

# PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG) REPORT ON

## DEVELOPMENT OF A PROJECT PROPOSAL TO ADDRESS FOOD SAFETY NEEDS FOCUSING ON THE NATIONAL FOOD SAFETY STRATEGY

(MARCH 2017)

PROJECT STDF/PPG/447 – FUNDED BY STDF  
IMPLEMENTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL  
TRADE CENTRE (ITC)

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**ACRONYMS**

<b>ADB</b>	Asian Development Bank
<b>AFT</b>	Aid for Trade
<b>AVUCS</b>	Agri-chemicals and veterinary medicine usage and control systems
<b>CAREC</b>	Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation
<b>CIS</b>	Commonwealth of Independent States
<b>ECTAP</b>	Enhanced Competitiveness of Tajik Agribusiness
<b>EIF</b>	Enhanced Integrated Framework
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>EUD</b>	European Union Delegation
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
<b>FBD</b>	Foodborne diseases
<b>FSCI</b>	Foundation to support civil initiatives
<b>GAP</b>	Good Agricultural Practices
<b>GDP</b>	Gross domestic product
<b>GHP</b>	Good Hygiene Practices
<b>GIZ</b>	German Society for International Cooperation
<b>HACCP</b>	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points
<b>IAEA</b>	Atomic Energy Agency
<b>IEC</b>	Information, education and communication
<b>IFAD</b>	International Fund for Agricultural Development
<b>IFC</b>	International Finance Corporation
<b>IFI</b>	International Financial Institutions
<b>IPM</b>	Integrated Pest Management
<b>ISTC</b>	International Science and Technology Centre
<b>ITC</b>	International Trade Centre
<b>MEDT</b>	Ministry of Economic Development & Trade
<b>MOA</b>	Ministry of Agriculture
<b>MOHSP</b>	Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population
<b>MRL</b>	Maximum Residue Levels
<b>NASMBT</b>	National Association of Small and Medium Business of Tajikistan
<b>NFSS</b>	National Food Safety Strategy
<b>OECD</b>	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
<b>OSCE</b>	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
<b>PPG</b>	Project Preparation Grant
<b>RBM</b>	Result-based Management
<b>RT</b>	Republic of Tajikistan
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SECO</b>	Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs
<b>SIDA</b>	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
<b>SME</b>	Small and medium-sized enterprises
<b>SOPPAC</b>	State Organization on Plant Protection and Agriculture Chemicalization
<b>SPS</b>	Sanitary and Phytosanitary (Measures)
<b>SSESS</b>	State Sanitary and Epidemiological Surveillance Service

<b>SSIPQ</b>	State Service of Phytosanitary Inspection and Plant Quarantine
<b>STDF</b>	Standards and Trade Development Facility
<b>SVIS</b>	State Veterinary Inspection Service
<b>TA</b>	Technical Assistance
<b>TBT</b>	Technical Barriers to Trade
<b>TMTD</b>	Tetramethylthiuram disulfide
<b>UNCT</b>	United Nations Country Team
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNIDO</b>	United Nation Industrial Development Organization
<b>UNICEF</b>	Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
<b>USSR</b>	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
<b>WFP</b>	World Food Program
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization
<b>WTO</b>	World Trade Organization
<b>ZD</b>	Zoonotic diseases

# 1. INTRODUCTION

Tajikistan accessed the WTO in 2013 and since then has been developing its food safety legislation. As a result of this, the National Food Safety Strategy (NFSS) has been established. The latter is expected to harmonize and improve compliance of national stakeholders with the international food safety standards in parallel to the improved national food safety controls and market access. To assist Tajikistan in the implementation of the NFSS and expedite the process of compliance to international standards to enable trade, STDF approved a project preparation grant (PPG) implemented by the International Trade Centre (ITC) that resulted in the following report.

## 2. PURPOSE OF THE PPG

To develop a project proposal to address food safety needs focusing on the National Food Safety Strategy in Tajikistan, a research was conducted, that was in line with the Letter of Agreement between ITC and STDF.

## 3. METHODOLOGY

The development of the project proposal, as a result of this PPG consisted of a few steps. The first stage of it was to undertake preparatory work that involved a desk research, followed by a field visit. During the latter, accurate information related to the food safety systems in the country was gathered from private and public stakeholders.

- **Preparatory desk work**

The National Food Safety Strategy (NFSS) and a number of other relevant documents<sup>1</sup> (including the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures Road Map) were analysed by the national and international food safety experts, and reviewed by ITC to prioritize key areas in the proposed project. Additional information was obtained by ITC TradeMap tool on the exports and potential crops with highest export value. This helped the team to continue with the field visit with concrete findings and solid research hypothesis to be tested during the stakeholders' interviews.

A programme for the field mission was prepared in consultation with the National Consultant and ITC staff in ITC headquarter.

- **Field visit**

A field visit of an International Consultant to Dushanbe was conducted from 4th – 14th April 2016 in order to undertake in-depth consultations with stakeholders and to identify the priority food safety capacity building needs, among those identified in the NFSS, to increase market access of specific products.

During the field work, which was facilitated by a National Consultant and the local ITC office, the International Consultant in close collaboration with the local team conducted the following tasks:

- Additional documents including reports of recent food safety situation analysis and needs assessments were collected and reviewed;
- Information was gathered on ongoing or planned research and capacity building projects undertaken by international organisations, bilateral donors, NGOs and Governmental institutions directly or indirectly related to food safety and trade in Tajikistan;
- Information on value chains with export potential that are sensitive to food safety risks was collected and based on these documents and consultation, the priority capacity building needs along these value chains were identified;

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<sup>1</sup> See Annex I

- Key relevant institutions and stakeholders were identified and their buy-in and full engagement in the implementation of this PPG and in the resultant project proposal was advocated;
- Consultations were undertaken with public and private sector stakeholders to identify the priority areas to be addressed within the proposed project, in accordance with the recommendations of the NFSS. The collected information was used for the subsequent preparation of the project proposal;
- Areas of overlap and synergies with other initiatives taking place in the country (as well as regional initiatives) were identified during the discussions with the donors and IFI's in particular.
- The backbone (log frame) of the resultant project was prepared, presented and universally supported at the validation round table.
- Options for implementation and potential funding sources of the resulting project were explored based on discussion with potential implementing agencies, in consultation with the Ministry of Economic Development & Trade (MEDT) and other relevant national agencies.

After the individual meetings, a stakeholders' validation workshop<sup>2</sup> was held to discuss priorities identified and validate the proposed log frame of the resultant project. The summary of the individual meetings and the roundtable discussion is presented in the text below. The MEDT was advised on dissemination of information among other relevant stakeholders who were not present in the meeting.

- **Project proposal development**

The findings of the field visit's report helped the ITC and local stakeholders to develop and further build a project proposal to address the gaps identified by the experts who undertook the research work, both in the field and remotely. Off-site consultation with international partners such as FAO took place to further identify areas of complementarities and synergies. This led to a formulation of a solid project document with priority areas for interventions that are most relevant for the improvement of food safety systems and the development of market access for Tajik agri-food products. The project document derived from this PPG – Annex VI - was approved by the STDF Working Group meeting in March 2017.

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<sup>2</sup> For the list of participants see Annex II



## 4. DESCRIPTION OF THE MAIN VALUE CHAINS WITH EXPORT POTENTIAL

Tajikistan's agribusiness employs nearly half (48%) of the country's labor force and accounts for about one-fourth of its GDP. While agricultural production has been increasing in the recent years, overall exports including agricultural exports have only slightly increased since 2004. The cotton industry is the leading agribusiness sector, constituting 60% of total agricultural production. It is by far the most valuable agribusiness export commodity, dominating the sector and generating nearly USD 100 million in exports in 2015 (Figure 1).

Product label	Exported value (in USD thousand) in 2011	Exported value (in USD thousand) in 2012	Exported value (in USD thousand) in 2013	Exported value (in USD thousand) in 2014	Exported value (in USD thousand) in 2015
Aluminum and articles thereof	586511	663349	458595	239781	265631
Ores, slag and ash	76326	119917	94921	177223	168517
Pearls, precious stones, metals, coins, etc	1539	59400	51875	123094	142594
Cotton	155697	150411	121018	69430	96774
Edible fruit, nuts, peel of citrus fruit, melons	48022	38606	40377	37509	25447
Edible vegetables and certain roots and tubers	22628	16594	26200	12672	18676

Source: ITC Trademap tool<sup>3</sup>

According to the OECD report on "Increasing exports in Tajikistan", excluding cotton, around 95% of the remaining agricultural exports are represented by fruit and vegetables. Dried fruits and onions represent about 80% of food exports. The reason for the high numbers is that dried grapes, apples, onions and apricots can be stored longer and transported more easily than fresh products without decreasing their quality.

Dried fruit exports amounted to almost USD 40 million in 2013, which puts Tajikistan 11th in the world, with 2% of all global dried fruit exports. Informal trade in agricultural produce is widespread, as traders seek to avoid formal trade costs and restrictions. The main export markets for dried fruits are Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) such as Kazakhstan 94%,

<sup>3</sup> Mirror data

Russia 1,5%, and China 1,3%. Most analytics suggest that the 94-96% of the food exports go to Russia, either directly or as re-exports from Kazakhstan, therefore the Kazakhstan's share in export of dried fruits is more than Russian Federation (Tables 2 and 3).

№	Country	Volume	USD	%
1	Kazakhstan	28115,43	8390397	94,4149
2	Russia	432,985	738500	1,4540
3	China	391,106	143709	1,3134
4	Irak	246,272	59310	0,8270
5	Ukraine	152,915	165559	0,5135
6	Belarus	130,287	287901	0,4375
7	Turkey	98,311	40988	0,3301
8	Iran	81,157	19439	0,2725
9	Estonia	54,469	14000	0,1829
10	USA	23,958	64654	0,0805
11	Lithuania	19	107540	0,0638
12	Turmenistan	15,145	4119	0,0509
13	UAE	6,388	9476	0,0215
14	Japan	5	20000	0,0168
15	Germany	2,35	16821	0,0079
16	South Africa	2	2000	0,0067
17	Kyrgyzstan	1,8	818	0,0060
18	Saudi Arabia	0,02	276	0,0001
19	Poland	0,016	4	0,0001
	Total	29778,609	10085511	

Figure 2 Main export markets for Tajikistan's dried fruits (2015, tones and USD)

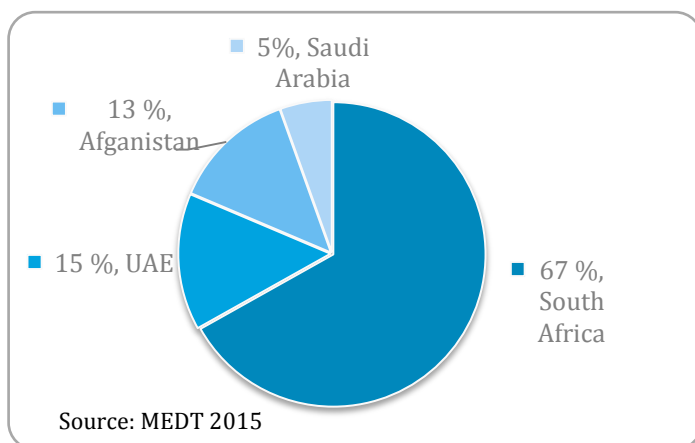
№	Country	Volume	USD	%
1	Kazakhstan	18700,247	3382745	93,49
2	China	354,2	81200	1,77
3	Russia	268,617	471208	1,34
4	Irak	246,272	59310	1,23
5	Ukraine	146,766	162135	0,73
6	Iran	81,157	19439	0,41
7	Belarus	72,898	170898	0,36
8	Estonia	54,469	14000	0,27
9	Turkey	24,867	16717	0,12
10	USA	20,112	56512	0,10
11	Lithuania	19	107540	0,09
12	UAE	6,388	9476	0,03

13	Turkmenistan	6,025	1930	0,03
14	Germany	2,35	16821	0,01
15	Poland	0,016	4	0,0001
	Total	20003,384		

Figure 3 Main export markets for Tajikistan's dried apricots (2015, tones and USD)

Surprisingly top export markets for honey produced in Tajikistan shared amongst South Africa, UAE, Saudi Arabia and Afghanistan (Figure 4).

Figure 4 Market shares for Tajikistan's honey (2015)



Being very closely located to populous China, India, and having well established trade links to resource-rich Russia and Central Asian states is strategic for growing trade partnership with fast-developing East Asia. This results in increased demand for processed Tajik fruits and vegetables including dried fruits.

Based on a number of analyses undertaken by donors and various International Financial Institutions, as GIZ, Microfinance Centre (MFC), EU, OECD, FAO, Hilfswerk and others, key value chains with export potential are:

- Dried fruit in particular dried apricots but also peaches, prunes raisins and possibly dried melon.
- Marinated cucumbers (and other marinated vegetables).
- Fruit juices/concentrates jams and preserves.
- Honey.

Having noted the above, it is important to stress that the monitoring and control systems to be proposed by the project shall apply to imports and exports on all agri-food products of both animal and non-animal origin.

Honey (as product of animal origin) to be exported to the EU, the EU requires an operational residue monitoring system in place and necessary control systems before including Tajikistan in the list of countries with approved residue monitoring plans. The countries in this list are authorised to export animal origin products to the EU.

## 5. OVERVIEW OF THE FOOD SAFETY CHALLENGES AND CAPACITY BUILDING NEEDS WITH THE PURPOSE OF GAINING MARKET ACCESS FOR SELECTED PRODUCTS

The OECD report “Increasing Exports in Tajikistan the Case of Agribusiness” carried out within framework of OECD Eurasia Competitiveness Program and National Food Safety Strategy (NFSS)

provides a detailed problem analysis on the strength and weakness in Tajikistan's agribusiness sector, identifying key food chain challenges and the resulting obstacles to accessing high value markets.

The private sector-survey carried out by OECD during the summer of 2014 in Tajikistan, highlights the difficulty of SMEs to gain international certification, especially in agribusiness. It outlines that although the basic legal framework for technical and sanitary standards are in place often due to lack of funds, capacity and adequate organization, Tajikistan's agricultural products are not in compliance with international standards. This is a major barrier for exports through formal channels.

Indeed, 43% of the firms report that products not complying with international standards are an important or very important export barrier. The issue with certification is also partially covering underlying quality and safety issues with at least part of Tajikistan's agribusiness production. This is due to the fragmentation of agricultural production and the shortage of large processors that could impose quality and safety standards on their suppliers. Issues with quality and certification are likely to expand if they are not properly addressed. As a result it will be difficult for Tajikistan to diversify its exports into EU market, Turkey, Iran and other high value markets. Similarly, as part of the creation of the Eurasian Economic Union, Russia is expected to update its standards and to make their implementation even more systematic. This could further reduce the market for uncertified products from Tajikistan.

This problem also leads to challenges of getting "trusted trader" image for Tajikistan that may contribute to simplification of SPS procedures, as well as recognition of the certificates issued and/or granted by Tajikistan's food safety bodies. According to the survey outcomes, more than 75% of agribusiness companies, consider the need to provide proof to obtain international certificates of compliance, as an important or a very important policy to support exports. In addition, they consider that the government should develop a structured strategy to support or encouraging financial mechanisms (e.g. tax incentives, credit or consulting) to help SMEs and exporters to certify their production.

One of the highlighted issues in the NFSS is the use and misuse of agri-chemicals and veterinary medicines and the lack of a system to monitor and control this. It has a direct impact on the safety of domestically consumed food and the acceptability of Tajik agri-food exports to the targeted export markets.

The roots of all the above-mentioned problems lie and are interconnected with broadly known pollution of the cultivated lands, by so called man-made pollutants resulted of industry and traffic emissions, as well as the inappropriate use of agrochemicals that lead to water, soil and air pollution. Consequently, their accumulation in plants during metabolic processes and then transmission to animals and human bodies via consumption of food and feed may lead to mild or severe food poisoning.

A technical assistance synthesis report from ADB also flags the problem with use of pesticides for combating agricultural pests, plant diseases and weeds. During the Soviet era one of the most grown agricultural crop was cotton, where repetition of 10 aerial sprays per crop was applied, leading to contamination of environment and destruction of the balance in the natural ecosystem of insects. Although in the recent years the use of POPs pesticides has been reduced, the problem of the accumulated amounts of previous years still remains.

For example, honey is one of the potentially high-risk products as the nectar collected contains contaminants (heavy metals, dioxins, pesticides) and accumulates in honey. Also the source of contamination can be the inadequate application of veterinary medicines (antibiotics) and fumigants to prevent and/or treat affected apiaries. An example of this issue is given by an inspection carried out by US authorized body in 2010 in Tajikistan, which revealed close placement of the apiaries to roadways. As a result, contamination by dioxins occurred and exceeding MRLs of fumigants in produced honey was detected. This caused reduced volume exports in honey to USA.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> NFSS, 2015

Another challenging problem is the pollution of fruits and vegetables by agrochemicals (pesticides and fertilizers) and mycotoxins, due to agrochemicals misuse during the growing and processing stages and the inadequate storage of raw products. Transmission of the accumulated agrochemicals from fruit and vegetables, entering human and animal bodies through consumption products may lead to a chronic and to a lesser extent acute intoxication, as mentioned earlier. Risk of intoxication by dried fruits rises twice because of the double treatment by agrochemicals i.e. during growing and processing (smoking by Sulphur dioxide).

A recent study of imported and domestic food products carried out under ISTC funded project #T-1989 in 2014 in Tajikistan revealed the existence of the problem of contamination not only by microorganisms but also by agrochemicals, veterinary medicines (antibiotics) and aflatoxins. The study highlights that in the samples of flour and samples taken from patients they discovered intoxication of exceeding level of aflatoxin B1.

As a reflection, the NFSS underlines the importance of addressing this problem under the “Food safety challenges, including foodborne diseases and food contamination, facing Tajikistan”, specifying that NFSS identifies contaminants and residues being the key systemic problem for Tajik agri-food production. The example given in the document refers to the excessive usage of agrochemicals and the lack of its monitoring system that leads to food safety and food quality problems. The NFSS also notes that “None of the phytosanitary requirements include food safety aspects such as MRLs for pesticides nor are they testing for these MRLs.”

A study carried out by the Tajik Research Institute of preventive medicine of the Ministry of Health of Tajikistan published information on pesticides confirming the following: “Tajikistan was one of the republics of former USSR with highest level of pesticide usage per hectare of the land, in average 15500 ton per year”. The study highlights the significance of food, air and water contamination in areas of intensive pesticide application. According to the study results, the degree of exceeding acceptable daily intake of pesticides ranged from 0 to 20% between the samples. The study has also shown residues not only of pesticides, but also organic pollutants such as DDT, hexachlorocyclohexane, B-58, phosalone, thiodan, nitrofen, butifos, chlorophos.

Crop	Size of land treated (hectare)	Seed protectants	Insecticides and acaricides	Fungicides	Herbicides
Cotton	111993	78,0	94,2	-	28,0
Cereals	101931	189,4	37,3	95,6	48,6
Potato	14474	-	3,8	6,1	8,6
Vegetables	21660	-	3,3	15,4	11,3
Melons and gourds	14475	-	2,1	2,8	17,5
Orchards and vineyards	69700	-	152,1	186,4	28,2
Feed	26689	16,7	24,6	15,1	23,9
Pasture	110000	-	25,0	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>284,1</b>	<b>342,4</b>	<b>321,4</b>	<b>166,1</b>

Figure 5 Level of pesticide usage for crop protection in Tajikistan in 2011 (in tons)<sup>5</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Source: Pesticide project implemented with the support of FSCI IPEN and Swiss Federal Office, by the Republic of Tajikistan Ecological organization «Foundation to support civil initiatives» (FSCI, Dastgirje-CenterSource)

The key problems related to pesticides highlighted in this report were listed as follows:

- Lack of functioning system on registration of pesticides;
- Lack of developed system of indicators on the quality standards of pesticides used;
- Lack of appropriate normative and technical documentation on pesticides;
- Lack of toxicological laboratory to perform tests to determine the residual quantity of pesticides, particularly with the properties of POPs in the environment and agricultural production, as well as to monitor the quality of imported pesticides;
- Lack of control system over the import and use of pesticides.

The analysis on “Modernization of the food safety and control system in the republic of Tajikistan” prepared by Dr. Aivars Bērziņš, as part of the USAID Regional Economic Cooperation Project, concluded that the laboratories lack national control/surveillance programs in the area of food safety, for example on veterinary drug residues, pesticides, mycotoxins, other chemical and biological. Most of the laboratories visited did not have modern equipment, such as GC, LC, MS or ICP-MS for testing common food contaminants and veterinary drug residues.

In addition in the report published by USAID on Laboratory assessment in Tajikistan, it has been highlighted that the laboratories in the country are in shortage of modern equipment and budget for technical service in order to conduct adequately lab analysis and ensure accurate results.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture of Tajikistan, in June 2014 an import of 10 tons of dried apricots was rejected at the Japanese border due to excessive level of Sulphur dioxide. During the border control, it 2,93g Sulphur dioxide was found in 1 kilo which is equivalent to 2930mg/kg in the dried apricots from Tajikistan were dispatched. The Codex standard on maximum sulphur dioxide levels for dried apricots is 2000 mg/kg.

A similar case was registered in July 2014, where Italy rejected apricot kernels from Tajikistan shipped through Turkey, because of exceeding aflatoxins levels (B1 = 21.7; Tot. = 24.9 µg/kg ppb). In August 2009, a shipment of pistachios from Tajikistan was rejected at the EU border, due to inadequacy of the accompanied health certificate. The problems highlighted also have local public health implications, reflected in growing incidents of intoxication and fatal cases due to the consumption of pesticides contaminated food and water. According to the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, in the recent years about 30 cases of intoxication by TMTD, Thiodan, Hexachlorocyclohexane (currently not authorized for usage) were registered in Tajikistan, some of them resulting in lethal cases.

In terms of specific measures to address the issues raised in the NFSS, the report on the Improvement of Veterinary, Sanitary and Phytosanitary Safety in Tajikistan (known as the road map) was produced in October 2015 within the UNDP's Aid for Trade Project authored by Grigor V. Grigoryan, Alvina Avagian, providing clear guidance. According to the report, one of the “priority targets for intervention” identified is to “monitor residues of veterinary drugs in raw of animal origin” and to “monitor contaminants and residues in semi-finished foods”.

The reason for the limited up to date data on the residues of agri-chemicals and veterinary medicines in feed and food is the lack of monitoring system in place and testing capacity. This results in systematic problems for the policy-makers and control bodies in tracking the source of the major problems.

Despite the fact that there are many areas of possible interventions in the area of food safety, these two strategic documents backed up by other independent analysis confirm that the area of agri-chemical and veterinary medicine and the systems to monitor their safe use shall be a priority. This will reduce incidents concerning the health of domestic consumers, as well as the access to high value agri-food markets.

## **6. PROBLEMS FACED BY SMES IN THE AREA OF ACCESS TO FINANCE**

According to OECD's Private Sector Development Policy Handbook Enhancing Access to Finance for SME Development in Tajikistan (2015), SMEs are the main players in the country's private sector in terms of number of enterprises and share of employment. They face a major challenge in accessing affordable finance from the banking and microfinance sectors as they are unable to fulfil their needs due to their weak infrastructures and lack of appropriate capital. Policies to improve access to finance have had limited results and there are only limited tools to increase access to external finance. At the same time Tajikistan receives large inflows of remittances, which are by far the biggest source of external revenue for the country. Tajikistan could use this potential source of finance for SME development. Nevertheless, challenges remain as remittances do not enter the weak financial sector and migrants lack the skills and support needed to create businesses.

The Policy Handbook on increasing exports in Tajikistan (2015) highlighted access to finance as one of the four key areas to address in the agri-sector mainly concerning the high real interest rates and nearly non-existent long-term financing. Lack of access to finance undermines investments by SMEs, especially in agribusiness, this results in limited competitive advantage of the agribusiness sector in Tajikistan. FDI has been virtually non-existent in the sector, and local investment is constrained by expensive credit. Tajikistan's financial sector is fragile, concentrated and lacks competition. Domestic credit amounts to only 13% of GDP in Tajikistan, which is well below peer countries (e.g. 41% in Kazakhstan, 42% in Republic of Moldova and 30% in Mongolia; World Bank, 2014). Microfinance institutions are active and provide 18% of Tajikistan's domestic credit but can only solve part of these issues. Commercial credit for agriculture is limited, interest rates are high (20-30% per annum) and long-term credit is virtually non-existent apart from some limited government-funded schemes. The lack of short- and long-term financing effectively means that agribusiness companies cannot invest or buy inputs in larger quantities and have to operate with outdated technology. In some cases, this has even forced companies to revert back to transactions in kind, where a processor would for instance pay for farmers' raw products with part of its production of processed goods.

Whilst access to finance policy and structural issues are being addressed by IFC and World Bank, several donors and IFI's are making microfinance available to the agri-food sector through individual schemes at project level including GIZ, UNDP and most recently EU through the Enhanced Competitiveness of Tajik Agribusiness Project (ECTAP project). The ECTAP project is working together with EBRD to provide smaller concessional loans and grants for agri-production and processing equipment and larger ones for infrastructure.

The Government provides preferential credit to agribusiness firms, including exporters, through the Fund of Entrepreneurship Support, but the credit provided is limited due to the small size of the Fund (USD 6 million in 2013). Instruments that can help tackle specific risks in the agribusiness sector (such as warehouse receipt financing) or in exports (e.g. guarantee schemes) are not existent in Tajikistan. This absence of export financing is an important or very important barrier to exports for almost 46% of agribusiness firms (OECD survey, Annex 2).

On the basis of the above, it has therefore been decided to target the proposed access to finance component of the project proposal towards a sub-sector specific policy conformity incentivising scheme i.e. eligibility criteria focussed on responsible agri-chemical and veterinary medicine use and producer / consumer groupings in order to demonstrate the effectiveness of such instruments to the government for replication in future national programmes.

## **7. OTHER ONGOING WORK TO SUPPORT SPS CAPACITY**

Below is a summary of support activities in Tajikistan in the area of SPS capacity with particular focus on food safety and cross-cutting issues.

### **7.1. Past, ongoing or planned programmes and projects**

Within the past decade there were many efforts to improve food safety under framework of the national programmes and donor funded projects which mainly covered the assessment of SPS systems including the food safety system in Tajikistan.

Most interventions were directed to fulfil Tajikistan's obligations taken under WTO agreements and outlined targets for priority interventions stipulated by the "Program of Adjustment of the Economy of

the Republic of Tajikistan Related to the Membership in the World Trade Organization” approved by the Government of Tajikistan (GoT) in April 2012.

Amongst all development partners tangible and effective interventions in the SPS area were and are implemented by longstanding development partners of Tajikistan in trade facilitation activities, namely the International Trade Center (ITC), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), Asian Development Bank (ADB), European Union (EU), World Health Organization (WHO), Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in cooperation with key national stakeholders such as MEDT, MoA, MoHSPP, Agency “Tajikistandart”, Chamber of Commerce and Industry, National Association of Small and Medium Business of the Republic of Tajikistan (NASMB), Cooperative of agronomists “Sarob”, Consulting Company “Kamolot 1”.

## **7.2. SPS (food safety) specific activities**

**ITC:** within the project framework implemented under the SECO’s Trade Cooperation Programme in Tajikistan- provided technical assistance to contribute to the implementation of complex domestic reforms of Tajikistan to become a full member of the WTO. It was based on an integrated approach, and responded to the recommendations made by various evaluations and assessments. The project was requested by MEDT, with regard to the WTO accession process. One of the main expected outcomes of the project was on regulatory infrastructure: Improved capacity of SQAM, SPS and TBT bodies. As a result, the National Food Safety Strategy of Tajikistan (NFSS) and its Action Plan was developed and released in 2015.

**OSCE:** In 2013, MEDT requested OSCE to provide technical assistance for identifying the priority interventions in the SPS area. This resulted in a detailed report which along with other activities established the basis for development of the NFSS.

**UNDP:** Mid 2015, UNDP implemented the regional project “Wider Europe: Aid for Trade for Central Asia, South Caucasus and Western CIS”. This project is a part of global Aid for Trade (AFT) initiative, which is aimed at strengthening the capacity of countries to participate in and benefit from international trade. One of the activities of the project was focussed on providing TA to the inter-ministry working group in development of the Road Map on improvement of veterinary, sanitary and phytosanitary safety in Tajikistan. The assessment was completed in the late 2015 with Road Map on improving veterinary, sanitary and phytosanitary safety in Tajikistan.

**ADB:** Activities on the modernization of SPS infrastructures in Tajikistan is part of the ADB ongoing regional project on “Promoting Cooperation in SPS Measures for CAREC”. The project is implemented under the CAREC Transport and Trade Facilitation Strategy 2020 and aimed at improving SPS control in countries of the CAREC for facilitation of regional trade. In 2014, ADB conducted assessment of regulatory framework, laboratory capacities and border management capabilities for the official SPS controls in Tajikistan and identified a number of areas for support. These findings are reflected in the “CAREC Common Agenda for Modernization of SPS Measures for Trade Facilitation”, which was submitted by ADB for consideration to the Government of Tajikistan in August 2015. During a meeting with ADB representatives, it was concluded that a support on rationalization of the laboratory network shall be provided.

## **7.3. Complementary activities**

In addition to the above mentioned development partners, technical assistance and financial support in the development of various elements of the national food safety system were provided also by World Food Program (WFP), Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and other international organizations and agencies. Catalogue of Development Partners Profile for 2015 suggests that this list could be expanded. Development partners, that expressed their interest in the participation in some of the activities foreseen by the food safety roadmap, are listed below.

**EU:** a new “Enhanced Competitiveness of Tajik Agribusiness” project has been started by the EU to support development of agricultural sectors in Tajikistan. The project focuses on the development of agricultural food production, processing and marketing. It targets value chains of meat, milk, honey, fruit, vegetable and various crop (e.g. fodder, oil seed, potatoes, etc.) productions. To implement this, the ECTAP will cooperate with stakeholders of selected value chains through six result-oriented activities: 1) development of higher quality levels of targeted agricultural food/fodder production; 2) delivery of technologies and technical services (i.e. processing, storage, packaging, quality control,



trading, etc.); 3) development of marketing of high quality products; 4) establishment of a grant system to enhance access of farmers to credits; 5) development of food quality control system 6) development of certification systems according to international standards. During the meeting with the EU delegation, it was concluded that the EU is considering future follow-up interventions in the next programming phase.

**GIZ:** under its “Framework and Finance for Private Sector Development” project, the GIZ supports private sector in raising economic growth in rural areas and developing sustainable and profitable businesses. The aim of this project is to strengthen value chains for production of agricultural and non-agricultural products. The current focus of the project is on facilitating the introduction of private, low-cost, agricultural advisory services to provide farmers with information on locally appropriate crop cultivation methods, as well as to supporting capacity development for associations of farmers and enterprises. The Technical Advisory Groups had established a cooperative, as non-state organizations that provide professional development services and facilitate access to modern agricultural machinery. Via the current project, further capacity building on the existing advisory services will be done in order to reach out more beneficiaries.

The GIZ project also promotes cross-border dialogue between authorities, entrepreneurs and traders of Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Kyrgyzstan. In this regards, the project established centres for small-scale cross-border trade that provide advice on legal and commercial issues related to foreign trade, and organize meetings for traders and entrepreneurs on both sides of the border. It is expected that the GIZ will support the implementation of preparatory activities related to legislative changes and provide legal advice on the benefit of the provisions of the Trade Facilitation Agreement and support preparation of technical documents on food safety.

**IFC:** the support provided by the IFC in SPS area covers access to finance, but does not cover micro funding for small producers, which is a crucial element for agro-producers. The past IFC activities encompassed technical assistance in policy development area, particularly in revision of the law of the Republic of Tajikistan “On inspection of business entities” which raised different concerns on establishing risk based inspection services. The support from IFC could be expected in area of food safety, most notably in revision of the above mentioned law.

**WHO:** the support from the WHO on the implementation of the resulting project of this PPG is highly desirable, as the goals to strengthen the capacity of the laboratories is in line with their project under initiative Better lab for Better Health (BLBH) on strengthening the laboratory system. Within the framework of this initiative WHO CO in Tajikistan established an inter- sectoral working group (WG) for coordination and management of laboratories, which includes number of national and international partners, stakeholders and donors. The scope of the WG objectives includes following:

- Perform a gap-analysis of the country's laboratory services;
- Develop a national policy for laboratory strengthening, as well as sectoral plans;
- Support the implementations of these plans with focus on resource allocation.

Also through its food safety programme in Tajikistan, WHO implements activities on improving capabilities of national veterinary and sanitary specialists in detection and identification of causative agents of foodborne diseases (FBDs) and zoonotic diseases (ZDs) in ready-to-cook and ready-to-eat food products. Apart from these activities, WHO in Tajikistan is working on areas of integrative health risk management, including hygiene of nutrition, water sanitation, food security, environmental health and disaster preparedness.

**FAO:** the support provided by FAO in Tajikistan covers a various areas ranging from agricultural reform for enhancing productivity, improving the access to high-quality seeds to reinforcing market linkages for livestock traders to strengthening veterinary services. With the support of IFAD, FAO implemented a project on technology validation on farms. The latest project “Capacity development in food safety risk management of food processing enterprises and national authorities in Kyrgyz Republic and Republic of Tajikistan” aimed at improving food safety management systems through introduction of HACCP in food production establishments of Tajikistan. In addition, this FAO project also provides a good basis for dissemination of information about GHP throughout the country. Working groups had been established on the development of National Guides on introduction of GHP in production of raw milk and dairy products, home canning, production of pastry products and food services (catering). FAO has trained farmers and developed curricula for farmers on Integrated Pest Management (IPM). FAO is currently implementing a project on pesticide registration, with focus on updating the national pesticide register.

FAO is also implementing a new project preparation grant with the Ministry of Agriculture “Strengthening phytosanitary inspection and diagnostic capacity in Tajikistan” (STDF/PPG/561) approved in March 2016. FAO is aware of the selected priority value chains of this STDF project proposal and was encouraged to address the same in their work and build synergies.

During the development of this STDF project proposal extensive discussion and exchange took place with FAO (national and regional level), starting with FAO’s participation in the field at the bilateral meetings and stakeholders’ roundtable in April 2016. There are several linkages with FAO’s work in Tajikistan which confirmed the need in building synergies in the food safety area.

**Hilfswerk Austria International:** Under the EU funded project on “Integrated approach towards promoting Central Asia nuts, dried fruits and honey-processing SMEs” an assessment of the sector has been done.

**ISTC:** the cooperation of ISTC with the national institutions and agencies of Tajikistan is narrowed to small and target-oriented projects, aimed at improving technologies in different sectors (e.g. health, energy, biotechnology, seismology etc.). Currently, the ISTC has 11 food safety related projects in Tajikistan, approved for the implementation. Along these projects, ISTC also conducts theoretical and practical training courses on biosecurity and biosafety, which cover principles of bio risks reduction, risk assessment and laboratory quality control, disinfection and decontamination.

**British Expertise (UK):** implemented a project on “Development of the Fruit and Vegetable Processing Sectors in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan” in partnership with Association of Food Industry Enterprises (Kyrgyzstan) and National Association of Small and Medium Businesses (Tajikistan). The project was a follow up on the previous project implemented in the framework of Central Asia Invest II by British Expertise in partnership with BIG (NGO “Business Intellect Group”, Kyrgyzstan) in 2011 and it aimed transferring the experience from Kyrgyzstan to the South of Tajikistan.

**UNECE:** The project on supporting the apricots sector titled: “Strengthening the capacity of transition and developing economies to participate in cross-border agricultural food supply chains”, is progressing well. In this context UNECE has developed a quality standard for dried apricots at production/farmer level, which will need further support by the government and other international organizations for its implementation. Furthermore a new project in the area of food safety was recently launched aiming at education and including food safety in curricula, such as introducing HACCP and Global GAP courses in 4 higher education institutions here in the region (2 universities in Tajikistan, and 2 in Kyrgyzstan). This was requested by regional dried apricots exporters. The STDF project will further build on the collaboration with UNECE to compile training methodology and curricula for the sector in food safety.

According to the findings of the desk review of the existing information, field visits and meetings with international and national stakeholders (that took place as a roundtable on “Discussion of a project proposal to address food safety needs in Tajikistan”), it can be concluded that the problem of pesticide residues and veterinary medicines management is unexplored and not fully addressed in Tajikistan. These findings were approved by all the stakeholders and relevant recommendations made during the discussions with donors, as well as state and non-state stakeholders. Much effort was put on identifying the right area of interventions for the project, which will build on the existing synergies with other partners and at the same time not duplicate past or ongoing activities. The above analysis concluded that there are no activities in the area of residue monitoring ongoing or planned and therefore this topic needs to be the major point addressed in future projects.

## **8. RESULTS OF CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS**

In order to compile field information and validate the findings of the desk research key public and private sector stakeholders for further discussions have been identified and presented below. National authorities and development partners were individually met to discuss the finding and complement the information previously gathered by ITC. Meetings took place between 4th and 13th April 2016 in Tajikistan in form of discussions, where ITC representatives collected needs, discussed the gaps and the project proposal approach. On the 13 April 2016 the roundtable meeting with 39 participants was conducted (for the list of participants see Annex II).

### **8.1. State institutions**

- Ministry of Economic Development & Trade
- Academy of Science
- Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) State Veterinary Inspection Service (SVIS)
- MoHSPP, SSESS - State Sanitary and Epidemiological Surveillance Service
- MoA State Service of Phytosanitary Inspection and Plant Quarantine (SSPIPQ)
- MoA State Organization on Plant Protection and Agriculture chemicalization (SOPPAC)
- Central Laboratory of Veterinary Diagnosis of SVIS (MoA)
- Agency “Tojikstandart”
- Tajik Research and Scientific Institute of Food
- State Enterprise “Khurokvori”
- National Centre for Legislation under the President of Tajikistan
- State Committee on Investments and State Property Management of the Republic of Tajikistan

### **8.2. Private sector**

- Dehkan Farm “Yodgor” in Ayni District
- Dehkan Farm Association of Apricot Growers in Asht District
- Consulting company “Kamolot 1”
- French Supermarket chain “Auchan”

### **8.3. Non-state sector**

- Union of Consumers of Tajikistan
- National Association of Small and Medium Business of Tajikistan (NASMBT)
- Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Tajikistan
- Limited Liability Company “Sarob” (Advisory services)

### **8.4. Donors and projects**

- EU Commission Delegation to Tajikistan
- SECO
- UNDP
- UNIDO
- FAO
- IFC
- CCI
- ADB
- GIZ
- WHO
- Hilfswerk Austria International
- USAID project “Business women” in Kurgantube

- EU Rural Development Program
- EU ECTAP project
- EU Post WTO Support project

## **8.5. Summary of comments of stakeholders during interviews and the roundtable discussion**

### **A. Chamber of Commerce and Industry**

- Very supportive of about the project proposal and its practical approach.
- The problem of effectiveness of the laboratory network is long-lasting issue in Tajikistan and has to be addressed as it undermines value and trust on certificates issued by control bodies. This is an issue that CCI members repeatedly underlined during meetings because they face the problem of recognition certificates (recertification of exported food product) in export markets.
- There is a lack of proper awareness of the producers and exporters regarding standards and SPS requirements in export markets. One of the options to solve this problem is to create close contacts between control bodies, producers, exporters and export markets.
- There is a crucial need on rationalization of lab network in Tajikistan.
- Establish an inter-ministerial commission to monitor effectiveness of lab network.
- Eliminate duplication of certification of food products.
- Advocate food safety activities undertaken by state bodies to private sector, for instance providing laboratory service for independent testing.
- MEDT should lead the lab rationalization strategy.

### **B. USAID Project “Business Women”**

- There is a lack of modern equipment in phytosanitary service, as well as lack of competent lab staff who can handle the modern equipment. Although SSIPQ was supported by ADB in modernization of the national phytosanitary laboratory, the lab staff still needs appropriate training to work on how to operate the equipment installed. Therefore, inclusion of trainings for lab staff is very important and should be included as an activity in the upcoming PPs.
- Another problem is the attrition level of the staff in labs which should be addressed, as it is difficult to ensure training for all the staff members.

### **C. Consulting Company “Kamolot 1”**

- Consulting company Kamolot 1 provides consultancy services and technical support in implementation of ISO standards and HACCP and based on the experience it can be said that there is a crucial need to improve laboratory capacity of the control bodies (particularly with regard to modern equipment) and to address this issue in upcoming projects.
- It is also important to include in the PP activities to comply with international standards such as Global GAP, GAP, GHP and best local practices of the associations and producers in Sogd region. In addition, there is a need to ensure traceability of pesticides, as well as products safety.
- Another issue to be included in the PP is to support the metrological capability of Tajikistandart, as laboratories cannot be accredited if an internal well-established metrology system is not in place.
- There is a need to improve the Codex Alimentarius institution’s contact point/representation in Tajikistan and seek more collaboration.

### **D. GIZ**

- Supports the project concept, but processors also need strengthening. They are focusing on private sector development with producers, practical advice and support.

- Curriculum development (HACCP and risk assessment) is an important development that shall be considered in the future.
- CIM is dealing with key QI issues in Tajikstandard.
- A need to include in PP: revision of the Law of RT "On food safety"; harmonization and implementation of international standards; build up capacity of food labs to ensure recognition of certificates issued by relevant bodies; application of best local practices and lesson learnt; improve metrological capability of Tajikstandart and inclusion of training on International Standards and Metrology in curricula of the relevant educational institutions. There is a need to include in PP activities that relate to GMO detection.
- There is a need on development and implementation of similar PP to address other food safety problems, because it is impossible to cover all the gaps by a single project.
- GIZ is supportive in the promotion of the apricot grown in Fergana valley.

#### **E. EUD**

- Food safety is not the main focus of EUD for future activity. EUD is working more on education, health and rural development as per the Multi Annual Indicative Programme 2014 -2020.
- Funds are allocated to FAO for capacity building activities including curriculum development and association of veterinarians.

#### **F. MEDT adviser**

- Main focus in the past was WTO accession and its related activities as food safety law targeted at compliance.
- Supports for the implementation of a PP.
- There is a need to establish effective and efficient food safety system in Tajikistan.
- Highlighted gradual deterioration of quality and safety of products sold in markets, which is a public health concern.
- Lack of GMO regulating legislation in Tajikistan (production, import, export, etc.).

#### **G. Academy of Science**

- The PP should be submitted to the National Food Safety Coordination Counsel for deliberation.
- The country faces a problem on restriction of the exported food products, therefore there is a need to improve safety of local products and diversify export markets.
- The rationalization strategy of the lab network shall be considered to provide services for different state and private bodies independently.
- There is a need to include in the PP a request for equipment on GMO detection.
- There is a need to develop a mechanism to implement legislation on recall and traceability, such as development of sub laws.
- Academy of science will collaborate with the PP in its implementation phase.

#### **H. FAO**

- Supports the PP concept and its strategy.
- Confirms the need on rationalization of lab network and announced that FAO plans to support Tajikistan in the development of that strategy. The project indicated is in collaboration with the EU on policy development and veterinary service restructuring.

## **I. SVIS (MoA)**

- Confirmed the need on improving capacity of labs, as well as their rationalization on district level and fresh markets (bazaars).
- There is a need to include an activity in PP regarding subjects on food safety in the curricula of educational institution, such as veterinary faculty of the State Agriculture University.

## **J. Veterinary Service and Central Veterinary Laboratory**

- There is a need for reference laboratory.
- Counterfeit vaccines remain as a problem.
- Antibiotic resistance in animals and humans is also problematic area.
- Lack of monitoring system in place for veterinary medicines and agri-chemicals shall be considered a priority.
- Testing equipment needed, as well as refrigerated transport for vaccines and samples.
- Rapid methods for screening and then use GC is needed.

## **K. State Service of Phytosanitary Inspection and Plant Quarantine**

- There is no pesticide residue monitoring system and no empowered control body.
- The organization expressed willingness to do it – they expressed interest in taking over the mandate.

## **L. State Organization on Plant protection and Agriculture Chemicalization**

- The organization has a direct responsibility for agri-chemical control, but does not have the necessary power and infrastructure. There is an equipment supply expected from the EU Legal inconsistencies needs to be addressed.

## **M. Ministry of Health**

- Confirms that agri-chemical and veterinary medicines issue is a priority.
- Water is also contaminated by runoff caused by chemicals.

## **N. Agency “Tajikstandart”**

- There is a need for new equipment for the laboratory.
- The agency can provide trainings.
- They are working on technical regulations (e.g. based on Customs Union Technical Regulation 21)
- The agency needs support for accreditation.
- Currently, Tajikstandart is getting support from PTB.

## **O. ADB**

- Also highlighted the negative outcome of the assessment of the SPS system in CAREC state members.
- Informed participants on implementation of its two projects which will cover food safety and trade aspects such as food and sanitation, facilitation in upgrading export capacity, development of the system for export diversification not only to CIS countries but also to India and China, tackling trans boundary diseases

#### **P. WHO**

- Monitoring of pesticide residues and veterinary drugs is a crucial point, however microbiological and other types of contamination are also relevant for food borne illness.
- GMO cannot be a priority at this stage (time), because there is no evidence of mortality due to GMO in Tajikistan. There are many other priorities that should be addressed first (apart from pesticides and veterinary drugs), such as antibiotic resistance, microbiological contamination, food additives, etc.
- To share project idea to stakeholders for comments and further discussion and development

#### **Q. IFC**

- They are working with national bodies on policy issues
- Limited finance opportunities to agri-businesses

#### **R. MEDT**

- Supports giving priority to monitoring of pesticides residue and veterinary drugs in the PP.
- There is a need to involve associations, cooperatives and other private sector entities in implementation of PP.
- There is a need to improve accreditation system and institution to ensure recognition of certificates issued by certification bodies in Tajikistan.

#### **S. ECTAP**

- Highlighted the problem of fake pesticides on their uncontrolled sale and usage in Tajikistan which should be addressed by the PP.
- Informed about providing equipment to MoA for testing pesticide residues.
- Need to involve other donors to address other food safety needs.
- They have grant scheme component (smaller (100,000 e.g. equipment) and larger (1mln euro e.g. infrastructure)) – working with EBRD and EU.
- They are working with French Supermarket chain Auchan.

#### **T. UNIDO**

- During the roundtable meeting UNIDO raised a question to clarify the specific activities regarding inclusion of Tajikistan in the EU list of third countries with approved residue monitoring plans.

#### **U. SAROB**

- It is a cooperative of agri-consultants.
- It has a national coverage and having, started with cotton and reached wide product coverage.
- It does diagnostic, recommendation and monitoring (including cotton certification).
- It is a successful business model that is financially independent.
- Also offers technical services e.g. spraying/ application of agrochemicals.

## **V. Auchan supermarket**

- They cannot use international standards for local suppliers (200 suppliers). They work with them to raise standards.
- Cannot buy from associations, because they cannot provide all necessary docs (no legal entity).

## **W. Hilfswerk**

- Consumer cooperatives are the best legal entity for cooperation.
- In many cases Tajik producers of dried fruits particularly dried apricots cannot directly compete with Turkey or other countries on price for the EU market.
- Fair trade and organic production/certification can give competitive edge.

## **X. Association of Dehkan Farms of Apricot Growers in Asht district**

- Need to apply best local practices on production of organic products and safe pesticide and fertilizer usage via providing trainings for farmers. The association could be an example to serve the purpose.
- The association can serve as a training center for implementation of training activities.
- A need to implement some elements of Global GAP to ensure pesticide traceability.
- Advantages of implementation of Global GAP in trade for domestic producers.
- Highlights higher quality of the local apricots in comparison with those sold on the EU market.
- A need to control pesticides and fertilizers imports and their usage in agriculture.
- Stressed on the problem of fake pesticides and fertilizers on the local market.
- 20% of the farmers in the associations use pesticides and 80% use fertilizers.
- Trying to add value through processing
- They might supply Russian supermarket chain – impressed with safety and quality systems.
- There is lack of testing on Sulphur levels.
- Excellent replicable experience of Association of Dehkan Farms of Apricot Growers in Asht district.

## **Y. NASMBT**

- The PP and activities of other key stakeholders such as ADB should be complementary and mutually supportive.
- During rationalization of business processes, Guillotine approach should be used to reduce red tape.
- It will be good to involve associations and NGO in implementation of PP.
- Improve capacity of professional institutions such as Technological institute will create link between producers and professionals.
- They can help in information campaigns. Need to be education inputs and regulatory.
- Law and subordinate legislation needs to be included in PP.
- Use producers' groups to address market infrastructure issues.
- Need to conduct study tours to demonstrate best practices applied.



## 9. IDENTIFIED OPPORTUNITIES FOR SYNERGIES

1) FAO is in a programming phase and is very much interested in cooperating with ITC in the area of food safety. Further contact in this respect were taken up with the below FAO staff and consultants:

- Dupouy, Eleonora (REUT) <Eleonora.Dupouy@fao.org>
- Gutu, Viorel (FAOTJ) <Viorel.Gutu@fao.org>
- Ahmadov, Ibrohim (FAOTJ) <Ibrohim.Ahmadov@fao.org>

2) ADB is in a programming phase and is very much interested in cooperating with ITC in the area of food safety. They might be interested in following up laboratory rationalisation strategy with funding for laboratory equipment and infrastructure. Further contact in this respect were taken up with the below ADB staff and consultants:

- Samjhana Shrestha sshrestha@adb.org

3) WHO is very interested in cooperating in the area of food safety and particularly of microbiological criteria and other non-agrichemical and veterinary medicine contaminants of food.

## **Annex I**

### **List of documents for the desk research**

1. GIZ 2012. Framework and finance for private sector development programme supporting SME in food safety area
2. MEDT & ITC 2015. National Food Safety Strategy
3. GIZ & Consulting Company “M Vector” 2011. Analysis of opportunities for increasing export of fruit and vegetable processed products of the selected processing enterprises in Tajikistan to the neighbouring countries
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27. APIACTA 38 (2003) 21-23. Veterinary Drug residues in honey
28. ITC 2014. Tajikistan Country Report
29. FAO, Farrelly & Mitchell 2015. Guide to Gaining Market Access to GCC Markets for Honey & Dried Fruit from Tajikistan
30. Country Partnership Strategy: Tajikistan, 2016–2020. Sector Assessment (Summary): Agriculture and Natural Resources
31. STDF 2016. PPG 561 Application: Preparation for a project proposal to increase market access by strengthen the capacity of phytosanitary inspection and diagnostic of the State Service on Phytosanitary Inspection and Plant Quarantine, Ministry of Agriculture, Republic of Tajikistan

## Annex II

### List of Participants for the Roundtable on “Discussion of a project proposal to address food safety needs in Tajikistan”

**Date:** 13 April 2016

**Venue:** Conference hall of the Ministry of Economic Development & Trade

#	Name	Institution	Title	Telephone	E-mail
<b>Ministries and Agencies</b>					
1	Mr. Kuziboev Bahovaddin	Dehkan Farm “Yodgor” in Ayni District	Director	927864373	<a href="mailto:bahovadin_kuziboev@yahoo.com">bahovadin_kuziboev@yahoo.com</a>
2	Mr. Dilshod Shari	Ministry of Economic Development & Trade	Head of WTO division	227 88 57	<a href="mailto:dilshod.sharifi86@gmail.com">dilshod.sharifi86@gmail.com</a>
3	Mr. Qodirov Ernazar	Dehkan Farm Association of Apricot Growers in Asht District	Producer	985990055	<a href="mailto:e.kodirov@mail.ru">e.kodirov@mail.ru</a>
4	Mr. Abdurahmonov Abdurahmon	Ministry of Economic Development & Trade	Chef specialist of the WTO division	227 88 57	<a href="mailto:bobojon88_88@mail.ru">bobojon88_88@mail.ru</a>
5	Mr. Kuziboev Husniddin	USAID project “Business women” in Kurgantube	National project coordinator	927782486	<a href="mailto:kuziboev@yahoo.com">kuziboev@yahoo.com</a>
6	Ms. Yakubova Muhiba	Academy of Science		935051009	<a href="mailto:mikhiba@mail.ru">mikhiba@mail.ru</a>
7	Ms. Tilavova Farzona	Consulting company “Kamolot”	Head of company	907982474	<a href="mailto:ftilavova@gmail.com">ftilavova@gmail.com</a>
8	Mr. Saidahmad Shohzoda	Ministry of Agriculture (SSPIPQ)	Head of Department	224 04 16 905 00 43 03	<a href="mailto:tojikquarantine@gmail.com">tojikquarantine@gmail.com</a>
9	Mr. Tohirzoda Dilovar	Agency “Tojikstandart”	Specialist of department on agriprocessing complex	918698145	<a href="mailto:dilovar-st@mail.ru">dilovar-st@mail.ru</a>
10	Mr. Ivan Borisovlgovich	EU Delegation Rural Development Project	Head of department	2270976	<a href="mailto:Delegation-Tajikistan@eeas.europa.eu">Delegation-Tajikistan@eeas.europa.eu</a>
11	Mr. Parviz Rashidov	UNDP Aid for Trade Project	Trade Policy Specialist	939999328	<a href="mailto:parviz.rashidov@undp.org">parviz.rashidov@undp.org</a>
12	Ms. Rahimova F.A.	Tajik Research and Scientific Institute of Food		918701642	<a href="mailto:azonov_02@mail.ru">azonov_02@mail.ru</a>
13	Mr. Soliev Umed	State Enterprise “Khurokvori”		901117375	<a href="mailto:hurokvory@tajnet.com">hurokvory@tajnet.com</a>
14	Mr. Azam Murtazaev	UNIDO fruit and vegetable processing project	National Project Coordinator		<a href="mailto:a.murtazaev@unido.org">a.murtazaev@unido.org</a>

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17	Mr. Odinaev Jamshed	MEDT	Intern/student	505001993	<a href="mailto:jama-221@mail.ru">jama-221@mail.ru</a>
18	Mr. Fariddun Shoinbekov	Union of Consumers of Tajikistan	Deputy director	934420909	<a href="mailto:fariddun@mail.ru">fariddun@mail.ru</a>
19	Ms. Rakhmatullaeva Gulnoz	National Association of Small and Medium Business of the Republic of Tajikistan (NASMBT)	Executive Assistant	935115053	<a href="mailto:info@namsb.tj">info@namsb.tj</a>
20	Mr. Ahmadov Ibrohim	FAO	National Consultant	935700746	<a href="mailto:ibroim.ahmadov@fao.org">ibroim.ahmadov@fao.org</a>
21	Mr. Sadikov Rizo	CCI	Deputy Chairman	937978877	<a href="mailto:sadykov.rizo@mail.ru">sadykov.rizo@mail.ru</a>
22	Mr. Jalolov A.D	Agency "Tojikstandart"	Specialist of the technical exploitation department	985529396	N/A
23	Ms. Ganjina Fazilova	ADB	Regional Cooperation Coordinator	919230872	<a href="mailto:gfazilova.consultant@adb.org">gfazilova.consultant@adb.org</a>
24	Ms. Samjhana Shrestha	ADB, Central and West Asia Department	Senior Economist,	+639999995574	<a href="mailto:sshrestha@adb.org">sshrestha@adb.org</a>
25	Mr. Aziz Ibrohim	BPUC (MEDT)		918111177	
26	Ms. Nigmatova Zarina	GIZ Support to regional trade in Central Asia	TBT Coordinator	935708003	<a href="mailto:zarina.nigmatova@giz.de">zarina.nigmatova@giz.de</a> <a href="mailto:zarina.kosymova@giz-psd.de">zarina.kosymova@giz-psd.de</a>
26	Mr. Wilhelen Kruse	ECTAP EU	Deputy Team Leader	935001957	<a href="mailto:kruse@int.fs.de">kruse@int.fs.de</a>
28	Ms. Kurbonova N	National Centre for Legislation under the President of Tajikistan	Chief specialist of agrarian, environmental and natural resources' legislation department	987188580	<a href="mailto:info@mmk.tj">info@mmk.tj</a>
29	Mr. Jovan Jekic	EU Post WTO Support Project	WTO Legal Adviser		<a href="mailto:jujekic@hotmail.com">jujekic@hotmail.com</a>
30	Ms. Khadicha Boymatova	WHO	National Professional Officer Nutrition and Food	907700520	<a href="mailto:bkh@euro.who.int">bkh@euro.who.int</a>

			Safety		
31	Mr. Soliev Farrukh	MEDT	Head of department	2213033	<a href="mailto:inoyatullo_81@mail.ru">inoyatullo_81@mail.ru</a>
32	Mr. Bahrom Sobirovich Muradov	MEDT	Head of department	2213033	<a href="mailto:bahrom-55@mail.ru">bahrom-55@mail.ru</a>
33	Mr. Bodurshoev Mirali	State Committee on Investments and State Property Management of the Republic of Tajikistan			<a href="mailto:mbodursho@gmail.com">mbodursho@gmail.com</a>
34	Ms. Toshmatova Muyassara	SVIS MoA	(Former position of Sherali Vazirov)	934547070	<a href="mailto:maysara@mail.ru">maysara@mail.ru</a>
35	Ms. Uldjabaeva M.T	NASMBT	Chair	935050008	<a href="mailto:matluba54@gmail.com">matluba54@gmail.com</a>
36	Mr. Kamolov Saidmumin	ITC NPM	ITC national programme manager	221 98 70	<a href="mailto:saidmumin_itc@tajnet.tj">saidmumin_itc@tajnet.tj</a>
37	Mr. Kosim Kurbonov	ITC national consultant on FS	National Consultant	938 50 32 74	<a href="mailto:kosim.kurbonov@gmail.com">kosim.kurbonov@gmail.com</a>
38	Mr. Richard Moody	ITC international consultant on FS	International consultant		<a href="mailto:richardsmoody@gmail.com">richardsmoody@gmail.com</a>

**Annex III**  
**Schedule of individual meetings with relevant stakeholders**

Date	Activity	Organization	Representative
<b>Monday 04 April 2016</b>			
14:00 to 15:00	Meeting with GIZ	GIZ expert on food safety	Frank O'Sullivan
<b>Tuesday 05 April 2016</b>			
09:00 to 10:30	Brief Meeting with ITC team ITC	ITC National Consultant on FS  ITC National Project Manager	Kosim Kurbonov  Saidmumin Kamolov
11:00 to 12:00	Meeting with EC	Programme Manager  Counselor (Head of Operation Section)  Team Leader Tajikistan Post WTO Accession Support	Zulfia Davlatbekova  Maciej Adam Madalinski  Jivan Jecic
13:30 to 14:00	Meeting with SECO (Swiss Cooperation)	National Programme Officer for Economic Affairs	Malika Ibroimova
14:30 to 15:30	Meeting with ECTAP	Team Leader	lourie Koelin

		Deputy Team Leader  Agronomist  Finance expert	Wilhelm Kruse  Ismonkul Boturov  Jamshed Boboaliev
16:00 to 17:00	Meeting with Consulting Company “Kamolot 1”	Head of company	Farzona Tilavova
<b>Wednesday 06 April 2016</b>			
09:00 to 10:30	Meeting with FAO	Head of FAO office in Tajikistan	Viorel Gutu
10:40 to 12:00	Meeting with WHO	National Nutrition Officer	Khadicha Boymatova
14:00 to 15:00	Meeting with ADB	Senior Economist Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture division Central and west Asia Department  Regional Cooperation Coordinator Tajikistan Resident Mission ADB	Samjhana Shretha     Ganjina Fazilova
15:30 to 16:30	Meeting with UNDP (at UNDP CP office)	Senior Economic Development Officer of UNDP Communities Programme  National Coordinator of the project “Aid for Trade”  Trade Policy Specialist of the Aid for Trade Project	Manuchehr Rakhmonov   Parviz Akramov  Parviz. Rashidov



Thursday 07 April 2016			
09:00 to 10:30	Meeting with MoA (SVIS)	Head of the Service	Sherali Vazirov
11:00 to 12:30	Meeting with MoA (SSIPQ)	Deputy Head of the Service	Nosirov Jamsjed
14:00 to 15:00	Meeting with MoA (SOPAC)	Head of Fumigation Unit	Shokhzoda Saidmakhmad Ormonov Mukhammadi
16:00 to 16:30	Brief meeting with MEDT	Deputy Minister of EDT	Nazrizoda Saidrahmon
Friday 08 April 2016			
09:00 to 10:00	Meeting with MoHSPP	Deputy Minister of HSPP	Navruz Jafarov
10:30 to 12:00	Meeting with Tajikstandart	Deputy Director, head of food laboratory, Head of International Relations & Information Department  Seconded To The Agency Tajikstandart PTB Dvisor on Certification and Quality Management	Karomat Saidova Sangzoda Talabsho Saitojiddin Mavlonov  Peter Rou
13:00 – 13:50	Meeting with Central Laboratory of Veterinary Diagnosis of SVIS (MoA)	Head of Laboratory	Makhmadshoev Abdurakhmon
14:00 to 15:00	Meeting with Chamber of Commerce and Industry	Head of Department of Expertise and Certification	Rizo Sadikov

15:30 to 16:30	Meeting with IFC	CA Investment Climate Programme Coordinator Tajikistan	Madina Nurmatova
16:40 to 17:40	Meeting with Limited Liability Company “Sarob”	Chairmen of Management	Mukhammadi Muminov
<b>Monday 11 April 2016</b>			
<b>09:00 to 09:50</b>	Meeting with supermarket Ahsan	Commercial Director	Tomas Rudnický
10:00 to 11:00	Meeting with National Association of Small and Medium Business of Tajikistan	Head of the Association	Uljaboeva Matluba
14:00 to 15:00	Meeting with WB	Operational officer Health, Social Protection & ICT  Senior Rural Development officer	Sarvinov Barfieva  Bobojon Yalimov
15:30 to 16:30	Meeting with UNIDO	National project coordinator in Tajikistan	Azam Murtazoev
<b>Tuesday 12 April 2016</b>			
10:00 to 11:00	Meeting with Hilfswerk Austria International	Head of mission	Umed Aslonov
14:00 to 16:00	Meeting with dried fruit producers	Head of Dehkan farm and Association of Apricot Growers in Asht district  Producer of fresh and dried fruits in Asht district	Kodirov Ernazar  Kuziboev Bahovaddin

Wednesday 13 April 2016			
09:00 to 12:00	Round table on “Discussion of a project proposal to address food safety needs in Tajikistan		
13:00 to 14:00	Debriefing meeting with Deputy Minister, MEDT	First deputy Minister of EDT	Saidrakhmon Nazrizoda
14:50 to 17:00	Wrap up meeting at ITC	ITC consultants on food safety  ITC NPM	Richard Moody Kosim Kurbonov  Saidmumin Kamolov

**Annex IV**  
**PPG expenses (Financial Statement)**

Year	Activity	Expenditure in USD	STDF Released Budget in USD	Balance Remaining in USD at 31 December 2016
2016	AS1-CONTRACT-SERVICE	298.00		
2016	AS1-STAFF PERSONNEL	33,194.00		
2016	AM1-OPER-OTHER-COSTS	1,611.00		
2016	PSC-EXP-UN	4,212.00		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>39,315</b>	<b>45,472.00</b>	<b>6,157<sup>6</sup></b>

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<sup>6</sup> To be returned to STDF / WTO by ITC - A financial statement sign-off by ITC is also submitted to STDF

**Annex V**  
**Roundtable discussion presentation**



# **DEVELOPING A PROJECT PROPOSAL TO ADDRESS IDENTIFIED FOOD SAFETY NEEDS**

TAJ STDF/PPG/447

MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN  
INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE

## **INTRODUCTION**

- Validation workshop or RT – today's task
- Finalize PP
- Submit PP to STDF or other donors for funding
- Time lines

## APPROACH

- Thematic / horizontal approach
- Use of strategic documents
- Trade and food safety
- Entire food chain
- From policy to training

## OVERALL OBJECTIVE

Improve market access for Tajik agri-food exports and improve safety of domestic food	Number of products with access to new export markets  Level of food related safety incidents reduced	Trade statistics of international organisations  Food related health statistics from domestic and international sources	Market access conditions remain constant  Baseline statistics established and monitored
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## SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE

To develop and implement agri-chemical and veterinary medicine control systems to improve export market access and domestic consumer protection.	Established agri-chemical and veterinary medicine control system	Legal acts regulating agrochemical and vet-medicine control	Baseline statistics established and monitored
	Number of residue related food safety incidents reduced	Residue related (including resistance) health (including animal) statistics  Laboratory results statistics	State financing committed and provided for running costs  Testing results systematically retained
	No increased level of import control by high value export markets	Published import regime of high value export markets	Appropriate measures taken in reaction to monitoring results including targeted education and training of users of agri-chemical and veterinary medicine
	Adding of Tajikistan to the list of countries authorised to export to high value markets (including EU)	EU official journal.	

## EXPECTED RESULTS

Operational risk-based residue monitoring system for agri-chemicals and veterinary medicines	Annual residue monitoring plan produced adopted and implemented.	Competent authority and official gazette of Tajikistan	Adoption by Government and approval of budget for implementation of Annual residue monitoring plan
Regulatory and control system for traceability of agri-chemicals and veterinary medicines in place and operational	Accurate data on agri-chemical and veterinary medicines imports, production, movements and usage available to the control bodies.	Competent authority and control bodies	Adoption and passing by parliament of regulatory instruments for imposing traceability requirements
Standards and MRLs for agri-chemical and veterinary medicines harmonised and adopted.	Number of international standards and MRLs harmonised and adopted	Competent authority and official gazette of Tajikistan	Adoption by competent bodies of harmonised MRLs
Laboratory network rationalisation strategy developed adopted and launched	Needs based laboratory network established and operational	Competent authority and official gazette of Tajikistan	Adoption by competent bodies of Laboratory rationalisation strategy and political will to implement it



## EXPECTED RESULTS (CONTINUED)

No agri-chemical or veterinary medicine related notifications from RASFF	Number of agri-chemical or veterinary medicine related notifications from RASFF	RASFF	Export controls applied effectively
Tajikistan included in list of third countries with approved residue monitoring plans	Inclusion in list of third countries with approved residue monitoring plans	EU official journal	Adoption by Government and approval of budget for implementation of Annual residue monitoring plan Approval of residue monitoring plan by EU
Improved access to finance for agri-food producers applying approved Agri-chemical and veterinary medicines practices	Number of loans granted to agri-food producers applying approved Agri-chemical and veterinary medicines practices	Project accounting	Availability of impact financing targeted at project objectives

## ACTIVITIES

Support in designing and advocating for adoption risk-based residue monitoring system for agri-chemicals and veterinary medicines	Concept of system advocated and adopted Legal instruments for setting up the system drafted and adopted Budget allocated Resources mobilised and awareness training and education undertaken.	Project progress reporting External progress monitoring	Project management structure suitable and effective in managing implementation High quality of technical and other expertise in project staff Adequate budget planning and management Availability and suitability of counterpart staff
Support in designing, drafting and advocating for adoption regulatory and control system for traceability of agri-chemicals and veterinary medicines	Concept of system advocated and adopted Legal instruments for setting up the system drafted and adopted Budget allocated Resources mobilised and awareness training and education undertaken.	Project progress reporting External progress monitoring	Project management structure suitable and effective in managing implementation High quality of technical and other expertise in project staff Adequate budget planning and management Availability and suitability of counterpart staff
Support in designing, drafting and advocating for adoption of harmonised agri-chemical and veterinary medicines standards and MRLs	Mobilising institutional arrangements for establishing MRLs Advocating harmonisation of standards and MRLs Drafting of standards and MRLs Adoption of standards and MRLs	Project progress reporting External progress monitoring	Project management structure suitable and effective in managing implementation High quality of technical and other expertise in project staff Adequate budget planning and management Availability and suitability of counterpart staff
Support in developing and adopting laboratory rationalisation strategy and launching its implementation	Advocating Laboratory rationalisation Assessment of current testing capacity strategy Assessment of current and future testing needs Adoption of Laboratory rationalisation strategy Mobilisation of resources to meet identified laboratory infrastructure equipment and personnel needs Gradual implementation of Laboratory rationalisation strategy	Project progress reporting External progress monitoring	Project management structure suitable and effective in managing implementation High quality of technical and other expertise in project staff Adequate budget planning and management Availability and suitability of counterpart staff



## ACTIVITIES CONTINUED

Support in identification and working with EU importers to ensure compliance with requirements	Establishing network of contacts with target markets importers Agreeing mechanism for ensuring compliance with import requirements	Project progress reporting External progress monitoring	Project management structure suitable and effective in managing implementation High quality of technical and other expertise in project staff Adequate budget planning and management Availability and suitability of counterpart staff
Support in the application for inclusion in list of third countries with approved residue monitoring plans	Establishment of contact with DG SANCO and FVO Drafting application and supporting documentation	Project progress reporting External progress monitoring	Project management structure suitable and effective in managing implementation High quality of technical and other expertise in project staff Adequate budget planning and management Availability and suitability of counterpart staff
Providing microfinancing for agri-food producers applying approved Agri-chemical and veterinary medicines practices	Identifying need and criteria for selection of target groups Establishing mechanisms for delivery Regulatory framework for delivery mechanism Launch and monitor system.	Project progress reporting External progress monitoring	Project management structure suitable and effective in managing implementation High quality of technical and other expertise in project staff Adequate budget planning and management Availability and suitability of counterpart staff

## PARALLEL ACTIVITIES

- Risk based system for monitoring of food borne diseases - zoonoses, zoonotic micro-organisms, microbiological contaminants and food-borne outbreaks
- Control and eradication programmes
- Microbiological criteria and hygiene standards
- Monitoring and control of antimicrobial resistance in zoonotic bacteria
- Rationalisation of laboratory network for monitoring of microbiological criteria

## PARALLEL ACTIVITIES

- Improve surveillance and control of priority Zoonotic Diseases (rabies, brucellosis and echinococcosis)
- Improve surveillance and control of priority Transboundary diseases TADs (Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Pest des Petits Ruminants (PPR)
- Improve surveillance and control of other TADs (Sheep and Goat Pox (SGP) and Newcastle Disease)(NCD) and Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia (CCPP)
- Prevent introduction of exotic ADs from the neighboring countries (Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia CBPP and Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)

## NEXT STEPS

- Modalities for cooperation / parallel programing
- Project proposal
- Timelines



**YOUR IDEAS AND INPUT ARE HIGHLY  
APPRECIATED**

## **Annex VI**

### **Project Proposal**

- 1. Background and rationale**
- 2. Project objective, outputs and activities (including logical framework and work plan)**
- 3. Budget**
- 4. Project Implementation & Management**

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>Appendix 1:</b> | Logical framework  |
| <b>Appendix 2:</b> | Work Plan  |
| <b>Appendix 3:</b> | Project Budget   |
| <b>Appendix 4:</b> | Letters of support from organizations that support the project request |