

Proposal 19: Poverty Reduction and Job Creation for Rural Youth, Farmers, and Communities in the North Caucasus

Submitting MGs / CSOs	International Center for Sustainable Development of Rural Areas (ICSDRA)
Country of Implementation	Russia
Agro-ecological context	Various
Duration and Total Budget	3 years, 90,000 US\$

Major groups (MGs) concerned:

- Local Authority
- Youth
- Farmers
- NGO
- Scientific and Technological Community
- Women
- Media

Success indicators:

- No. of low-income youth with improved food security and health
- No. of jobs created for low-income populations
- Reduction in environmental damage
- No. of farmers and youth with improved access to micro-financing and sustainable agriculture techniques

Partners to be engaged:

Ministry of Agriculture Extension Centers
 North Ossetia and Ingushetia Administrations
 ACDI/VOCA – Moscow Office
 UNICEF and WHO - North Caucasus Offices
 US Moscow Embassy – Agriculture Mission
 Youth Extension Program for field training IPISA.
 IFSA, In Motion Magazine, Heifer International,
 The Timiryazev Agriculture University.

Expected Outcomes and Contribution to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

Reduction of hunger and poverty by combining education, health care, food security, gender equality, and environment sustainability. Impact on MDGs 1, 3, 7 and 8.

Proposed Objectives and Approaches

- Coordinate a consortium of stakeholders including youth, farmers, local government, NGOs, S&T, and women, in collaboration with UN agencies, Ministry of Agriculture and local authorities to implement an integrated approach to SARD in one of the poorest regions of the country, with a focus on youth, including:
- Creation of a new education project for rural low-income youth through development of a teaching farm to train youth to grow produce for the local hospital,
 - Establishment of six new Agriculture Extension Centers in the region,
 - Establishment of micro-credit cooperatives to enable stakeholders to have access to credit for SARD activities,
 - Capacity building of local groups to learn from peers, document and share successes for scaling up.

Building upon Experience

ICSDRA has worked closely with the Russian Ministry of Agriculture in Moscow to establish 67 Agricultural Extension Centers across Russia and has received support to expand six new centers. It also organized Rural Credit Cooperative staff training and Agri-Business training for international credit and agriculture specialists. Collaborative partnerships with regional administrations have been developed, including an artificial insemination livestock project with local farmers and NGOs, and exploration of a partnership with the US Moscow Embassy through the Council on Agricultural and Rural Development (CARD)– USAID program is in progress.

Major Group Inputs

Identify needed projects in poor rural areas in the North Caucasus; coordinate these projects to build partnerships, including creating a new education project for rural low-income youth and establishing six new extension centers. Document success stories and link youth to learning exchange opportunities. ICSDRA will work with The Timiryazev Agriculture University to create a Sustainable Development Department.