

July 10, 2023

On July 6-7, 2023 within the framework of the implementation of Strengthening Resilience of the Agricultural Sector Project a seminar was held to discuss the results of the first half of the year 2023 with the participation of the management and staff of the State Institution "Agricultural Entrepreneurship Development".

Daler Satori, Director of the State Institution "Agricultural Entrepreneurship Development", noted in his opening speech that the discussion of the results of the Project's activities for the first half of the year is envisaged by the work plan. B. Kurbanov, Deputy Director/Project Coordinator, coordinators of the Project components, specialists in procurement, finance, ecology and social work, evaluation and monitoring made presentations on the results achieved at the seminar.

It was noted that the Additional Financing Agreement was signed in early 2023 and the number of project beneficiaries has increased.

At the end of the seminar, the specialists were tasked to improve activities in the subsequent second half of the year.

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### **High harvest is guarantee of food security**

Under sub-component 1.3: Reproduction of seeds, seedlings and planting material, elite wheat varieties such as “Grom”, “Alekseich” and “Bezostaya-100” were distributed among seed farms.

The objective of this sub-component is to build the capacity of public and private seed farms and nurseries engaged in reproduction of seeds, seedlings and planting materials and to establish distribution centers along value chains to process and sell high quality seeds, seedlings and planting materials produced for farmers. State seed farms and nurseries will be supported to improve their facilities and human capacity, while private seed farms and nurseries, including those managed by cooperatives, will benefit from human capacity building, including technical assistance. State seed farms include facilities managed either by TAU or research institutes affiliated with TAAS, while private seed farms and nurseries include facilities owned and operated by private organizations that are engaged in reproduction of seeds, seedlings and planting material in the Republic of Tajikistan.

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### **Consultations for farmers**

Within the framework of the first component of “Strengthening Resilience of the Agriculture Sector” Project it is envisaged to improve seed network, nurseries and inputs (seeds, machinery, mineral fertilizers, etc.).

In order to ensure adequate access to quality seeds, seedlings

and marketable production materials that are adapted to local conditions, resistant to climate change and available to farmers for seed distribution, specialists of the State Institution "Agriculture Entrepreneurship Development" provide useful consultations to representatives of farms.

Quality wheat, potato and cotton seeds with the addition of mineral fertilizers have become available to the farms of the republic, from which abundant yields are subsequently obtained.

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Within the framework of the Academy of Education of the Project Implementation Centers and within the framework of environmental protection and social protection issues of the Project to Increase the sustainability of agriculture in accordance with the requirements of the World Bank, a training seminar was held for specialists of the Project implementation centers, including at the State Institution «Agriculture Entrepreneurship Development» which is responsible for the implementation of this Project.

On various aspects of the project implementation process, a useful discussion took place between experts of the World Bank and specialists of the project management units, including the State Institution «Agriculture Entrepreneurship Development»

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In order to monitor the wheat and cotton harvest, clarify the requirements for obtaining a seed certificate, apply mineral fertilizers, and conduct soil surveys in the seed farms of the Bokhtar district of the Khatlon region,

specialists from the State Institution «Agriculture Entrepreneurship Development» together with experts from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) conducted a field visit. During the official visit, valuable recommendations were provided on the use of phenological journals, estimation of expected yields, and measures to combat pests during the vegetation periods of wheat and cotton crops.

In the conversation with farmers, it was found that the yield of elite-grade wheat seeds is very high this year, which will ensure the supply to the domestic market.

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Recently, a group of specialists from the State Institution “Agriculture Entrepreneurship Development” within the framework of the third component of the Project “Strengthening Resilience of the Agriculture Sector Project” visited the pest control activities of the State Enterprise “Locust Control Expedition” in the Khatlon region. During the monitoring of locust control operations, field workers were urged to adhere to social and environmental norms.

It should be noted that prior to the spraying season, the State Enterprise “Locust Control Expedition” received transport-spraying equipment and pesticides as part of the implementation of the “Strengthening Resilience of the Agriculture Sector Project”.

The result of these activities is a reduction in locust infestation and prevention of losses to agricultural crops.