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AGRICULTURAL LINKAGES PLUS PROJECT (ALP UZBEKISTAN)

QUARTERLY REPORT (Q3 FY 2013)

APRIL 2013 – JUNE 2013

JULY 2013

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AGRICULTURAL LINKAGES PLUS PROJECT

(ALP)

Q3 FY 2013 QUARTERLY REPORT

APRIL 2013 – JUNE 2013

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U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

RAISE Plus IQC

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acronyms

A. BACKGROUND

- A.1. Project goals and objectives
- A.2. Project components
- A.3. Geographic and commodity focus
- A.4. Administrative

B. PROJECT ACTIVITIES UNDER COMPONENTS

- B.1. Component 1: Improving Farm Level Productivity
- B.2. Component 2: Public and Private Sector Service Support
- B.3. Component 3: Agro-Processing and Exports
- B.4. Component 4: Training and Human Resource Development (HRD)

C. ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

- C.1. Monitoring
- C.2. Mitigation
- C.3. Issue(s)

D. FINANCE

- D.1. Disbursements
- D.2. Commitments
- D.3. Obligations
- D.4. Issue(s)

Annex A

Monthly Report – April 2013

Monthly Report – May 2013

ACRONYMS

ALP	Agricultural Linkages Plus project
BDS	Business Development Services
CAR	Central Asian Republics
DAI	Development Alternative Inc.
FtF	Farmer to Farmer
FY	Fiscal Year
LLC	Limited Liability Company
MAWR	Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources of Uzbekistan
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
PERSUAP	Pesticide Evaluation Report and Safe Use Action Plan
SME	Small and Medium size Enterprises
TA	Technical Assistance
USAID	US Agency for International Development
WUA	Water User's Association

This report covers the third quarter (April-May-June 2013) activities of the AgLinks Plus (ALP) Project in Uzbekistan in fiscal year (FY) 2013. This is the third quarter of ALP's second year of project activities.

A. BACKGROUND

A.1 Project goals and objectives

The purpose of the Agricultural Linkages Plus Project is to increase employment and incomes through improved competitiveness of selected agriculture value-chains in Uzbekistan. The project consists of four components aimed at addressing project objectives: improving farm level productivity, public and private sector service support, agro-processing, training and human resource development. ALP seeks to improve competitiveness in the value chains related to grape, stone and pome fruits, subtropical fruits and nuts.

A.2 Project Components

The project consists of four components aimed at addressing project objectives:

- Component 1: Improving Farm Level Productivity
- Component 2: Public and Private Sector Service Support
- Component 3: Agro-Processing
- Component 4: Training and Human Resource Development

A.3. Geographic and commodity focus

The ALP project operates in six provinces: Namangan, Ferghana and Samarkand, Andijan, Bukhara and Tashkent and 26 districts.

Provinces	Samarkand	Namangan	Ferghana	Tashkent	Andijan	Bukhara	Totals
Districts	Tayloq	Pop	Quvasoy	Ohangaron	Andijan	Jondor	
	Payarik	Turakurgon	Ferghana	Bustonlik	Bulokboshi		
	Samarkand	Uychi	Quva	Zangiota	Hujaobad		
	Urgut	Konsonov	Oltarik	Parkent	Marhamat		
	Bulungur	Chortok		Kibray	Jalakuduk		
		Yangikurgan					
AgLinks (old)	3	2	1	0	0	0	6
ALP (new)	2	4	3	5	5	1	20
Sub-totals	5	6	4	5	5	1	
Total	26						26
Other	plus Tashkent City						

List of ALP districts and provinces

The targeted commodities under ALP are the following:

- Stone fruits - peaches, nectarines, cherries, apricots and plums
- Pome fruits - apples, pears and quince

- Sub-tropicals - pomegranate and walnuts
- Vineyards - table grapes

A4. Administrative

Visits

Long-serving USAID/UCO specialist and AgLinks COR, Alexander Kalashnikov, resigned from USAID effective 12 April with Mr. Percy Wilson, USAID/CAR Agriculture Development Officer (ADO) appointed as his replacement effective April 24. On July 2 (Quarter 4) USAID appointed Michael Smith (economist from USAID/CAR office) as new COR.

Two USAID/CAR delegations visited ALP project sites in April: (1) Percy Wilson, CAR/ADO and Nina Kavetskaya, CAR/MEO who monitored ALP activities in Ferghana (Ferghana and Altyarik districts) and Namangan (Yangikurgan and Turakurgan districts) provinces from 09-11 April; and (2) Anne Aarnes, USAID/CAR/Acting Regional Mission Director; Erin Cole, Uzbekistan Country Office Director and Percy Wilson, who visited ALP activities in three districts of Samarkand Province (Taylak, Samarkand and Payarik districts) on 18 April. Both delegations met with nursery operators, farm enterprises, and cold store owners along the fruit value chain. Percy Wilson also visited Shreder Horticultural Research Institute on 12 April.

Also in April, ALP M&E Specialist, Elena Abdramanova, attended TraiNet/VCS training in Virginia during the week of 15-19 April complemented by training at the DAI Home Office on Public Outreach, Monitoring and Evaluation and TAMIS (DAI's proprietary project management information system). ALP staff members participated in the USAID/UCO sponsored gender training on 23 April offered by AID/W Gender Specialist Kai Spratt who also visited ALP offices the following day to discuss gender consideration and integration in project activities.

During the second week of May, ALP staff accompanied USAID/CAR/PDO, Bryan Byrne, on site visits throughout the Ferghana Valley. Later that month from May 26-30, Finance and Administration Manager Gafur Berkinov and Finance and Administration Assistant Nazokat Yakhyaeva traveled to the US to attend hands-on advanced training on project finance, procurement, and use of DAI TAMIS at the DAI Home Office.

Collaboration

At the end of May ALP staff met with a World Bank project design team interested in ALP's experience in the Uzbek horticultural sector. The five-person team was led by Donald Larson of the Bank's Development Research Group. The project team also met with the Farmer-to-Farmer (FtF) program to discuss seasonal trends, training topics and share ALP training materials with the recently arrived Farmer to Farmer volunteer.

B. PROJECT ACTIVITIES UNDER COMPONENTS

B.1. Component 1: Improving Farm Level Productivity: The central objective of this activity is to increase incomes through improved competitiveness of selected agriculture value-chains. This is done by addressing the causes of low productivity in the production of grapes and other fruits. The project improves productivity through addressing the following farm level constraints:

a. Improving On-farm Water Management. ALP initiated specific intra-farm irrigation and drainage rehabilitations in April 2013 projected to have the greatest impact on the largest number of farmers and their on-farm water utilization. The procurement process was finalized and a subcontractor was identified. In addition, a number of training programs for WUA staff and farmers were provided aimed at improved water management (see Section B4 for details).

b. Improving Plant Material. Procurement of the tissue culture lab equipment continued. Vendors for the delivery of the lab furniture, fire alarm and the air conditioning system were selected.

c. Improving Agronomic Practices

- **Pruning.** This quarter the project continued to provide pruning trainings, focusing on stone fruit trees. The fourth National Exchange Program, discussed in detail under Component 4, was devoted to Summer Pruning.
- **Cherry Production.** International consultant Joe Grant continued this quarter to provide additional trainings to farmers in four provinces on the best practices of sweet cherry production. Farmers were very interested in the subject matter and asked a lot of questions.
- **Trellising.** This quarter the project signed a contract to deliver 3,335 posts (spring order) to be installed in 13 locales with total acreage 7 ha. Trellises are expected to be delivered during Q4.

d. Pest and Disease Management. The 6th Horticultural Exchange Program (HEP) was devoted to learning about pest and disease management. Ten Uzbek horticulturalists visited California during April 25 – May 20 with a focus on “Integrated Pest Management (IPM)”. The majority of HEP06 representatives were from the public sector (8) including attendees from the Plant Protection Research Institute and the Plant Protection and Agrochemistry Center, both structures under the tutelage of the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources (MAWR). Two private sector participants were employees of Agrifirms cooperating with ALP.

e. Marketing Support. Cherry Variety Contest. May 27 marked the start of ALP's annual variety contests with a one-day harvest event hosted by the Kuvasay branch of Shreder Horticultural Research Institute in Ferghana Province. A total of 25 farmers from Tashkent, Andijan, Ferghana and Namangan provinces competed. Their cherries were judged in three categories: most marketable, most unique and best for processing. While a 3-party jury evaluated the produce, participants visited ALP supported demonstration sites at Shreder on advanced agronomic practices in cherry production, processing, storage, packaging, and transportation. Contest winners were awarded prizes: sprayers (1st), orchard loppers (2nd) and shears (3rd) with all participants receiving USAID logo caps and T-shirts to commemorate the event. In total, the event was attended by approximately 60 people – farmers, representatives of local authorities, as well as local residents.



Farmers and local residents trying cherries presented for contest (Ferghana Province)



Winners and participants of Apricot Variety Contest (Bukhara Province)

Apricot Variety Contest. On June 19 ALP held the Apricot Variety Contest. This was the first event of its kind conducted in Bukhara Province on the premises of Jamiyat Oydin WUA. Twenty-three farmers from five project provinces including Andijan, Namangan, Samarkand, Tashkent and Bukhara presented their produce. Participants had a chance to learn about advanced production, storage and processing techniques: Marifat Nazarova provided training on apricot household processing; Mumin

Ismiddinov demonstrated pre-coolers and a packing shed. For the first time the first three prizes were awarded to female farmers. They received: ladders (1st), saws (2nd) and shears (3rd) with all participants receiving USAID logo caps and T-shirts. In total, the event was attended by approximately 50 people.

f. Post-Harvest Storage and Losses. Packing sheds were distributed for use in Turakurgan and Kuvasay regions. In Bukhara, the shed was demonstrated to farmers. In Samarkand the shed will be tested during the peach and nectarine season.



Abdugaffor Khaknazarov packing pre-cooled cherries (Namangan Province)

Test of a precooler took place in Turakurgan and Altyaryk regions, with impressive results. Abdugaffor Khaknazarov (farmer and broker from Namangan Province) was able to drop the temperature of the produce from 27 C to 5 C in four hours without causing any harm to the fruit. Initially, the exporter was a bit skeptical of the value of precooling, however he was quite pleased after he learned that the only produce that reached Russia in good condition were the precooled items. Following this, the Abdugaffor facility became very popular among consolidators and exporters. The list of recipients of precoolers is presented in the table below. Others will start using the equipment later this season.

PROV	DIST	TYPE	FIRM/COMPANY	First name	Last name	Capacity (mt)	Cooling System	Type of pre-cooler
FER	FER	Exporter	Cold Store innovations	Nodirbek	Ashurov	100	air cooled freon	Chamber
SAM	SAM	Offseason seller	Fazliddin Najmiyev FE	Golib	Najmiyev	100	air cooled freon	Portable
SAM	SAM	Offseason seller	Sobirov Ergash boglari FE	Rahmat	Sobirov	130	air cooled freon	Chamber
NAM	TUR	Consolidator for exporter	Kodirjon Usmonjon FE	Abdugaffor	Khaknazarov	20	air cooled by AC	Chamber
BUH	JON	cold store	JoiZar FE	Sharipov	Aslon	150	freon	Portable
FER	ALT	Exporter	Erkin Shirahimov PE	Erkin	Shirahimov	200	air cooled freon	Portable

B.2. Component 2: Public and Private Sector Service Support: No new activities to report in this component as procurements are in process with local vendors completing required paperwork to proceed with contracts.

B.3. Component 3: Agro-Processing and Exports: Farm enterprises are challenged with how to preserve fruits beyond the harvest season for use throughout the winter months, for subsequent market sales and to minimize spoilage losses. One method of fruit preservation is drying. Uzbekistan’s dry climate and intense summer heat and sun



Farmers investigating two types of dryers presented by ALP (Ferghana Province)

make drying a natural choice for fruit preservation but there are multiple solar dryer designs which need testing under local conditions prior to large-scale promotion. This activity is testing two of the most promising dryer designs encountered in California during the HEPs in California. These designs were demonstrated at the 2013 variety contests to gauge farm level interest in and willingness to pay for solar drying technology. The dryers have been used already on cherries and

apricots, and during this quarter and next on peaches, grapes, apples, and persimmons. A total of 20 dryers were built at a cost share basis with farmers in all six provinces. This activity builds on the post-harvesting activities the project has already undertaken that demonstrate to farmers the multiple options available to them: the pre-cooling assessment (ALP-21), cold storage technical assistance (ALP-39), and the field sort, pack, and process activities (ALP-52) activities.

B.4. Component 4: Training and Human Resource Development (HRD):

- On June 14, 2013 USAID's Aglinks Plus project held the **Horticultural Exchange Program (HEP) Alumni Conference**. The event was held in Tashkent and was attended by almost 50 participants of nine USAID sponsored US exchange programs. Representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources (MAWR), research institutes, cold store managers/owners as well as farmers from six provinces of Uzbekistan were present. The event was opened by Muhammadjon Kosimov (Project Coordinator from MAWR), Nathan Park (USAID/Uzbekistan office Deputy Director) and representatives of the American host organization - International House – Davis (California, USA). The participants broke into small groups to discuss how to (1) increase the replication of new technologies and techniques learned in the US and (2) improve the exchange program. In addition, participants had an opportunity to share their success and experience on what they were able to implement back home, what worked and what didn't and why. "I would like to thank USAID for organizing this event. I think we should meet more often and share our experience and knowledge. I especially enjoyed working in small groups because everybody had unique opinions and expertise. All of the participants from my group noted that they had a chance not only to obtain new knowledge but also refresh what they knew before. And of course I was happy to see our co-students and teachers – IHouse representatives. Talking with other participants was energizing and helped me identify new priorities," said Marifat Nazarova, Namangan Province.



Small group participants discussing how to increase the replication of new technologies and improve the program (Tashkent)

- **Cold Chain Exchange Program (CEP)**. The first cold chain exchange program (CEP 01) took place from May 4-20 along the US east coast (Florida and Georgia) and was hosted by the ALP subcontractor Global Cold Chain Alliance (GCCA). The 10 participants, mostly cold store entrepreneurs, managers and owners, attended the 2013 Conference and Expo of the International Association of Refrigerated Warehouses (IARW). A member of the Uzbek delegation made a presentation to this international conference on advances and practices in cold

storage in Uzbekistan. The group toured farms, markets, cold storage facilities, warehouses, colleges and retail stores to identify how the fresh food cold chain is organized within the US. The visit to Lanier Technical College in Georgia was captured at <http://www.laniertech.edu/dyk2.aspx?id=280>.

- **Integrated Pest Management.** During June 10-14, five representatives from Ferghana, Namangan, Samarkand and Tashkent provinces (employees of Plant Protection Centre, agricultural firms and nurserymen) and ALP staff member Shuhrat Abrorov attended a training conducted by Jets Trade Business, Ltd. (Almaty, Kazakhstan). The training focused on the protection of pome plants (apple and pear). Upon return home, participants immediately set pheromone traps to test proven control methods.
- **National Exchange Program (NEP).** All participants in the international exchange programs, whether horticultural or cold storage related, are required to share their knowledge with other farmers upon their return to Uzbekistan. This process has been codified by ALP through a series of national exchange programs (NEP).
 1. The 3rd NEP was held in Ferghana city on 10th April and brought together 28 entrepreneurs involved in cold storage and export activities from 11 districts of Uzbekistan. Participants were exposed to both the theory and practice of cold storage best practices with on-site sessions hosted by the HEP03 participants and those selected for the Cold Chain Exchange Program (CEP01). Participants shared knowledge, experience, technologies, techniques and lessons learned from ALP technical assistance to cold store enterprises. Participants were particularly interested in new packaging options and removing ethylene. The event closed with 24 of the participants signing an MOU marking their intention to form a group of cold storage owner/operators to provide business association type services to all members under a Limited Liability Company (LLC). Next steps include preparation of the LLC registration documents, signing of the founders' agreement and submission to the appropriate authorities for approval.
 2. The 4th NEP was held on the 29th of May in Ferghana Province, and focused on the summer pruning of stone fruit trees, an important practice that had fallen into disuse in post-independence Uzbekistan. A total of 54 farmers from 17 districts of Uzbekistan were exposed to best pruning practices with three on-site sessions hosted by HEP alumni who also spoke about their improved



Shuhrat Abrorov demonstrating correct pruning technique (Ferghana Province)

results from the techniques.

3. The 5th NEP was held on June 12 in Bukhara in cooperation with MAWR Amu-Bukhara Basin Irrigation System Authority. The event focused on "WUA Accounting." Thirty-nine accountants and the WUA Council Chairmen received first-hand advice from representatives of the tax inspection department, banks and audit firms on current accounting practices. In the afternoon, all the participants visited two WUAs located in Jondor district, Jamiyat Oydin and Yurtim Istiklol. Both of them had received technical assistance under the previous USAID project and their accountants demonstrated their accounting system as well as voiced challenges and solutions.



Accountant of Yurtim Istiklol WUA sharing best practices (Bukhara Province)

- **Trainings.** A number of trainings took place during the quarter, as noted in the table. Of special note are the two highlighted below.
 1. **Spring Pruning of Cherry Trees.** More than 350 farmers from nine districts in Andijan, Ferghana, Namangan, Samarkand and Tashkent provinces were trained in cherry best practices during the period of April 12-28. The trainings were offered by international consultant Joseph Grant who also made 25 separate site visits to provide farm-specific recommendations to those who expressed an interest after the training. Farmers were interested in multiple aspects of cherry production including pest and disease identification and control, irrigation, pollination and fertilization. Mr. Grant noted that increased warming worldwide had shortened the pollination period for cherries making proper pollination techniques even more important than before.
 2. **Refrigeration Technician Training.** In preparation for the upcoming harvest and storage season, a Global Cold Chain Alliance technical consultant Jerome Meyer conducted four 2-day trainings for cold store technicians in Samarkand, Ferghana, Namangan and Tashkent with 135 total participants (ALP-48) in April and May. Mr. Meyer also made 20 site visits to cold stores to address specific issues. The training targeted cold store owners and their support staff and consisted of information on safety, components, refrigeration types, compressor management and repair, as well as system checks and maintenance to limit leaks and breakdowns. A training handbook was prepared and provided all attendees.

Training	Best sweet cherry production practices - Joe Grant		Cold Store Technicians - Jerry Mayer		Best Irrigation Practices (Matyakubov & Toshaliyev)		Water Use Plan and ISF (Matyakubov & Toshaliyev)		Household Processing (Marifat Nazarova)		Summer Pruning - Shuhrat Abrorov		Total
Dates	April 2-12		April 24-May 10		April 20-29		May 31-June 30		May 27, June 19		May 28, June 19		
Province	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	
Samarkand			0	13			0	45					58
Ferghana	2	73	2	36	1	44	7	108	14	0			287
Namangan	2	136	3	37	0	44	1	47					270
Andijan	1	125											126
Tashkent	1	39	1	42							4	18	105
Bukhara									13	0			13
Totals	6	373	6	128	1	88	8	200	27	0	4	18	859
Total - 859 (52 Female, 807 Male)													

Training during the 3rd quarter of of FY 2013.

C. ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

C.1. Monitoring.

The list of activities that were completed during the third quarter of 2013 is given. All mitigation measures that were envisioned were followed and obeyed and no adverse effects from the activities were recorded.

All the activities in this quarter fall under Category 2 – no significant risk of negative environmental impact:

- *ALP-48 : Refrigeration Technician trainings in April-May with consultant Jerome Meyer.* Consultant integrated environmental and human safety hazards associated with cold storage and refrigeration systems. Introduced environmentally friendly technologies and techniques.
- *ALP-50 : NEP03 – National Exchange Program on Cold Store Practices.* Activity completed with environmental issues included in site visits and discussions with HEP program participants sharing US experiences.
- *ALP-51: HEP06 – “Integrated Pest Management” exchange program in California.* Environmental and human safety aspects of pest management highlighted throughout the program.
- *ALP-53: CEP01 - Cold Chain Exchange Program (Georgia and Florida) with a focus on food safety elements along the cold chain for fresh fruits.* Environmental impact discussions included throughout the training.
- *ALP-59: NEP04 – “Summer Pruning of Stone Fruit Trees” national exchange program in Fergana Province.* All relevant environmental rules and compliances were integrated to the training.
- *ALP-62: Two different solar dryer prototypes for efficiency & effectiveness testing on different products and locales.* Environmentally friendly construction materials used to build prototypes.

C.2. Mitigation.

AgLinks Plus promotes environmentally friendly agrotechnologies and techniques to mitigate possible adverse impact of agricultural activities. The proper use of agrochemicals as a means for pest and disease control in orchards is always on the project agenda. The basis for the mitigation of potential negative environmental impact of agrochemicals use is the PERSUAP and pest and disease control manual published by the project in cooperation with the National Plant Protection Institute. In every single pest and disease control training program, a special session is reserved for the safe use of agrochemicals. Trainers always highlight this key aspect. New project activities, such as using pheromone traps for optimal scheduling of chemicals application, also help to mitigate undesirable environmental side effects. Farmers will know exactly when to apply chemicals and how much to apply, instead of using them blindly. Another activity of the project, promoting drip irrigation systems, is also directly linked to

improving environmental issues of irrigated agriculture through the mitigation of water loss and water erosion of arable lands.

C.3. Issue(s).

No other major issues were identified during this quarter.

ANNEX A

Monthly Report for April 2013
USAID AgLinks Plus Project
Monthly Report #13 – April 2013

Contract # EDH-I-00-05-00004-00
TO # AID-176-TO-11-00002-00

ADMINISTRATION. Long-serving USAID/UCO specialist and AgLinks COR, Alexander Kalashnikov, resigned from USAID effective 12 April with Mr. Percy Wilson, USAID/CAR Agriculture Development Officer (ADO) appointed his replacement effective April 24. Two USAID/CAR delegations were hosted at ALP sites in April; (1) Percy Wilson, CAR/ADO and Nina Kavetskaya, CAR/MEO monitored ALP activities in Ferghana (Ferghana and Altyarik districts) and Namangan (Yangikurgan and Turakurgan districts) provinces from 09-11 April; and (2) Anne Aarnes, USAID/CAR/Acting Regional Mission Director, Erin Cole, Uzbekistan Country Office Director and Percy Wilson, visited ALP activities in 3 districts of Samarkand Province (Taylak, Samarkand and Payarik districts) on 18 April. Both delegations met with nursery operators, farm enterprises, and cold store owners along the fruit value chain. Percy Wilson also visited Shreder Horticultural Research Institute on 12 April.

ALP staff members participated in the USAID/UCO sponsored gender training on 23 April offered by AID/W Gender Specialist Kai Spratt who also visited ALP offices the following day to discuss gender consideration and integration to project activities. ALP M&E Specialist, Elena Abdramanova, attended official TrainNet/VCS training in Virginia during the week of 15-19 April complemented by training at the DAI Home Office on Public Outreach, Monitoring and Evaluation and TAMIS (DAI's proprietary project management information system). The project team also met with Farmer-to-Farmer (FtF) to discuss seasonal trends, training topics and share ALP training materials with the recently arrived volunteer.

TECHNICAL. April is characterized by intensive on-farm training including exchange visits and cherry best practices trainings.

Horticultural Exchange Program (HEP). The 6th HEP group of 10 Uzbek horticulturalists departed Tashkent for California on 25th April and will focus on "Integrated Pest Management" for the next 3 weeks. The majority of the representatives on HEP06 are from the public sector (8) including attendees from the Plant Protection Research Institute and the Plant Protection and Agrochemistry Center, both structures under the tutelage of the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources (MAWR). The two private sector participants were employees of Agrifirms cooperating with ALP.

The departure of one HEP program commences the selection process for the following program. The selection process for HEP07, focused on "Post-Harvest Management at the Farm level: Harvesting, Processing and Storage," also began in April. Newly introduced Uzbek international travel rules require all travelers abroad to obtain new biometric passports adding an additional 2 to 3 weeks to the participant selection and documentation process. By the end of the month 10 participants were



identified by the tripartite selection committee consisting of USAID, MAWR and ALP representatives. HEP07 will start in late July with 8 private sector and 2 public sector participants.

National Exchange Program (NEP). The 3rd NEP was held in Ferghana city on April 10th and rejoined 28 entrepreneurs involved in cold storage and export activities from 11 districts of Uzbekistan. Participants were exposed to both the theory and practice of cold storage best practices with on-site sessions hosted by the HEP03 participants and those selected for the upcoming Cold Chain Exchange Program (CEP01) scheduled to depart for the US East Coast in early May. Participants shared knowledge, experience, technologies, techniques and lessons learned from ALP technical assistance to cold store enterprises. Participants were particularly interested in removing ethylene and new packaging options. The event closed with 24 of the participants signing an MOU marking their intention to form a grouping of cold storage owner/operators to provide business association type services to all members under the legal form of a Limited Liability Company (LLC). Next steps include preparation of the LLC registration documents, signing of the founders' agreement and submission to the appropriate authorities for approval.

Spring Pruning of Cherry Trees. More than 350 farmers from 9 districts in Andijan, Ferghana, Namangan, Samarkand and Tashkent provinces were trained in cherry best practices during the period of 28 to 12 April. The trainings were offered by international consultant Joseph Grant who also made 25 separate field site visits to provide farm-specific recommendations to those who expressed interest after the training. Farmers were interested in multiple aspects of cherry production including pest and disease identification and control, irrigation, pollination and fertilization. Grant noted that increased warming worldwide had shortened the pollination period for cherries making proper pollination techniques even more important than before.



Refrigeration Technician Training. In preparation for the upcoming harvest and storage season a Global Cold Chain Alliance (GCCA) technical consultant began a series of 2-day training for cold store refrigeration technicians. Trainings began in Samarkand on 23-24 April with 15 participants, including 2 from Bukhara. The consultant, Jerome Meyer, also made 5 site visits to cold stores to address specific issues. The training targets cold store owners and their support staff and consists of information on safety, components, refrigeration types, compressor management and repair, as well as system checks and maintenance to limit leaks and breakdowns. Similar events are scheduled through mid-May in Ferghana (including Andijan participants), Namangan and Tashkent provinces.

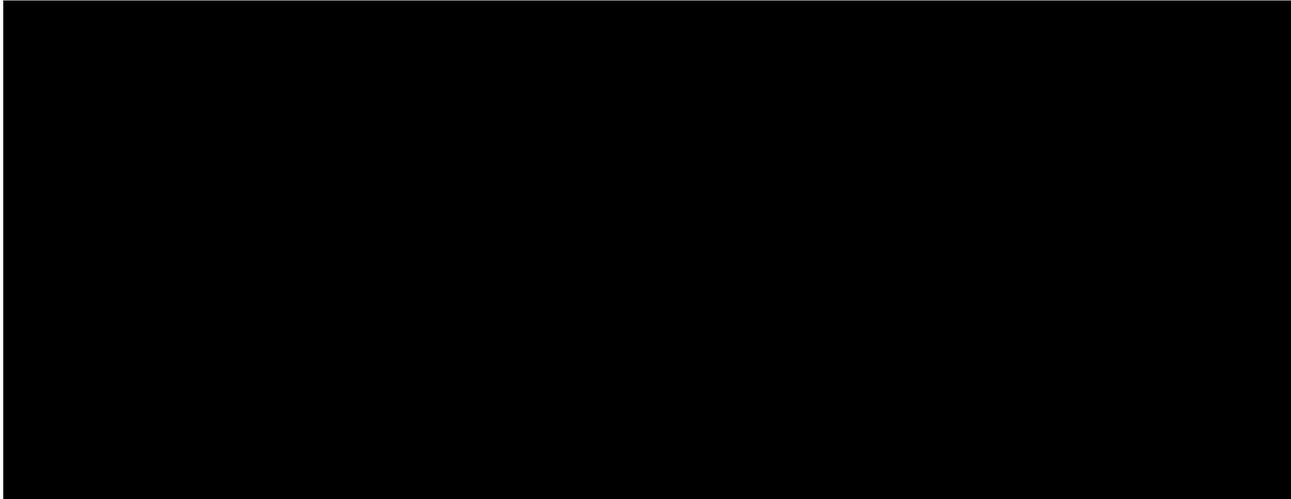
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE. Initial Environmental Reviews prepared in April include :

Category 2 – No significant risk of negative environmental impact

ALP-48 : Refrigeration Technician trainings in April-May with consultant Jerome Meyer. Consultant integrated environmental and human safety hazards associated with cold storage

refrigeration systems and introduced environmentally friendly technologies and techniques.

ALP-50 : NEP03 – National Exchange Program on Cold Store Practices
Activity completed with environmental issues included in site visits and discussions with
HEP program participants sharing US experiences



NEXT MONTH. The following major activities are anticipated for May 2013:

1st week – Refrigeration Technician Training Program (Ferghana); Departure of CEP1 group

2nd week – USAID/CAR Private Enterprise Officer (Bryan Byrne) visit to ALP sites in Ferghana Valley;

Refrigeration Technician Training Program (Namangan)

3rd week – Review proposals & award contracts for Irrigation and Drainage System rehabilitation, plus

utilities and furnishings for Shreder tissue culture lab

4th week – Training on picking, sorting and grading of cherries; cherry variety contest on 27th May

Annex B: Monthly Report for May 2013

USAID AgLinks Plus Project
Monthly Report #14 – May 2013

Contract # EDH-I-00-05-00004-00
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ADMINISTRATION. ALP staff accompanied USAID/CAR/PDO, Bryan Byrne, on site visits throughout the Ferghana Valley during the second week of May. At the end of the month ALP staff met with a World Bank project design team interested in ALPs experience in the Uzbek horticultural sector. The 5-person team was led by Donald Larson of the Bank's Development Research Group.

TECHNICAL. May was characterized by intensive on-farm training, including exchange visits, and concluded with the cherry variety contest.

Horticultural Exchange Program (HEP). The 6th HEP group of 10 Uzbek horticulturalists visited California during April 25 – May 20 with a focus on “Integrated Pest Management (IPM)”. The majority of HEP06 representatives were from the public sector (8) including attendees from the Plant Protection Research Institute and the Plant Protection and Agrochemistry Center, both structures under the tutelage of the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources (MAWR). Two private sector participants were employees of Agrifirms cooperating with ALP.



Janine Hasey, California Extension Advisor, Demonstrates Pheromone Traps

Cold Chain Exchange Program (CEP). The first cold chain exchange program took place from May 4-20 along the US east coast (Florida and Georgia) and was hosted by ALP subcontractor Global Cold Chain Alliance (GCCA). The 10 participants, mostly cold store entrepreneurs, managers and owners, attended the 2013 Conference and Expo of the International Association of Refrigerated Warehouses (IARW). A member of the extended Uzbek delegation made a presentation to this international conference on advances and practices in cold storage in Uzbekistan. The group toured farms, markets, cold storage facilities, warehouses, colleges and retail stores to identify how the US fresh food cold chain is organized within the US. The visit to Lanier Technical College in Georgia was captured at <http://www.laniertech.edu/dyk2.aspx?id=280>.

National Exchange Program (NEP). All participants in the international exchange programs, whether horticultural or cold storage related, are required to share their knowledge with other farmers upon their return to Uzbekistan. This process has been codified by ALP through a series of national exchange programs (NEP). The 4th NEP was held on 29th May, and focused on summer pruning of stone



Best Pruning Practices Shared by HEP Alumni

fruit trees, an important practice that had fallen into disuse in post-independence Uzbekistan. A total of 54 farmers from 17 districts of Uzbekistan were exposed to best pruning practices with 3 on-site sessions hosted by the HEP alumni who also spoke about their improved results from the applied techniques.

Refrigeration Technician Training. During April and May 2013 a refrigeration trainer from ALP subcontractor GCCA conducted four 2-day trainings for cold store technicians in Samarkand, Ferghana, Namangan and Tashkent with 135 total participants (ALP-48). The trainer, Jerome Meyer, also made 20 site visits to cold stores to address specific issues. The training targeted cold store owners and their support staff and consisted of information on safety, components, refrigeration types, compressor management and repair, as well as system checks and maintenance to limit leaks and breakdowns. A training handbook was prepared and provided all attendees.

Cherry Variety Contest. May 27 marked the start of ALP's annual variety contests with a one-day harvest event hosted by the Kuvasay branch of Shreder Horticultural Research Institute in Ferghana Province. A total of 25 farmers from Tashkent, Andijan, Ferghana and Namangan provinces competed with their cherries judged in three categories: most marketable, most unique and best for processing. While a 3-party jury evaluated the produce, participants visited ALP supported demonstration sites at Shreder on advanced agronomic practices in cherry production, processing, storage, packaging, and transportation. Contest winners were awarded prizes: sprayers (1st), orchard loppers (2nd) and shears (3rd) with all participants receiving USAID logo caps and T-shirts to commemorate the event. In total, the event was attended by approximately 60 people – farmers, representatives of local authorities, as well as local residents.



Participants and local residents appreciate the diverse cherry varieties

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE. Initial Environmental Reviews prepared in May include:

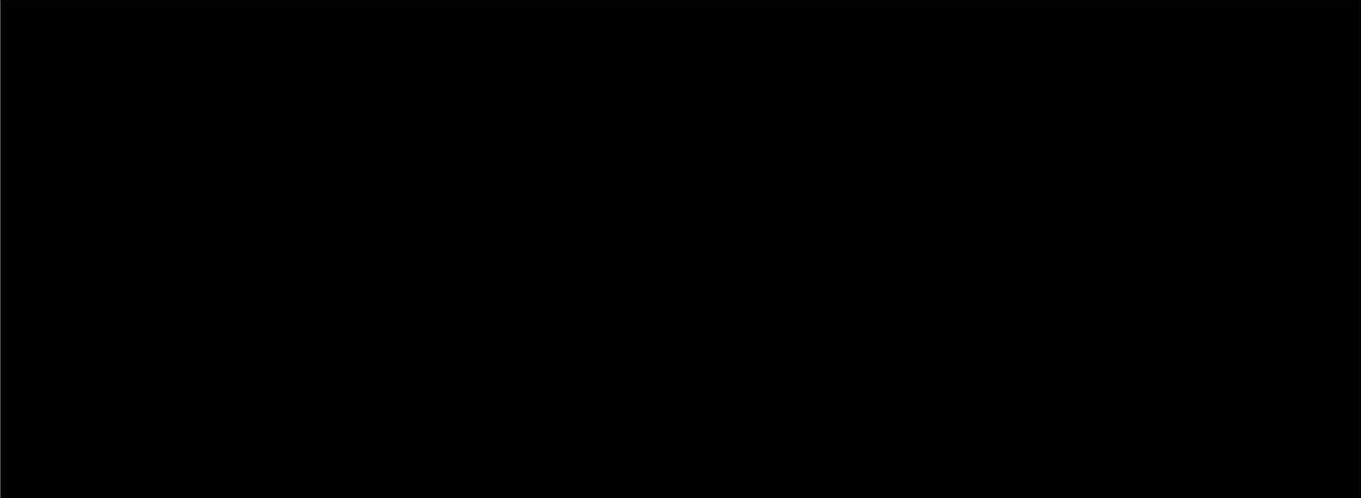
Category-2. – No significant risk of negative environmental impact

ALP-51: HEP06 – “Integrated Pest Management” exchange program in California. Environmental and human safety aspects of pest management highlighted throughout the program.

ALP-53: CEP01 - Cold Chain Exchange Program (Georgia and Florida) with food safety elements a major consideration all along the cold chain for fresh fruits.

ALP-59: NEP04 – “Summer Pruning of Stone Fruit Trees” national exchange program in Fergana Province with all relevant environmental rules and compliances integrated to the training.

ALP-62: Two different solar dryer prototypes for efficiency & effectiveness testing on different products and locales. Environmentally friendly construction materials used to build prototypes.



procurement billings (ALP-41). Indirect costs, comprised of General & Administrative (G&A) plus Overhead, and Fee are all contractually fixed percentages and do not require comment.

NEXT MONTH. The following major activities are anticipated for June 2013:

1st week – HEP-08 Selection Panel; solar dryer prototype tests; summer stone fruit pruning trainings.

2nd week – HEP alumni conference; IPM training in Almaty (5 agronomists plus ALP staff member)

3rd week – Apricot Variety Contest in Bukhara Province (June 19)

4th week – Household fruit processing trainings begin; sample collection for foliar analysis