



PRESS RELEASE

Press release

Steering Committee meeting and field visit

***Project “Sustainable Development in Rural Areas of Uzbekistan”,
co-funded by the European Union and implemented by the Consortium***

26.04. 2019

Syrdarya region

Brief information on the Project

The project “Sustainable Development in Rural Areas of Uzbekistan”, co-funded by the European Union, is implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the French Agency for the Development of International Cooperation in the Areas of Agriculture, Food and Rural Space (ADECIA), the Italian Breeders Association (AIA) and the Bulgarian Centre for Entrepreneurship and Executive Development (CEED).

The project activities started in 2016 with support of the Ministry of Economy and Industry of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The project supports the development of potato, horticulture and livestock value chains. Activities are being implemented in Syrdarya, Kashkadarya and Jizzakh regions, as well as in the Ferghana Valley. In addition, the project aims at institutional development and building capacity of regional and local authorities in regional development planning.

Information on the activity

On the 26th of April, a field Steering Committee meeting of the EU co-funded Project “Sustainable Development in Rural Areas of Uzbekistan” was held in Gulistan, Syrdarya region. This time the meeting was hosted by one of pilot project partner, Gulistan State University and opened by the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Saidkamol Khodjaev. The meeting was attended by Head of Department of the Ministry of Economy and Industry of the Republic of Uzbekistan, EU Delegation to Uzbekistan and Representatives of the Khokimiyats from the 6 pilot regions of the project. In the course of the meeting Steering Committee members were given a close look to project implementation status and progress of the Farmers’ cooperatives established within the framework of the project. Another topic of the meeting was the presentation of the draft of the Strategy for Sustainable Social and Economic Development of Syrdarya region developed by the Institute of Forecasting and Macroeconomic research with support from the Bulgarian Centre for Entrepreneurship and Executive Development (CEED).

During his welcoming speech, the Deputy Minister of Agriculture put emphasis on the current reforms taken in the field of agriculture in Uzbekistan and also shortly addressed the directions for further development. At the same time, Mr. Khodjaev expressed the gratitude and highlighted the importance of the work done by project to contribute and support those reforms especially in the view of newly adopted Presidential Decree #42/39 dated March 14, 2019 about cooperation.

The representative of the Ministry of Economy and Industry of RUZ, Ms. Yulduz Abduganieva, in her turn, addressed the importance of project efforts in the field of institutional strengthening and strategy development. Furthermore, Ms. Abduganieva, noted the positive impact of the series of trainings conducted for the staff of the



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Ministry including regional departments in the field of regional development and project implementation taking into account the experience of European countries.

All Steering committee members stated the commitment to support the project in implementation of the activities and agreed, that meeting was held in a very informative and constructive way.

The fact that the session was held in one of the project pilot region, gave an opportunity to all participants to get acquaintance with project activities on-site. Particularly, after the meeting, the group visited the soil nutrient analysis laboratory established on the basis of Gulistan State University and further stopped at the pomegranate demo orchard run by Pomegranate producers' Cooperative "Dehqonobod Asl Anori" which was established with the Project initiative. The meeting with cooperative members was organized at the orchard. The Deputy Khokim of Mirzaobod district who also joined the meeting welcomed all participants. The meeting was conducted as an open dialogue to discuss cooperative challenges and further prospective.

General implementation progress

As of today, the project initiated the formation of four agricultural cooperatives, as follows:

1. Pomegranate Producers' Cooperative, "Dehqonobod Asl Anori" in Syrdarya region with 30 active members;
2. Fruit Growers' Cooperative, "Baxmal Meva" in Jizzakh region with 25 active members;
3. Stone fruit producers' and processors' Cooperative, "Valley Fruits" in Namangan region with 15 active members;
4. Potato Producer's Cooperative "Innovation Agro Servis" in Andijan region with 5 active members.

Furthermore, demonstration orchards, nurseries and processing facilities have been established in Namangan, Andijan, Syrdarya, Kashkadarya and Jizzakh in order to transfer EU know-how and expertise on the fruit and vegetable value chain development and support farmers and fruit producers to export value added products.

Within the framework of the "Institutional Development" component, Regional Working Groups were established, consisting of representatives from corresponding local authorities, business entities and non-government organizations. Also, training on business planning, SWOT analysis, project cycle management has been delivered to the staff of the Ministry of Economy and Industry of RUz, including regional departments as well as to RWGs. Subsequently, it is planned to develop the draft regional development strategy for Namangan and Syrdarya regions jointly with the Ministry of Economy and Industry of the Republic of Uzbekistan and with participation of Regional Working Groups. The Strategy will be developed by the Institute of Forecasting and Macroeconomic Research using the acquired knowledge and the experiences of European Union countries considering specific country context.

For any questions on obtaining additional information or interviewing project experts, please contact:

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