Need to Fight Against Hunger by Supporting Sustainable Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources
Background:

- Inauguration of the Office, 11 July 2007
- Sub-Regional priority w/shop organized in July 2007
- An Operational Framework was prepared in order to implement the agreement- Kapadokya Workshop 17-19 October 2008
- Agreement came into effect on 16 February 2009
- Sub-regional priority Workshop organized in March 2009
- 1st Steering Committee meeting held in May 2009
- 2nd Steering Committee meeting held in May 2010
Steering Committee Meeting-May 2010

The 2nd Steering Committee meeting was held on 28 May 2010 to review status of ongoing projects and to review project proposals under pipeline for selection and funding as well as other agenda items.

During the meeting, the members were presented 13 project proposals: 4 regional; 3 multi-country and 6 national.

The members of the Steering Committee decided to approve funding of 2 regional, 2 multi-country and 3 national projects with a total budget of USD 2,200,000.

Regional: USD 1,100,000  
Multi-country: USD 500,000  
National: USD 600,000

At the moment, there are 17 projects which are approved by the Steering Committee with a total volume of USD 6,500,000.

Due to technical reasons National project titled “Building National Potato Breeding and Selection Capacities in Azerbaijan” and multi-country project titled “Boosting Livelihood of Farmers in Ferghana Valley by Improving Land and Water Productivity and Strengthening Water users Association” will not be implemented and therefore retrieved from the list of approved projects.

Both projects are being replaced by new proposals.

Substantive Scope of FTPP

FTPP is primarily defined by the six broad areas set forth in Article III of the FAO/Turkey Agreement (i.e.: Food Security; Agricultural and Rural Development; Natural Resources Management, including Forestry and Fisheries; Agricultural Policies; Food Safety; Animal and Plant Genetic Resources).
The objective of this sub-regional programme is to increase the Central Asian fisheries and aquaculture sector performance in terms of its capacity; to generate food, employment and income, and in terms of its economical viability, environmental compatibility and social acceptability.

The First Tri-Partite Review Meeting took place in Trabzon, Turkey on 29th November 2010. The Meeting reviewed progress made by FishDev-Central Asia and acknowledged the overall progress which produced more outcomes and outputs at a faster pace than initially foreseen.

The Meeting also discussed and revised the budget and recognized the importance of the support from FishDev-Central Asia to the finalization of preparatory work for the establishment of the Commission and implementation of the work programme of the Commission in the upcoming years. The meeting, with slight amendments, approved the work plan for 2011.

One of marked progresses achieved by the FishDev-Central Asia includes the gradual improvements towards the targeted establishment of the Central Asia and the Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission (CACFAC) as a Regional Fishery Body under FAO.

More efforts would be needed to expand the coverage of CACFAC competence area by increasing the number of Member States from Central Asia and the Caucasus region.

It is clear that FishDev Central Asia will also act as a catalyst for the efforts to be made by CACFAC for development and implementation of a governance framework for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture until CACFAC has an adequate autonomous budget.
Management of Pesticides and Obsolete Pesticides in SEC Countries

The objective of the project is to assist countries of Central Asia to reduce risks for health and environment from obsolete pesticide stockpiles and from pesticides in current and future use with specific focus on Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

The project is designed to evaluate the scope of obsolete pesticides problems in CA countries. It will assist countries to carry out a detailed inventory and risk assessment.

Since November 2010 some of the main achievements are listed hereinbelow:

(i) Regional project coordinator recruited;
(ii) Obsolete pesticides in Central Asia updated;
(iii) Pesticides Stock Management System (PSMS) translated into Russian;
(iv) Lists of registered pesticides in each country developed to be uploaded into PSMS and exchanged among project countries;
(v) Equipment purchased;
(vi) National teams to participate in training session on inventory of obsolete pesticides nominated;
(vii) Regional workshop on pesticides equivalence organized;
(viii) Regional consultation to review current pesticides legislation and regulations organized; and
(ix) Regional strategy on pest and pesticides management endorsed by countries and submitted by FAO to GEF for co-financing.

A workshop was organized in October 2010 in Menemen, Turkey. The current status related to pest and pesticide management in the beneficiary countries were presented.

During the workshop it was agreed that pesticide management is crucial in every country and was proposed that a gap analysis related to pesticide management through their life cycle should be carried out to identify national pesticide distribution network and weaknesses in the area of inspection and quality control.

In addition, the workshop agreed to start a regional database on the registered pesticide products.
Seed Sector Analysis and the Preparation of Regional Seed Master Plan in the Selected Countries

The objective of the project is to contribute to the development of seed sector in the sub-region and concerned countries and to better integrate to international seed sector for improved food security levels.

The project will facilitate assessment and enhancement of the current situation in seed sector in Central Asia.

It will also lead to the preparation of national and a sub-regional seed master plan that will contribute to the overall goal of food security, economic growth, environmental sustainability and poverty alleviation in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

The project will assist in developing foundations for a sustainable, environmentally friendly seed production, supply and trade system, which will represent a new base for regional cooperation and trade in the concerned countries.

The project was initially approved in May 2009.

During the Steering Committee Meeting of May 2010, the members were presented an official request to expand the project to Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan in order to cover all the ECO countries with an additional allocation of USD 100,000.

This proposal was endorsed by the members and the project document was revised to incorporate all ECO countries.

In addition ECO has committed co-funding of the project with an amount of USD 50,000.

Funding Modality: FTPP

Beneficiary Countries:
7 SEC Countries + 3 ECO Countries

Duration: 2 years

Budget: USD 350,000

Thematic area: Food Security & Safety

Project Symbol: GCP/INT/123/MUL

Date of Approval: May 2009

FAO-Turkey Partnership Programme
Sub-Regional Projects
Promoting the Management of Animal Genetic Resources in SEC Countries

The objective of the project is to establish a permanent structure of Sub-regional Focal Point for the Management of Animal Genetic Resources in countries of Central Asia and Azerbaijan.

Following the recommendations from FAO member countries, implementation of the Global Plan of Action is included in the Programme of Work and Budget for 2010-2011 as a priority area under the Strategic Objective B – Increased sustainable livestock production.

Governments of beneficiary countries endorsed the Global Plan of Action for AnGR and the Convention on Biological Diversity and committed themselves to implement both agreements.

The Global Plan of Action contains strategic priorities for sustainable use, development and conservation of animal genetic resources, as well as provisions for financing its implementation and follow-up.

Through this project, governments shall assess the capability of existing institutions to manage necessary breeding and conservation programmes, and adapt policies as necessary to increase their capacities at national level.

At global level, overseeing and assessing the implementation of the Global Plan of Action and developing the funding strategy for its implementation is charged with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

The project will be linked with other FAO livestock projects in the SEC countries including:

- Uzbekistan: the UNDP Project “Support to sustainable development of livestock in Uzbekistan”
- Tajikistan: the FAO Project “Livestock Policy for Tajikistan”.

Funding Modality: FTPP

Beneficiary Countries: 7 SEC Countries

Duration: 24 months

Budget: USD 700,000

Thematic area: Natural Resource Management

Project Symbol: GCP/SEC/003/TUR

Date of Approval: May 2010

animal genetic resources

a safety net for the future

Livestock biodiversity is essential to food and livelihood security, particularly in the developing world. Livestock provide meat, milk, eggs, fibres, skins, manure for fertilizer and fuel, draught power for cultivation and transport, and a range of other products and services. Many of the world’s rural poor – an estimated 70 percent – keep livestock and rely on them as important components of their livelihoods. Domesticated animals also contribute to the ecosystems in which they exist, providing services such as seed dispersal and nutrient cycling.
Cattle Production Improvement Module for SEC Countries

The objective of the project is to restart modern, robust and self-supporting beef and dairy cattle production improvement programmes in Central Asian countries and in Azerbaijan which have largely lapsed since their independence.

The project aims to improve livestock productivity through establishing district-based cattle producer associations for training and service delivery; to access to better feed, both quality forages and compound feeds; to disseminate modern livestock farm husbandry and management practices, such as preventive health, milk sanitation; animal registration and identification; and to support modern milk marketing associations in order to organize milk producers.

In each country, a Steering Committee will be established with stakeholders which offer policy guidance, access to credit, local expertise and related broad-based assistance essential for improving livestock productivity in the local setting.

Improved feeding, farm management and husbandry and support for milk and meat productivity will help to ensure food security; to alleviate poverty and to facilitate partner countries to meet Millennium Development Goals 1, 4 and 5.

The project will lay basis to restart modern livestock production improvement systems in four SEC countries.

The impact can be measured in medium-term (7 – 10 years) in terms of increased availability of high quality animal protein, particularly from milk and meat through raising productivity from feeding, management and commodity marketing.

The project will work closely with the Animal Genetic Resources (AnGR)-supported *Promoting the Management of Animal Genetic Resources in SEC Countries* project which aims to enable each country to finalize their National Animal Genetic Resources Plan.

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**Funding Modality:** FTPP

**Beneficiary Countries:** 7 SEC Countries

**Duration:** 2 years

**Budget:** USD 400,000

**Thematic area:** Capacity Development

**Project Symbol:** GCP/SEC/001/TUR

**Date of Approval:** May 2010

Turkish International Development Agency (TIKA) and the Turkish Cattle Breeders Association (CBAT) will provide technical assistance inputs and additional funding to this project.
Capacity Development for Analysis and Strengthening of Agricultural Innovation Systems (AIS)

The objective of the project is to increase capacity at national and sub-regional level and to analyze existing agricultural innovation systems (AIS) in each participating country and in Central Asian sub-region as a whole, in order to identify gaps and recommend interventions to strengthen the AIS.

The increased capacity to improve AIS will include information management and knowledge sharing in form of a sub-regional network of resource persons.

Since its start the AIS project has completed many activities.

A project team has been mobilized. It is composed of four national consultants supported by their respective national project coordinators and backstopping from FAO headquarters in Rome and an international expert.

In March-April 2011, inception activities have taken place in Turkey, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

A training session was held in each country to agree on concepts and definition of innovation systems. This training session were followed by an inception workshop attended by farmers’ representatives, the private sector, NGOs and officials from the government.

The discussions during the workshops were lively and resulted in the identification of case studies in the country where farmers benefited from innovative practices.

The national consultants are now collecting data and summarizing the stories behind these case studies.

The data will be analyzed and will provide information regarding innovation triggers in the region.
Conservation Agriculture for Irrigated Areas in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan

The objective of the project is to improve rural livelihoods and food security levels through increased productivity of irrigated farming systems in four Central Asian countries - Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Principles and practices of conservation agriculture are being used to achieve a more sustainable land and water management.

Conservation agriculture practices provide a strategic entry point for sustainable land management. Furthermore, diversification and improved productivity through such newly introduced or adjusted farming practices have great potential to revitalize the withered economies of Central Asian countries while enhancing and conserving the quality of natural resources.

The regional inception workshop was held in Tashkent during 31 January-1 February 2011 with the participation of officials from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan and ICARDA researchers.

During the workshop regional and national work plans of the project were successfully introduced and discussed.

It should be also mentioned that participants realized the need of conservation agriculture practices in the region and reflected this during the discussion sessions after each presentation.

It has been stated that the project comes at a timely moment, as farmers in Central Asia are now becoming increasingly aware of conservation agriculture as a new, promising technology; and this project will help to introduce concept of conservation agriculture practices in the region.

A Letter of Agreement for the implementation of project activities was signed between FAO and ICARDA.

The National inception workshops are conducted in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.

The list of field machinery and other equipment is developed and tender is launched. The first demo-plots for developing crop rotation by use of conservation technologies are established in all three countries.
Stewardship of Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) in Azerbaijan and Turkey

The objective of the project is to establish basis to identify, recognize, conserve sustainable management of agricultural systems and their associated landscapes, biodiversity, knowledge systems and cultures.

Food and livelihood security of the population depending on these systems are enhanced by empowering local communities and their social organizations and by introducing incentive mechanisms and innovative market access and payment for environmental services.

The GIAHS project in Azerbaijan and Turkey focuses on the integration of family and traditional farming communities to national socio-economic development agenda, through the identification and assessment of the socio-economic, cultural and ecological goods and services provided by existing farming systems. It addresses poverty and food insecurity of local communities through their empowerment and the sustainable management of natural resources.

National Project Coordinators (NPC) for Azerbaijan and Turkey have been designated.

An Inception Workshop was organized in both countries in July 2010.

The project was introduced to all the stakeholders, discussed and the pilot areas were selected.

Southeastern Anatolia Region was selected in Turkey to conduct surveys to study the agricultural heritage systems which has importance of global inheritance.

The selection of National Project Managers is underway.

Funding Modality: FTPP

Beneficiary Countries: Azerbaijan Turkey

Duration: 2 years

Budget: USD 250,000

Thematic area: Capacity Development

Project Symbol: GCP/RER/028/TUR

Date of Approval: May 2009

Starting Date: July 2010

The GIAHS project is being executed by FAO in partnership with member countries, representatives of local communities and indigenous peoples, international organizations, the private sector, civil society organizations, and donors all around the world.
Capacity Development on Watershed Management in CA and Caucasus

The objective of the project is to decrease degradation and losses of soil, water and biodiversity resources; and to increase environmental, social and economic benefits from rehabilitated and sustainably managed mountain watersheds in both upstream and downstream areas in the project countries.

At the end of the project, it is expected that public awareness and interest of policy and decision makers will be increased; and knowledge and experiences of forestry and other related agencies will be enhanced about integrated (multi-disciplinary) and collaborative approaches to the implementation, rehabilitation and sustainable management of mountain watersheds.

In general, the watershed management approach can create synergies required both for sustainable land and water conservation on the one hand and for the rational resource use that will improve the livelihoods of stakeholders on the other.

Watershed management is a cross sectoral issue, which covers sustainable utilization and conservation of land (forest, agriculture and range areas) and water resources in a given watershed, and takes into consideration not only physical interrelationships between different land uses but economic, social and institutional factors as well.

The Steering Committee during its May 2011 session will consider granting additional funding to complete project implementation.

The project will focus on building up the national capacities to improve the management of natural resources and to reverse the land degradation. The project aims to provide practical training based on the recommendations resulting from the recently completed FAO-led global review of watershed management experiences as well as on exchange of knowledge and experiences gained in the countries of the region under different national and international projects and programs.
Support to Socio-Economic Training of Rural Women in order to Sustain Rural Development

Women work mostly in agriculture in rural areas. Because they are the main producers of food they should have the opportunity to be informed and trained on producing healthy, nutritious and safe food. The establishment of women’s organizations should be encouraged so that women can actively be involved in the economic and social life of their communities in a way that is socially appropriate to the local context.

Development programs for sustainability in the world are generally based on three principles; 1) the promotion of the active participation and inclusion of vulnerable rural populations that includes women and children 2) to assure that the programs are equally favorable for men and women 3) to design programs that actively target the inclusion of women.

The improvement of women’s status in rural areas is directly linked to the opportunities they have for access to education, health services and employment.

About three quarters of the world’s poor live in rural areas. Among those, women constitute a particularly vulnerable, yet crucially important group for social and economic development. Investing in rural women is thus not only a moral imperative; it can also be a promising strategy to effectively fight poverty and hunger.

The project will cover selected areas and targeted beneficiaries in Azerbaijan and in Turkey.
Home Based Nursery Development for Improved Environment Protection

The objective of the project is to provide assistance to increase the amount of fruit tree seedlings and to provide new sources of income to some of the most vulnerable groups of the population, especially rural women, by creating nurseries for direct sale of seedlings to farmers.

An inception workshop was held in Dushanbe in May 2010 where representatives of MoA, Committee on Environmental Protection, local authorities, INGOs, NGOs and beneficiaries took part.

232 home-based nurseries were established and 12 training sessions were conducted on the establishment of protection (multi-purpose) plantations and nursery development plan for the project beneficiaries.

Until now 5000 forestry and fruit seedlings were distributed among the beneficiaries.

A nursery management plan was developed in close collaboration with the forestry and fruit nursery specialists of the country.

A Study-tour to Turkey was organized in October 2010 in order to improve the knowledge and practice of the participants on nursery development and its further implementation in Tajikistan.

The Mission visited private and government nurseries in Izmit, Adapazari and Eskisehir.

A mission from Turkish Government and FAO-SEC visited Tajikistan in May, 2010 to evaluate project outcomes. During the meetings conducted with the representatives from local Hukumats, deep interest in cooperation and support in project was expressed.

Following the recommendation of mission, the project staff has conducted a base line survey in all project villages.
Promotion of Water Saving Technologies in the Uzbek Water Scarce Area of the Transboundary Podshaota River Basin

The objective of the project is to achieve a sustainable agricultural production in the Podshaota trans-boundary small river basin by implementing irrigation water saving technologies. This trans-boundary basin is divided between two countries, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, and the regime of water flow is governed upstream.

The project's expected short-term outcome is to increase irrigation water productivity, to minimize water deficits, and to stabilize crop productivity in the Uzbek territory.

The project is technically and socially sustainable as it deals with developing farmers' capacities not only to manage better their irrigated agriculture, but would ultimately have an impact on farmers financial strength which has a direct impact on the whole rural communities in the project area.

The project Inception workshop was held in March 2011 in Tashkent with the participation of all the stakeholders.

During the inception mission, a hydrologist, an irrigation engineer and an agricultural engineer were identified.

A detailed work plan has been prepared, discussed and agreed upon.

During the inception mission, meetings with the director of the National Irrigation Institute were held and their support were re-stated through the provision of free space for a project office within their premises.

A project manager has also started working since March 2011.

Funding Modality: FTPP

Beneficiary Country: Uzbekistan

Duration: 2 years

Budget: USD 200,000

Thematic area: Capacity Development

Project Symbol: GCP/UZB/002/TUR

Date of Approval: May 2009

Starting Date: December 2010
Capacity Building in Sustainable Forest Management Planning and Forest Fire Management in Syria

The objective of the project is to contribute to the enhancement and capacity development of the forestry organizations.

Project has been receiving strong political commitment and support in both countries. The first project workshop was held in Edlib in January 2010 and was attended by the Minister of Agriculture as well as many other senior officials.

Although the project has a modest budget, both countries forestry organizations have provided in kind and cash contributions to the project implementations, including undertaking of short and medium term missions of the selected Turkish specialists in the field of forest inventory, monitoring, assessment, management planning, GIS, forest fire management, silviculture, forest information systems and remote sensing.

Following activities have been implemented and related significant results have been produced since the start of the project:

(i) procurement of satellite images, their interpretation, production of draft forest stand maps for the selected project area and their provision to Syrian counterparts; (ii) procurement of field inventory equipment and tools in Turkey and transportation to Syria; (iii) stakeholder meetings; (iv) conduction/completion of forest inventory and assessment works by intensive (60 day continuous work) field surveys of a joint team composed of 4 selected Turkish specialists and counterpart Syrian project staff; (v) preparation and conduction of practical and on-the-job training in Syria in the fields of forest inventory, monitoring, assessment, GIS, remote sensing, forest fire management, silviculture, forest information system software, ecosystem based multi-functional forest management planning, etc.; and (vi) planning of a training program for Syrian foresters in Turkey.

Through this project, both Turkish and Syrian forestry organizations will gain knowledge and experiences in preparation and implementation of bilateral/multi-country projects, which will contribute in strengthening and expansion of the international collaboration strategies and programs of the both countries.
The objective of the project is to set priorities of the Kyrgyz Republic in agriculture, to specify its role in the sector and to implement agrarian reform and the modalities for interaction with the private sector, investors and donors.

There is a clear need in Kyrgyzstan for a concise vision on agricultural development, a statement on the role of the state in agricultural development and priority areas for action, as well as a strategy on how the government intends to support agricultural development.

Such a strategy offers an opportunity to focus the activities of the Ministry, donors and stakeholders on agricultural development under the new government. The government currently lacks such an up to date strategy, and thus the support policies of the new government remain unfocused.

The Agricultural Development Strategy was formulated through a participatory process with the main stakeholders from government, civil society, private sector and donors.

The Agricultural Development Strategy will be fully aligned with the FAO Country Priority Framework for Kyrgyzstan currently under development. It also will be used as a guiding principles reference document for Kyrgyzstan for shaping policies in the sector. It will be used as an information document on the Kyrgyz government’s view on how the agriculture sector will be developed and the role of donors and the state in this development.

The document will be useful for donors, development organizations, the private sector and the public.
The objective of the project is to trigger geographical indication studies for artisanal cheeses.

This project is a prototype for rural development. This is needed as a template to underline sustainable production of artisanal cheeses from milk producing to marketing.

There is a tendency of traditional production practices in Mediterranean villages. This project will help women producers to understand the economical value of cheese and improve the hygienic status of cheese production, this will cause more demand by the consumers.

One of the main strategies of the project is to train the people involved in cheese production and to create opportunity for marketing hygienic dairy products.

This project aims to train dairy producers of Mediterranean region for more hygienic production, and when production and to decrease cheese borne infections.

The main problems in artisanal cheese production are poor hygienic quality and training of producers. Due to the lack of knowledge concerning hygienic aspects in cheese production there is a problem of bacterial contamination in local production cheeses.

Women producers are also lack of self confidence and they have no opportunity to manage their own production. They are not well organized and they cannot manage continuous production.

Trainings will be given to help women producers to improve quality of cheeses.

Geographical labeling and registration studies will also be conducted.

Turkey is rich in dairy products with more than 100 types of artisanal cheeses arising from geographical and cultural diversification. This cultural heritage and diversification of cheeses can be used as a tool to improve the socio-economic conditions of rural regions.

Discussions are being held between stakeholders and FAO in order to agree on project objectives and target beneficiaries.
Distribution of Resources Allocated Versus Total Availability per Thematic Area

- **Food Security and Safety**: 25% Allocated, 17% Approved, 8% Balance
- **Capacity Development**: 25% Allocated, 21.5% Approved, 3.5% Balance
- **Natural Resources Management**: 35% Allocated, 32% Approved, 3% Balance
- **Unallocated**: 15% Allocated, 12% Approved, 3% Balance

Distribution of Approved Projects Budget in relation to Thematic Areas:

- **Natural Resources Management**: 50%
- **Food Security & Safety**: 14%
- **Capacity Development**: 36%