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USAID FAMILY FARMING PROGRAM/ FEED THE FUTURE TAJIKISTAN

QUARTERLY REPORT: SECOND QUARTER 2012
JANUARY 1- MARCH 31, 2012

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ACRONYMS

BMP	Branding and Marking Plan
COP	Chief of Party
COR	Contracting Officer's 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 food security in Tajikistan and continue USAID-funded activities to create new, and strengthen existing, Water User Associations (WUAs).

The USAID Family Farming Program (FFP) delivers integrated technical assistance to selected food insecure communities in Tajikistan that addresses: Agriculture and Livestock Development; Water Management; Nutrition and Livelihoods; Access to Finance; and Policy Reform. 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.

In 2011, USAID declared Tajikistan a “Feed the Future” (FtF) country- FtF is a global hunger and food security initiative designed to address chronic struggles with food shortages. FFP has been designated as FtF’s implementation vehicle in Tajikistan. During the next Quarter, USAID/W will finalize the strategy in Tajikistan and FFP will modify its focus and implementation activities accordingly. A major undertaking during the quarter for FFP was examining all aspects of the project to determine their appropriateness for the FtF structure. During the quarter FFP undertook a significant revision of its original Work Plan, and completed a new draft plan for Year 2 for USAID’s evaluation and approval.

TECHNICAL COMPONENTS

AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT AND LIVESTOCK ENHANCEMENT (ADLE) ACTIVITIES

Due to the close out of the Kulob office, the removal of the Kulob and Vose districts from our portfolio and the establishment of the twelve districts the FFP will provide focus, administrative re-structuring took place within the ADLE. A plan was developed that began a rapid close-out of existing activities in Kulob and Vose with ADLE activities with a final date of 10 May, 2012 for our active presence in those Districts.



Bobo Fayziddin planting potato in Qumsangir

During February 2012, our designated Area of Operation (AOR), twelve districts located in the Khatlon Oblast, was designated by USAID. From 1 January to 31 March, 2012, Khatlon Oblast displayed extremely erratic climactic conditions. On March 24, 40cm of snow was recorded in Dushanbe. Normal agricultural practices came to a virtual standstill as the entire ‘footprint’ of the ADLE was impacted with freezing temperatures, exacerbated by prolonged water

soaked soil conditions as a carry-over from heavy rain activity beginning in November, 2011. Fall planting of many crops were suspended. Early planting of spring crops were postponed and have yet to take place. A widespread late harvest (with potential lower yields than usual) from the first season crop cycle is anticipated in the FFP/ADLE AOR is anticipated.

The ADLE was very active this quarter in establishing a working relationship in our newly designated AOR. Planning our AOR coverage and staffing decisions were undertaken. An early decision was made to expand as quickly as possible into our entire AOR and we immediately began meetings with the local government structures in all twelve of our new districts. We are currently active and have a presence in every district within the FFP AOR.

In gaining a better knowledge of these districts and their respective needs, we have held focus group

sessions, conducted surveys and developed a working relationship with the local formal and informal government structure. We have met with farmers, input dealers and traders, large and small.

Substantial actions have begun that will be a cornerstone to increasing nutrition and income for the household level producers through establishing four complexes with 10 greenhouses each, establishing three new agriculture input dealers at the village level (where there were none before) thus improving access to inputs and markets for small scale production. We have let a contract for the prototype development of the first of 30 onion/garlic bulking centers to enhance market entry of smallholder farmers into commercial marketing opportunities.

The activities being carried out by the ADLE unit will have far reaching positive consequences and will ultimately play a significant role in a reduction of nutritional issues within the rural sector, a significant increase in production and an increase in income to the small holder farmer.

Planned expansion and scaling up exercises through establishment of self-help groups via NGO's throughout the AOR was postponed at the request of USAID. An RFP was let, NGO's have been selected and preliminary proposals accepted. The ADLE is awaiting input by MEAS and authorization to move forward with final NGO negotiations, selection, contracting and self-help group identification and management to begin scaling up activities of the ADLE planned interventions.

Improving Access to Agricultural Inputs

Accessing agricultural inputs is a challenge and a constraint in rural Khatlon. The FFP ADLE has conducted a thorough and in-depth review of all existing input dealers in our areas of operation. We are focusing on identifying village farming areas that do not have access to inputs and searching out qualified people that may be operating out of their house, are agriculturally qualified and want to expand their business. So far we have signed MOU's with three of these emerging entrepreneurs (with sound agricultural skills) and are currently supporting them in developing their business and on improving access to ag. inputs such as quality seed, fertilizers and crop protection products within their village sphere.



Shahrituz small Agricultural shop

In this reporting period we have signed three MOU's, in Shahrituz, Bokhtar and Yovon districts to establish agricultural input shops. The Shahrituz shop is currently providing advisory services and selling inputs for farmers around the village area. The Yovon district shop has renovated the building and the second week in April plans to start to provide advisory and sales service to his area. The Bokhtar shop has begun renovation and plans to be operating in the first week of May.

The selection process is continuing.

Improving Access to Markets

A vibrant trader community exists in Khatlon. We have assessed this group and have engaged in public meetings with them to determine how the FFP may enhance their operations and at the same time assist the FFP to achieve its programmatic goals. We have developed a strong working relationship and have a tentative schedule for developing a more solid structure with outcomes and strategies. This step is

critical in establishing a market for the emerging entrepreneur.

During January and February ADLE hosted focus group meetings in six locations with a total participant number of 128 people. Locations were represented by the following districts: Kulob, Qabodiyon and Shahrituz. Participants were traders and the purpose of the focus sessions was to better define their specific needs, constraints and issues so they would find interesting and profitable to access t smallholder production. Results were clear in their response that Khatlon has potential to increase the production of early vegetables, which has huge seasonal demand for both local and international markets. The major constraint for traders in working with smallholder farmers is in collecting limited amounts of production from multiple locations. Smallholder producers must bulk products in one place to attract commercial buyers.

Marketing and organizational efforts have begun with the greenhouse complexes as their construction will impact an increase of production of additional vegetables in that area. Meetings have been held at each site discussing procurement and marketing opportunities. A more detailed plan is being developed with the groups at each site for both procurement and sales of production and required inputs.

Onion/Garlic Storage and Bulking Centers

When FFP began planning for the upcoming production season, a key constraint became immediately evident. Most of our beneficiaries are severely land restricted. This land restriction creates a situation whereby the household agricultural producer can only produce limited amounts of any single item. FFP has begun a program that creates a 'bulking center' for onions and garlic. The Prototype has been designed and a contract has been let for its construction. The initial site selected was in Qabadiyon, within an onion production area. At the last minute the site had to be denied due to anomalies in the documentation for ownership. A new site is currently under consideration.



Prototype of onion storage

This bulking center will be the first of 30 to be constructed in Khatlon. Ownership will be by onion/garlic production self help groups. Statistics show us that for every kg of onion held from October to March the price doubles from about 2 to 4 Tjs. For the smallholder farmer that raises 125 kg's of onions extra each year, the smallholder farmer stands to make an additional 250 Tjs. Enough to buy one 50 kg bag of urea fertilizer, that in turn can double yields on the five times the onions, they grew this year, for the following year. A significant and very positive impact will be realized from this intervention.

Commercial Family Owned Greenhouse Complexes

This reporting quarter saw the construction of 40 ADLE designed and FFP supported greenhouses. They are all fully planted and operating. Early tomatoes were supplied and transplanted from heated greenhouses contracted by the ADLE and delivered to each site. Cold weather both delayed and ultimately damaged about 5-8% of the transplants. We were able to replace those as we had overplanted our projected needs to cover a contingency such as we experienced.

The FFP/ADLE is gaining entrance into commercial production with the smallholder farmer beneficiaries we represent. Ten each have been placed on a single site in a district. Four districts are

represented with one complex each (Qabadiyon, Vakhsh, Shartuz and Bokhtar). Each greenhouse is primarily owned by one or two families.

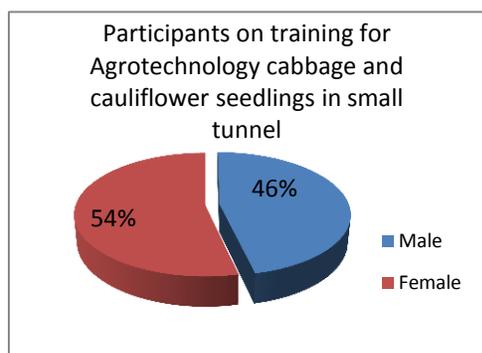


Planting of seedlings in Vakhsh district

The mean family member owners per greenhouse are roughly 13. Our early numbers indicate 10% to 12% of the production will go for food for the family, or extended family. This ‘family unit’ number is close to 25 persons. This complex approach of ten per site was done to create a critical mass to attract both purveyors of inputs and supplies and to bring in traders interested in buying larger quantities of seedlings and produce. Data shows there will be a static staff of about 45 at the ten greenhouses with another 25 seasonal employees. Over 10,100 persons will be trained in greenhouse management and related topics (including nutrition) over the life of this project. Net income to each of the greenhouse owners will be over 1,250 TJS/month and over 12,000 households will benefit from additional, out of season, sources of fresh vegetables and access to seedlings. These greenhouse complexes are a significant investment that will create a community cornerstone of development in the selected villages.

Tunnel Greenhouses

Focusing on the need for training in techniques to extend the growing season and to increase the intensity of agriculture due to a critical land constraint, the FFP began promoting small tunnel greenhouses (1.5 m x 10 m) to begin seedling starts over the winter for transplanting out, in the spring. A total of 40 tunnels were established in Kulob and the Qabadiyon districts.



The ADLE conducted six trainings in our districts on construction, management and marketing of production for tunnel greenhouses. The response was tremendous, 69 trainees attended the sessions and 33 were women. Our calculations reveal that each individual household tunnel can reap an income of 1,200 Tjs from the sale of mixed vegetable seedlings and 300 TJS from the sale of fresh greens. The impact of this for a poor household is that it is enough to buy shoes and winter jackets for four children, with a bit left over for summer seeds for the household garden.

Capacity Building in Soil and Plant Fertility

Fertilization, soil fertility and structure are a chronic constraint to higher productivity. Inorganic fertilizers are not easily accessed by a villager both by the required transportation and the expense. An integrated fertility approach, using both inorganic and organic products, is a part of sound crop production techniques. During all of our trainings we are stressing rotational cropping using a legume as one rotation, the use of manures and organic soil amendments to improve soil structure and increase yields and of course the judicious use of inorganic fertilizers.

During this reporting period we developed a comprehensive soil fertility program, with appropriate hand outs and reference materials. The upcoming quarter will begin ADLE large scale field days, demonstrations and trainings in all 12 districts of the project area of operations.

Capacity Building in Technical Agriculture, Post Harvest and Marketing

During this reporting quarter, our training and demonstration staff developed a more comprehensive and technical program on crop protection, weed control, irrigation, harvesting, post-harvest and marketing techniques. The finalized program was modified and expanded based upon direct input from participants of last year's sessions.

Field Days

Farmer Field Days are always exciting. This quarter the FFP has already conducted one major field day, even given the major weather constraint. We have also been extremely active (weather permitting) in establishing demonstration plots, large and small, that display modern techniques and varieties. Constant exposure and interaction with farmers and self-help groups utilizing these on-site demonstrations with cooperating farmers and village leaders during structured and/or informal opportunities of active and passive learning, field days and field schools are an integral part of this programs methodology in scaling up the transfer of modern high intensity agriculture techniques suitable for small holder farmers.

ADLE's first Field Day of the season occurred in the Qabadiyon district, jamoat, N.Khusrav, village, Mikoyan, for 20 HHs famers (18 women) on "Cabbage and Cauliflower Transplanting and Agro-technology". Participants were introduced to new varieties of Cabbage "Brunswick" and Cauliflower "Brunel". Both varieties display high yield, are fast maturing (taking into account his year may have a compressed production time) and increased resistance to heat, before 'bolting'. Technologies and techniques displayed and discussed included transplanting, watering, pest control, harvesting, post-harvest handling, fertilizer needs/application and marketing. Written materials were distributed reinforcing the training and field day. Extensive training of trainers (volunteer hosts and informal trainers of demonstration plots), field days and farmer field school sessions will continue during the growing season.

Training

Training programs presented to smallholder farmers this quarter has been constrained due to weather. We held 38 trainings in 13 districts (plus Kulob) during this quarter. All trainings are held with a 'hands on' approach. If we are discussing transplanting, then participants are transplanting with FFP/ADLE oversight. Households that have access to too little land and too few resources are eager to find a way to feed their family. When offered training they are keen to attend. The FFP trainings have all been very well attended and have typically run overtime.

Crop Trials

Crop trials are often, (but not always) combined with crop demonstration plots (same location) and are used during informal and formal training programs. Our demonstrations are held in both household gardens (which have a nutritional focus, but contain our four value chain crops as well) and in more commercial settings that display techniques more applicable to large scale production (e.g. Such as mechanized land preparation and planting). Trials are important to validate varieties and methods that are profitable, suitable and are culturally acceptable regionally. We have established 130 demonstrations covering all twelve of the FFP designated districts. These will be the focal point of our upcoming training, field days and farmers schools activity season.

Planting material and methods

Transplants and seeds are expensive in Tajikistan. Transplants, started in a heated greenhouse, are popular for early production, but are too expensive for many to buy, even though they produce a positive return on the investment. This year many that procured greenhouse starts lost them due to the

very late snow and freezing.

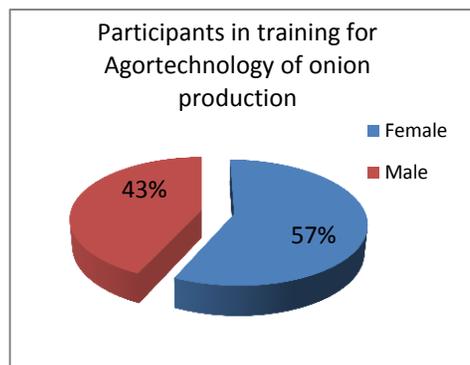
The majority of smallholder farmers we work with do not view buying quality seeds as a profitable investment. They typically hold back seeds year after year, from their own vegetables for future planting, ultimately degrading viability and potential yield. These poor quality seeds collected locally, year after year, still represents most seeds planted today within the FFP/ADLE AOR. Buying good seeds happens more often now, but access to quality seeds needs to be more widespread and availability increased. FFP has begun addressing that issue. We have currently procured 145 kg of high quality seed covering 16 species of crops and are actively supporting the establishment and opening of additional village level input shops.

Precision planting is the norm for our planting and training demonstrations. We carefully calculate area required to produce a maximum yield, based upon crops requirements. Spacing within the row and across rows are carefully laid out and planted according to local cultural practices, how much room the plant needs (at harvest) to maximize quality, minimize seed required and to take full advantage of both nutrients and water availability are calculated. Precision planting produces a higher quality crop, there is less weed and pest control (it is easier to manually cultivate for weed control as the plants are in rows). The impact of this intervention is the person tending the garden (usually a woman) can sell more products at a higher price; they can afford to buy high quality seeds and they spend less time in the garden doing manual labor. Harvest is anticipated during May/June. During harvest the ADLE field staff will conduct yield assessments, results will be reviewed and distributed in each demonstration plots of our AOR. Planting season has begun and will continue to increase in intensity for the next few weeks.

Spring Onion Production

Precision planting demonstrations have been established of spring onions in small dekhan farms with 11 dekhan farms in 7 districts (average of less than one hectare/owner). They were selected based upon their soil types, access to water, crop management practices, proximity to villages and nutritionally sensitive areas, as identified through the ADLE/Nutrition process and with a final desire for major visibility to roads. We have introduced a new (trader requested) open pollinated variety (OPV) “Bereket” in four commercial plots each 0, 25 ha. Small trials were put out last year and the success of those led to a request for addition demonstrations this year.

Precision planting techniques were used during training sessions. During this reporting period the ADLE conducted 11 trainings on growing spring onions for market (planting, irrigation, pest control and marketing were also discussed). Participants included 146 farmers (80 women). This variety has high resistance to heat, firm flesh allowing for high transportation potential, long term storage, and high resistance to fungal and viral diseases. We anticipate the harvest potential yield to approach 60 mt/ha (compared to a 30mt current ‘good yield’). During the upcoming growing season our project staff will regularly visit onion fields to monitor and provide advice to farmers within our AOR, as well as our demonstration plots. The ADLE began organizing local and regional cross visits among the farmers who are engaged in onion production to introduce farmers to improved practices regionally.



Beans

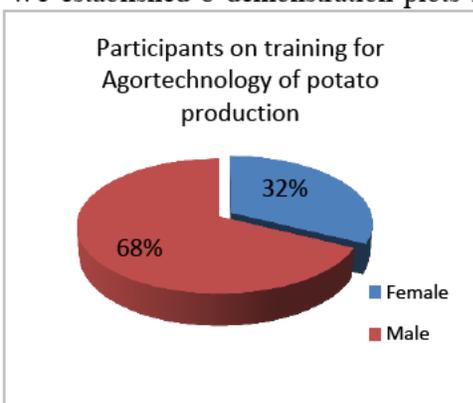
The Lopata (white bean) and Red Kidney (Skorospelko) beans are high yielders and are highly prized for family food consumption as valuable sources of protein that are enjoyed by the family. They are often used as porridge for children under five. Red Kidney beans make are widely accepted ‘cutlet’ that are substituted for meat during meals. In addition, the bean plant fixes nitrogen and is extremely

valuable in a rotation cycle, improving the soil for successive crops. The top, after harvest, is an excellent source of forage for cattle. The impact of these beans is a critical piece to solving the chronic childhood malnutrition issue that persists in Tajikistan.

The major planting season of Beans will start in the next quarter. The ADLE, in collaboration with the Nutrition Unit, will develop demonstration plots in HHs kitchen gardens and the commercially oriented value chain plots, in the entire AOR. The physical process for selection of villages is currently ongoing, as is the identification of demonstration sites. Kidney bean demonstration plots will be established in carefully commercial dekhan farms within the AOR for 0.25 ha demonstration. Commercial activities being introduced will include, production, harvesting, storage, grading sorting, packaging and marketing. ADLE agronomists will also conduct trainings /field days/ cross visits/monitoring on a regular basis during the upcoming growing season.

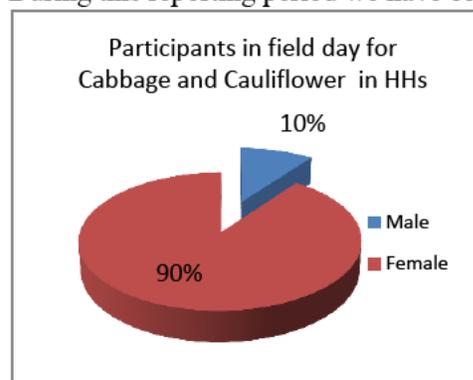
Potatoes

We established 8 demonstration plots in 7 districts with HHs farms. These potato seeds (v.Romano) were selected and procured for early spring season production and were to be planted last December. Due to their late arrival (one month after scheduled arrival) and weather constraints, they were planted during this reporting period. This seed has displayed good yields in other Oblasts during early harvests. As a new technology introduction we plan to apply Maleic Hydrazide to inhibit shoot development to enhance long term storage potential.



Cabbage and Cauliflower Seedling Production

During this reporting period we have conducted 6 trainings (at tunnel growing sites) on transplanting of cabbage /cauliflower seedlings to open fields, in 6 villages of the Qabadiyon district. Interest was high to attend the trainings with 73 HHs farmers (33 women) in attendance and a total of 69 households. This training will also be conducted during the next quarter in the Kulob area where the ADLE has established 20 demonstrations of small tunnels being used for cabbage /cauliflower seedling production.



Livestock Enhancement

As a part of the ADLE component we cooperate very closely with the Nutrition unit of the FFP. Milk production is closely related to nutritional status of children under five. The ADLE has been charged with increasing milk production with the household owned cows. Currently 92% of the households we count as beneficiaries own at least one cow. Our effort in increasing milk production have centered on increasing the quantity, quality and storage capacity of fodder available to the households with children under five.

An expanded effort was developed, brought on by the severe winter and the die off of livestock, due to a lack of feed reserves. Interventions of fodder beets (dry land), ditch bank improvement through

planting of Lucerne + fescue, utilizing an uncultivated area for fodder production and larger scale plantings are taking place now and are planned for future interventions. Uncultivated areas and along ditchbanks are being identified and demonstrations are being established in these areas. These areas are typically located in the ‘tail water’ areas of cotton fields. During this reporting period the ADLE livestock staff established demonstrations in fodder crops. Twenty-five fodder beet demonstrations in HHs farms, 11 ditch bank, Lucerne and fescue mixed plots on small dekhan farms (2,7 ha) and 8 lucerne only plots in HHs farms. We will organize field days at every demonstration and carry out multiple trainings, formal and informal at these locations.

Maize for livestock feed

Maize is quickly expanding in production within the FFP AOR, as the need for cattle feed is growing along with the demand for meat and milk products. Livestock fodder was extremely scarce this winter, with a very large die off during this quarter for new born lambs and cattle. Approximately 92% of the households in our area of operations have at least one cow. The loss of a cow, or most of their lamb crop (born during the snow and freezing weather), represents a significant loss of net worth to a family. Feeding straw, cotton cake and corn is a typical winter ration (Due to extremely high demand cotton cake supplies were depleted and prices skyrocketed from 1.5 TJS to 3.5 TJS/kg). FFP has made contacts and plans for ten hectares of demonstration sites and cooperating volunteer farmers, on currently uncultivated land for maize production to be used for sheep, goat and cattle feed next winter (note: uncultivated land for this planting is typically located at the ‘tail ditch’ of a cotton field). Half of the maize harvest is designated to be used for silage demonstrations for winter feed to improve milk production.

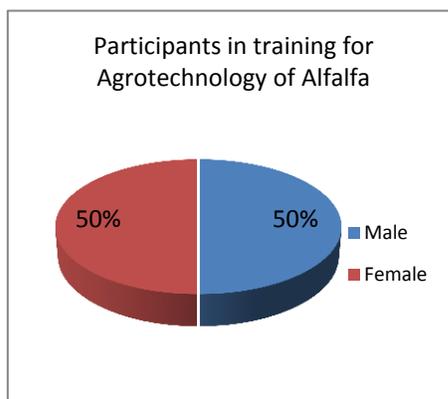
Fodder beet production at the household level

Efforts to increase fodder production are aggressively targeting households. Areas are being identified for fodder beet production to be stored and used for winter feed to supplement the wheat straw normally fed.

The ADLE staff in cooperation with the cooperating farmers and families has established fodder trials and demonstrations in 25 HHs plots, using 60,000 high quality seeds of a new fodder variety that is drought resistant with a high yield, disease resistant and with good storage characteristics.

Ditch bank Lucerne +Fescue

Eleven demonstration plots in 8 districts each of 0.25 ha on ditch banks have been established in order to increase the volume of the feed reserve for winter livestock needs. Each demonstration plot is being fenced to protect from free range grazing livestock. The production will be cut weighed, dried and stored to be used during winter feeding trials. Aggressively advertised field days and training on this intervention have been planned.



Small scale Lucerne production in households

During this reporting period, the ADLE livestock component established eight demonstration plots in eight districts with HHs We will be cutting, drying and storing this production as well for winter feed trials. The purpose of the demonstration plots is to improve daily feed ration in order to increase milk production for food consumption.

Publications

The ADLE was very active in developing a series of publications. A crop production resource book was developed and is undergoing final editing at this time. It is envisioned this will be used by bankers, extensionists, university staff and students as well as farmers. Forty-three extension production bulletins, were developed, one for every common commercial crop and livestock species in Tajikistan.

These will receive a wide circulation.

In addition, the following publications were developed and published for brochures, handout materials for trainings, leaflets and production guides use during demonstration days, field days, trainings and references.

Publications developed during this reporting cycle

- 1 Production Guide - Legumes
- 2 Production Guide - Potatoes
- 3 Production Guide - Corn
- 4 Production Guide - Turnip and Radish
- 5 Production Guide - Carrot
- 6 Production Guide - Cabbage
- 7 Greenhouse Management
- 8 Mineral Fertilizer and Compost Use
- 9 Agriculture Development and Livestock Enhancement
- 10 Production Guide - Peanuts
- 11 Production Guide - Kidney Beans
- 12 Production Guide - Garlic
- 13 Production Guide - Onion
- 14 Production Guide - Alfalfa
- 15 Production Guide - Meyer Lemon
- 16 Production Guide - Beekeeping
- 17 Production Guide - Poultry

WATER MANAGEMENT INTERVENTIONS



The second quarter of fiscal 2012 continued with WUA organizing activities and by the end of the quarter four WUAs had been organized and registered; “Obi Shirin” in Kulob; “Havaskor” in Qabodiyon; “Navruz” in Shahrituz and “Selbur” in Vose. These four WUAs have more than 9,000 ha, about 680 dekhani farmers and benefit about 70,000 people. The table below shows totals for the six WUAs that have been formed under FFP.

The three new WUAs in Qabodiyon have now joined with the Federation “Sarob”, this puts most of the irrigated area under WUA/Federation management.

An area of about 600 ha that was not included in previous WUAs became a part of Obi Hayot 26Feb12. This strengthens the WUA and provides managed water that was not previously possible.

Further FFP organizing activities in Kulob and Vose have been discontinued, however, support activities will continue with the two established WUAs at least through the 2014 irrigation season.

Technical:

Assessment of potential new areas for WUAs.

Assessment of 10 districts in the lower Vakhsh River Sub-Basin continued to map out (locate by GIS) major irrigation/drainage features, get an estimate of area to be served and a preliminary delineation of possible WUAs within a hydrologic bounded area. To date some 28 zones have been assessed that will comprise at least 28 WUAs totaling more than 55,000 ha.

The area irrigated by the Qabodiyon Cascade was assessed prior to initiating WUA organizing activities, six of the pump stations are functional, however, not to their full capacity; the 7th pump station has been inoperable for more than 10 years. It is estimated that about 2,600 ha can be irrigated by the pump cascade.

The area in Qabodiyon along the lower part of Kattaarik Canal known as Kholkoz ‘Avesta’ has yet to be divided into individual dekhan farms, and it will not be for some time it seems. Therefore, it is unlikely that FFP will be able to organize a WUA in this area—which is really too bad—if it could then all the major irrigated area in Qabodiyon would be organized and could be managed as one hydrological unit.



Strengthening meeting Federation Saro, Qabodiyon

An area of nearly 375 ha between 3 WUAs in Qabodiyon that had not been farmed for a number of years and does not fit directly into the hydraulic boundaries of the three adjacent WUAs has been assessed to see how this area could be included into a WUA for management purposes.

At the request of the Association of Dehkan Farmers, “Komsomol”, in Nosiri Khusrav, FFP Staff visited the area and met with about 10 farmers. They requested assistance to organize a WUA and a meeting of all dekhkan farmers (around 80-90) is planned.

Parallel with this request, GIZ had been asked by the local government to rehabilitate a drinking water facility in the nearby village of Sangoba; and GIZ in turn requested FFP to organize a drinking water association as a prerequisite for their assistance to help with the drinking water problem. This may be a positive point of involvement for FFP to work with both organizations to benefit the farmers through a WUA as well as contribute to helping with the village drinking water problem. A number of would be WUA members are also from this village. A joint meeting of village representatives, GIZ and FFP was held on 30Mar12 and they are willing to form a drinking water association. FFP will shortly initiate the organizing process.

WUA rehabilitation activities.

The FFP Engineer along with members and specialists from WUAs “Nahri Kalon”, “Jui Ravon” and “Obi Hayot” in Qabodiyon determined and prioritized rehabilitation works to be done, derived cost estimates, and located and evaluated supply sources.

Initial rehabilitation works was planned to be through a ‘procurement process while awaiting for final approval for the use of grants for these WUA activities. The main reason being to finalize the process so that activities could begin before water was turned into the canals. However, only two activities were possible to be initiated through the ‘procurement process’; cleaning drains and procurement of 101 gates at a cost of about ██████ (the gates completed and delivered to three WUAs). The ‘procurement process’ for remaining WUA activities could not be accomplished as planned; this caused serious delay in implementing rehabilitation activities. Given that approval for WUA grants was received, the procurement procedure for rehabilitation activities was stopped and will continue as grants.



Rehabilitation planning meeting WUAs, Nahri Kalon, Obi Hayot and Juyi Ravon

As noted above regarding the 600 ha area added to WUA Obi Hayot, a control gate was constructed in canal ‘Kabla’. There had been no structure here for more than 20 years, causing extensive erosion and could provide only limited water control. This structure will be a great improvement.

Through the newly organized WUA Juyi Ravon people in the area of village Guzari Bolo requested help to clean drains. Lack of adequate drainage over the past many years caused a high water table, to the extent that moisture was seeping into their houses and it was not possible to construct the usual outdoor toilet; conditions that caused severe health problems particularly for the children.

By the end of the quarter some 3,600 meters of drains were cleaned in Guzari Bolo village area at a cost of about [REDACTED]. These drains have already effectively lowered the water table and hopefully the drains will keep water tables lower throughout the irrigation season. If reasonably successful, then the villagers, about 160 people from 31 households, will benefit significantly; they may be able to plant a few vegetables, and for sure will have a healthier living environment.

Training:

Training is an important and vital part of organizing activities as well as to begin the process of building capacity in the many areas the WUAs need in order to become an effective and sustainable organization. After rehabilitation of prioritized works and further training these WUAs will have the skills to better manage water, this will provide significant benefits to the rural population and go a long way toward achieving food security. During the quarter 78 training sessions were provided for a total of 1,466 persons of which male were 1,359 and females 107; see Annex 5 for details; this included:

- Technical and Grant Management training for 36 members from the four newly registered WUAs,
- Cross-visit for four WUA groups to visit existing WUAs in the Rudaki area (25 male & 4 females).

In addition to training, four booklets were distributed (700 copies) to the WUAs; the “Water Users Association Law”, “What are Water Users Associations?”, “Tajikistan Water Code” and the “USAID Family Farming Program”.

Public awareness:

Radio interviews broadcast on ‘Sadoi Dushanbe’ included the events of; cross visit of WUAs to Rudaki district; General Assembly Meeting of WUA “Obi Shrin” in Kulob; General Assembly Meeting of WUA “Havaskor” and Chairman of Federation “Sarob” in Qabodiyon; Met, at the request of, the Jilikul District Chairman and chief of village Sangoba in N. Khisrav.

Other Activities:

Water samples from hand pump wells were taken in the Guzari Bolo village. All were acceptable as far as e-coli and other parameters were concerned, however, water in one well was unacceptable due to

containing a large amount of sediment.

Vacancy notices for four positions of “WUA Organizers” and two “Infrastructure Rehabilitation/Monitoring Specialists” was posted in local newspapers/websites.

At a WUA Coordinating Council a request was made for a workshop in Dushanbe to address the following:

- Agriculture/irrigation sector reform and basin management of water resources,
- Inventory of irrigation system assets,
- Development of Water Fee contracts between farmers/WUAs; WUAs/Federations; and between WUAs/Federations and the water supplier.
- WUAs/Federations Budgeting and financial management,
- Taxation in agriculture
- Training on developing proposals.

In February a dekhkan farm member from Esanboy village in lower Rudaki district visited FFP after learning of its activities from WUA “Russiya”. The request was for assistance to organize a WUA and provide some assistance in rehabilitating their system. It was explained that FFP was not operating in Rudaki district and thus could not help them. However, we said that on the way back from Qabodiyon one or more of FFP specialists would stop and at least see part of the system so that if FFP knew of other interested donors we would pass along the information. A short visit was made; this area is like the ‘end of the road’ as regards ANY assistance, the entire irrigation system is completely unusable (abandoned is probably a better description). It was stated that no one from a donor had visited that area in at least ten years—and it shows. A bad situation that no one bothers about, yet the potential for agronomic improvement is very great. We will inform anyone that may have an interest.



USAID visit to control structure Kabla canal

Plans for Third Quarter 2012:

Major activities planned include:

- Engage and train 3 new AOs and 2 Engineers to ramp up organizing activities.
- Initiate/continue WUA organizing activities (1 WUA in each area) in:
 - Qabodiyon cascade pump stations;
 - beginning of Qumsangir Canal in Vakhsh;
 - beginning of Jilikul Canal in Vakhsh;
 - Kafirkala canal in Rumi;
 - various canals in N. Khisrav.
- Develop grant proposals for rehabilitation of six WUAs.
- SOW for international expert for 3 months beginning in Jun12
- Continue with assessment and delineating areas for establishing WUAs.
- Plan for a workshop requested by WUA Council.
- Work with GIZ re the drinking water project in village Sangoba in N. Khushrov.

- Add an area of about 375 ha to WUA “Chirik”.
- Coordinate with Tajik government agencies regarding WUA activities.
- Coordinate with other donor projects.
- Initiate actions to setup local NGO for future WUA development in Tajikistan.

NUTRITION ENHANCEMENT AND HOUSEHOLD ECONOMICS



Training on cooking of kidney beans

The first month of the quarter from 4-th till 24th of January the field employees of NE HHE componen participated in baseline survey of FFP/FTF in Khatlon oblast.

On 16 February 2012 was conducted training with participation of 20 women beneficiaries was held in Chorbog village.

The training was conducted by Qabodiyon’s field employees, Mrs. Hotira Yusupova and Mrs. O. Saifitdinova and Mr. Rasulov Kadridin who made a statement before the training. He informed the

beneficiaries about special features of cultivation and care of kidney beans. Mrs. Yusupova Hotira told about the biological value of kidney beans, its structure and necessity of regular usage for nutrition of women and children.

The kidney beans are important source of the following key nutrients: Folate plays an important role in the development of the nervous system; Magnesium is important in energy production; Potassium – helps in regulation of fluid balance in the body and in maintaining healthful blood pressure levels; Iron – iron deficiency is a common problem in developing countries that leads to anemia and poor immune function. Shared her own opinion Yusupova Hotira

After the training all the participants tasted the food prepared from kidney beans. The women were very satisfied and decided to plant the kidney beans in their gardens, not only the white beans, but the red kidney beans too. At the end of training, women were given recipes for cooking cutlets and salads from beans. Such demonstration trainings provide an opportunity to diversify diet from products cultivated in the households in the villages.

On 23 February the Nutrition component has participated of the annual Regional Agricultural Fair. The fair was held in Shahritus district at the initiative of Mercy Corps. It was attended by the representatives of the US Embassy and the international organizations such as UNDP, WFP, Micro Finance Organizations such as HUMO, IMON, Finca, NGOs, such as Bonuvoni fardo, Zanoni dehot, Shifo, Madad, Mehrubon, as well as the representatives of Shahritus and Qabodiyon Khukumats’ districts, Jamoats and farmer households.

The representatives of the US Embassy and Khukumat noted the necessity of such annual events because these events provide opportunities for partnership relations between government agencies and NGOs, civil society organizations and international organizations.

Our program took at active part in the exhibition. In order to reflect all our efforts regarding improvement of food safety in Khatlon oblast we organized stands. Two days before the exhibition Qubodiyon staff prepared samples of healthy food cooked from milk and vegetables which were cultivated in the demonstration plots.

National flatbread was baked from pumpkins and kidney beans; their nutrition value is a source of

protein, carbohydrates, fats minerals and calories. This combination is necessary for adequate nutrition of women and children.



Regional Agricultural Fair

The representatives of the National Television Jahonnamo had an interview with our colleague Mrs. Sayfidinova Olufta. She told about the goals of FFP and ways we will achieve improvement in the quality of life of rural population.

On 1st March 2012 was conducted demonstration training on preparation of cutlets in J. Rumi district of N. Nosirov village.



Demonstration training on preparing cutlets

In accordance with the work plan demonstration training on preparation of kidney beans cutlets was conducted in the Odilov's family in the N. Nosirov village. The family consists of 7 members. There are 3 children under 5 years in this family. The Odilov's family household is significant and it is a demonstration plot of our program. In the plot of land of 0.3 hectare the family cultivates vegetables that are necessary for various nutrition and which are priority for our program, such vegetables as radishes, potatoes, tomatoes, cucumbers, sweet pepper, cabbages, eggplants, beets, greeneries. Milk, which they get from the cows is primarily used for preparation of food for the family, the remaining products are processed and sold in the local market. The wastes from the livestock they use to fertilize their gardens and for heating of houses.

The training was attended by 24 women of the village, which were familiarized with the rules of hygiene for food preparation and the importance of kidney beans for nutrition of women and children. The women were distributed handouts on how to grow and store the kidney beans. Throughout the training a lot of questions were asked about different ways of cooking kidney beans, they took an active part in cooking of cutlets, it was very useful and entertaining for them.

On 6th March conducted – “Health day” in secondary school #13 in jamoat Ziraki, Kulob district, with participation of 180 pupils. Ms. Dilafruz Arorova informed the participants about USAID Family Farming Program's activity.



“Healthy day: in secondary school of Khatlon district

The students were taught about diseases which can be outbreak if not following the hygiene rules. During this process the pupils have made presentations. Small demonstration about prevention of infectious diseases to all pupils was shown and it had educational elements for them.

Senior class girls have participated in competition and shown their capacity on cooking of meals which are rich with vitamin and microelements. The main purpose of the “Health Day” was the dissemination of information about sanitation which will improve their health.

From 9th March to 20th 2012 was conducted consultative research for Improving Young Child Feeding – “TIP’S”.

On 9th of March Nigora Yusupova has conducted the training about Trials of Improved Practices (TIPs).

The main goals of research are the following:

- Definition of the key issues in practice of children’s feeding;
- Definition of simple and effective actions within the frame work of farming that would improve nutrition of children under 2 years;
- Check this recommended practice in the houses in order to determine which of them are more efficient and culturally acceptable;
- Develop an effective strategy in order to promote the improved practices of feeding of children of the under 5 age;

The research was conducted in six villages. An intercept survey, discussions, research and observations were used in order to collect detailed, descriptive information about what people say and believe in, what they do and want to do.

TIPs are the primary method of research advisory approach. This method is known as testing at the household level, it includes a number of visits to individual homes to test the new behaviors in order to improve children nutrition.



Interviewing respondents on TIP's

Together with participants of research we conducted the trial questionnaire and modified the questions that were asked by the respondents.

We defined the families to participate in TIPs, received their consent to participate in the research. Total number of participant is 8. Three of them were the employees of the NGO “Shifo”. We divided them into 4 groups; each group consisted of 2 persons. The interview and Focus group discussion with mothers in the villages was conducted.

Further activities

In the third quarter of 2012 Nutrition Enhancement and Household Economics component plans to initiate educational training with women's groups in the districts of Khatlon oblast. We shall continue the trainings conducting on the basis of demo-plots on the preparation of complementary feeding from agricultural products of own production. We shall begin to provide training on processing of milk in households where there are dairy cattle. We plan to prepare a project proposal by the beneficiaries to establish self support groups and receive a separator for the processing of milk. We also plan to conduct the Health Day in schools (in each village) on personal hygiene, food hygiene, water sanitation and prevention of parasitic infestations.

POLICY REFORM

Policy-related activities in Q '02 revolved around continued engagement in the MOA/donor cooperative effort in agrarian policy reform. This focused primarily upon assisting the crop diversification efforts with the MOA crop diversification working group. In a series of meetings, FFP sought to get MOA buy-in to the idea that crop selection and potential technological innovations were essentially completed and were useful pieces of information, but that adoption relied upon changing the Ministry's focus from being a top down directive agency to being a facilitative organization. This, the MOA subgroup said, would be the exact function and result of donor investment in its proposed Agricultural Information Centers. We raised the obvious issue of the sustainability of such a system, pointing out that by its own reckoning, the MOA stated that it would only be able to cover 15 percent of recurring costs, and that farmer contributions would amount to less than that amount, leaving a 70 percent void to fill in perpetuity. This, we pointed out would be sufficient to dampen the enthusiasm of donors to invest in such a system.

More important, we argued, would be to get the MOA to help change the current policy environment so that farmers wouldn't feel constrained. The subgroup agreed that many regulations needed modifications, creation, or repeal, but stated that advocating this went beyond its mandate. It was at this point that our interaction ceased. Shortly thereafter, however, the debate on creating a policy

research and development group with Ministry of Agriculture, Water, and ¹Land Committee cooperation began.

A second activity focusing upon training newly appointed Jamoat-level agricultural Civil Service officers was launched during Q '02. The *raison d'être* behind this activity grew out of the realization that at least 120 new public servants were assuming vaguely defined agricultural roles* in our targeted project area. Not only was their mandate unclear; it hadn't been vetted or approved by the Ministry of Agriculture. In fact, the MOA viewed the entire process of establishing a new layer of bureaucracy that was unaccountable to it as something of an insult. Moreover, the job descriptions of both the Deputy Chief and Leading Specialist establish no formal relationship with the agricultural offices at the Raion level. ² Indeed, Raion level counterparts said that they had nothing to do with these people and didn't know what they were doing.

In addition to being isolated, at least 60 percent of these new officers we've interviewed have little if any agriculture-based skills. Nor do any of them have the resources necessary to enable them to reach out to the farm families that are putatively their clients.

As stated in the Work Plan, FFP proposed cooperating with its USAID Land Reform Program partner and with the GOTJ training institute to develop a set of training modules for these newly appointed Jamoat-level civil servants. During Q '02, FFP held a series of meetings with Training Institute³ officials. The COP met with Mahmadullo Naimov, Director, Public Sector Training, and Liaison with the Ministry of Agriculture, Hamedkhan Noruddinov, Assistant Rector, Naima Normatova, Director of Modernization and Innovation, and Firuz Saidkhadzhaev, Leading Specialist, Modernization and Innovation Sector. The Institute quickly agreed that this cohort of new officials needed training. FFP proposed three modules:

- An introduction to agriculture in Tajikistan;
- Agricultural development in Khatlon Oblast;and
- The nature and impact of the agrarian reform.

To be jointly presented by LRP and FFP personnel at sites within the 12targeted Raions. Classes would be limited to 20 participants per session and would include one-half new civil servants, and one-half stakeholders including farmers, Mahalla, village, and Jamoat officials.

¹ The seniormost position, the Jamoat Deputy Chief, for example is tasked to "complete agriculture cooperation works in the village; assist in provision of a work plan of the Jamoat and Jamoat Council; follow the requirements of regulatory documents...etc." The Leading Specialist (second tier technical specialist) is required to have "higher education which will promote the successful implementation of his tasks (preferable agriculture specialty); awareness of history, culture, national language and one foreign language; awareness of the basic internal and external policies of the Republic of Tajikistan; ...experience in agriculture sector will be taken into account, etc."

² Both positions call only for cooperation with counterparts at the Raion level as necessary.

³ The formal title of the Training Institute translates roughly as: Institute for Improving the Qualiifications of the Civil Service in Tajikistan.

The Institute responded with its own proposal, calling for the design of three modules which it would provide. These included:

- Concept of agriculture (legal framework of agriculture, how policy is made and implemented, etc.);
- Efficient skills for conducting negotiations/ communications) to improve the coordination between government and other institutions existing in the agriculture sector; and
- The reform process in the agricultural sector: achievements and risks.

The Institute also proposed handling the instruction and preparation of relevant materials with its own staff.

The differences in these two approaches will be ironed out in negotiations beginning the last week of April in Q '03.

ACCESS TO FINANCE

During the quarter, Access to Finance activities continued to focus on financial management training for Dehkan farmers and members of Water User Associations. Micro Finance Organizations were provided capacity training more attuned to their financial management requirements .e.g. business plan evaluation, internal auditing, agricultural loans, etc.

ILO Training



Training on “Start and Improve your Business”

A contract was signed between International Labor Organization (ILO) Trainer, Mr. Rakhimov Alisher and FFP; to provide Training of Trainers (TOT) for FFP employees in the Qabodiyon and Kulob offices. The first stage of the “Start and Improve your Business” (SIYB) TOT training took place in the Qabodiyon office during 3-7 January and in the Kulob office during 9 -13 January.

The second stage of training was held in Qabodiyon office during 1-3 February and in Kulob office during 7-9 February. 24 FFP employees (11 in Qabodiyon and 13 in Kulob) participated in the training, including 8 women.

The third stage is planned to be conducted during the second quarter of 2012. Also planned is the reproduction of 10 sets of SIYB “Business Game” teaching materials. Additional training for the 24 trainers on Business Ethics will also be conducted.

AMFOT (Association of Microfinance Organizations of Tajikistan)

In cooperation with FFP through a subcontract, AMFOT a number of measures aimed at institutional development of small and medium MFOs have been implemented.



Training on “Financial analysis and Credit management”

Training for MFO employees: 5 training sessions were conducted for MFO employees in Khatlon. Topics relevant to small and medium sized MFOs included International Financial Reporting Standards, Financial analysis and Credit management, reporting to the MFO, Development and evaluation of business plan, and Internal audit. Many of these small and medium sized MFOs are unable to afford participation in such training. Therefore, much appreciation was expressed to FFP for funding this training. These training sessions were attended by 100 employees of MFOs including 39 women, who in turn shared their knowledge with their employees.

Farm Financial Management Training for farmers: During the first quarter 63 trainings were conducted in three of the FFP target districts; total number of participants-1327, including 567 women (42.7%). In terms of areas:-Shahrituz-17 trainings (345 participants, including 87 women), Qabodiyon-14 trainings (278 participants, including 62 women), Bokhtar - 32 trainings (704 participants, including 418 women). Participants received training on reporting, budgeting, and access to finance.

AMFOT in conformity with its subcontract deliverables will conduct training for an additional 1173 farmers in the following FFP targeted districts: Jilikul, A. Jomi, Qumsangir, Yovon, Sarband, J. Rumi, Khuroson, Vakhsh and N. Khisrav.

MDO Bovari & Hamkori (Microcredit Deposit Organization)

In cooperation with FFP through a subcontract the MDO Bovari & Hamkori, a number of measures aimed at institutional development of small and medium MFOs were undertaken during the quarter. Training on Agro crediting, Business planning and financial modeling were conducted for 42 employees of MFOs, including 15 women.

Additionally, three audit firms have been selected to conduct external audits for 10 MFOs.

MFOs

A number of meetings with MFOs operating in Khatlon were conducted. The purpose of the meetings was for MFOs: support of a program to provide financial services to targeted farmers. Participating in the meetings were the following MFOs: MLO Oxus Microfinance, MLO Imon International, MLF Fenix +, MDO Bovari & Hamkori, MDO Finca, MDO Kiropol Express, MLO Mehnatobod, MLO Imkoniyat Khovar, MLO Furuz, MLO Vakhsh Microfin, MDO Arvand, MLO Humo & Partners, MDO Amlok, MLF Armon, MLO Behnamo, MLF Najm, MLO Kishovarzon. Additionally, MLF Naim and MLO Kishovarzon participated for the first time.

The main purpose of the meeting was to identify those MFOs interested and capable of responding to an RFA to provide technical and financial support for sub office expansion and new loans in the agricultural sector within Shahrituz, Qabodiyon, Bokhtar, Jilikul, A.Jomi, Qumsangir, Yovon, Sarband, J. Rumi, Khuroson, Vakhsh and N. Khisrav. In the resultant process, 5 MFOs, MLO Imon International, MDO Finca, MDO Arvand, MLO Humo & Partners, and MDO Amlok submitted applications. These have been reviewed and await USAID approval for subcontract execution and implementation.

IFC

A meeting was held between FFP and IFC management. IFC has a project for financing development of agriculture and enhancement of the business environment in Tajikistan. The issues of cooperation on environmental enhancement, export of agricultural products and development of leasing products were subjects of discussion.

Save the Children

A meeting was held in Qurghon Teppe with representatives of Save the Children (STC). The subcontract between Save the Children and FFP requires STC to establish 115 women's saving groups with total number of 2300 women in the following districts: Shahrituz, Qabodiyon, Qumsangir, Jilikul, Vakhsh, Khuroson and Jomi. Mrs. Zuhro Murodova is the project manager; she informed FFP staff about the principles used in establishing of the groups and STC's previous experience. She also noted that an official letter regarding establishing the women's groups and future cooperation was sent to District Jamoats and Khukumats. The Chairmen of Jamoats supported and welcomed the idea of the program as the employees of Jamoats and Khukumats do not have possibility to work in remote districts. They promised to provide moral support in the implementation of group formation. 55 groups are planned to be formed before June 2012.



Meeting with representative of Save the children

Credit Unions

The contract on formation of Credit Unions in Tajikistan was signed with a local expert. His contract includes: a review and determination of the standard legal basis for the creation of credit unions used in other countries; an analysis of the currently proposed legislation for establishing credit unions in Tajikistan and possible related recommendations regarding the legislation; development of recommendations regarding the organizational level structure and operations of credit unions; recommendations as to the registration and regulations governing credit unions;

Database of all MFOs in Khatlon

A database that covers 15 MFOs that work in the FFP Khatlon targeted districts. The database reflects the credit activities of these MFOs as of December 31, 2011 in such districts separated by agricultural sector. These MFOs have a credit portfolio totaling \$19,747,161 with 153,425 active clients, including 4263 women. 22496 agricultural loans were made by these MFOs in 2011 totaling \$15,316,695 in the average amount of \$680.

Farm Management and Record Keeping Handbook

The FFP draft "Farm Management and Record Keeping Handbook," printed in limited numbers to allow it to be circulated for review and comment will be printed in a revised version to be utilized in the training for Self-Help Group (SHG) members. Given the prospective number of such individuals, FFP foresees the use of volunteers from the more in-depth training currently being conducted by AMFOT to provide the training to the self-help group members. The Handbook is intended to provide basic farm record/book keeping assisting in determining assets, income and expenditures, budgeting, and in profit and loss related cropping decisions, as well as providing the records necessary to prepare the documents required to secure a loan.

Next Quarter activities:

Training on Farm Financial Management for an additional 1173 farmers,
Training in "Keys for Success in Micro Financing" for 20 employees of MFO,
Research on the issues of leasing and development of new products for the farmers,
Procurement and installation of the software for 10 MFOs,
External audits will be conducted for 10 MFOs,
Institutional evaluation and preparation of business plan for 5 MFOs,
Bovari and Hamkori will extend a total of \$250,000 from its own funds to MFOs in FFP targeted districts for agricultural loans.
The opening of MFO sub offices in FFP targeted areas.

Also:

- Link value chain actors (farm stores, input suppliers, processors, exporters), and storage
- Construct funding schemes for equipment or technology purchases: beneficiary cost share, MFO loan, and FFP contribution
- On lending or forward contracts/financing for farmers from change agents
- Organization Women's Savings Groups in target zones, link selected groups to SYIB training.

GRANTS AND SUBCONTRACTS

During the quarter, Grants and Subcontracts activities continued to focus on outreach to potential grantees and partners. An informational brochure printed, and FFP started training Water Users Associations who can submit grant Applications based on a none-competitive award waiver issued by USAID CO.

Once FFP receives approval for the model Request for Application (RFA) or Annual Program Statement (APS), the Program will utilize the media, partner organizations, and field office staff to help advertise the grants program to local institutions and disseminate the message to the community, while receiving feedback regarding simplifying the process and potential projects.

Based on the comments from the CTOR, on the beginning of November 2011, FFP submitted two ASPs, one for Agriculture development and Livestock Enhancement and Nutrition components and a separate APS for Access to Finance and Policy components. By the end of March 2012, no response was received regarding approval of APSs and the model RFA. This delay in the approval process of the APSs and the model RFA restricts FFP ability to implement the Grants programs. It was expected that grant proposals would officially be advertised at the end of January 2012, with submissions of proposals accepted in late February. But so far FFP has not able to award and issue first grant by the March 2012 date planned in previous Quarterly report. Thus the initial projection, to disburse between \$2 and \$2.5 million in grants by the end of September 2012 in each of the technical areas, has become increasingly unrealistic.

Ongoing Grants

World Food Programme (WFP) – USAID CO approval for this \$64,262 grant to produce two additional rounds of the Food Security Monitoring System (FSMS) and the Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) publications was received on November 10, 2011. The Grant Agreement was completed and signed by DAI and WFP on December 29, 2011. WFP completed the first milestone based on the grant Agreement.



FFP staff conducting Grants Training for WUA of Kulob and Qabodiyon districts

Ongoing Subcontracts

In addition to four ongoing subcontracts to provide technical services and support for MFOs, conduct financial literacy training for farmers, and establish 40 complex greenhouses along with training programs for farmers, FFP announced three RFPs to select firms to establish Self-Help groups, conduct nutrition and health Training programs, and improve Access to Finance and Financial Services through expanding MFO sub-offices in Khatlon Oblast. FFP is still in the process of awarding contracts, and it is expected that all three subcontracts will be awarded in April 2012.

Grants Training

The Grants team conducted Grants training for the grants management committees of WUAs “Jui Ravon”, “Obi Hayot”, “Nahri Kalon”, “Havaskor” and “Navruz” in Qabodiyon District, and WUAs “Obi Shirin” and “Selbur” in Kulob District. In total, 35 members (including 2 women) participated in the training and learned steps on receiving grants, particularly the development and submission of Grant Applications.

Procurement training was provided for representatives from WUA ‘Obi Hayot’. Four members of Grants management Committee participated in the training.

Waivers and Approvals Requests

Waivers for pesticides and fertilizers and non-competitive awards for WUAs were sent to the USAID CO for approval. By the end of the quarter a waiver for non-competitive awards for WUAs was

received from USAID. Based on comments from the COTR, on November 2012 the two APSs were sent to the FFP COR for further distribution and clarification from the CO.

Next Quarter Activities

The critical issue for FFP next quarter is to have the grants program approved and begin requesting applications, any further delays in receiving approval will have a significant negative impact on the entire program.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE



All activities in the reported quarter were conducted in compliance with environmental requirements. There were made a number of trips to project sites with regard to Agriculture, Agribusiness and Water Management components. As a result of trips to project sites ER_Checklists were developed and submitted to FFP COP for prior review for activity related to rehabilitation of irrigation and drainage networks in the following WUAs: “Obi Hayot”, “Juyi Ravon” and “Nahri Kalon”. Under Agribusiness component an ER_Checklist was developed regarding Construction of Onion and Garlic storage facility. It was also submitted to FFP COP for

prior review. Under Agriculture Component 2 ER_Checklists are drafted with regard Construction of 10 Greenhouses (GHs) in Shaartuz and Qabodiyon respectively. This project is being implemented by the Program subcontractor “Nuri Khatlon”. So far a few additional information is required to get from “Nuri Khatlon” Environmental Compliance Specialist to finalize the Reports.

All the above-mentioned activity fall under category of Negative Determination with Condition (NDC). Therefore all the activity must be done in accordance with USAID Environmental requirements and a host country. In April it is planned to conduct training “On Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)”

MONITORING AND EVALUATION (M&E) ACTIVITIES

The main significant deliverable of the second quarter 2012 for Monitoring and Evaluation Unit was conducting Baseline study survey. The Baseline Survey was conducted from January 3 to March 7, 2012 in the following districts: Kulob, Vose’, Qubodiyon, Shahritus (old districts) Yovon, Abdurakhmoni Jomi, Khuroson, Sarband, Bokhtar, Vakhsh, Jaloliddin Rumi, Jilikul, Kumsangir, Nosiri Khisrav (new districts) and Pyanj and Temurmaliq (control districts). This Survey was conducted solely by FFP staff, working in Kulob, Qubodiyon and Dushanbe offices of the program.

Two one - day trainings were organized for the survey enumerators in both Kulob and Qubodiyon offices. The one-day training was based on two levels. The first level comprised detailed review of all survey questions, their possible answers and the ways and instruments to be used to ask questions. That part of the training also included an introduction and explained the purpose and objectives of the survey, explained sampling techniques. In the second level all participants visited nearby households having children under 5 to probe the questionnaire.

The main objectives of the Baseline Survey was to obtain baseline data on current key program indicators in order to compare them with further midterm and final data and measure the program impact, sustainability and effectiveness both regularly through the program life and at the end of it. The main focus was on the key program interventions of maternal and child health and nutrition, land use practices and livelihoods of the households. The survey team was divided into 5 interview teams of two. Each survey team completed 4 interviews every day in a selected cluster. After collection of data, some questionnaire forms were checked and the results were submitted for data entry. Each interview varied depending on the situation, the shortest lasted 42 minutes, longest almost two hours, and average

53 minutes.

In general, the data collection process consisted of four phases and due to the own workload of some staff, in each phase we had to slightly change the enumerators and their group composition. A total of 660 questionnaires were administered with 130 questionnaires administered in four old districts, 480 questionnaires in twelve new ones and 50 questionnaires in two control ones. All four phases lasted longer than two months, from January 3 to March 7 of 2012.

The Baseline was conducted in all 12 new targeted districts: Yovon, A. Jomi, Khuroson, Sarband, Vakhsh, Bokhtar, J. Rumi, Jilikul, Kumsangir, Qubodiyon, Shahritus and Nosiri Khisrav; and two cancelled districts (Kulob and Vose'). Besides, the Baseline control groups have been selected in two non-targeted districts (Pyanj and Temurmalik). Altogether, the Survey was done in 16 districts of Khatlon oblast (13 districts in Kurgantube zone, 3 in Kulob zone of the oblast).

At the beginning of the Baseline, the FFP included 9 districts (Kulob, Vose, Qubodiyon, Shahritus, Jilikul, Qumsangir, J. Rumi, Vakhsh and Bokhtar). In general, most surveys use the sample size close to 300, but in our case, in order to ensure the desired level of precision and confidence it was suggested and decided to sample 400 households. Accordingly, the sample size was divided into 40 clusters to conduct at least 10 interviews in each. Later on, another five more districts were added in the program, they are: Yovon, A Jomi, Khurson, Sarband and N. Khisrav. Accordingly the number of clusters increased to 21 by the same interval number. The households in each cluster were selected simply. First, all teams got the center of the village, identified the number of streets, and then each team took different streets.

Another five villages or clusters (3 in Panj and 2 in Temurmalik) have been selected as the Baseline control groups and 50 households were selected and interviewed there by using the same household selection and interviewing techniques. The grand total is that 660 mothers with children under five were selected and interviewed in 14 targeted (including Kulob and Vose') and 2 non targeted districts.

After data collection on the fields began the data tabulation. Data entering and batching was conducted using the CSPro application, data cleaning and analyze was conducted on SPSS and STATA software's. With reference to analyze the children under five and women's nutrition was applied the Anthro WHO application.

As well by the request of Nutrition component M&E unit has assisted to do the data tabulation on Trial Improvement Practices (TIP's) survey so that to get the exact picture of children nutrition.

Next Quarter Activities

The M&E team will conduct a gender assessment survey in twelve Khatlon districts and selected control groups in the next quarter. FFP will also provide M&E training for field offices on data collection to assist with future surveys. The team will monitor baseline yields for each agricultural crop in targeted locations. The M&E unit will work with the ADLE component to complete a livestock production assessment.

Trainings

Nutrition and Household Economy Component

On 28 February, 2012 Training Coordinator and Gender Specialist participated and monitored the one day training "In depth Interview" that was provided to the Field Team and NGO "Shifo" in Qabodiyon district. Total participants: 11 female. The aim of participation was to introduce closely with the methodologies of the In Depth Interview and as well to monitor the process of the training. The method was household depth interviews with observation. In-depth interview is recommended to understand attitudes and practices of mothers and other family members. Observations are best for

learning about actual practices and usually are conducted during an in-depth interview. Pre-test of in-depth interviews were conducted to identify the weakness part of the questionnaire and later the questionnaire was elaborated one more time with the assistance of formed team. 45 of In Depth Interviews of the mother who has children from 6 to 24 months were interviewed in three target areas of Qabodiyon districts: Arabkhona, Qiyot and and Chorboogh villages. In-depth interviews and household observations are complementary and often are implemented at the same time. The objectives are:

- a) to gather information on current feeding practices
- b) to identify the resources available to solve these problems, and
- c) to formulate specific recommendations for testing with families during TIPs.

On 9-10 March, 2012 training on TIPs (Trials of Improved Practices) on complimentary feeding of children up to 2 year was provided to the Field Team and NGO “Shifo” staff who were directly involved to this process. TIPs is consultative research. The special developed questionnaire on complimentary feeding was explained to all participants, all questions were described in details and additional information on Complimentary Feeding was provided to the team. The purpose of the TIPs was to identify the problems in complimentary feeding in each household and practices that are both technically effective in improving of nutrition food. Specifically, TIPs aimed to determine which recommendations most people are willing and able to do.

Methodology

The TIPs consisted of the following activities and the field trials were structured in three visits:

- a) Identification and training of field staff and pre-testing of the instruments.
- b) The initial field visit to household to introduce with the family (mother and child) filing out the questionnaire on child feeding.
- c) A second visit to the same households to examine the outcome of the trials, what worked and what did not work well and make some recommendations.
- d) The third visit (after 6 up to 10 days) to observe the behavioral changes from the moment of initial visit. Conclusions and feedbacks on TIPs.

Recommendations:

- To improve the knowledge of mothers and other family members who take care of the child on complimentary feeding through the training sessions, dissemination of visible materials.

Provided Training by Components for January-March, 2012:

Nutrition and HH Economy

Training Topics:

1. Breast Feeding, Complimentary Feeding;
2. Nutritional Food For Pregnant and Breast Feeding Woman;
3. Nutritional Food from Kidney Bean;
4. Health Day/Personal Hygiene and Sanitation.

Total participants including USAID FFP staff: 813, male-80, female 733.

Agriculture and Livestock Development

Training Topics:

1. Agrotechnology of Growing Cabbage;
2. Agrotechnology transplanting Cabbage/Cauliflower Seedlings in small Tunnel;
3. Agrotechnology of Growing Potato
4. Agrotechnology of Growing Onion
5. Agrotechnology of Growing of Fodder Beet

6. Agrotechnology of Growing of Lucerne
7. Agrotechnology of Planting of Sunflower

Total participants including USAID FFP staff: 477. Male- 238, female- 239.

Water Management

Training Topics:

1. Discussion on Legal Acts on WUA;
2. WUA Establishment, Preparation for the Informal General Assembly Meeting in potential area;
3. The Role and Functions of Bylaw Committee;
4. The Roles and Functions of Bylaw Committee;
5. Maintenance and Operation Plan;
6. Organizational and Leadership Development Skills I-V;
7. WUA Structure, WUA on Law;
8. Informal Technical Training;
9. Technical Recommendation for WUG/Water User Groups.

Total participants including USAID FFP staff: 1, 387. Male-1298, female -102

Grants and Access to Finance:

Training Topics:

1. TOT Start Up Your Business/Phase I
2. Farm Management
3. Business Planning and Financial Modeling
4. Grant Management
5. Internal Audit
6. Procurement Training

Total participants including USAID FFP staff: 1566. Male- 921, female-645

Annex

Matrix of indicators that Family Farming Program has been collecting data from 1 January, 2012 – 31 March, 2012

Indicator	Q4, 2011	Q1, 2012	Q2, 2012	LOP Total	End of Project Targets
Number of farmers and others who have applied new technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance	693	1464	1086	3243 - farmers	29 900 farmers
Number of rural households benefiting directly from USG interventions	2686	5 278	8804	16 768 - households	50 000 - households
Number of hectares under improved technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance	3705,8	1548,4	7,9	5262,44 - hectares	82 700 hacters
Number of individuals who have received USG supported short term agricultural sector productivity or food security training	393 93-male 300-female	1775 991-male 784 female	3573 1565-female 2008-male	5741	46 000 farmers; 25 000 farmers receiving Policy Awareness Training
Number of food security private enterprises (for profit), producers organizations, water users associations, women's groups, trade and business associations, and community-based organizations (CBOs) receiving USG assistance	2 - Water User Association 6 - women groups	-	-	2 - Water User Association 6 - women groups (just trained)	1 054: 54 women groups, 900 self help groups, 15 existing WUA's +35 new WUA's
Number of private enterprises, producers organizations, water users associations, women's groups, trade and business associations and community-based organizations (CBOs) that applied new technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance	2 - Water User Association	-	-	2 - Water User Association	1 054: 54 women groups, 900 self help groups, 15 existing + 35 New WUA's