

MINUTES
of the Local Project Advisory Committee (LPAC) Meeting
"Capacity Building of the National Land Reclamation Fund"

Date: July 7, 2009
Time: 10:00-11:30
Venue: Ministry of Finance

The purpose of the LPAC meeting was to (i) discuss initial concepts and partnership patterns of project proposal "Capacity Building of the National Land Reclamation Fund", and to (ii) launch it after approval by majority of partners.

List of Participants:

Government of Uzbekistan:

1. Tursunov E, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance;
2. Asilbek Yusupov, Director of Management Department for National Irrigated Land Reclamation Fund;
3. Tuychiev A., Head of Department, Ministry of Economy;
4. Primov Sh., Head of the Main Department of Melioration, Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources;
5. Shokirov N., Representative of the State Committee for Nature Protection;
6. Bayirov N.J, Representative of the State Committee for Land Resources, Geodesy, Mapping and State Cadastre;
7. Myagkov S.N., Taryannikova R.V. , Representatives of Uzhydromet;
8. Begmatov R., Mavlyanov A.A., Representatives of State Committee for Geology and Mineral Resources.

International Organizations:

9. Dilshod Hidirov, representative of the World Bank in Uzbekistan;
10. Rustam Abdukayumov, representative of the Asian Development Bank in Uzbekistan;

UNDP in Uzbekistan:

11. Kyoko Postill, Deputy Resident Representative;
12. Abduvakkos Abdurahmanov, Head of Environment and Energy Unit;
13. Farhad Maksudov, Environment of Environment and Energy Unit;
14. Ulugbek Islamov, Specialist for irrigation and land degradation;
15. Makhmud Shaumarov, Programme Associate for Environment and Energy Unit;
16. Irina Bekmirzaeva, Project Manager for "Achieving Ecosystem Stability on Degraded Lands in Karakalpakstan and Kyzylkum Desert" project;
17. Akmal Ismatov, Project Manager for "Strengthening Sustainability of National Protected Areas System focusing on Natural Reserves";

Introduction

Welcome speech by Mr. Erkin Tursunov: Short introduction and welcoming notes. We do hope this project will improve melioration situation in Uzbekistan. Agriculture is given special attention by Government, especially during this year of Rural Development. Various measures both financial and practical are being applied to improve melioration capacities of the republic for better agricultural development.

Welcome speech by Ms. Kyoko Postill: LPAC is a starting point for the newly launched projects where all project partners have chance to take part and make their comments on the project document. The aim of the project is to strengthen capacity of the department of melioration fund for better melioration capacities in Uzbekistan.

This project goes in line with national strategy of UNDP in Uzbekistan. Today, during the financial crisis Uzbekistan, together with other countries tries to strengthen their economy, and in this regard the agricultural development is the key aspect. President also has addressed importance of land melioration in his policy papers. This project additionally assist to land improvement which is also contributed from another UNDP project in Uzb: SLM, Zapovedniki, Tugai etc. The purpose of this meeting is to present the project to partners and discuss implementation steps. Looking forward to successful cooperation with you.

Project presentation by Mr. Ulugbek Islamov: The main purpose of the project is to strengthen capacity of the Fund for better addressing melioration issues in Uzbekistan. It includes staff training of the Fund; fiscal improvement of the fund; strengthening institutional/normative/legal basis of the Fund. Project will be implemented for three years. Information technology management would be given special attention in this project.

- First component: the institutional, organizational an program assessment will be conducted in order to identify the status-quo of the current melioration conditions.
- Second component: project preparation and appraisal ;
- Third component: improving institutional/normative/legal basis of the Fund. In this case, the support of the government would be necessary for achieving successful results;
- Fourth component: creation of demonstration plots in two regions of Uzbekistan by using IT tools for better decision making in land reclamation and production;

Activities within component 1 will be started during 1st project year, whereas the 2,3 and 4th components would be on 2nd year. 2nd year will also include works on proposal for new Governmental Law in melioration.

Project Board includes representatives from interested state bodies and will assist to project management and coordination. Chairman of the PB is NPC to be assigned by the Ministry of Finance. The commitment of the PB and NPC guarantees the success of the project. Support of the UNDP and partners also required for this.

Discussion: the LPAC agenda contained discussion of the project, points of the check-list, and finally, the decision-making (questions, comments, recommendations)

#	Questions/comments	Answers
1.	MAWR – Sh. Primov: What will be done in demo plots? Which equipment will be used? We also have producers which produce land measuring equipment. We involved Saniiri for staff training on GIS technologies for land measuring. Yes, that's why we need modern	Asilbek YusupovFund: Different melioration activities will be experimented and demonstrated on this plots: salinity reduction; ground water management; soil studies; Creating Labs is also possible for experimental studies. Ulugbek Islamov: Last year we visited Gulistan District and saw that old technology is used for monitoring of land and water quality. And we were agreed to think about some new technologies. The project will consider this issue.

	equipment to monitor soil and water salinity levels	Thanks for comments, they will be noted.
2.	World bank - Dilshod Hidirov: I have comment of 2 nd component: for the last 2 years we work on assessment of investment projects addressed on land, social, economic, environment and water analysis. We can share the methodology is you wish for using in this project.	Ulugbek Islamov: Recently we had meeting with WB and we agreed to include work together for synergy of this component. Asilbek Yusupov, : We do ecologic analysis when we initiate new projects
3.	Sergey Myagkov: 1. Where the project office will be located? 2. If water drainage committee involved in this project? 3. Kyoko Postill mentioned, Climate Change affects on melioration and water conditions as well. Could you please include on p.25 Climate Change specialist there as well. 4. Do you already select Demo plot sites?	Asilbek Yusupov: In this building 2. Fund melioration is there. But we will consider Drainage Committee as well. 3. OK, noted. 4. Not yet
4.	NSPC: (who is this) Please include more ecologic assessment in this project. After analysis of land bonitet we noticed that melioration increase soil productivity and thus the output harvested.	Ulugbek: On second component we'll do. Asilbek Yusupov: We suppose it is case sensitive, because we also do measure bonitet level and it is improving after melioration.
5.	Goskomgeodezkadastr: Raimov: Uzbekistan has large experience in melioration. But there are limitations of the technologies used in this sphere. So, which technologies will be used/demo in plots? MAWR: some technologies are used already: zondirovanie	Asilbek Yusupov: This is a complex project, and the norms of melioration is kept. Technological limitations can be reason of different factors: for ex. the groundwater raising may be a result of inefficient use of irrigation. Important to warn about salinity, rather than make measures after it happened. Ulugbek Islamov: This is very important issue, but the new technologies are used in the demo plots only and not applied largely in the fields. Therefore we will apply technologies in connection with current system of sampling, processing and monitoring which help to warn damages in advance on higher levels. Our target is to link the measures on field with whole system for land reclamation up to decision level. In this case the sustainability of land reclamation will be ensured.
6.	Taryanikova: 1. Maybe it is better create demo plots where other projects have similar activities for and to show linkages for contribution to melioration of lands?	Asilbek Yusupov: we will consider

	<p>MAWR, Primov Sh. The projects you are talking about have different objectives, notably improvement of drainage system only. This project will link improvements on field with monitoring and decision level. We hope that the laboratory of Hydro geological ameliorative expedition in pilot areas will be strengthened by new software.</p> <p>WB: We have investment project on agricultural improvement, that could be also helpful to this project.</p>	
7.	Taryannikova: The project is excellent. CACILM also works on 2 nd phase for new projects. It would be also useful if the project will help to formulate new project.	
8.	<p>Goskomprirody: The project is necessary and needed on the farms currently.</p> <p>Irina Bekmirzaeva: The project document was prepared in high quality.</p>	
9.	Kyoko Postill : thanks for comments, it is nice to have expertise on this areas, which supposedly will help to success of the project. We see that WB and ADB have similar projects which can also be used for project.	
10.	Asilbek Yusupov: Thanks to everyone.	

Check-list

#	Question of the LPAC check list	Opinions of the participants
1.	Relevance	Affirmative.
2.	Stakeholder participation and partnership-building	Affirmative. All key stakeholders are involved and more partners can be included during the project implementation.
3.	Contribution to poverty reduction.	Affirmative. The project will ensure sustainable use of land and water resources.
4.	Gender equality and the advancement of women	Affirmative. Wording in the announced TORs of the project positions will contain the idea that female candidates with similar qualifications will be given priority.
5.	Protection and regeneration of the environment	Affirmative
6.	Feasibility and technical soundness.	Representatives of the Government bodies noted the importance of the project and need for land reclamation development. Increasing capacities on information

		technology management will be given special attention.
7.	Management arrangements	Affirmative
8.	Integration, synergies, complementary	Affirmative. The project will: 1) take into account the experience of previous projects and norms on water and land management; 2) involve stakeholders in all seminars; 3) cooperation with other international organisation (WB, ABD) programmes and initiatives on the relevant area
9.	Result orientation	Affirmative
10.	Resources and inputs	Affirmative
11.	Governance	Affirmative. According to the project document it is prerequisite that Land Reclamation Fund will cooperate with Ministry for Agriculture and Water Resources and District Hokimiyats.
12.	Most promising strategy (risks and external factors)	The Risk Log is provided in the project document.
13.	Incorporation of lessons learned	Affirmative
14.	Capacity development and sustainability	Affirmative. The staff of Land Reclamation Fund will be trained for individual capacity development, including management arrangements.

LPAC decision and immediate follow-up actions

The participants agreed on approval of the project, and to launch it by taking into account abovementioned comments.