USAID AGRO HORIZON PROJECT
QUARTERLY REPORT

YEAR 2, QUARTER 1, FY 2016

OCTOBER 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2015

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USAID AGRO HORIZON PROJECT
QUARTERLY REPORT

OCTOBER 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2015

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ABBREVIATIONS

ABSP  Agricultural Business Service Provider
ASP  Agricultural Service Providers
AIRD  Associates for International Research and Development
AMEP  Activity Monitoring and Evaluation Plan
EMMP  Environmental Monitoring and Mitigation Plan
EAEU  Eurasian Economic Union
GGPAS  Good Governance and Public Administration Strengthening
GOKR  Government of the Kyrgyz Republic
HICD  Human and Institutional Capacity Development
KR  Kyrgyz Republic
M&E  Monitoring and Evaluation
MOA  Ministry of Agriculture
PMC  Pasture Management Committee
RAS  Rural Advisory Service
SME  Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise
STICKS  Scalable Tracker for Imparting Certified Knowledge and Skills
SUN  Scaling up Nutrition
TOT  Training of Trainers
SPRING  Strengthening Partnerships, Results, and Innovations in Nutrition Globally
USAID  United States Agency for International Development
VC  Value Chain
VHS  Village Health Committees
WASH  Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
WUA  Water User Association
ZOI  Zone of Influence
I. INTRODUCTION

ACDI/VOCA, with subcontractors Helvetas and AIRD, is pleased to submit the Quarterly Report for the USAID Agro Horizon Project for the period October 1 – December 31, 2015. This report is organized according to the quarterly report requirements listed in section F.5.4. of the above referenced contract number.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

In order to sustainably reduce poverty and promote agricultural economic growth, the USAID Agro Horizon Project (referred to as Agro Horizon or the Project here forward) aims to:

1. Increase productivity of agricultural producers and link them to markets (Task 1: Productivity)
2. Increase productivity and markets for agribusiness (Task 2: Marketing)
3. Improve the enabling environment for agriculture sector growth
4. Improve nutritional status of women and children in the zone of influence (ZOI)

PROGRAMMATIC APPROACH

Year 2 activities build on the successes from Year 1 interventions that were designed to identify program opportunities. Successful pilot programs were expanded, including value chain concepts, and where entry points were identified, new activities will be developed going forward.

Year 2 onward, program activities are broken down into two main categories; value chain activities and supporting activities. Supporting activities include productivity and marketing (Tasks 1 and 2) activities that are not incorporated into value chain activities, as well as enabling environment (Task 3) and nutrition (Task 4) activities. Crosscutting elements including gender and environmental compliance are integrated throughout each value chain, and in some cases supporting activities.

GEOGRAPHIC ZONES OF INFLUENCE

The geographic focus of the project is defined as the entirety of Naryn, Jalalabad, Osh, and Batken oblasts.

QUARTERLY CUMULATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Value Chain Concepts

This quarter focused heavily on the development of value chain activities, setting the foundation for future work. Agro Horizon identified and narrowed down priority value chains that present the most viable opportunities for engaging smallholder farmers and improving the value chain to realize market opportunities. These value chains were selected based on information from value chain assessments, market research, stakeholder discussions, and initial grant activities.

Value chain concepts developed during the reporting period and submitted to USAID for approval include seed and ware (eating) potatoes, apricot, onion, maize and nursery (fruit trees).
Value chain concepts under development during the period include livestock, gender sensitive agriculture (berries), and nutrition improvement kitchen gardening.

**Project Fund Activities**
Six of the twelve initial grants carried over into Year 2. Of these six grants, four were completed during the reporting period. The remaining two will continue into Year 2. All three subcontracts that carried over into Year 2 are now completed.

These grants and subcontracts provided economic analysis, lessons learned and recommendations that helped, in part, to formulate some of the value chain concepts.

Through these grants and subcontracts, Agro Horizon reached 4,396 smallholder farmers (47 percent are women) with a combination of capacity building and facilitation market linkages throughout the crop season.

**SUCCESS STORY**
Seed potato pilot plot doubles farmers’ harvest income in Chong Alai region

Improvements in agricultural practices along with better access to seed potatoes will propel the local economy

Potatoes are known as the “second bread” in Kyrgyzstan. They are a main staple of food during the harsh winter, especially in the mountainous regions of Chong Alai in the south. Sultanali Abdubaliev has been growing eating (ware) potatoes for years but his crop yields have been decreasing with each passing harvest. Mr. Abdubaliev replants part of his harvest as seed potatoes, a common practice among farmers that don’t have access to seed potatoes. Eating potatoes are prone to disease and have lower production rates compared to seed potatoes. With decreasing yields, it was harder and harder to subsist on the amount of potatoes he was harvesting.

Mr. Abdubaliev knew of the benefits of planting seed potatoes – that their disease resistance leads to higher yields but he didn’t know where to get them. When he learned of the USAID Agro Horizon Project’s initiative to provide higher quality inputs to local farmers, in this case seed potatoes, he jumped at the chance. He led a group of 11 farmers to spearhead a pilot project where their individual plots were planted half with seed potatoes and the other half with regular eating potatoes.

Mr. Abdubaliev and the other pilot plot farmers also received training on planting techniques, soil fertility, disease and pest prevention, harvesting techniques and cold storage methods.

Mr. Abdubaliev’s post harvest sales spoke volumes. Profits from seed potato sales were KGS 517,500 (about 7,200 USD) compared to KGS 280,000 (about 3,900 USD).

“Learning better agricultural practices coupled with high quality seed potatoes doubled my profit. In just one harvest, we doubled our income. To me, that means security and stability for my family during times of crisis,” says Mr. Abdubaliev on this year’s harvest of seed potatoes.

The group of farmers will continue to work together by starting an informal seed breeding cooperative. Seed potatoes grown at high elevations are more disease and pest resistant, an important competitive advantage for them when they sell seed potatoes to low-lying potato farmers next season.

The USAID Agro Horizon Project aims to raise smallholder farmers’ incomes by expanding markets and increasing the competitiveness.
AGRO HORIZON RESULTS FRAMEWORK

The Agro Horizon results framework describes the development hypothesis presented in the Year 2 work plan. It shows cause-and-effect linkages between higher-level objectives, intermediate results, and the activities designed to achieve them. It also includes critical assumptions essential to successful implementation.

The Agro Horizon results framework illustrates how the project aims to promote changes in the target value chains in order to spur economic growth that increases incomes and reduces hunger, poverty, and undernutrition. Using a facilitative, market-systems approach, Agro Horizon will:

1. Increase agricultural productivity and link producers to markets
2. Increase productivity and markets for agribusinesses
3. Improve enabling environment for agriculture sector growth
4. Improve nutritional status of women and children in the zone of influence
Agro Horizon Results Framework:

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<tr>
<th>GOAL</th>
<th>RESULTS</th>
<th>INTERMEDIATE RESULTS</th>
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<td>Increased productivity of agricultural producers &amp; linkages to markets</td>
<td>Increased farm incomes</td>
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<td>Increased productivity for agribusinesses</td>
<td>Increased pro-dutivity in smallholder farmers in selected value chains</td>
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<td>Improved enabling environment for agriculture sector growth</td>
<td>Increased market linkages for farmers</td>
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<td>Improved nutritional status of women &amp; children in the zone of influence</td>
<td>Increased market share in domestic &amp; export markets of the selected value chains</td>
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<td>Accelerated Growth of a Diversified &amp; Equitable Agriculture Sector</td>
<td>Improved market access</td>
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<td>Increased demand for raw materials from smallholders</td>
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<td>Reduced barriers to international markets</td>
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<td>Increased utilization of business marketing &amp; financial planning skills by agribusinesses</td>
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2. IMPLEMENTATION- VALUE CHAIN ACTIVITIES

CROP I: LIVESTOCK

VALUE CHAIN OBJECTIVES

Agro Horizon aims to work with farmers and pasture management committees (PMCs), to improve their knowledge on pasture management strategies, segregation of herds, and feeding rations in order to increase the quality and production of livestock milk and meat.

ACHIEVEMENTS, PROGRESS TO DATE, AND DEVIATIONS

Livestock Value Chain Concept (Under Development)

The majority of the quarter focused on defining the concept for the livestock value chain that is still under development. In December, Nicolas Van Wageningen, an international expert in livestock conducted an assessment to identify bottlenecks and entry points for possible interventions in the value chain, including livestock feeding and pasture management techniques.

2.2.1 Identify Regional And National Market Opportunities

The livestock assessment identified opportunities to improve the value chain including artificial insemination, grazing practices, and feed rations to increase yield and incomes of farmers. This increase in the supply of quality raw milk will be met by the demand from milk processors.

2.1 Increase SME Competitiveness And 1.1 Identify Producer Groups

As part of the livestock value chain assessment, farmers and pasture management committees (PMCs) in Osh and Naryn oblasts were interviewed. The information gathered was used to draft the livestock value chain concept. Specifically, farmers named improved infrastructure, particularly bad roads to remote pastures, as the main issue that leads to overgrazing on nearby pastures (as in case of Besh Konush pastureland in Kara Suu region). Farmers also indicated that imbalanced feed rations are a main constraint that limits yield. As such, the consultant trained relevant Agro Horizon staff on feed ration composition calculation using specialized software, to further disseminate this knowledge among ASPs and farmers.

The consultant made the following livestock recommendations for the Besh Konush region:

- Financial support to the construction of a bridge at entry point to Besh Kunush allowing earlier access to pastures, leading to faster gains;
- Coach three pasture management committees (PMCs) using Besh Kunush as a pilot in preparing more detailed and more effective pasture management plans;
- Construction of a livestock dip and vaccination area, including a weighing station to treat livestock entering Besh Kunush (vaccination and deworming) could be greatly enhanced with a livestock handling facility.
The consultant recommended a feeding trial with 60 cows in Kara Suu rayon in Osh oblast in order to demonstrate increased milk and meat production resulting from recommended feeding rations.

**CROP 2: POTATO**

**VALUE CHAIN OBJECTIVES**

Based on the successful implementation of R2 potato pilot demonstration plots in Chon-Alai in Year 1, Agro Horizon intends to expand the activity to reach more R2 potato-growing farmers and ware potato producers. The objective of the potato value chain concepts is to expand Year 1 pilot activities to 1) include more farmers in the original location and (Concept 1), and 2) to expand the pilot project into a new geographic zone (Concept 2). Both activities aim to increase productivity of seed and ware (eating) potato by increasing the demand for second reproduction (R2) seed potatoes and strengthening the cooperation between seed potato producers and ware potato growers.

**ACHIEVEMENTS, PROGRESS TO DATE, AND DEVIATIONS**

**Potato Value Chain Concept 1 (Approved)**

December was dedicated to developing the first potato value chain concept, concluding in a work plan, budget, and selection criteria for farmers and beneficiaries that was approved by USAID. The new concept expands R2 seed potato suppliers in Chon-Alai from 11 to 30 and low-lying ware potato producers in Aravan and Kara-Suu from 100 to 500. Several meetings with R2 seed potato suppliers and low-lying ware potato producers took place to identify the potential to expand. Meetings took place with the Year 1 implementing partner to determine their interest in conducting the proposed expanded activity.

**Potato Value Chain Concept 2 (Submitted to USAID and under consideration)**

December was dedicated to developing the second potato value chain concept, concluding in a work plan, budget, and selection criteria for farmers and beneficiaries that was submitted to and is under consideration by USAID. The new concept takes last year’s model and expands it to three new locations within the ZOI: Jalalabad, Batken and Naryn for a total of 520 farmers. In order to determine interest in expanding the model, meetings were held in all three regions with a variety of ASPs, individual farmers and cooperatives that produce R2 seeds, and ware potatoes producers.

**CROP 3: APRICOT**

**VALUE CHAIN OBJECTIVES**

The main objective of the apricot value chain interventions is to increase the production and the quality of final apricot products resulting in higher prices in Batken. Economic data shows that apricot farmers’ gross margins could be doubled if agronomic practices were applied.
ACHIEVEMENTS, PROGRESS TO DATE, AND DEVIATIONS

Apricot Value Chain Concept (Approved)
A value chain assessment took place in November and December resulting in the apricot value chain concept, including a work plan, budget, and selection criteria for farmers and beneficiaries that was approved by USAID. The technical expert, together with project staff, conducted meetings with local state authorities, ABSPs, and agricultural input suppliers to develop four tender documents and the scope of work: 1) for project implementation (identifying the contractor); 2) for plant protection input supply; 3) for fertilizer supply; and 4) for spraying services. By mid-December, the first tender was announced and three proposals were received by month’s end. The proposals will be re-viewed in January and the remaining tenders will be announced in January and February.

2.2.1 Identify Regional And National Market Opportunities and 1.3 Increase Saleable Yield
The study revealed the majority of Kyrgyz apricots are sold on the international market, primarily in Kazakhstan and Russia. Current production practices result in low quality apricots reducing the saleable yield. The project aims to improve the production capacity of farmers resulting in increased saleable yields on regional and national markets. Meetings with ASPs and input suppliers recommended specific agrotechnology including proper pruning, fertilization, plant protection and harvest techniques.

Pruning Activity
In December, Agro Horizon requested a Farmer-to-Farmer apricot pruning specialist to help beneficiary farmers to prune their trees as a requirement for their participation in the above-mentioned value chain support. This activity will take place in February, the critical point when apricot trees need to be properly pruned.

CROP 4: ONION

VALUE CHAIN OBJECTIVES
Agro Horizon plans to increase yield and profits of onion farmers in Batken, Osh and Jalalabad oblasts. Agro Horizon will promote the production of onion using hybrid seeds and better fertilizer application, plant protection and post-harvest handling practices. Expected results of Agro Horizon’s interventions are an increase in yield per hectare from 40 tons to 80 tons and farmers’ gross margin will increase by almost 100%. The onion value chain plan envisages demonstration of improved practices, offered by Agro Horizon with direct involvement of 1000 onion farmers, or 500 households.

ACHIEVEMENTS, PROGRESS TO DATE, AND DEVIATIONS
Onion Value Chain Concept (Under Consideration By USAID)
In November, onion production specialist Mohammad Abdel Salem conducted a study of the production capacity of local farmers in relation to meeting export market demand and buyers’ requirements. The study revealed that yield was comparable to global averages, quality of onion was good, storage was adequate and that farmers were open to implement improved practices. At the same time, the study revealed several challenges such as poor seed quality, lack of knowledge, and low-level of mechanization. The final recommendation was to focus on the production side rather than investing in promotion or identifying more buyers. Agro Horizon’s onion value chain concept aims to enhance production capacities of onion farmers.
2.2.1 Identify Regional And National Market Opportunities
The study also revealed that although there was some demand for dried onions in Russia, there were no domestic facilities for drying onions. High cost of drying facilities and lower returns are cited among the reasons that most of the yield is sold fresh. Agro Horizon will further study potential markets for locally grown onions and retrieve more marketing data with overarching goal of facilitating market linkages between farmers and buyers.

2.1 Increase SME Competitiveness And 1.1 Identify Producer Groups
The study also identified major actors in the onion value chain, including inputs and machinery services suppliers, whole traders, storage and ABSPs. Agro Horizon will competitively select input, machinery and training service providers, with aim to increase their market competitiveness.. In the course of the project, these providers will also increase their knowledge and management practices through trainings and technical guidance by Agro Horizon. Tenders will be issued throughout Year 2 as per project needs.

2.1.3 Facilitate Market Linkages, 1.3 Increase Saleable Yield, And 1.4 Access To Inputs And Services For Producer Groups
Initially, Agro Horizon planned to conduct regional roundtables to facilitate collaboration between farmers, inputs suppliers and buyers in October-December, assuming roundtables would help participants establish business ties. However, Agro Horizon opted for demonstrations as more efficient matchmaking vehicle, which will take place several times through the year unlike one-time events like roundtables.

In accordance with the onion value chain concept, Agro Horizon will select 20 farmers to have them establish demonstration plots. The concept contains criteria for selection of farmers, locations, size of demo plots, timetable and topics of demonstrations, costs of establishing demo plots and ABSP services.

As provisioned in the concept, interventions aim to improve access to inputs and services by demonstrating the advantages of scientifically proven agrotechnics, hybrid seeds, and two-wheel machines brought to demo plots, which will show farmers the advantages of using better quality seeds and machinery which will lead to improved farming practices.

CROP 5: MAIZE

VALUE CHAIN OBJECTIVES
Livestock farming is a significant economic activity in Kyrgyzstan. Maize is a main forage crop, primarily used for livestock feed. Maize production has steadily increased over the last decade as livestock numbers rise. Exports to neighboring Tajikistan also contribute to the increase in maize production. The project aims to increase saleable yield of maize producers by introducing hybrid maize production techniques with a specific focus on linking producers to quality seed input suppliers and providing technical assistance.

ACHIEVEMENTS, PROGRESS TO DATE, AND DEVIATIONS
Maize Value Chain Concept (Approved with Comments)
The maize value chain concept focuses on increasing maize yields through extension services to increase knowledge of production practices and new technologies, machinery services and packages of agricultural inputs to the farmers.
The maize value chain activity aims to cover 2,200 farmers with a plot of 0.5 hectare (1100 hectares) in two southern regions; Jalalabad with 1200 farmers and Osh with 1000 farmers. In December, the team prepared the value chain concept and budget, and determined the selection criteria for farmers and beneficiaries.

1.1 Identify Producer Groups
During this quarter, farmers in the target regions were surveyed 1) to determine their commitment to the maize value chain for grain, and 2) to gauge their willingness to take interest free loans.

A total of 263 farmers were interviewed in Osh oblast and the vast majority confirmed their participation in the maize value chain activity, including the terms of a non-interest loan. The survey revealed that average maize yields among these farmers reaches 4.5 to 6.5 tons per hectare. Just over 50 percent the farmers grow a local variety (Manas 1000 Alatoo), about 20 percent do not know what kind of corn they grow, and the remaining 25 percent grow Chinese, American or Kazakh hybrids. 40-45 percent of the farmers indicated that they currently have loans.

In the Kadamjai rayon of Batken oblast 89 farmers were similarly interviewed. It was noted that most farmers in Kadamjai rayon plant maize on 0.20ha to 2ha. Some of the farmers indicated that they want to participate in the project; however, they do not want to take loans due to religious beliefs. In this case, project offers grant opportunities based on leverage mechanism.

In Jalalabad oblast, 80 percent of the 311 farmers interviewed confirmed they want to participate in the maize activity. Farmers are eager to learn and use modern technologies on maize cultivation, and are willing to participate in training and seminars. Some farmers have several years of maize cultivation experience and can share their knowledge and experience.

1.3 Increase Saleable Yield Of Selected Producer Groups
The study revealed that government statistics on maize production put average yields at 5.89 tons/hectare, although Agro Horizon yield baseline puts this figure at a 4.8 tons yield. Agro Horizon believes that the average yield of farmers in the southern regions could conservatively be increased to 10 tons. Analysis indicates that gross margin could double if farmers applied new agronomic practices.

1.4 Improve Producer Group Access To Inputs And Service
Preparatory meetings were held with maize seed suppliers, several ABSPs, and banks related to the maize value chain. The current state of agricultural machinery service providers was studied and their needs identified. The project integrates water management practices into all production activities with the aim of strengthening WUAs. This support is particularly important to maize production, as water is a key component in increasing productivity.

As a result of the study, farmers will be given a package of inputs customized by region. Jalalabad will be given the Pioneer seed package by Bai Jer Ltd, while Osh will be given the Spanish seed package by Team Agro Ltd.

**CROP 6: NURSERY APPLE, APRICOT, PLUM, CHERRY, PEACH**

**VALUE CHAIN OBJECTIVES**

Agro Horizon is building on Year 1 nursery value chain activities and scaling up efforts to strengthen the nursery value chain. One main objective in nursery value chain is the production of certified seedlings. This process will take up to two years and requires establishing a mother garden. Therefore, during Year 2 the Project plans to build foundations for certification of seedlings thus paving the way to sustainable nursery businesses in the ZOI, exports of certified
seedlings, and eventually increase farmers’ incomes. This value chain plans to reach 1000 farmers in Year 2 through demonstrations and training programs.

ACHIEVEMENTS, PROGRESS TO DATE, AND DEVIATIONS

Nursery Value Chain Concept (Under Consideration By USAID)
Agro Horizon studies reveal that currently there are nurseries in Kadamjai and Kara Suu regions covering about 300 hectares of total area, involving 350 farmers and producing an annual volume of 2 million seedlings. These nurseries are small – the average size of plots is 0.04 hectare – and farmers are disorganized, which leads to sporadic production, limited financial, marketing and quality management capacities.

Analyses show that without documentation to track the origin of trees, farmers cannot pass the approbation and varietal testing required to certify their seedlings. Uncertified seedlings make it difficult to organize official sales, retain customers, maintain market share, and get a higher margin. Taking into account these factors, Agro Horizon defined that for the time being organizing farmers, improving quality and certifying seedlings are the highest priorities.

The concept is a product of extensive consultations with experts and analysis of both supply side and market side issues. The nursery value chain concept is a foundational document that addresses key issues. Agro Horizon will continue study markets for certified seedlings to make justified marketing decisions when time comes for them.

2.1 Increase SME Competitiveness
In an effort to organize farmers, Agro Horizon supported the creation of a nursery cooperative in Kadamjai region in Year 1. Currently there are only two nursery cooperatives in Agro Horizon’s ZOI, including this cooperative.

The nursery value chain plan for Year 2 contains a wide range of activities aimed at building organizational capacity and increasing competitiveness of nursery cooperatives. To encourage competition, Agro Horizon will support the creation of other cooperatives if nursery farmers are committed. The next step will be the creation of a nursery association that will unite cooperatives and individual farmers.

1.1 Identify Producer Groups
Agro Horizon has identified farmers who are already involved in nursery businesses in Batken (Kadamjai region) and Osh (Kara-Suu, Aravan regions) as well as farmers who are interested in starting up nursery businesses in Jalalabad. Agro Horizon has also identified ABSPs in Batken, Osh and Jalalabad oblasts, who are best suited to mobilize farmers and deliver technical assistance. Agro Horizon will select and hire ABSPs on a competitive basis. These ABSPs will mobilize farmers, build capacity of nursery cooperatives, oversee agricultural works on mother gardens, develop a detailed training program and deliver trainings and consultations for farmers, and develop manuals on technical aspects and certification.

1.4 Increase Producer Groups’ Access To Inputs And Services
Agro Horizon has developed a mother nursery plan with specific cultivars and varieties, acreage, planting schemes, and cost calculations. The plan presumes the establishment of three hectare mother garden in Kadamjai with more than 17,000 rootstocks and 500 bud woods of apple, cherry, plum, apricot, raspberry and black currant. This mother garden will allow farmers to produce certified seedlings enabling them to increase sales and enter export markets.
3. IMPLEMENTATION- SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES

Supporting activities are those that are not embedded within the specific value chains above.

TASK 1: PRODUCTIVITY

TASK OBJECTIVES

Agro Horizon Task 1 activities focus on two interrelated activities—enhancing economic success of smallholders in target value chains and developing a pluralistic advisory services market to improve sustainability of benefits beyond the life of project.

ACHIEVEMENTS, PROGRESS TO DATE AND DEVIATIONS

1.1.3 Improve Member Production Practices

From October 12 -30, 2558 water user association member farmers (71.5% men and 28.5% women) were trained by the Union of Water Users Associations (UWUA) on improving the use of water resources and increasing productivity. Participants learned how to efficiently use water for irrigation based a variety of factors including crop varieties, soil type and quality, landscape, and climate. They also learned how to measure irrigation water based on the water canal location and the volume of water needed for specific crop. In total, 89 trainings were provided in 68 villages in Ka-damjai rayon of Batken oblast, and Aravan, Kara Suu and Chon-Alai rayons of Osh oblast.

Each of the trainings had an add-on session on Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), conducted by UWUA trainers who had received TOT on WASH from the Project.

Project Fund Activities

Grant: Production And Marketing Of Strawberries In Jalalabad Oblast

Quarter 1 activities under this grant included two trainings in October on Economic Analysis of Strawberry Production for strawberry producers in Jazgak and Komintern villages of Nookan rayon attended by 16 strawberry producers. In November, the same training was conducted for strawberry producers in 11 villages of Jalalabad oblast attended by 101 (70 women) beneficiaries. This activity concluded in December with the submission of the final reporting documents.

Over the life of the grant, 150 strawberry farmers formed 13 producer groups. These farmers contributed 50 percent of the cost of the strawberry seedlings they used. The remaining 50 percent was covered through the grant itself. A
field day that gathered 45 people was organized including farmers, local state authorities and media. A networking meeting was arranged introducing farmers and processors.

**Grant: Promoting Multiplication Of Quality Seed Potato In Chon-Alai Rayon**

This grant activity started in Year 1 and concluded in this quarter with the delivery of R2 potato seed cultivated in Chon-Alai to cooperatives in Aravan (39 tons) and Kara Suu (20.8 tons) rayons. Each farmer that purchased potato seeds will plant them in the spring.

As a result of this pilot project activity, 143 tons of potato was harvested; 71.4 tons seed potatoes and 71.6 ware potatoes. Seed potatoes were sold to agricultural cooperatives in Aravan and Kara-Suu rayons and local farmers. Six trainings on topics such as soil preparation, planting techniques, crop protection, and fertilization were provided to 11 pilot seed-producing farmers. Seven rounds of customized coaching were provided directly to farmers during the growing season. A field day with participants and potential seed potato buyers from Aravan, Kara-Suu and Alai rayons was organized in Chon-Alai rayon. Local government representatives, media, and regional seed inspectors participated in the field day as well.

**Grant: Berries, Vegetables And Apricots For Processing And Selling At A Market**

During the reporting period, roughly 300 farmers increased their incomes as a result of direct consultations. 7.5 tons of raspberries were sold to agricultural processing cooperatives. Apricot yields were affected by a frost last spring so these farmers will apply their new knowledge this coming growing season. According to economic analysis of the locally contracted ASP that implemented the grant, 400 beneficiary vegetable farmers increased their incomes resulting from yields that were 20-50 percent higher than average. For example, the average yield of tomatoes in the region is only 30 tons per hectare while the project beneficiaries yielded 50 tons per hectare.

Over the life of the grant, farmer group leaders that received the TOT on quality standards, economics, and marketing directly consulted with 900 farmers, boosting the reach of the new knowledge. At mini field days, 2,128 additional farmers saw first hand how new agricultural products and marketing support affect yields. Local media reported on the grant activities, including TV coverage of the experience of the strawberry farmers and a print article in the local paper.

**Grant: Raspberry Production In An Organic Way And Marketing In Jalalabad Oblast**

This grant activity from Year 1 continued in Quarter 1 with the purchase of raspberry seedlings in November from a local nursery in Chui oblast. After specialists checked the quality of seedlings and supporting documents, they were distributed to 190 farmers in ten villages that received consultations on raspberry planting techniques. Trainings and consultations will continue in April on organic raspberry production.

**Grant: Promotion Of Improved Care For Apricot Trees And Initial Apricot Drying In Batken Oblast**

This Year 1 grant concluded in this quarter with two trainings held in November on Autumn Disease and Pest Prevention and Water Management and Watering Norms for 13 groups of 455 farmers.

As a result of this activity, 13 trainings and consultations were conducted for 281 apricot farmers, farmers’ groups delivered 60 tons of dried apricot to three processors and 79 tons were sold on the fresh market, and three field days were held at the rayon level expanding the reach of the activity. Local media aired a TV program on the practices of apricot production and a newspaper article was published on apricot production.

**Grant: Fruit Nursery Improvement and Formation of Nursery Association**

No activities took place during the quarter.

**Contract: Vegetable Production For Increasing Incomes And Nutrition In Mountainous Rayons**

In October, six trainings and consultations on “Economic Analysis of Vegetable Production” were provided for 316 participating farmers in 18 villages of Alai and Kara-Kulja rayons of Osh oblast. These mountainous farmers either
kept their vegetable harvest for own consumption or sold it at the village level market, to neighbors or to secondary schools. The media published an article in the local newspaper and aired a program about best practices for growing vegetables in mountainous regions.

Introductory trainings on Global GAP were conducted in November for 33 advanced farmers and group leaders in the same region. The trainings familiarized farmers with standards of Global GAP, which is used for the certification of safety of agricultural products throughout the world.

Over the life of the contract, 76 trainings for 31 groups consisting of 470 small vegetable farmers were conducted. Further, 290 consultations and 62 mini field days were held at the village level, and two field days were held with 154 participants on the rayon level.

**Contract: Increasing Incomes From Growing Vegetables And Fruits In Batken Oblast**

In October and November, 113 training for 197 farmers were conducted. Economic Analysis of Vegetable and Fruit Production trainings took place in three rayons of Batken oblast for 12 groups consisting of 180 participants in Leilek rayon. Introductory trainings on Global GAP were conducted for 17 advanced farmers and group leaders. The trainings familiarized farmers with standards of Global GAP, which is used for the certification of safety of agricultural products in the world.

Over the life of the contract, 216 trainings for 36 groups consisting of 550 vegetable farmers and gardeners were held; 72 mini field days organized on the village level; and four field days on the rayon level with 194 participants. Training themes included fruit tree pruning, increase soil fertility, seedling preparation, agrotechnology of vegetable production, use of organic fertilizers, disease and pest management in biological and local methods. As a result of these trainings and organized meetings between farmers and buyers, 65 tons of apple, 30 tons of cucumber, and 21 tons of tomatoes were sold under the agreements to processors. A TV program was broadcast on local TV and a newspaper article was published to disseminate the results of growing apricots, apples and vegetables.

**Contract: Vegetable For Nutrition And Income In Mountainous Areas**

During this quarter, 128 trainings for 1,102 farmers were held in 6 rayons of Naryn oblast and Toguz-Toro rayon in Jalalabad oblast. 32 field days were carried out attended by 733 farmers, 513 were women. Consultative support was also provided to farmers on topics such as technologies of growing vegetables, vegetable care and diseases, prevention of pests, etc. Individual consultations were given to 363 farmers, and 544 farmers received group consultations.

Over the life of the contract, 350 households received informational consultations on soil preparation, vegetable planting, vegetable diseases prevention, farming economics, marketing, and vegetable cultivation. 288 training were conducted, reaching 2,381 participating farmers, 80 percent were women.

**Enhance ASP Ablity To Deliver VC-Critical Topics**

The **advisory service system study** continued into the reporting period. Preliminary findings reveal that there are 20 core rural advisory service organizations, with external financing of over USD 1.4 million, nearly 90 percent of which is donor funded. These core ASPs employ 260 advisers and trainers, most of which work part-time or seasonally. The total of full-time equivalent advisor position is 100. ASPs in the project ZOI have technical expertise in all Agro Horizon value chains, with MTS (machinery technical services) the exception.

Agro Horizon supported a **learning tour on drip irrigation technologies** and markets to Turkey in collaboration with the Helvetas Micro-Irrigation Technology (MIT) project. Fourteen participants across stakeholder groups in the drip irrigation market of Kyrgyzstan took part in the tour including equipment suppliers and installers, technical specialists, a financial institution representative, and the Ministry of Agriculture. The group attended an agricultural exhibition, met with drip irrigation equipment manufacturers and retailers, saw first hand how farmers utilize drip irrigation, met with a logistics company, and met with government representatives.
The tour had two main goals: 1) to learn how a vibrant market for drip irrigation functions and how implementation roles, including government, are distributed, and 2) to learn how to integrate drip irrigation technology, with a focus on large plots. The study tour improved the technical abilities of the drip irrigation suppliers and technical advisory specialists. Exposure to the Turkish drip irrigation market will help to elaborate a Government of the Kyrgyz Republic (GOKR) program on drip irrigation. Upon returning to Kyrgyzstan, the government representatives garnered the support of the Ministry of Agriculture to start the process of developing a working group focusing on the creation of a national program on drip irrigation.

In November and December, the Kyrgyz Republic-Japanese Centre offered short training courses on marketing and financial management. Eleven staff of six ASPs (five in the marketing training and six in the financial management training) attended on a co-financing basis. Seven participants were youth.

**Develop Non-Traditional Service Provider Models**

A desk review to identify non-traditional advisory service provider models with potential for Kyrgyzstan from international practice determined that no silver bullet models exists; however, five case studies were identified that have aspects that provide useful learning for Kyrgyzstan’s system:

1. **Local Service Provider (LSP) model.** In Bangladesh, the Samriddhi project built capacity of community-level service provider dealing with a specific value chain. LSPs provide fee-based technical, business and financial services to farmers. LSPs organize farmers into groups, provide them with information and inputs and support them to sell their produce. LSPs are organized in Service Provider Associations (SPA), where LSPs exchange problems and experiences.

2. **Business Membership Organization (BMO) model.** In Bangladesh, a Local Agri-Business Network intervention built the capacity of local agri-business membership organizations to organize farmer groups and facilitate linkages of existing farmer groups with their member businesses for input supply and with government advisory services for training and consultations. The BMOs also bundle and communicate consultation and information needs from farmer groups to their members and to government advisers. The model is of interest as a complement to the above-described Local Service Provider model.

3. **Agri-clinic and Agri-business Center model.** In India, the government supports the establishment of agripreneurs who are running local agri-clinic and agri-business centers. These centers offer technical advice, access to inputs, and market linkages.

4. **Micro-Finance cum Advisory Services model.** Basix in India combines credit, agricultural and business development and institutional development services to rural communities. Farmer organizations pay for the advisory services.

5. **Profit-sharing Advisory model.** In China, the government seconds agricultural and agri-business specialists to rural areas as advisers. These conclude profit-sharing agreements with farmers, whom they advise on how to improve productivity and profitability. In some cases, these specialists invested their own resources into the clients farming operations.

**1.6 Strengthen Advisory Services Industry**

Research to identify options for advisory services certification system or other quality control systems for advisory services led to the Turkish example. Turkey has a government-managed system that is based on the EU system. The
Turkey model provides certificates to public and private advisory staff based on an exam and two training courses. Turkey subsidizes advisory services to farmers by certified private advisers and monitors the quality of private advisers through regular inspections and interviews with client farmers. Turkey and the related EU models provide elements for an AS certification in Kyrgyzstan. However, the question whether the government or an industry association should operate the system will require intense dialogue with stakeholders.

**TASK 2: MARKETING**

All specific marketing activities that have taken place during the reporting period have been identified above under Value Chain Activities.

**TASK 3: ENABLING ENVIRONMENT**

**TASK OBJECTIVES**

The objective of Task 3 is to improve communication between the GOKR and key stakeholders in the agricultural sector to advance the policy and regulatory environment so that it is favorable to local production, private investment and international trade. In this quarter, Agro Horizon continued laying a significant foundation by working in close coordination with various GOKR departments, private sector stakeholders, financial institutions, other USAID-funded projects, and other foreign development partners.

**ACHIEVEMENTS, PROGRESS TO DATE, AND DEVIATIONS**

**3.1 Support Institutional Reform**

During this quarter, the Agriculture Sector Policy and Regulations road map was developed to improve communication between the public and private sectors, specifically key actors in the GOKR, private sector associations and civil society. The roadmap focuses on institutional development to advance the policy and regulatory environment so that it is favorable to local production, private investment, and international trade.

From a policy perspective, the above-mentioned drip irrigation study tour to Turkey supports the development of a National Program on Drip Irrigation. Several meetings took place regarding the development of a working group comprised of members of the MOA, Agro Horizon and Helvetas MIT Project. The project developed scopes of work and terms of references for potential working group members. Experts will be identified through a competitive bidding process in the next quarter.

**3.2 Simplify Enabling Environment**

Discussions were held with the newly appointed Minister of Agriculture related to the restructuring of the ministry. There is still interest in establishing an inter-agency collaboration, which will be revisited after the approval of the new Ministry of Agriculture structure by the MOA next quarter.

Agriculture development-related meetings took place with newly elected members of Parliament that work with the Committee on Agriculture Policy, Water Resources, Ecology and Regional Development.
Also, during the reporting period, the MOA requested support to protect 1,250 hectare of apricot trees from early spring frost in Batken. The Batken local administration has specifically requested technical support as well as assistance purchasing materials to protect the trees. Agro Horizon requested the MOA to provide a short-list of recommended frost protection techniques, including cost efficiency, effectiveness, and environmental compliance. Collaboration will continue into the next quarter.

3.4 Increase Financial Products
In this quarter, the maize value chain concept was developed. Seven banks expressed their interest to participate in the maize program. Four commercial banks were shortlisted, two of which were selected as potential partners in the program. Negotiations with the commercial banks on the partnership agreement took place.

In addition to the meetings with commercial banks, meetings and consultations with the representatives of machinery services providers and farmers (maize growers) were conducted to learn more about their interests in participation in the maize program and their loan needs. Please see the Maize Value Chain section above.

3.4.1 Expand Or Improve Financial Products
Several meetings took place with the representatives of the Bai Tushum Bank and First Microcredit Company to develop new loan products within the maize value chain. Agro Horizon negotiated the partnership agreements with Bai Tushum Bank and First Microcredit Company to provide loans for maize farmers in Osh and Jalalabad oblasts whereby Agro Horizon will cover about 32% of the interest on the loans. Loans will be disbursed directly to the suppliers of inputs and services that will be necessary for farmers to grow hybrid maize on not more than half a hectare per participating farmer. According to the pre-mobilization survey, 90 percent of farmers are interested in taking this type of loan. Also, it is important to note that participating farmers will repay the principal amount of the loan after harvesting and sales of yields.

3.4.2 Expand Mobile Money Services
Within the maize value chain activities and according to the partnership agreements with Bai Tushum Bank and the First Microcredit Company, participating farmers will be able to manage their funds in their bank accounts using "mobile wallet" applications for transactions to pay for inputs and services within the maize value chain activities. Also, according to the partnership agreements, Bai Tushum Bank will provide trainings on financial literacy and use of mobile banking (mobile wallet system) for the participating farmers.

3.4.3 Increase Use Of DCA
Several meetings with the Deputy Chairman and other representatives of the commercial bank "Kyrgyzstan" took place in mid December. The bank representatives were very interested in participating in the DCA program. Further meetings are needed to discuss these activities.

3.5 USAID Forward/Human and Institutional Capacity Development (HICD)
A set of standardized approaches and organizational capacity assessment toolkits were developed in this quarter to support performance improvement activities with various local partner organizations. The Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCA) Handbook was developed to help project staff, local service providers, and other development professionals implement organizational capacity assessments. A facilitator’s guide outlines the steps and activities, processes and methods for facilitating a participatory, organization-led analysis. Guidelines are provided for the assessment of strengths and weaknesses in organizational capacity, identification of capacity development strategies and activities, and development of an institutional strengthening planning. Additional documents that have been developed include a sample participant invitation letter, an overview handout for participants, a list of pre-OCA documents to request and review, and a sample OCA workshop participant evaluation. A draft of the organizational capacity development tool generator has been developed.
3.5.1 Prepare up to 6 organizations for direct funding
Agro Horizon identified the Association of Fruit and Vegetable Enterprises (Food Industry Association of Kyrgyzstan) and the Union of Cooperatives of Kyrgyzstan as potential candidates for USAID Forward. These organizations will undergo an organizational capacity assessment to identify capacity development gaps in the next quarter.

Collaboration With Other USAID Projects/Programs In HICD
Agro Horizon continued its collaboration with other USAID projects in the area of human and institutional capacity development. In particular, on October 30, the Task 3 team participated in a one-day HICD workshop titled “Practical Instruments of Performance Improvement on Examples of Organizations in Kyrgyzstan.” The workshop served as a platform for the development and application of practical tools for improving organizational effectiveness.

From October 20 - 22, the Task 3 team participated in a 3-day training module on HICD. This event was organized within the framework of the yearlong professional development program organized by the USAID GGPAS program for local consultants as well as for related staff of other USAID projects in Kyrgyzstan, including GGPAS, BGI, CGP and the Agro Horizon Project. The HICD manager will use what he learned as he conducts organizational capacity assessments for the USAID Forward component of the project.

TASK 4: NUTRITIONAL STATUS OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN

TASK OBJECTIVES
Agro Horizon aims to narrow the gap between available and accessible food and the food needed for a healthy and balanced diet using a nutrition-sensitive agriculture approach. This is in recognition that improved productivity and competitiveness of the agricultural sector does not automatically lead to improved nutritional outcomes at the household level. The entry point for interventions are the communities (via health committees) and households that are assisted through value chain development activities.

ACHIEVEMENTS, PROGRESS TO DATE AND DEVIATIONS

4.1 Integrate Appropriate Nutrition Messaging Into Agricultural Activities
Agro Horizon integrates nutritional messaging into all agricultural activities so that rural households can transfer the benefits of increased yields and income into improved nutritional and health practices.

4.1.1. Create Add-On SPRING-Based Nutrition Modules To All Agriculture Trainings New Dietary Diversity Add-on Training Module
During the reporting period, SPRING’s dietary diversity training module was adapted and developed into a new add-on training that will be integrated into all value chain trainings in Year 2. The Agro Horizon Nutrition Team participated in a SPRING TOT so that they could in turn build the capacity of the ASP trainers that will provide the add-on training to project beneficiaries. The Nutrition Team helped customize supporting material including a cookbook and a food pyramid.

WASH Add-on Trainings
Water sanitation and hygiene (WASH) add-on sessions were conducted in tandem with 102 trainings for 2,558 farm-ers on proper irrigation methods conducted by the Union of Water Users Association (UWUA). The WASH add-ons taught the five critical moments of washing hands and water sanitation. All participants received a copy of the WASH
poster to hang in their home. The nutrition team monitored 11 trainings in four districts of Osh oblast to ensure quality and identify opportunities to improve the training. Overall, the monitoring visits revealed that while the training topic was well received by the trainees, some trainers scored low on methodology. Immediate feedback was given to the trainers to address the issues. Monitoring efforts will continue to ensure that recommendations are applied and trainings are continuously modified as needed.

New Farm Hygiene Add-on Trainings
For several reasons, WASH add-ons were further refined from trainings on general water and sanitation hygiene practices to cover specific farm-related hygiene practices with a particular focus on the safe handling of pesticides and other chemicals. First, results of the beneficiary survey revealed that 92 percent of project beneficiaries already know three out of the five critical moments for hand washing, indicating that further training on WASH would have diminishing returns.

Secondly, the State Disease Prevention and Sanitary Inspection Department requested support to raise the awareness of proper farm hygiene related to integrated pest management. The Association of Village Health Committees (AVHC) also requested supported on farm hygiene training. And lastly, the government of the Kyrgyz Republic (GOKR) adopted a new national food security program in November that will serve as a roadmap to fulfilling people’s right to food, healthy nutrition, and development. Food safety relative to pesticide and other chemicals used in agricultural production practices is a critical part of this effort, making the farm hygiene add-ons more valuable to farmers, and the broader strategic goals of the country.

The newly developed farm hygiene trainings will be delivered in two ways. First, as a one-hour add-on training to all value chain trainings, and second, as a six-hour stand-alone training delivered by the Association of Village Health Committees (AVHC). All AVHC trainers will take part in a two-day TOT module with handouts so that they can then provide further cascading trainings to more beneficiaries.

4.1.3 Facilitate Home Economic Trainings Through ABSPs
Home Economics add-on trainings were developed during the quarter with the goal of expanding farmers’ ability to budget income with a particular focus on nutrition. This add-on will emphasize the importance for households to allocate money to the purchase and consumption of nutritious foods. Similar to the WASH and nutrition add-on modules, ASPs will be identified on a competitive basis.

Development of a six-hour home economics module for trainings farmers started during the reporting period and will be completed by January and piloted in February. The trainings will reach 3000 households where kitchen gardeners grow vegetables.

4.2 Promote Good Practices
Kitchen Gardening Concept (Submitted To USAID And Under Consideration)
Focus group discussions with beneficiary farmer groups from Year 1 activities conducted in Naryn, Batken, Osh oblasts identified opportunities to expand kitchen gardening activities. Findings indicate that these women farmers were able to feed their families throughout the summer with fresh vegetables, and in some cases, earn extra income selling their vegetables to neighbors. While these farmers are eager to expand their plots, they recognize the need to learn more about dietary diversity, particularly storage, pickling, freezing and preservation techniques for winter.

Based on this research, a kitchen gardening concept was designed with a nutrition-sensitive agriculture approach to expand vegetable production in the high altitude areas of Naryn, Jalalabad, and Osh and Batken oblasts where the summer growing season is short, leaving families without garden vegetables for most of the year.

The proposed initiative targets 3,000 households from four oblasts growing 11 types of vegetables in at least 0.02 hectare plot of land for each household. The goal is to extend the growing season with greenhouses, low plastic tunnels, and seeds specific to mountain regions and use seedlings. The project will strengthen farmers’ technical skills in sustainable multiple cropping of vegetables in small solar greenhouses, hydroponics, off-season production under low plastic tunnels, and storable vegetable production in open kitchen gardens. Farmers will learn household budgeting basics as a part of the home economics training.

4.2.1 Strengthen Village Health Committees And Workers
A six-hour stand-alone training on farm hygiene is currently under development and will be provided by the Association of Village Health Committees to target communities. The cascading training approach not only provides competence to large numbers of health promoters across an entire region or the country, but it also institutionalizes organizational change.

ACDI/VOCA’s innovative tool, called STICKS, which stands for Scalable Tracker for Imparting Certified Knowledge and Skills, was customized for this activity and tested in the northern and southern parts of the ZOI. STICKS is cleverly designed to fulfill multiple purposes; it promotes project messaging on one side and provides a convenient framework for consistent reporting and easy tracking on the other.

In December, STICKS and a related brochure obtained approval from Republican Health Promotion Centre. Approval is pending from the Ministry of Health. Both approvals must be received before training can begin.

Many other donor organizations expressed interest in replicating these training materials for use in their projects.
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

Work continues to ensure timely detection of possible negative impacts and subsequent development of mitigation strategies within all program activities.

In October, Agro Horizon hosted a training event on updated Pesticide Evaluation Report and Safer Use Action Plan (PERSUAP) as well as safe storage techniques of pesticides, labeling and application procedures for USAID implementing partners. USAID’s environmental offices conducted the training, including Asia Bureau Environmental Officer, William Gibson, Asia Regional Environmental Adviser, Andrei Barannik, and Central Asia Regional Mission Environmental Officer, Nina Kavetskaya.

Support to Demir Bank continues with the development of environmental compliance documents including Environmental and Social Risk Management Regulation and Environmental and Social Risk Management Procedure. Demir Bank’s Board of Directors approved these two documents on November 3. A training plan for Demir Bank staff on implementation of environmental procedures was developed during the reporting period, and will commence during second quarter of Year 2.

PROJECT GRANT FUND

Agro Horizon’s $5.4 million Project Fund, a flexible mechanism to build local capacity, foster innovations, leverage resources, and stimulate private sector investment to address value chain constraints, serves to incentivize investments by grant recipients, but not as a sole funding source. A portion of the Project Fund is used to contract ASPs to deliver training and TA to selected producer groups, agribusinesses, and other VC actors.

Of the fifteen activities supported through the project fund 12 were grants and 3 were subcontracts. Six grants and 3 contracts carried over into Quarter 1 of Year 2. Five grants and three contracts were concluded in the first quarter and two grants continue into Quarter 2 of Year 2.

Agro Horizon’s grants department closely collaborated with task teams to develop procurement mechanisms for Year 2 value chain concepts. Within the apricot value chain, the Request for Proposals (RFP) for Mobilization of Farmers in Apricot Production was announced in December, with plans to award it in January. Competitive procurement for the remaining value chain concepts will continue as they are approved by USAID.
4. MONITORING, DATA COLLECTION, AND REPORTING

ACHIEVEMENTS, PROGRESS TO DATE AND DEVIATIONS

Annual Beneficiary Survey
The Annual Beneficiary Survey conducted in December identified key outcome indicator results and established a baseline for the Year 2 value chain activities. The survey covered 1,027 households and 16 SMEs and used a variety of data collection techniques including a household survey, in-depth interviews, and focus group discussions. The results of the survey were presented to project managers and USAID representatives. The survey revealed that 79 percent of the respondents applied improved technologies that they learned from Agro Horizon interventions. Further, 49 new full-time jobs were attributed to the SMEs with which the project worked during Year 1.

INDICATORS

The quarterly report tracks output indicators while the annual report tracks outcome indicators.

4,396 individuals were trained in the quarter and 4,297 households benefited from the project activities. Nearly half of all beneficiaries (47 percent) were female. The vast majority of trained individuals/households were from the Water Users Association trainings. The Productivity Team (Task 1) conducted all activities and the Nutrition Team (Task 4) provided WASH (Water Supply, Sanitation, and Hygiene) add-on sessions and materials to all Task 1 activities.

The M&E system tracks unique beneficiaries only, meaning that while an individual or household may be trained more than one time, it is counted only once. Therefore, the number of unique individuals/households is less than number of training participants. The following two tables demonstrate the numbers of unique beneficiaries and participants during this quarter.

Table 1: The key output indicators’ achieved results during the Year 1 Quarter 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ind #</th>
<th>INDICATOR</th>
<th>Target PLANNED</th>
<th>Target ACHIEVED by Task</th>
<th>Percent- age Achieved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Number of rural households benefiting directly from USG assistance</td>
<td>13,000</td>
<td>Task 1: 4,297</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ind. #</td>
<td>INDICATOR</td>
<td>Target PLANNED</td>
<td>Target ACHIEVED by Task</td>
<td>Percent-age Achieved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Task 1</td>
<td>Task 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Number of target value chain private enterprises assisted</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Number of individuals trained</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>4,396</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Since Task 4 only conducted add-on sessions to the Task 1 trainings, these numbers are not added to Task 1 numbers.

Table 2: Number of Agro Horizon project interventions’ participants during Year 2 Quarter 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ind. #</th>
<th>INDICATOR</th>
<th>Target ACHIEVED by Task</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Task 1</td>
<td>Task 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Number of Rural Households benefiting directly from USG assistance</td>
<td>5,011</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Number of Individuals Trained</td>
<td>5,021</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Since Task 4 only conducted add-on sessions to the Task 1 trainings, these numbers are not added to Task 1 numbers.
5. MANAGEMENT, CROSS-CUTTING, AND ADMINISTRATIVE

MANAGEMENT

Agro Horizon Collaboration Table

The following table lists critical stakeholders and partner institutions that the project has worked with during the reporting period.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT/GOVERNMENT BODY</th>
<th>Q1 Y2 PROJECT COLLABORATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Agriculture and Amelioration of the Kyrgyz Republic (MOA)</td>
<td>Capacity building activities for the Policy Unit of MOA, support with the elaboration of the National Program on Drip Irrigation in KR, frost protection measures of apricot trees in Batken oblast.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jogorku Kenesh, the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic</td>
<td>Work with the Committee on Agrarian Policy of Jogorku Kenesh to identify main directions of agriculture sector.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government of the Kyrgyz Republic (Department of Agro-industrial Complex)</td>
<td>Establish an inter-agency Agro Policy Working Group (APWG)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Batken Administration</td>
<td>Frost protection measures of apricot trees in Batken oblast.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USAID GGPAS</td>
<td>Agro Horizon Project collaborated with other USAID programs/projects in the area of human and institutional capacity development, including organizing a joint one-day workshop on Human and Institutional Capacity Building (HICD) entitled, &quot;Practical Instruments of Performance Improvement on Examples of Organizations in Kyrgyzstan&quot; held in Bishkek on October 30, 2015.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USAID BGI</td>
<td>The Association has requested support to analyze the fruit/vegetable and meat/dairy industries in Kyrgyzstan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USAID CGP</td>
<td>Cooperation in development of value chains.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Association of Fruit and Vegetable Enterprises</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union of Cooperatives of Kyrgyzstan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization</td>
<td>Activity or Collaboration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>--------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M-Vector, Research &amp; Consulting</td>
<td>Conducted the PY-1 Annual Beneficiary Survey and presented the results of the study in December. UN Women organized a regional conference on gender dimensions of sustainable development. The organization runs a project on Accelerating Progress toward the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women and uses WEAI as baseline. Planned cooperation on youth engagement into agricultural specialization. To date, IFAD has enrolled 114 students into veterinary department and expects them to serve local communities and farmers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UN Women</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IFAD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republican Health Promotion Center</td>
<td>Consultant form RHPC was a member of working group in development of STICKS on WASH.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUN alliance Association of Village Health Committees (AVHCs) under Ministry of Health</td>
<td>Discussed ways to integrate nutrition messaging into agricultural activities through local NGOs involved in nutrition sensitive agriculture projects. Developed a project proposal for cascade training on nutrition, farm hygiene and WASH messaging in coordination with SPRING.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USAID SPRING Project</td>
<td>Received WASH posters and module on dietary diversity, and the nutrition team received training on Dietary Diversity. Support piloting home economics module in most regions throughout KR.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USDA Food for Education Project (Mercy Corps)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Disease Prevention and Sanitary Inspection Department</td>
<td>Discussion of possible collaboration with farm hygiene promotion activities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PU “Agro Bilim”, PU “Mehr Shavkat” RAS “Jalal Abad”</td>
<td>Meetings regarding Onion VC development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARIS Osh Local</td>
<td>Meetings regarding Livestock and Pasture Management VC development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WUAs TES – Centre</td>
<td>Meetings regarding Onion VC development. Meetings regarding the Nursery VC development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union of Water Users Association (UWUA)</td>
<td>UWUA improved 2558 farmers’ knowledge on efficient use of irrigation water and its role in crop production through 89 trainings on irrigation water for farmers from 68 villages in the south of Kyrgyzstan.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CROSS CUTTING

GENDER MAINSTREAMING

Gender Audit of ASPs
A gender audit of eight partner ASPs was conducted to closely examine their activities from a gender perspective. These organizations were selected on the basis of their previous involvement with project activities in Year 1. The gender audit will provide recommendations for any capacity building actions as well as future audits of the organizations.

The audit identified each organization’s strengths and weaknesses in relation to 1) promoting gender equality in agriculture/agro-processing, and 2) building organizational ownership for gender equality initiatives and increase organizational learning on gender.

The audit consisted of a desk study of each ASP’s organizational documents (mission and strategies, HR policies, project documents, monitoring and evaluation policies), interviews with company leaders, a survey of staff members and a participatory workshop. The results of the audit will be revealed at a roundtable of stakeholders in the next quarter.

Collaboration Efforts
In November, the gender team learned more about gender dimensions in developmental processes at a regional conference hosted by UNDP-UNEP and UN Women on sustainable development, climate change and gender equality. The specialists also discussed synergies of mainstreaming women and youth issues in agri-projects of UN Women (Accelerating Progress Toward the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women) and IFAD.

The gender team also collaborated with other project teams and provided input into the annual survey and SOW for the PY2 VC baseline survey, reviewed the SOW for kitchen gardening and KAP (Knowledge, Ability and Practice) assessment of pesticides application hygiene and sanitation. It reviewed the OCA tool of HICD and integrated the principles of gender equality in work places and in programming where required.

Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) Survey
The Kyrgyzstan WEAI survey results were analyzed relative to the design of value chain concepts and overall program strategy. WEAI is the first comprehensive and standardized measure to directly capture women’s empowerment and inclusion levels in the agriculture sector. It is an innovative tool composed of two sub-indexes: one measures how empowered women are within five domains, and the other measures gender parity in empowerment within the household. In Kyrgyzstan, Social Impact conducted the survey.

The findings of WEAI indicate that the main areas of women disempowerment include resources (access to and absence of decision-making regarding credit and ownership of assets), leadership (group membership), and time (workload). The survey found that men are equally or even more disempowered in the following areas: leadership (speaking in public), production (input to productive decisions), and resources (ownership of and decision making over assets). Looking at the gender parity index in the ZOI, 30.5 percent of women do not reach gender empowerment parity relative to men. The average empowerment gap is 12.9 percent between males and females.

Going forward, these findings will focus Agro Horizon activities on empowering women and men equally to foster the principle of equality on the following three main disempowerment domains 1) access to and absence of decision-
making regarding credit, 2) group membership and 3) workload. Further, Agro Horizon activities will aim to implement specific activities that foster the empowerment of women regarding input to productive decisions, ownership of and decision making over assets as well as speaking in public.

Value Chain Activities
In December, the strawberry and raspberry value chains concept or “gender value chain concept” was developed as the most feasible value chain to empower rural women. The gender team worked closely with other project teams to develop this concept. Based on Year 1 experience, raspberries and strawberries have proven to be very lucrative for women with proper production management and streamed market linkages. The concept proposes to support female farmers of Year 1 and provide runners and fertilizers along with trainings and consultations to new women farmers that have access to a min 0.2 hectare of land for a kitchen garden and who is committed to growing berries. A more thorough analysis of the value chain will be done in January.

ADMINISTRATION

Summary of Staffing
By the end of the quarter, all three project offices were nearly 100 percent staffed. The following positions were filled: three Enterprises Coordinators, Regional M&E Manager, Public Private Partnership Training Coordinator, Market Research Training Manager, and three Value Chain Coordinators.

Operations
During the quarter 10 consultants were mobilized, including five international consultants, and five local consultants. The five international consultants conducted assignments for the onion value chain, communications, finance, apricot value chain, and pasture management. The five local consultants conducted assignments for the maize value chain, communications, onion value chain, environmental compliance programming, and a gender audit. In addition to consultants, Agro Horizon Project Manager Art Gandilyan visited Bishkek and Osh in November to operationalize the Year 2 workplan and, together with the Chief of Party and local staff, design specific actions to achieve the stated objectives.

The USAID WLSME Project implemented by ACDI/VOCA closed in September 2015 and transferred its vehicle to Agro Horizon; however, the denunciation of the bilateral agreement delayed the transfer. During this quarter, the official transfer was approved by the GOKR. The vehicle registration was extended for one year under the Agro Horizon Project.

To increase cross-project communications, a shared drive server and local webmail were installed. The new local server supports the exchange of files among the three project offices (in Bishkek, Osh and Naryn), with up to 100 megabytes per second. The new system allows for shared files to be accessed remotely as well as a back up of all project files.
ANNEX I: APPROVALS SUMMARY
ANNEX II: MEDIA COVERAGE
USAID AGRO HORIZON PROJECT QUARTERLY REPORT
"АГРОГОРИЗОНТТУН" АЙЫЛ ЧАРБАСЫНА САЛЫМЫ
"Айылдың бардық маселесін қочебиз"

БАТ肯 ТАңы

№45 (719)
23-қыңғыр
2015-жыл

Багынчылық бай жашоғо әбеделге

Алма жерінде қол жеткізген бейімдіктер мен өлкетіндегі әдет-ақырымдарды құру үшін өздеріне қарсы көп қызмет етуге әрекет етеді.

Алмалық азырғы өйнеде өмір сүретін орыс жөнінде жаңалықтар жинақтарына жарықтыру үшін мемлекет әкімшілігінен өткізілген әуе бойынша плейбейджерлер өткізіледі.

Алмалық азырғы өйнеде өмір сүретін орыс жөнінде жаңалықтар жинақтарына жарықтыру үшін мемлекет әкімшілігінен өткізілген әуе бойынша плейбейджерлер өткізіледі.

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Алмалық азырғы өйнеде өмір сүретін орыс жөнінде жаңалықтар жинақтарына жарықтыру үшін мемлекет әкімшілігінен өткізілген әуе бойынша плейбейджерлер өткізіледі.