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# USAID FAMILY FARMING PROGRAM

## TAJIKISTAN

QUARTERLY REPORT: THIRD QUARTER, APRIL 1- JUNE 30, 2011

JULY, 2011

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**Program Title:** USAID Family Farming Program, Tajikistan

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## ACRONYMS

BMP	Branding and Marking Plan
COP	Chief of Party
COTR	Contracting Officer's Technical Representative
DAI	Development Alternatives Incorporated
DCOP	Deputy Chief of Party
EMMP	Environmental Monitoring and Mitigation Plan
EOI	Expression of Interest
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FAS	Field Accounting System
FFP	USAID Family Farming Program
GIZ	Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (formerly GTZ)
GoT	Government of Tajikistan
KbTUT	Khujand branch of the Technological University of Tajikistan
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
PME	Policy, Monitoring and Evaluation Team
PMEP	Program Monitoring and Evaluation Plan
REACT	Rapid Emergency and Coordination Team
SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
TAFF	Tajik Agricultural Finance Framework project
TAMIS	Technical Assistance Management Information System
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VSAT	Very Small Aperture Terminal (for satellite internet service)
WFP	United Nations World Food Programme
WUASP	Water Users' Association Support Program

## PROJECT OBJECTIVE

The twin objectives of the USAID Family Farming Program are to improve the food security of Tajikistan, and continue USAID-funded activities to create new and strengthen existing Water User Associations.

The USAID Family Farming Program (FFP) will deliver integrated technical assistance to selected food insecure communities of Tajikistan that addresses: Agriculture and Livestock Development; Water Management; Nutrition and Livelihoods; and Policy Reform. The FFP includes a \$7 million grant fund that will be leveraged to work with local and international entities to support activities that increase food security in the targeted regions of the Program.

## TECHNICAL

### AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

During Quarter 3, the Agriculture and Livestock Development team achieved a number of notable activities. Below, the team organized its accomplishments utilizing the deliverables listed in the Year '01 Work Plan:

- **Engage one experienced Agricultural Organizer (AO)**
  - ✓ Employed Faiz Oquziev, Ag Extension Organizer in Qabodiyon/Shahrituz
  - ✓ Employed Ibrahim Sharipov, Ag Extension Organizer in Kulob/Vose
- **Engage and train five field agents in each of the Quabodiyon/Shahrituz, Kulob/Vose**
  - ✓ Interviewed on 21<sup>st</sup> July 10 candidates for the five field agent position in Kulob/Vose out of whom 4 were selected for the Field Agent positions, specialists in Agronomy (Agricultural Crops, Horticultural Crops), Veterinary and Animal Husbandry. None of the candidates were qualified in Fruit trees and pruning, which is of great importance to focus on in the selected households in 2011
  - ✓ 10 candidates for the five field agent positions in Qabodiyon/Shahrituz will be interviewed on 28<sup>th</sup> July
  - ✓ All 10 field agents will be trained in organizing the demo plots in maize, beans and potato
- **Engage and train one AO and three field agents in Ayni/ Panjakent zones;**
  - ✓ No activities yet
- **Working closely with the grants specialist, two Farm service centers (FSC) will be established/ strengthened in Quabodiyon and Kulob and staff trained in *organization and management of FCS*;**
  - ✓ Farm Store Feasibility Assessment: During May-June research into existing agro input providers was conducted by the Grants and Subcontracts Team to assess what is currently available regarding farms stores and dealers in the program's Zone districts and what the potential is for the program establishing new farm stores. The study was conducted first in the northern Sugd region (including Khujand, Spitamen, Istaravshan and Zafarabad), while the second phase was done in the southwestern Khatlon region (Qabodiyon, Shahritus and Qurghonteppa).
  - ✓ The assessment involved conducting interviews with farm stores, veterinarian stores, agricultural equipment providers and bazaar traders. Overall, over 20 entities were reviewed

for information on their business model (ownership), products and services, market environment (target market, potential demand), management and personnel, regulations/environmental issues and financial information.

- ✓ The main conclusions from this “supply-side” assessment for agricultural inputs were:
  - It appears that there are enough suppliers/shops/centers and expertise in both in Sughd and Khatlon for FFP to leverage into more farm stores.
  - Potential Store partners have been identified in Kulob, Qabodiyon, Shahritus and in the Sughd region. Most are private entrepreneurs.
  - Most dealers sold at least seeds, fertilizer or pesticides; imported seeds from the U.S. and Europe were readily available.
  - There are large producers in Tajikistan, including Helal Group (seeds), FAVS (pesticides) and wholesalers (SAS). These firms could possibly be brought into our Store official network. The AAT also could lend support.
  - Larger “Agricultural Service Centers” can be in larger population areas, filtering down to smaller shops at the village level and “Mobile Shops” for more remote areas during high season.
  - This is a seasonal business, and farmers need a long time to adopt new products. Based on the findings from this assessment and the results from the household farm survey that was also conducted, the program will design its strategy and model for establishing farm stores and service centers.
- **In total 45 field demonstrations in crops and livestock will be designed and implemented in each Quabodiyon/Shahritus and Kulob/Vose and 15 demonstrations in Ayni/ Panjakent.**
  - ✓ 16 households were selected to conduct demo plots (during the second cultivation in 2011) in maize, beans and potato in each of the two zones in Quabodiyon and Kulob (see enclosed report).
- **Demonstration plots will not be “give away” operations. Participating home gardeners will have to invest in their development;**
  - ✓ The households will provide all the labor for cultivating the demonstrations timely during the first year (in 2011). The HH plots will be used for training the greater number of HH in each of the tree villages in Quabodiyon and Kulob. The high expectations on the selected HH made it difficult to find volunteers willing to be in the centre of attention to a greater number of HH in the village (during the frequent training sessions)
- **Establish a production baseline for each of the FFP participant producers;**
  - ✓ No activities yet
- **At least one linkage of a commercial processing enterprise with a Mahalla/village-based growers’ group that will initiate provision of produce, will be launched;<sup>1</sup>**
  - ✓ No activities yet

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<sup>1</sup> A current study by Helvetas/ICCO indicates that there are only 12 commercial food processing companies in Tajikistan, five of which are parastatals. While FFP will strive to establish linkages between these enterprises and its client producers, more of its attention will focus on establishing micro-enterprises at the Mahalla/village level.

- **At least two value added micro-enterprises will be established in each zone (i.e., five micro-enterprises for Year '01). This will also involve close cooperation between the grants and marketing/agribusiness specialists;**
  - ✓ No activities yet
- **At least 20 technological innovations will be introduced during Year '01;**
  - ✓ No activities yet
- **The demonstrations in crops and livestock and experience sharing involves a series of relevant short- term local training of female led households on selected demo plots, orchards and livestock compounds. Training sessions—typically one day in duration for the growers--will be conducted in the following fields:**
  - ***Improved Agricultural Crop Cultivation Techniques***
    - The first training of HHs in planting and cultivation of maize and beans (double cropping) and potato in Quabodiyon and Kulob has been conducted during the last two weeks by the Ag Extension Team (see enclosed report).
  - ***Post Harvest Technology and Storage***
  - ***Vegetable seedling production***
    - Training in planting the potato seedling nursery has been conducted as well as planting of the carrot demonstrations in Quabodiyon and Kulob
  - ***Compost making (x 3 zones)***
    - No activities yet
  - ***Tunnel construction and management***
    - No activities yet
  - ***Pruning of Fruit trees***
    - ✓ Overgrown HH plots with fruit and nut trees is a major problem for finding open land for cultivating annual crops and conducting the demo plots. This will require a major input in pruning the dense and overgrown tree population in almost all HHs in Quabodiyon and Kulob.
  - ***Drip irrigation/water applications***
    - The project has collected information from various sources about how drip irrigation can become feasible and workable taking into consideration the rather high investment cost and the problem with silt in the irrigation water canals (see report from a debriefing by a Farmer to Farmer Drip Irrigation Expert).
  - ***Precision planting of vegetables***
    - Precision planting of onion demo plots is planned to start in October-November in selected HHs in Quabodiyon and Kulob.
  - ***Introduction to marketing considerations***
    - No activities yet
  - ***Canning for food security and sales***
    - No activities yet

- ***Garden/farm management***
  - No activities yet
- **Where participants attending these trainings demonstrate interest and the capacity to follow up on these activities, the Zone Coordinators, Activity Organizers, and Field Agents will work with them to provide follow-up training and apply what they have learned on their respective demoplots.**
  - ✓ One field demonstration in *improved pasture management* and one demonstration in *improved animal husbandry techniques* in each of the three zones, Quabodiyon, Kulob and Panjakent, will be used to conduct collective 1 day training courses for the field agents and female led households from all three villages in each zone.
- **The 2 month Livestock Program Advisor STTA has been postponed until mid August.**
- **One month training of trainers course for the FFP Agricultural and Livestock specialists, Zonal Coordinators and Agricultural Organizers in *Extension modules /New skill sets and Marketing information services.***
  - ✓ The training is due to start during the next Quarter.

#### **Pilot Programs, Demonstration Plots and Seed Procurement**

A series of intensive site selection surveys was conducted during Q '03, resulting in the selection of four project implementation zones that were proposed in FFP's revised Work Plan. All zones included in the work plan were identified as having high concentrations of food insecure households. These included Kabodiyon-Shahrituz, Kulob-Vose, Aini-Panjakent, and GBAO. Zone Coordinators (who will facilitate implementation activities of the FFP teams) were identified, interviewed and selected for the Kabodiyon-Shahrituz and Kulob-Vose zones. Extension-related activities will be implemented by field teams posted within the respective zones. These will include agronomists, horticulturalists, animal husbandry, marketing, and greenhouse development specialists as conditions within respective zones warrant. These teams are being trained and supervised by the Dushanbe-based agriculture and livestock development team

As of the end of Q '03, Agricultural Organizers (local team leaders) were selected for both Kabodiyon-Shahrituz and Kulob-Vose zones, and in the latter case an agronomist, horticulturalist (vegetable specialist), animal husbandry specialist, and veterinarian were recruited and have begun training. The Dushanbe-based team is still seeking a fruit tree specialist for Kulob-Vose, and will complete the selection of the Kabodiyon-Shahrituz field team in early Q '04.

Fifteen demonstration plots have been identified and launched in each zone to take advantage of the last summer's crop season. The sites for these plots were chosen according to evaluation criteria that prioritized food insecurity. Among the evidence-based criteria were:

- Lack of remittances or other external funding support;
- Number of children;
- Lack of livestock;
- Nature of crop mix;
- Lack of inputs; and
- Other constraints—primarily overgrown or aged fruit trees.

Potatoes, beans, and corn are the three main crops that are being demonstrated. **All of the demoplots are located in household gardens and all are being managed by women.**

Despite the generous offer of corn seed from Pioneer, it was determined that this particular variety of hybrid seed was both too expensive and non-sustainable and the offer was ultimately rejected.

## **WATER MANAGEMENT INTERVENTIONS**

The Water Management team joined FFP in May. Its Activities included:

- During the first week of May most activities included, recruiting process involving specialists from Water Users Association Support Program to Family Farming Program.
- All inventory of the WUASP was transferred to FFP.
- Visited Jomi, Qubodiyon and Shahritus districts to collect quotations (commercial offer) for purchase of fertilizer and chemicals (pesticide, fungicide and insecticide).
- Participated in presentation and discussion re the results of assessment of household kitchen gardens in Kulyab, Vose, Hamadoni, Qubodiyon, Shahrituz, Ayni and Panjikent districts with project stakeholders and USAID representative.

### **Weekly activity report 16-20 May, 2011:**

- Participated in a seminar of FFP Branding and Marketing presentation.
- Developed a plan for selecting Partner NGOs for cooperation.
- Developed cost estimation for 100 demonstration fields to be organized in targeted zones.
- Reviewed the scope of works for Zone Agriculture Extension Specialist.
- Participated in the presentation and discussion organized by CNFA on the subject of apricot pests. The presentation was made by Wayne Williamson.
- Participated in presentation of Farm Store Investigation (Phase 1—Sughd Oblast) made by the grants and subcontract team.
- Finished collection of statistical information about communities and households in Qabodiyon district.
- Participated in field visits to Kulyab, Vose and Hamadoni districts.
- Developed a list of training programs for the FFP water sector.
- Updated the questionnaire for AOs and other field workers using the WUA integration process.
- Participated in the recruiting process/interview to hire Qabodiyon Zone Coordinator.
- Job vacancy announcements were made for positions of Zone Association and Community Organizer, Zone Agriculture Extension Specialist, Zone Women’s Interest Organizer were for both Qabodiyon/Shahritus and Kulob/Vose areas.
- A temporary office was set up in both Zones.

### **Weekly activity report 23-27 May, 2011:**

- Together with the Chairman of FWUA “Sarob” met with the chairman of statistics department of Jamoat “Nosiri Khisrav” in Qabodien regarding updating statistical information on the number of population and households in Qabodien.

- WUASP staff Participated in Turn-over Ceremony of Wheel Excavator to FWUA “Sarob” in Qabodien district. Also participating were the Director of USAID/Tajikistan, Jeffrey Lehrer; Project Management Specialist, Sukhrob Tursunov; Deputy Chairman of Qabodien district, Ziyodali Ergashev; Head of Water Users Associations Department of the Ministry of Melioration and Water Resources, Eshmirzoev Ismat; and about 35 representatives of WUAs of Qabodien district.
- Updating the second version of “Questionnaire” for WUAs and other project zone field staff with the purpose of using in the integration processes.
- Reviewed training materials to adapt them to FFP requirements.
- Met with the Director of Land (cultivation) Institution, Saidov S.T. and Deputy Director, Sharipov R. about maize, beans and chick-pea seed and future cooperation.
- Met with the Deputy Director of NGO “Tukhmiparvar”, Patoev K., representing an NGO which is involved in potato seed production, regarding their cooperation.
- Developed a brochure on maize and potatoes as a second crop.

#### **Weekly activity report 30 May-03 June, 2011:**

- Visited Qabodien and Kulob together with Operations Support team to meet with the Zone Coordinator to discuss operation plans and office set up. In both Zones, the team investigated four places for possibly renting offices.
- Visited Qabodien Zone and met with WUA staff to build opportunity for community intervention. Each WUA expressed their opinion in which villages where the project could start. It was decided that the first villages would be “Mikoyan” and “Yangi Yul” in WUA Chirik service area; Villages “Qiyot” and “Ravshanobod” in WUA Obi Hayot service area; and “Arabkhona” in WUA Takhti Sangin service area.
- A team including the Agriculture Extension Advisor, WUA/Community Organization Advisor, Senior Agricultural Extension Specialist, Agronomist, Zone Coordination Manager, Personnel Specialist interviewed candidates for three positions: Agriculture Extension Agent/outreach leader, WUA Organizer/Outreach leader, and Women interest organizer/Outreach leader.
- Provided individual consultation about pest management for farmers of Village “Qiyot” in WUA Obi Hayot service area.
- Reviewed and edited two modules (Community Organizational Methods and OLD) to be prepared for the TOT of new AOs.
- Conducted preliminary survey of the potential WUAs Zones along canal “Kattarik” in Qabodien district.
  - Met with representatives of dehkan farms, jamoat leaders and land committee of Jamoats “Nazarov”, “Niyozov” “Nosiri Khisrav”, and “Yangi-Yul” in Qabodien.
  - A survey of canal “Kattarik” is nearly complete.
  - A draft list of dehkan farms of the above mentioned jamoats was made.

#### **Weekly activity report 06-10 June, 2011:**

- Project team visited Qabodien/Shahritus and Kulob/Vose Zone offices and conducted interviews for the position of WUA Organizer/Outreach Leader, Women Interest Organizer/Outreach Leader and Agriculture Extensions Agent/Outreach Leader; and selections were made of the most suitable candidates for these positions.

- Conducted a preliminary assessment of the potential zone for organizing WUA along the canal “Kattarik” in Qabodien.
- Met with representatives of dehqan farms, jamoats and land committees of jamoats Yandiyul and Khudoykulov.
- Participated in the process of interviews for selecting Association Organizers for the projects.
- Project agronomist participated in a three day workshop on “Diagnostics of diseases and determining pests in the agricultural crops” for Central Asian region. It was organized by The Central Asian Regional Project on IPM through the University of Michigan and International Center for Agricultural Research in dry regions; and cooperation with the Tajik Academy of Agricultural Sciences and Tajik State University, along with several other US universities. Subjects included; Phytopathology, Basic entomology and Diagnostics of diseases caused by nematodes.

### **Weekly activity report 13-17 June, 2011.**

- Fakhridin joined a project team including COP and DCOP made a ‘prospecting visit’ to GBAO that included meetings with:
  - First Deputy Chairman of Darvaz district and Women’s Community Saving Group “Guldasta” funded by MSDSP;
  - Khushvakhtov Mirzo (Darvaz district) chairman of Community Organization “Nurovar”. The size of his farm was around 0.2 ha (with a potential to expand) that was supported through the project Bunyodi Bog “Elona”, funded by Canadian SIDA;
  - Samarov Mirzorahmat (Darvaz district) a farmer who does tree nursery farming, mainly grapes, cherry, apricot, peach etc. He markets his products in the local market in GBAO and some are sold in cross border market located to Afghan buyers;
  - Women Agriculture Group in Vanj district, Jamoat Vanj in which all work on growing vegetables in their kitchen gardens. The group consisted of around 20 women;
  - Community Saving Group “Guldasta”, in Zingiro village. This group had 20 members and the organizing process was facilitated by MSDSP;
  - A group of farmers in Rushon district, Jamoat Nazarsho Dodkhudo, where a dried fruit processing workshop and chips making small workshop was visited. Farmers requested support for Developing WUA;
  - Met with the Director of Association of Entrepreneurs “Milal Inter” in Khorog city.
  - Met with Saidnazar Khudoynazarov, Chairman of WUA “Ob-Umed” in Shugnon district;
  - Met with Latipov Ganjavisho, Chairman of WUA “Obi-Zirav” in Roshtkala district, jamoat Tusyon, Lakhshik village. This WUA provides irrigation water to 375 households in two Jamoats including 11 villages. Out of 375 HHs, 40 are headed by women. The name of the main canal is “Shohburhon” with a length is 6.78 km. This WUA was organized with support of MSDSP in August 2009 and officially registered in December 2009;
  - Visited the green market of Khorog to see farm stores and availability of agro inputs. It was observed that there was only one small room in the market where fertilizer was for sale—there were people standing in line for purchasing fertilizer and the cost of

- 50 kg of urea was 170TJS. Only a very small amount of seed (local varieties) were available in the market where two individuals had rented a space;
- Visited the Public Organization “Agrokhimservice”. They have 10 tractors with various cultivation tools and 10 combines to provide services to farmers (price for service is negotiable), they also have fertilizer to sell.
  - On Thursday and Friday Fakhridin joined Tanner Chaiken, Project Grants and Subcontract Manager, to participate in the Investment Forum for Economic Development of GBAO “Pamir Invest” in Khorog. The program included:
    - Processing Natural Resources and Agriculture
    - Industry and export of local products
    - Tourism and service business
  - Together with Project Engineer conducted a preliminary assessment of the canal “Kattaarik” in Qabodien district. During the assessment, for the purpose of project implementation the following meetings were held:
    - Ziyodali Ergashev - Deputy Chairman of Qabodien District;
    - Abdusamad Mirzoev - Chairman of Water Department (Vodkhoz);
    - Rahmatullo Abdulloev – Chairman of State seed station “Avesto”;
    - Representatives of dehqan farms located along the canal “Kattaarik”;
    - Worked on determining and developing list of potential members (farmers and other water users) in the service area of canal “Kattaarik”.
  - A number of households were visited from which a list was made for further establishment of demo plots for potatoes, maize and beans.
  - Field Visit to Qabadien, project staff included Bill, Rutger, Yormukhammad, Gulomqodir and Mukhammadjon to three villages Quiot, Mikoyan and Takhti Sangin. Met with head of HHs and observed kitchen gardens where the main crops were potatoes, maize (for both corn and fodder), beans, vegetables (tomato, cucumber, sweet pepper, egg plant, pumpkin), and green vegetables. The following HHs in the villages were identified for kitchen garden demo plots for second season:
    - Takhti Sangin village:**
      1. Qurbonova Halima- potato/maize bean
      2. Djumaeva Bibihol- Maize beans
      3. Normatova Tojinisso -carrot
      4. Eshmurodova Jangiloy- potato/maize+beans
    - Mikoyan village:**
      1. Qurbonova Barchinoy -potato/maize+beans
      2. Eshmanova Amirhol -potato
      3. Shaimardonova Fazilat- potato
      4. Bozorova Khairinisso - potato
      5. Boinazarova Safargul- potato
      6. Normurodova zainab - potato
    - Quiot village:**
      1. Sharipova Qyimat - rabbit
      2. Salohova Sanobar - potato
      3. Atoeva Mastura - maize/beans
      4. Radjabova Mohbonu- potato
      5. Kholiqova Sanchagul- potato
      6. Tojidinova Saifura- Bulls

**Next step:**

- distribute maize & beans for Qabadiyon and Kulyab as season is coming to an end.
- discuss land preparation in Qabadiyon
- potato seed will be distributed next week in Qabadiyon.

**Weekly activity report 20-24 June, 2011.**

- Statistical information (number of DF and DF/presidential/kitchen garden land area) and technical details about Kattaarik Canal in Qabodien;
- Participated in the interview for selecting a Project Translator.
- Preparation for TOT; prepared handouts and adopted training modules
- Visitor: Chairman of WUA Shokhirizm, Roshkala district, GBAO and discussed the possibility of cooperation with FFP.

**Weekly activity report 27 June\_01 July, 2011.**

- Distributed potato and corn seed for demonstration plots in Qabodiyon and Kulob districts.
- Four Water Users Association Organizers/Outreach Leaders were hired.
- TOT started on the subjects of “Developing WUAs using the CO Method”. All four WUA Organizers/Outreach Leaders are located in Qabodiyon to participate in the TOT.
- Letters were sent to both Qabodiyon and Shahritus Hukumats requesting introductory meetings with District Chairmen.

**Pamirs**

A team led by the COP and DCOP undertook an extensive visit to GBAO in Q '03, including Vanj, Rushon, Khorog, and Ishkashim. The visit was facilitated by the Aga Khan Foundation and its MSDSP team. Several areas of potential cooperation were identified. Typical of Dekhan farms in the Oblast, the team discovered that many were smaller than most presidential land allotments. Access to inputs, marketing assistance, and water availability were most often cited by targeted farmers. Livestock was also identified as an activity in need of additional assistance.

On the basis of this visit, the team is proposing to establish an office in Khorog in Q '01 of Year '02, and launch project activities in the Spring of 2012.

**NUTRITION AND LIVELIHOODS**

**NUTRITION ENHANCEMENT AND HOUSEHOLD ECONOMICS (FORMERLY LIVELIHOODS)**

Development of the nutrition sector took on more depth in the third quarter. Review of similar projects and studies helped the Sector Lead to re-formulate the scope of the sector, hence the adjustment to the sector title. This is also reflected in the revised work plan, which highlights more directly the relationships between food security, malnutrition and poverty.

FFP conducted interviews in late April to fill the position of NE/HHE Coordinator. Regrettably, none of the candidates that responded to the vacancy announcement were fully suited to the position. Shortly after this, new hiring was suspended in order to concentrate on the Work Plan.

In May, the World Bank Rural Vulnerability Study 2011 was conducted, and FFP was able to add a filter category that led the survey into the household and presidential plots – units which would have otherwise been bypassed in favor of interviews only on dekhana and kolkhoz farms. Data from the first round (by geographical region) revealed some surprising trends at the household level in reference to the role of the household plot for food consumption and production. See the annexes for a summary of the preliminary data.

FFP held discussions with Save the Children regarding a possible collaboration on a program for women's savings initiatives at the community level. The SCF program known as Women's Wealth and Influence, had many merits. However, SCF held a different and in the end, non-negotiable position, on the 'ownership' and scope they felt this program should have within the FFP context. FFP made two attempts to offer a contract to SCF, but they concluded that the terms were not suitable. A revised Terms of Reference for women's savings initiatives will be tendered in the next quarter.

FFP pursued negotiations with the World Food Program (under the encouragement of USAID) to underwrite the final 2 rounds of 2011 Food Security Monitoring Survey (FSMS) and follow-on Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) seminar. The intention herein is to exercise some quality control over the general survey implementation process, data management and analysis, and presentation. This will go towards addressing the concerns of USAID and other institutions regarding the credibility and integrity of the survey process and data interpretation. FFP has engaged 2 experts to provide technical assistance at the appropriate time. The summer round of FSMS will take place in mid-July, with results available in late July/early August.

This summer round of FSMS will also contain the set of anthropometrical questions for nutritional assessment – which is not conducted every quarter. FFP was invited to review the questionnaire and make edits and additions. These were provided and duly noted. Regrettably, they were not received in time to adjust the questionnaire. FFP adjustments to the nutritional questionnaire will be incorporated in the Fall round. Furthermore, FFP requested that additional target jamoats<sup>2</sup> which are part of the project catchment area be included in the sampling. If this is possible, the data will serve as the nutritional baseline for FFP.

NE/HHE began collecting food recipes from women beneficiaries which use staple crops included in the demonstration plots. These basic recipes will be enhanced for greater nutritional value and duplicated for mass distribution, giving credit to the woman who provided the recipe.

NE/HHE organized a rapid assessment of household garden plots in 3 zones. FFP teams went to the field for a week, visiting 56 family plots. They diagrammed the plots, took photographs, made observations by use of a checklist and conducted a short interview with the owner(s) of the plots. Results were enlightening and served as evidence for programmatic choices. The report can be found in the annexes.

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<sup>2</sup> FSMS uses 19 representative geographical zones for sampling purposes. These have been identified through the IPC process.

## POLICY REFORM

Policy reform-related activities during this period were limited to articulating a policy reform approach in the revised Year '01 Work Plan. In addition, Meetings were held with Nassim Jawad of FAO to explore possible cooperation with the donor policy coordination group, and with Kevin Dean at USAID.

## GRANTS AND SUBCONTRACTS

Staffing – The Grants and Subcontracts Team continued to be staffed by the expatriate Grants and Subcontracts Manager, *Tanner Chaiken*, and a HCN Grants Specialist, *Khurshed Oimatov*.

Through the end of the reporting period no grants were approved or disbursed; as USAID acceptance of the program's Grants Manual was not received by the end of the quarter (originally submitted on 27 Nov 2010). However, the Manual is expected to be accepted in July, and the program plans to hold its first Grant Review Panel then. One subcontract for programmatic activities was awarded however to the local *Zerkalo* research firm for conducting a survey as part of the World Bank's *Rural Vulnerability Study* - to which FFP is having input.

On 20 April, the program organized and held a conference in Dushanbe for international and local NGOs to explain how to request funding through program grants and subcontracts for program activities. Fifteen organizations attended the conference and were informed that an Annual Program Statement (APS) would be sent out after approval of the Year 01 work plan and field office establishment, approximately in July.

### Grants in Pipeline

*World Food Programme (WFP)* – This \$64,000 grant will produce two additional rounds of the Food Security Monitoring System (FSMS) and the Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) publications. These are utilized by a wide audience that includes partners and stakeholders in the UN, civil society, government and the donor community to arrive at a consensus on the status of food insecurity in their respective areas. Moreover, the upcoming data will be used to analyze a variety of food security aspects (coping mechanisms, nutrition levels, livestock patterns, household debt, etc.), and the FSMS questionnaire will be tailored to FFP (and by extension, USAID) needs by adding survey questions on FFP-specific issues (NUT/HHE). In addition, an end-of-year seminar will be held that involves larger themes of food security and discuss the way forward for the national food security agenda. A “Lessons Learned Seminar” will also be held to review the processes and the sustainability of the publications. Grant is awaiting Review Panel approval.

*Seed Association of Tajikistan (SAT)* – An EOI (Expression of Interest) was received in late March for \$30,000 in funding for commercial activity: organizing the testing of different crops and seed varieties, selecting varieties which are economically efficient and the breeding of crops and varieties in the seed farms and marketing them. Due to the current situation regarding the SAT management transition and

weak capacity after the SIDA project ended their funding in December 2010, the program is continuing to work with them to develop a more viable plan for SAT organizational development. A revised EOI was submitted by the SAT in May and is on hold pending the Year 1 work plan approval.

*Agricultural Training and Advisory Center (ATAC)*- An EOI was submitted in mid-May, but was put on hold due to the Year 1 work plan finalization. Grant project would be for training and demonstrations for farmers.

*Association of Potato Growers of Kuhistoni Mastchoh (APGKM)*- Received an initial request in late-June, but it was put on hold due to the Year 1 work plan finalization. Grant project would be for developing potato seed production.

### **Grants Declined**

*GIZ* – An EOI was received in late-March for \$1,500,000 in funding to continue their “*Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in GBAO*” program. GIZ then submitted a revised EOI for a much smaller amount in June; however it was decided that FFP grant funding would not be awarded to bi-lateral donors - such as GIZ. Once the program begins its activities in GBAO next year, we will reexamine non-grant collaboration with GIZ’s program.

### **Subcontracts Awarded**

*Zerkalo Research Agency* – [REDACTED] subcontract was issued in late-May for conducting a survey as part of the World Bank’s *Rural Vulnerability Study* - to which FFP is having input. Zerkalo was selected by the World Bank to conduct the survey and is the most trusted survey firm in Tajikistan. The procurement will be for additional respondents, questions, and data sets. This approach will provide the project with the necessary baseline data, while providing significant cost savings due to the cost sharing with the World Bank.

## **ACCESS TO FINANCE**

**Staffing** – Tanner Chaiken, the Grants and Subcontracts Manager, continued in the role of the Access to Finance activity (A2F) lead until the hiring of a HCN Agribusiness Credit Specialist has been finalized. The top two HCN candidates from the previously reported March recruitment drive were called in for a final interview with the new COP in late June. However one candidate refused the interview while the second did attend, and was offered the position; however he ultimately declined it due to unmet salary expectations. Due to this it was decided to re-advertise the position in July.

### **AMFOT Annual Conference**

On 24 June the Association of Microfinance Organizations of Tajikistan (AMFOT) held its annual National Microfinance Conference, and the FFP Access to Finance activity Lead attended the event – as DAI Tajikistan is an Associate Member of the association. The focus of this year’s conference was:

“Microfinance in the Process of Sustainable Socio-Economic Development of Tajikistan”. Among the various topics discussed and presentations made (including for agriculture), of particular value to the FFP’s beneficiaries were the sessions on innovative products such as micro savings, micro insurance and mobile banking. Following the conference the A2F lead made recommendations to the AMFOT Director for improving the conference agenda and format for the next year.

Through the end of the reporting period, no grants were disbursed, as final acceptance by USAID of the Grants Manual has not yet been attained. USAID feedback on the draft Grants Manual submitted on 27 November 2010 was only received on 03 March 2011, and so the required revisions and subsequent acceptance was not forthcoming before the end of the quarter. It is anticipated that Grants Manual acceptance will be concluded in April. Several international NGOs approached the program seeking funding however, and one Grant Application was initiated, although ultimately withdrawn by the applicant in mid-March for timing and funding discrepancies.

**Staffing** – Khurshed Oimatov was hired in February as a Grants Specialist to work alongside the Grants and Subcontracts Manager. Mr. Oimatov was previously the Grants Manager on both the USAID/WUASP (6 years) and USAID/ProApt projects.

#### **Grants/Subcontracts in process:**

**Mission East** – Discussions were ongoing between Mission East and the program regarding funding for a large project (over \$1,000,000) to reduce vulnerability to food insecurity through household-level behavior change and the strengthening of grassroots organizations in food insecure region of Sughd Oblast. Objectives included providing inputs and opportunities for improving access to food and new income generating activities, ensuring effective use of agricultural outputs for maximal nutrition and household benefit, including improved child nutrition, and protecting the local human and material assets which enable food security. In early March an Expression of Interest (EOI) was requested of Mission East, however it was not forthcoming, as they decided to re-evaluate their options after learning of the terms of FFP grants. Follow-up from the program in April will proceed.

**Seed Association of Tajikistan (SAT)** – An EOI was received in late March for \$30,000 in funding for commercial activity: organizing the testing of different crops and seed varieties, selecting varieties which are economically efficient and the breeding of crops and varieties in the seed farms and marketing them. Due to the current situation regarding the SAT management transition and weak capacity after the SIDA project ended their funding in December 2010, the program is continuing to work with them to develop a more viable plan for SAT organizational development. This may take the form of a technical assistance sub-contract to be tendered.

**World Food Programme (WFP)** – An EOI was received in March for \$62,000 in funding for the execution of two more field rounds for the Food Security Monitoring Assessment, including results publication, followed by two rounds of the Integrated Phase Classifications (IPC) workshops which integrate the results of the FSMA. Due to delays on the WFP’s side, a Grant Application was not forthcoming before the end of the quarter. Discussions have concluded that a sub-contract is the more likely instrument to activate this program. Follow-up from the program in April will proceed.

**GIZ** – An EOI was received in late-March for \$1,500,000 in funding to continue their “*Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in GBAO*” program. The program works towards the enhancement of

the productivity, profitability and income-generating potential of households and small farms through fuel and construction wood production as well as through processing of non-timber forest products and the development of organizations and the generation of knowledge to support and sustain such improvements. Due to the project clearly being too large for an FFP grant, GIZ is re-evaluating their request. Furthermore, the proposed actions need to be contextualized into the FFP Work Plan, identifying which goals and results package would be met.

### **Grant Applications Cancelled:**

**Save the Children (STC)** – A grant application was received in February after several months of informal discussions regarding FFP support. A short concept note was received for a \$250,000 grant for a six-month project to continue the activities of their USAID-funded Single Year Assistance Program (SYAP) that ended in late 2010, that was in response to flooding damage in the Khatlon region. The grant application submitted primarily planned for providing 2,000 families with food preservation starter kits of jars and seals; 500 families with greenhouse tunnels and shown how to erect them in a community demonstration. These demonstration greenhouses would be used by program participants and replicated by neighboring households. The 500 greenhouse recipients would also be provided with improved vegetable seeds. However, due to several difficulties between the program and STC regarding cost-share, NICRA and timing, STC ultimately withdrew their application in mid-March. Follow-up from the program in April will proceed to revive efforts for collaboration.

### **Increase Access to Finance**

Networking, desk studies and implementation planning were the three main accomplishments of the Access to Finance (A2F) component. DAI Tajikistan applied to and became an Associate Member of the Association of Microfinance Organizations of Tajikistan (AMFOT) in February – which will assist with promoting the program in the sector and connecting with microfinance organizations (MFOs) and banks for collaboration. The AMFOT will also be sought out for financial education training of households and specialized training to MFOs for agricultural credit.

**Staffing** – The Grants and Subcontracts Manager has been the Acting A2F Activity Lead since program inception. An individual was offered the position of A2F Activity Lead in the DAI Technical Proposal, however after conducting a more thorough background check in Dushanbe, negative information was revealed, and he was ultimately not hired. A public recruitment and first interviews for an A2F Activity Lead was conducted by the program in February, however due to the delay in establishing program field offices, the hiring of the position was been put on hold in the quarter.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE**

The FFP Environmental Manual and Framework Monitoring and Mitigation Plan (EMMP) was approved by the USAID/CAR Mission Environmental Officer on February 16, 2011.

FFP Environmental Risk Mitigation Officer, Mr. Sheroz Bakiev, has been participating in the field visits to the districts of Shaartuz and Kabodien, Jomi and Yovon with the Agricultural and Livestock Extension Team. Participation by Mr. Bakiev during the field visits is to better prepare environmental compliance for the demonstration plots and pilot areas for FFP.

## ADMINISTRATION

### MANAGEMENT AND ORGANIZATIONAL

Additions to the FFP staff during the Third quarter include:

- Dr. William T. Levine, Chief of Party, DAI
- William Bell, Water Management Coordinator, WI
- Farukh Lalbekov, Accountant, WI
- Fakhriddin Kuziboev, Zone Coordinator, WI
- Saidali Asoev, Training Specialist Water Management, WI
- Yormuhammad Bozoriev, Water Management, WI

### FFP STAFF STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS: APRIL 1-JUNE 30, 2011

Organization	Individual	Theme
USAID/Tajikistan	Charles Specht, Suhrob Tursunov	FFP technical and contract management
USAID/CAR	Nina Kavetskaya James Borger James Whitaker Jeffrey Minott	FFP technical and contract management
USAID Productive Agriculture Project	Will Bullock	Discussion of areas of coordination
USAID Water User Association Support Program	Bill Bell and Staff	How to transition WUASP activities into FFP programming
USAID Land Reform Project	Justin Holl	Discussion of areas of coordination
USAID Tajikistan Safe Drinking Water Project	Duane Beard	Discussion of areas of coordination
USAID PERSUAP Activity	Alan Schroeder	Environmental impact of FFP activities
Save the Children	Will Lynch	Discussion of grant application process
United Nations Development Program	Doreen Wilson	Future UNDP plans in Tajikistan
Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources	Rakhmat Bobokalonov, Minister	Briefing of FFP to Ministry
Visiting Fulbright Scholar	Viraf Sirousian	Research collaboration
UNDP Disaster Risk Management Programme	C. Kelly	Coordination with UNDP DRMP
Mercy Corps	Brandy Westerman	Discussion of grant application process
EU's TAFF Project	Christophe Cordonnier	Coordination with TAFF program in ag
Association of Agribusinesses in Tajikistan (AAT)	AAT Staff	Prepare for farm store case study analysis
Mission East	Barbara James	Discussion of grant application process
GIZ	Joachim Kirchoff, Roziya Kirgizbekova	Forestry and livelihood activities in the Pamirs
WFP	Heather Hill, Cedric Charpentier	FSMS and IPC bulletins
FEWS NET	Brian Stabler	Outbrief of FEWSNET visit

International Monetary Fund	Monitoring Mission	Briefing on farm financing
Nuri Khatlon	NGO staff	Discussion with local NGO about their greenhouse and village development activities
Dekhan Farmers Association	Azizbek Sharipov	Discussion of possible coordination
Youth Ecological Center	NGO staff	Discussion of possible coordination
Seed Association of Tajikistan		Discussion of possible coordination
Michigan State University	Karim Maredia, Nurali Saidov	Overlap and collaboration with USAID CRSPs in Livestock and IPM
Ministry of Agriculture	Shukrullo Rahimnazarov, Deputy Minister	Discussion of agricultural financing
Aga Khan Foundation	Yodgor Faizov, Beate Schorheit	Discussion of grant application process
Pioneer Seed Company		Donation of hybrid seed to FFP for demonstration plots
UN Economic Commission for Europe/ Integrated Water Management Program	Seminar	Steering committee seminar and impact on FFP water management activities
ACTED	Rano Mansurova, Tom Nickalls	Discussion of possible coordination
SUE "Locust Control" Group	Kiemuddin Ganiev	Discussion of possible coordination
State Veterinary Service	Sh. Amerbekov	Discussion of possible coordination
Republican Epizootic Control Group	Murodali Sharipov	Discussion of possible coordination
Mila Inter	Hakim Kiebekov, Paulina Moor	Discussion of possible coordination
World Bank- Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience	Shane Stevenson	Discussion of possible coordination

# USAID FAMILY FARMING PROGRAM

Assessment Activity:

## HOUSEHOLD GARDEN PLOT PROFILES

Summary Report

June 2011

The USAID Family Farming Program is one of the many assistance programs made possible by the American people through the United States Agency for International Development. Since 1992, the American people through the U.S. Embassy in Dushanbe have provided approximately \$900 million in programs that support Tajikistan's democratic institutions, health care, education, and economic growth.

ANNEX 1

# USAID FAMILY FARMING PROGRAM

Assessment Activity:

HOUSEHOLD GARDEN PLOT PROFILES

Summary Report

Prepared by Marydean Purves and Parizod Salimova

Dushanbe, June 2011

## I. INTRODUCTION

USAID/FFP conducted a rapid assessment exercise in May 2011, as a means to get a 'helicopter' view of the average household garden plot at this time in the growing season. The focus was agro-technical only. The purpose is to examine the crops, check on farming practices and use of land, learn about obstacles directly related to the crop itself that is in the ground. The assessment deliberately did not investigate family living conditions, food consumption, income, problems, etc. This quick snapshot intended to provide information on the types of agro-technical assistance that is needed – inputs, implements, training, etc. – in order to make immediate improvements in productivity now, and to position the household plots for improved productivity during the next growing season.

The techniques that were used included, 1) diagramming the schematic of the garden 2), an observation checklist, 3) photo documentation, and 4) simple inquiry. Two teams plotted GIS coordinates as a demonstration exercise for future activities.

FFP received logistical assistance from Save the Children in Hamidoni, Mission East in Kulob, Oxfam in Vose, and Mission East in Aini/Panjakent to provide access to some communities. Which were within easy reach, and corresponded to some basic criteria.

The exercise was not a scientific sampling. Teams visited as many household plots as was possible in a day's work. They spent approximately 1 hour at each location. In total, 57 household plots were profiled over the course of 3 days, May 5-8, 2011.

## II. METHODOLOGY

### A. Diagramming

Diagramming allowed the assessors to make a graphic record of the dimensions of the plot, as well as to situate components of the space. It is a useful tool to gain an appreciation of use of space, access to water sources, etc. The assessors drew a sketch of the garden and identified areas by numbering and labeling. Each sketch included the following details:

- list of crops actually planted
- sun orientation, sun blocks (big trees, etc.)
- water source/s
- fencing
- location of animals if nearby
- size of planted area
- size of stock yards or stock house
- Indicative distance to pasture.

### B. Observation Checklist

Observation is an assessment tool that can be very valuable when carefully constructed. It can validate or negate verbal or subjective reporting. The parameters for observation must provide

descriptive moderators that can generally be recorded empirically – i.e, yes, no, present, absent, etc. In this case, the observations were intended to confirm the diagram and compare with the Simple Inquiry. The assessors observed and recorded:

1. The time of day
2. Whether and is fenced
3. Whether water is available today
4. Whether pests are evident
5. If plants are at normal growing stage
6. If plants are smaller than normal
7. If plants are bigger than normal.

#### C. Photo Documentation

Photo documentation, when done correctly, confirms and reinforces the 2 preceding methods. In this case, it was the basis for detailed discussion among the assessors and the program staff. Assessors took 10-15 photos per household plot, consisting of some long views and close-up photos of crops. Photos of pests were in abundance. Water sources were recorded, as well as orchards, livestock habitation and feed/watering area. Photos were taken of composting areas and farm implements.

#### D. Simple Inquiry

A limited number of closed questions were asked that complemented the other methodologies. In some cases, they confirmed what was diagrammed, observed or photographed. In other cases, they raised more questions for future inquiry. Assessors were instructed to keep the parameters of question and answer limited in order not to create expectations of assistance and to keep the information streamlined for straightforward interpretation. Responses were disaggregated by gender.

All assessment instruments are in the annex, along with the primary results data base.

### III. RESULTS

#### A. Demographics of respondents

26 respondents were women, and 31 were men. Of the 57 household plots, 8 were owned by women. On the 57 plots, the labor force for 52 was women and children. 5 plots had adult male labor force, and all of these worked under a male owner, not a female owner.

#### B. Profile of the physical plot

*Plot size:* The average size of the plot was 0.13ha. The smallest plot was 0.044ha, and the largest was 1.0ha. Plot sizes were influenced by the zone they were located in, with the Zarafshon Valley having on average smaller plots, being a mountainous region. Among the 5 women owners, one had the second largest plot of all 57 (0.33 ha), and one had the second smallest area of land (0.044ha).

*Fencing:* 27 out of 57 plots are fully fenced in, while 23 are partially fenced, and only 7 are open areas.

*Water source/use:* Virtually all (20) of the plots in Zone 2 (Qabodiyon) were observed to have water on the day of the visit, and all of the water is from an irrigation source. 9 out of 17 plots in Zone 3 (Kulob) had water on the day of the visit, and all of this was from irrigation sources, including in one instance from a pump station. The 8 plots observed without water also indicated that they rely on irrigation sources. In Zone 5 (Aini), only 7 out of 20 plots were observed to have water, and of these the source was pump irrigation for 4 and gravity-fed for 3 plots.

*Pests:* Pests were in evidence in 50 out of 57 plots. In the 7 plots with no evident pests, ash was the common denominator in combination with other products for pest control.

*Crop development:* Plant growth was estimated by small, normal, big for the growing cycle. No plants were larger than 'normal', whereas in 35 plots, assessors described the plants as 'smaller' than normal. The majorities of these were in Zone 5 (Aini), and may be correlated to the time of year for this colder climate with a later growing season.

*Fodder:* Fodder crops are grown on 34 out of 57 plots. Of the 23 plots that do not grow fodder 13 have livestock and 10 do not.

### C. Inquiry: Reported Practices and Information

As noted earlier, on 52 of the 57 plots, women and children are the principle laborers. Of these women, 25 are 'daughter or daughter-in-law', implying younger women, possibly young mothers.

33 of the 57 plots receive some kind of chemical fertilizer, and of those who specified, it was carbomide/ammonium nitrate. 41 also plots reported the use of organic fertilizer; in 19 cases organic was the only type of fertilizer being used.

In Zone 2 (Qabodiyon), as noted earlier, all 20 plots receive irrigation water and all 20 report that water supply is sufficient for their needs, and is the same amount as the previous year. In zones 3 and 5, only three plots (out of 37) reported that water was sufficient this year, and of those, two stated the volume was the same as last year while one reported less water this year over last.

Weed control is managed by hand pulling in virtually every garden plot.

24 household plots work only with shovel and hoe, and those are the only farm tools cited by all the plots in Zone 2. 32 households also use a rake and/or pitchfork in addition to the shovel and hoe. There does not appear to be any correlation between the size of the plot and the farm tools used.

Virtually all 57 families stated they will use the crops for 'family and personal needs'.

Regarding the next season crop, the answers varied between potatoes and vegetables, with only five citing wheat as well, and one citing soybean seeds (Komosi village, Panjakent).

Crop rotation (cereals and potato) is practiced on only 5 of 20 household plots in Qabodiyon. To the contrary 14 of 17 household plots in Zone 3 (Kulob) practice crop rotation, including

vegetables. In Zone 5 (Aini/Panjakent) 10 of 20 plots practice rotation most of which is vegetables.

Out of 57 plots, five have no structural means for storing their crops. 40 plots have some structural means for storage, the majority of which are 'cellars'. 12 stated they convert the crops in conservation and canning processes, and all of those were in Kulob.

39 plots also have a cow, and of those 13 also have either sheep or goat. 13 households keep chickens. Five households have a donkey in addition to one other animal. 10 households have no animals at all, the majority of these are in the Aini/Panjakent area. 5 households with livestock do not arrange for vaccination for their animals. 12 (of 47) owners of livestock feel that fodder supplies are not sufficient for winter. Only six households out of the seventeen who have livestock in Qabodiyon feel that pastureland is sufficient for summer grazing. 4 out of 10 livestock-holding households in Kulob feel summer pasture is sufficient. In Aini/Panjakent, of the 14 livestock-holding households, 12 feel summer pasture is sufficient.

#### **IV. CONCLUSIONS & ACTION STEPS**

##### *Conclusion -Women are closest to the crops.*

While few women actually own the household plot, they are overwhelmingly the labor force, and as such they see the progress and problems in the garden on a daily basis. They observe when pests invade, when water is insufficient and all other manner of events associated with small-scale agriculture.

Complementary information from the recent World Bank Rural Vulnerability Study Focus Groups reveals that women have little or no control over the ultimate sale of the garden crops. This is managed by men. As described in one discussion - women plant, weed, fertilize, oversee and harvest the crops, often to find that the stored produce has been sold without their consultation. Rarely do they receive a share of the sales or are consulted regarding how the funds will be used.

##### *Action Step - Promote 'women-forward' planning, training, and crop management.*

In full transparency and in consultation with appropriate male gatekeepers and enablers, *design trainings* that respond to women's principle role in the household garden plot – from planting techniques to the appropriate use of fertilizer and pesticides. *Equip women* with appropriate gardening implements and tools – shorter handled shovels, lighter weight tools, etc. Counteract the harmful effects of harsh chemicals to the hands, feet, face, and lungs by promoting protective gear – boots, gloves, filter masks. Many of the women in the fields are young mothers, likely breastfeeding. *Develop work schedules and day care initiatives* that are adaptable for the promotion of exclusive breastfeeding and other priority child-care responsibilities. *Facilitate women's right to decide* the destiny of the harvest, and *right to share* in the proceeds from sales.

Conclusion – WUAs have assured enough access to water where WUASP has worked.

Among the communities that were investigated only Qabodiyon was part of the earlier irrigation water project under Winrock. Not only do these farms have sufficient water from irrigation systems, sustainability is being assured as they report the amount of water is the same as the previous year. Given that these are household plots and not dekhan farms, it might be considered proof that everyone benefits from better organization and management of water supply. By contrast in Kulob district, while all farms reported that they rely on irrigation water, only half actually received water from the irrigation system, which would suggest that it is poorly organized and managed.

Action Step - Follow through quickly with WUA establishment in areas without water.

As planned, mature WUAs from Qabodiyon will be invited to assist in the set-up of new WUAs in Kulob and Aini. This kind of *local experience exchange* is more effective than bringing in outside expert technical assistance.

Conclusion -Pests are in abundance and may be developing resistance.

The vast majority of the gardens had numerous pests, for which they purchase Chinese products with no translations, and it would appear no results. While it may be a coincidence, the farms with no evidence of pests overwhelmingly used ash alone, or in combination with other more chemically-based products.

Action Step –Do some action research on the incidence of pests and then introduce refresher courses on IPM.

Work with the farmers to *understand how the pests are propagating* in order to treat cause and effect. Go beyond technical training for individuals and/or groups, to instill a sense of ‘war on pests’ among neighbors in order to eradicate pests.

Conclusion – Land is not used very efficiently in some areas, missing opportunities for greater yields.

Qabodiyon in particular seems to forego crop rotation. This seems at odds with the supposed assurance of regular water supply, for which the main purpose is to deliver better and bigger harvests. Crop rotation on half the plots in the Zarafshon Valley is reportedly vegetables, suggesting that these products are later stored, converted or sold.

The assessors also commented on what they observed as irrational land use in terms of row planting, poor channeling of water, soil treatment, and simple waste of good space. This would suggest that advance planning and layout of the plot may not be taking place.

Action Step – Do more inquiry about crop rotation practices or lack of.

FFP should not assume that lack of crop rotation is due to 'ignorance'. There may be reasons that make perfect sense to the landholder. Appreciative inquiry is a good technique to discover more about the practices which may also be instructive for FFP.

Action Step - Introduce the practice of diagramming for advance planning.

Visual imaging of the layout of the garden plot can help the gardener better use resources, anticipate increased productivity, and trouble shoot obstacles. It also gives the gardener a reference point for additional activities on the plot – watershed, composting, etc.

Conclusion – The practice of storing part of the harvest seems to be common, but conditions are not known.

'Cellars', basements are the most common containment for crop storage. However, the assessors did not have the occasion to inspect the locale.

Action steps – conduct a visual inspection of a sampling of crop storage units in order to introduce physical improvements that will have an immediate positive impact to reduce post harvest loss.

Conclusion – visual documentation of livestock shows very compromised health.

In particular, cattle seem to be in very poor condition across all zones. 'Fodder' appears to consist of straw, which is devoid of nutrients.

Action steps- further investigation regarding husbandry practices.

Animal owners spend a good amount of money to invest in livestock, yet do not seem to be able to further invest in their care and feeding. FFP needs to understand how owners make decisions to 'sacrifice' such expensive assets once acquired, to poor nutrition and handling.

Beyond this, FFP should identify and introduce some 'quick fixes' that will promote a change in practice in animal husbandry at the handler level. Larger, macro-level solutions to breeding, pastureland management and value-chain development should follow.

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This Summary report is made possible by the support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents are the sole responsibility of DAI Tajikistan and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.

ANNEX 2

**Household and Presidential Plot: Additional Analysis by Gender and Education**

**Tajikistan Rural Vulnerability Project**

**Subset: 524 respondents who have household plots and/or presidential plots and are not members of a collective, family, individual or cooperation/association dekhan farm.**

**Eric A. Abbott**

**Consultant**

**June 9, 2011**

This is a supplement to the previous quick summary of basic frequencies for the 524 respondents. This supplement breaks out the data by gender and by level of education. Note that respondents could be any adult member of a household that has a household/presidential plot. Neither female nor male respondents are necessarily heads of households. Also note that many of the questions ask about “anyone in the household,” and not just the respondent.

**A. Gender Breakout Tables**

F5a1. Does your household have a household plot?

F5b1. Does your household have a presidential plot?

	Household Plot				Presidential Plot				
	Yes		No		Yes		No		DK
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#/%
Male	233	98.7%	3	1.3%	124	52.5%	112	47.5%	0
Female	287	99.7%	1	.3%	122	42.4%	164	56.9%	2/ .7%

Virtually all respondents have a household plot. About half, with slightly more men than women, have a presidential plot. For the majority of both men and women, household plots produce up to one-quarter of “food your household eats.” The same is true for presidential plots. However, for a quarter of males and 20% of females, household plots produce nearly all or all of the food that is consumed.

F5a2 and F5b2. What proportion of the food you and members of your household eat comes from your household/presidential plots? Answers are percentages of respondents.

	Household Plots								Presidential Plots							
	None	<1/4	1/4	1/2	3/4	Nearly All	All	#	None	<1/4	1/4	1/2	3/4	Nearly All	All	#
Male	3.4	42.9	11.6	13.7	3.4	6.9	18.0	233	12.9	50.0	12.9	13.7	2.4	6.5	1.6	124
female	3.8	46.7	12.9	8.7	7.0	6.6	14.3	287	23.0	40.2	18.0	10.7	4.9	3.3	0	122

About one in five of both male and female respondents report that someone from their household works as a hired laborer on land other than the household plot or presidential plot. The mean number of days worked by the person working the most days was 102.4 for women and 105.7 for men.

F5c1. During the past year, did you or someone from your household work as a hired laborer on land other than your household or presidential plots?

	Yes	No	DK
Male	20.3%	75.8%	3.8%
Female	19.4%	77.8%	2.8%

The majority of both females and males responding indicated that sales of crops, livestock products or livestock from their household plots were an important source of income for the household during the past year (2010). Females were slightly more likely to indicate the importance of household plots, and males presidential plots, but this is not surprising since male respondents were more likely to have a presidential plot. The important conclusion is that despite gender of the person interviewed, these plots are playing an important economic role in the life of the household. For females, 61% said household plots were an important source, and another 13% said both household and presidential plots were important. Combined, this totals 75% of females. For males, household alone was 53% and both was 15%, for a total of 68%.

F5d. Was sale of crops, livestock products (milk, eggs, cheese, etc.) or livestock from your household or presidential plots an important source of income for your household during the past year? Numbers are percentages of those who said it was important

	<b>Sales from household plot are important</b>	<b>Sales from presidential plot are important</b>	<b>Both are important</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>	<b>Total numbers</b>
Male	53.0%	15.3%	15.3%	16.5%	236
Female	61.1%	9.7%	12.8%	16.3%	288

A second indicator of the importance of farming income was question F9, "In general, how does farming affect your household income?" Results show that farming is slightly less important as a source of income for female respondent households than for male respondent households. Female respondents were more likely to indicate that there were non-farming sources of income that were more important. Overall, however, farming income was either the only source or a significant source for three-quarters of males and 59% of females.

F9. In general, how does farming affect your household income?

	<b>Farming is ONLY source</b>	<b>Farming is significant, but there are other sources</b>	<b>Other sources are more important than farming</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>	<b>Total numbers</b>
Male	26.3%	49.2%	21.6%	3.0%	236
Female	17.7%	41.3%	39.6%	1.4%	288

Since almost 40% of female respondents indicated that non-farm income was more important than farm income (compared to 21.6% of males), it is not surprising that females reported receiving more income from other sources than males. The main difference is that females reported more income during the past year from migrant remittances than males did. They were also more likely to report receiving social allowances, but the amounts were small. Because of the differences in migrant remittances, females reported higher total income from these sources in 2010 than did males. A total of 89.2% of females reported income from at least one of the sources listed in the table in 2010 (100% of males did). To summarize, female respondents report a total income from non-farm sources of 4822.6 somonis, or \$1037.11 for 2011, more than half of which is migrant remittances. The median non-farm income reported by females is \$595.70. For males, total income is 4276.9 somonis, or \$919.76. Median income is \$490.32.

F6. Household income from various sources (in somonis) received in 2010. Unless otherwise noted, the amounts are mean income for ALL males or females, even though many report no income from that source.

	<b>All Males Mean Income for 2010</b>	<b>% of males reporting income from this source</b>	<b>All Females Mean Income for 2010</b>	<b>% of females reporting income from this source</b>
Wages	1081.8	45.3%	1014.2	42.4%
Private business	466.6	21.6%	448.1	22.6%
Migrant remittances	2147.0	30.5%	2723.2	38.2%
Pension	462.7	33.1%	538.8	34.7%
Social allowance	13.7	3.0%	57.8	2.8%
Other	98.3	4.2%	91.7	3.1%
Total	4276.9		4822.6	
Median income	2280		2770	

The mean income reported above represents overall income for all respondents. However, since many do not report any income from these sources, the numbers understate the typical payment that is received by those who do have income from this source. The table below provides mean and median income data just for respondents who report income from each particular source. These numbers indicate both the mean and median income received. It is clear from these results that for both males and females, migrant remittances provide more than twice the income of any other non-farm type of income. For females, 55.2% reported migrant remittance income, compared to 44.1% for men.

F6. Mean and median household incomes for the subset of males and females who receive each type of income. (In somonis)

	Males		Females	
	Mean	Median	Mean	Median
Wages	2385.9	2000	2394.1	1800
Private business	2159.0	1800	1985.5	1800
Migrant Remittances	7037.5	4500	7130.0	5000
Pension	1399.9	1080	1551.7	1080
Social allowance	460.7	150	2080	630
Other	2320	1600	2933.3	2800

An important indicator of household protection against vulnerabilities is its livestock. Male respondents were more likely to report having livestock in general, but the differences were relatively small. Having at least one cow was very common. About 40% had some poultry. Men were almost twice as likely as women to own sheep or goats.

F7. Percentage of males and females reporting having various types of livestock, and the average numbers of livestock across all respondents.

	Males: %	Males: Mean #	Females: %	Females: Mean #
Cow	82.7%	2.03	72.9%	1.6
Horse	1.3%	.02	.3%	0
Donkey	28.0%	.33	21.5%	.24
Goat	27.1%	1.14	14.9%	.50
Sheep	26.7%	1.04	17.4%	.63
Poultry	40.7%	2.22	37.8%	1.92

In addition to livestock, another protection against vulnerabilities is savings in the form of cash or valuables that can be easily liquidated such as gold. Households were asked if, over the past few years, they have been able to save some money that could be used to help in the event of a natural disaster, agricultural problem, loss of migrant remittances, or health problem. Females were slightly less likely to have savings, but the majority of both males and females reported “no” savings of cash or valuables over the past few years.

F8. Percentage reporting savings in cash or valuables over the past few years.

	No savings	Some, but only a small amount	Enough for a short-term downturn	Enough to survive many months	Don't know
Males	54.7%	25.4%	6.8%	4.2%	8.9%
Females	65.3%	20.1%	5.6%	6.9%	2.1%

Household possessions can provide an indication of resources available. Having a carpet was almost universal, and a color TV was also common. Males were slightly more likely to report having items such as power generators, a radio, a bicycle and a car. However, there was not much difference for most items.

F9. Percentages of males and females that have each type of household possession.

	% of males	% of females
Carpet	95.8	92.7
Color TV	88.1	86.8
Mobile Phone	86.4	84.3
Tape/DVD/Camcorder	72.5	69.8
Sewing machine	57.2	51.4
Bicycle	41.1	33.7
Radio	37.3	27.8
Car	33.1	25.7
TV Satellite	26.7	23.6
Fridge	23.7	24.0
Power generator	18.2	8.7
B&W TV	15.3	13.2
Washing machine	10.6	6.3
Landline phone	4.7	3.8
Air conditioning	4.2	2.8
Tractor	4.2	2.8
Motorcycle	3.0	1.7

Lorry	2.5	3.1
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Basic demographic figures:

Dataset responders: 55% female; 45% male

#### F10. Marital Status Percentages

	Married	Single	Divorced	Widow
Males	94.9%	5.1%	0	0
Females	83.0%	4.9%	1.0%	11.1%

Average age: Males: 47; females 43

Average number of members in the household: males 8.2, females, 7.3.

### B. Education Breakout Tables

Females were less likely to have higher education than males, and more likely to drop out prior to completion of their secondary degrees. However, two-thirds of females completed secondary education (grades 10-11), and 14% had some additional training. Among men, 37% had some education beyond secondary. Very few females reported specialized agricultural training, while about one in 10 men had either vocational agricultural training or university training in an agricultural area.

#### F11. Educational attainment by gender. Highest stage completed

	Primary 4-5) incomplete	Secondary incomplete	Secondary complete (10-11)	Secondary + Technicum	Secondary + Vocational	Higher Ed incomplete	Higher Ed complete
Males	2.1%	4.2%	55.9%	16.1%	5.5%	2.1%	14.0%
Females	2.4%	14.2%	67.7%	3.8%	4.5%	3.1%	4.2%

#### F12. Specialized agricultural training by gender.

	Yes, vocational	Yes, university	No
Males	5.1%	5.5%	89.4%
Females	1.0%	.7%	98.3%

For the following education tables, general education categories were merged as follows:

**Primary:** Primary or secondary incomplete                      63 cases            12.0% of total

**Secondary:** Secondary complete                                      327 cases            62.4% of total

**Higher:** Technicum or higher education                      134 cases      25.6% of total

Of all respondents, only 30, or 5.7% had some specialized training in agriculture. When results are shown for those with agricultural training, all 30 with training were merged into one group.