



FAO - TURKEY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME



ANNUAL REPORT March 2013

The Annual Report of FAO-Turkey Partnership Programme covers programme and projects activities undertaken during May 2011 - January 2013.

CONTENTS

LIST OF ACRONYMS.....2

1. BACKGROUND.....4

2. PARTNERS AND GOVERNING BODIES of the PROGRAMME.....5

3. FTTP IMPLEMENTATION AND ACTIVITIES.....6

3.1. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION.....7

3.1.1. COMPLETED.....8

3.1.2. ONGOING.....14

3.1.3. FORTHCOMING.....33

3.2. TRAININGS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES.....40

3.2.1. Pilot Policy Assistance Activity on “Socio-economic impact analysis of policy options by means of Value Chain Analysis (VCA) approach”.....40

3.2.2. FTTP Newsletter.....40

4. LESSONS LEARNT.....41

5. RECOMMODATIONS.....42

ACRONYMS:

AIS	Agricultural Innovation Systems
BAIF	Bharatiya Agro Industries Foundation
BATEM	West Mediterranean Agricultural Research Institute
CACAARI	Central Asia and the Caucasus Association of Agricultural Research Institutions
CACFISH	The Central Asian and Caucaus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission
CEM	General Directorate of Combating Desertification and Erosion
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
CIMMYT	International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center
COFI	FAO Committee on Fisheries
DAD-IS	FAO's Domestic Animal Diversity System
ECO	Economic Cooperation Organization
ECOSA	ECO Region Seed Assosiation
ERC	Regional Conference for Europe
ESA	FAO Agricultural Development Economics Division
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of thr United Nations
FAOSEC	FAO Subregional Office for Central Asia
FPMIS	Field Programme Monitoring and Information System
FTPP	FAO-Turkey Partnership Program
GASF	Gender and Agricultural Statistics Framework
GAP/RDA	South-eastern Anatolia Regional Development Administration
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GFCM	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean
GFRAS	Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services
GIAHS	Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems
GIEWS	Global Information and Early Warning System

GIS	Geographical Information System
GoT	Government of Turkey
GPS	Global Positioning System
IC	International Consultant
ICARDA	International Center for Agricultural Research
LTO	Lead Technical Officer
LTU	Lead Technical Unit
MAP	Medical Aromatic Plants
MARA	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs
MFAL	Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock
MoD	Ministry of Development
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MFWA	Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs
NC	National Coordinator
NC on LD	National Consultant on the Legislation Development
NPC	National Project Coordinator
PSC	Project Steering Committee
SC	Steering Committee
SOC	Soil Organic Carbon
SPO	State Planning Organization
TAC	Technical Advisory Committee
TAGEM-GDAR	General Directorate of Agricultural Research and Policies
TCDC	Technical Cooperation between Developing Countries
TIKA	Turkish International Cooperation Agency
VCA	Value Chain Analyze

1. BACKGROUND

The Government of Turkey, represented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) (Its name was changed into the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock (MFAL) in 2011) and FAO concluded an Agreement in mid-2006 and set up FAO-Turkey Partnership Programme (FTPP). According to this Agreement, Turkish Government agreed to make an annual trust fund contribution of USD 2 million over an initial period of five years (2007 – 2011) at the benefit of the countries assisted by the FAO Sub-regional Office for Central Asia, based in Ankara and covering Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan.



Geographical Scope of the FTTP Agreement

The FAO Turkey Partnership Programme (FTPP) is designed to promote three major themes: Food Security and safety; National Resource Management; Institutional Reform and National Capacity enhancement.

The Programme has five major groups of objectives as follows;

- To strengthen FAO's strategic capacities in core areas of its mandate, for pursuing the priorities of food security and rural poverty reduction, as set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;
- To reinforce the involvement of MFAL in the upstream policy dialogue in the fields of mutual interest;
- To progress towards broader consensus on the fundamental objectives and strategies of development cooperation in relevant areas, allowing for an active endeavor by both parties to improve the coherence of their approaches;
- To facilitate complementarities of actions between both parties; and
- To provide a substantive, financial and operational framework for active cooperation

2. PARTNERS AND GOVERNING BODIES of the PROGRAMME:

The main partners of the FTTP are the Government of Turkey, through MFAL and FAO.

Governing body of the FTTP is the Steering Committee. It usually meets once a year to review the status of ongoing projects and to review project proposals under pipeline for selection and funding as well as other agenda items.

The members are: MFAL and FAO and invites TIKA, MFWA, MoD and MFA as observers.

The first FTTP Steering Committee (SC) meeting was held on 28 May 2009 with the participation of representatives from the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock (MFAL), the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs (MoEF), the Ministry of Development (MOD) (former State Planning Organization SPO), the Turkish International Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

During the course of the FTTP, four Steering Committee Meetings were held respectively in May 2009, May 2010, May 2011 and December 2011 in addition to several ad-hoc/informal meetings.

SIX BROAD AREAS:

Food Security;

Agricultural and Rural

Development;

Natural Resources

Management,

including Forestry and

Fisheries;

Agricultural Policies;

Food Safety;

Animal and Plant

Genetic Resources.

3. FTTP IMPLEMENTATION AND ACTIVITIES

The FTTP is implemented based on the Operational Framework (Annex I) which provides detailed information on programme approach, eligibility criteria, steering committee, national focal points, and procedures for submission/approval of national, regional and multi-country level proposals and for the subsequent implementation and monitoring and evolution of FTTP supported projects.

Starting from April 2011 until January 2013, six technical review meetings were held in order to review the ongoing projects in detail together with the national technical counterparts and to discuss bottlenecks, if any.

As of March 2013, there are thirty projects funded by the programme; seven sub-regional; twelve multi-country; and eleven national. The total amount of funding is USD 10,100,000. (Detailed list in Annex II).

As of December 2011, there are twenty-nine projects in the pipeline; nine sub-regional; seven multi-country; and thirteen national. The total amount of proposed budget is USD 16,350,460 (Detailed list in Annex III).

As of March 2013, there are fifteen projects operational; five at country signature; seven under formulation; two at completing stage; and one will be withdrawn after having MFAL's approval.

Since the beginning of the programme, USD 53,000 accumulated in the interest account. Upon the request of MFAL this amount is used for training programmes for MFAL staff. USD 30,000 was used for two training programmes: Formulation of agricultural and rural investments projects in April 2010; and Rural Invest in May 2010. Upon the Ministry's request about having training on sector impact analysis training was organized for General Directorate of Agricultural Research and Policies (GDAR). The planned training is on "Pilot Policy Assistance Activity on "Socio-economic impact analysis of policy options by means of Value Chain Analysis (VCA) approach". Within this programme FAO's Agricultural Development Economics Division (ESA) provides policy assistance to MFAL - through the pilot activity: Socio-economic impact analysis of policy options by means of Value Chain Analysis (VCA) approach, through series of workshops and group work.

3.1. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Since 2009, 17 projects were approved and funded under the partnership programme with a total allocation of USD 6,660,000 and the distribution of ongoing projects/approved budgets, since the first SC, in relation to the total budget is as follows:

Total budget: USD 6,660,000 (including closed projects)

Regional: USD 3,050,017

Multi-country: USD 1,770,000

National: USD 1,159,929

Available budget for ongoing projects: USD 5,979,946

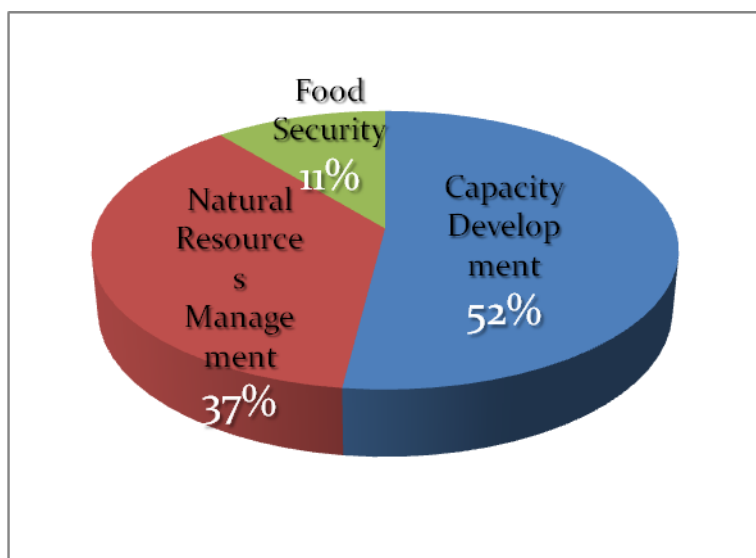
- Total budget of the ongoing projects: USD 5,979,946
Total delivery of the ongoing projects: USD 3,676,704
Delivery percentage: 61 %
- Over 30 Turkish technical staff have taken part in the formulation and implementation phases of the approved projects.
- The distribution of approved budgets in relation to thematic areas is as follows:
(i) Since 2009:

Natural Resources Management: USD 3,730,000

Food Security and Safety: USD 1,130,000

Capacity Development: USD 5,240,000

Total: 10,100,000



3.1.1. COMPLETED:**1. Home Based Nursery Development for Improved Food Security and Environmental Protection in Tajikistan**

Overall status: Under implementation

Beneficiary country: Tajikistan

Duration: 18 months

Budget: USD 200,000

Thematic area: Food Security/Food Safety

Project symbol: GCP/TAJ/006/TUR

Signature date of FAO-MARA Arrangement: November 2009

Project document signed by the Government: November 2009

Overview

The objective of the project to increase incomes and enhance livelihood and food security of the most vulnerable households (particularly of rural women) in rural Tajikistan, through increasing areas and diversifying production from tree plantations, for improved conservation of soil and water resources and restoration of forest and woodland ecosystems.

Regarding the project, following activities conducted or implemented;

- The Project Steering Committee (PSC) was established with members from the Ministry of Agriculture, Agriculture Academy of Science, Environment Protection Committee and Forestry and Hunting State Department. The main role of the committee is to provide necessary advice and technical guidelines and to monitor the project progress, both activities and finances.
- The inception workshop was held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, in May 2010. Until now, 232 home-based nurseries were established and 5000 forestry and fruit seedlings were distributed to the beneficiaries.
- Project orientation meetings were conducted at district, jamoat (sub-district) and village levels. During these meetings following issues were discussed: the project goal, objectives, and outputs, implementing approach and planned interventions. Orientation meetings are being organized in step-by-step approach from district to village level.
- Criteria for selection of beneficiaries were reviewed and agreed by the Steering Committee and Interest Groups and were established in accordance with the following criteria:
 - ✓ poor groups of the rural population living under the conditions of extreme poverty;
 - ✓ landless households or the households owning small land plots and producing insignificant amount of goods;
 - ✓ farmers who wish to be engaged in growing of trees, but have no knowledge in this sphere
 - ✓ rural unemployed, and those engaged in their own business;
 - ✓ poor rural women, especially to those who are head of households and poor rural youth.
- Different models for establishing small nurseries were developed to fit the needs for various project areas. Due to several geographical zones, specific areas of seedlings

growing different small nursery models were developed and based to these models agriculture inputs (seeds and grafts) were distributed to the beneficiaries of the project.

- Local tenders were announced in March and November 2010, and following goods were purchased: 197 thousand of pomegranate, grapes, oleaster, poplar grafts and 518.5 kg of acacia, pine, persimmon, cercis, apple, pear, peach, almond, pecan and apricot seeds. Forestry and fruit tree seeds and grafts were distributed among selected households and 222 home based nurseries were established. Additionally in November 2010 through distribution of the inputs, number of home based nurseries was increased from 222 to 232 though establishing of 10 new home based nurseries.



- The visibility strategy for the GCP/TAJ/006/TUR“Home Based Nursery Development for Improved Food Security and Environmental Protection in Tajikistan” project was developed by the project management. The visibility strategy was developed based on the Visibility Guidelines for External Actions. The visibility actions are based on recommendations for each type of activity, and can include press conferences, leaflets or brochures, newsletters, vehicle panel design, promotional items, and audio-visual products. The aim of all these activities is to publicize the Turkish Government’s (through the Turkish Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs or MARA) contributions and to give due credit to the support and funding of project activities.
- 12 training sessions were conducted on growing of fruit and forestry seedlings and its grafting for the project beneficiaries;
- 12 training sessions were conducted on Establishment of protection (multipurpose) plantations and nursery development plan for the project beneficiaries;



- So far, the project has designed and published 1 bulletin (it's planning to print them every half year), at the same time the project has prepared and published 1 guideline, and 4 booklets on nursery establishing from the cuttings, growing of forest tree seedlings, like acacia cercis. The project staffs have been worked on developing and printing of other publications (bulletins, hand outs, guideline) which are related to the conservation, restoration of natural resources, ecosystems and all distributed during field visits.
- A Field Visit trip (Study Tour) to Turkey was organized October 2010. The delegation have visited private and government nurseries, province Directorates of Environment and Forestry in Izmit, Adapazari, Eskishehr in order to improve the knowledge and practice of the participants on nursery development and its further implementation in Tajikistan.
- During the period the project hired the National Consultant on Legislation Development (NC on LD) for two months, effectively from mid of January 2011. The detailed plan was prepared by NC on LD in collaboration and National Project Manager for identifying of most important problems related to the nursery. At the result "draft findings and recommendations report" related to legislative amendments for better promotion and supporting nursery communities and multipurpose plantations in Tajikistan was prepared by the NC on LD. The project translated the report to English, and very soon is planning to print and disseminate the Tajik and English versions among the beneficiaries and local authorities.
- A local tender was announced in January 2011 and following fruit and forestry tree seedlings were purchased in order to establish protective plantations in operational zones: 2150 pieces of apricot seedlings, 700 pieces of cherry seedlings, 1150 pieces of nut seedlings, 1900 pieces of oleaster seedlings, 1700 pieces acacia seedlings and 1600 pieces of poplar seedlings.
The scheme of protective plantations was developed for each working districts. Based to this document the purchased seedlings were distributed six projects districts. The distributed forestry and fruit seedlings were planted in selected suitable places of abovementioned. Multipurpose plantations were established by planting of different species of trees (e.g. walnut, poplar, oleaster, apricot, etc.) for fruit production, soil and water conservation, degraded forest ecosystems restoration which will help to cover fuel wood and construction wood needs of the population.
- A two day field cross/exchange visit was organized to leading nurseries of Vahdat and Qubodiyon districts for selected representatives of Interest Groups with the involvement of trainer from State Agency on forestry and Hunting. In total 16 representatives of the Interest Groups attended in this two day cross/exchange visit and gained their knowledge and practice in nursery development.
- In November 2011 the project announced tenders for purchasing grafting simple sets (grafting knife, garden shears (pruners) and plastic bags) in order improve seedling growing practice in operational areas of the project. After collection of the tender proposals, they were evaluated, signed an agreement with winner organization and following amount of good were procured: grafting knife-135 pcs, garden shears (pruners) - 260 pcs and plastic bags -6000 pcs.
- With the aim of improvement the legislation in the seedling growing sphere project specialists proposed amendments and additions for a number of laws.

2. Capacity Building in Sustainable Forest Management Planning and Forest Fire Management in Syria

Overall status: Under implementation

Beneficiary country: Syria

Duration: 24 months –Extended until April 2012

Budget: USD 199,992 + USD 30,000 increased

Thematic area: Capacity Development

Project Symbol: GCP/SYR/014/TUR

Signature date of FAO-MARA Arrangement: November 2009

Project document signed by the Government: November 2009

Overview

The objective of the project is to establish the adequate institutional capacities to undertake ecosystem based participatory forest management planning, implementations, monitoring and assessment in Syria

The Project activities are smoothly being carried out in line with the work plan and in close collaboration with the Ministries of Environment and Forestry of both Turkey and Syria.

Forestry organizations of both countries have provided in-kind and cash contributions for the implementation. The Turkish Ministry of Environment and Forestry undertook several missions in the areas of forest inventory, monitoring, assessment, management planning, GIS, forest fire management, silviculture and forest information systems.

Forestry Calliper, Compass, Height measurer/meter, Increment Borer, Bark gauge/bark thickness measurer, GPS, Binocular with compass, Satellite images and Laptop which are required equipments or tools for implementing activities in the field were purchased.

Inception workshop on “*Capacity Building in Sustainable Forest Management Planning and Forest Fire Management in Syria, GCP/SYR/014/TUR*” organized in Idlep, with high level participation, Syria, 20 January 2010.



2nd workshop on “Assessment of the Project’s Progress and Achievements, Support for the Follow up Activities” combined field trip, was held in Idleb, Syria between 27-29 July 2010 in order to review and assess the progress and activities from the beginning of the project.

The 3rd workshop on “Delivering Forest Management Plan, Assessment of the Project’s Progress and Achievements” was held in Damascus, Syria, 12-13 January 2011.

In addition these, following activities were carried out regarding the implementing project.

- Turkish Management Planning Team worked in field, May- June 2010
- GIS training in Idleb Forestry Department, 17-26 May 2010
- Mission to Idleb for silvicultural planning in the forest, 21-28 June 2010
- Syrian Forestry Department Experts mission in Turkey, 18-24 July 2010
- Forest Fire Management” training in Turkey, 3-8 August 2010, (13 Syrian experts)
- “Management Planning, photo interpretation and mapping” training in Turkey, October 2010, (7 Syrian experts)
- Forest Management Plan was prepared in Arabic and in Turkish and translated into English

3. Mutually acceptable mechanism of integrated use of water resources in Central Asia through scenario approach

Overall status: Completed (January - December 2012)

Beneficiary countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Afghanistan

Duration: 12 months

Budget: USD 450,000

Thematic area: Natural resources management

Project symbol: GCP/INT/137/TUR

Signature date of FAO-MARA Arrangement: December 2011

Overview:

The objective of the project is to strengthen regional cooperation and promote sustainable natural resource management through enhanced mutual understanding and improved decision making.

A scenario thinking exercise was carried out to conduct a rapid but comprehensive analysis of the development issues related to the water-agriculture-energy nexus in the Aral Sea basin. During a series of 5 regional workshops, a comprehensive set of plausible scenarios (i.e. four scenario logics) for the Aral Sea basin has been progressively developed jointly by Central Asian countries and Afghanistan and agreed upon by all riparian states. Furthermore, views were aligned among the riparians and some fundamental skills were provided on the use of the scenario approach.

A brochure (text, layout and graphics) in English and Russian has been published to communicate the project results. The Terminal Report is also available.

A new concept note has been drafted for the second phase of the project which aims at: mainstreaming the 'scenario-thinking' in the five Central Asian countries to enhance policy dialogue (at both national level and regional level) and strengthen regional cooperation for the sustainable management of natural resources in the sub-region. Estimated budget: 750,000 USD for a period of 18 months.

3.1.2. ONGOING:**4. Central Asia Regional Programme for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development- FishDev**

Overall status: Under implementation

Beneficiary countries: seven FAO-SEC Countries

Duration: five years

Budget: USD 1,800,000

Thematic area: Natural Resources Management

Project symbol: GCP/RER/031/TUR

Signature date of FAO-MoFAL Arrangement: November 2009

Country signatures: Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan

Overview

The development goal of the Central Asia Regional Programme for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (FISHDEV Central Asia) is to increase the Central Asian fisheries and aquaculture sector performance in terms of its capacity to generate food, employment and income, and in terms of its economical viability, environmental compatibility and social acceptability. The programme addresses the scope of the FAO Turkey Partnership Programme (FTPP), and particularly focuses on the fisheries and aquaculture sector as listed under “Area 3 Natural Resources Management, including Forestry and Fisheries” of the FTTP. The programme is structured in such a way that it can achieve within a five year period the following outcomes:

1. A formally established regional fisheries and aquaculture arrangement in the form of Regional Fishery Body or Network covering the participating countries;
2. Strengthened fisheries and aquaculture sector policy, legal and institutional frameworks;
3. A capacity building and education programme for fisheries and aquaculture professionals of the region established and functioning; and
4. Increased sustainability in the management of fisheries and aquaculture.

MAIN ACHIVEMENTS*Increased Regional and Global Collaboration*

- The Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission (CACFish) is a Regional Fisheries Management Organization established under the article XIV of the FAO Constitution and it is one of the marked achievements of the FishDev Programme. the Inaugural Session of CACFish was held in Istanbul, Turkey (19-21 December 2011) 5-Year Work Programme for CACFish has been prepared. The first session of Technical Advisory Committee(TAC) of the CACFish was organized in Kiev, Ukraine from 20 to 22 November 2012. The programme will further act as a catalyst for the development of CACFISH and the implementation of a framework for sustainable fisheries



and aquaculture in the region.

- Increased membership of FAO-SEC countries in the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI),
- Increased participation of FAO-SEC countries in global fora such as COFI and its Subcommittee on Aquaculture
- Introduced the FAO-SEC countries to the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.
- Increased institutional capacity building in fisheries and aquaculture

Review studies and projects for the Region

- Carried out fishery and aquaculture sector review studies in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan
- Prepared several fishery and aquaculture projects in the Central Asia and Caucasus region



Policies and planning for the Region

The following national fishery and aquaculture policies, strategies and planning documents were produced with FAO-SEC support

- Kyrgyzstan: Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector Development and Management in Kyrgyzstan (2008–2012)
.A national fisheries and aquaculture development policy and a strategy for Kyrgyz Republic
- Azerbaijan: A national fisheries and aquaculture development policy and a strategy prototype for Azerbaijan
- Uzbekistan: Conception of aquaculture and capture fisheries development of the Republic of Uzbekistan (2008–2016)
- Tajikistan: Policy and Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development for Poverty Alleviation in Tajikistan (2010–2025)



Capacity building Activities

FAO-SEC organized capacity building and training in fisheries and aquaculture for numerous stakeholders in its member countries in 2009–2012.

- 10 intergovernmental meetings,
- 16 regional workshops and trainings,
- 3 national workshop,
- 1 expert workshop,
- 3 study tours covering fish culture and inland fisheries.
- Trained more than 400 participants



Awareness raising and information dissemination

FAO-SEC contributed to translating the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and six of the Code's Technical Guidelines into Russian, and supported their publication and dissemination.

FAO-SEC also participated in preparation, publishing and disseminating key publications from the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, as well as technical papers, circulars and reports and EIFAC Occasional Papers. Total 30 publications were prepared

SEC Fishery and Aquaculture Web Page developed and updated ; <http://www.fao.org/europe/sec/activity-areas/fisheries/en/>

FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Circular No. 1020/1 SEC/C1020/1 (E) 2008 (2/2008)

INLAND CAPTURE FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE IN THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN: CURRENT STATUS AND PLANNING



5. Management of Pesticides and Obsolete Pesticides in Central Asia and Turkey

Overall status: Under Implementation

Beneficiary countries: Seven FAO- SEC countries

Duration: three years (project prolonged till end of September 2013)

Budget: USD 450,000

Thematic area: Capacity Development

Project symbol: GCP/RER/035/TUR

Signature date of FAO-MARA Arrangement: June 2010

Country signatures: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey



Overview

The objective of the project is to assist countries of Central Asia to reduce risks for health and environment from obsolete pesticide stockpiles and from pesticides current and future use with specific focus on Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

A workshop was organized in October 2010 in Menemen, Izmir, to present the current status of pests and pesticides management in the beneficiary countries. During the workshop, it was agreed that pesticide management is vital for every country. Therefore, a pesticide management gap analysis should be carried out to identify weaknesses in the areas of inspection and quality control.

Short outcome of the project for reporting period:

National wide inventory was carried out in 3 project countries Kyrgyzstan; Tajikistan and Turkey

Inventory data's are ready for downloading into PSMS for above mentioned countries;

Legal frame work assessment related to pesticide management legislation was done in all project countries.

6. Promoting Management of Animal Genetic Resources in SEC Countries

Overall status: Cleared by FAO headquarters

Beneficiary countries: Seven FAO-SEC countries

Duration: two years

Budget: USD 700,000

Thematic area: Natural Resources Management

Project symbol: GCP/SEC/003/TUR

Signature date of FAO-MARA Arrangement: N/A

Country signatures: Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey

Overview

This project aims to support the Ministries of Agriculture in three Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan) and in Azerbaijan and Turkey in formulating a national livestock breeding policy and strategy for the sustainable use and development of livestock and to establish networks linking stakeholders and supporting the institutional development and capacity-building on national and subregional level.

Therefore the objectives of the project are to strengthen and/or implement operational National Focal Points for the management of animal genetic resources in Central Asian countries as well as in Azerbaijan and Turkey and to assist in the establishment of a subregional focal point for animal genetic resources using the FAO guidelines for the development of Regional Focal Points and to support the development of National Strategies and Action Plans for the management of animal genetic resources

Short outcome of the project for reporting period:

All participating countries have now started up to form or strengthen National Focal Points, bringing the various stakeholder groups together. All National Focal Points have started to build up working groups and collecting information on available animal genetic resources in their countries, which will be entered into FAO's Domestic Animal Diversity System DAD-IS. With this increased insight on national animal genetic resources available countries will start to develop or adapt their National Strategies for the management and conservation of livestock and develop action plans.

7. Identification and formulation of a regional project to strengthen scientific, technical and institutional cooperation to support responsible fisheries in the Black Sea

Overall status: The project has been operational as of 15 May 2012

Beneficiary countries: TUR-UKR-BUL-GEORG-ROM-RUS

Duration: 12 months

Budget: UDS 100,000

Thematic area: Natural Resources Management

Project symbol: GCP/RER/025/TUR

Signature date of FAO-MARA Arrangement:

Country signatures: Turkey

Overview

The objective of the project is **to** prepare a project document for the full phase, based on the results of a formulation mission in the Black Sea countries to assess, in consultation with the relevant national authorities and other relevant stakeholders, the needs and expectations relative to fisheries management and research.

National Consultants were hired. In order to facilitate the hiring of and communication with the National Consultants of the Black Sea Countries, another International Consultant, Mr. Andras Woynarovich, was hired under FAO regular budget in September 2012.

The National Overview Reports is expected to be completed by the end of January 2013. Together with the outcome of the following formulation mission, they will support the drafting team in development of the concept note that will form the basis for the discussions on the coming Coordination Workshop for the Black Sea Countries.

8. Capacity Development for Analysis and Strengthening of Agricultural Innovation Systems (AIS) in Central Asia and Turkey

Overall status: Under implementation

Beneficiary countries: Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Uzbekistan

Duration: two years

Budget: USD 220,000

Thematic Area: Capacity Development

Project Symbol: GCP/RER/029/TUR

Signature date of FAO-MARA Arrangement: April 2010

Country signatures: Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Uzbekistan

Overview

The project immediate objective is to increase capacities at national and sub-regional level to analyse existing agricultural innovation systems (AIS), in order to identify gaps and recommend interventions to strengthen AIS at national and sub-regional level, especially for information management and knowledge sharing. This objective has now been achieved and the project will end in March 2013 . The results achieved for each projects outputs are described below:

Five in-depth country studies on AIS which will include at least three case studies per country on successful use of ICT enabled information and communications systems.

A questionnaire for the in-depth studies, data collection tools and guidelines for the case studies was developed by the lead technical unit (LTU) with support from the International consultant (IC) in 2011. This was then followed by an inception mission and pre-study workshop in each participating country. Once a common understanding was reached in each countries, five national teams were established to collect data on key information regarding innovation patterns in each countries. The data was then analyzed and compiled in national reports that were presented and discussed in every participating countries. The results of those discussion were incorporated in the national reports, that were then revised by the IC and cleared by the LTU and each National Project Coordinators (NPC).

Inter-country comparison of country studies and sub-regional synthesis.

Sub-regional trends and drivers for innovation have been analysed based on the five national reports available and FAO presented the findings at the sub-regional workshop in May 2012 in Izmir (Turkey). Feedback from the participants, including CACAARI, CGIAR and GFRAS were then included in the final synthesis report that has been cleared by the LTU. The synthesis report is being translated in Russian for wide distribution in the region at the end of the project.

Fifteen trained national resource persons (three per country) in analysis and strengthening of AIS.

A total of 23 resources persons, distributed in the five participating countries have been trained during the lifetime of the project and are now familiar with AIS analysis and opportunities to

strengthen AIS. Fifteen of the twenty-three resource persons attended the May 2012 regional workshop and discussed strengths and weaknesses of their national AIS. During the workshop, the resource persons discussed the empirical evidence of the case studies presented as poster and discussed in plenary session the results of the in-depth studies. Follow up activities were then discussed to build on this project and support the exchange of information and experiences between the national resource persons, those are included in the sub-regional project document below.

Sub-regional project document for strengthening existing and/or establishing new AIS.

The sub-regional project document has been drafted and is being distributed in the region for wider consultation. This follow up project aims at strengthening the Agricultural Innovation Systems (AIS) in each participating country and in the Central Asian sub-region as a whole. The increased capacity to improve AIS will include information management and knowledge sharing as well as a focus to accelerate the pace of innovation in the sub-region. The project will produce the following outputs:

- 1) Facilitated **learning** processes in the region by developing a platform for exchange of experience and knowledge exchange visits in the region
- 2) Explore and **fund** innovative **partnership** at national and sub-regional level
- 3) Capacity development program develop the enabling environment a national and sub-regional level to **develop policies** that enable innovation

Network of resource persons on AIS established for the sub-region.

The network of resource persons has been established and they will continue to exchange information and share experiences on agricultural innovation either informally via e-mail or through initiatives and meetings through established institutions such as CACAARI.

9. Conservation Agriculture for Irrigated Areas in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan

Overall status : Under implementation
 Beneficiary countries : Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan
 Duration : Two years
 Budget : USD 600,000
 Thematic area : Natural Resource Management
 Project Symbol : GCP/RER/030/TUR
 Signature date of FAO-MFAL Arrangement: May 2010
 Country signatures : Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan. The project document is not signed by Turkmenistan.

Overview

The objective of the project is to improve rural livelihoods and food security levels through increased productivity of irrigated farming systems in four Central Asian countries - Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Principles and practices of conservation agriculture are being used to achieve a more sustainable land and water management.

A regional inception workshop was held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan from 31 January to 1 February 2011 with the participation of officials and researchers from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and ICARDA.

National inception workshops were conducted in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.

Project presented in the;

- side event of the ERC, Baku, April 2012,
- Regional workshop on registration of pesticide applying equipment, 28 May – 01 June 2012, Menemen, Turkey,
- Regional workshop on Save and Grow, 4-6 December 2012, Antalya, Turkey.

The field equipment (no-till drills, sprayers, moisture meters, etc.) delivered to the project sites that allowed establishing demonstration of no-till technology in combination with the residue retaining and diversification of cropping system.

In Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, field days and FAO Backstopping Missions were conducted.

Information of the project outcomes disseminated through the national TVs and other mass media. The project Regional Coordinator prepared a chapter for a book on the status of conservation agriculture in the region that also demonstrates the project outcomes.

Due to delays related to delivery of field equipment, planned two cropping season were not covered. Thus, the extension of the project until 31 December 2013 was requested and accepted by the Steering Committee. Accordingly the budget revision was also proposed.

The project national personnel contributed in the study carried out by FAO-SEC in cooperation with CIMMYT and ICARDA on the status of conservation agriculture in Central Asia. The study outcomes in a form of a report, including the guidelines for policymaker on promotion of

conservation agriculture in the national policies prepared and soon will be submitted to the Governments of SEC countries. The outcomes of the project will be replicated in other projects foreseen in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan on promotion of conservation agriculture through development of farmers' field schools (FFS).

10. Stewardship of Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) in Azerbaijan and Turkey

Overall status: Under implementation

Beneficiary countries: Azerbaijan, Turkey

Duration: two years

Budget: USD 250,000

Thematic area: Capacity Development

Project Symbol: GCP/RER/028/TUR

Signature date of FAO-MARA Arrangement: May 2010

Country signatures: Turkey

Overview

The objective of the project is to establish basis to identify, recognize, conserve and sustain management of agricultural systems and to associate landscapes, biodiversity, knowledge systems and cultures.

The project focuses on integrating family and traditional farming communities to national socio-economic development agenda. It also tries to address poverty and food insecurity of local communities through sustainable management of natural resources.

After a successful introduction workshop at the beginning of the project in the pilot area, 25 case studies were received and six of them shortlisted by the project steering committee as potential GIAHS sites. 3 of the 6 shortlisted potential GIAHS sites in the pilot area were identified as "GIAHS proposal" and dynamic conservation plans of these three sites are under preparation. While assessments of the potential sites in the pilot area were on the way, GIAHS labeling and marketing studies in the pilot area were completed. GIAHS introductory materials printed and distributed to related stakeholders. The GIAHS initiative and the project were introduced to related stakeholders in Blacksea, Aegean and Mediterranean Regions. It is expected to receive remarkable GIAHS proposals from these regions.

A working group has been established for identification of labeling and certification procedures and rules for Turkey. The Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock, TAGEM has led the process.



GIAHS proposal about “Natural Dyeing and Weaving Systems” in Diyarbakir Province

Finally, the project deliverables for Turkey are almost ready to be submitted and thus the first phase of the project is about to complete. But the progress in Azerbaijan is not at expected level and should be accelerated.

11. Cattle Production Improvement Module for SEC Countries

Overall status: Under Implementation

Beneficiary countries: Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan

Duration: two years

Budget: USD 400,000

Thematic area: Capacity Development

Project symbol: GCP/SEC/001/TUR

Signature date of FAO-MARA Arrangement: 2011

Country signatures: Completed

Overview

The objective of the project is to start modern, robust and self-supported beef and dairy cattle production improvement programmes in Central Asia and Caucasus. The project aims to improve livestock productivity by establishing district-based cattle producer associations, to access to better feed, to disseminate modern livestock farm husbandry and management practices and to support modern milk marketing associations.

Main Achievements:

- Assessment missions to all three countries were completed.
- Project offices were set up
- Training workshops on cattle husbandry practices in all three countries were conducted.
 - 30 farmers from 19 villages participated in the training in Azerbaijan.
 - 28 farmers from three districts participated in the training in Kyrgyzstan.
 - 29 farmers from Shahrinav district participated in the training in Tajikistan.
- Demo plots for forage production were established in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan (4 and 8 respectively) and will be established in Azerbaijan this year.
- Cattle Producer's Associations in selected pilot districts were established and started to function as center of information.
- So far the number of registered farmers of the associations are; 56 in Azerbaijan, 135 in Kyrgyzstan and 25 in Tajikistan.
- A study tour to Bursa and Balikesir provinces of Turkey was conducted for 28 participants from 3 countries (9 from Azerbaijan, 9 from Kyrgyzstan and 10 from Tajikistan). The programme was prepared to show the participants livestock husbandry practices in Turkey, forage farming, role of Cattle Breeders Associations in Turkey, agriculture and livestock related industries in Turkey. The experience of Turkish farmers and industry was transferred and shared with the participants.

- Up to present time following activities were implemented in Tajikistan under the project: 4 demonstration sites for fodder production (alfalfa, fodder beet and maize) were established; Association of Livestock breeders in Shakhrinav district was registered; 9 farmers and livestock breeders participated in a study tour held to Turkey and 5 participants held a training sessions at the BAIF Central Research Station, India, and “Chuzi farm” was selected as a module farm and a new ration for feeding of dairy cows was developed and introduced.



12. Capacity Development on Watershed management in CA and Caucasus

Overall status: Under Implementation

Beneficiary countries: Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Turkey and Uzbekistan

Duration: two years

Budget: USD 300,000

Thematic area: Capacity Development

Project symbol: GCP/SEC/002/TUR

Signature date of FAO-MARA Arrangement: N/A

Country signatures: N/A

Overview

The objective of the project is to decrease degradation and loss of soil, water and biodiversity resources and to increase environmental, economic and social benefits from upstream and downstream mountain watersheds at the beneficiary countries.

The project will focus on building up national capacities to improve management of natural resources and reversing land degradation. It will provide practical training based on the recommendations resulting from the FAO-led global review of watershed management experiences.

Main Activities

A first regional workshop on Participatory-Integrated Watershed Management and Rehabilitation , was jointly organized by the General Directorate of Combating Desertification and Erosion(CEM), Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency (TIKA) and FAO from 5 to 9 November 2012, as a first step to the implementation of the project. Within the context of the regional workshop, the first steering committee meeting took place on 7 November 2012.



During the meeting, project work plan was reviewed, updated and it was tried to identify project country's needs, priorities and their expectation within regional project.

Following main activities which have planned regarding this project are: i) National Coordinators and TCDC Consultants to be selected and contracted in March/ April in 2013, ii) Visiting project countries with high level specialists of key agencies of Government of Turkey in April/May 2013, in order to better understand the needs and priorities of project countries iii) A second Regional workshop on "Integrated Participatory Watershed Management: Planning, Rehabilitation and Income Generation" will be organized in Turkey in May/June in 2013 in order to order to increase awareness, knowledge, exchange of views, experience, capacity and commitment of decision makers and selected specialist of the forestry department and related agencies in the project countries about approaches and methodologies for planning and implementation of the integrated and participatory rehabilitation and sustainable management of the mountain watersheds.

13. Promotion of Water Saving Technologies in the Uzbek Water Scarce Area of the Transboundary Podshaota River Basin

Overall status: Under Implementation
 Beneficiary country: Uzbekistan
 Duration: two years
 Budget: USD 200,000
 Thematic Area: Natural Resource Management
 Project Symbol: GCP/UZB/002/TUR
 Signature date of FAO-MARA Arrangement: February 2010
 Project document signed by the Government: November 2010

Overview

The objective of the project is to achieve a sustainable agricultural production in the Podshaota transboundary small river basin by implementing irrigation water saving technologies, and to increase irrigation water productivity and minimization of water deficits thus stabilizing crop productivity in the Uzbek territory.

In 2012, the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Agriculture in Uzbekistan indicated that the low implementation of the project is due to the transboundary nature of the project since Uzbekistan water management activities depend upon the upstream countries. Therefore, in order to increase the practical relevance of the project results, amendments are being made to the structure of the project with a focus on strengthening the capacities of a water user association for the production of high-value crops (with the adoption of water saving irrigation technologies). Arrangements are being made for an imminent start-up of this project.

14. Design of an Agricultural Development Strategy for the Kyrgyz Republic, 2011-2015

Overall status: Submitted to FAO headquarters for clearance
 Beneficiary countries: Kyrgyz Republic
 Duration: two years
 Budget: USD 200,000
 Thematic Area: Capacity Development
 Project Symbol: GCP/KYR/008/TUR
 Signature date of FAO-MARA Arrangement: N/A
 Project document signed by the Government: N/A

Overview

The objective of the project is to set priorities of the Kyrgyz Republic in agriculture and to specify its role in the sector and in the implementation of agrarian reform.

This document will serve as reference for shaping policies in the sector in Kyrgyzstan.

15. Improving food security, food safety and living standards of vulnerable populations in TAJ through effective and sustainable control of brucellosis in animals and humans

Overall status: Under Implementation

Beneficiary countries: Tajikistan

Duration: two years

Budget: USD 180,000

Thematic area: Brucellosis control

Project symbol: **GCP/TAJ/009/TUR**

Signature date of FAO-MARA Arrangement:

Country signatures: 2 March 2012

Overview

The overall objective of the project is to improve the incomes and living standards of the vulnerable people, particularly women and children through improving delivery of health services for controlling brucellosis in both humans and livestock.

The project will strengthen the achievements made in the past and will implement the agreed by the government cost sharing by farmers for vaccination services. Because of the limited funding, the project will be implemented only in Rasht Valley. The project will be financed from the FAO–Turkish Partnership Programme (FTPP) and will support continuation of a proven methodology that reduces the prevalence of brucellosis in both humans and animals. The SVIS veterinary and laboratory personnel will be the direct counterparts in the project. The final beneficiaries will be the livestock owning population of Rasht Valley (eight districts in DRD) and Nurek from expanded animal vaccination coverage and awareness messages of best hygiene practices for reducing the risk of infection with brucellosis.

At the present time 800,000 doses of REV-1 vaccine against brucellosis were procured and delivered. 104,130 sheep and goats were vaccinated in autumn –winter 2012. 8 workshops on cost sharing were held in project districts. Epidemiological data on registered cases of brucellosis and information from the National Center of Veterinary Diagnostic on testing of samples collected from sheep and goats on brucellosis was collected.

16. Protection and cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants in West Mediterranean region in Turkey

Overall status : Under implementation
 Beneficiary countries : Turkey
 Duration : Two years
 Budget : USD 180,000
 Thematic area : Natural Resource Management
 Project symbol : UTF/TUR/058/TUR
 Signature date of FAO-MFAL Arrangement: March, 2012
 Country signatures : Turkey

Overview

The objective of the project is to improve preservation and utilization of genetic resources of medicinal and aromatic plants by enhancing technical capacities, collection and conservation of germplasm in the genebank, cultivation in the experimental plots as well as improved policy and strategies.

The inception workshop was conducted in May 2012 in Antalya, Turkey. At the workshop the work plan revisited and discussed among all stakeholders.

National and International Consultants were recruited.

A training course on evaluation and characterization of MAP species was conducted and attended by National and International Consultants.

The project was presented in the FAO regional round table meeting called “Problems of Medicinal and Aromatic Plant” in April 2012 in Budapest, Hungary.

Backstopping missions by SEC and AGP conducted and progress of the project evaluated and work-plan for 2013 revisited.

Procured items were delivered.

Demonstration plots for cultivation of MAP are established in BATEM.

Conducting biochemical assays of the active ingredients including comparisons of the properties started with the wild material.

Trainings on MAP evaluation and quality evaluation of raw material conducted.

National Network of MAP as a web-site established and located under BATEM website at www.map.batem.gov.tr

It was agreed with the national counterparts to arrange a study tour in the Institute of MAP of Hungary. The arrangements are in the process.

For future activity, to organise a Regional Scientific and Practical Conference on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants and invite colleagues attended Round Table is planned in September – October 2013 in Antalya. The issue was discussed in Budapest in April 2012. For this purpose, an Organizing Committee of the Conference to be established by BATEM and support from FAO regular program to be provided.

17. National Geospatial Soil Fertility and Soil Organic Carbon Information System

Overall status: Under implementation

Beneficiary countries: Turkey

Duration: 24 months

Budget: USD 200,000 (FTPP) + USD 350,000 (SFWRCRI -TGAE)

Thematic area: Natural resources management

Project symbol: **UTF/TUR/057/TUR**

Signature date of FAO-MARA Arrangement: August 2012

Country signatures: Turkey

OverviewThe outcome of the project is to establish a National Geospatial Topsoil Soil Fertility and Soil Organic Carbon (SOC) Information System for Turkey with reliable data and information on upper soil fertility, soil carbon content and chemical fertilizer consumptions. The Soil Fertility&SOC Information System will be accessible via WebGIS server service to various users ranging from farmers to researchers and decision-makers.

The inception workshop was held in Ankara on 19 September 2012 with SFWRCRI in participation with project partners, stakeholders, and FAO experts to share experience on soil management and digital soil mapping, review the logical framework and finalize the workplan.

The Laboratory analysis of soil samples was carried out in SFWRCRI for 6 cities (Adana, Adiyaman, Afyonkarahisar, Ağrı, Amasya, Ankara) - 70% completed.

3.1.3. FORTHCOMING:

1. Seed Sector Development in Countries of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)

Overall status : The project documents were sent to countries for their signature and were signed by the MoA of Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan and ECO Secretariat.

Beneficiary countries : ECO countries

Duration : Two years

Budget : USD 400,000 (USD 350,00 FTTP – USD 50,000 ECO)

Thematic area : Food Security / Food Safety

Project symbol : GCP/INT/123/MUL

Signature date of FAO-MFAL Arrangement: September 2010

Country signatures : Turkey, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan

Overview

The objective of the project is to contribute to the development of the seed sector in ECO countries and to better integrate within the international seed sector for improved food security.

FAO procedures require that the project document should be signed minimum by 50% of the countries participating in implementation of the project (5 countries). So far the project document is signed only by three countries, thus the project is not operationally active yet. It was foreseen that the project document will provide technical support in strengthening the capacities of the ECO region Seed Association (ECOSA). In this regard the ECOSA President met with the Ministers of Agriculture of ECO countries during the Ministerial meeting held in October 2012 in Antalya. During the meeting the issue of signing the project document also was raised by ECOSA and the Ministers agreed to sign it. However, after the meeting only MoA Tajikistan signed the project document. Unfortunately, there is no other mechanism to influence to the Governments of the countries for signing the project document.

A concern regarding opening the project was raised by the MFAL, Turkey and ECO Secretariat to FAO-SEC. It was proposed to discuss a possibility of opening the project with participation of the countries that signed the project document. In parallel request from other countries to clarify their view regarding signing the project document.

2. Development of a Communication Strategy and Visibility Services of FTTP programme

Overall status: Clearence from HQs related department

Beneficiary countries: 7 SEC Countries

Duration: 3 years

Budget: 200,000

Thematic area: Communication

Project symbol: **GCP/SEC/009/TUR**

Signature date of FAO-MARA Arrangement: NA

Country signatures: NA

Overview: The main objective of the project is to increase level of awareness on the partnership programme and to ensure visibility for all the projects being implemented under this programme as well as showing practical effects of the projects. Budget was inserted into FPMIS and document is under revision in line with the operation's comments.

3. Establishment of ECO Regional Centre in the Ministry's Structure

Overall status: Clearence from HQs related department

Beneficiary countries: ECO Countries

Duration: 30 months

Budget: 500,000

Thematic area: Food security& Capacity development

Project symbol:

Signature date of FAO-MARA Arrangement: NA

Country signatures: NA

Overview: The objective of this project is to set up office for co-ordination/management of ECO regional center; to ensure efficient and timely management of implementation activities. The project fully formulated and Lead Technical Officer was appointed. Operational clearance is waited by HQs' related department.

4. Support to Socio-Economic Training of Rural Women in order to Sustain Rural Development

Overall status: Submitted to FAO- headquarters for clearance

Beneficiary countries: Azerbaijan, Turkey

Duration: two years

Budget: USD 250,000

Thematic area: Capacity Development

Project symbol: GCP/SEC/007/TUR

Signature date of FAO-MARA Arrangement: N/A

Country signatures: N/A

Overview

The objective of the project is to increase capacity of rural women and women associations through training and awareness rising on food security, nutrition, production of hygienic food.

Through this project, establishment of women associations will be encouraged to involve them actively in the economic and social lives of their communities.

5. Training of Trainers on HACCP for Food Inspectors in KYR-TAJ

Overall status: Clearance from HQs related department

Beneficiary countries: Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan

Duration: 1 year

Budget: USD 200,000

Thematic area: Capacity development

Project symbol: NA

Signature date of FAO-MARA Arrangement: NA

Country signatures: NA

Overview: The objective of the project is to increase capacities of main stakeholders, including officials of line ministries, food inspectors and food processors to develop risk-based preventive systems for food safety hazards management and control. Project document was formulated but currently under revision in line with the Operation Unit's comments. It is expected that the project will be operational soon. During the last FTTP Technical Review Meeting which was held on 11 January 2013, it was decided that the project will be implemented at some selected sectors due to budget limitation.

6. Strengthening national capacities for production and analysis of sex-disaggregated data through the implementation of the FAO Gender and Agriculture Framework (GASF)

Overall status: Country signatures

Beneficiary countries: Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey

Duration: 2 years

Budget: USD 330,000

Thematic area: Capacity development

Project symbol: GCP/SEC/008/TUR

Signature date of FAO-MARA Arrangement: NA

Country signatures: Turkey, Kyrgyzstan

Overview: The objective of the project is to have more detailed sex-disaggregated data on the agro-rural sector integrated into national data collection and reporting activities. Once the countries sign the document the project will be operational soon.

7. National component price data base and analysis tool- GIEWS

Title: National component of FAO-GIEWS Price Data base and analysis tool

Originator: FAO

Beneficiary Countries: Azerbaijan (AZE), Kyrgyzstan(KYR), Tajikistan (TAJ).

Budget: USD 150,000

Duration: 1 year

Objective: To further develop FAO-GIEWS Price Tool software through creation of a national component that could be used at country level; to improve food price monitoring for preventing food crises and helping to implement required national policies.

Status: Prodoc submitted for country signature. KYR, TAJ signed. Project will be declared operational soon after receiving the signed Agreements from the countries.

8. Organization of pedigree bee breeding and selection works in apiculture in AZE

Overall status: Waiting final technical clearance

Beneficiary countries: Azerbaijan

Duration: 24 month

Budget: USD 200,000

Thematic area:

Project symbol: GCP/AZE/005/TUR

Signature date of FAO-MARA Arrangement: Not yet

Country signatures: not yet

Overview:

The main objective of the project is to improve household income through increased honey production in general and per honeybee colony specifically. This is possible by improving colony management skills, improving the quality and availability of honey bee queens, better technical assistance from beekeeper associations and by involving women in all management and marketing processes. The proposed project will build the capacity:

- for breeding locally adapted queens for productive colonies from local genetic resources (bee varieties/races) that are accessible to trained beekeepers,
- for improved colony management, including queen production and
- for improving the capacity of the bee keepers in better management and breeding
- of the bee keepers' associations and of the bee keepers union in provision of trainings and services to their members.

9. Development of organic agriculture and institutional capacity building in Azerbaijan

Overall status : The project document submitted for countersignature to Government of Azerbaijan
 Beneficiary countries : Azerbaijan
 Duration : Two years
 Budget : USD 200,000
 Thematic area : Capacity building
 Project symbol : GCP/AZE/006/TUR
 Signature date of FAO-MFAL Arrangement:
 Country signatures : N/A

Overview

The objective of the project is to improve legislation, strengthening institutional capacity, training national experts and using the principles and practices of organic agriculture. At the end of the project it is expected that legal basis for promotion of organic agriculture will be improved, organic farming techniques and measures will be sufficiently validated by a core group of farmers and an expanded program will be prepared for farmers of other districts.

The project document was translated into Azeri by FAO Office in Azerbaijan and submitted to the Government for a countersignature. Unfortunately, due to internal procedure in the Government of Azerbaijan the project is not signed as of 15 March 2013.

10. Strengthening of national and institutional capacity on land consolidation

Overall status: Formulation
 Beneficiary countries: Turkey
 Duration: 1 year
 Budget: USD 180,000
 Thematic area: Capacity development
 Project symbol: NA
 Signature date of FAO-MARA Arrangement: NA
 Country signatures: NA

Overview: The main purpose of the project is to strengthen institutional capacity on the assessment of land consolidation and improve land consolidation works. Under formulation stage since the minimum information sheet was not received from the MFAL. Now under formulation and it is expected that being operational of this project will not take long time.

11. National capacity enhancement and elaboration of strategies on mobilization of foreign investments to the agricultural sector of UZBEKISTAN

Overall status: Formulation

Beneficiary countries: Uzbekistan

Duration: 22 months

Budget: USD 160,000

Thematic area: Capacity development

Project symbol: GCP/UZB/003/TUR

Signature date of FAO-MARA Arrangement: NA

Country signatures: NA

Overview: The main purpose of this project is to enhance capacity of local experts in development of mobilization of external recourse and preparation of investment projects in the sector. Project revision has been delayed due to departure of SEC Investment Officer. Recently the project's LTO was appointed. Revision will be completed soon and the project will be operational.

3.2. TRAININGS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

3.2.1. Pilot Policy Assistance Activity on “Socio-economic impact analysis of policy options by means of Value Chain Analysis (VCA) approach”:

Within this programme FAO’s Agricultural Development Economics Division (ESA) provides policy assistance to MFAL - General Directorate of Agricultural Research and Policies (GDAR), through the pilot activity: Socio-economic impact analysis of policy options by means of Value Chain Analysis (VCA) approach, through series of workshops and group work with the aim to respond to the policy assistance needs expressed by the Government.

This activity benefits from the conceptual and operational framework of the wider multi-country programme “Sustainable Development, Food Security and Inclusive Growth: Understanding Paradigms and Exploring Policy Impacts for Policy Making (UPPI)” by:

- Providing the material and tools necessary for the Value Chain Analysis.
- Adopting a knowledge generation approach based on analytical work
- Studying real case situations through an assessment of policy options within a country development strategy.
- Creating of and collaborating with a team of GDAR.
- Organizing the GDAR teams into Working Groups (WGs), who are expected to produce policy-relevant outputs and to participate in capacity development events.

FAO’s technical support to GDAR aims at providing a package of services comprising a progressive step-by-step approach to create permanent capacities in the country and to provide specific advice to address emerging issues, external shocks or required policy revisions.

3.2.2. FTTP Newsletter

The first FTTP newsletter was prepared in May 2009 in Turkish, English and Russian. The aim of this publication was to increase publicity and visibility of the programme to a wide range of audience. The newsletter focused on key elements of the FTTP and approved projects. It was decided that future issues will include elements on the progress made and best practices.

The last newsletter which provides information on FTTP and ongoing activities of the FTTP in order to raise awareness and ensure the visibility of the programme was published in May 2011.

4. LESSONS LEARNT

FTPP is a successful programme. It has made good progress on the planned outcomes and is making significant contributions to FAO's work in relation to the Millennium Development Goals and its policy assistance activities with member countries in Central Asia. FAO-Turkey Partnership Programme provided an opportunity to transform both FAO's and MFAL's vision and efforts into an operational tool for contributing to the development of the countries in the region especially in the areas of food security and rural poverty reduction.

Furthermore, FTTP is developing a number of activities in the participating countries with considerable potential to positively affect the lives of people.

It should be taken into account as well FTTP is making a number of important contributions to the overall institutional improvement and effectiveness of FAO. Therefore the continuation of these activities is important.

After the five operational years of the FTTP, based on the main challenges/bottlenecks, the main lessons learnt can be summarized as follows:

- Sense of ownership should be strengthened among the countries and The Turkish Government's role should be identified in this strengthening process.
- The projects list shouldn't be seen like a "shopping list" and should be coherence to the programme approach.
- Delays in project formulation and difficulties in finding good consultants for project formulation should be addressed;
- There is need for funding of formulation stage.
- There is also a need for a well functioning monitoring system.
- The existent time consuming processes such as translation of the final Project Documents in to Russian and Azeri before their official submission to the relevant countries and the final signatures by the Governments (require at least six to twelve months each, depending on the various internal procedures in different countries) should be taken account and if possible should be found a solution by discussing between the donor country and beneficiary countries.
- Having National Focal Points in each country mechanism did not perform well up till now. The identification role and contribution of the National Focal Points should be more clear and their role should be more effective by raising awareness and mobilizing Governments.
- Field activities are heterogeneous in nature and their potential success and impact. Some activities are well selected, in terms of their importance, and well designed. Others could be improved and lack the ex-ante economic analysis to justify their importance and potential.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The development of second phase programme should include a careful analysis and evaluation of the work that has been done in the first phase, the achievements and shortcomings, the possibilities of new directions and the strengthening of the weaknesses.
2. We need to balance between: a) the objective of having an impact on long term substantive matters and institutional reforms; and b) the short term objectives of rapid results at the country level. It is recommended further that the long term structural objectives should receive considerably more weight than in Phase II of FTTP.
3. It should be also considered that formulation, clearance, signing by the countries and implementation of all projects consumes same time and effort. Thus in order to be more efficient and effective, second phase of FTTP should avoid funding the projects which has low budget and thus has low impact on the development of the countries.
4. FTTP should continue its work on the improvement of national policy, legal and regulatory frameworks introducing the issues by considering the countries' needs, with the demand driven and participatory approach in order to make a significant contribution to region's overall development. In addition the overall implementing strategy applied in each country should be adapted to the special circumstance of those countries.
5. After the SC approval, the full formulation process and related investments should start only once official confirmation of Government(s) interest/commitment is received. This is also required to strengthen the sense of ownership by the concerned Governments. This issue should be figured out for the second phase of the FTTP.