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# USAID Land Reform and Farm Restructuring Project

April–June 2015 Quarterly Report



USAID LRRFP Senior National Capacity Adviser, Shavkat Ismailov, discusses with the students from the Finance and Economic Institute about a newly developed textbook focused on Land legislation, June 4, 2015

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

DCC	Development Coordination Committee
Dehkan Farm	Farms that underwent preliminary reorganization, ranging in size from a single member to several hundred members
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FTF/T	Feed the Future Tajikistan
GoT	Government of Tajikistan
Hukumat	Local government authority of region (oblast) or district (rayon)
Jamoat	Body of local self-government at sub-district level
LAC	Legal Aid Center
LLC	Limited Liability Company
SUERIP	State Unitary Enterprise “Registration of Immovable Property”
LRFRP	USAID Land Reform and Farm Restructuring Project
M&E	Monitoring and evaluation
NANSMIT	National Association of Independent Media Tajikistan
PMEP	Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Plan
PO	Public Organization
PPD	Public Private Dialogue
RFA	Request for Applications
RFP	Request for Proposals
State Land Committee	State Committee on Land Management, Geodesy, and Cartography
Tashbuskor	Rural land activist or initiator
ToT	Training of trainers
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USAID/CAR	U.S. Agency for International Development/Central Asia Region
USG	United States Government
VAT	Value-Added Tax
WB	World Bank
WG	Working Group on Land Reform Management

## INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The objectives of the Tajikistan Land Reform and Farm Restructuring Project (LRFPR) are to support the continuing progress of dehkan farm restructuring and recognition of property rights leading to a market in land-use rights. LRFPR provides assistance and supports the Government of Tajikistan (GoT) in three key areas: (1) development of the land policy and legislative framework; (2) building capacity of government officials, farmers, civil society organizations and other rural stakeholders to capitalize on land reform; and (3) raising awareness of the target population on land rights. The project will continue to work to strengthen land use rights and establish conditions for land use rights market building. The project also works with legal aid centers (LACs), *tashabuskors* (local activists), and local farmers to enhance their awareness of land-related rights through technical training, legal assistance, and public outreach efforts.

Within the framework of the Feed the Future/Tajikistan (FTF/T) program, LRFPR supports the continuing progress of dehkan farm restructuring and recognition of property rights leading to a market in land-use rights. In accordance with the FTF/T strategy, LRFPR will focus on strengthening land rights for rural citizens living in the 12 districts of the Khatlon region. Though this area has the highest rates of malnutrition and the largest proportion of the population living below the poverty line in Tajikistan, it possesses great potential for increasing agricultural production and incomes.

LRFPR's Year 2 activities focus on the following:

- Work in collaboration with the inter-ministerial Working Group (WG) on land reform management in order to finalize and submit legislation for the GoT's approval.
- Enhance the capacity of national government officials to apply international best practices in land use rights (including creation of a land use rights market) by studying countries having similar land use conditions as Tajikistan. Capacity building may take various forms, including international study tours, in-country training, seminars, and round tables that specifically address capacity needs.
- Increase knowledge among *tashabuskors*, young lawyers, judges, civil society organizations, and local and state government officials on Tajik laws, regulations, and procedures related to land tenure, land use rights and the land use rights market.
- Increase capacity of LACs to provide farmers legal information and legal aid services on land reform topics in a sustainable manner. In order to ensure sustainability, the project carried out trainings on cost-benefit models for the 12 LACs and step-by step introduction of a fee-based service.
- Improve the ability and knowledge of land reform among governmental and non-governmental journalists, and press secretaries of key Tajik ministries and agencies to properly report on progress of land reform in Tajikistan.
- Increase the number of farmers and rural citizens who exercise their rights related to farm restructuring and marketing of land-use rights, and ensure freedom to farm.
- Increase the number of women who are aware of their land use rights and have equitable access to land.
- Increase awareness of high school students on land tenure rights in Tajikistan.
- Increase awareness of beneficiaries (state and local authorities, farmers, rural citizens) on land rights in the target regions through special land-related television, radio and print materials and live, short theatrical performances.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is the seventh quarterly report of the project covering the period of April to June 2015. During the reporting period, the project team accomplished the following:

### Accomplishments

#### Task 1. Land Policy and Legislative Drafting

- On May 4-5, 2015, the USAID Land Reform and Farm Restructuring Project facilitated an off-site retreat to the Sughd Region for Working Group (WG) members, the project's local mortgage experts, experts from the National Bank of Tajikistan and Frankfurt School of Finance & Management, and Daler Asrorov, COR USAID/ CAR/ Tajikistan. At the retreat, participants discussed (i) recommendations following the analysis of Tajik mortgage legislation and (ii) the status of the draft law on Dehkan Farms, including four regulations and the land strategy.
- On June 5, 2015, LRFRP facilitated an inter-ministerial working group meeting with representatives from the State Land Committee, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Agriculture, Parliament of Tajikistan, Presidential Office, and the State Unitary Enterprise "State Registration of Immovable Property" to address the comments received from the key ministries on the Law on Dehkan Farm and the four regulations submitted.
- On June 17, 2015, the project hosted a DCC Land Working Group Meeting. Representatives from the following partner organizations were presented: JICA, World Bank, FAO UN, French Embassy, DCC Secretariat, USAID Tajikistan and USAID LRFRP. The meeting presented and discussed USAID LRFRP's strategy on the importance of tenure security for personal subsidiary plots, and the World Bank discussed their upcoming 5-year Real Estate Registration Project.

#### Task 2. Build Capacity of Stakeholders to Capitalize on Land Reform

- From April 21-24, 2015, the project organized a study to the Sughd region to familiarize participants from the Khatlon region with the experience of Sughd province in farm restructuring, creation of dehkan farms and the process of obtaining certificates. The study tour had 22 participants including directors from the 12 rayon State Unitary Enterprises Registration of Immovable Property (SUIERIP), representatives from the Khatlon and republican State Unitary Enterprises Registration of Immovable Property, as well as a representative from the State Land Committee.
- Between April-June 2015, LRFRP's grantee Public Organization NANSMIT conducted three trainings for 15 press secretaries in order to improve participants' communications and public relations skills when covering land-related issues.
- From June 8-19, 2015, LRFRP organized 20 public private dialogue events in 20 *jamoats* within 10 districts of Khatlon region. This platform enabled 402 farmers and representatives from the Tax Committee under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan to discuss taxation in dehkan farms.
- On June 4, 2015, in cooperation with grantee Public Organization *Huquq va Rushdi Jomeai Dehot*, the project presented the first textbook developed for Tajik universities focused on Tajik land legislation. PO Huquq successfully completed 28 extracurricular classes at the Tajik Finance and Economic Institute for 245 students within the management and economic law department. In addition, the grantee conducted trainings for 40 notaries within the Ministry of Justice and 106 local authorities in Jilikul and Rumi districts to enhance capacity of local authorities on the basis of land legislation in the Republic of Tajikistan.
- On June 11, 2015, the project conducted a quarterly meeting with 12 LACs and 67 *tashabuskors* in Qurghontepa to discuss and enhance their knowledge in taxation of

dehkan farms.

- From April to June 2015, *tashabuskors* and LACs conducted 561 focus group discussions, 143 round tables, 147 trainings and 16 seminars for local officials. In addition, LACs and local activists provided 2,019 consultations and legal assistance to farmers on issues ranging from the settlement of land disputes to the reorganization of big farms. LACs resolved 14 land disputes through mediation and 2 cases in courts.
- In April 2015, LRFRP produced 600 brochures on dehkan farm taxation and in June distributed it to public private dialogues participants. The project also produced 830 copies of the farm restructuring and organization of dehkan farms brochure in three Russian, Tajik and Uzbek languages. Brochures were distributed during the conducted information meetings in 12 Feed the Future districts.

### **Task 3. Land Rights and Farm Restructuring Public Information and Awareness**

- Between April-June 2015, the project produced two newsletters on land-related issues and distributed 5,000 copies to farmers, local authorities, tax bodies, and land committees through the LAC and *Tashabuskor* network. Content included information on women's rights to land, female empowerment, and SUEIRIP official's study tour to the Sughd region.
- During the third quarter, the project broadcasted four (4) ten-minute TV programs and eight (8) radio programs. The main topics both radio and TV programs were dedicated to women's rights to land, discussing about potential of women to run a dehkan farm, and successful resolution of land disputes within the Economic Court of Tajikistan.
- Between April-June 2015, LRFRP's grantee Public Organization NANSMIT conducted three trainings for 20 journalists to increase their ability to disseminate public information on the land reform process in Tajikistan, land use rights, farm restructuring, and other land related issues.
- On June 1-4, 2015, LRFRP grantee *Tajagrofond* conducted 24 extracurricular classes to increase awareness on land reform in 24 high schools in the FTF/T districts for 467 high school children out of which 227 were girls. 1,000 (one thousand) copies of a brochure aimed to enhance knowledge of high school children about actual land reform issues in Tajikistan were distributed during the event.
- LRFRP *tashabuskors* updated information corners in 67 *jamoats* to highlight project activities and upcoming events, and featured new materials produced during the third quarter, such as brochures on taxation in dehkan farms and farm restructuring.

### **Task 4. Support the provision of legal advice and other assistance to promote farm restructuring and the development of a market in land-use rights**

- On June 8, 2015, the project participated in the CAMP Forum on Sustainable Development of Central Asian Mountain Regions dedicated to the "Role of Women in Agriculture & Food Security in Adaptation to the Climate Change in Central Asian Countries". This event brought together participants from Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, India and Switzerland. The head of LAC *Makhbuba*, Barno Rakhimova, shared with the participants her experience on protecting women's right to land.

## **Challenges**

During the reporting period the post of the Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan responsible for the agricultural issues of the country remained vacant, thus, consideration of the Draft Regulation on Granting Citizens the Right of Life-long Inheritable Land Use with the Right of Alienation continues to be postponed.

## PROJECT ACTIVITIES

This section provides detailed information on each of LRFRP's components during the reporting period.

### Task 1. Land Policy and Legislative Drafting

During the reporting period, members within the inter-ministerial Working Group's (WG) on Land Reform Management changed. Two Parliament members - Nasrullo Makhmudov and Makhmadamin Khisoriev were replaced by Jamshed Murtazokulov and Rustam Latifzoda, as a result of the Parliament elections on March 1, 2015.

On May 4-5, 2015, the USAID Land Reform and Farm Restructuring Project facilitated an off-site retreat in the Sughd Region for the members of the inter-ministerial Working Group (WG), including experts from the National Bank of Tajikistan and Frankfurt School of Finance & Management. The aim of the meeting was to discuss (i) Recommendations on analysis of mortgage legislation of Tajikistan; and (ii) Status of the following policies and laws:

- A fifteen-year land policy and a five year program implementation plan.
- Four submitted regulation: (i) Draft Regulation on Establishing Public (Involuntary) Easements; (ii) Draft Rules on Transacting with Land Use Rights in the Land Use Rights Market; (iii) Draft Regulations on Use Rights to Lands Located within Coastal Lines and Public Territories (iv) Draft Regulation on Granting Citizens the Right of Life-long Inheritable Land Use with the Right of Alienation
- The Law on Dehkan Farm

To help enable farmers obtain loans from banks, the project's short-term international expert Robert Cemovich and two local mortgage experts Valeriy Kim, and Shakhnoz Mamadatoeva, analyzed legislation dealing with the mortgage of agricultural land and presented results and recommendation to the members of the WG. The experts and WG members discussed specifications of pledging/mortgaging land use rights and the four main impediments precluding banks from providing farmers with mortgage loans at affordable rates and reasonable credit terms, which are (i) lack of implementation mechanisms of land use rights with the right of alienation, (ii) value determination of land use rights, (iii) procedure of pledge registration and (iv) the foreclosure process.

Additionally, a lawyer from the Frankfurt School of Finance & Management, Alovidin Nosirov, presented on the jointly launched project *Housing Finance Programme*. During the presentation, Mr. Nosirov pointed out that the current mortgage law discourages farmers from taking loans from banks.

Following the presentations, the project reviewed the Law on Mortgage and addressed each recommendation. It was decided that each member of the WG would review the draft and submit his/her suggestions to the project in an effort to finalize the draft amendments to the Law on Mortgage.



International Expert, Robert Cemovich, sharing with the participants International experience on mortgage, May 4, 2015

### ***KRA 1.1 Long-term concept and a land program for 5 years submitted. Activity 1.1.1 Finalization and promotion of the land strategy***

The fifteen-year long-term land policy (2015-2030) and a five-year program implementation plan (2015-2010) are under the consideration of the State Land Committee. The Draft Strategy is under discussion with the new Director of the State Land Committee.

***KRA 1.2 Amendments to land legislation and farm restructuring laws drafted and submitted. Activity 1.2.1 Promote the Law on Dehkan Farms***

Based on the delays occurred in reviewing the Law in the Ministry of Agriculture, the Working Group members agreed to introduce the Law on Dehkan Farm as a parliamentary initiative through the Committee on Agrarian Issues, Melioration and Land. On June 22, 2015, the Committee reviewed the Draft Law and sent it to the GoT consideration. In August-September, 2015 the Draft will be presented at public hearings in Khatlon and Sughd regions. In September-October 2015, the Draft Law will be presented to the Parliament for approval.

***KRA 1.3 Implementing regulations for land-related laws are drafted. Activity 1.3.1 Regulations required to implement the Land Code and develop land market discussed and submitted for GoT approval***

- (i) Draft Regulation on Establishing Public (Involuntary) Easements. The State Land Committee received the signatures from the key ministry and agencies and the draft is now being sent to the GoT for final approval;
- (ii) Draft Rules on Transacting with Land Use Rights in the Land Use Rights Market – received the signatures from the key ministry and agencies and the draft is now being sent to the GoT for final approval.
- (iii) Draft Regulations on Use Rights to Lands Located within Coastal Lines and Public Territories – comments received and finalized. The draft will be sent to the State Land Committee for final consideration in July 2015
- (iv) Draft Regulation on Granting Citizens the Right of Life-long Inheritable Land Use with the Right of Alienation will be discussed with the Prime Minister office and USAID in July 2015. The members of the WG also emphasized that the adoption of the Resolution depends on the political will.



***Activity 1.3.2 Implementing regulation on registration of land use rights through pilots***

During the reporting period, the project worked closely with the State Committee on Land Management and Geodesy to define dehkan farms, and with the State Unitary Enterprise Registration of Immovable Property to discuss the pilots in order to introduce registration procedures developed in June 2014. As a result, project staff conducted informational meetings to inform and familiarize farmers about the main steps for registration and the process of obtaining certificates. Informational meetings on farm restructuring will be completed by July 24, 2015.

### ***Activity 1.3.3 Mortgage Law***

In May, LRFRRP short-term international expert Robert Cemovich and two local mortgage experts Valeriy Kim, and Shakhnoz Mamadatoeva, assessed Tajik Mortgage Legislation to identify legislative and procedural gaps and impediments found in the Tajik Law on Mortgages and related laws and regulations. The scope of the Assessment was focused on mortgaging lifelong-inheritable land use rights in agricultural land. The experts analyzed the following: Law on Mortgages; Code of Civil Procedure, Law on State Registration of Immovable Property and Rights Thereto; Economic/Business Procedural Code; Law on Execution Process, and Law on Notaries.

The experts pointed out that a viable legal base for mortgages is essential to provide farmers with access to badly needed capital under reasonable terms. Chapter 9 of the Law on Mortgages specifically authorizes the mortgaging of land use rights, so long as the rights are accompanied by a right of alienation (Articles 45, 47, Law on Mortgages). Mortgages of land use rights that are accompanied by rights of alienation are also permissible under the Land Code and other land legislation and are governed by the Law on Mortgages and the Civil Code.

However, when registering lifelong-inheritable use rights to individual and family dehkan farms, the words “with rights of alienation” do not appear on any title certificates or in the registry records establishing the use rights to farmland. Due to this systemic omission in the registration process, dehkan farmers are legally incapable of mortgaging their lifelong-inheritable use rights to their dehkan farmland and vacant agricultural land currently may not be mortgaged in Tajikistan.

The Working Group prepared two decrees that would automatically endow individuals and families holding lifelong-inheritable use rights to their household plots and dehkan farmland with transaction rights, including mortgage.

**Table 1** below provides information on current status of law and regulations

**Table 1. Status of laws and regulations**

#	Laws and regulations	Actions	Period	Status
1	Draft Regulation on Establishing Public (Involuntary) Easements	Draft developed Sent for consideration of key ministries and agencies Finalized the comments based on the received offers and suggestions Sent for final consideration of key ministries and agencies Received the signatures of key ministries and agencies Submission to the GoT for approval	March-August 2014 October-December2014 February-March 2015 April 2015 May-June 2015 July 2015	√ √ √ √ √ In process
2	Draft Rules on Transacting with Land Use Rights in the Land Use Rights Market	Draft developed Sent for consideration of key ministries and agencies Finalized the comments based on the received offers and suggestions Sent for final consideration of key ministries and agencies Received the signatures of key ministries and agencies Submission to the GoT for approval	March-August 2014 October-December2014 February-March 2015 April 2015 May-June 2015 June-July 2015	√ √ √ √ √ In process
3	Draft Regulation on Use Rights of Lands Located within Coastal Lines and Public Territories	Draft developed Sent for consideration of key ministries and agencies Finalized the comments based on the received offers and suggestions Sent for final consideration of key ministries and agencies	March-August 2014 October-December2014 March-July 2015 July 2015	√ √ √ In process
4	Draft Resolution on Granting Citizens the Right of Life-long Inheritable Land Use with the Right of Alienation	Draft developed Project recommendations have been discussed among the WG members and DCC members. Next step is to send the Draft to the GoT consideration (Depends on political will)	July-September 2014 November 2014 –July 2015 End of 2015	√ √ In process
5	Law on Dehkan Farm	Draft developed Sent for consideration of key ministries and agencies Finalized the comments based on the received offers and suggestions Transferred from the Ministry of Agriculture to the Parliament (as a parliament initiative) and Reviewed by the Agrarian Committee at the Parliament Sent for final consideration to the key ministries and agencies Review and adoption by the Parliament	March-November 2014 December 2014 February-March 2015 April-May 2015 June 2015 July –August 2015 August-September 2015	√ √ √ √ √ In process
6	Government’s decree on “Land Policy Concept” (20 years long-term strategy)	Draft developed Sent for consideration of key ministries and agencies Finalized the comments based on the received offers and suggestions Sent for final consideration of key ministries and agencies Received the signatures of all key ministries and agencies	May-November 2014 February 2015 March-May 2015 June-July 2015 August 2015	√ √ √ In process In process
7	Resolution on “On Approval of the State Program of Development of the Land Policy of the Republic of Tajikistan for 2015-2020 years”	Draft developed Sent for consideration of key ministries and agencies Finalized the comments based on the received offers and suggestions Sent for final consideration of key ministries and agencies	May-November 2014 February 2015 March-May 2015 June-July 2015	√ √ √ In process
8	The Law on Mortgage	First Draft developed Discussed and agreed with the WG members	May 2015 July 2015	√ In process



***KRA 2.2 Exchange of advice and meetings between peers expanded. Activity2.2.1 Develop/facilitate roundtables and other forums promoting dialogue between farmers and government officials***

During the reporting period, *tashabuskors* and LACs conducted 561 focus group discussions, 143 round tables, 147 trainings and 16 seminars for local officials. In addition, LACs and local activists provided 2019 consultations and legal support to farmers on issues ranging from the settlement of land disputes to the reorganization of big farms.



Quarterly meeting with *tashabuskors*. Vaksh district. June 6, 2015

***Public- private dialogues on taxation in dehkan farms***

Taxation in dehkan farms is a very sensitive and important issue in Tajikistan. During the Public Private Dialogues (PPD) on farm restructuring conducted between February–March 2015, many questions raised by farmers were related to taxes. Seeing the need for clarification, in May the project developed a brochure dehkan farms taxation in May and conducted 20 PPDs in 20 *jamoats* from June 8-19, 2015 to discuss tax-related issues. 402 farmers (of which 110 were women) farmers had the opportunity to directly engage representatives from the State Tax Committee under the Government of Tajikistan, and heads of the local tax bodies in the Khatlon region, as well as lawyers and project experts. Together they discussed the types of taxes, order and procedures of paying the taxes in dehkan farms, tax breaks, tax deductions and also answered farmers' questions about what their taxes pay for.



Mr. Jamshed Oymatov, the head of the State Tax Committee under the Government of Tajikistan consults a women farmer on tax issues., PPD in Jamoat Khilol, Khuroson district, June 9, 2015

The trainers also consulted farmers on taxation of contracted (wage) and seasonal workers, rent of agricultural equipment, fines levied on dehkan farms for using agricultural machinery without a patent or a certificate, and payment of social and income taxes.

During the PPDs, LACs and *tashabuskors* provided participants with information about the nearest LACs, which could assist them in settling the land problems and land disputes.

***Activity 2.2.2 Cooperation with other projects***

During the reporting period, LRFPR met with the following projects:

Presentation of agricultural information products for business development. On April 9, 2015, LRFPR participated in a presentation on agricultural information products for business development conducted by the Public Organization *Neksigol Mushovir*. The participants discussed new information products, services and plans of the organization that is a big innovator and implementer of useful ideas in the agricultural sector with the focus on dissemination of scientific-technical and market information and awareness raising campaigns for farmers.

Media tour of the U.S. Representative to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Agencies in Rome. On May 13, 2015, Ambassador David Lane, the U.S. Representative to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Agencies in Rome together with U.S. Ambassador to Tajikistan Susan Elliott, the USAID Country Director Katie McDonald visited a project LAC in Vakhsh district of Khatlon Region. The Ambassador was accompanied by a group of five journalists from Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan. The goal of the meeting was to familiarize the guests with the ongoing land reform efforts in Tajikistan and contribution of the project and the U.S. Government's Feed the Future food security initiative.



LRFRP DCOP, Nodira Sidykova showing Ambassador David Lane, the U.S. Representative to the UNFAO land use rights certificates.



LRFRP COP, Chynara Arapova, USAID Country Director, Katie McDonald discussing with tashabuskor, Toir Murodov, information materials he provides to farmers

DCC Meeting on Land Reform. On June 17, 2015, LRFRP hosted the DCC Land Working Group Meeting. Representatives from JICA, World Bank, WB, FAO UN, French Embassy, DCC Secretariat, USAID Tajikistan discussed the importance of tenure security for personal subsidiary plots, the World Bank's upcoming 5-year Real Estate Registration Project, and LRFRP's findings on personal subsidiary plots, sometimes referred to as household plots. Citing reports from World Bank, USAID and statements made by key GOT officials, short-term international expert Robert Cemovich, noted that these very small land plots (about 0.17 to 0.30 hectares) are under lifelong-inheritable use by rural households, consist of 27% of arable land and about 6-8% of all agricultural land in Tajikistan, and have consistently produced more than 60% of the country's gross agricultural output. He highlighted that:

- without the approval of the right of alienation, any transactions with the rural household plots are impossible, both with farms and subsidiary plots
- the steps and procedures of obtaining tech passports are difficult and expensive and as a consequence, without technical passports one can't receive a certificate

A two pages briefer with recommendations was distributed among DCC participants

Meeting with the USAID Gender Adviser and Senior Training Specialist. On June 18, 2015, LRFRP staff met USAID Gender Adviser, Patty Alleman and USAID/CAR Almaty Senior Training Specialist, Rabiga Baytokova. The project prepared a presentation about the main project components and discussed in details implementation of gender activities under each project task.

FTF/T Implementing Partners Meeting. On May 7, 2015, LRFRP took part in the FTF partners meeting and discussed with Lora Kudaibergenova, Almaty-based Economic Growth Project Management Specialist, a new project - Women's Entrepreneurship for Empowerment (WEE), implemented by National Association of Business Women of Tajikistan (NABWT). On June 19,

LRFRP participated in the partners meeting and discussed with Tatiana Pulido, USAID Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist Women Improvement in Agriculture Index – Tajikistan.

**KRA 2.3 Local officials’ ability to provide beneficial information and services increased**  
**Activity2.3.1 Capacity building of local authorities**

Farm restructuring in Tajikistan is essential to land reform and the realization of the following outcomes: the recovery of agricultural production and an increase of productivity, improved access to land and job creation, income growth and the well-being of the rural populations who depend on agriculture for a substantial part of the family budget (Presidential Decree No. 1775 “Rule of reorganizing and reforming agricultural enterprises”, June 30, 2006). This is why accurate information on farm restructuring, registration process and the creation of dekhkan farms is an essential part of facilitating, accelerating and cementing ongoing governmental initiatives on farm restructuring.

To facilitate this, the project organized a study to the Sughd region from April 21-24, 2015. The goal of the trip was to familiarize participants from the Khatlon region with the experience of Sughd province in farm restructuring, creation of dekhkan farms and the process of obtaining certificates. The study tour had 22 participants including directors from the 12 rayon State Unitary Enterprises Registration of Immovable Property (SUERIP), representative from the Khatlon and republican State Unitary Enterprises Registration of Immovable Property as well as a representative from the State Land Committee. They visited Hudjand, B. Gafurov, Isfara, and Spitamen rayons. As they have been very successful in restructuring process and registration of

immovable property, as well as in implementing the newly established registration rules and procedures.

In Bobojon Gafurov and Spitamen rayons the directors of rayon SUERIPs explained the system, structure and functions of enterprises and familiarized the visitors with the file management and registration systems, as well as their archives and the personnel department’s procedures for receiving and issuing documents. Participants discussed how – after introduction of a new, single window system - services were provided to the farmers on preparing and registering documents. Participants observed the streamlined registration system and the consultation procedure for farmers. To simplify the documents preparation for citizens, the enterprises established information corners with samples of the papers and applications required for registration, restructuring and obtaining certificates.

In addition, the participants visited *Ubaydulloev* - an association of 80 dekhkan farms established after the reorganization



Mukhibullo Amonov, head a small dekhkan farm of 0,20 hectares, telling visitors about his farm. Isfara. April 24, 2015



Participants looking at the samples of documents required for registration and obtaining certificates. Spitamen rayon, April 24, 2015

of a large collective farm. The farms’ principal crops are melons, fruits and cotton.

Isfara is the most populated rayon of the Sughd region and has limited land resources. It was,

therefore, a good for the participants to see the smallest dehkan farms in the republic. Here a land share can vary from 0.03 to 0.20 hectares. Directors from the Khatlon state unitary enterprises discussed the work and activities of Isfara colleagues and shared their own experiences in registering and issuing certificates.

The study tour participants from Khatlon agreed that it was quite valuable to learn about the experience in Sughd and the methods used there in restructuring dehkan farms and that these methods could be introduced in Khatlon region. The fact is that, a lot of dehkan farms were restructured based on the order of the head of the Sughd region.

“There are many unnecessary documents for registration and the procedures vary from rayon to rayon. Moreover, the additional documents are costly and time-consuming for farmers.”  
-Mumin Kurbonaliev, head of legal department of the republican SUERIP

News of the study tour was reported by the following media:

- newspaper Tajagrofon
- newspaper Jumkhuriyat in the Sughd
- TV Jakhonnamo in Sughd

### ***Activity2.3.2 Increase ability to provide effective services of young lawyers and local government officials***

On June 4, 2015, USAID LRFRP in cooperation with the grantee Public Organization *Huquq va Rushdi Jomeai Dehot* held an official presentation of the first textbook in Tajikistan that focuses on Tajik Land Legislation and started the first extracurricular classes at the Tajik Finance and Economic Institute for students of the management and economic law department.

The textbook overviews land use rights and property rights, land management and land conservation issues, environmental liability and responsibility for violation of land legislation in Tajikistan. The edition is published for students, teachers, the practicing lawyers, graduate students of law departments, as well as those interested in land legislation persons. It is important to mention that before Universities used textbook on land legislation of other countries, such as Russia, Belorussia and etc. So this textbook is the first book, which was developed based on the Tajik land legislation and reviews the main steps of the land reform process in Tajikistan.

For the reporting period, the grantee conducted 28 extracurricular classes on Basis of land legislation in Tajikistan for 245 students of the management and economic law department at the Tajik Finance and Economic Institute for students.



Extracurricular class conducted by the USAID LRFRP grantee PO *Huquq va Rushdi Jomeai Dehot*. June 4, 2015

The next step is to meet with the Ministry of Education of Tajikistan and introduce the textbook into all law departments of Tajik universities. In addition, based on the grant agreement, on June 24 the Project grantee started training sessions for notaries of the Ministry of Justice and has successfully increased capacity of 40 notaries on Tajik land legislation.

On June 29-30, the grantee conducted two training sessions on Tajik land legislation in Jilikul and Rumi districts

for 106 officials and authorities of the relevant ministries and agencies dealing with the land related issues, such as rayon departments for agriculture of the Ministry of Agriculture, tax bodies, rayon state land committees and heads of *jamoats*.

***KRA 2.4 GoT capacity to develop, implement and monitor land policies, laws, and regulations strengthened. Activity 2.4.1 Provide effective services to farm restructuring and land use rights among judges increased***

This activity was successfully completed during the last quarter and comprehensively described in the quarterly report January-March 2015.

***Activity 2.4.2 Multi-level training program for responsible communication of government persons from agencies and ministries involved in the land reform process in Tajikistan***

Between April–June 2015, USAID LRFPR grantee National Association of Independent Media Tajikistan (NANSMIT), conducted three trainings for press secretaries. During the first set of trainings it was clear that the press secretaries were not professionally trained in communications. Instead, they tended to be experts in a technical area, and were responsible for communications services within their respective agencies and ministries. As a result, they seem to confuse knowledge of technical fields with knowledge of how to run a communications office and how to interact with journalists. In this regard, the first and the second training session were dedicated to one of the main activities – writing press releases. During the training, trainers and participants produced press releases in order to find and illuminate mistakes and gaps and make them better understand the aim and what should go into a press release. The third Module was dedicated to the cooperation and communication of press officers with mass media.

LRFPR's goal for the government press secretaries and their communications staffs is increasing their understanding of the information needs of journalists, how to interact with reporters, and to increase the professionalism and efficiency of the operations of government communications offices. The next session is scheduled for the fourth week of July 2015.

***Activity 2.4.3 Facilitate study tour for GoT officials to demonstrate effective government led policy and land-tenure governance***

Due to legislative delays, the project plans to conduct an international study tour for the SUERIP high level officials and their regional representative in Khatlon region to the Kyrgyz Republic to familiarize the participants with the Kyrgyz experience in registering immovable property, especially registration of land plots. A second study tour is planned to Eastern Europe once legislative is approved in Tajikistan.

**Task 3. Raising Awareness of Land Rights and Farm Restructuring**

***KRA 3.1 High school students' awareness of land-related laws and regulations increased***

***Activity 3.1.1 Identify opportunity to include curricula on a trial basis in selected schools.***



Extracurricular class conducted by the USAID LRFPR grantee PO Tajagrofond at school #3 of Bokhtar district. June 2, 2015

Increased awareness of land reform among the target population in the Khatlon Province is another key component of LRFPR. Young people in rural areas often contribute to their household farming activities; therefore, there is a crucial need to inform young people (future shareholders) about the main steps and achievements in the land reform process in Tajikistan. In the second project year, LRFPR continued to conduct training sessions and increased pilot schools to 36. The selected grantee Public Organization *Tajagrofond* reviewed and printed one

thousand copies of the brochure created in year one. In June, the grantee conducted 24 extracurricular classes in 24 schools in the FTF/T districts. Representatives from rayon department of educational and *hukumat* participated in the classes and participants were very active asking various questions related to the Tajik land legislation. Through this activity, LRFPR increased awareness on issues in land reform for 467 students out of which 227 school girls.

Next, the project will organize a conference with the Tajik Ministry of Education, present the results of the pilots and recommend that land related aspects be incorporated into existing subjects such as legal studies (*pravovedenie*).

***KRA 3.2 Target FTF population, including local government officials receive information through television, radio, and print media. Activity 3.2.1 TV Programs 3.2.2 Radio Program***

To produce radio and TV programs covering the target beneficiaries (farmers, rural residents, local government officials, women, and youth) in 12 districts of Khatlon region, LRFPR entered into a grant agreement with the local Limited Liability Company (LLC) CMT, which is responsible for production, procurement airtime and broadcasting of twelve (12) TV programs through TV channel Jahonnamo and twenty four (24) Radio Programs through Radio channel Radioi Tojikiston. The grantee produced and broadcasted two 15-minute Radio programs entitled “Your Rights to Land” and one 10-minute TV program each month.

During the period, the project broadcasted four (4) ten-minute TV programs, and eight (8) radio programs. The main topics were dedicated to women rights to land, and land disputes and their hearings in the Economic Court of Tajikistan. CMT also reported on study tour to the Sughd region, training sessions for journalists and press secretaries, open extracurricular classes for high school children and carried out PPD on taxation in dehkan farms. A separate programs covered LRFPR activities and results achieved during 1,5 project years, as well as a work of the legal aid centers and *tashabuskors*.

***Activity 3.2.3 Newspaper on land reform***

During the reporting period, the project produced three monthly, four-page newsletters covering a workshop on “Women rights to land: increase potential of women leaders in the Khatlon region”, labor contracts in dehkan farms, an interview with Rukiya Rakhimova, the head of dehkan farm *Rukiya*, on the topic if a woman can run a dehkan farm. The second issue of the newspaper highlighted a study tour to the Sughd region, start of the training sessions for journalists and press secretaries and interview with Rustam Zoirov, the head of SUERIP of Khatlon region, on the problems of selling and renting agricultural lands.

A newsletter is being published on the 15th day of each month and provides contact information of 12 LACs in 12 FTF/T programs. Through the LAC and *tashabuskor* network, 5,000 copies of the newsletter are distributed to farmers, local authorities, tax bodies, and land committees.

***Activity 3.2.4 Information distributed in electronic format***

Another activity on raising awareness of the target population on land reform issues in the target areas is information distribution in electronic format that the project produces and distributes on a quarterly basis among partners, including rayon *hukumats*, local land committees, 67 *jamoats* and 67 *tashabuskors*, NGOs and 12 LACs. The project is currently editing and finalizing information of TV and radio recordings, with copies of the project’s published brochures to be distributed on CD in July 2015.

***KRA 3.3 Target FTF population’s awareness of their rights increased. Activity 3.3.1 Information corner***

During the second project year, LRFPR *tashabuskors* updated 67 information corners in all

jamoats. They covered information on project achievements, the procedures of farm restructuring, land use rights, FTF success stories, brochures on women's rights to land for the target beneficiaries. These information corners are a constant, regularly-updated source of information for LRFRP target beneficiaries.

### ***Activity 3.3.2 Training session for print, television and radio journalists (including Khatlon journalists)***

Between April-June 2015, USAID LRFRP grantee National Association of Independent Media Tajikistan (NANSMIT), conducted three trainings for journalists in Qurghonteppa.

One of the main goals of these sessions is to teach journalists the various elements of existing legislation and regulations on agrarian land reform. An additional and equally important goal specific to the journalist training is to increase the professionalism and accuracy of reporting on land reform issues.

During the trainings, the journalists discussed given assignments – production of materials on land-related issues. In this regard, a journalist from Khatlon Radio produced a two minutes radio program about benefits of growing potatoes in dekhkan farms. After the presentation, participants were divided in three groups in order provide interview

- Strengths
- Weaknesses
- And future recommendations

The same method was applied to a TV journalist, who produced a thirty five minute TV program interviewing a judge from the Economic Court of Khatlon Region.

During the second training, participants were familiarized with the practical work on covering land-related issues in RT and chose topics and genres of media materials to present and discuss during the third training session. In the third session, journalists were familiarized with the sources on information. The next session is scheduled for the fourth week of July 2015.

## **Task 4. Support the provision of legal advice and other assistance to promote farm restructuring and the development of a market in land-use rights**

### ***KRA 4.1 Sustainable public information and legal assistance in all FTF district jamoats available. Activity 4.1.1 Introduction of sustainable cost benefit models in 12 LACs***

In accordance with the approved financial plan in March 2015, LACs in 10 districts of Khatlon region started to gradually introduce a fee for legal services model. On a monthly basis, the project collected progressive financial reports from the LACs of the following districts: Jaloliddini Rumi, Qumsangir, Bokhtar, Sarband, Abdurahmoni Jomi, Khuroson, Yovon, Vakhsh, Shahritus and Nosiri Khusrav. The reports consisted of fee services forms and the enclosed documents, such as contracts of provided legal services, credit cash orders, and a written explanation report on why the financial reports haven't been implemented.

**Table 2** below shows the percentage of costs covered through fee-for-service in the 10 districts between April - June 2015 (March is indicated in order to compare and show the difference between the Quarter 2 and Quarter 3):



#	NGO	District	Percentage of covered costs in March	Percentage of covered costs in April	Percentage of covered costs in May	Percentage of covered costs in June
1	Navzamin	Jaloliddini Rumi	2.11 %	2.53 %	2.53 %	4.64%
2		Qumsangir	2.11 %	1.09 %	3.37 %	8.44%
3	Bonuvoni	Shahrirus	0	6.97%	8.58 %	8.4%
4	Fardo	Nosiri Khisrav	0	5.07%	5.27 %	4.05%
5	Mahbuba	Vakhsh	3.34 %	3.34 %	3.34 %	5.34%
6	Ilhom	Bokhtar	1.44 %	4 %	3.52 %	8.8%
7		Sarband	7.28 %	3.8 %	10.86 %	9.78%
8		Abdurahmoni Jomi	2.56 %	3.84 %	1.6%	8%
9	Arbitrage	Khuroson	21.00 %	35.14 %	11.42%	17.57%
10		Yovon	3.85 %	44.51 %	17.8%	22.25%
<b>Average</b>			<b>4.83%</b>	<b>11.029 %</b>	<b>6.83 %</b>	<b>9.66 %</b>

As the table shows, there is progress in implementing fee for services models in 8 districts. One other factor to consider is that the third Quarter is harvest time, when farmer's financial situation is stronger than in the lean season.

Difficulties to introduce fee services. Many farmers in Rumi are members of Water Users Association, thus many problems related to the water and land use have been solved through the Associations. And one of the OSCE projects also consulted farmers on land-related issues free of charge. The majority of the farms have already been restructured. There are farmers from the remote *jamoats* that cannot afford to pay for legal services.

Competitiveness: There are private lawyers providing similar services to farmers. The next step the project intends to undertake is to strengthen LACs lawyers' capacity and competitiveness.

Analysis of the reports showed that the most required fee services provided by LACs are:

- Preparation of legal documents
- Participation in court cases

***KRA 4.2 Number of individual and family dehqan farms in all FTF districts increased. Activity 4.2.1 Increase potential of women leaders in the FTF/T target area***

On June 8, 2015, the project participated in the CAMP Forum on Sustainable Development of Central Asian Mountain Regions dedicated to the "Role of women in Agriculture & Food Security in adaptation to the Climate Change in Central Asian countries". This regional event brought together participants from Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, India and Switzerland.

The goal of the Forum was to promote the exchange of information and knowledge among women organizations, women farmers, women farmer associations and identify problems and opportunities in the field of agriculture & food security in adaptation to the climate change. It became a sound platform for female farmers to share experiences in improvement of the livelihoods of mountain villages.

During the event, the participants discussed the problems & challenges of rural women's rights and responsibilities; exchanged experiences and achievements of women farmers in marketing of agricultural products: products, value chain development, and credits;

It was a good opportunity for the project to share its experience and knowledge in protecting women rights to land. As most important activities are conducted with Legal Aid Centers (LACs) who, as community-based organizations, facilitate increasing awareness of land rights and land reform, organize training programs, provide legal assistance to farmers and represent farmers' interests in courts, the project involved the head of LAC *Makhbuba* – Ms. Barno

Rakhimova, to share with the participants her experience. Ms. Rakhimova discussed with the participants the problems the women farmers mainly face.



At the end of the meeting, the participants agreed that agriculture is a critical source of livelihoods for women in Central Asian countries and a key pathway out of poverty especially when a majority of men in these countries leaving abroad to work as labor migrants. As a result, a lot of women are involved in the agricultural sector. In the meantime women in the rural traditional societies are mostly treated as housewives, and thus, constrained by a lack of access to inputs, productive resources, and services. In addition they are unaware of their rights and responsibilities. In this regard, there is a strong need to support rural women as social and economic drivers of the country.

In addition, the project distributed among the participants the following materials:

- Developed brochures on women rights to land
- Success stories on farm restructuring and protection on land use rights in courts with the support of USAID LRFRP Legal Aid Centers

- A list of addresses of Legal Aid Centers in 12 FTF districts
- Monthly four-page newspaper *Agroinform*

## GRANTS AND SUBCONTRACTS

### Grants

During the reporting period, LRFRP continued activities in its grant program and successfully concluded a set of agreements.

On May 20, 2015, the project awarded a grant under RFA #10 to the local PO *Tajikagrofond*, to conduct training sessions in 24 pilot schools on basic land issues for the high school students. Also, the grantee has to identify opportunity to incorporate land related aspects into the existing subjects, like legal studies, on a trial basis in selected schools.

On June 15, 2015, the project awarded grant to public organization *Rahovard* to develop, update and maintain a website on Legal Aid Centers. Moreover the grantee will deliver training on updating and managing of the LACs' website to LACs' staff and LRFRP. At the end of the grant program the grantee has to handover website to one of the active LAC for further management and updating.

The project awarded grant under RFA # 12 for PO *Huquqshinos* on June 30, 2015 to implement grant program on performing 24 theatrical performances on actual land related issues in 12 project target districts.

In order to promote farm restructuring and support SUEIRP in registration procedures in compliance with new rules on registration, the LRFPR issued RFA #13. On June 17, as a result of grants applications, the Selection Committee consisted of project staff members, selected public organization *Mahbuba* for grant award to implement grant program on conducting farm restructurings and monitoring of activities of SUEIRP in 12 districts. LRFPR completed grant negotiation process and is waiting for USAID approval.

## ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR NEXT QUARTER

This section provides a brief overview of planned activities for the next reporting period (July-September 2015).

### Task 1. Land Policy and Legislative Drafting

- Promote and approve the Land Strategy
- Promote the Law on Dehkan Farm
- Prepare the final draft amendments on the Mortgage Law
- Submit and approve to the GoT Regulations required to implement the Land Code and develop a land use rights market
- Conduct first pilots on farm restructuring in 12 FTF districts

### Task 2. Build Capacity of Counterparts, Stakeholders and Beneficiaries to Capitalize on Land Reform

- Increase ability to provide effective services of young lawyers and local government officials
- Organize and facilitate roundtables and other forums to promote dialogue between farmers and government officials (LACs and *tashabuskors* are responsible for the organization and carrying out this activity)
- Conduct multi-level training programs for persons responsible for communication from government agencies and ministries involved in the land reform process in Tajikistan
- Theatrical performances in 12 FTF districts
- Conduct a meeting with the Ministry of Education in order to present results and recommendations to incorporate land related aspects into existing subject at schools, like legal studies
- Conduct a meeting with the Ministry of Education in order to present results and recommendations to incorporate extracurricular classes on Basis of land legislation into the current curricular at the law departments of Tajik universities
- Study tour to Kyrgyzstan on registration procedures for Tajik SUEIRP officials

### Task 3. Land Rights and Farm Restructuring Public Information and Awareness

- Conduct training sessions for print, television, and radio journalists (including Khatlon journalists)
- Prepare monthly newsletters, radio and television programs, and information corners to further raise awareness among the target LRFPR populations of land issues and exercise of land rights (LRFPR subcontractors and public outreach specialists are responsible for this activity)
- Update information corners of LACs and *tashabuskors*
- Develop a website on LAC activities

### Task 4. Support the Provision of Legal Advice and Other Assistance to Promote Farm Restructuring and the Development of a Market in Land-Use Rights

- Conduct analysis of sustainable cost benefit models in LACs
- Support farmers to protect their right to land through mediations or court

## ANNEX I. PROJECT SPECIFIC PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

This report includes cumulative results of LRFPR during its first year and the three quarters of second year. The PMP quarterly report includes twelve indicators out of nineteen total, and seven other indicators are reported annually or/and semi-annually. Also, new section is added to the report, which contains applicable indicators under modified STARR IQC.

During the second year, targets for six indicators that should be reported quarterly have been achieved and six other indicators are in process.

### INDICATORS

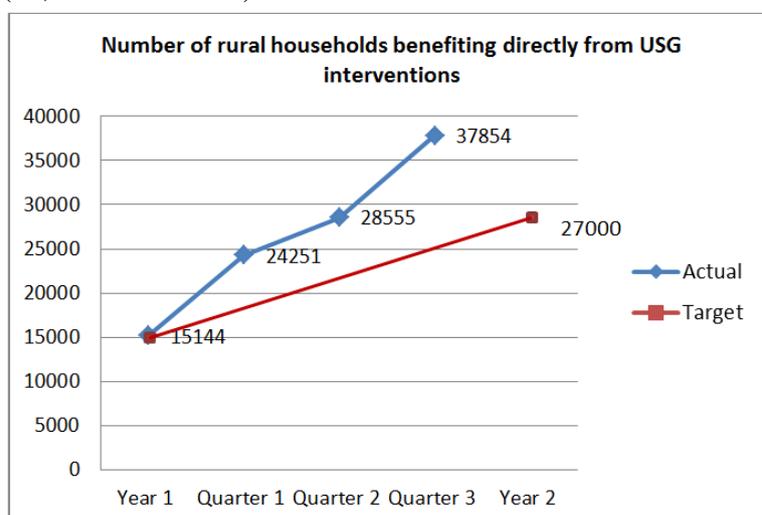
**0.4 Number of previously existing land and natural resource-based conflicts resolved in areas receiving USG assistance for land conflict mitigation.** *A number of natural resource-based conflicts existed before project implementation e.g. land, water, road conflicts and disputes and resolved in results of project assistance.*

Two of the conflicts resolved by LRFPR in the third quarter of the second project year existed before project implementation. Target for this indicator for second year is 20, which is in process by 95%.

District	Type of Conflict	Number of Conflicts
J. Rumi	Lease	2
J. Rumi	Water issue	2
J. Rumi	Illegal tree felling	1
J. Rumi	Land issue	3
J. Rumi	Water issue	1
Nosiri Khisrav	Land issue	1
Jomi	Land issue	1
Khuroson	Land issue	1
Jilikul	Land issue	2
Qumsangir	Land tax	2
Vakhsh	Land issue	3
<b>Total</b>		19

**0.5 Number of rural households benefiting directly from USG interventions (FtF).** *Defined as households receiving legal assistance, participating in trainings, and receiving documented property rights. Household is calculated based on the number of people with the same surname as members of one household.*

In the course of third quarter of second project year members of 9,299 households participated in LRFPRs organized events or received legal assistance. Target for this indicator is 27,000, which is achieved by 140% (37,854 households).



**1.1 Number of improvements in laws and regulations affecting property rights of the urban and rural poor as a result of USG assistance, by stage (STARR, FTF).** *Measures the number of laws, policies, regulations, and administrative procedures improved through project assistance.*

This indicator was adapted to the FTF indicators, which allow tracking of the number of improvements at different stages. Results are tracked for each stage of the law and regulation drafting/improvement process:

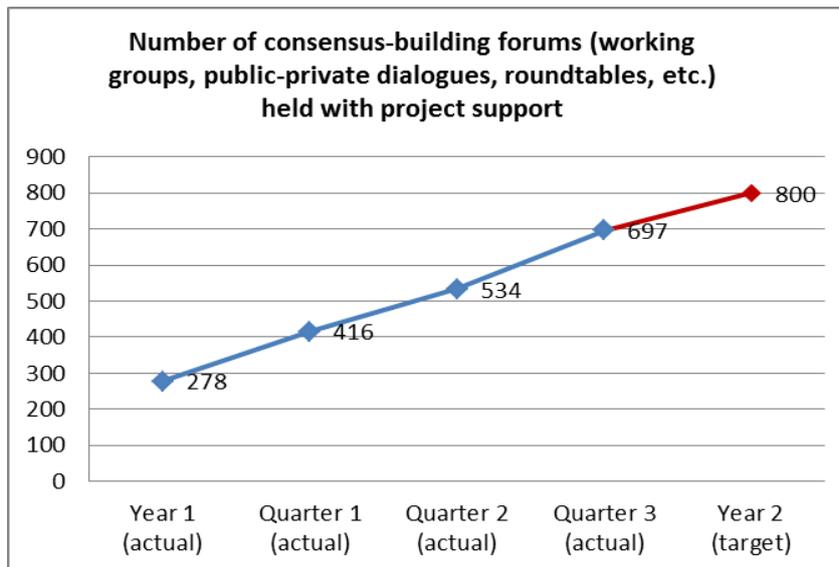
- Stage 1: Analyzed
- Stage 2: Drafted and presented for public/stakeholder consultation
- Stage 3: Presented for legislation/decreed
- Stage 4: Passed/approved
- Stage 5: Passed/implementation has begun

During the third quarter of second year Law on Mortgage has been analyzed and it is planned to present it for stakeholders' consultation in the beginning of fourth quarter. Currently four laws and regulations which LRFPR is supporting are at the third stage, three regulations are at the second stage, one regulation is on first stage and one regulation (number 1) has passed all five stages (see table below).

Table 2 : Status of improvements to laws and regulations		Stages				
Number	Laws and regulations	1	2	3	4	5
1	Rules and procedures for registration, forms of registration, registration books, petition/application book and serialization of cadaster number of immovable property					
2	Draft rules on transacting with land use rights in the land use rights market					
3	Draft resolution on establishing public (involuntary) easements					
4	Draft resolution on use rights to lands located within coastal lines and public territories					
5	Law on Dehkan Farm					
5	Draft resolution on granting citizens the right of life-long inheritable land use with the right of alienation.					
6	Government's decree on "land policy concept"					
7	Resolution on "approval of the state program of development of the land policy of the Republic of Tajikistan for 2015-2020"					
9	Law on Mortgage					

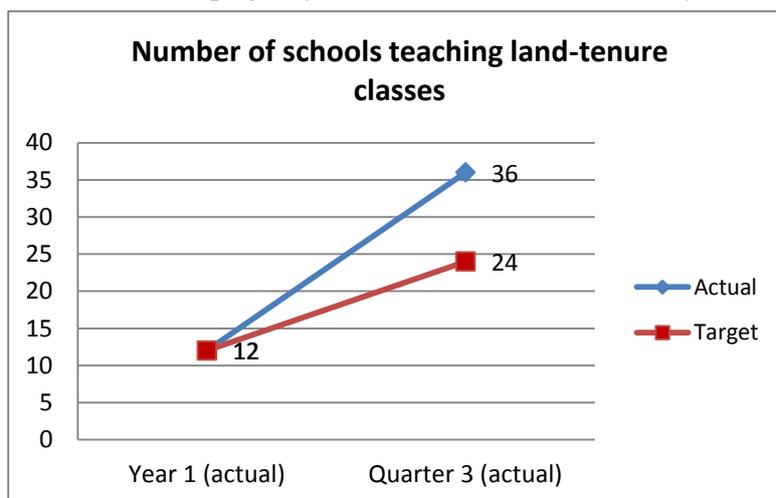
**1.2 Number of consensus-building forums (working groups, public-private dialogues, roundtables, etc.) held with project support.** *The number of meetings, roundtables, forums, and other venues, in which civil sector actors (i.e. legal advocacy representatives, farmers, and others) interact with government officials regarding specific, demand-driven provisions of land policy and legislation.*

20 government public dialogs were held by LRFPR in *jamoats* of ten target districts on Taxation of Dekhkan Farms during the reporting period. 143 round tables were also organized by LRFPR supported LACs during the third quarter of the second project year. A total of 163 consensus-building forums were held during the third quarter, with a cumulative total of 697 for life-of-project. Target for second year of this indicator is in process by 87 %.



**2.2 Number of schools teaching land-tenure classes.** *Represents the number of schools where the project organized teaching land-tenure classes.*

During the third quarter of second year, through the grantee CBO Tajikagrofund, LRFPR conducted extracurricular classes for high school students in 24 pilot schools of 12 project target districts, on basic land issues. Cumulatively in 36 schools land tenure classes have been organized by the project. Target for this indicator for second project year is 24, which is achieved by 150%.



**2.3 Number of people attending USG-assisted facilitated events that are geared toward strengthening understanding and awareness of property rights and resource governance-related issues (STARR, FTF).** *Number of participants of project-facilitated educational events including short-term trainings, school trainings, university courses, roundtables, and other awareness-raising events.*

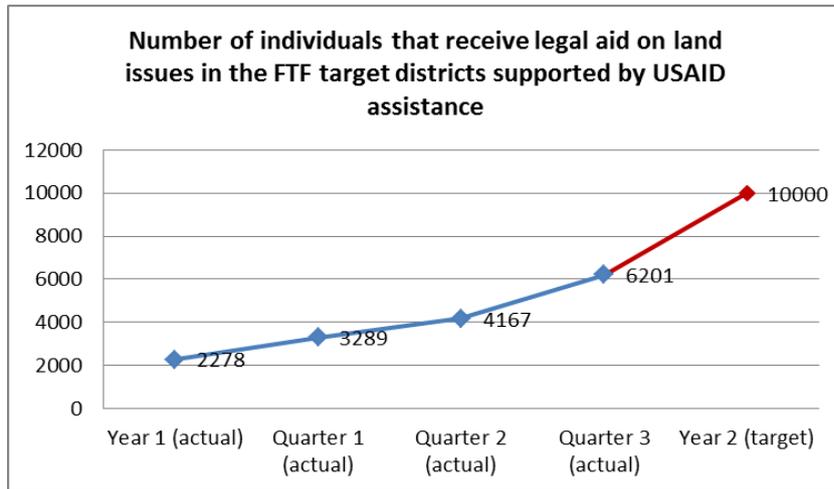
12,437 individuals, including farmers, government officials, school children, university students, etc. participated in events organized by LRFPR, its grantees and project-supported LACs during the reporting period. Target for second year of this indicator is 35,500, which is achieved by 139.6%.

**Table 3. Number of people attending USG-assisted facilitated events that are geared toward strengthening understanding and awareness of property rights**

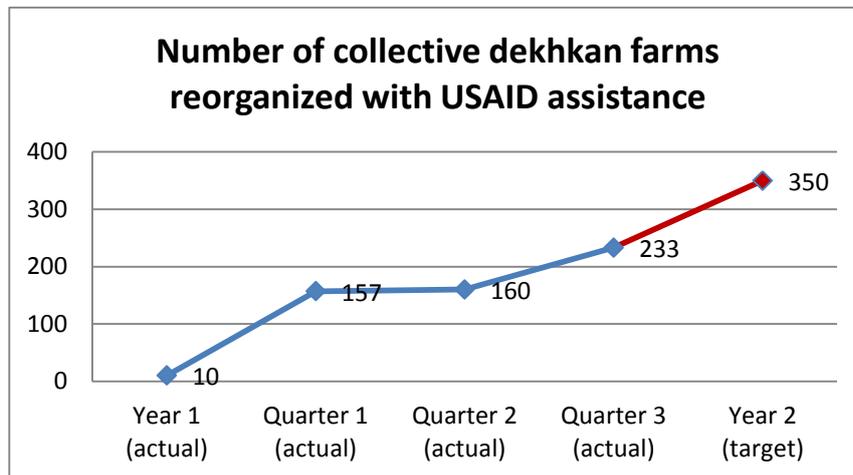
#	District	Trainings for DF/journalists		Focus groups for DF		Seminars for gov officials		Classes for school children/Facultative courses for students		Mini-sessions for women-farmers	Public-private dialogs	
		Total	Fem	Total	Fem	Total	Fem	Total	Fem	Total	Total	Fem
1	Shahritus	816	424	3131	992	154	104	40	21	20	71	36
2	Qabodiyon	567	449	3009	1637	47	23	44	21	22	70	27
3	N. Khisrav	1016	334	2605	1010	98	26	81	51	26	87	17
4	Jilikul	384	183	2236	970	93	26	80	37	15	116	17
5	Jomi	862	439	3551	1954	116	34	20	10	20	71	12
6	Qumsangir	912	283	3408	1164	86	20	79	34	18	99	11
7	Vakhsh	417	324	2616	1190	85	32	41	17	14	98	17
8	Khusoron	769	204	3233	518	107	27	83	43	19	70	35
9	Bokhtar	650	330	3323	1948	193	51	78	19	19	0	0
10	Sarband	575	281	1202	637	151	58	40	22	21	0	0
11	Yovon	994	115	5132	374	137	24	40	9	22	92	5
12	J. Rumi	1121	473	3522	1626	118	35	81	36	20	106	7
13	Dushanbe/Kurghontepa	21	5			181	17	245	49	61		
	TOTAL:	9104		36968		1566		952		297	880	
	<b>GRAND TOTAL:</b>											<b>49767</b>

**2.4 Number of individuals that receive legal aid on land issues in the FTF target districts supported by USAID assistance.** *This is a count of all occurrences of individuals directly consulted by project-supported legal aid centers and tashabuskors, and also individuals who receive court representation and other paid services.*

In third quarter of second year 1044 individuals received legal consultations from LACs lawyers and 975 from *tashabuskors*. Also, two court representations were provided and 13 conflicts were resolved by LACs lawyers. Cumulatively 6201 individuals received legal aid on land issues. Target for this indicator for second year is 10,000, which is in process by 62%.

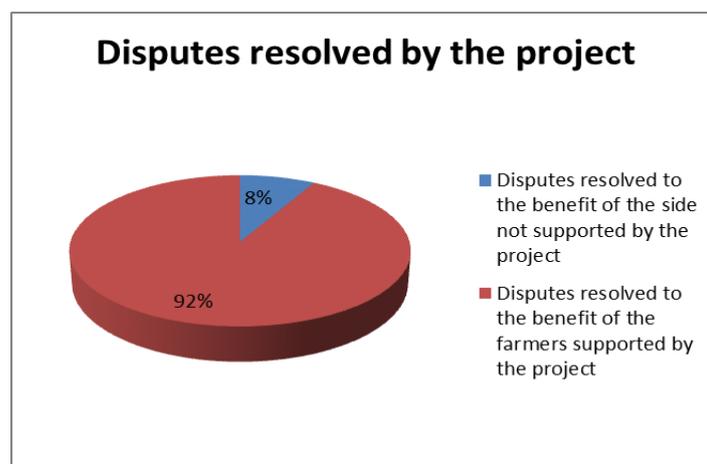


**2.5 Number of collective dekhkan farms reorganized with USAID assistance.** *Number of collective dekhkan farms reorganized with USAID assistance in the FTF target districts.* During the third quarter of second project year with assistance of LRFPR's LACs 73 collective dekhkan farms were reorganized. Cumulatively 233 collective dekhkan farms were reorganized by the project, which makes 66.6 % of the target for second year (350 dekhkan farms) for this indicator.



**2.6 Percent of disputes resolved to the benefit of the farmers supported by the project.** *The project will measure the percent of resolved disputes to the benefit of farmers from the total number of disputes that were registered at LACs*

Out of total 62 disputes including conflicts and court cases registered by project-supported LACs, 57 (92%) were resolved to the benefit of the farmers supported by the project. Target for this indicator for second year is that 60% of resolved disputes should be to the benefit of farmers supported by the LACs, which is achieved by 157%.



**3.1 Percent of cost of LAC services which are covered through fees.** *Tracks the services provided by legal aid centers for fees as a percentage of overall operating budget in order to measure sustainability progress.*

During the third quarter of the second year 9.45% of the overall operating budget of LACs was covered through fees. Due to the challenges that LACs faced with providing paid services in second quarter, cumulative percentage of costs covered through fees makes 8.18%, which is 54.4 % of the target for second year (15%).

**Table 4 : Services provided by legal aid centers for fees**

CBO	District	Overall operating budget	Fees received for services	% of cost of LAC services covered through fees
Navzamin	J. Rumi	23680	700	2.96
Navzamin	Qumsangir	23680	890	3.76
Mahbuba	Vakhsh	23930	920	3.84
Ilhom	Jomi	25000	1000	4.00
Ilhom	Bokhtar	25000	1110	4.44
Ilhom	Sarband	18400	1460	7.93
Arbitrage	Yovon	26960	5960	22.11
Arbitrage	Khuroson	22760	4850	21.31
Bonuvoni Fardo	N. Khisrav	19720	710	3.60
Bonuvoni Fardo	Shahrirus	22360	1340	5.99
<b>Total</b>		<b>231490</b>	<b>18940</b>	<b>8.18</b>

**3.3 Number of local government officials supported by USG assistance related to land tenure and property rights in FTF zone of influence.** *Tracks number of local government officials from relevant key institutions that participated in educational and consensus-building events. Relevant key institutions include organizations affiliated with the SUI “State registration of immovable property”, regional committees on land management, tax offices, departments of agriculture, local executive authorities, local self-government bodies and etc., at village, jamoat (sub-district), district and regional levels in the targeted FTF districts.*

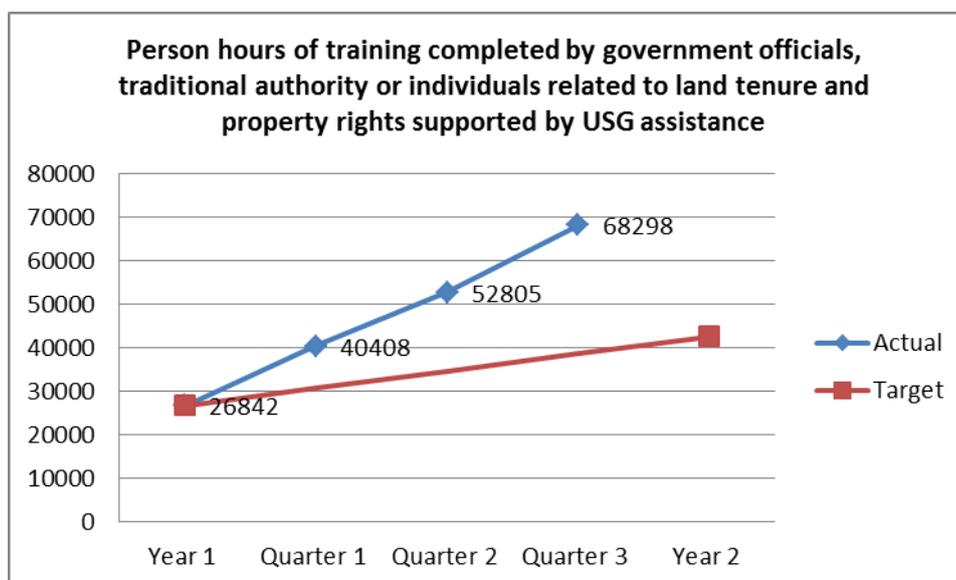
During the reporting period 229 local government officials participated in events organized by LRRFP supported LACs and grantees. Cumulatively 1566 government officials participated in

projects' conducted events, which makes 142% of the target for the second year for this indicator (1100 individuals).

Table 5: Number of local government officials supported by USG assistance related to land tenure and property rights		
Type of event	Total Participants	Female
Seminars for local government officials conducted by the LACs	979	327
Training on the legal basis of state registration of immovable property and rights to it for employees of SUERIP	176	13
Seminars for local government officials on women rights to land	222	121
Seminar for judges of the Supreme Economic Court and subordinate courts on Judicial review of land disputes in practice	40	13
Study tour for districts' SUERIP directors	22	0
Inter - ministerial Working Group members	8	1
Seminars for press secretaries of the government agencies	13	2
Trainings for practicing lawyers and local government officials on Basis of Tajik Land Legislation	106	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1566</b>	<b>479</b>

**3.4 Person hours of training completed by government officials, traditional authority or individuals related to land tenure and property rights supported by USG assistance (STARR).** Represents hours spent by all participants (government officials or land users) in educational events. Calculated by multiplying the duration of training by number of participants.

During the reporting period 15,226 hours of training was completed by the participants of project's organized events. Target for this indicator for second year is 42,600 hours, which is achieved by 159.7%.



**Special reporting**

On June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015 a modification to STARR IQC was executed, which includes six new indicators to be included if applicable. Out of these six indicators, four (i, ii, v, vi) are new indicators which are not in PMEP and the other two indicators are already reported on (iii – 1.1

above, iv – 2.3 above). In order to provide information on applicable indicators, this section is added to the report.

According to the information that LRFPR is collecting, at this time the project can report on one of the new indicators (v – please see below).

**v. The number of disputed land and property rights cases resolved by local authorities, contractors, mediators or courts as a result of USG assistance.**

Table 6 : Type of land conflict and resolution supported by LRFPR			
LAC	District	Court case	Mediation/Agreement of parties
Navzamin	J. Rumi	1	22
Navzamin	Qumsangir	0	9
Mahbuba	Vakhsh	2	3
Ilhom	Jomi	0	1
Ilhom	Sarband	0	1
Arbitrage	Yovon	1	0
Arbitrage	Khuroson	3	5
Zarnisor	Qabodiyon	2	1
Tajagrofond	Jilikul	1	1
Bonuvoni Fardo	N.Khisrav	0	3
Bonuvoni Fardo	Shahritus	2	4
<b>Total</b>		<b>12</b>	<b>50</b>



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**TAJIKISTAN**

## SUCCESS STORY

# USAID Engages Tajik Youth in the Land Reform Process

**USAID Land Reform and Farm Restructuring Project introduces land rights in the high school curriculum**



USAID Land Reform and Farm Restructuring Program

Extracurricular class conducted by the USAID LRFPR grantee PO *Tajagrofond* at school #3 in the Bokhtar district. June 2, 2015



USAID Land Reform and Farm Restructuring Program

Sharif Sangov gives an interview on extracurricular class conducted by the USAID LRFPR at school # 3, June 1, 2015

The USAID Land Reform and Farm Restructuring Project (LRFPR) is focused on increasing the role of youth in the land reform process in Tajikistan. In order to increase public information dissemination about the land reform and farm restructuring process, LRFPR identified a secondary schools in Khatlon region to include land-use rights courses in the curriculum on a trial basis. From June 1-4, 2015 high school students were for the first time familiarized with the land reform process in Tajikistan. These are the first extracurricular classes conducted on issues related to land reform in Tajikistan. The current legal studies curriculum doesn't include information about the land reform process in Tajikistan or the rights and responsibilities of citizens in this process.

Sharif Sangov, a high school legal studies teacher for the past 10 years, said, "Taking into consideration that young people in rural areas often contribute to their household farming activities and are considered as potential future shareholders, there is a crucial need to inform young people about the main steps and achievements in the land reform process in Tajikistan."

In this regard, the project developed a brochure on land-related issues, based on the results of an analysis and poll among teaching staff and 10<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> grade students conducted in August 2014. The brochure covers important information such as what the land reform is, its main outcomes and results, land-use rights of shareholders, and steps on how to create a dehkan farm. The project conducted 36 extracurricular classes in 36 pilot schools of the Feed the Future regions. As a result, 707 high school students, including 335 girls, 34 teaching staff, and 26 parents increased their knowledge on their rights to land.

"All my colleagues support the idea to widen the legal studies and introduce basic land issues to the current curriculum. None of the high school children knows about the land reform process in Tajikistan, in particular about their land use rights and the benefits they can get. Extracurricular classes are the first step forward that promotes land reform in Tajikistan and creates a knowledge platform for younger generations", added Mr. Sangov.

Based on the success of these classes, the project is now negotiating with the Tajik Ministry of Education to incorporate land-related issues into the existing high school curriculum.

## ANNEX III. PROJECT BRIEF



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# USAID Land Reform and Farm Restructuring Project

### Budget

\$5.4 million

### Duration

October 2013 – September 2016

### Implementing organization

Chemonics International Inc.

### Chynara Arapova

Chief of Party

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Extracurricular classes at the Tajik Finance and Economic Institute for students of the management and economic law department conducted by the LRFPR grantee, Public Organization *Huquq va Rushdi Jomeai Dehot*. June 4, 2015



Mr. Kholnazar Mallaev, the head of department on entrepreneur taxation of Khatlon region and Mr. Rakhmatulo Murodov, the head of LAC *Navzamin* explaining the farmers the order and procedures of paying taxes in farms. PPD in Qumsangir, June 11, 2015

USAID Land Reform and Farm Restructuring Project  
140/1, Khabib Ahrori Street  
Dushanbe, Tajikistan, 734001

**Last updated : June 2015**

### Project objective

Within the U.S. Government's Feed the Future Initiative, the USAID Land Reform and Farm Restructuring Project (LRFPR) supports farm restructuring and recognition of property rights in Tajikistan. USAID supports ongoing progress in land tenure leading to land-use market, with a special focus on more secure land rights for smallholder farmers and women.

### Situation and solution

Advancing agriculture sector growth holds the potential to reduce poverty and improve food security in rural areas. The completion of agrarian reform, including land reform, is a strategic policy objective of the Tajik Government to increase incomes and improve nutrition outcomes. To advance agrarian reform, USAID helps farmers acquire and secure land rights, and the Government of Tajikistan to reform land policies and regulations.

The USAID Land Reform and Farm Restructuring Project supports the advancement of policy and legal developments related to land rights, increasing awareness of land use rights among rural citizens and stakeholders, simplifying the registration procedure for acquisition of land-use certificates, and strengthening government capacity to monitor and implement land reform.

### Project Accomplishments

During the midterm of the project, the USAID Land Reform and Farm Restructuring Project achieved the following results:

- Hosted and facilitated 13 inter-ministerial working group meetings to promote with the Law on Dehkan Farm and the four regulations
- Hosted two Development Coordination Committee (DCC) Land Working Group Meeting involving representative from the partner organizations to promote the rights of alienation and discuss LRFPR Subsidiary Plots Strategy
- Organized a study to the Sughd region for 22 SUERIP officials to familiarize participants from the Khatlon region with the experience of Sughd province in farm restructuring, creation of dehkan farms and the process of obtaining certificates
- Conducted three trainings for 15 press secretaries and three training for 20 journalists in order to improve participants' communications and public relations skills
- Organized 40 public private dialogue events on farm restructuring and taxation in dehkan farms in 12 FTF districts for 880 farmers out of which 184 were women farmers
- Conducted 28 extracurricular classes on Basis of land legislation in Tajikistan for 245 students of the management and economic law department at the Tajik Finance and Economic Institute for students
- Tashabuskors and LACs conducted 2179 focus group discussions, 677 round tables, 630 trainings and 109 seminars for local officials. In addition, LACs and local activists provided 6201 consultations and legal assistance to farmers and resolved 50 land disputes through mediation and 12 cases in courts.

## ANNEX IV. MEDIA

During the reporting period, LRFPR covered and broadcasted the following events:

CMT covered first training sessions conducted by LRFPR's grantee Public Organization NANSMIT for 15 press secretaries and 20 journalists in April 24-25, 2015.

1. Agroinform tj newspaper, issued on May 12 2015
2. TV Jahonnamo, May 14, 2015
3. Radio channel Radioi Tojikiston, May 26, 2015

A study to the Sughd region from April 21-24, 2015, which was organized by the LRFPR in order to familiarize participants from the Khatlon region with the experience of Sughd province in farm restructuring, creation of dehkan farms and the process of obtaining certificates was covered by

1. Agroinform tj newspaper, issued on May 12, 2015
2. Radio channel Radioi Tojikiston, April 28, 2015

CMT reported on the first developed textbook in Tajikistan on Basis of Tajik Land Legislation and the start of extracurricular classes at the Tajik Finance and Economic Institute for students of the management and economic law department at the Tajik Finance and Economic Institute

1. Agroinform tj newspaper, issued on June 12, 2015
2. TV Jahonnamo, June 18, 2015
3. Radio channel Radioi Tojikiston, June 16, 2015

CMT produced a plot on conducted by the LRFPR grantee *Tajagrofond* extracurricular classes in 24 schools in the FTF/T districts.

1. Agroinform tj newspaper, issued on June 12 2015
2. TV Jahonnamo, June 18, 2015
3. Radio channel Radioi Tojikiston, June 16, 2015

Additionally, CMT produced and broadcasted a plot on organized from June 8-19, 2015, 20 public private dialogue events on taxation in dehkan farms in Khatlon region. This event will be broadcasted through TV Jahonnamo and Radio channel Radioi Tojikistan in July 2015.



CMT covers extracurricular class conducted by the USAID LRFPR grantee PO Huquq va Rusldi Jomeai Dehot Dehot (Law and Development of Rural Communities) at the Tajik Finance and Economic Institute June 5, 2015



TV CMT highlights an extracurricular class conducted by the USAID LRFPR grantee PO Tajagrofond at school # 3 of Bokhtar district on June 3, 2015



TV CMT interviewing Sharif Sangov, a teacher of legal science at school # 3, Bokhtar district. June 3, 2015