

## STATE PROGRAMME OF NUTS DEVELOPMENT IN THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC UNTIL 2025

*Round Table discussion took place in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan on 23 January 2013 to discuss draft of the State programme of nuts development in the Kyrgyz Republic until 2025. The draft of the programme was designed in the framework of the FAO project.*

In addition to efforts towards poverty reduction and food security, it is expected the programme would effectively support the expansion of forests in Kyrgyzstan, where only 5,6% of territory is covered by woodlands. It is also expected the strategy will assist to smooth the consequences of climate change, support increased production of ecologically clean products and realize “green economy” priorities in the Kyrgyz Republic.

“Nuts forests are in the State ownership and may play an important role in the development of economy, rural poverty alleviation and improvement of ecological conditions of Kyrgyzstan,” - said Dorjee Kinlay, FAO Representative, in his welcoming speech at the RT.

The draft of the programme not only includes a detailed work plan aimed at improving the status of current nut forests in order to raise their productivity and keep their protection functions, but also proposes the creation of new woodlands to expand production of pure nuts products. The work plan has a timeline, a budget and includes monitoring and evaluation process of the state programme realization.

An increase in productivity of the existing cultivation of the walnut, pistachio and almonds will be achieved by applying the FAO best technologies for the care of the crown of trees, including proper pruning, and disease and pest controls. In the period until 2025 such works will be carried out in the territory of State Forest Reserves over the total area of more than 16 thousand hectares. It is expected these measures will contribute to a notable increase in the yield of nuts crops.

To facilitate new plantations and additional nut cultivation at least four specialized nurseries with total area 12 hectares in Jalalabad, Osh and Batken provinces will be created. The nurseries will provide farmers with contemporary material and the necessary technical base to guarantee the placement of quality saplings. Nurseries will closely collaborate with the scientific research bodies of republic.

The State program also ensures the development of industrial processing for walnut, almonds and pistachio by products, including the production of activated carbon, components for different confectionery articles, extraction of food and technical oils, paints, typographical inks, cosmetic soap, varnishes, etc.

The program will make it possible to conduct reforms in the forest sector aimed at improving the social and economic standard of living for the local population as well as improving the ecological situation. It will make it possible to create new work sites and to increase the population’s interest in caring for and effectively managing the country’s natural resources.

With FAO support the State programme was prepared by a working group consisting of representatives from the State Agency on the protection of environment and forestry KR, State Agency on construction and the regional development KR, the Academy of sciences KR and its scientific bodies, and the Association of Land and Forest users KR. Participants of the Round Table adopted its Resolution and recommended to approve the draft of the State programme. Representatives of all FAO stakeholders committed to promote the State programme for adoption by the Government and to make it operational in the nearest future.