**UNDP Uzbekistan**

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**Title of the trip/mission:** Project pilot site visit, Urgench

**Trip/mission member(s):** Pulat Salikhov, Specialist on Renewable Energy Sources **Destination:** Tashkent-Urgench-Tashkent

**Dates:** February 4 -5, 2015

**Source of funding:** UNDP (TRAC)

**Please summarize main purpose of the visit and activities completed**

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| Visit to the LED project pilot site has been implemented in accordance with the approved APA for Y2015. The main objectives of the visit were as follows:1. Contribute to the workshop “Responsibility of middle level administrators in taking environmentally-based and balanced decisions” arranged jointly with UNESCO, KRASS, GEF Small Grant Programme, UNDP Joint Program on Aral Sea, and Urgench State University for local authorities of the Republic of Karakalpakstan;
2. Supply the Extension Service Center located at the Urgench State University with project publications and promo materials for further dissemination among local farmers and authorities.

The Extension Center was established within Urgench State University on the basis of Demonstration Center on Biogas Technologies that has been run by the LED project since 2012 for the following purposes: * exchange of information, news and ideas between farmers, researchers and consultants;
* proposal and promotion of new, improved and locally adaptive technologies among farmers;
* keeping in touch with local agriculture producers / farmers and specialists for gaining their feedback and comments regarding adaptation, approbation and deployment of agriculture knowledge and innovations;
* providing farmers with consultations concerning new approached to farm keeping, agriculture events, economic estimations, etc.
* providing farmers with practical services in their fields and demonstration of new technologies;
* raising awareness about innovative agriculture technologies among students of local universities and general public.

During the launch event the invited local authorities - provincial khokimiyats and makhallas – were informed on a wide range of topics. The presentations covered:* experience of Indonesia in sustainable development (by UNESCO);
* development of sustainable agriculture based on effective recourse use in the Aral Sea basin (by KRASS);
* global climate change and its consequences (by Urgench State University);
* legal framework of nature recourse management and environment protection (by KRASS);
* waste management (by Urgench State University);
* reclamation of degraded lands and effective use of water recourses (by KRASS) and others.

Pulat Salikhov, the LED project Specialist on Renewable Energy familiarized the audience with basics of energy security, which were of great attention of the audience. In addition the LED project provided the Extension Center with its thematic publications focused on deployment of biogas units and increase in energy efficiency in rural houses. Banners and infographic leaflets covering the issues of biogas technology and the ways of increasing energy efficiency in rural houses were disseminated as well.  |

**Please provide a brief description of next steps / follow up actions**

LED project will continue contributing to the Extension Service Center for Farmers at the Urgench State University through regular providing of promotional materials and thematic publications. For this purpose the LED project will produce new posters and infographics and print additional copies of existing publications focused on deployment of BGU and other renewable energy sources, and increase in energy efficiency in rural houses.

The LED project will continue raising awareness of farmers and representatives of local khokimiyats regarding increase in energy efficiency in rural houses and greenhouses, available modern thermal insulation materials and their cost, throughout Uzbek provinces;

The LED project will continue tracking of interests expressed by farmers and local authorities in installation of BGUs and monitoring progress and undertakes evaluation of any relevant successful/failed cases.

The LED project will contribute to the event planned by the Extension Center Promotion for late February 2015 in Nukus for students of Karakalpak State University and mass media by presenting basics of energy security of Uzbekistan and updates in energy efficiency of rural buildings.

**Information / Learning materials / Useful links available at:**

[www.leds.uz](http://www.leds.uz); [www.KRASS.uz/EC](http://www.KRASS.uz/EC); [www.urdu.uz/](http://www.urdu.uz/) [rsr.akvo.org](http://www.akvo.com)

**Mr. Pulat Salikhov, Specialist on RES \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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