

THE MINUTES

of the final meeting of the Project Board of the joint UNDP and CCI project "Enhancing the adaptation and strengthening the resilience of farming to Climate Change Risks in Fergana Valley"

Date: Thursday, December 2, 2020

Time: 10:00-11:00

Venue: Tashkent city, Amir Temur Ave. 4, CCI, Conference Hall

AGENDA OF THE MEETING

10:00-10:05	<i>Participants' registration</i>
10:05-10:10	<i>Welcoming remarks</i> Mr. Ikramov Adkham Ilkhamovich , Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Uzbekistan
10:10-10:15	<i>Welcoming remarks</i> Ms. Matilda Dimovska , Resident Representative of UNDP in Uzbekistan
10:15-10:20	<i>Welcoming remarks</i> Mr. Mitrofanov Vadim Yuryevich , Minister-Counselor of the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Uzbekistan
10:20-10:30	<i>Presentation of the project results for 2019-2021</i> Ulugbek Dedabaev , Project Manager
10:30-10:35	<i>Presentation of the agro-planning IT Tool developed by the project</i> Muzaffar Mirzarakhimov , Task Manager of the Component-1 of the Project
10:35-10:40	<i>Presentation of the system of agro-meteorological stations and smart-pheromone traps</i> Sarvar Abdullayev , Specialist of the Inha University in Tashkent
10:40-10:45	<i>Presentation of joint activities on establishing agrometeorological forecasting and information system</i> Umidjon Abdujalilov , Head of the Department of the State Plants Protection and Quarantine Agency
10:45-10:55	Discussions and taking decisions
10:55-11:00	Conclusions and closing the Project Board Meeting

THE COURSE OF THE MEETING

1. WELCOMING SPEECH AND OPENING OF THE SESSION

The final meeting of the Project Board began with a welcoming speech by **Mr. Ikramov Adkham Ilhamovich, the Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Uzbekistan**, who in his speech noted the importance and contribution to the successful implementation of the project, each of the partners - UNDP, the Embassy of the Russian Federation represented by the Minister-Counselor, Vadim Yuryevich Mitrofanov and members of his delegation, and expressed his gratitude for the initiative, promotion and continuous support given to the project.

Mr. Ikramov expressed great gratitude for the good coordination of the project provided during the implementation of the project. He also noted that last year the CCI implemented several projects jointly with UNDP, which made a significant contribution to the socio-economic development of the country and expressed hope for further cooperation in implementation of joint projects. The current project was launched in 2019 with the financial support of the Russian Federation, and despite the pandemic situation that began in early 2020, it continued its activities and achieved the planned results. In this connection, he expressed special gratitude to the Russian Federation for the financial support of this project, as well as to all colleagues present and participating online for their assistance in the implementation of the project.

He also noted that the project was successfully implemented in 3 regions of the Ferghana Valley and now it is important to extend this experience to other regions. At this stage, the CCI is negotiating with the World Bank and is looking for new donors to continue this initiative. He expressed the confidence that the results of the project implemented in the region are working, and over time this experience will be picked up and disseminated throughout Central Asia.

Ms. Matilda Dimovska, UNDP Resident Coordinator in Uzbekistan, welcomed all participants and informed that this is the final meeting of the Project Board, as the project ends at the end of this year. She noted that during the meeting, the participants will be able to familiarize themselves with the results of the project, as well as express their views and proposals regarding the implementation of this and future projects. This project was able to accumulate a good experience, since the implementation of the project coincided with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, which forced the project to adjust its activities and adapt to work in a pandemic and restriction conditions.

She also noted that despite the fact that the project is aimed at agriculture and adaptation to the risks of climate change, it also contributed to the introduction of digitalization in agricultural development. In addition, aspects of green economy and green development were applied during the implementation process in this project, one of the main examples is the organization of a network of agrometeorological stations, which provides important information to agricultural producers.

In addition, she informed that the project had undergone an independent evaluation, during which the effectiveness, efficiency of the project implementation and the use of funds provided by the Russian Federation were evaluated.

Mr. Vadim Yuryevich Mitrofanov, Minister-Counselor of the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Uzbekistan, noted the successful experience of cooperation between the Russian Embassy and UNDP, including 4 joint projects currently being implemented in Uzbekistan: 1) the joint project "Promotion of youth employment in Uzbekistan" launched in 2019, 2) "Aid for Trade" project launched in 2020, in the context of preparations for Uzbekistan's accession to the World Trade Organization, 3) the project "Adaptation of the population to the post-pandemic economy in the Fergana Valley", which began in 2021 and 4) one of the first launched projects in 2019 and currently being discussed project "Enhancing the

adaptation and strengthening the resilience of farming to Climate Change Risks in Fergana Valley”.

He noted that the project fulfilled its tasks despite the difficult conditions of the pandemic. The project achieved much greater results than originally planned. He also noted that the representative of the embassy, Mr. Ivan Prokopenko, during his visit to Namangan, together with Ms. Dimovska in May of this year, was able to directly familiarize himself with the results and activities of the project on the ground.

He also positively noted that the initiatives of the project will be continued jointly with the Plant Protection Agency, where similar equipment are going to be installed in other regions, not originally covered by the project. Mr. Mitrofanov thanked all participants for their contribution to the implementation of the project and wished everyone success in their work and new successful projects.

2. SUMMARY OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES FOR 2019-2021 PERIOD

Ulugbek Dedabaev, the Project Manager, began his speech with provision of general information about the project, cooperation with project partners and components of the project within which its activities are carried out. During his speech, he provided a summary of the work of the project over the past three years in the framework of two components. In addition, he noted that the project has carried out significant work to increase the capacity of decision makers of agriculture sector in the regions, as well as farmers and other agricultural producers. He also noted cooperation with the khokimiyat of Namangan region on the preparation of the Development Strategy of the Namangan region with focus on aspects of climate change and green development, as well as recommendations for inclusion to agricultural plans that are in the process of inclusion to the strategies of Andijan and Fergana regions. The project, together with the Department of Agriculture of Namangan region and the khokimiyat of Yangikurgan district, developed an IT tool for agricultural planning, which is being tested in Yangikurgan district of Namangan region.

He also noted the cooperation with the Agency for Plants Protection and Quarantine on establishment of a network of agrometeorological stations in target districts of the project in Fergana Valley. The project installed 9 foreign and 15 local agrometeorological stations, which were developed by specialists from the Inha and the State Agrarian Universities in Tashkent, including its software, thus covering a total area of more than 10 thousand hectares. To date, the number of users of agrometeorological services has reached 900 people, although initially it was planned to cover only 300 farmers.

In addition, he informed the participants about 14 business projects implemented for a total amount of more than 1 million 700 thousand US dollars, of which the UNDP contribution amounted to 370 thousand US dollars. As a result of the implementation of these projects, more than 860 jobs were created, including 470 jobs for women and more than 400 for youth. He also noted that the project developed publication materials - thematic infographics, manuals, brochures, which were shared with participants of various events and project partners.

Further, he informed the participants of the meeting about the results of the final independent evaluation of the project, where independent experts gave a very satisfactory assessment of the project, i.e. High rate. The evaluation was carried out according to 4 criteria: monitoring and planning, quality of implementation, overall results, sustainability. He also noted that the project passed the quality control under the UNDP evaluation system "Project Quality Assurance", in which exemplary and very satisfactory marks were received on 7 points.

Then **Muzaffar Mirzarakhimov, the Task Manager of the Component-1 of the project** took the floor. His speech was devoted to the cooperation of the project with the departments of the agrarian sector in development of a software, IT tool for agricultural planning. He briefly introduced the audience with the purpose of this tool, which will help in digitalization and effective planning of the development of agricultural sector in the region. He noted that the developed software has a computer and mobile versions, allowing users to work also in the field. He also noted the benefits of this application and its ability to integrate with other applications for exchanging of information used by other departments and organizations. At this stage, the application is being tested in Yangikurgan district of Namangan region, where a special working group has been created under the leadership of the district khokim, responsible persons have been appointed who have received a special training from the software development team.

Sarvar Abdullayev, a software specialist at Inha University in Tashkent, in his speech introduced to participants advantages of local agrometeorological stations and pheromone traps developed under the project. He noted that these solutions make allow to obtain weather data for a specific area, forecasts of the spread of diseases and pests, as well as a professional agronomic forecast for 14 days in real-time mode through a convenient interface in Uzbek language. These installations operate independently using a solar energy, which ensures uninterrupted operation and automatic transmission of information to the system server for further processing and making forecasts and recommendations.

He also noted that pheromone traps make it possible to obtain images online. These images are processed using an artificial intelligence, which automatically recognizes pests. These data are used for integration with pest forecasts, which are modeled from data obtained from agrometeorological stations.

In the final part of his speech, Sarvar Abdullayev briefed the meeting participants with the future plans, where he noted the improvement of automatic pest detection, introduction of an emergency notification system via voice communication, introduction of a chat bot in the Telegram application, integration of weather data with the system of Uzhydromet, as well as the launch of mass production in Uzbekistan.

Umidjon Abdujalilov, representative of the Agency for Plants Protection and Quarantine, in his speech focused on reforms in the plants quarantine system. He briefly told to participants of the meeting about the process of establishment of the system of agrometeorological forecasting and information. Also, he informed that in July 2021, a number of Presidential decrees were adopted on transformation of the Inspection into the Agency for Plants Protection and Quarantine. According to the Decree, structures and a roadmap were endorsed on improvement of work in the system of plants protection and quarantine. The cooperation carried out within the framework of this project is also reflected in the roadmap of activities.

He noted that in the paragraph 30 of the above roadmap a number of measures are defined to improve and increase the areas with installed agrometeorological stations, the use of which leads to the improvement of quality of work, reduction of costs and unnecessary efforts in fighting with quarantine objects.

3. DISCUSSION AND DECISION MAKING

During the discussion, the following issues were raised:

Shakhnoza Kamilova, a representative of the Ministry of Innovative Development, asked a question about the IT tool for agricultural planning, about continuous update of the data and responsible person for entering data and information. During the discussion, **Muzaffar**

Mirzarakhimov answered questions and noted that the development team will support both the information resource and the process of maintaining the application itself for 12 months after the launch of the application, then the initiative will be supported by local authorities, who will ensure update of the data and entry of new information. The entire process will be supervised by the trained specialist.

Mr. Averchenkov Alexander Anatolyevich, expressed interest about the certification of prototypes. In response, Sarvar Abdullayev noted that the documents were submitted to Uzgosstandart to obtain product certification, as it is planned to expand from a scientific development to mass production at the level of a screwdriver assembly.

Mr. Adkham Ikhamovich Ikramov noted that this project is an example of cooperation at the international level, i.e. initially, the project budget consisted of 800 thousand USD provided by the Russian Federation, then funds were raised through the Japanese Embassy and project partners. He also noted about anticipated cooperation with the World Bank to continue the initiated project initiatives on establishment of the network of 24 agrometeorological stations, of which 15 stations are locally developed by Inha University. He stressed that it is very important to ensure the continuity of the started activities through monitoring, so that farmers appropriately and effectively use the information received from this system. He also noted that the Chamber of Commerce and Industry can provide financial resources for the technical support of stations and pheromone traps of that system for a certain period (a year or a year and a half). He also expressed confidence that the management of the Inha and the State Agrarian Universities, together with the Ministry of Innovation, will continue to work in this direction. This will be an example of improvement and additional contribution to the sustainability of this project.

The following questions were raised for decision-making:

- Preparation of a letter of thanks to the Government of Japan for its contribution to the project.
- Approval of the implementation project report for the period 2019-2021.
- Transfer of equipment purchased for 14 business projects, as well as for the Agency for Plants Protection and Quarantine within the framework of cooperation with the project.
- Transfer of the project assets to the national partner.
- Preparation of the final report of the project for the donor.
- Closing of the project according to UNDP rules and procedures.

4. CLOSING OF THE PROJECT BOARD MEETING

Mr. Adkham Ikhamovich Ikramov thanked everyone for their participation and for comprehensive presentations of the speakers from the project, the Agency for Plants Protection and Quarantine, the Inha University and representatives of ministries, who participated in this event. He thanked the team for the successful implementation of the project and expressed anticipation for further close cooperation with UNDP and other donor organizations, including the Embassy of the Russian Federation in this direction, as well as within framework of other projects.

Ms. Matilda Dimovska noted that this event was very successful and despite the fact that the project is being completed, all the work started by the project will be continued in the future with the help of national project partners. UNDP will continue its contribution to introduction of advanced and innovative technologies, increasing the knowledge and skills of partners and beneficiaries of joint projects. She expressed her gratitude to the project team and colleagues

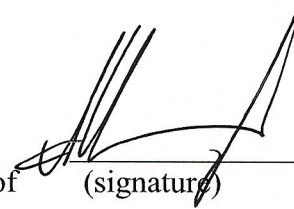
from the UNDP CO, and noted that this work belongs not only UNDP, but it is rather the joint work of all partner organizations, which led to a tangible result.

Vadim Yuryevich Mitrofanov in his speech noted that the project was successfully implemented and the developed approaches and tools were focused on farmers and their needs. Also, taking the opportunity, he thanked all partners and the project team, who contributed to the successful implementation of the project, and wished everyone a good health and new successful projects in the coming new year.

Alexander Averchenkov also highly appreciated the effectiveness of the project and noted that this is the first project of the Trust Fund in Uzbekistan. He also noted there were more business projects implemented than originally planned, there are also strategic interventions and capacity building work. In general, the project was carried out very successfully. He also noted the contribution of the UNDP country office in Uzbekistan in establishing a good partnership with donors, mobilizing funds, as well as consolidation of efforts in achievement of the planned goals. This project is one of the examples of mobilization of different partners and this partnership is a very strong part of this and other projects supported by the Fund in Uzbekistan.

RESOLUTION**of the final meeting of the Project Board of the joint UNDP and CCI project
“Enhancing the adaptation and strengthening the resilience of farming to Climate
Change Risks in Fergana Valley”****Date:** Thursday, December 2, 2020**Time:** 10:00-12:00**Venue:** Tashkent city, Amir Temur Ave. 4, CCI, Conference Hall, including ZOOM platform

1. Acknowledge the report on project results achieved during the period of 2019-2021.
2. Take note of the Quality Assurance: Closure Stage Quality Assurance Report.
3. Agree with the proposal of the project on transfer of assets (equipment, agrometeorological stations, pheromone traps) procured for supported 14 business initiatives and the State Plants Protection and Quarantine Agency.
4. Instruct the project to prepare the necessary documents and transfer the property and assets of the project to the national executive agency of the project, i.e. the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Uzbekistan.
5. Request the project team to prepare the final report of the project for the donor.
6. Assign the project to ensure operational closure of the project in line with the UNDP rules and procedures.
7. Instruct the project to prepare the Minutes and the Resolution of the final meeting of the Project Board and submit it to the members of the Project Board for consideration and approval.

Approved:**Adkham Ikramov**Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of
the Republic of Uzbekistan


(signature)

(date)

Approved:**Matilda Dimovska**

UNDP Resident Representative in Uzbekistan

DocuSigned by:

 Matilda Dimovska
 (signature) 02F5E32FAA99B495... (date)

Agreed:**Diyora Kabulova**Head of Inclusive Growth Cluster,
UNDP Uzbekistan

DocuSigned by:

 Diyora Kabulova
 (signature) 0C1120AB53B5E49F... (date)

Prepared by:**Ulugbek Dedabaev**

Project Manager

DocuSigned by:

 Ulugbek Dedabaev
 (signature) 04680372AAF403... (date)

List of participants of the final meeting of the Project Board of the joint UNDP and CCI project "Enhancing the adaptation and strengthening the resilience of farming to climate change risks in Fergana Valley"

№	Name	Position and organization
Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Uzbekistan		
1.	Adkham Ikramov	Chairman of the CCI
2.	Fariz Usmanov	Deputy Chairman of the CCI
3.	Oleg Rijichenko	Head of the Division of the CCI
4.	Sardor Babakulov	Head of the Department of the CCI
Embassy of the Russian Federation		
5.	Vadim Mitrofanov	Minister-Counselor of the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Uzbekistan
6.	Ivan Prokopenko	First Secretary of the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Uzbekistan
7.	Alexander Averchenkov	Head of the Russia-UNDP
8.	Anastasia Maximova	Assistant of the Manager of the Trust Fund for Development
UNDP in Uzbekistan		
9.	Matilda Dimovska	Постоянный представитель ПРООН в Узбекистане
10.	Diyora Kabulova	Руководитель кластера по инклюзивному росту
11.	Bahtiyor Rajabov	Programme Analyst, IG Cluster, UNDP Uzbekistan
12.	Ulugbek Dedabaev	Project Manager
13.	Muzaffar Mirzarakhimov	Task Manager of the Component 1
14.	Bakhtiyor Toshtemirov	Task Manager of the Component 2
15.	Maksuda Mukhsinbaeva	Monitoring and Outreach Specialist
16.	Alisher Kosimov	Administrative and Finance Assistant
17.	Kamila Kabulova	Project Liaison Specialist
Ministries and agencies of the Republic of Uzbekistan		
18.	Oybek Abdiev	First Secretary of the Department for cooperation with the UN and other international organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
19.	Akbar Nurmatov	Chief Specialist of the Department on grants attraction, MIFT

20.	Barno Kamalova	Chief Specialist of the Department on grants attraction, MIFT
21.	Fayzulla Ismonaliev	Chief Specialist of the Ministry of Agriculture
22.	Abduvoris Tashpulatov	Deputy Head of the Department, Ministry of Water Resources
23.	Shakhnoza Kamilova	Leading Specialist of MITC
24.	Kahramon Zahidov	Head of the Division of Hydrometeorological Provision, Uzhydromet
25.	Dilafruz Akhunjanova	Head of the Department of agrometeorological observation networks, Uzhydromet
26.	Bakhtiyor Ergashev	Leading Specialist of the Department of Farmers Development, Council of Farmers and Dekhkan Farms
27.	Khusan Khaydarov	Chairman of the Association of Exporters of Fruit and Vegetable Products
28.	Umidjon Abdusalilov	Head of the Department of Analysis and Evaluation of Phytosanitary Risk, Agency of Plants Protection and Quarantine
29.	Makhmoud Kodyri	Head of the Department of Innovations and Digital Technologies Development, Agency of Plants Protection and Quarantine
30.	Anvar Azimov	Chief Specialist of the Department of Forecasting and Monitoring, Agency of Plants Protection and Quarantine
31.	Sanjar Kasimov	Head of the Land Department of the Andijan Regional Council of Farmers
32.	Alisher Soliev	Head of the Territorial Branch of CCI of Fergana Region, on behalf of Regional Khokimiyat
33.	Кабул Джамалов	Head of the Territorial Branch of CCI of Namangan Region, on behalf of Regional Khokimiyat
34.	Sarvar Abdullaev	Professor of Inha University in Tashkent
35.	Jasurbek Khodjaev	Professor of Inha University in Tashkent