**Annex C. Highlights of GAFSP –CSO Consultation Workshop**

**July 27, 2012/ Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic**

***On the project proposal: history, updates, plans***

1. Mr. Nurlan Djailobaev, Director, on farm Irrigation Project Implementation Unit, Ministry of Agriculture, chaired the consultation. He asked each participant to briefly introduce his /her name and organization. He noted that participants came from the government, the CSOs, inter-governmental bodies, and public research institutions.
2. Nurlan gave a brief story of how the proposal submitted for GAFSP funding was done. He said that the WB informed his institution about the call of proposals on January 2011, and with the help of some organizations who were present at (this) consultation, a proposal was submitted in time for the March 30, 2011 deadline. He was happy that though the budget approved was only for USD16M (the budget request was USD41M) the letter of acceptance from GAFSP said that in the future calls for proposal, the government could apply again. He said that they have conducted large-scale consultations in oblasts and regions, and among CSOs and NGOs, as part also of the requirement of the GAFSP call.
3. Nurlan explained the main features of the GAFSP-approved project. He said that the proposal was focused on continuing the rehabilitation of irrigation systems’ drainage and infrastructure, under the management of Water Users Associations (WUAs). He briefly explained the components and estimated budget of each component :(1) rehabilitation of drainage and infrastructure; (2) support to WUAs to maintain proper irrigation system; (3) agri extension services including marketing; (4) eliminating nutrition deficiency.
4. Nurlan said that the GAFSP’s acceptance letter stated the strengths and weaknesses of the proposal. The weakness was that the proposal did not focus on social component and that social protection was not integrated; instead it was concentrated on rehabilitation. He said that even if there is a reduction in the budget, they must not lose the social component.

He also announced that there will be a design mission in August and that the government would like to launch this project at the beginning of next year. The timeframe of the project is five years.
5. Nurlan said that they would consider all the issues that will be raised in this consultation and will like to include in the August mission the outputs of this consultation as much as possible.

***On the role of the CSOs in the GAFSP***

1. Esther gave a short orientation on the GAFSP project, discussing its aims, the donors, the pledges and receipts obtained, the projects in Asia that received funding, the composition and tasks of the GAFSP steering committee, the key outputs of CSO participation, and key issues and agenda of the CSOs in engaging in GAFSP processes.

2. Esther highlighted the role of the Asian Farmers’ Association (AFA) as support organization to the GAFSP-CSO Asia representative, Dr. Sang Yaing Koma, with Soc Banzuela as alternate. She said that the role of the CSO Asia representative is to inform, consult with their constituents on GAFSP, represent and advocate their views on their behalf to improve the working of GAFSP. The role of AFA, as support organization, is to provide technical, administrative and logistical support to the Asia CSO representative, to facilitate (1) consultation among Asian CSOs; (2) disseminate information to Asian CSOs and (3) dialogue between Asian CSO representatives and other members of the Steering Committee.

3.Esther then showed a video which AFA presented during the last GAFSP SC meeting, held May 2012 in Washington DC.

***Insights/Comments /Recommendations from the participants***

1. On water loss and reeds:

a. One aim of the project should be on water loss. There is too much grass is most of our water canals, and therefore too much water loss. We must consider actions to fight reeds.

b. Reeds are a first indicator of water balance. If you have reeds, there is no balance. This means that drainage canals are filled, and it means this on -farm management has low capacity ratio because the water penetrates the soil. To have better management, once a year or once every 2 years the drainage canals should be cleaned. Nobody has touched the canals for 10 years maybe. In Soviet time, there were procedures for cleaning and excavation that were followed. Our machines are out of date. To maintain the proper irrigation, we need these machines.

c. In Taiwan, most of our irrigation canals are made of concrete, and every year the government is cleaning it. If we have weeds in the canal, that means the canal is broken. We use machines to clean the canals. Sometimes we use pesticides to destroy the weeds

1. On water storage facility:

 a. Recently, a farmer from one of the on-farm irrigation management sites which has two channels and which serves 5 villages sent a letter recently. The farmer said that their groups have increased yields. WUAs on the upper zone get more water. But those from the lower zone get low water. In view of this, we suggest to have daily water storage. We can build this storage facility and water can be accumulated there during the night, and to be used during the day. It is impossible to have good yields without sufficient water. When we can supply enough water -- then we can address other issues like other technologies. This is the priority --- rehabilitation.

b. In Issykul, there is one river, and those who are upstream get water all the time. But those who are downstream, they don’t. So the recommendation is to have water storage facility in the downstream where they can collect water at night and distribute the water in the day. There must be consideration of water intake facility.

c. In Taiwan, we have pumps to bring water downstream to a water storage facility upstream. This water at the storage facility will then be used to irrigate in the daytime. If the pump station is expensive, we can have some ram pump technique that will be used to pump the water upstream. No need for electricity. Use the hydric power of the water to pump the water upstream.

1. (Director from a research institute):
a. USD50 M has been spent and still majority of the irrigation infrastructure has not been repaired. This project should include a whole new set of activities to increase yield – such as providing technologies for production and water management. We also need to have basic data, like WUA maps with a scale of 1000, or GIS maps. So we can see slopes, soil and so we can make decisions with regards to cropping patterns. Our institute produce electronic maps which many WUAS use. These maps show irrigation systems and different crops in specific areas. From the data provided by these maps, we can have ideas on what kind of income generating activities to do, what kind of marketing to do.
b. We must also think of sustainability of the WUAs.
2. (Biom): This project is necessary, especially the training component dedicated to sustainability issues. We need to consider nutrition security. We see many species or crops in the market, which are artificially made. We need synthetic chemical-free agriculture. We need to conduct community based training on the visual identification of the presence of these synthetic chemicals.
3. Helvetas-Kyrgyz: Our SEP project was done for three years. We have created solid capacity of local organizations. We recommend the involvement of these local organizations in the August mission, as well as in the implementation of the project, especially on activities related to capacity building – managing the irrigation system and effective water management.
4. (FAO): I participated since the beginning (of the GAFSP proposal conceptualization). This proposal was prepared in order to continue the work on on-farm irrigation. We are lacking funds for rehabilitation of irrigation system. For the past 20 years with the help of donors, we can restore only 30% of irrigation systems. We know that agricultural development is impossible without irrigation system properly in operation, without a simple water supply to the farmer. We want to raise the issue of comprehensive approach to WUAs. USD500/ha for rehabilitation was a figure being considered during the proposal-writing phase. WUAs have no machines; if they have these machines, they can do their conduct of their work. With regards to other components like agri extension, we need to rely on ourselves, financially. We need to go down to farmers/grassroots – their request for agri productivity. We need to implement innovations, update training programs. I fully support this GAFSP project.
5. (RAS): We are a center for innovation engaged in training on irrigation topics, agronomy, plant protection whose technologies are being applied in farmers fields. We are working with Helvetas, WB, UNDP, EU, and other donors. We coordinate many their project in the fields. We recommend that the August mission to meet our center.
6. WUA:
a. We have to build small-scale irrigation systems and have a water meter in each WUA.
b. We need to increase the knowledge of farmers through demonstration plots. To do this, we need science and research.
c. With regards to first WB on- farm project, 63 WUAs were rehabilitated but have not received excavators. We need to consider this demand. Also, we need to consider other WUAs that have not been included in the first project.
d. We need to consider construction of other hydro engineering facilities. We need to consider water intakes, water meter equipment. Another issue is technical knowledge --- different kinds of research institutes should coordinate with WUAs. WUAs have no link and no understanding on marketing. We need first component. Other components on food and nutrition. All issues related to health care and nutrition. We can reduce this component and then put in components similar to first on-farm/SEP. There are other similar works so we need to coordinate with them.
e. WUAs are the primary beneficiaries of this project. A National Union of WUAs has been created and has been working for 7-8 years. It is getting stronger, and structures are improving. This Union should also involve Helvetas and RAS.
7. (?) We have invented the Kyrgyz humus; a patent for this fertilizer is being worked on. The humus has increased 50% the yield of the crops, a 25% increase in peas. Mix this humus with irrigation, and it increases the yields of the crops.
8. (FAO): In 1 WUA in Jalalabad, we established 3 farmers’ field schools. They dealt with water supply, mineral fertilizers, credit, growing more cash crops, and we tried to transmit to the farmers the lessons from these field schools.
9. (Helvetas): In our project, we help establish farmers groups. Then we give training on water management and how to avoid conflicts. There is a whole set of training starting from planting to selling. Farmers need to be trained on water saving technologies. Farmers have to be provided inputs. Assistance should be provided upon the request of farmers.

Helvetas has a project on organic cotton in the south part of the country, targeting the German market. We have a cooperative of 1000 farmers. Every year the cooperative is able to increase the volume of raw cotton and now they are exporting to Spain. And if trained organic production is to be considered, our farmers in Jalalabad has experience. We have also applied organic apricot, also controlled by farmers. Also, we work on capacity building of WUAs. We conduct roundtable meetings with WUAs in one river basin. This WUA meets on a monthly basis, without any funding from outside, just from themselves. We can consider this mechanism in the framework of this project. This project is also implemented in Arawan by Helvetas. Helvetas’ strategy is agriculture development. We have tremendous experience on this and have manuals that are accessible for all.
10. FAO sub regional office in central Asia is supposed to create centers to provide sustainability of WUAS. We are going to provide technical assistance to implement best practices. We have 400 WUAs. Some of them have received assistance and some did not. So the proposal is to have offices for federation of WUAs to come together. FAO can then collect all training materials on water use, organize translation of all these materials, provide electronic library and give new information on new technologies. FAO can also help in the program related to rehabilitation of irrigation. We are working closely with on-farm project partners.
11. Irrigation ministry: This is very complex project. What WUAs will we select? So that they will be the ones consulted by this project. We have this program on organic. Under the Ministry of Agriculture we have a council that is made under the framework of the UN combat for desertification. It will be meaningful if we will have a scientific community who can serve as advisers. Good if we can have a network of processing and logistic centers. We also hope that farmers will be enlarged, too. WUAs can be organized into cluster types based on crops.
12. FAO: on monitoring of project implementation and participation of NGOs/CSOs: during the on-farm project implementation, there was inter departmental coordination for designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluation. It meets once to three times a year. New changes have to be made because of many obstacles. AFA shall link with the steering committee of this government project. And water resource department will create a steering committee. If steering committee members are not paid, they will not actively participate. Suggest considering specialists – so that CSO’s can gather, discuss the recommendations of CSOs.
13. (ARIS) We can use the experience of ARIS and the set up of the farmers’ union, especially in areas where there are no WUAs.

***Responses from Ministry (Nurlan):***

1. Now we can see that we should respond to many problems: technical standards, quality standards, quality processing. We need to pay attention to the project document. We need a point person in the water dept. who will be in charge of coordination. There will be one person to be in charge of each component. E.g. Government for first component. WUA for second component. Helvetas for the third component. Ministry of Health for fourth component. Then if the project is to be implemented already, we can review this and change if needed.
2. Within the framework of the on-farm project, there is no water storage facility. We can consider this as this has come up with our discussion.
3. When we started to prepare our proposal to GAFSP, we need to make inventory who works in the irrigation sector, health sector, as well as who works at the local, national and regional levels. For the project final design phase, we need first to make an inventory. We need to know the NGO’s who are working with these sectors and these areas of work and get their feedback.
4. We are ready to pay more attention to capacity building. We can maintain the amounts of those components, which are less. And cut some budget for rehabilitation.
5. Current funding allocation gives the biggest amount to rehabilitation aspect. If we select the facility to be rehabilitated, we need to select on-farm facilities that will directly impact on the yield of farmers. We need a good database on agri techniques, pesticides, chemicals, which can be used by all farmers and all WUAs. We need to advise the farmers on what suitable crop to grow.
6. As stated in the letter of the GAFSP SC, our project is multi-aimed and thus requires a lot of coordination. We want to secure the well being of the farmers, the sustainability of advisory services, and the profitability of the farmer from the sale of their crops. So we need to consider provision of all these services in our project.