



Food and Agriculture
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Office of Evaluation

Support to the most vulnerable farming households to protect their livelihoods and to restore agriculture production - OSRO/KYR/901/SWE

Follow-up report to Management Response

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Office of Evaluation (OED)

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Follow-up report of the Management response to OSRO/KYR/901/SWE			Date
Recommendations	Action Agreed	Comments on actions taken, including reasons for actions not taken	Impact (changes) of actions taken in terms of programmes, policies and/or procedures
<p>*Rec 1: (to the Kyrgyz Government): With the assistance of FAO and other national and international stakeholders, the Evaluation Team recommends that the Government develops clear criteria for the times a particular situation should be declared an emergency, and prepare a Kyrgyz contingency plan for such situations, to which the international community can respond.</p>	<p>The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) is working on drafting an Agricultural Development Strategy 2011-2015 that may include a Contingency Plan for emergencies in consultation with the Ministry of Emergencies. FAO will be providing technical support to the Ministry of Agriculture in this process.</p>	<p>The Ministry of Agriculture decided to shift the timeframe and is designing an Agricultural Development Strategy for 2012-2020 with technical support being received from FAO. The Contingency Plan for emergencies has not been included so far in the Agricultural Development Strategy 2012-2020. Discussions about the inclusion of Contingency plan are in process.</p>	<p>The Agricultural Development Strategy 2012-2020 is still being developed and it is too early to evaluate the impact of the strategy.</p>

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<p>*Rec 2: (to the Kyrgyz Government): The project had to liaise with too many different departments within the ministry to be efficient. The Evaluation Team recommends that a Unit/Focal point within the Ministry for early warning and emergency response is created.</p>	<p>A Focal Point for early warning and emergency response will be appointed in the framework of the Contingency Plan for Emergencies that is being drafted for the Agricultural Development Strategy 2011-2015</p>	<p>Discussions on the inclusion of the Contingency Plan in the Agricultural Development Strategy are not finalized. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Agriculture has agreed to appoint a Focal Point for each emergency situation.</p>	<p>The impact cannot be evaluated at this stage</p>

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<p>Rec 3: (for FAO): Kyrgyzstan needs strategic plans for the production, distribution and provision of seeds and fertilizers, including financing mechanisms. The Evaluation Team recommends that FAO, with its world-wide experience with and knowledge of these sectors, assists the Kyrgyz government to develop such strategic plans for the seed and fertilizer sectors.</p>	<p>A proposal was developed in 2009 for longer term assistance to the development of the seed sector in Kyrgyzstan. This included a seed policy review component. This proposal could be discussed once again with Government and shared with interested Donors.</p>	<p>A strategic programme for the seed and fertilizers sector was developed by the Ministry of Agriculture in 2011 with the support of FAO and is now awaiting Government approval.</p> <p>In addition, in the framework of the AGP global programme on seed policy, AGP organized a regional workshop on seed policy from 12 to 13 October in Istanbul, Turkey, in which Kyrgyzstan was represented. The regional workshop created awareness on the broader concept of seed policy and the key elements for its development, formulation and implementation. The presentations by national representatives gave a comprehensive overview of the seed sector in the region, and highlighted some key constraints. It is expected that the participants, including the one for Kyrgyzstan, will promote at country level the development of strategic planning for the development of their seed sector and that cooperation among ECO countries on seed matters will be strengthened.</p> <p>FAO is also planning to provide a technical assistance to Kyrgyz MoA on the formulation of seed policy in the framework of project GCP/RER/026/AUS: Increasing resilience of small scale farmers to the impacts of soaring food prices by improving capacity and institutional environment for seed production and the use of irrigation technologies. Baby 4 : Improving access of small-scale farmers to high quality seed in the Kyrgyz Republic</p>	<p>Idem that the previous column. Too early to evaluate impact of actions taken.</p>

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<p>**Rec 4: (for NGOs/IPs): The current 3 years arrangement of supervising the performance of the business activities developed for these services, only with the promise that these “credits” will be transferred to a yet to be established MFI is not advisable. It creates a conflict of interest between the implementing partner and the beneficiaries of these “credits”, as the future owner of the fund has to advise on and control its use and application. The Evaluation team recommends the NGOs to charge interest to vulnerable people for these loans, as an additional check on the business plan and on the motivation of the loaner, and as the only way to make the credit provision to farmers sustainable. This would allow the business to generate sufficient money to pay back the loan, pay the interest and leave some profit.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertaking trainings for the MFIs that could potentially participate in the process • Assisting these MFIs with their operational capacity if additional donor funding is received Increasing the micro-credit portfolio of the MFIs if additional donor funding is received 	<p>As recommended, NGOs introduced charging interest rates that started from 2% and have reached 12% annually. The planned training was conducted for MFIs. The NGOs did not receive additional donor funding to assist the MFIs.</p>	<p>The responsibility for the actions and motivation of the beneficiaries for participation has increased when the interest rates were introduced. Many of the new beneficiaries are dissatisfied with the fact that they have to pay an interest rate when the previous beneficiaries received free loans. The earlier beneficiaries are interested in participating and continuing to receive loans with the interest rate.</p>