

Local Market Development Project

Helvetas Swiss Association for International Cooperation
ICCO, Dutch Cooperation Development Organisation

1 Project work with Farmers' Groups

This year in work along value chains for supplying fruit and vegetables to processing enterprises, more than 3200 farmers in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan (of whom about 50% are women) are involved. This is more than twice as many as last year. There are 215 farmers' groups working with such NGOs as Mekhr Shavkat, DCCA, Shoola, and Tayan, RAS Advisory-training Centre and the TES Centre in Kyrgyzstan and the Gamkhori, Zan va Zamin, Istochnik Zhizni, Mekhrangez, Nadzhoti Kudakon, Rano and Fayzbakhsh NGOs and the ATAC Agricultural Advisory Service in Tajikistan.

The farmers have signed contracts to supply more than 5500 tons of vegetables to fruit and vegetable enterprises and 8 groups of milk suppliers are supplying about 1.5 tons of milk to the Osh Dairy every day. Since spring the farmers have been trained by the advisory services and agricultural NGOs in how to grow vegetables.

2 Platform for Developing Agricultural Chains in the North of the Kyrgyz Republic

On 16th May in the Competitiveness and Agro-Business Centre a regular Meeting of the Platform for Developing Agricultural Chains in the North of Kyrgyzstan was held. The following topics were covered at that meeting: "Trade and Service cooperatives, Seed Growing Cooperatives and setting up seed banks" and a presentation was given on the preliminary results of research into the fruit and vegetable processing sector conducted in Kyrgyzstan by M-Vector and the Centre for Training and Consulting (CTC). Project is also researching the fruit and vegetable sector in Tajikistan and the results will soon be available to all interested parties. The GTZ representatives presented how the work will be organized in the programme this year. Representatives of the SIDA project, Seed-growing Association of the KR and the Union of Co-operatives of the KR passed on their experience of setting up Seed-Growing cooperatives and spoke of the problems in this branch.

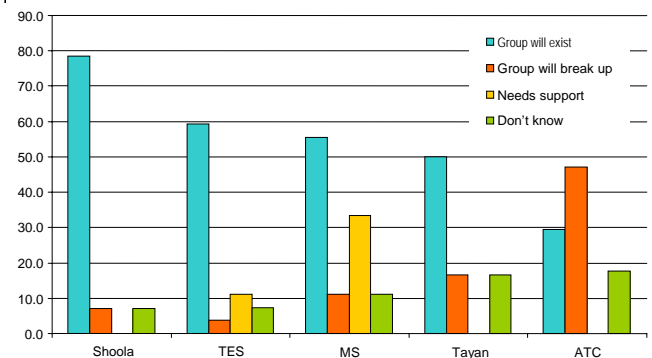
The ATC representatives will organise the next two discussion platforms, the themes of which will be: Agricultural Marketing Information Systems, Small Mechanisation Means in Agriculture, Processing Fruit, Vegetables and Milk etc.

3 AIMS Presentation in the Ak-Keme on 10th June

On 10th June 2008 from 10:00 to 12:00 in the Large Conference Hall of the Ak-Keme Hotel, AgrolInformAsia and the Project plan to make an official presentation of the Agricultural Information Marketing System that will show how the system works at present and also how it will develop in the future. Invitations have been sent to representatives of International organisations, Ministry of Agriculture, Heads of Processing Enterprises, Trading Companies and Digital Communications Operators. The Presentation will be given in English and Russian and is open to all interested parties and anybody wishing to attend should contact AgrolInformAziya Limited: Tel 51-08-60, e-mail: info@agro-asia.com

4 Platform for Developing Agricultural Chains in the South of the Kyrgyz Republic

A regular Meeting of the Platform for Developing Agricultural Chains in the South of Kyrgyzstan was held on 23rd May in the TES Centre at which an assessment of the influence on farmers and farmers' groups involved in Project activities was given and work with partner organisations was discussed. A report on the Assessment has been prepared in English and will be translated into Russian and both versions will be available to partner organisations in the near future.



The above graph confirms one of the main conclusions of the research (68 farmers who have been involved in the Project since 2005), that the majority of groups formed by NGOs as opposed to groups formed by agricultural advisory services are more stable and sustainable.