.3.1. At least 2 regional trade fairs organized for SME exporters	 2014 - International Trade Exhibition on Gardening, Beekeeping and Floriculture organised. 2015 - No regional fair organised. 2016/6 - To be organised in the 2nd half of 2016.
Indicator: U.I.3.2. Percentage increase in production and sales at targeted clients in supported value chains, one year after having received support.	U.T.3.2. At least 30%	 2015 - MOUs for 2 pilot business projects signed in December 2015, with results to be achieved in 2016. 2016/6 - Data to be collected by the end of 2016.

Indicator: U.I.3.3. Number of subsectors in which eco-sustainable business models are developed and ready for scaling-up.	U.T.3.3. At least 2 subsectors (1 - 2015, 1 - 2016)	 2015 - Pilot businesses were identified in 1) the agriculture sector on the introduction of renewable energy (biogas) into production and 2) the textile sector to introduce computerized designing and improve sewing practices to reduce waste and energy consumption. 2016/6 - 1 pilot business model was initiated in the leather processing sector to develop local capacity on sewing bags.
Indicator: U.I.3.4. Number of national agro-processors linked to regional and international trade platforms.	U.T.3.4. At least 2 per year (starting from year 2)	 2015 - MOU between the Center for Information Agro - Innovation of Uzbekistan and "Neksigol Musovir" NGO, Tajikistan signed in August 2015, to exchange information and link national businesses of 2 countries; Beta version of the Trade platform developed; national agro-processors will be linked in 2016; 2016/6 - UzTrade Trade Platform was launched, over 100 agro-firms linked to the trade platform, in total 1200 companies linked to the trade platform.

RRF results

Regional output

R.1. Support in developing strategies for linking trade with employment generation.	
Result 1: 3 country studies + one regional analytical study	
Result 2: regional validation event	
Result 2: Support to clients to implement at least 1 recommendation on employment promoting trade policy and/or institutional measure and/or piloting of best practices in at least 2 countries	
Result 3: collaboration between 3 research institutes established and network between them created	
Result 4: Pilot study on barriers facing women entrepreneurs	6/2016: Micronarratives collected for 980 individuals. Data mining will finish in early August.
R.2. Promotion of greening productive capacities in the agricultural sector	
Result 1: Study proposing recommendations to overcome barriers faced by green technologies in the agricultural sector	2016/6: Study on green product spaces in TJK, KGZ. UZB launched
Result 2: Regional/three country validation event	2016/6: First findings of the green product space presented during the Almaty conference on Trade and Employment (June 2016)
Result 3: Support to the implementation of at least 1 recommendation in at least 2 countries	
Result 4: Piloting schemes for at least 3 environmentally friendly technologies	
R. 3. Capacity development of government staff, trade-related agencies, and entrepreneur	s through intra-regional and inter-regional knowledge exchange, and east-east cooperation and collaboration
Result 1: Inter-regional knowledge exchange: at least four south-south, east-east stakeholder, or regional events/engagement between Ministries, agro-processors, research institutes, associations etc.	2016/6: Exchange visit to India for fresh grape production. Participants from Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Indian producers will visit Tajikistan and Uzbekistan in the fall, the aim is to sign contracts. Contract with the Czech Trust Fund has been finalised and a joint study tour involving all three countries will place in fall. Topics to be covered are trade support institutions and processing.
Result 2: Intra-regional knowledge exchange on trade related issues and productive capacities through at least 8 intra-regional collaborations	2016/6: Agri-food supply chains in cross-border trade of nuts and dried fruits, Tashkent June 2016. Participants from KGZ, UZB and TJK.
Result 3: Recommendations for at least 4 trade related thematic areas from a regional perspective with at least 2 participating countries	1- FEZ
Result 4: At least 6 trainings at the regional level targeting trade-related institutions from at least 2 countries	2015: Jointly with FAO, training on agricultural technologies and trade policy in Central Asia (Bishkek, May 2015). Jointly with FAO and UNITAR, one e-course on resolving contentious trade issues through international and regional trade-related agreements (11 participants -July 2015). Jointly with UNECE, workshop on strengthening capacities of trade support institutions (TJK, KGZ and UZB) (Oct. 2015). Jointly with ITC, workshop for trade service providers (Dec 2015 on Kyrgyzstan) 20 trainees from Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan; 2016/6: Jointly with ITC, second installment of the trainings for trade support institutions (Issykul, March 2016).
Result 5: Provide support to the AKT feasibility study for TJK and KGZ	2016/6: AKT feasibility study completed and adopted by participating Governments

Kyrgyzstan

Output 3: In Kyrgyzstan trade-related policy makers are better qualified to support favourable pro-poor trade promotion environment, local authorities, selected business association and service providers are enhanced in their capacity to promote pro-poor trade, and the agriculture and agro-processing in selected value chains increased its productivity and exports volume. Activity/result Progress K.I.1.1. Technical assistance to MoER on 2014- Support to Kyrgyzstan trade policy development aligned with WTO requirements and trade policy review conducted alignment of national regulatory base to the in 2013. Conduct analysis (Harmonization) of NLA re Non-Tariff Regulation (Chapter V, CU Roadmap). Conduct analysis of requirements of international trade Regulatory Impact (ARI). agreements (WTO, CU and etc.). Result: at 2015 -1 policy recommendation developed and provided to the Ministry of Economy on analyzing the consequences of least 6 papers and expert consultancies customs tariff amendments (EEU) and preparation of recommendations on customs tariffs for WTO negotiations. MoE postponed negotiation process in WTO (6 notifications on negotiation received). supported. -1 proposal on the regulation of rules of identification of origin of goods manufactured in Free Economic Zones in the Kyrgyz Republic developed and submitted to the Ministry of Economy and approved by Governmental Decree #761 on 6 November 2015; 1 set of policy recommendations developed and submitted to the Ministry of Economy on the basis of the FEZ study. - Support to the Ministry of Economy on raising awareness on trade issues specific to the EEU accession through 3 video reels (technical regulation, taxation, import from 3rd countries) in Russian and Kyrgyz. 2016-1 package of recommendations on trade finance mechanisms is being developed. Action plan on cross-sector Access to Finance of Export Development Plan is being developed; - Supported the elaboration of 1 analytical note on merging the Investment Promotion Agency with the Single Window Center (export promotion dimension). UNDP AfT project coordinator provided substantive input and guidance in the development of the relevant governmental decree. The decree is awaiting adoption.

K.I.1.2. Capacity development of targeted ministries on mainstreaming trade and human development issues. Result: at least 5 on-demand trainings and trade-related.	 2014- Trade issues and their importance were discussed during different events in Osh (rice fest in Uzgen and the regional conference "Fergana valley: threats and prospects"). 2015- Regulatory impact analysis training - 17 participants (6 women). Data on self-assessment (overall assessment as improved: 13% good, 60% more than good, 27% excellent). One of participants of the training (Mr. Ulukbek Kydyrbaev) was selected as representative of the business community of Kyrgyzstan in the working group of the Eurasian Economic Commission on the evaluation of the regulative impact of drafts of legal acts. Trade and Human Development training. 90% of self-assessed as improved (17 participant, 13 women). Trainings for pilot Ayil okmotus in Osh Oblast on strategic plans development and integration trade issues. 151 participants (104 -males and 47 - females). After the accession of Kazakhstan to the WTO and consequent amendment of customs tariffs for 1347 commodity names, the AFT expert provided recommendations to the Ministry of Economy and other state agencies (see K.I.1.1. 2015 WTO analysis). The Ministry has started negotiations with the business community for proposals. Focus groups on human development & trade were conducted (7 women, 15 men) (in Naryn) 2016- Workshop on food safety issues and technical regulation of food products in Osh. 57% self-assessed as improved. Total # of participants: 70 (47 men, 23 women - 32%); Trainings on development of local strategic plans integrating trade issues for 22 pilot communities were conducted. As a result, 8 ayil okmotus developed and provided their profiles.
K.I.1.3. Mainstreaming trade and sustainable human development issues into existing national and sub-national strategic platforms. Result: trade and sustainable human development issues are integrated into national sub-national and sectoral strategies.	 2014- 3 strategies revised: 1 Strategy on trade for the development of Naryn Oblast was submitted to the Naryn Oblast Office of Government (2014), adopted in the Oblast Sustainable Development Strategy; 2 Plans for Osh city and Osh oblast of practical activities on improving and enhancing trade potential were developed by the work groups and then approved by local authorities (in 2014) as annexes to the existing local development strategies. An initiative group was established to develop recommendations on trade policy and issues to the existing Development Strategy of the Osh oblast (2012-2016) and Development Programme of Osh city (2014-2017). The initiative group consists of local authorities, regional branches of the Ministry of Economy of KR (ME KR), "EShIM" PF and experts. The initiative group developed plans of actions on improving and strengthening the trade potential in Osh oblast as well as Osh city. Honey development programme was developed and presented for Naryn. This programme was agreed upon with local beekeepers and local self-government bodies. 2016 - NHDR report on Trade and Human Development is in the process of clearance by national stakeholders.

K.I.1.4. Facilitate coordination meetings between stakeholders from CA countries on trade-related cross-border issues by providing organizational support and technical assistance on demand. Result: at least twice a year the trade-related cross- border issues are discussed between countries.	 2015-Participation at 2 coordinating meetings supported (COMCEC conference on Eximbanks, Regional Public-Private Dialogue platform forum): Supported 3 coordination meetings among CA countries on cross-border issues: Regional workshop to enhance the connections among trade support institutions and capacity development on trade promotion. Partners: Chambers of Commerce, state agencies, NGOs, business associations. Countries: Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan. 22 participants: 6 women, 16 men; Regional workshop on findings for the regional Free Economic Zones study. Partners: Ministry of Economy, state bodies, FEZs' administrations, companies, development projects. Countries: Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan. 46 participants: 25 women, 21 men. Regional workshop on export promotion strategies for TSIs and business consultants jointly conducted with EBRD. Partners: Chambers of Commerce, export promotion agencies, business associations, business consultants. Countries: Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan. 29 participants: 17 women, 12 men. South branch of ME KR conducted (independently) series of seminars on EEC on the basis of the development plans for Osh city and Osh oblast on the basis of the practical activities on improving and enhancing trade potential developed by the project. 2016- Kyrgyz-Finnish Business Seminar. Participants: 40 participants (25 men, 15 women).
K.I.2.1. Needs and capacity assessment of stakeholders translated into capacity building response. Result: Capacity Building Plan.	2014 - 3 roundtables were supported (Bishkek, Naryn, Osh) for exporters in services. This was integrated into the service portfolio of the Single Window.
K.I.2.2 Capacity development for Single Window\State Export Promotion Agency in the area of trade promotion. Result: Increased capacity of Agencies for delivering demand-oriented trade information services to clients.	 2014-Representatives of the Single Window and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry participated in the TPO conference on best practices in delivering trade information and trade promotion services. 2015- Regular consultations of Single Window staff by project staff on issues of service portfolio implementation. Supported better customer relationship management for the Single Window Centre through the provision of a CRM-system; Supported the EBRD workshop on export strategy provided by the British Institute on Export Promotion. 2016- Technical specs on business intelligence services elaborated and completed by the end of 2016.

K.I.2.3. Capacity development for trade promotion institutions. Result: Improvement of trade procedures, the alignment of the interaction between participants in the trade support network, development of competence in the field of trade.	 2015- 2-days workshop conducted with the cooperation of the Ministry of Economy of Turkey on the practices of export promotion for TSIs in Kyrgyzstan (12 men and 7 women), Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan; Centers of entrepreneurship and trade support established in the cities of Osh, Uzgen and Karasuu.
K.I.2.4. Development and support the setup of an sustainable maintenance structure for information databases (trade web-portal, Exporters Directory online, information on exhibitions, missions of exporters and importers); Result: technical and expert support provided on sourcing, updating and advertising demand-driven market information.	 2014 - Catalogue for export service providers developed. Published in Russian (both hard copy and online PDF). 2015 - Catalogue of export service providers into Kyrgyz and published (both hard copy and online PDF). Disseminated through the branches of the Ministry of Economy and directly at client meetings (Kyrgyz 822 and in Russian 800). - 2 trainings on web-site development (15 participants: 6 women, 9 men) and e-commerce (17 participants: 9 women, 8 men) (Naryn); - Websites for pilot companies created (Naryn). 2016 - Helpdesk launched to provide informational services for the business community. Platform based on e-inquiry system and internet-phone system (single short phone number). Short phone number 1220 and web-page: http://info.trade.kg/
K.2.5. Support to Business Associations to lobby the interest of their member on business environment. Result: at least 2 business associations are regularly supported with demand-related expertise to formulate trade policy recommendations.	 2014- Two round tables were conducted with the participation of local authorities, farmers, processors/agrifood-producers, labs, regional CCI branches. The 1 st round table was devoted to strengthening the export potential of agricultural products from Osh region. The 2nd one focused on international quality standards and food security. 2015- Arranged study visit to Estonia on the best practices of trade promotion and entrepreneurship support (14 participants, 5 women), Tallinn, Estonia Strategy and development plan completed for the Associations of potato farmers and beekeepers including the Concept of Field School for Farmers and Information Centre (Naryn) 2016- B2B Meeting of food companies with Kazakh and Russian trading companies. Total participants: 74 (56 men, 18 women).

K.2.6. Support CCI in organising the participation of selected SMEs at trade fairs/exhibitions and business forums in CA countries. Result: Capacity of CCI in organising delegations visits of entrepreneurs is built, new business links established, locally produced products promoted at regional markets, export turnover increased by 10% at least.	 2015 -Expertise provided for the development of a strategy for the CCI branch in Naryn. 2016 - CCI requested expert for August-September 2016 (Agroprodexpo exhibition). Announcement of assignment has been issued.
K.2.7. Support CCI and its branches in Oblasts on organising joint trade fairs and exchange visits between SMEs in the region. Result: CCI and its branches are expanding cross-border cooperation efforts and continuing these after EoP.	2015 - 2nd Investment Forum of the Naryn Oblast
K.3.1. Conduct agricultural value chains analysis. Result: at least 2 sub-sectors in 2 Oblasts are analysed.	 2014- An analysis of economic and agribusiness competitiveness in selected districts of the Osh oblast was conducted. VCs with the best potential were defined (apple, rice production, sweet corn and honey). Research for selecting potential agro VCs was conducted and the following VCs were recommended for support: 1. Rice VC (Uzgen); 2. Apples VC (Nookat); 3. Honey (Kara-kulja); 4. Sweet corn (Karasuu). A situational analysis of competitiveness of agribusinesses in Naryn Oblast was conducted defining the priority sectors for the project. The priority sectors include meat and milk processing sector, handicrafts, potatoes and beekeeping.

K.3.2. Conduct of need assessment at stakeholders and support implementation of main recommendation to increase productivity at local processors. Result: at least 2 main recommendations are implemented at 70 % of supported local processors.	2014 - The value chain analysis on potatoes and handicrafts were completed. The analysis on potatoes includes a concrete action plan for implementation on the production and sales of potatoes involving 300 households. The main stakeholders are seed and agriculture cooperatives, large farms, state seed and phytosanitary inspections and consultative companies. Some of the actions include the creation of marketing association of potato growers including wholesale point, information and service centers and field education centers for farmers. The action plan will be implemented in 2015. For handicrafts, the focus will be on marketing and production of felt products. This work will focus predominantly on women entrepreneurs and will engage exporters of felt products of Bishkek and Naryn (100 households). A preliminary needs assessment for the selected enterprises in Naryn was conducted covering the modernisation of processing lines. Technical specifications are clarified. Business and marketing plans are developed. Analysis of production sites was conducted in meat and milk processing enterprises and recommendations and concrete plans were prepared for the introduction of HACCP (Naryn) National and external market analysis of honey and canned meat was conducted. It showed that the demand for canned meat on national markets is low and that canned meat is mainly exported to Kazakhstan and Russia. Export capacity of this product. The research also showed that there is a demand for delicacy meat products which could provide further opportunities. The analysis of the Naryn honey concluded that due to the high content of sainfoin make it a unique product, in high demand on national markets and potentially also on markets in bordering China. Recommendations include issues such as standardisation, quality control, and proper packaging (Naryn). The AfT project and GIZ are collaborating to support the "Kyrgyz Tokoi baylygy" cooperative in Jalal-abad oblast which processes forest walnut. The cooperative unites 300 farmers (Os
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K.3.3. Support business initiatives to improve product quality for meeting international standards, and introducing energy efficient and greener production. Result: at least 2 initiatives of local processors per year have been supported.	 2015 - Naryn: Expert support on dairy equipment list technical specifications. ; Expert support for the construction of a potato storage; Expert support on felt equipment list technical specifications. Supported the participation in a 1-week capacity building courses for employees of dairy companies on cheese production, quality control of primary products and final products, basics of HACCP (2 participants, 1 woman) (Naryn); Osh: Support with equipment of Kyrgyz Tokoi Bailygy cooperative (walnut) 8 projects were selected (drip irrigation, green-houses, promotion of bonsai gardening, production of honey, fodder producing). Corn: AfT Osh supported "Zoloty doliny (Valley of Gold)" cooperative with 1 mobile dryer (unfortunately after harvesting season in 2015). The dryer will help to reduce humidity level of corn from 28% to 14%. Apples: In December, the AfT project supported "EUM" company with packaging equipment. The supplied equipment allows to pack juice into packs up to 1 liter (tetra-packs) and it will significantly improve the competitiveness of the juice and provide advantages for a deeper integration into local, regional and international markets, as before they used to pour juice in 'bag-in-box' packs with volumes of 3 and 5 liters.
K.3.4. Support to establish systematic knowledge exchange setup between agro- processors and cooperatives in selected bordering Oblasts. Result: regular exchange meetings between supported local processors are institutionalized.	 2014-6 leaders of pilot potato cooperatives participated in a study tour to Issik-kul to familiarise themselves with new technologies to grow potatoes. Contacts were established between high quality seed producers (Naryn). 2015- Study tour to Osh for the Association of Atbashi Potato Seeders (6 men) (Naryn)
K.3.5. Strengthening stakeholders of selected value chains for deepening integrating into local, regional and international markets. Result: at least 2 systematic marketing training serials institutionalized until EoP.	 2014 - 95 members (87 women) of handicraft cooperatives were trained in the management, marketing and Kaizen approach. HACCP training for 15 people from meat and milk enterprises was organised (Naryn). 2016 - Training "Development of business projects for agroprocessors in the pilot VCs" Participants 9 (7 men and 2 women) (Osh) Training on financial literacy for cooperative members (for "Nookat Altyn Almasy" – total 18 people (3 out of 18 – women) and "Ozgon guruch" – 20 people, all males) (Osh).

K.3.6. Support participation of selected clients at the national and regional trade fairs and business forums increasing sales volume and accessing new sales channels. Result: at least 30 % of supported cooperatives and local processors regularly participate at the national and regional trade fairs; at least 1 representative per supported value chain and Oblast regularly participates at business forums.

2014 - 6 representatives of pilot cooperatives participated in discussion of the strategy of felt products and in planning workshops of the project to ensure wide participation and representation of their interests (Naryn).

- The project targeted agrifood producers. 1) A trade fair with trainings was organised during the Sulaiman-too international event. Sales totaling 150 000Soms were made. Trainings were provided on sewing (53/7 women), pastry (60/ 30 women), and ceramics (53/ 30 women). 2) The rice festival took place in Uzgen town, the rayon's center which is famous for its rice (179/65 women). A fair for rice products was held, where problems of rice production were discussed. The apple festival took place in Osh and farmers from the Nookat rayon participated (49/14 women). The walnut festival was organised jointly with GIZ in Jalal-abad town (314/59 women). Issues of production and forest conversation were discussed (Osh).

- Support to the annual Investment forum in Osh was provided in May 2014. The 2nd catalogue of investment projects was published.

Purchase of exhibition equipment was done for the "Jer Azygy" Agro businessmen Association of Kyrgyzstan (AAK).
 Local producers displayed their products during the Sulaiman-too international campaign held in October 2014. In total, 64 (43 women) local producers took part in it.

3) 77 (16 women) producers presented their products in the fairs in November 2014.

In total, 120 (63 women) persons participated in the forum (Osh)

2015 - Naryn: 6 (2 female) entrepreneurs participated in the International Exhibition in Cian, China (signed agreement between FEZ Naryn and Cian Innovation Centre for Investment Attraction and New Technologies Promotion);

- Entrepreneurs participated in the Regional Exhibition World Food Kazakhstan 2015 in Almaty (2 men);

- Entrepreneurs participated in the Trade Fair on Handicraft in Bishkek and Issyk-Kul (10 women);

- CA Trade Forum in Almaty (2 men)

- Participation of handicraft female entrepreneurs in the national festival of felt products in Bishkek and Issyk-Kul (10 women)

- 2 entrepreneurs (1 woman) from Naryn participated in the business forum in Kashgar (China). 1 signed contract on joint production of apparel products;

- Posters and video clips developed for FEZ Naryn;

Osh:- Osh business-forum with more than 200 participants. The project invested much effort in turning this event into a more B2B opportunity instead of the traditional formal event. Further capacity development of businesses, as well as associations is required.

-The producers from the pilot VCs took part in World Food Exhibition in Almaty, Kazakhstan in November 2015. Over 400 companies from 37 countries took part in the exhibition.

Nookat Altyn Almasy sold 165 tons of fresh apples to Kazakh traders after the WorldFood Kazakhstan exhibition (in December 2015). Estimated sum of delivery 2.5 mln. KGS. The participation in the exhibition was facilitated by the Single Window Center under the Ministry of Economy.

'-Jointly with USAID Agrohorizon, ICCO & Helvetas, Bai-Jer LTD, Jer-Azygy Association, the project supported the annual

	μ μ μ μ μ μ μ μ μ μ μ μ μ μ	 kgroExpo Exhibition held in Osh in February. About 3,000 people visited the exhibition, 40 companies represented their products. More than 20 contracts were signed on supplying agroproducts and providing inputs. 6 seminars on agriculture opics were conducted where 396 (194 males and 202 females) people took part in. Women's entrepreneurship workshop in Karakulja where about 200 women took part in. Support to the organisation of the apple festival in Nookat district. Over 200 participants took part in the event. There were entrepreneurs from Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkey and China. The results of the festival is that apple farmers and ooperatives of Nookat rayon/district established good trade links with Taraz city entrepreneurs in Kazakhstan where they old 120 tons of fresh apples. Exports are ongoing to Russian and Kazakh cities. A honey festival was held for the 1st time in KG in Karakulja rayon/district. Over 200 participants took part in the event. Honey producers from all the regions of KG represented their produce in the event. There were representatives from tussian and Chinese embassies and entrepreneurs from these countries as well. As a result of the honey festival: "Too baly" Cooperative concluded a contract with "Golden kg" company for 1 ton of honey to UAE. The total expected volume is 20 tons. "Too baly" Cooperative concluded a contract with local buyers to supply 1 ton; Agreement to supply honey to "KG House" shop in Kazakhstan and "Made in KG" shop in Russia. The expected volume is 0 tons. Support to the organisation of the walnut festival. Over 200 participants took part in the event. A forum devoted to the problem of walnut forests where scientists and experts provided recommendations. As a result of the walnut festival: "Farmers organic garden" Ltd concluded a contract with "Altynym" supermarket (Bishkek) to supply walnut milk; "Osko" Ltd agreed with local forest users to buy dried fruits - apples, prunes . The plan
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Tajikistan

Output 4: In Tajikistan, trade policy documents developed and adjusted to international trade agreements, trade promotion institutes and stakeholders strengthened in international trading and promoting sound business environment, selected agricultural value chains are based on sustainable use of natural resources, and supported information technology applied to improve business links and innovative economic activities.

Activity/result	Progress
T.1.1. Conduct trade related baseline study on national and Oblasts level. Result: national and at least 2 Oblast studies drafted.	 2015: Trade baseline study on Free Economic Zones in TJK and the CA region conducted (REG activity). Trade baseline study on TJK export potential conducted. Trade baseline study on increasing competitiveness conducted. Trade baseline study of the Khatlon region conducted. 2016/6: Economic impact study of WTO accession. Baseline study on the impact of multilateral and bilateral international and regional integration processes. Trade barrier analysis for the Sughd region undertaken.
T.1.2. Legal review of national trade related documents and WTO requirements for Tajikistan. Result: legal review is supported with on-demand advice from trade experts.	 2014: Legal review of the law on trade and consumer services supported. Legal review of the law on free economic zones supported. Recommendations by the MEDT to establish an NTFC (National Trade Facilitation Committee) sent to relevant Government authorities; 2015: Legal review of the Law on trade and consumer services conducted. Legal review of the Law on Free Economic Zones conducted; 2016/6: WTO Trade Policy Review started. Legal review of the rules of commission trade, consumer services and public catering in schools.
T.1.3. Support to the establishing a Working Group at Ministerial level for introducing of adjustments to the National Trade Policy documents and providing it with international and national expertise. Result: Ministerial Working Group is supported by providing requested topic- related trade experts.	 2014: Support to WG on the law on trade and consumer services through technical expertise; 2015: 4 WGs (law on trade and consumer services, law on free economic zones, donor coordination on WTO matters, and export promotion and competiveness) supported with technical advice; 2016/6: 3 WGs (law on trade and consumer services, WTO matters, and Trade Policy Review for the WTO) supported with technical advice.
T.1.4. Support to establishing Expert and Working Groups on national and at Oblasts level for elaboration of trade related policy documents. Result: expert and working groups on trade policy are established on national level and at least in 2 Oblasts.	 2014: WG under the Consultative Council of the Khatlon region on SMEs access to affordable financial resources supported. 8 recommendations submitted to the annual meeting of the Consultative Council under the Head of Khatlon administration (8 adopted); 2015: Expert group for the development of the TDP of Khatlon region established and supported. At the oblast level two focus groups were established to support the formulation of the TDP. 3 WG meetings conducted; 2016/6: Support for the establishment of the WG on the elaboration of the TDP Sughd 2016-2018 provided and WG established. Expert Groups in Isfara, Istarafshan and Khujand established and meetings conducted.
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T.1.5. Provide national and international technical expertise in formulation of trade related policy documents. Result: at least 6 papers and expert consultancies supported.	 2015: -Expertise provided for the formulation of the Law on trade and consumer services - 3 national consultants hired; Expertise provided for the formulation of the Law on FEZ- 2 national consultants hired; Expertise provided for the formulation of the State programme on export promotion and increasing competitiveness- 1 international consultant and 2 local consultants hired; Expertise provided for the formulation of the Trade Development Programme for the Khatlon region. One international consultant and 2 local consultants hired; Expertise provided for the formulation of the National Development Strategy for 2016-2030. Two local experts hired; Technical assistance to improve sanitary, phyto-sanitary and veterinary standards provided. Two international and one local consultant on sanitary and phyto-sanitary (SPS) measures hired; 2016/6: Local consultant to conduct the WTO economic impact analysis, analysis of rules of commission trade and consumer services;
T.1.6. Provision of technical assistance for the design of a Trade Road Map Action Matrix and implementing selected priorities through UNDP instrument "Small Grants Programme". Result: implementation of Action Matrix priorities is supported by providing on-demand advice from experts and grants.	 2015: The Road Map ("Export Promotion and increase of competitiveness") and its Action Matrix formulated and adopted by MEDT (28.12.2015); 2016/6: Implementation of the priorities stated in the Action Matrix to be started in second half of 2016.

T.1.7. Promote public discussion of trade related policy documents at PPD platforms on national and Oblasts level through provision of demand-oriented inputs to interested stakeholders ahead of platform meetings. Result: at least once a year trade policy documents are discussed on national and at least on 2 Oblast PPD platforms, advised by trade experts with topic related input papers.	 2014- WG on access to affordable financial resources for entrepreneurs involved in production of Consultative Council under the President of the RT of Khatlon region supported; 2 WG meetings conducted; 8 recommendations elaborated and 8 submitted to the Khatlon Consultative Council and 8 adopted by Consultative Council of Khatlon region at the 6th Consultative Council meeting on 26.12.2014 in Kurgan Tube; 2015- Round Table on "Consultative Council on Improvement of Investment Climate under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan - an Instrument to Facilitate Open Dialogue between State and Private Sectors" supported. 125 people participated from government and private sector. (23 female); - Seminar on Logistics and export and import promotion in Khatlon region with Consultative Council and ABBAT supported for local entrepreneurs, 30 representatives from private sector and government officials participated (7 female).
T.2.1. Needs assessment of business community in target areas, including organizing of focus groups discussions at national and Oblasts' level. Result: NA conducted and findings used for TCDP formulation.	2014: Needs assessment conducted in Khatlon, Sughd and DRS. List of capacity development themes defined and included into the Trade and Export capacity building programme (TCDP). Completed
T.2.2. Needs and capacity assessment on trade capacity development for all trade stakeholders in the target areas. Result: at least 2 assessments are conducted.	2014: Needs assessment conducted in Khatlon, Sughd and DRS.List of capacity development themes defined and included into the Trade and Export capacity building programme (TCDP). (The actions was united with T.2.1.)
T.2.3. Support to establishing National and at least two Oblasts Trade Promotion Centres. Result: National and at least 2 Oblast Trade Promotion Centres are established.	2014: Three (3) TPCs established - 1 on national and 2 on the regional level (Khatlon and Sughd) under the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) of TJK.
T.2.4. Support to establishing a TCDP on national and Oblasts level providing regular trainings. Result: latest by mid 2015 Trade Capacity Programme conducts annually at least 2 trade-related trainings, satisfying at least 70 % of participants.	 2014: The Trade/Export Capacity Development Programme (TCDP) established at the national level and 2 oblasts. 5 training sessions (18 trainings) were conducted and 252 entrepreneurs (34 or 13% women) trained. 93 % of entrepreneurs trained are satisfied; 2015: 7 training sessions (22 trainings), 2 information sessions (4 events), individual consultancies provided. In total 444 entrepreneurs (103 or 23% women) trained. 75 % of clients were satisfied with the services; 2016: 3 training sessions (9 trainings) conducted and 132 entrepreneurs (21 or 16% are women) trained and supported by the national and oblasts TPCs. 75 % of clients are satisfied with the services.

T.2.5. Providing Trade Promotion Centers with support to conduct follow-up actions for SMEs on TCDP trainings on compliance to export standards for agro-processing companies (e.g. Good Management Practice, HACCP, and ISO). Result: at least 2 follow-up measures on compliance with export standards are supported per year.	 2014: Post-trainings, the project started to provide direct expert support to 9 agro processing SMEs from different areas of TJK in the introduction of HACCP quality standards; 2015: 23 SMEs - 9 processing companies (introduction of HACCP) and 14 companies supported through expert advice (marketing, business planning, feed etc.; 2016/6: Study tour to India for grapes producers conducted in February 2016 jointly with UZB producers focusing on best practices in grape production, exporting, Global GAP, ISO 22000, cold storage, post-harvest and marketing practices etc. As a result, it was agreed to organize a visit to Uzbek and Tajik cold stores in season (autumn) for Indian and coordinate activities between the two neighboring countries (Uzbekistan and Tajikistan) in accomplishing any possible improvements. Contract agreements are expected by the end of fall (regional output activity).
IT.2.6. Support to capacity development of Business Associations and CCI, including improving lobbying capacity on enhancing the business environment, utilizing means of Small Grants Programme, national and international experts. Result: at least 5 requests from business associations and CCI on providing capacity development via expertise and trainings. At least 6 recommendations on improving business environment elaborated and submitted to government	 2015: 3 BAs identified 30 recommendations on taxation, agriculture and agroindustry. 10 recommendations were submitted to relevant government structures and 4 recommendations already considered by government and CC under the President of Tajikistan 1 proposal related to taxation of users of natural resources was approved and it is expected that changes will be adopted to the new version of Tax Code starting from the January 01, 2016 3 proposals related to improving Agro industry issues were considered at the CC under the President of the RT and included into the action plan for the elimination of barriers in this sector; 2016/6: Call for grants announced.
T.2.7. Support CCI in organising the participation of selected SMEs at trade fairs/exhibitions and business forums in CA countries. Result: Capacity of CCI in organising delegations visits of entrepreneurs is built, new business links established, locally produced products promoted at regional markets, export turnover increased by 10% at least.	 2014: 5 agro processing SMEs participated at the international exhibition "AgroExpo 2014" in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan contracts signed for 1.5 mln. USD; 2015: 21 Tajik SMEs participated at international exhibitions in Moscow (RF), Xian (China), Astana (Kazakhstan) and Minsk (Belarus). The contracts and MOUs concluded for 2.5 mln. USD.
T.3.1.1. Conduct agricultural value chain analysis (productivity, marketing capacity, use of natural resources and etc.) to identify innovative green business ideas for raising productivity and export capacity, and SMEs capable to implement them. Result: at least 2 sub-sectors in 2 Oblasts are analysed.	 2014: Agricultural value chain analysis of fruit and vegetable sectors of Sughd, Khatlon and DRS conducted and the 3 most perspective sub-sectors to raise productivity and export capacity identified; 2015: No activities; 2016/6: Assessment of 7 companies in the Sughd region conducted by experts from UNDP Croatia in terms of energy efficiency auditing. Recommendations will be shared with SMEs and will be presented during the Conference on "Gravity of Gender -Environment mainstreaming in country's development plans and strategies: galvanizing sustainable use of ecosystems and natural resource" (joint PEI-AFT action).

T.3.1.2. Conduct feasibility study on establishing a Business Challenge Fund (BCF) and due diligence analysis implementing capacity of Micro-finance Institutions (MFI). Result: compliance with criteria of financial sustainability of initial funding amount ensured. T.3.1.3. Awareness raising on BCF among the private sector. Result: awareness campaigns are conducted at least every second year in at least 4 Oblasts.	2014: Feasibility study on the establishment of the BCF in the Khatlon region and DRS conducted and 3 new affordable to SMEs microfinance products developed. These microfinance products will cover the needs of women-headed SMEs, support to innovative green business ideas and the agribusiness sector. MFI selected through open competition process.
 T.3.1.3. Awareness raising on BCF among the private sector. Result: awareness campaigns are conducted at least every second year in at least 4 Oblasts. T.3.1.4. Establishing Project Appraisal Committees (PAC) at 	 2014: 2 (two) awareness campaigns on the BCF conducted at the national level and in the Khatlon region; 2015: 2 awareness campaigns conducted in the DRS and Dushanbe. 2014: Project proposal evaluation committee (PPEC) established in the Khatlon oblast and selection
national and Oblast level, elaborating selection criteria for business ideas, including environmental screening tools. Result: PAC established and selection criteria agreed latest until end of 2014.	criterion elaborated, application forms prepared and agreed upon; 2015: Project proposal evaluation committee (PPEC) established for the DRS and selection criterion elaborated, application forms prepared and agreed upon.
TT.3.1.5. Integrating BCF in selected MFIs programme(s). Result: institutional arrangement between BCF and MFI(s) contracted latest until end 2014.	2014: Grant Agreement for credit related activities with MFI - MCF Sarvati Vakhsh concluded and BCF crediting principles integrated.
T.3.1.6. Based on established eligibility criteria, to conduct selection process on innovative green business ideas with increased productivity and export capacity. Result: selection process on business ideas from mid of 2014 to mid of 2016.	 2014: Call for business proposals for SMEs announced in the Khatlon region in mid- December 2014 and selection process started in January 2015; 2015: Call for proposals for SMEs in the Khatlon region announced and in total 39 proposals received. Call for proposals for DRS, 6 proposals received; 2016/6: DRS: call for proposals, 13 proposals received. Khatlon: 3 proposals received to be funded from revolving funds.
T.3.1.7. Provision support through BCF to selected SMEs' business ideas. Result: at least 7 innovative business ideas are supported per year.	 2014: No activities; 2015: 18 business ideas supported (15 in Khatlon, 3 in DRS); 2016/6: 9 business ideas supported (7 in DRS and 2 in Khatlon from revolving funds).
T.3.2.1. Feasibility study on introducing Agriculture Information and Marketing Service (AIMS) to other Oblasts. Result: conduct study in at least for 3 additional Oblasts.	2014: Feasibility study to introduce the AIMS in other oblasts undertaken in Khatlon, and DRS. Completed
T.3.2.2. Establishing AIMS and its agent network at other Oblasts of Tajikistan. Result: the AIMS services covering whole Tajikistan.	 2014: One (1) additional region - Khatlon Oblast fully covered by AIMS services; 2015: One (1) additional region - DRS fully covered by AIMS services; 2016/6: AIMS covers 3 regions of TJK (Sughd, Khatlon and DRS) and continues to operate.

T.3.2.3. Developing and implementing new service offers at the AIMS platform. Result: range of services providing by AIMS is widened, sustainability of AIMS insured, new ICT developed for mobile phones, electronic trade is piloted and etc.	 2014: 1 new mobile application on market prices of Tajikistan (Android platform /Google Play); 2015: Two new mobile applications developed - "Mobile plant protection guide" and "Farm gate prices", and 1 "Market prices of Tajikistan" upgraded into "Market prices of Central Asia"; 2016/6: Development of a new service of AIMS - "Database of agricultural producers" was completed. Development of a new mobile application "A to Z" for livestock is ongoing (jointly with KRG partners).
T.3.2.4. Awareness raising of private and government sectors on AIMS. Result: at least 2 promotion campaigns per additional Oblast at time of introduction and 6 months later	 2014: Four awareness campaigns for AIMS services in Sughd and Khatlon regions; 2015: 1 awareness campaign for AIMS services at the national level, 5 at the regional/oblast level and 18 at the regional level; 2016/6: 12 awareness raising events at districts level (8 in Sughd and 4 in DRS).
T.3.2.5. Establishing business links between agricultural producers or processors and potential customers. Result: at least 1 incentive with immediate benefit to participate at AIMS developed for linking vendors with customers	 2014: LLC "Mevai Tilloi" linked to the platform; 2015: LLC "Oro Isfara" (dried fruits) LLC "Mevai Tilloi", Mahsuloti Oftobi (Isfara), Shahrinav (Muminobod), Oro Isfara (Isfara) and "Obi Zullol" (Istaravshan) platform. LLC "Mevai Tilloi" was linked with buyers from Altay region of the Russian Federation and Shenzhen Huaxin Decheng Trade Co. Ltd (China); 2016/6: 3 SMEs - LLC Zoda (Khujand, production of fruit beverages), LLC "Iskandari Istaravshan" (Istaravshan, export of onion) and LLC "Abdukhafiz Sarkor" (B.Gafurov, production and export of FV) interlinked to the trade platform Foodmarket.Ru and trained on its usage.
T.3.2.6. Support marketing information providers from CA countries to interlink their agriculture related information systems with neighbouring countries. Result: marketing information providers from CA countries interlinked, CA information exchange platform established.	 2014: Collaboration with marketing information provider from KRG - agro.kg established and negotiations on interlinking of CA producers and exchanging information started; 2015: Collaboration with another private information marketing system of KRG – Agro-asia.com was established. Market prices of TJK and KRG will be available in both systems; MoU with the Centre of Agro Information-Innovation of Uzbekistan signed. A joint action plan elaborated and implementation of this action plan started. 2016: The collaboration with all 3 systems continues.

Uzbekistan

Output 2 (Uzbekistan): In Uzbekistan trade policy makers are better qualified on easing trade with neighbouring countries, research and extension service providers are enabled to promote innovative trade approaches and sustainable agricultural ago-processing practices in Central Asia.

Activity/result	Progress
U.1.1. Conduct legal, data and administrative capacity	Baseline assessment conducted in 2015
baseline study on trade opportunities and challenges in	
Fergana valley. Result: at least 1 baseline assessment	
conducted.	

U.1.2. On-demand engagement of international experts on practical recommendations on implementation of WTO, CIS FTA and CU regulations. Result: at least 3 reviews and analytical notes, e.g. on trade corridors, border facilitation, harmonization of legislation etc., developed and submitted to the governments.	 -Review of draft customs code prepared in 2014 and new edition of customs code adopted in January 2016; 2016, 2 analytical papers with recommendations prepared: Analytical notes on technical regulation in the Eurasian Union and analysis of trade-related sanitary, phyto-sanitary and veterinary control measures for market access of agricultural goods of Eurasian Economic Union prepared and concrete recommendations submitted.
U.1.3. On-demand engagement of international experts on mechanisms to improve regional trade. Result: at least 3 reviews and analytical notes, e.g. on trade corridors, border facilitation, harmonization of legislation etc., developed and submitted to the governments.	 2 analytical notes and 1 draft report prepared: Analytical paper with recommendations on improving foreign trade regime as a factor in raising competitiveness of the economy of Uzbekistan prepared jointly with CER; Draft of analytical report on the analysis of the status and prospects of non-raw-material exports development prepared and submitted for comments; Marketing research prepared on the perspectives of export of fresh and processed fruits and vegetables.
U.1.4. Identification of mechanism for improving regional trade opportunities by involving representatives of regional trade stakeholders. Result: at least 3 cross-border trade stakeholder workshops organized.	- Joint UNECE/UNDP regional workshop on Agri-food supply chains in cross-border trade of nuts and dried fruits is prepared and scheduled for July 11-13, 2016 (REG activity);
U.2.1. Conduct baseline studies on needs of SMEs on export support services. Result: 1 needs assessment report produced.	Activity concluded in 2014
U.I.2.3. Increased export volume achieved at companies receiving support services. Result: At least 10% one year after having received support services	-Uztadbirkorexport and Markazsanoat Foreign Trade Companies established linkages with more than 70 potential clients and concluded preliminary contracts with 13 companies at Fruit Logistica 2016 in Berlin with 6 mln. US\$. During Jan - June 2016, exports worth 863,000US\$ were made. Further implementation of contracts was transferred to the newly established UzAgroExport; increase in exports for JanJuly 2015 vs JanJuly 2016 is 72.6%.
U.2.2. Trainings and advisory services are provided to improve capacity of national export promotion agencies of Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to promote a higher value added goods and support businesses to adopt resource efficient production methods. Result: at least 8 trainings conducted; in evaluation reports 70 % of participants assessed trainings as positive; at least 25 % percent of participants are female.	 6 trainings conducted in 2014 - 2015; 2 trainings will be conducted in 2016: 1) a Joint UNECE/UNDP regional workshop on Agri-food supply chains in cross-border trade of nuts and dried fruits prepared and scheduled for July 11-13, 2016; and 2) 3 day capacity-building training on export promotion and export marketing strategy for representatives of trade support institutions and foreign trade companies prepared and scheduled for July 18-20, 2016.

U.2.3. Support to establish an IT platform for export promotion and exchange of market information servicing at least 2 CA countries. Result: Export promotion and market information exchange platform is established; at least 300 clients served.	-UzTrade (tradeuzbekistan.com) export promotion IT platform created and launched in May 2016, more than 1200 companies registered on the platform;
U.2.4. Support research and extension institutions to cooperate on promoting sustainable agricultural practices in Central Asia. Result: at least 5 targeted publications and information on sustainable agricultural practices.	-Preparation of guidelines on Global GAP is planned for the 2nd half of 2016.
U.3.1. Support participation of selected clients to regional trade fairs and business forums to increase and diversify their sales. Result: at least 50 project clients participated at fairs and forums.	-35 project clients: - 11 project clients in 2014; - 21 project clients in 2015; - 3 project clients in 1st half of 2016.
U.3.2. Support national export promotion agencies to establish a regular joint regional business forum. Result: regional business forum for SMEs conducted at least once a year.	 2014 - Support to CCI to conduct the International Trade Exhibition on Gardening, Beekeeping and Floriculture; 2015 - None; 2016/6 - To be conducted in the 2nd half of 2016.
U.3.3. Support piloting of innovative agro-processing facilities with higher productivity and eco-innovative practices. Result: at least 4 pilot facilities, benefiting at least 50 people, operational by EoP.	2015: 2 pilot projects launched; 2016/6: 1 pilot project identified and in the process of initiation. Also call for proposals for additional pilot projects announced.
U.3.4. Provide recommendations and support introduction of food standards required for exporting. Result: Review of national legislation and conduct gap analysis on required export standards.	Reviews conducted in 2015 (How to export to the European Union Handbook and analytical report on the role of national quality infrastructure in the modernisation strategy of Uzbekistan prepared and submitted to national partners)
U.3.5. Conduct baseline studies to asses risk and challenges posed by climate change to agriculture production in Central Asia. Result: at least 2 research papers developed.	1 research paper conducted in 2015; 1 research paper scheduled for 2nd half of 2016.
U.3.6. Facilitate introduction of eco-innovative sustainable solutions to improve agro-processing and agricultural productivity by organizing sub-sectoral exchange visits, study tours, hands-on trainings and regional innovation camps over Central Asia. Result: At least 4 events organized.	2 events organised in 2015; 1 event organised in 2016.

1 workshop and 1 publication planned for 2016.

2016 AWP results Kyrgyzstan

Output 3: In Kyrgyzstan trade-related policy makers are better qualified to support favorable pro-poor trade promotion environment, local authorities, selected business association and service providers are enhanced in their capacity to promote pro-poor trade, and the agriculture and agro-processing in selected value chains increased its productivity and exports volume.

Actions	Progress
Action 1.1.1. Provide advisory support to the Ministry of Economy and national partners on developing strategic and program documents including legal acts in trade regulation field Results: 1 policy recommendation on sectorial development submitted to the Ministry of Economy, 1 proposed revision provided to MoE.	Will be undertaken before the end of 2016.
Action 1.1.2. Conduct support for the Ministry of Economy on discussions in the field of strengthening export promotion of Kyrgyz products Results: 1 policy recommendation on cross-sectorial development is submitted to the Ministry of Economy, 1 proposed revision provided to MoE.	 1 package of recommendations on trade finance mechanisms is being developed. Action plan on cross-sector Access to Finance of Export Development Plan is being - Supported the elaboration of 1 analytical note on merging the Investment Promotion Agency with the Single Window Center (export promotion dimension). UNDP coordinator provided substantive input and guidance in the development of the relevant governmental decree. The decree is awaiting adoption.

Action 1.1.3. Deliver focused demand-driven capacity development and technical support to the national partners on the issues related to pro-poor trade development Result: Capacity of at least 15 decision-makers and stakeholders of trade policy process is strengthened.	 Roundtable on food safety issues in Osh. 57% of participants self-assessed as improved. Total # of participants: 70 (47 men, 23 women). Kyrgyz-Finnish Business Seminar. Participants: 40 participants (25 men, 15 women). Trainings on development of local strategic plans for 22 pilot communities conducted. As a result, 8 ayil okmotus developed and provided their profiles.
Action 1.1.4. Support development of National Human Development Report on Trade and Human Development Result: Trade and human development issues are submitted to incorporate into national strategies	NHDR report on Trade and Human Development is under clearance of Government submitted to the Government for comments.
Action 1.1.5. Participate in national and sub-national coordination events on trade-related cross- border issues Result: Capacity of at least 15 decision-makers and stakeholders of trade policy process is strengthened.	Will be undertaken before the end of 2016.
Action 2.1.1 Deliver focused demand-driven institutional development support to Single Window Centre (SWC) on improving the capacity and performance as a Trade Promotion Organization, establishing and developing trade information and export promotion functions Results: At least 20 entrepreneurs, of these at least 60% stating benefits, disaggregated by gender. Fully functional integrated trade information system accessible to clients by the EoP. At least 10% increased export volume six months after having received information services	 23 of entrepreneurs stated having benefited from SWC services; Helpdesk service launched (will be integral part of the trade portal); % of increase in exports will be available at the end of the year.
Action 2.1.2. Deliver focused demand-driven capacity development support to TSIs and business associations on the issues of trade policy and information, enhancing exports potential, trade exhibition management, new trade markets analysis and etc. Result: At least 20 entrepreneurs, of these at least 60% stating benefits, disaggregated by gender.	Expert will be hired to develop the capacities of CCI staff.

Action 2.1.3.Technical assistance on trade promotion for exporting companies (export promotion support, exhibitions, international marketing activities etc.) Result: At least 10 of participating SMEs increased their export turnover by 10%.	B2B Meeting of food production companies with Kazakh and Russian trading companies. Total participants: 74 (56 men, 18 women). 17 companies are negotiating contracts or started to export (figures on turnover will be available by the end of 2016).
Action 3.1.1. Strengthening stakeholders of selected value chains for increasing competitiveness of production and capacity on accession local and foreign markets (production management and efficiency, quality management, power effectiveness, resource-saving, green technologies, soil protection, etc.) Results: 30 additional jobs created, 30% for female. 10% in production at targeted clients in supported value chains, one year after having received support 10% increase in sales at targeted clients in supported value chains	Naryn. Honey VC. Association of Beekeepers Naryn Uyuk received the beekeeping equipment. Members of the association will have to pay 40% of the price of the equipment into the association accounts. The pay back will be made in honey. The Association arranged a training for its members on good practices in honey collection in May. In parallel the Single Window Centre supports the cooperative with business matching to German and Japanese markets. Cheese VC. Atbashi-Sut LLC received the equipment and launched production in May. Based on first observations the quality of the cheese improved. The company is continuing work on the implementation of HACCP. Meat VC. Janar and Bek LLC received the meat equipment. The company is in the process of hiring a technologist. Felt value chain - part of the procured equipment had to be returned as the vendor did not comply with all requirements. Osh In collaboration with USAID;s "Farmer to Farmer" programme, a rice expert from the USA gave field consultations on agrotechnology and crop protection to the AfT pilot cooperatives "Ozgon guruch" and "Ozgon shaly uroon". Recommendations will be prepared later. Honey VC. A buffer zone on beekeeping was organized in the Kara-Kuldja rayon of Osh oblast. This will allow the creation of a pool of purebred bees, which in turn will increase honey yields and improve quality. A training on beekeeping, bee vermin and diseases was held for the cooperatives and interested beekeepers.

Action 3.1.2. Extend cooperation with trade promotion institutions to increase access to services among village entrepreneurs, including women Result: 10% increase in sales at targeted clients in supported value chains	 Working visits of Single Window staff was conducted in March 2016. All companies were assessed and requests on export promotion were transferred to the Single Window. For the moment following services are being delivered: Preparation for the Osaka Food exhibition (3 clients of AfT); Data collection and input on warehouses and logistical-trade centers in Kyrgyzstan (Nookat Altyn Almasy cooperative) Follow-up working meetings of experts on export promotion and business in rural areas were arranged in Naryn, Jalalabad and Osh. Total # of participants 87 (25 women).
Action 3.1.3. Assistance in integration of pilot enterprises, cooperatives, associations and FEZ into national and subnational trade resources and platforms (trade and investment forums, exhibitions, fairs, festivals) Result: 10% increase in sales at targeted clients in supported value chains	6 clients of AfT participated in the B2B held in April. 4 out of 6 have preliminary agreements to supply to Russian retailers (Azbuka Vkusa, X5 retail Group, Tander JSC).
Action 3.1.4 Support initiatives of trade promotion working groups (including women empowerment activities) Result: Female participation rate at the interventions supporting trade at least 30%	 Training "Development of business projects for agroprocessors in the pilot VCs" Participants 9 (7 men and 2 women) (Osh) Training on financial literacy for cooperative members (for "Nookat Altyn Almasy" – total 18 people (3 out of 18 – women) and "Ozg

Tajikistan

Output 4: In Tajikistan, trade policy documents developed and adjusted to international trade agreements, trade promotion institutes and stakeholders strengthened in international trading and promoting sound business environment, selected agricultural value chains are based on sustainable use of natural resources, and supported information technology applied to improve business links and innovative economic activities.	
Activity/results	Progress
T.1.1. Conduct a trade related baseline study at the national and Oblasts level, with consideration of gender aspects, wherever applicable. Result: At least one trade related study on the WTO aspects conducted	Economic impact study of WTO accession. Baseline study on the impact of multilateral and bilateral international and regional integration processes. Trade barrier analysis for the Sughd region undertaken.

T.1.2. Legal review of national trade related documents and WTO requirements for Tajikistan. Result: legal review is supported with on-demand advice from trade experts.	Law on trade and consumer services - 3 by laws (commission trade, consumer services, and catering sector for schools) to be finalised by November 2016. The project will also provide technical support for Tajikistan's upcoming WTO Trade Policy Review.
T.1.3. Support to establishing a Working Group at the Ministerial level to introduce adjustments to National Trade Policy documents and provision of international and national expertise. Result: Ministerial Working Group is supported through topic-related trade experts.	3 WGs (law on trade and consumer services, WTO matters, and Trade Policy Review for the WTO) supported with technical advice.
T.1.4. Support to establishing Expert and Working Groups on the national and at Oblasts level for elaboration of trade related policy documents. Result: expert and working groups on trade policy are established on the national level and in at least 2 Oblasts.	Support for the establishment of the WG on the elaboration of the TDP Sughd 2016-2018 provided and WG established. Expert Groups in Isfara, Istarafshan and Khujand established and meetings conducted. Local consultant hired to conduct the WTO economic impact analysis, analysis of rules of commission trade and consumer services to improve the law on trade and consumer services;
T.1.5. Provide national and international technical expertise for the formulation of trade related policy documents. Result: at least 3 papers and expert consultancies supported.	Local consultant to conduct the WTO economic impact analysis, analysis of rules of commission trade and consumer services to improve the law on trade and consumer services;
T.1.6. Provision of technical assistance for the implementation of selected priorities of the Action Matrix. Result: implementation of Action Matrix priorities is supported through the provision of on-demand advice from experts and grants.	TPD Khatlon actions on development of Investment Guide and Brand of the Region supported. EPIC is under evaluation of the government and priorities will be supported as soon as the government adopts it. Adoption envisaged by August 2016.
T.1.7. Promote public discussion, involving active participation of women, on trade related policy documents at PPD platforms at the national and Oblasts level through the provision of demand- oriented inputs to interested stakeholders ahead of platform meetings. Result: at least once a year trade policy documents are discussed at the national and at least on 2 Oblast PPD platforms, advised by trade experts with input papers.	Law on trade discussion in Dushanbe and regions scheduled for this year.
T.2.1. Needs assessment of business communities in target areas, with gender considerations in mind, including organizing of focus groups discussions at the national and Oblasts' level. Result: NA conducted and findings used for the updating of the TCDP.	Completed in 2014.

T.2.4. Support to running a TCDP at the national and Oblasts level providing regular trainings. Result: latest by mid-2015, the Trade Capacity Programme conducts annually at least 2 trade- related trainings, satisfying at least 70 % of participants.	3 training sessions (9 trainings) 132 individuals (21 or 16% are women) trained and supported through the national and oblasts TPCs. 75 % of clients satisfied with the services.
T.2.5. Providing Trade Promotion Centers with support to conduct follow-up actions for SMEs on TCDP trainings on compliance to export standards for agro-processing companies (e.g. Good Management Practice, HACCP, and ISO). Result: at least 2 follow-up measures on compliance with export standards are supported per year.	Study tour to India for grapes producers conducted in February 2016 jointly with UZB producers focusing on best practices in grape production, exporting, Global GAP, ISO 22000, cold storage, post-harvest and marketing practices etc. As a result, it was agreed to organize a visit to Uzbek and Tajik cold stores in season (autumn) for Indian and coordinate activities between the two neighboring countries (Uzbekistan and Tajikistan) in accomplishing any possible improvements. Contract agreements are expected in fall (regional output activity).
T.2.6. Support to Business Associations and CCI on enhancing the business environment, utilizing means of Small Grants Programme, national and international experts. Result: 2 recommendations on improving business environment elaborated and submitted to government.	Call for grants announced.
T.2.7. Support CCI in organizing the participation of selected SMEs (including those headed by women) at trade fairs/exhibitions and business forums in CA countries. Result: Capacity of CCI in organizing delegations visits of entrepreneurs is built, new business links established, locally produced products promoted at regional markets, export turnover increased by 10% at least.	Joint Tajik Uzbek preparation to participate at the Moscow Food exhibition.
T.3.1.1. Conduct agricultural value chain analysis (productivity, marketing capacity, use of natural resources etc.) to identify innovative green business ideas for raising productivity and export capacity, and SMEs capable to implement them. Result: at least 2 sub-sectors in 2 Oblasts are analyzed.	Assessment of 7 companies in the Sughd region conducted by experts from UNDP Croatia in terms of energy efficiency auditing. Recommendations will be shared with SMEs and will be presented during the Conference on "Gravity of Gender -Environment mainstreaming in country's development plans and strategies: galvanizing sustainable use of ecosystems and natural resource" (joint PEI-AFT action).
T.3.1.2. Conduct a feasibility study on establishing a Business Challenge Fund (BCF) and due diligence analysis implementing capacity of Micro-finance Institutions (MFI). Result: compliance with criteria of financial sustainability of initial funding amount ensured.	Completed in 2014.
T.3.1.3. Awareness raising of BCF among the private sector. Result: awareness campaigns are conducted at least every second year in at least 2 Oblasts.	2016: It is expected that at least 2 event will be conducted.

T.3.1.4. Establishing Project Appraisal Committees (PAC) at the Oblast level, elaborating selection criteria for business ideas, including environmental screening tools.	Completed in 2014.
T.3.1.6. Based on established eligibility criteria, to conduct selection process on innovative green business ideas with increased productivity and export capacity. Result: selection process on business ideas from mid of 2014 to mid of 2016.	DRS: call for proposals, 13 proposals received. Khatlon: 3 proposals received to be funded from revolving funds.
T.3.1.7. Support provision through BCF to selected SMEs' business ideas. Result: at least 7 innovative business ideas are supported per year.	9 business ideas supported (7 in DRS and 2 in Khatlon from the revolving fund).
T.3.2.1. Feasibility study on introducing Agriculture Information and Marketing Service (AIMS) to other Oblasts. Result: conduct study in at least 3 additional Oblasts.	Completed in 2014.
T.3.2.2. Establishing AIMS and its agent network at other Oblasts of Tajikistan. Result: the AIMS services covering whole Tajikistan. (miss match with AWP target and result)	AIMS established and covering 3 regions in TJK (Sughd, Khatlon and DRS), continues to operate
T.3.2.3. Developing and implementing new service offers at the AIMS platform. Result: range of services providing by AIMS is broadened, sustainability of AIMS insured, new ICT developed for mobile phones, electronic trade is piloted and etc.	Development of a new service of AIMS - "Database of agricultural producers" was completed. Development of a new mobile application "A to Z" for livestock is ongoing (jointly with KRG partners).
T.3.2.4. Awareness raising of private and government sectors on AIMS. Result: at least 2 promotion campaigns per additional Oblast at time of introduction and 6 months later.	12 awareness raising events at districts level (8 in Sughd and 4 in DRS).
T.3.2.5. Establishing business links between agricultural producers or processors and potential customers. Result: at least 1 incentive with immediate benefit to participate at AIMS developed for linking vendors with customers.	SMEs - LLC Zoda (Khujand, production of fruit beverages), LLC "Iskandari Istaravshan" (Istaravshan, export of onion) and LLC "Abdukhafiz Sarkor" (B.Gafurov, production and export of FV) interlinked to the trade platform Foodmarket.Ru and trained on its usage.
T.3.2.6. Support marketing information providers from CA countries to interlink their agriculture related information systems with neighboring countries. Result: marketing information providers from CA countries interlinked, CA information exchange platform established.	Collaboration with all 3 systems continues

Uzbekistan

Output 2: In Uzbekistan trade policy makers are better qualified on easing trade with neighboring countries, research and extension service providers are enabled to promote innovative trade approaches and sustainable agricultural ago-processing practices in Central Asia.

Activity/results	2016 progress
U.1.2. On-demand engagement of international experts on practical recommendations on implementation of WTO, CIS FTA, CU and other regional multilateral agreement regulations. Result: at least 1 training conducted and analytical note developed and submitted to the stakeholders.	-2 analytical papers with recommendations prepared: analytical notes on market access (technical regulations, sanitary, phyto-sanitary and veterinary control) requirements of Eurasian Economic Union prepared and recommendations submitted.
U.1.3. On-demand engagement of experts on mechanisms to improve regional trade. Results: 1 review (analytical note) with recommendations on improving mechanisms of regional trade; Piloting BPR system at 1 national agency	 Analytical paper with recommendations on improving foreign trade regime as a factor in raising competitiveness of the economy of Uzbekistan prepared jointly with CER; Pilot implementation of Business Process Re-engineering recommendations for the issuance of certificate of origin initiated in UzbekExpertiza.
U.1.4. identification of mechanism for improving regional trade opportunities by involving representatives of regional trade stakeholders. Result: at least 1 cross-border trade stakeholder workshops organized.	- To be conducted in the second half of 2016;
 U.2.2. Trainings and advisory services are provided to improve capacity of national export promotion agencies. Result: at least 2 trainings conducted; in evaluation reports 70 % of participants assessed trainings as positive; at least 30 % percent of participants are female. 	 Joint UNECE/UNDP regional workshop on Agri-food supply chains in cross-border trade of nuts and dried fruits prepared and scheduled for July 11-13, 2016 (REG act.); 3 day capacity-building training on export promotion and export marketing strategy for representatives of trade support institutions and foreign trade companies prepared and scheduled for July 18-20, 2016.
U.2.2.1 Support national export promotion agencies in providing professional services and capacity building. Result: Establishment of at least 1 linkage upon participation at trade fairs /exhibitions and business forums/conferences.	-Uztadbirkorexport and Markazsanoat Foreign Trade Companies established linkages with more than 70 potential clients and concluded preliminary contracts with 13 companies at the Fruit Logistica 2016 in Berlin with 6 mln. US\$. During Jan - June 2016, exports worth 863,000US\$ were made. Further implementation of contracts was transferred to the newly established UzAgroExport; increase in exports for JanJuly 2015 vs JanJuly 2016 is 72.6%

U.2.3. Enhancement of IT platform aimed at export promotion and exchange of market information. Result: Database of at least 300 clients created and serviced through an IT platform.	-UzTrade export promotion IT platform was created and launched in May 2016, over 1200 companies registered on the platform.
U.2.4. Support research and extension institutions to cooperate on promoting sustainable agricultural practices in Central Asia. Result: at least 1 targeted publication on sustainable agricultural practices and practices introduced at 1 pilot agro producer.	-Green Agro Food Limited - project client has successfully passed the audit and obtained Global GAP certificate on April 4, 2016 for lettuce.
U.3.1. Support participation of selected businesses to regional trade fairs and business forums to increase and diversify their sales. Result: at least 5 project clients participated at fairs and forums.	- 4 SMEs participated in the Fruit Logistica 2016 International Exhibition;
U.3.2. Support national export promotion agencies to establish a regular joint regional business forum. Result: regional business forum for SMEs conducted at least once a year.	- To be organised in the second half of 2016;
U.3.3. Support piloting of innovative agro-processing facilities with higher productivity and eco-innovative practices in the regions (processing of fruits and vegetables, food and light industry, construction materials). Result: at least 2 pilot facilities, benefiting at least 20 people, operational.	-Procurement for pilot project on bag sewing, benefiting 15 people, initiated; call for proposals for additional pilot projects announced
U.3.5. Conduct baseline studies to asses risk and challenges posed by climate change to agriculture production in Central Asia. Result: at least 1 research paper is prepared.	- To be conducted in the second half of 2016.
U.3.6. Facilitate introduction of eco-innovative sustainable solutions to improve agro-processing and agricultural productivity by organizing subsectoral exchange visits, study tours, hands-on trainings and regional innovation camps over Central Asia. Result: At least 1 event organized.	- Study tour for 5 agro companies to India during 21-28 February, 2016, on modern technologies and marketing approaches on grapes export to European markets organised;
U.3.7. Make knowledge and response mechanisms to climate change more accessible to (agro-) business stakeholders by awareness raising campaigns, electronic outreach aimed at national and regional audience. Result: 1 seminar, 2 targeted thematic publications issued	- To be conducted in the second half of 2016.

U.4.1. Revision of customs legislation pertaining to customs valuation, customs clearance and customs control to harmonize with best practices in order to facilitate foreign trade. Result: at least 1 round table is conducted and analytical note developed and submitted to the government.	- To be conducted in the second half of 2016.
U.4.2. Increasing visibility of Investment climate of Uzbekistan including that of special industrial zones. Result: at least 2 publications	-Guidebook for Investors 'Cost of Doing Business in Uzbekistan' was updated (the last updated was in 2012) and published in Russian and English.
 U.4.3. Improving capacity of national partners on market intelligence information and facilitation in proof of origin. Result: At least 2 analytical briefs on market assessment (agriculture, textiles, minerals and etc.) prepared and certifying authority is linked to online system of proof of origin; 	-Access to specialised market intelligence information on fertilizers and metals provided;