

MDG-1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger

MDG target 1.C: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from Hunger

CONSTRAINT:

Ineffective Policy Enforcement and Implementation

Lack of effective channels for small producers to address unenforced property rights, lack of competition in agricultural service markets and agricultural debt undermining productivity, equitable growth & secure livelihoods

Tajikistan's Enhancing Agricultural Governance enables participatory decision-making among farmers and increases their voice in national policy-making by strengthening farmers' associations and their links to policy-making institutions.

COMPONENTS:

- Managerial and administrative capacity of the Association of Dehkan (Peasant) Farms enhanced and strategic plans developed that respond to the needs of small farmers (men and women);
- Private farmer independence from current suppliers increased and male and female farmers make decisions as independent entrepreneurs;
- Ties strengthened among national policy-making institutions, local Association of Dehkan Farms and small farms (female and male headed);
- Information and Communication Strategy ensured that farm members, particularly women, fully understand the implication of debt restructuring and enter into the process voluntarily with full disclosure of vital information.

RESULTS:

- Enhanced capacity of local Dehkan farmers' associations to promote common interests, inform members about reform and increase farmers' influence on the reform process through training.
- Increased farmers' independence from powerful local economic actors by creating alternative channels to access agricultural service markets, principally through local farmers' associations.
- Improved institutional ties and communication between policy-making institutions and local farmers by facilitating an exchange between civil society and government institutions on one hand and with the National Association of Dehkan Farms on the other hand.
- The productivity of Dehkan farms increased by 20 percent on average among Dehkan farms that integrated into the association.

KEY ELEMENTS OF SUCCESS:

- The initiative was able to integrate Dehkan farms into the Association and register the association with the Justice Department as a public organization. As a result, Dehkan farms gained confidence in their strength and power once united as an association.
- Capacity of Dehkan Farms was built through several training sessions on institutional advocacy, bookkeeping, databases and extension services.
- Dehkan farms became free from local powerful investors through the creation of tool banks under the National Association of Dehkan Farms.
- Dehkan farms obtain reliable and timely information about the process of agricultural reform sector and can influence that process through the National Association of Dehkan Farms.

LESSONS LEARNED:

- Associations of Dehkan Farms (ADF) are the new attraction in agriculture in Tajikistan.
- ADFs are able to unite Dehkan farms and promote their voice at the national level.
- ADFs manage the issues and problems raised within ADFs well.
- Toolbanks are ideal for providing agricultural inputs and machinery to Dehkan farms.
- ADFs are effective partners of jamoat (sub-district) authorities and can be a model for agricultural development.
- Round tables, conferences and trainings on Government Resolution 111, "On approval of a plan of measures for cotton farm debt resolution in the Republic of Tajikistan for 2007–2009" through

development and implementation of a communication strategy are the ideal steps to inform farmers so they can take steps to ensure their voices are heard.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The current process of agrarian reform in Tajikistan provides an invaluable opportunity for government and donors to address significant challenges in the governance of the agricultural sector. Unenforced property rights, lack of competition in agricultural service markets and agricultural debt have undermined agricultural productivity and equitable growth, with severe consequences for the livelihoods of rural farmers. At the heart of these issues is the underlying framework of governance, particularly small producers' lack of opportunities for participation and the need for a national policy better tailored to their interests. The initiative promoted farmer participation in agricultural governance by strengthening local farmers' associations, enabling them to facilitate access to agricultural service markets and improving their links with the national farmers' association and central policy-making institutions.

The programme had four outputs and continued for two years with a budget of \$1,063,560.

IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS:

Ministry of Agriculture of Tajikistan

National Association of Dehkan Farms of Tajikistan

Jamoat Recourse Center Sayod of Shahritus District, Tajikistan

Water User Associations of Jamoat Gulshan-Farkhor District and Sayod Jamoat-Shahritus District

Association of Dehkan Farms of Jamoat Gulshan-Farkhor District and Sayod Jamoat-Shahritus District

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