

## **INTERIM REPORT**

**Project Name:** Strengthening Resilience of the Agriculture Sector Project (SRASP)

**Assignment:** Survey and Establishing of Baseline for impact evaluation

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## Contents

1. Progress to-date .....	3
2. Summary of observations to aid project implementation and design .....	3
3. Results Framework and Recommendation for Project M&E system .....	6
Annex 1: List of people met.....	7
Annex 2: List of data collected/being collected .....	8
Annex 3 Map of Tajikistan and number of dekhkan farms .....	9
Annex 4: Recommendations for Project's Results Framework (PDOs and IRIs).....	11

## 1. Progress to-date

- Consultant has developed an overall approach to the baseline survey that was approved by the PIU and the WB
- Initial list of required data for project baseline was compiled and shared with the PIU
- Consultant undertook a field trip to Tajikistan during August 12 to September 9, to validate and better inform the proposed approach & baseline survey toolkit
- Assisted by the PIU and component & regional coordinators, consultant has made trips to Sogd and Khatlon provinces and held meetings with all key project beneficiaries (see Annex 2)
- Consultant has initiated initial baseline data collection process with the support of the PIU and has helped establish working level relationships with key expected beneficiaries and government agencies that collect data needed for the Project.
- Consultant held a post-trip de-brief with the PIU management and staff covering initial observations from the meetings held (see section 2 of this report and a slide desk for component-by-component high level observations/recommendations to be further elaborated as a result of the baselines survey to be conducted by the local survey company and analyzed by the consultant)
- Consultant has prepared initial recommendations and insights into the Project's Results framework & proposed baseline and intermediate/final targets for Project's reference, discussions and action (see excel file)
- Consultant has finalized the proposed baseline survey toolkit consisting on dehkan farm questionnaire and Focus Group interviews (seed farms and exporters)

## 2. Summary of observations to aid project implementation and design

### • **The Project may benefit from prioritizing results vs funds disbursements**

Given early progress and activities across components, the Project appears to be more concerned about funds utilization (disbursements), forced to achieve results (i.e. better disbursement) early on rather than paving the way to achieve best possible results (outcomes). For example, at present, several activities (e.g. supply of seeds) are taking place following "tested/old" schemes that did not bring much results over the last 10 years in terms of making seed farms more sustainable or resilient.

### • **The Project will benefit from streamlining the decision-making process and introducing a functioning "checks & balances" system for key decisions**

From early observations and discussions with Beneficiaries, the decision-making process is failing the Project and may result in missed opportunities or wrong decisions that will be harmful to Project's reputation. Proper (read clear) "checks & balances" system in the decision-making process needs to be introduced.

Example: only 32 seed farms have been selected to be part of project (only 11 multiplying wheat). The list of seed farms to receive seeds imported by the Project has been changing often, unilaterally, without proper justification or reasoning. Ultimately, over 50 "entities" have received wheat seeds in Khatlon province alone, with many not even being seed farms. Similar "fate" may be expected for cotton seeds. PIU staff needs to be consulted more, or at a very least, included in the decision-making process, along with prior no-objection for key/material issues from the World Bank, impacting Projects expected results. While "formal" structures seem to have been created, the quality of early decisions leaves much to be desired.

- **Weak activities prioritization framework & process**

While basic prioritization is taking place (mainly linked to available project funding), the key question WHY (with what purpose) certain activities should be funded by the Project is inherently missing. The logic of several activities to be funded is not adequately justified/alternatives rarely explored (e.g. why GUP Sortovoshsem needs own seed certification laboratory or packing vs ensuring seeds farms themselves have this capacity, esp. considering that GUP rarely “physically” touches the seeds and there is a formal seed certification process that is in place); or why Niholparvar or other R&D institutions need to own heavy agricultural machinery for the small area under nurseries and many more)

- **Project’s development objectives and intermediate indicators will benefit from a critical review and discussion with all parties concerned**

As presented (developed > 2 years ago), Project’s PDOs and IRI need revision to account for better link to expected project outcomes (vs outputs), especially considering Project’s visibility and amount of funds to be committed. PDOs and IRI miss a critical opportunity to structurally improve resilience of agriculture as stated and/or tend to focus on supplying inputs and limiting to outputs (see proposed PDO/IRI revision justification/evidence and suggestions)

**Potential next steps:**

1. Review and discuss proposed revision internally
2. Arrange a call with international consultant, if/as needed

- **Excessive focus on construction/repairs of state infrastructure**

The project, should the plans be implemented as they currently are, has a high risk of becoming a project aimed at “rehabilitating state property/construction” to beneficiaries. Also, the project is expected to construct/rehabilitate a lot of sites without proper internal staff to undertake and manage all this construction. PIU is strongly recommended to ensure proper staffing for construction (including hiring regional staff) and, more importantly, ensure a clear framework for construction activity prioritization is developed (e.g. a few beneficiaries stated they will be moving from the building scheduled to be repaired), or at least synch with ongoing capex/investment program by beneficiaries to ensure proper co-sharing of costs (which does not seem to have take place). The project should focus only on all “new” construction (such as a network of ALCs, new laboratories, and a digital center). All other infrastructure should undergo a proper screening/justification to be included (including prior) independent assessment of cost) before being included as part of project. Worth highlighting, it will be important to empower PIU to successfully merge construction/rehabilitation with clear commitment from the beneficiaries to: (i) allow access to needed M&E data, (ii) have a clear accountability for expected results (have a MoU signed committing Beneficiaries to agreed expected results (or develop such plans with the PIU) based on prior sector/analytical work (see next point)

**Potential next steps:**

1. Finalize & focus efforts on the core list of new construction that the project needs to fund & no other funding is available (e.g. ALC)
2. Develop a clear screening tool (criteria) for all other ancillary infrastructure (from the long list of sites already received) to be included in the project (including reviewing 2022-23-24 planned capital expenditure plans from the state budget)
3. Draft implementation plan and synchronize execution (from timing perspective) given current/expected PIU capacity

- **Prior analytical work and focus on structural change (or project component linkages) and sustainability of Beneficiaries is notably missing**

The Project will benefit from hiring independent (local) experts (practitioners) across key project components and from undertaking sectoral/targeted thematic work (at least SWOT type analysis) highlighting key risks, gaps, opportunities and strategic directions that the Project should be addressing (e.g., making seed farms sustainable, state system of seed distribution and operation of Seed fund, locust management and sustainability, and many more). This work should be the foundation for actual activities of the project and will be key in enabling project to be effective and efficient in achieving its PDOs and IRIs

One immediate gap is a lack of financial analysis of beneficiaries (prior to interventions) and any discussion how to ensure sustainability of Project-funded interventions (e.g., effectiveness of state Seed fund, or ways to insure sustainability of Locust Expedition, local R&D institutions etc). Undertaking financial review and developing sustainability options might be beneficial to both the beneficiaries and the PIU.

**Potential next steps:**

1. Draft a list of needed sector/thematic papers (across key areas) to help PIU see through short-term activities and focus on developing a clear road map to reach mid/longer term results
- **PIU is having difficulties getting the right data for M&E purposes and may be challenged in the future in terms of accessing needed data to adequately assess impact/results.** PIU will benefit from ensuring that the issue of access to data or introduction of processes to collect the right data for project (and ultimately for the MoA and beneficiaries) is firmly featured in all contacts/agreements/memorandums with each Project Beneficiary. This will help both with progress tracking, beneficiaries and MoA. For example, the Project should expand coverage of data to all seed farms not only project selected e.g., have all seed farms supplied with laptop/tablet to help facilitate proper data collection and transfer of data (in specified format); or ALC to have a mandatory client and sales tracking system, GUP Sortovochsem has a proper client/seed tracking process, and many more. Beneficiaries do collect a lot of data, however most of the data in in paper form or poorly “digitized” making data collection difficult. Part of any assignment with beneficiaries could be a section around better data management (review of processes, format, collection, analysis and developing recommendations for better data management)
  - **Need for PIU staff capacity building is quite apparent**  
While PIU has, admittedly, done a very good job attracting good quality staff, there is a general lack of understanding what the project is expected to achieve and how. Perhaps a series of *ongoing sessions* on expected results with PIU staff will be beneficial. Specifically, thematic session on project management, setting goals, identifying expected results, working with beneficiaries etc. More importantly, there is a need to develop PIU/Beneficiaries staff capacity building program (including individual development plans) for critical areas and ensure PIU staff participate in study tours to established ALC or countries with established AGRIDATA, countries with strong sustainable seed producing sector early on/before component implementation/design. Lack of vision and knowledge what the project needs to do could be quite detrimental to project progress. Developing/mapping staff to particular activities to ensure proper coordination of activities between staff and drafting basic flow charts for staff across key components/activities could go a long way (e.g. what and who need to be involved and at what stage in the process of supplying seeds, following a simple RACI model: Responsible (who is responsible) –

Accountable (who is accountable for what task)– Consulted (who need to be consulted and when)– Inform (who needs to be informed).

**Potential next steps:**

- Conduct regular (monthly) touch points with senior management (PIU/MOA/WB) on the progress and alignment of plans
  - Bi-weekly internal coordination meetings (for each component)
  - Draft PIU wide capacity building program & provide funding (design and direct contract a local company to organize much needed study tours/capacity building across components)
  - Develop a clear flow process and corresponding staff roles [who is involved at what stage for each critical project activity],. i.e. establish a transparent work flow management system that everybody can the capacity to see/monitor
- **Project is vulnerable to exchange rate fluctuation & does not have proper financial cushion**  
Given inherent risks around exchange rate in Tajikistan, the Project is strongly recommended to have a proper currency hedging in place or at least have sufficient “unallocated” resources to ensure planned activities are fully implemented

**3. Results Framework and Recommendation for Project M&E system**

See excel file for specific details for each PDO and IRI (annex 4)

## Annex 1: List of people met

1. Abdulloeva Zarina, Laboratory of Seeds Certification, Khatlon
2. Amirbeki Timur, Head of Agriculture Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Bokhtar
3. Asozoda Nurali, President of the Academy of Sciences, Academy of Sciences
4. Begov Nusratullo, Director, GUP Sortsemovoshch, Tajikistan
5. Boboiev Abdukaem, Committee on Food Security
6. Daler Kholov, Head of Laboratories, Academy of Sciences, Soil Laboratory
7. Dustmatov Daler, Director, Israfafods
8. Fatoev Bobohon, Rasuli – Hojagii Dehkoni
9. Fayziev Abdumubin, Chairman, International Association of Producers and Exporters of Agriculture Products
10. Gulomalishoeva Favziya, Seeds Department, Ministry of Agriculture
11. Hamidov Suhrob, Deputy Director, Institute of Crop Production
12. Karimzoda Sadi Gafor, Minister, Ministry of Agriculture
13. Khasan/Khusan Abasov, One Village One Product = UNDP Project – Khiloldin Sobitov, Project Manager
14. Khaydarov Abdusattor Khakimjonovich, General Director, Neksigol
15. Kodirov Jovidon, Chief Specialist, Dushanbe Hukumat – Zahirahoi Shahr GUP
16. Mansurov Akbar, Leading Specialist, Bio Kishovarz Ltd.
17. Muminov Mustafo, Head of Laboratory, Laboratory of the Food Safety Committee;
18. Narzulaev Nozim, USAID/Winrock International
19. Nozaninzoda N.B., Head; Mahmadsodik Muzamirov, Deputy, Locust Expedition
20. Odinaev Kiromidin, Accountant, Niholparvar
21. Rahmatov Hursandshoh, Chairman, Avesto – Trading Cooperative – Kobodiyon
22. Rahmonov Sorbon, Head of Department, Regional Laboratory on Sanitary and Crop Production under Food Safety Committee
23. Rakhimov Sergei, CEO, Zernovaya Kompaniya LLC
24. Sadulaev Rustam, Bokhtar Logistical Centre
25. Saidov Abduholiq, Vostok 1 – Vakhsh ALC
26. Shirinjonzoda Mahmud Shirinjon, First Deputy, Food Safety Committee under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan;
27. Solizoda Sharifjon, Chair, Seeds Farm named after Boymatov, Konibodom
28. Staff of the Laboratory, Central Laboratory that was built by CIDA - 4 story. State Commission on variety testing of agricultural crops under Ministry of Agriculture
29. Tolibov Alif, Director of gardening and vegetable growing, Department of Biotechnology
30. Ubaidulloev Nozim, Nihol Parvar
31. Yakubi Anvar, Deputy Chairman, Sughd Region Government
32. Yusupov Shavkat, Alisher Malikovich, Director, "Sadbag" Agro shops network
33. Zuhurov Kurbonali, Director, Tojik Nihol Parvar
34. Lochin Faizullozoda, Director, GUP “center of single window” for export operations
35. Husniddin Sharofiddinov and staff of NGO Obru, agricultural forecasting
36. Behruz Firuzzoda, head of department for marketing and logistics, state agency for export promotion
37. Bahidur Nazarov, head of department for agrarian policy, and food security monitoring, MoAgriculture

## Annex 2: List of data collected/being collected

Consultant, supported by the PIU staff, has shared a list of required data/stats from each beneficiary met. This data will be essential both for baseline survey and establishing an operational M&E system and help with results monitoring

### **Key data for the PIU staff to collect as soon as possible include the following:**

1. A complete list of dehkan farms (by location and size)

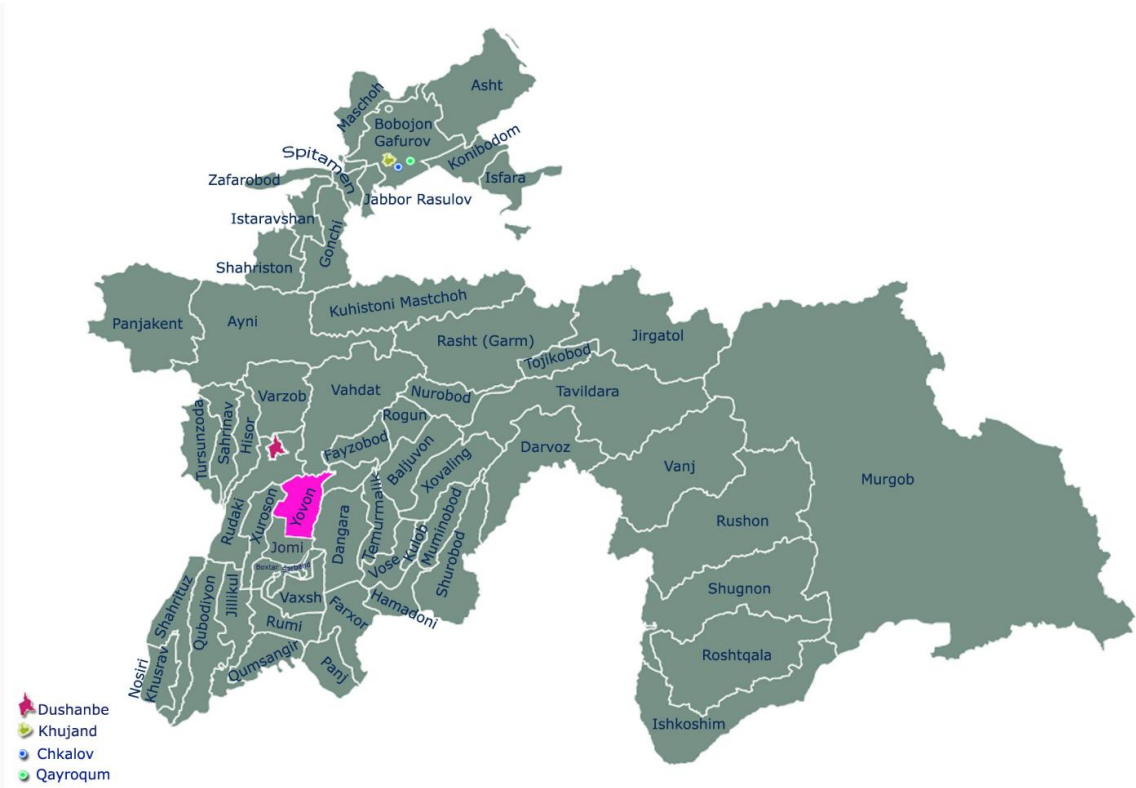
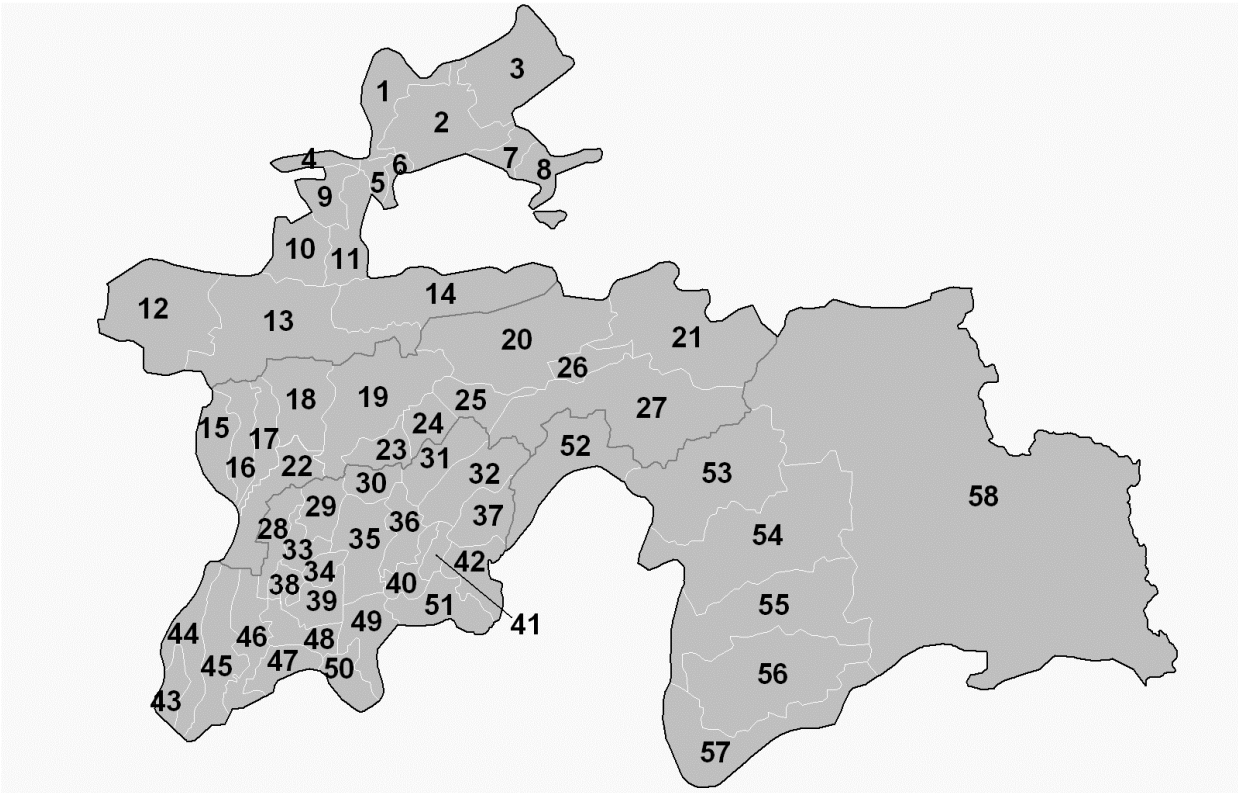
<b>Name of the farm</b>	<b>Province</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Size (ha)</b>
Farm A	Sogd	Dj Rasulov	20
Farm B	Khatlon	Dangara	10
Farm C	RRS	Hissor	15

2. A complete list of ag. Exporter (by location and produce)

<b>exporter name</b>	<b>province</b>	<b>type of exports</b>	<b>Имя</b>	<b>контакты</b>
Зерновая компания	Sogd	персик, аблоки, черешня, слива	Сергей Рахимов	92771 3131
B				
C				
D				



Annex 3 Map of Tajikistan and number of dekhkan farms



Province	No.	District	Native name	Area (sq. km)	Population	Number of Dehkan farms
Sogd	1	Mastchoh	Мастчоҳ	1000	128400	4730
Sogd	2	Bobojon Ghafurov	Бобоҷон Ғафуров	2700	380500	6789
Sogd	3	Asht	Ашт	2800	168100	5617
Sogd	4	Zafarobod	Зафаробод	400	75900	4528
Sogd	5	Spitamen	Нов	400	141600	1619
Sogd	6	Jabbor Rasulov	Ҷаббор Расулов	300	137700	2718
Sogd	8	Isfara		800	274000	12360
Sogd	7	Konibodom		800	211100	8199
Sogd	9	Istaravshan		700	273500	8847
Sogd	10	Shahrison	Шаҳристон	1100	43700	2401
Sogd	11	Devashtich	Ғонҷӣ	1600	173500	2528
Sogd	12	Panjakent		3700	303000	4371
Sogd	13	Ayni	Айнӣ	5200	83600	1178
Sogd	14	Kuhistoni Mastchoh	Кӯҳистони Мастчоҳ	3700	25400	1119
Khatlon	28	Khuroson	Хуросон	900	116500	1432
Khatlon	29	Yovon	Ёвон	900	234600	4638
Khatlon	31	Baljuvon	Балҷувон	1300	30400	436
Khatlon	32	Khovaling	Ховалинг	1700	57900	2202
Khatlon	33	Jomi	Абдурахмони Ҷомӣ	600	175800	2962
Khatlon	34	Levakant		100	48300	124
Khatlon	35	Danghara	Данғара	2000	161000	1902
Khatlon	36	Temurmalik	Темурмалик	1000	69800	897
Khatlon	37	Mu'minobod	Мӯминобод	900	94700	4686
Khatlon	38	Kushoniyon	Кӯшонӣён	600	245900	2266
Khatlon	39	Vakhsh	Вахш	1000	199300	6022
Khatlon	40	Vose'	Восеъ	800	216500	3745
Khatlon	41	Kulob		300	214700	2164
Khatlon	42	Shamsiddin Shohin	Шамсиддин Шоҳин	2300	55500	2500
Khatlon	43	Nosiri Khusrav	Носири Хусрав	800	39300	1737
Khatlon	44	Shahrizuz	Шаҳритуз	1500	130000	2406
Khatlon	45	Qubodiyon	Қубодиён	1800	188100	2730
Khatlon	46	Dusti	Дӯстӣ	1200	117100	2859
Khatlon	47	Jayhun	Ҷайхун	1000	139000	4032
Khatlon	48	Jaloliddin Balkhi	Ҷалолиддин Балхӣ	900	201300	3185
Khatlon	49	Farkhor	Фархор	1200	170800	5276
Khatlon	50	Panj	Панҷ	900	119700	5345
Khatlon	51	Hamadoni	Ҳамадонӣ	500	148800	4505

## Annex 4: Recommendations for Project's Results Framework (PDOs and IRIs)

Project Development Objective Indicators						Data requirements	Sources of data	Frequency	
	Definition	Baseline indicator	Intermediate target 2025	Project end target 2027	Consultant's observations and recommendation				
<b>Strengthening the foundations for resilient agricultural sector</b>									
As per POM	Certified seed, seedlings and planting materials sold commercially (percentage)	Share of the produced certified seeds, seedlings and planting materials that are sold commercially.	0	40	75	Merging two categories (seeds & seedlings/planting material) under one indicator is not advisable due to the following reasons: (i) different measuring units (tons for seeds and quantity # for seedlings making comparisons challenging); (ii) different starting/baseline points for certification (almost all seeds are formally certified while seedlings are only physically inspected); (iii) very different share sold commercially (around 60% for seeds and around 10% is sold by Niholparvar and no reliable data on privately sold seedlings/planting material). <b>Recommendation: keep, adjust wording and targets</b>			
Recommended wording of PDO	Seeds sold commercially using improved certification capacity	Share of seeds produced by seed farms sold commercially with improved certification process/capabilities (percentage)	0	50	65	Ensures link to Project investments in all 4 seed certification laboratories of Committee for Food Security (and potentially other labs); addresses the current nearly 100% coverage for seed certification of all imported and domestically produced seeds) with focus on improved certification processes (as defined by better analysis, packing, fumigation etc). Project to introduce a proper data collection process with seed certification laboratories and seed producing farms. Increasing the share of seeds commercially beyond 65% is not a good indicator as seed farms have to keep share for replanting (for R2-3), maintaining their own stocks and may be forced to sell some seed for feedstock depending on the price for seeds			
						<p>The flowchart details the seed production and certification process. It starts with 'Input by the Project' (1.5 tn to GUP) and 'Production by seed farms' (10 tn (R1)). This leads to 'Distribution' (8.5 tn to seed farms, 1.5 tn to GUP). 'Certification using improved certification' follows, with 100% (R.5tn) for seed farms and 100% (1.5tn) for GUP. 'Commercially sold' amounts to c. 60% (54t) for seed farms and c. 75% (1.1t) for GUP. 'Re-planting' is c. 25% (23t) for seed farms and c. 25% (0.4) for GUP. 'Stock' is c. 10% (10t) for seed farms and c. 25% (0.4) for GUP. 'Sold as feedstock' is c. 5% (0.5t) for seed farms. A final calculation shows 'certified seeds sold commercially by seed farms + certified seeds sold by GUP' as 61% of total seeds produced.</p>	Tons of seeds produced by seed farms	Seed farms	semi-annually with automatic sharing with PIU as part of bilateral agreement (PIU, MoA, seed farms)
						Tons of seeds certified for sale to dehqan farms	Seed farms	semi-annually with automatic sharing with PIU as part of bilateral agreement (PIU, MoA, seed farms)	
						Tons of seed sold by seed farms to dehqan farms (as seeds)	Seed farms	semi-annually with automatic sharing with PIU as part of bilateral agreement (PIU, MoA, seed farms)	
						data on own stocks, replanting and feeding	seed farms	semi-annually with automatic sharing with PIU as part of bilateral agreement (PIU, MoA, seed farms)	
						Certification records of seed certification labs (CFS or seed farms)	Seed farms/seed labs of CFS		
						Tons of seed received by GUP Sortsemovosh	GUP Sortsemovosh	semi-annually with automatic sharing with PIU as part of bilateral agreement (PIU, MoA, GUP)	
						Tons of seed certified by GUP Sortsemovosh	GUP Sortsemovosh	semi-annually with automatic sharing with PIU as part of bilateral agreement (PIU, MoA, GUP)	
						Tons of seed sold commercially by GUP Sortsemovosh	GUP Sortsemovosh	semi-annually with automatic sharing with PIU as part of bilateral agreement (PIU, MoA, GUP)	
Recommended wording of PDO	Certified seedlings/planting materials sold by Niholparvar (percentage)	Share of certified seedlings/planting material (using improved capabilities) produced by Niholparvar sold to the market	0	50	100	While Project is expecting data on the total number of seedlings/planting materials imported/produced in TJK, early observations point to challenges obtaining this data to properly monitor this indicator. It is recommended to focus on statistics in control of the Project (e.g. Niholparvar) and link to improved certification/monitoring process. At present, based on official information, Niholparvar only sells around 10% of all seedlings being produced using basic certification (physical inspection) GUP& PIU need to introduce a formal certification process and monitoring/tracking system to properly track clients and the survival rate of seedlings. No proper system is in place to determine market demand for seedlings, and types of seedlings needed by the market, let alone with better yield statistics (all) is recommended to be introduced by the PIU with Niholparvar			
						$\frac{\text{Number of certified seedling sold}}{\text{Number of seedlings sold}}$	Niholparvar	Semi-annually as part of bilateral agreement with PIU	
						Number of seedlings/planting materials sold annually by GUP	Niholparvar	Semi-annually as part of bilateral agreement with PIU	
						OR			
	Share of seedlings/planting material sold commercially by Niholparvar (percentage)		10	40	60	Number of seedlings sold by Niholparvar	Niholparvar		
						$\frac{\text{Number of seedlings sold by GUP Niholparvar}}{\text{Total number of seedlings sold (sold by GUP + sold by other agents)}}$	Number of imported seedlings/planting materials & sold by other agent (including farms, traders etc)	stats from MOA/Customs	

Project Development Objective Indicators						Data requirements	Sources of data	Frequency	
	Definition	Baseline indicator	Intermediate target	Project end target	Consultant's observations and recommendation				
			2025	2027					
<b>Support investment in agri-logistics</b>									
As per POM	Clients benefiting from ALC services (percentage)	ALC services could include sorting, cooling, storage, packing and logistics facilities. Clients include those farmers, agribusinesses etc. who use the ALCs as percentage of all farmers and agribusiness residing in the ALCs' catchment area to be identified through feasibility study.	0	15	30	While intuitive, this indicator does not take into account the realities of ALC and who the clients would really be. % of farmers and agbusiness that will realistically be able to be ALC "clients" will actually be quite small (especially in case of export oriented ALCs) as most of the farms: (i) are small; (ii) do not grow export ready produce (types); (iii) can not offer sufficient volume to meet even minimum export volume generally required by export markets over pre-determined timeframe. <b>Recommendation: change both wording and targets</b>	2 ha		
As per POM	Female clients benefiting from ALC services (percentage)	Female clients include those women farmers, women-owned or -managed agribusinesses etc. who use the ALCs as percentage of all farmers and agribusiness residing in the ALCs' catchment area.	0	10	35	No reliable statistics exist to confidently say how much women-owned farms or agribusinesses are there. Therefore, assigning this indicator neither practical nor feasible. Using example above (Panj), this indicator would imply having over 500 women-owned DF being clients of ALC. <b>Recommendation: change both wording and targets</b>			
<b>Recommended wording of PDO</b>	<i>Value of Agricultural exports facilitated by ALCs (as a percentage of total value of agricultural exports)</i>	in line with stated objective, a more realistic, outcome related indicator of the share of ag.exports that are handled by the ALC as a percentage of total ag. exports	0	0	10	Instead of defining catchment area, it is critical for the ALC to know who the clients are & be close to potential clients, defined as large farmers (>50ha) with capacity to be exporter (current/former exporters). Fairly efficient indicator of success that relies on internal data (owned) and general statistics already being tracked with high degree of accuracy. Given anticipated timelines to design & construct ALC, ensure capacity building and initial growing/export season, it is unlikely that any export will take place before 2025	Example: In 2021 Tajikistan exported 209K tons of agricultural produce worth US\$ 36.6 millions		
		$\frac{\text{Value of ag products handled by ALC (in US\$)}}{\text{Total value in ag.products (in US\$)}} = \frac{\text{US\$ 5mln}}{\text{US\$ 50 mln}} = 10\%$					Total value of ag. products handled by ALC	internal data from ALCs	quarterly data from ALC
							total value f ag. products exported by Tajikistan	data from MoA, MoEDT and customs	Semi-annual data from state agencies
	and								
<b>Recommended wording of PDO</b>	<i>Share of female workers employed by ALCs</i>	percentage of female workers hired fulltime and seasonally to support operations of ALCs in total number of full/part time employess	0	0	30	ALC will most likely have high demand in full time and seasonal labor. Given fairly strong outward migration trends, these jobs will be filled by women (sorting, cleaning, packaging etc). If project is to maintain a good gender indicator, this will be more practical and feasible indicator			
							total number of employees at ALCs	internal data from ALCs	
		$\frac{\text{Count of female workes employed by ALC}}{\text{Total number of employees (in reporting year)}} = \frac{25}{50} = 50\%$					total female employees (both full and part time)	internal data from ALCs	

Project Development Objective Indicators						
		Definition	Baseline indicator	Intermediate target 2025	Project end target 2027	Consultant's observations and recommendation
<b>Strengthen public capacity for crisis management</b>						
As per POM	Databased for timely and effective information for crisis management available (Y/N)	Crisis management comprises early warning, preparedness and response. Database includes, at minimum, information on planted areas by crop and district, agricultural production forecast, farm land use, and major soil types in each agro-ecological zone that would need to meet characteristics of accuracy, completeness, consistency, timeliness, and/or validity.	No	Yes	Yes	This indicator (in its essence) is not much different from IRI 3.2 as it really focuses on ag. production forecasting & does not really focus on the spirit (expected outcome) of activities and covers aspect requiring different inputs/activities when it comes to preparedness & actual response. <b>Recommendation: Keep, but move to become &amp; align with IRI 3.2 (given overlap in the substance of the indicator)</b>
<b>Recommended wording of PDO</b>						
	<i>Country-wide alert system/resource data base for farmers established and operational</i>	One of the objectives of the Project is to create a digital alert system in service of farmers (through strengthening public capacity to delivery on-demand information/forecast to farmers). Alert system/knowledge resource (SMS, IVR, SMS, mobile app). Alerts to include real time agrometeorological, pest/disease and soil quality data)	Paper based bulletins are prepared with limited access/reach for farmers	Digital center established and beta version of the alert system created covering all 3 key areas (meteo, pest/diseases, soil quality)	Fully operational nationwide alert system operational	
	Share of farmers aware/having used digital alert system/resources (percentage)	Serving as a proxy, this indicator will measure % respondents to the farmer survey who have replied "Yes" to the question if they have used/aware of the alerts/resources created for them	0	5	30	This indicator will be tracked as part of baseline/mid-term and final survey of farmers (Q: Have you used/received alerts on meteo/pest/locust/quality of soil)

Intermediate Results Indicators						Data requirements	Sources of data	Frequency
		Definition	Baseline indicator	Intermediate target 2025	Project end target 2027	Consultant's observations and recommendation		
<b>Strengthening the foundations for resilient agricultural sector</b>								
As per POM	Production of improved seeds, seedlings and planting materials (Percentage)	Proposed climate indicator. Farming is significantly affected by climate change due to the high vulnerability of its natural environment and its low adaptive capacity. In addition to rising average temperature and loss of glaciers, Tajikistan suffers from more frequent droughts and strong winds, which have a large impact on crop yields, amongst others. The project will invest in availability of climate-resilient and drought-resilient seeds, seedlings and planting materials. The indicator will be disaggregated for (1) major crops, and (2) early generation/ foundation and commercial seeds, seedlings and planting materials.	0	30	60	While the definition of "improved" is provided (essentially production of climate & drought resilient seeds/seedlings), and similar to PDO1 recommendation, it is suggested to separate seeds & seedlings parts for greater clarity given different processes followed to ensure climate/drought resiliency (and timeframe to bring it to the market). For seeds, TJK is reliant on imported elite seeds and stated climate/resiliency (usually seeds from the approved register is imported but true climate/drought resiliency is not really monitored). Despite c. 50-55% of cotton and around 50% of wheat seeds being "local" (as an example), the Project makes no connection to investment into R&D (institutes) that, among other, need to undertake this work, when it comes to this indicator. <b>Recommendation: keep, adjust wording and targets</b>		
As per POM	Improved multiplied seeds, seedlings and planting materials certified for commercial sale (Percentage)	Share of produced multiplied seeds, seedlings and planting materials certified by responsible entity for commercial sale.	40	45	65	As read, the proposed KPI aims at c. 65% of produced (improved) seed/seedlings to be certified for commercial sale (but not sold). This is a misleading indicator as worded, and, at best, requires further detailization. The definition really points to R1-R3 production by seed farms and its corresponding certification (that is, again, done for 100% of seeds produced, at least on a pro-forma basis). If the indicator implies share of certified improved seed sold (at c. 65%) than this indicator is similar to PDO 1. <b>Recommendation: change both wording and targets</b>		
As per POM	Number of seed multiplication farms supported by the project (Number)	Indicator measures how many public and private seed farms and nurseries involved in the multiplication of seeds, seedlings, and planting materials are supported by the project	0	23	50	The project and MoA are struggling to develop a clear framework what and why (under what criteria) should seed multiplication farms be receiving support. Therefore having a clearly input/coverage related indicator (as part of IRI) such as the number of seed farms supported is not the best indicator of expected projects results (at the very least the Project should support/cover all seed farms in two target provinces). Given the stated objective and the size of the Project, certain aspects of working with seed farms should be done at a national level (e.g. collection of underlying data of production, sale, storage, quality, capability) and developing a sensible approach to selecting/assessing seed farm capacity to effectively undertake multiplication work and building resilience and sustainability of these farm. Moreover, the MoA is looking to add another 30 seed farms by end 2022 so the original 32 seed farms (out of 90) will really end up with only 25% of all seed farms really missing an opportunity to put seed multiplication in TJK on the sustainability track. <b>Recommendation: change both wording and targets</b>		
<b>Recommended wording of PDO</b>								
	Increase in production of seeds by seed farms covered by the Project (% increase over base year, 2022)	Proposed indicator will monitor and report on basic expected outcome of project interventions, i.e. increase in availability of quality seeds. May need focus on only R1 and R2 seeds across key crops covered by the project	0	10	20	it is reasonable to expect an average 20% in production of better quality seeds given support from the project (seeds, equipment, fertilizers, know-how etc). Covering all seed farms (data collection) could serve as a good "control" group for seed farms to be supported by the Project		
	and/or							
	Financial self-sufficiency and sustainability of the Seed Fund	Proposed indicator addresses the need to the Seed Fund to be self-sufficient (financially) and be able to maintain the Seed fund (elite seed) without regular budget support. Measured as zero (0) additional budget funds allocated for seed purchase using state budget	No	Financial sustainability strategy & action plan developed and elemented implemented	Yes			
	and/or							
	Share of locally produced elite type seeds sold on the market (percentage)	Proposed indicator reflects the foundational aspect of building ag. sector resilience through creating domestic elite producing seed sector that in turn supports meaningful food security, esp. considering situation in RU, URK and KAZ	0	5	15	At present TJK imports all super elite and elite type seeds without the ability to develop and produce own high quality seed (mother/original seeds). The project should aim to support 2-4 seed farms across project areas and link with R&D to ensure this critically important segment get assistance and slowly becomes a viable player domestically.		
		$\frac{\text{Volume (tn) elite seeds produced by seed farms}}{\text{Volume (tn) of elite seeds imported} + \text{volume elite seeds produced locally}}$					total volume of produced super elite/elita type seeds	Seed farms
	and/or						total volume of imported super elite/elita type seeds to TJK	Customes, MoA, GUP Sortovoshsem
	Number of new climate/drought resilient (domestic/foreign) varieties brought to the market (absolute number)	Proposed indicator will directly link to project investment in R&D institutions & other beneficiaries	0	at least 4 new climate resilient varieties being explored/tested	at least 6 new crop varieties in advanced stages of being included in the register for approved seed with better climate characteristics	End project result is worded this way to account for an average of 4-7 years for a new variety to be developed, tested, zoned, adapted and be included in the roster of approved seed		

Intermediate Results Indicators						
		Definition	Baseline indicator	Intermediate target	Project end target	Consultant's observations and recommendation
				2025	2027	
<b>Support investment in agri-logistics</b>						
As per POM	Number of ALCs fully operational (Number)	A fully operational ALC is defined as providing any services such as sorting, cooling, storage, packing and logistics facilities.	0	1	3	Given the scope and coverage of the Project, focusing on an output-type indicator (like # of ALC built) is a poor indicator of progress/success. In addition, given preliminary observations, a network of smaller ALC and pre-export (facilities) may be more efficient in terms of ensuring greater access to facilities (such as refrigeration, packing, storage). <b>Recommendation: change both wording and targets</b>
	Clients satisfied with quality of services provided by ALCs (Percentage)	Proposed Citizen Engagement indicator. ALC operational activities could include sorting, cooling, storage, and packing and logistics facilities. ALC "catchment area" will be identified through feasibility study. Clients include those farmers, agribusinesses etc. who use the ALCs. Clients will identify ALC services that are important to them, and will rate their satisfaction with identified service(s). Indicator will be disaggregated for gender.	0	20	70	While it is recommended that the Project does introduce/implement Client Satisfaction score card (to be filled out by each Client for each service used), this will be more applicable for Dushanbe-based ALC. For export focused ALC, the project may not have a lot of "clients" as such making this indicator less relevant. <b>Recommendation: keep</b>
Recommended wording of PDO	<i>Number of business partnerships established by export-oriented ALCs</i>	Success of ALC would depend on effective partnerships established by the ALCs (usually with large farms/cooperatives and agribusinesses). This indicator simply tracks how effective ALCs are in attracting and maintaining clients/business partnerships and helps expand coverage beyond (own production capacity) to include other farms/businesses	0	10	30	This KPI should be included in business plan of ALCs
	<b>and/or</b>					
	<i>Expanding export markets (number)</i>		0	0	exports to least 4 new new export markets	
	<b>and/or</b>					
	<i>Service area coverage by the network of ALCs (percent of area of each target province)</i>	This indicator is to measure geographic coverage area (by ALC/network partners services) through establishing /building an efficient network of ALC type facilities (larger ALCs and smaller regional/district pre-exports/aggregator centers), including non-project ALC type facilities and providing electronic booking/contracting capabilities for ease of farmers/potential exporters and for the benefit of local markets	0	10% ( Sogd and Khatlon provinces by area)	at least 30% (Sogd and Khatlon by area)	By 2025, it is reasonable to assume that at least 10% of Sogd, and Khatlon area could be initially covered by ALC services (both Project and non-Project, and existing facilities), growing to at least 50% by 2027 (with construction of project supported ALCs)

Intermediate Results indicators								
	Definition	Baseline indicator	Intermediate target	Project end target	Consultant's observations and recommendation	Data requirements	Sources of data	
			2025	2027				
<b>Strengthen public capacity for crisis management</b>								
As per POM	Area surveyed (under surveillance) for crop protection and locust control (Percentage)	The area surveyed for crop protection and locust control	0	15	25	This indicator may not really reflect intended Project outcomes for a variety of reason & is a bit misguided. Area under surveillance (assuming it refers to the total area of the country) may be too broad of a coverage & detached from areas most prone to locust. Does not reflect outcomes (effectiveness of interventions should, ideally, lead to a gradual reduction in area under surveillance) and measurement (while area under surveillance can technically change yoy in both directions driven by weather and threats from outside TJK, primarily Afgh) but it does not reflect expected/desired result of expected project interventions. This is especially clear given latest 5 year stats (see tab "locust") the total area under surveillance dropped by 24% meaning the % of the total area must have dropped as well. <b>Recommendation: change both wording and targets</b>		
	Agricultural forecasting system is established and operational (Yes/No)	Proposed climate indicator. Tajikistan suffers under adverse events and outbreaks that are only amplified by climate change. Moreover they often take farmers and the authorities by surprise. Real time sector monitoring and agricultural production outlook are not yet effectively generated, catching the authorities off-guard in their response to emergencies. This activity aims to establish the database with agricultural land use, yield forecast, and production/vegetation index fluctuations to make timely and accurate estimates of agricultural production. Increasing the availability and access to such information is expected to increase resilience to shocks	No	No	Yes	<b>Recommendation: keep indicator</b>		One time purchase of nation-wide high resolution space pictures. After that free updates from starlink satellite and focus on Sogd and Khatlon in terms of forecasting
	Capacity for soil testing expanded (Number)	Capacity will be measured by the number of soil samples tests to be conducted by soil testing laboratories supported by the project on a daily basis.	30	80	180	While average daily number of soil tests has been increasingly since 2019 (see soil testing tab), from 13 to 24 a day (on average), X7 increase over the next 5 years seems does not look realistic. <b>Recommendation: keep indicator - change targets</b>		
<b>Recommended wording of PDO</b>	Expanding soil testing coverage (Number)	Capacity will be measured by the number of soil samples tests to be conducted by soil testing laboratories supported by the project on a daily basis.	<b>24</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>50</b>	doubling the number of daily soil test over the next 5 years assuming inclusion of soil test (as mandatory for all seed multiplication farms (and associated farms), as well as all exporters (dehkan farms) included in the project, at a very least.		
	<i>Reduction in total area infested with locust (in percent, 2021 as a base year)</i>	Taking base year 2021 (appx. 115K ha), this indicator measures reduction on total area infested by locust	115	-10%	-20%	A true measure of effective project interventions (through purchase of equipment, chemicals and surveillance capability, including through purchase of drone and better early detection) should result in a material reduction in area infested by locusts		
	<b>and/or</b>						annual data on area infested by locust	Locust Expedition
	<i>Reduction in volume of chemicals used per ha of area under surveillance (in percent)</i>	Volume of chemicals used (in liters) per area under locust surveillance	0	10%	25%	This indicator meant to also reflect the effectiveness of work with better capabilities to detect, treat and fight locust and is expected to have an angle of better environmental impact due to decrease in chemical use (resulting in financial efficiencies for the Expedition) due to targeted use of chemicals (vs blanketed approach now requiring a lot of chemicals and fuel). It may be that during initial years this indicator will be increasing (due to better detection and coverage of hard to reach places and consequent larger use of chemicals), however, ultimately this indicator should be significantly reduced with better locust detection, small areas under treatment and smaller area infested due to better/early detection. Even keeping the area under surveillance constant, with better detection and targeted treatment, this indicator should be decreasing. Actual baseline and intermediate (project end indicators) can be easily calculated if this indicator is accepted		
	example		$\frac{\text{Volume of chemicals used (liters)}}{\text{Area under locust surveillance}} = \frac{1001}{500 \text{ ha}} = 0.2 \text{ (2021)}$				annual data on area under surveillance	Locust Expedition
			$\frac{\text{Volume of chemicals used (liters)}}{\text{Area under locust surveillance}} = \frac{501}{350 \text{ ha}} = 0.14 \text{ (2025)}$				annual data on the use of chemicals	Locust Expedition