



Environmental Land Management in Tajikistan

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Tackling Environmental Land Management in Tajikistan

“Project approach”

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Among 28 countries in Europe and Central Asia, Tajikistan is estimated to be the most vulnerable to the climate change impacts depending on its high exposure and sensitivity combined with a very low adaptive capacity. The agricultural sector of Tajikistan is subject to lower and more erratic rainfalls, as well as dryness of water resources due to the possible temperature rising in the region, high evaporation, reducing the accumulation of snow in the mountain glaciers and increased frequency of extreme events. Climate change and variability are likely to pose certain risks, especially for those who prefer natural agriculture or pasture management that just reinforces the need for sound, adapted to new climatic conditions and improved principles of land management.

Adoption of new strategies and best practices on sustainable land and water management for agricultural ecosystems will help the farmers and communities in addressing the abovementioned problems, adapt and become more resilient to changing climate by increasing wellbeing of local population, and contributing to food security and restoring productive natural resources.

The Environmental Land Management and Rural Livelihoods Project is being financed by the Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR) and Global Environment Facility (GEF). The Project goal is to enable the rural population to increase their productive assets by improving management of natural resources and building resilience to climate change in selected climate vulnerable sites. The project will facilitate introduction of innovative measures on land use and agricultural production by providing small grants at the village level and grants for the Pasture User Groups (PUGs) at jamoat level in order to implement joint plans of pasture management and wellbred livestock, also for the Water User Associations (WUAs) to introduce sustainable on-farm water management practices. The Project comprises three components to be implemented in five years: 1. Rural Production and Land Resource Management Investments; 2. Knowledge Management and Institutional Support, and 3. Project Management and Coordination.

These components include a set of grants from the PPCR and GEF that betrays the particular importance of the grant sources for the Project funding. This innovative combination of the PPCR and GEF grant funding will help in scheduling a scope of work under the Project and enable to implement certain activities on a pilot basis that otherwise could not be implemented at this level.

Key partners are the Committee for Environmental Protection (Implementing Agency), the Ministry of Finance, the PPCR Secretariat in Tajikistan, Farkhor, Kulyab, Khovaling, Baljuvan, Tavildara and Jirgatal districts, the German Agency for International Development (GIZ) with its GREAT program which provides additional support to the community-based Project planning and institutional development, as well as technical agricultural advisory services.

Currently the project has Project Implementation Group and most of its Facilitating Organizations in place that will carry out financial management, disbursements, procurement process, environmental management, social development, monitoring and evaluation. Workshops on coordinating the Project were held in the districts, as well as a series of Trainings of trainings and meetings were conducted for specialists and technical personnel.

Next step is to initiate supporting local initiatives for climate adaptive land management and improved livelihoods based on Community Action Plans.