

Local Market Development Project

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

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AIMS presentation

From 10:00 to 12:00 on 10th June in the Large Conference Hall of the Ak-keme Hotel, AgrolInformAsia Ltd with support from the project made an official presentation of the Agricultural Information Marketing System (AIMS). The Project Leader, Head of the Association of Fruit and Vegetable Enterprises, Manager of AgrolInformAsia Ltd and a Helvetas Trainee from Switzerland spoke to those present about the current state of the system and its future strategy. There were representatives from more than 40 organisations, international donor organisations, processing plants, trading companies etc. The presentation was made in English and Russian.

Those present remarked on the importance and timeliness of such a system and the need to work together to further strengthen and develop the system.

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Seminar on Developing Value Added Chains

From 16th to 25th June a seminar on Developing Value Added Chains was held in Osh for 21 people from 10 NGOs and Agricultural Advisory Services from Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. The participants' development experience varied from 1 to 8 years. Evgenyj Ryazanov, in his capacity as a consultant, ran the seminar together with Aynagul Nasyrova the Director of the TES Centre. The seminar had a very packed programme including a theoretical part on analysing and selecting sub-sectors of the economy in which their development organisations could work to determine potential value added chains in selected sub-sectors and also monitoring and



evaluation of the impact of the organisation's work on developing the target group. After the theoretical part the participants were able to put into practice what they had learnt during their group work.

In order to acquaint the participants with the organisation's work in developing Value Added Chains (VAC), representatives from the Mekhr Shafkat and ASDP Now NGOs gave a prepared presentation on economic and social approaches to development, Shoola NGO and the Centre for Training and Consulting gave a presentation on cooperation between interested parties in developing VAC. The following day Shoola NGO and the TES Centre gave a presentation on the role of NGOs in the development market and the DCCA South NGO gave a presentation on developing trust between actors in VAC.



On the seventh and eighth days of the seminar field trips were organised when participants were divided into 4 groups, each of which had their own tasks and visited the Mekhr-Shafkat and DCCA NGOs and the TES Centre and conducted their own mini research so that they would be able to teach the staff of their own organisations how to set up farmers' groups, what role agricultural advisory services play in developing chains and also the reasons and consequences of ineffective cooperation with supporting organisations involved in developing chains. As a result of two days intensive work each group had prepared a comparative analysis of the situation in all three organisations and also their conclusions and recommendations. The group presentations were animatedly discussed by the participants and this helped them all to better understand how to carry out their work.

The seminar participants' expectations were fully met and they liked the course content and teaching method, the simplicity and applicability of the approaches and the tools and conditions.