



**Draft Information note on
Training Course on Agriculture Project Analysis for ECO Secretariat and
Member Countries
From 15 September 2004**

Title: Regional Training Course on Agriculture Project Analysis

Date: 15 September 2004

Place: Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyz Republic

Organizing Institution: Ministry of Agriculture of the Kyrgyz Republic

Cooperating Agencies:

- Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)
- FAO Regional Office for the Near East, Cairo, Egypt (Lead Unit).
- FAO Policy Support Service (TCAS), Rome.

Participants:

- Focal points for the ECO Regional Programme for Food Security
- National consultants
- Specialists from ECO Secretariat.

Objectives:

- a. To strengthen the capacities of the ECO Secretariat and ECO Member States' focal points in project analysis and preparation to enable the formulation of the Regional Programme for Food Security (RFPS) which will include bankable projects at the regional, sub-regional, and national levels.
- b. To prepare for FAO missions to member countries to formulate national investment programs for food security that would be integrated into a regional investment programme.
- c. To discuss the reports by the national consultants from member countries.

Background:

The agriculture sector in most ECO member countries faces a number of challenges and constraints. Within the Central Asian Countries (CAS), most of these challenges stem from the development and management approaches adopted in the past and difficulties of the transition from a command to a free market economy. In these countries, the focus of the Government's sectoral policies include dismantling the system of State ownership and interventions that prevailed under the command economy and

establishing the institutional and legal framework for private sector-oriented agriculture. In most other ECO countries, the problems stem from policy, institutional, technical and economic factors. Hence, there is a need to i) stabilize the macroeconomic environment; ii) formulate policies to improve the structure and efficiency of agricultural production, including land reform, farm restructuring, pricing and subsidies, credit and agricultural finance; iii) formulate policies to improve food storage, processing, marketing, including reforming and restructuring enterprises as well as external and domestic trading relationships and conditions; and iv) redefine the institutional roles, including the capability to formulate and monitor sector policies and regulations, provide support services to private farms, deliver social services, and provide social protection to the rural population, and improvement in the management of natural resources.

Strengthening the capacity of ECO member countries and the ECO Secretariat to formulate appropriate investment programmes is very critical for meeting the challenges facing Agriculture and Food Security in the Region.

Main Elements of the Training Course

1. The project cycle and related issues.
2. Financial and economic analysis of agricultural projects.
3. Methodological aspects of project analysis.
4. Environmental aspects in project analysis.
5. Agricultural production and food security: developing agriculture to achieve food security.
6. Trade and food security: policy environment and project implementation.
7. Major concepts and issues in agricultural finance.
8. ECO recent trends and perspectives.
9. Review of country presentations within the regional medium-term plans for food security.
10. Review case studies from Iran and Pakistan on medium-term investment plans for food security.
11. Group discussion to coordinate and finalize arrangements for the preparation of the ECO Regional Programme for Food Security.

Modality of Implementation:

RNEP will arrange the workshop in Issyk-Kul, the Kyrgyz Republic, with the support of UNDP. Costs will be covered by project TCP/INT/2002/(F).

Further Information

For further details on the training workshop please contact Dr. Dyaa K. Abdou, Chief, FAO-RNE Policy Assistance Branch, Cairo, Egypt or Dr. Mahmood Ahmad, Senior Policy Officer and Course Coordinator

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