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USAID FAMILY FARMING PROGRAM

TAJIKISTAN

QUARTERLY REPORT: FOURTH QUARTER, JULY 1- SEPTEMBER 30, 2011

OCTOBER 30, 2011

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2011

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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 (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; 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.

During Q '04, USAID declared Tajikistan a "Feed the Future" (FtF) country. This global hunger and food security initiative is being designed to encompass and address Tajikistan's chronic struggle with food shortages. FFP has been designated as FtF's implementation vehicle within the country. During the next Quarter, USAID/W will provide a design team to provide a Feed the Future focus for Tajikistan. FFP will modify its focus and implementation activities accordingly.

TECHNICAL COMPONENTS

AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

The FFP continues to improve food security in Tajikistan by increasing the volume of agricultural production, raising the income of food insecure households to make food more accessible, and improving the standard of household nutrition. During the quarter, efforts continued on working with household (subsistence) farms and small commercial (individual and family dekhan) farms, resulting in a number of notable achievements noted below.



Demonstration plots

In total, 175 field crop demonstration plots, 90 in Kulob and 85 in Qubodiyon were created during the reporting period. The purpose of establishing demonstration plots is to introduce small dekhan and household farmers with new varieties crops and update farmers with the most efficient and improved agricultural practices for increasing production volumes. As a result of improving practices

and yields, household farms increase their income and the overall nutrition of their families. For commercial farms, farm profitability increases, creating profitable farms that can attract investment and generate continued growth. Unfortunately, access to high quality agricultural inputs are limited due to insufficient suppliers. Farmers can only improve their productivity if they have access to high quality inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, small farm equipment, and appropriate knowledge and skills to apply the right inputs at the optimum time.

The idea of demonstration plots is to show first hand and introduce local farmers in households and dekhan farmers new superior varieties of maize, beans, fodder beet, and water melon seeds from foreign seed companies. Participants can greatly benefit from these demonstrations and ultimately share their experience with other neighboring farmers to expand the reach of the program and improve food

security. During the quarter, FFP staff in Qubodiyon and Kulob established demonstration plots in maize for corn as a second crop, potatoes as a second crop, beans, turnips, radishes, and carrots.

Maize for corn

After creating a maize demonstration plot as a second crop, a total of 13 kg of local variety seeds such as “TNIIZ-100” and “Askar” were distributed to eight households located in three villages of S.Khudoyqulov and N.Khusrav jamoats in the Qubodiyon zone. In addition, six maize and beans (intercropped) demonstration plots were created in eight households of Dahana and Ziraki jamoats in the Kulob zone. A total of 12 kg of “TNIIZ-100” and “Askar” maize seeds were distributed to these households. A majority of the activities during the vegetation period of the demonstration plots were completed by women. The benefit of planting local varieties of maize is that household farmers themselves can produce seeds for next season allowing them to become independent and expand seed production for their own consumption and potentially to sell to other local farmers, while the corn and residue of maize is also useful as it provides feed for livestock.

Potatoes

Planting potatoes as a second crop has not yet been practiced in Kulob and Qubodiyon. FFP decided to introduce potatoes using seedling methods. Potatoes harvested as a second crop in the fall are better for storage in the winter and can provide premium prices during the off season. In an effort to establish 12 potato demonstration plots in 12 households located in three villages of S.Khudoyqulov and N.Khusrav jamoats in the Qubodiyon zone, FFP distributed 1,000 kg of “Picasso” and “Santé” seeds brought from Gonchi District in the Sughd Region, as well as 170 kg of nitrogen. Also, 14 demonstration plots of second crop potatoes were established in three villages of Dahana and Ziraki in the Kulob zone. This effort culminated in the delivery of 500 kg of “Picasso” and “Santé” potato seeds and 90 kg of nitrogen.

Beans

In an effort to improve the overall quality of phaseolous bean demonstration plots, FFP imported white “Lopatka” bean seed from Kyrgyzstan. This variety is excellent for preparing porridge, soup, and other traditional Tajik meals. The purpose of introducing these new beans is to engage household farmers in producing seeds for themselves during the next planting. In fact, most of the local bean varieties are adversely impacted by virus and fungal diseases that usually makes seed production impossible. A total of 12 demonstration plots of second crop phacelouse beans were established in 12 households located in S.Khudoyqulov and N.Khusrav jamoats in Qubodiyon, with 50 kg of “Lopatka” seeds distributed to beneficiaries. FFP also created 19 demonstration plots of phacelouse beans for 19 households of Dahana and Ziraki jamoats in the Kulob zone, with 50 kg of “Lopatka” distributed.

Summer Radishes, Turnips, and Carrots

FFP established 22 demonstration plots of summer radishes, turnips, and carrots as a second crop in I.Niyozov, N.Khusrav and Yangi-Yul jamoats of Qubodiyon. Seeds and 25 kg of nitrogen were given to 22 households respectively. The FFP has used a local variety of summer radishes, while carrots and turnip seeds were imported from the United States. Sixteen demonstration plots of summer radishes, turnips, and carrot were also established in Dahana and Ziraki jamoats of Kulob zone with seeds and 25 kg of nitrogen provided to 16 households.

Crop control activities resulted in eight back sprayers and personal protection clothes being distributed in Qubodiyon and six sets in Kulob. Agriculture organizers and field agents provided explicit instructions on safely applying and maintaining pesticides.

Improved Agricultural Crop Cultivation Techniques

Trainings: During the quarter FFP conducted the following trainings:

Training Topic	District	Village	Total Participants	Female Participants
Maize, Phacelous beans and Potato Seedling preparation	Qubodiyon	Arakhona	6	5
		Mikoyan	7	7
		Qiyot	7	5
	Kulob	Gulteppa	6	3
		Togakappa	4	1



		Ziraki	5	2
Carrot, Summer Radish, and Turnip agro technology	Qubodiyon	Shogorov	8	2
		Chorbog	12	11
		Beshtemur	6	5
	Kulob	Gulzor	10	4
		Chorqala	15	7
		Tanyoll	13	8
Gulteppa		11	5	
Potato Seedling Transplantation	Qubodiyon	Mikoyan	19	17
		Qiyot	20	15
	Kulob	Gulteppa	12	8
		Toqakappa	19	10
TOTAL			180	115

During the reporting period FFP developed, printed, and distributed the following agro technology brochures and leaflets to assist in training: Potato, Maize Corn, Phaseolus Beans, Potatoes Using Seedlings, and Garlic and Onions.

FFP also conducted a marketing survey to assess the level of Khatlon household's "Access to Inputs and Market Based Decision-Making at the Village Level

New FFP Targeted Villages

During the quarter, the following new villages were identified as FFP target villages: Jirqal'a, Gulzor, and Tayor Villages in the Kulob zone and Beshtemur and Chorboqh Villages in Qubodiyon zone. The list of villages participating in program activities includes the following:

District	Jamoat	Village	# of households	Population
Qubodiyon	Nosiri Khisrav	Arabkhona	964	7,045
		Qiyot	387	2950
	Khudoikulov	Mikoyan	208	1,531
	<i>Yangi-yul</i>	<i>Beshtemur</i>	<i>375</i>	<i>2,655</i>
	<i>I. Niyzov</i>	<i>Chorboqh</i>	<i>1,145</i>	<i>7,830</i>
Kulob	Dahana	Gulteppa	100	874
		Toqakappa	221	1,666
		<i>Gulzor</i>	<i>74</i>	<i>696</i>
		<i>Taniyol</i>	<i>109</i>	<i>881</i>
	Ziraki	M. Gaffor	285	2159
		<i>Jirqal'a</i>	<i>323</i>	<i>2,803</i>
		Ziraki	328	3,059
TOTAL			4,519	34,149

NEXT QUARTER ACTIVITIES

As of the completion of Q'04, the substantial changes occasioned by Tajikistan being designated as a Feed the Future country had not been launched. A number of activities are being examined and undertaken as the result of FtF's approach. At the heart of FtF's approach is the position that engaging Tajik farmers in commercial activities will create income that will be used to purchase more, and more nutritious food for their families. Geographic focus, for example, has been significantly changed to that portion of Khatlon Oblast characterized by low-lying irrigated land, and significant population (i.e., at least one million people), inclusion of commercial agricultural production, dekhan farms, and the engagement of change agents including input providers and agriculturally-related community-based organizations. Plans for the upcoming quarter include commercial promotion through the introduction of commercially profitable crops including onions, potatoes, peanuts, and tomatoes, grown on household garden plots, greenhouse production, and storage facilities. Major implementation sites have already been identified in Kulob, Qubodiyon, Shahrituz, and Vose rayons. Additional sites are being identified and ground truthed to justify their inclusion as suitable for FtF activities.

LIVESTOCK

In July, FFP participated in the Working Group of the Ministry of Agriculture with FAO and the UN, and established a questionnaire examining the status of livestock. Also, from July 10th-16th, FFP participated in the assessment of winter plants in nine districts of Sughd Oblast to monitor the status of winter grain. The Ministry of Agriculture presented the current state of winter crops and the adversely affected areas of grain crops in Sughd.

During the reporting period, field visits to Zarafshon Valley, GBAO, Qubodiyon, and Kulob were conducted with FFP STTA Gary Mullins. A number of meetings occurred with the local authorities, and as a result of these discussions with households it became evident that the area under fodder cultivation is continually decreasing every year, and lack of reclamation of pasture land has led to the

deterioration of provision of fodder, especially for dairy cows. The lack of unified management systems to maintain natural resources and pasture areas has degraded the land. Over the last five to six years the annual average growth of livestock has increased by 3.3%, while the area for fodder crops has decreased, creating a growing problem affecting Tajik farmers' ability ensure the health of their livestock in the future. In the majority of cases witnessed by FFP, households' livestock is below weight and height recommendations. Therefore, low productivity and reproductive quality is unsatisfactory. Farmers are unable to grow a sufficient quantity of fodder to adequately sustain one dairy cow on their own land.

In order to improve the situation, FFP developed modules for increasing the knowledge and skills of household members in organizing demonstration plots on the following topics:

1. Demonstrations for breeding 20 to 50 hens using cages (hen house);
2. Breeding rabbits for production of dietary meat- breeding of two females and one sire;
3. Breeding, feeding, care, and maintaining dairy goats.

In addition, FFP conducted a survey analyzing the provision of livestock products production in pilot districts. According to WHO, production of meat ranges between 15% - 38%; milk 16% - 46%; and eggs 2% - 17%. As seen in the table below, production on individual holdings as a percentage of recommended dietary consumption falls well below adequate levels throughout Khatlon, Sugd, and GBAO oblasts.

Table 1. Individual Household-produced Meat and Dairy Consumption as a Percentage of Recommended levels.

Name of Districts	Meat	Milk	Egg
Qubodiyon	37,2	45,6	6,0
Kulob	15,4	24,1	2,3
Rushon	30,9	15,7	17,3
Ishkoshim	27,1	27,1	5,0
Panjakent	25,6	26,1	4,5
Ayni	25,2	21,0	4,5

Source: WHO: 2011

The main problem is provisioning the districts with milk, the major factor in improving the nutrition status of children and the elderly. Therefore FFP will focus efforts on the following:

- Increase the productivity of dairy cows through improving access to fodder, especially high-protein and succulent feeds
- Conduct trainings on improving the knowledge, skills, and management system of livestock production and livestock health protection

It was also observed that the majority of households do not conduct annual preventive vaccinations. The veterinary services are established in districts; however they are not available for everyone. Overall, the major issues of livestock in the districts include:

- Low planted area, limited varieties, and lack of seed production adapted to the local environment for fodder, compounded by few fodder markets and their inaccessibility
- Low availability of forage during the winter and irrational use of summer pastures with limited access
- Frequent inbreeding of animals, and low fertility with high mortality of young stock
- Low productivity of meat and milk

- Poor veterinary services and lack of innovative technologies in animal husbandry

One of the main sources of income of households is livestock, mainly selling livestock and milk in the summer. Livestock markets are accessible and highly developed in rural areas of Kulob and Qubodiyon, though in GBAO livestock markets do not seem to exist at all, even in Khorogh. Also, fodder is not available in the markets in rural areas of GBAO; rather they are usually sold to intermediaries (buyers) from Kyrgyzstan, Rasht Valley, and for the livestock markets around Dushanbe. Tables 2 and 3 below provide a more comprehensive picture of the status of livestock in Tajikistan.

Table 2. The Status of Livestock in Pilot Districts

#	Districts	Jamoats	Villages	Number of livestock per household				Provision of fodder needs %	
				Cattle	Cows	Sheep & goats	Chicken	Summer	Winter
1	Qubodiyon	N. Khusrav	Qiyot	2,4	1,1	1,1	4,2	68,9	44,6
			Arabkhona	2,6	1,4	1,3	2,3		
			Shogarov	3,4	2,1	1,0	1,7		
		Yangi Yule	Beshtemir	3,2	1,7	2,2	2,0	74,5	48,7
			Chorbogh	2,4	1,1	0,8	1,3		
Khudoyqulov	Mikoyan	3,2	1,7	7,8	2,2		65,4		
2	Kulob	Dahana	Gulteppa	2,2	0,9	2,3	2,3	68,8	45,8
			Toqateppa	3,3	1,4	4,4	2,0		
			Gulzor	1,9	0,8	1,2	1,8		
			Toniel	2,4	1,2	0,8	3,4		
		Ziraki	Zherqala	3,2	1,7	5,6	4,4	77,0	50,0
			Ziraki	2,7	1,1	2,4	2,6		
			M. Ghafor	2,0	1,0	1,8	1,8		
		Sojina		2,3	1,2	2,2	3,4	77,8	67,8
		Khurmi		2,0	0,8	3,4	1,2		
		Shing		5,4	2,9	11,4	2,3		
Khalifa Hasan		3,2	1,8	2,4	5,6				
3	Ayni	Ayni		3,4	1,7	4,8	1,2	64,6	50,0
		Dar-Dar		3,3	1,3	3,2	0,8	71,2	47,2
		Fon Daryo		3,8	2,0	7,2	3,4	88,8	51,2
4	Ishkoshim			4,4	1,8	17,4	2,4	93,5	51,2
5	Rushon			3,8	1,6	16,8	2,4	88,9	48,4
6	Roshtqala			3,2	1,2	8,4	1,8	85,7	44,2

Table 3. Livestock Productivity

		Unit	Cow	Sheep & goats	Chicken
GBAO					

1	Unit weight of breeding stock	%	32,5	47,2	88,5
2	Annual milk production from 1 cow	kg	534-700	-	-
3	Average daily gain per head	head	435	22	-
4	Average grade of fat in the milk	%	4,4	-	-
5	Average live weight	kg	280-340	30,0	1,8 -2,5
6	Shearing	kg	-	2,1	-
Zarafshon valley					
1	Unit weight of breeding stock	%	52,3	58,6	88,0
2	Annual milk production from 1 cow	kg	800-1000	-	-
3	Average daily gain per head	head	4,1	-	-
4	Average grade of fat in the milk	%	475-500	27	-
5	Average live weight	kg	385 - 400	38,7	1,5
6	Shearing	kg	-	1,8	-
Qubodiyon					
1	Unit weight of breeding stock	%	51,7	50,0	83,0
2	Annual milk production from 1 cow	kg	714 - 800	-	-
3	Average daily gain per head	head	3,9	-	-
4	Average grade of fat in the milk	%	354	230	-
5	Average live weight	kg	300 - 340	45,6	2,0
6	Shearing	kg	-	1,1	-
Kulob					
1	Unit weight of breeding stock	%	54,8	48,8	84,3
2	Annual milk production from 1 cow	kg	678 - 1000	-	-
3	Average daily gain per head	head	4,2	-	-
4	Average grade of fat in the milk	%	300 - 400	-	-
5	Average live weight	kg	320 - 370	37,7	-
6	Shearing	kg	-	1,4	-

Next Quarter Plan of Activities

During the next quarter, training will be conducted in selecting, processing, and storing fodder for cattle and sheep, including preparing straw and cereals for animal feed. In addition, training on the essentials of animal health for cattle, sheep, and goats, along with developing milk and milk products for improving nutrition for children and the elderly in winter will take place. Demonstration plots for maximizing the nutritional value of fodder and proper feeding of dairy cattle, sheep, and goats is also scheduled. FFP will complement these activities with a workshop on sanitary requirements for milk production in the winter and reaching markets and marketing of milk and milk products.¹

¹ This Activity Plan for Q '01 of Year '02 was planned before Feed the Future became a reality. The FtF design team recommended that FFP significantly reduce its livestock development activities and increase its focus on fruits and vegetable production. DAI believes that there is a strong case to be made, if only on the basis of improved nutrition, for maintaining a robust livestock development component.

WATER MANAGEMENT INTERVENTIONS



During the quarter, FFP continued to increase the quality and capacity of water user associations (WUAs), culminating in hiring of four WUA Association Organizers (AOs) who began work immediately. The new AOs were introduced to Chairmen of Jamoats from U. Nazarov, I. Niyozov, N. Khusrav, and Yangiyul, as well as land committee specialists from Jamoats and Qabodiyon District. The WUA team learned about technical aspects of Qabla and Kattaarik irrigation systems and successes in officially delineating the border between the new WUA and WUA “Chirik” along Kattaarik canal.

The WUA organizing process utilizing the integrated process continued during the quarter. A major aspect of this process was organizing various meetings of the team with individuals and groups in participating villages within the two proposed zones. The following provides a breakdown of beneficiaries involved in program activities:

Meetings and Trainings

Integration Meetings	#	Male	Female	Total
Individual	33	258	56	314
Group	39	989	107	1,096
Gov. Official	21	63	8	71
By-Law Committee	12	97	7	104
Totals	105	1,407	178	1,585

Training Type	#	Male	Female	Total
Informal	2	3	2	26
TOT for AOs	5	20	0	20
Cross Visits	2	39	3	42
Totals	9	62	5	88

“Developing WUAs using the CO Method” (2)

“Organizational Leadership Development” (1)

“Communications; Problem-solving and Decision-making Processes” (2)

Water management activities also included an assessment and preparation of a map of new WUA areas in Qabodiyon, and an assessment of potential WUA areas in joamwats Dahana and Ziraki in Kulob District. FFP also participated in meetings in Jamwoat Chorbog regarding the area- approximately 450 ha- and 26 farmers proposed to be added to Obi Hayot WUA. In addition, a survey was conducted of drains in an area of severe waterlogging (about 180 ha) in Qabodiyon that included GIS locations of demonstration plots in Qabodiyon and Kulob.

Efforts were focused on developing training materials for Association Organizers in order to provide membership with additional information and technical assistance. FFP also prepared an environmental compliance check list to ensure that efforts were not having a negative impact on the environment. In addition FFP conducted a survey of irrigation canal/main outlets ‘Dahana’ in a potential WUA zone in

Kulyab, visited the water department in Vose District to obtain data on irrigation canals, visited “Jamoat Dahana” in Kulyab to obtain data on the arable land and total existing dehkan farms, met with Qabodiyon representatives to determine system rehabilitation needs and begin estimating work, and finally provided training to technical staff and met with 21 management staff in German Agro-Action Panjakent regarding organizing Federations.

Next Quarter Plan of Activities

Major activities scheduled for the next quarter include finalizing the organizational processes and finalizing cost estimates to begin rehabilitation construction for the two WUAs in Qabodiyon, initiating organizational activities for four new WUAs, one each in Qabodiyon, Shahrituz, Vose and Kulob, strengthening ‘Obi Hayot’ WUA by increasing their service area, and engaging three new AOs. FFP will also conduct at least 15 training courses with follow up technical assistance to support WUA organizations and capacity building. The members of these WUAs are engaged in fruit and vegetable production and, as irrigated low land farmers, are major potential FtF participants. Engaging these farmers and their counterparts in the rayons mentioned below, will ensure that FFP activities form an integrated whole.

FFP is also seeking to cooperate with the World Bank in the design, planning, and ultimate implementation of its GAFSPE project. This could potentially extend WUA activities to Yavan, Dzami A, Kumsangir, Dzhilikul, and Bokhtar rayons. Design plans will ensue in November (Q’01), with an anticipated Q ’03 startup..

NUTRITION ENHANCEMENT AND HOUSEHOLD ECONOMICS

(FORMERLY LIVELIHOODS)



The nutrition enhancement and household economics component began activities in early September aimed at improving program cooperation, sharing experiences with other organizations, gathering outreach materials on nutrition and food security, and meeting with representatives from Save the Children, WHO, Mercy Corps, WFP, Republican Center for Healthy Lifestyles from the Ministry of Health, and Sanitary Epidemiological stations. Orientation seminars for the eight FFP staff- four from Quobodiyon and four in Kulob- focused on

program objectives and building capacity. Efforts are currently focused in eight jamoats in Kulob and Qubodiyon. Each jamoat has its own unique profile which contains information about population, number of schools, jobs available, and medical facilities. In total, 13 initiative groups- each consisting of five members- were established in targeted jamoats with each group consisting of one or two community leaders, and linking field agents and beneficiaries. All the groups are registered in their respective jamoats and have legal status so they have a legal right to secure funding and establish small businesses that will increase capacity and self-esteem and create jobs in rural areas.

Field agents and agricultural experts regularly discuss improving crop yields and enhancing nutrition with farmers. In an effort to continue this activity, FFP visited 175 demonstration plots and provided several suggestions on improving production and processing agricultural products. Field agents also

provided two demonstration trainings on preserving food and will publish a recipe book for beneficiaries.

A contract was signed with the national television channel to broadcast a short film on FFP activities. In the future, trainings will be recorded on CDs and broadcast in district through local channels. Finally, in an effort to increase the knowledge of staff on gender issues, FFP signed a subcontract with the Social Assistance Training Center to organize and conduct “Gender Engagement” training.

Next Quarter Plan of Activities

Developing a plan consistent with Feed the Future will be uppermost in activities for Q '01. In keeping with this, a number of ongoing activities have already been planned. During the next three months, for example, a series of educational trainings on writing proposals and requesting funding will be provided for beneficiaries. The groups have already participated in seminars where they were introduced to the goals of the program in enhancing nutrition and household economics. These will include full exposure to FtT indicators. Next quarter they will develop final work plans to implement activities. FFP field agents will also receive additional training on issues such as nutrition, hygiene, environmental protection, household economics, water sanitation, and gender. Finally, vulnerable households in each village of the two active zones will receive training on cooking vegetable cutlets made from kidney beans in order to maximize the use of products from garden to table.

POLICY REFORM

During Q '04, FFP focused on developing a policy-related relationship with the Ministry of Agriculture, as well as working with FAO and the World Bank on policy-related issues. An additional area with policy implications for FFP was the decision made by USAID to identify Tajikistan as a “Feed the Future” Country.

The assistance to the Ministry of Agriculture consisted of four months of professional support that revolved around assisting its efforts in the area of crop diversification as it applied to developing an overall strategic plan to promote agricultural growth. The Ministry effort in this regard is to develop a list of priority crops and then identify strategic means of encouraging Tajikistan’s farmers to commit to growing them.

Identification and selection of priority crops proved to be relatively easy.² The challenges in this effort surfaced first concerning the policy focus on self sufficiency versus self reliance. Both Nabijon Maqsudov, Senior representative and Head of Administration, MOA, and Mizrob Dekhanov, Senior Consultant, strongly advocated self sufficiency. DAI consultants Jonathan Greenham and Max Goldensohn, along with COP William Levine strongly advocated self reliance. This difference will continue to be an issue until it is resolved at the national level.

Promoting the use of priority crops will require a number of policy interventions that were identified. Chief among these are: Trade policies such as improved access to finance, disposable property rights, and credit purchases,

Pricing policies, including tax credits, and export promotion, tariff and non-tariff regulations;

Sales policies, including land and infrastructure transfers, facilitating the growth of national and export markets; and

² These included: rice, onions, apricot, maize, potatoes, tomato, cucumber, cabbage, peanuts, and alfalfa.

Communication policies including promoting the sales of Tajik produce through media events, exhibitions and fairs.

FUTURE POLICY ACTIVITIES

Addressing these policy issues that arose during the crop diversification exercise will continue to serve as the policy agenda items to be Addressed during Year '02.

USAID's decision to identify Tajikistan as a "Feed the Future" (FtF) country turned out to be fortuitous in that FtF's "Foundational Investments include addressing land tenure reform, infrastructure reform, access to inputs, reduced tariff barriers, improved communications, access to financial services; virtually all of which were identified in FFP's ongoing work described above. An additional focus of FtF was to address these issues keeping in mind improving the role of women as equals in farming, and addressing nutritional and home economics concerns. All of these "foundational and core investment issues are central to FFP.

GRANTS AND SUBCONTRACTS

During the quarter, Grants and Subcontracts activities continued to focus on outreach to potential grantees and partners on the requirements for FFP grant awards. A public outreach strategy was completed for the grants program to ensure that the widest possible audience of potential grantees and interested organizations are informed about FFP activities and have clear instructions on the application process. FFP will utilize the media, partners organizations, and field office staff who will help advertise the grants program to local institutions and disseminate the message to the community while receiving feedback regarding potential projects simplifying the application process as necessary.

FFP also completed the blanket Request for Application (RFA) template for the USAID COTR and CO approval. Once the RFA has been approved, FFP will then issue individual RFAs for each technical unit in order to solicit proposals in targeted zones, as well as allowing for consideration of new or unique ideas that local institutions have that may be worthy of support. In addition, the program is reviewing the possibility of submitting an Annual Program Statement (APS) for USAID approval that will allow easier access for grantees based on their ability to take advantage of rolling applications throughout the year, as well as providing greater opportunity to submit creative projects that FFP may not have initially considered or requested.

Next Quarter Plan of Activities

It is expected that the first series of RFAs will be approved by USAID and officially advertised by November 1st, with submissions of proposals by the end of November. Ideally, FFP hopes to issue the first grant awards in December 2011. Based on initial projections, the program expects to disburse between \$2 and \$2.5 million in grants by the end of September 2012 in all eight technical areas. All grants will be consistent with the Mission's and FFP's Feed the Future program.

Pending 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 August 26th, however as the program was finalizing the signing of the Grant Agreement in early September, DAI was informed that, due to an oversight by the WFP, a mandatory 7% "Indirect Support Cost" applied by the WFP Headquarters in Rome was omitted from the USAID-approved Grant Application and Budget. Due to this issue, a revised Grant

Application was submitted by the WFP, and FFP subsequently processed a new request for approval to the CO. The new grant approval and disbursement is expected to be completed in November.

ACCESS TO FINANCE

During the quarter, FFP completed a Request for Proposal (RFP) for microfinance training activities that will result in a subcontract for a local organization to enhance the capacity of existing microfinance organizations (MFOs) and farmers. By improving small holder farmer's financial literacy and teaching them to treat the farm as an enterprise, record keeping and documentation will improve along with decision making based on economic realities. Perhaps most importantly, farmers will have the necessary documentation to consider borrowing from a microfinance organization (MFO) or potentially starting a small business with additional training and support to prepare a business plan. The selected vendor will provide training to 2,500 farmers in FFP zones on financial management and basic bookkeeping; training for 100 MFO staff in financial analysis, credit management, international accounting standards (IFRS), and internal auditing; purchase and install financial software for 10 pilot MFOs and provide them with follow up technical assistance and support for one year; and complete a report on micro-leasing, credit unions, insurance, additional financial services that could be offered to farmers that address FFP's goals of increasing access to financial services for agriculture and agribusiness targeting vulnerable populations.

FFP also held a number of meetings with MFOs and other organizations to provide business development services including a meeting with the Chairman of the Water Users Association Farm "Russia." The association has been planning to open agro-shops on farms and asked FFP for assistance in preparing a business plan. FFP started to provide business planning support and technical assistance to the organization during the quarter.

A meeting was also held with the Executive Director of the Micro Lending Organization (MLO) Humo and Partners, Ms. Mavsuda Vaisova. Humo is one of the top five leading MFOs in Tajikistan and currently have 14,000 active clients and \$8.6mm in loans, with an average loan size of \$560. In total 46% of loans go to women and they have experience in agriculture and livestock. Ms. Vaisova provided some excellent background on the microfinance landscape of Tajikistan and FFP will consider partnering with the organization on future activities in training and expanding their lending portfolio.

FFP met with the Executive Director of DHS Bovari and Hamkori, Ms. Nuriniso Rustamova. This organization was established in 2005 with support from GIZ and in partnership with First Microfinance Bank of Tajikistan. It is the only active Apex Institution that assists other MFOs on finding financing from domestic and international sources, as well as providing training and capacity building for MFO staff. Ms. Rustamova provided excellent insight into the most common problems among MFOs and explained the three current projects they are implementing with ICCO, DFID, and the Committee of Youth, Sport and Tourism. As a result of this meeting, FFP was able to design the RFP for MFO and farmer training noted above, and has designed some interventions for future work with Bovari and Hamkori.

In a continued effort to address the constraints of accessing microfinance from both the supply (MFO) and demand (farmer) side, FFP met with the Executive Director of Association of Microfinance Organizations in Tajikistan (AMFOT), Mr. Farhad AMFOT Akbarov. The mission of AMFOT is focused on developing the microfinance sector in Tajikistan, improving access to financial services for the poor population, and contributing to the growth of small and medium MFOs. As a result of this meeting, FFP learned about AMFOT's "Center for Training and Developing Microfinance in Tajikistan", which provides staff trainings for MFOs to develop new products and provides training directly for farmers. FFP anticipates working extremely closely with AMFOT in providing capacity building for MFOs and improving farmer's knowledge about credit and other financial services. Mr. Akbarov also shared the latest developments on the draft law on establishing credit unions- and

requested FFP join the working group- as well as partnering to address the development of crop insurance and alternatives for equipment leasing.

During the quarter, FFP also completed the basic materials for a farm management and bookkeeping manual that will be taught to FFP field staff who, in turn, will train farmers on basic financial literacy, daily records and bookkeeping, and requirements to borrow from financial institutions.

Next Quarter Plan of Activities

Over the next three months, FFP will focus its access to finance activities to be consistent with Feed the Future guidelines and indicators. FFP will continue to meet with MFOs that support agriculture and agribusiness loans with an emphasis on assisting the most vulnerable populations, emphasizing loans to women. The program expects to award grants to increase MFO's loan portfolios, working capital, and training activities to reach beneficiaries. The result of this initiative is to improve access to finance for farmers and strengthen existing micro lending institutions. FFP will also provide training to farmers next quarter on basic bookkeeping and record keeping, while providing business planning training to both farmers and MFO staff. The subcontract for increasing MFO capacity and training for farmers will begin implementation in the middle of November.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

FFP filled the vacant position of Environmental Officer in early October. Activities focused on conducting demonstration plots in households of target districts. Since visiting households is crucial to provide recommendations and providing advice for farmers, FFP visited potato, beans, maize, carrot, turnip, radish, onion, and garlic plots and provided environmental mitigation techniques. A safe and judicious use of pesticide form was used as a model and distributed to farmers at a seminar held by agriculture extension specialists. FFP also promoted establishing compost pits in some target households and made additional suggestions for organic fertilizing.

During the beginning of September Nina Kavetskaya, USAID's MEO from Almaty visited FFP's office in Dushanbe where she arranged a presentation on environmental compliance issues.

PUBLIC RELATIONS ACTIVITIES

The following main public outreach activities were completed during the quarter:

- The FFP website design was completed; all necessary information website www.ffp.tj, is being revised and will be added next quarter;
- Outreach materials both in Tajik and English for the FFP Quarterly Newsletter are being collected and the Newsletter will be printed in early November;
- A journalist of the State Committee of television and Radio, Mrs. Surayo Shujoat, was subcontracted to prepare a food preservation training program to be broadcast on national TV and radio. A DVD copy of the program will be broadcast on district TV channels.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION (M&E) ACTIVITIES

- In August, USAID FFP recruited two full-time M&E staff, the M&E Data Manager and a Survey Coordinator;
- The database development and data analysis for the Market Survey was carried out and results of the analysis were given to the Agriculture Marketing Specialist to develop a strategy on expanding market information systems;
- The FFP baseline data questionnaire was created in conjunction with USAID's Feed the Future Strategy. Next quarter the survey will be finalized and implemented throughout all proposed FFP zones in order to measure baseline data for the program.

ADMINISTRATION

MANAGEMENT AND ORGANIZATIONAL

Additions to the FFP staff during the Fourth quarter include:

1. Umed Sharipov, Chief Administrative/Procurement Officer
2. Saidmusayab Alyamov, Chief Tajik Translator
3. Ahmad Kayumov, Survey Coordinator
4. Rizo Saboiev, Monitoring and Evaluation Data Manager
5. Khursheda Isaeva, Nutrition and Households Economics Coordinator
6. Ravshan Homidov, Agricultural Credit Specialist
7. Muso Kholov, Agricultural Field Agent (Kulob & Vose area)
8. Amirkhon Sharipov, Agricultural Field Agent (Kulob & Vose area)
9. Mahmarasul Solihzodaev, Agricultural Field Agent (Kulob & Vose)
10. Sadbarg Mirova, Women Interests Organizer (Kulob & Vose)
11. Mohru Vadieva, Women Interests Field Agent (Kulob & Vose)
12. Saodat Karimova, Women Interests Field Agent (Kulob & Vose)
13. Gulbahor Azimova, Women Interests Field Agent (Kulob & Vose)
14. Rahmon Damonov, Agricultural Field Agent (Kulob & Vose)
15. Kadridin Rasulov, Agricultural Field Agent (Qubodiyon & Shahritus)
16. Shukrullo Imomov, Agricultural Field Agent (Qubodiyon & Shahritus)
17. Saadi Niyozov, Agricultural Field Agent (Qubodiyon & Shahritus)
18. Alisaid Namozov, Agricultural Field Agent (Qubodiyon & Shahritus)
19. Khatira Yusupova, Women Interests Organizer (Qubodiyon & Shahritus)
20. Olufta Saifitdinova, Women Interests Field Agent (Qubodiyon & Shahritus)
21. Sitora Hazratkulova, Women Interests Field Agent (Qubodiyon & Shahritus)

FFP STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS: JULY 1 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2011

Organization	Individual	Theme
USAID/TAJKISTAN	Charles Specht, Suhrob Tursunov	FFP technical and contract management
USAID/CAR	Nina Kavetskaya	FFP technical and contract management
Aga Khan Foundation	Yodgor Fayzov	Cooperation in GBAO
Aga Khan Foundation	Beate Schoreit	Cooperation in GBAO
IFC	Alisher Isoev	Agribusiness issues
LLC "Oila"	Nazirmat Tolibov	Vegetable processing
LLC "Kulob Dairy"	Yuldoshali Mahmataliev	Dairy production and milk processing
LLC "Agrochemservice"	Boghjuvon Navjuvonov	Agro Inputs
Private onion trader	Ato Gafurov	Onion production and sale
AIST	Muhiddin Sharipov	Market information dissemination
MSDSP	Aqlbegim Monjonova	Discussion of target area criteria in GBAO
IFAD	Frits Jepson	
IFAD	Wolfgang Bayer	
IFAD	Djamin Akymaliev	
ICARDA	Barbara Rischkowsky	
ICARDA	Joaquin Mueller	
ICARDA	Liba Brent	
ADB	Paul Strong	
EU	Willem van Weperen	Livestock issues

FAO	Kuvatbek Baraev	
GITC CONSULT GMBH	Thompson Yuan	Livestock issues
Fulbright Scholar	Viraf Coroushian	Land Reform discussion
Landell Vills	David E. Wards	
JICA	Masashi Nakamura	Discussion on Agriculture Extension service in Republic Tajikistan
JICA	Takeshi Abe	Opportunities for Cooperation
MoA	Dadaboev Narzullo, Head of Mass-Media center	Agriculture Extension advisory service coordination and advisory product development
CNFA ,USAID –funded	Wayne Williams	Agribusiness development in Sughd region. Brief report on field visit to Sughd region
MSDSP, AKF, Khorogh	Najmiddin Gulomiddinov	Marketing, small enterprise development in GBAO, current issues regarding agriculture crops and livestock
FAO	Ibranim Ahmadov	Forestry management in Shahritus and Qubodiyon districts
N DFA	Sharipov Azizbek	Dehkan Farms status in country and agricultural extension service
Jamoats of Qubodiyon District	Heads of Jamoats	Introduction of WUA Association Organizers with the Heads of Jamoats
Water Department of Vose' District	A department representative	Obtain data on the irrigation canals of Vose' district
Jamoats of Qubodiyon District	Jamoat Officials	Introduction of FFP Goal and Objectives to the jamoat officials
GAA in Panjakent District	GAA representatives and WUAs formed by GAA	Organization of federations
Government of Shahritus District	Head of Shahritus district	Introduction of FFP Goal and Objectives
MEAS	Dr. Burton Swanson, and Evan Meyer	Scoping out Extension options in Tajikistan
World Bank	Bobojon Yatimov	Cooperation regarding Water Management activities
World Food Program	Alzira Ferriera	Food Security Cluster Meeting

Summary of Training Programs this quarter are submitted under separate cover.