

**SUBREGIONAL TRAINING ON SEED CERTIFICATION OF CEREALS  
3-8 JUNE, 2013, DUSHANBE, TAJIKISTAN**

**(GCP/TAJ/010/AUS)**



The training was organized within the framework of **GCP/TAJ/010/AUS**: Improving access of small scale farmers to high quality seed in Tajikistan, **GCP/RER/026/AUS: Baby 4** and **SEC Regular Program on Plant Production and Protection**.

Fifteen seed specialists from four countries (**Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan**) attended the workshop. The Seed Association of Tajikistan (SAT) was closely involved in organizing the workshop and provided translation services.

Dr. Ulf Nyman, former Deputy Head, Swedish Seed Inspectorate, was hired as an international consultant to conduct the training workshop.

The participants were introduced to a theoretical background of international seed certification developed according to the standards of International Seed Testing Association (ISTA), Seed Schemes of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) .

The workshop began with presentations of the country representatives on national status of seed certification and quality control. During the course of work, it was noted that all countries adopted seed laws, and that seed regulations required to apply certification system were not fully in place. All countries stated that seed laboratories were present and variety testing was performed in their countries, but whether the testing complied with international standards was not clear. In this regard, the participants requested FAO to provide, if possible, technical assistance in strengthening seed regulation and seed certification system with further aim to promote OECD seed certification schemes.

The training workshop combined theoretical sessions with practical demonstrations on: 1 - control plots; 2 - Seed sampling and quality analysis and 3 - Field inspection. For this purpose the participants visited the breeding and seed multiplication trials established under GCP/TAJ/010/AUS in L.Murodov Seed Farm, Hisor Rayon, the Central Seed Laboratory of the Tajik Seed Inspectorate and Seed Farms in Vahdat Rayon.

During the control plot session, the participants were shown which characters to observe and later on had to demonstrate what they had learned. In the seed sampling session, the ways of seed sampling meeting the ISTA rules were demonstrated. The participants were also allowed to demonstrate their recent knowledge of this practice. Similarly, the practices of seed quality analysis

were demonstrated in the laboratory (moisture content, purity, other seeds and germination). Following the seed sampling and quality analysis, the State Commission for Variety Testing gave a guided tour of its building and introduced its laboratory testing practices.

The field inspection session included practices on how to obtain results for varietal identity and purity in the field. The participants were allowed to count for themselves figures for plant density for the field, number of offtypes in the field, and percentages for the varietal purity. The OECD standards in field inspection were also introduced. Observations on weed and seed borne diseases present in the field were made.



Considering that potato is a major crop in the sub-region, the document about a recently adopted regulation for seed potatoes, acceptance rules and methods of analysis in Russia was presented and shared with participants.

All training materials, including presentations, an ISTA international seed certificate, a Russian translation of a Swedish field inspection protocol and illustrated descriptors in Russian for certain wheat and barley characters were

distributed to participants in USB sticks.

The participants indicated that the workshop was very interesting and useful. They also requested to conduct such trainings in other countries of the sub-region.