

PRESS-RELEASE

Capacity building of regional experts and consultants on commercial standards and quality systems of fresh fruit and vegetable products in Central Asia

To directly contribute to improving the competitiveness of agricultural products in the region, a practical training on commercial quality standards and quality systems of fresh fruit and vegetable products was organized from 26-30 July 2021 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

The objective of the practical training was to strengthen the capacity of experts and consultants from Central Asian countries in the field of commercial quality standards (*UNECE commercial quality standards*) and implementation of inspection services for export-oriented fruit and vegetable products.

The training was conducted by Mr. Emre Kiriçiöglü, Trade Inspection Expert at the Ministry of Trade of Turkey.

The CANDY V Project Consortium is planning a series of activities to initiate and pilot quality assurance and pre-export inspection systems in a number of enterprises in the region.

25 experts and consultants from Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan took part in the training. The practical part of the training was conducted in a selected enterprise near Tashkent. After the training, the participants committed to conduct information sessions in their organizations and to pilot the system of pre-export inspection in the enterprises of their countries to consolidate and apply the acquired knowledge.

This training was organized at the request of the members of the CAWG "Central Asian Working Group for Export Promotion of Agricultural Products" (<http://ca-wg.net/>).

This training was organized by the "CANDY V" consortium led by the Austrian internationally active organization Hilfswerk International in the framework of the project "Regional integration and capacity building to boost Agribusiness MSMEs competitiveness and trade Promotion in Central Asia – CANDY V", funded by the European Union program "Central Asia - Invest V" and the Austrian Development Cooperation jointly with the UNDP Regional project "Aid for Trade for Central Asia" funded by the Government of Finland.

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A project implemented



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The European Union is made up of 27 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 60 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders. To this end the EU is active in Tajikistan since 1992 and provides approximately EUR 35 million annually in development assistance.

With funding from



The project is funded also by the Austrian Development Cooperation. The Austrian Development Cooperation supports countries in Africa, Asia, South Eastern and Eastern Europe in their sustainable development. The Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs plans the strategies. The Austrian Development Agency (ADA), the operational unit of Austrian Development Cooperation, implements programs and projects together with public institutions, civil society organizations as well as enterprises.



The International non-governmental organization **Hilfswerk International** implements currently in equal partnership with regional & international organizations in the Central Asia its fifth project as part of the “Central Asia – Invest” program of the European Union.

This series of projects, which have been implemented for the last eleven years by a team of nine regional and international organizations, aims at Central Asia’s integration into the global economy by developing the fruit and vegetable processing sector and increasing the competitiveness and export capacity of SMEs.



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UNDP Regional Project “Aid for Trade for Central Asia”

The project focuses on supporting Central Asian countries in promoting inclusive and sustainable growth patterns in rural areas and within green productive sectors.

The project is working on the **macro** (policy), **meso** (institutions) and **micro** (SMEs & producers) levels ensuring that interventions at the three levels are mutually supportive to ensure a focused impact level.

The output levels are targeting the following:

- Supporting an enabling environment for job-rich sustainable growth.
- Supporting market opportunities for all through more efficient and competitive producers and processors.

The main objective of the project is to contribute to human development through advancing trade, with special attention on the crosscutting themes of gender equality, rights of the most vulnerable groups in society, and environmental sustainability, among others. (The project is implemented in Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan). **UNDP** partners with people at all levels of society to help build nations that can withstand crisis, and drive and sustain the kind of growth that improves the quality of life for everyone. On the ground in 177 countries and territories, we offer global perspective and local insight to help empower lives and build resilient nations. www.undp.org

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS:



ASSOCIATION OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLE ENTERPRISES IN KYRGYZSTAN (AFVE) was established in June 2003 and currently unites most fruit and vegetable enterprises in the country, developing the fruit and vegetable processing sector and enterprises by creating a favorable business environment and developing the market for processed products. The “Association of fruit and vegetable enterprises” is a non-governmental, non-profit organization uniting legal entities engaged in the production and processing of agricultural produce, on the basis of free will and common interests.



MARKAZI IDORAKUNII SIFAT (MIS) – Public Consulting Organization is professional union of specialists, working in the field of introduction of advanced quality control systems, and implementing the activity, aimed at the enhancement of management methods, and as a result, the quality of the services provided. Since 2012 work for contribution in the sustainable economic development of Tajikistan through strengthening organization and institutional potential of the domestic producers via implementation of training programs and provision consulting services.



UNION OF PROFESSIONAL CONSULTANTS OF TAJIKISTAN (UPCT) is a non-profit organization uniting professional consultants in order to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of consulting services, increase the level of professional development of consultants and provide high-quality services to government bodies, public associations, business and society as a whole. UPCT was established in 2010. The organization has experience in matters related to: developing economic development reforms by using and implementing international best practices; legal analysis of documents, preparation of legal opinions, development of recommendations and development of regulatory legal acts in many areas of the economy; monitoring legislation and tracking changes in the regulatory framework of the Republic of Tajikistan; facilitating the work of working groups to improve the legislation of the Republic of Tajikistan in the field of business environment, investment climate and private sector development, as well as simplifying trade procedures and lobbying of private sector interests.



The Association of Legal Entities “**KAZAKHSTAN ASSOCIATION OF SUGAR, FOOD AND PROCESSING INDUSTRIES**” (KASFPI) is a non-profit organization established in 2012 that unites the leading producers of white sugar in Kazakhstan, as well as producers and processors of fruits and vegetables. The purpose of the Association is to support and promote the development of enterprises in the food and processing industries of the Republic of Kazakhstan, participation in law-making activities and strengthening business ties with foreign partners.