

REGIONAL PROGRAM IN AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

The Regional Program in Agribusiness Development, part of the cooperative agreement between MASHAV/CAR, aims at providing support structures for the development of a profitable, sound and modern small- and medium-sized agribusiness sector in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan. This project builds on previous work conducted by MASHAV under the CDP, consists of pilot farms that demonstrate technical aspects of modern production and agribusiness consulting centers that give advice to farmers on business planning and development. The agribusiness consulting centers organize and provide training and professional workshops. They are fully equipped with international communication means, in order to provide access to professional and commercial information for local businesspeople and entrepreneurs in the agricultural sector. The centers also provide assistance in the preparation of business plans to raise capital from local and international funding institutions. Services provided by the centers, which complement government programs in the field, are in high demand by the emerging private sector and agribusiness initiatives.

KAZAKHSTAN

AGRIBUSINESS CONSULTING CENTERS

In the Atyrau Region, a MASHAV Consulting Center staffed by a resident expert and local staff provide consulting services to local farms and greenhouses, answering the market need for locally-produced, high-quality fresh vegetables to supply the large population of petroleum workers. A profitable agricultural sector will furnish an alternative to produce imports, thereby diversifying the economy and providing an alternative livelihood to the now common poaching of endangered sturgeons.

This activity is implemented in close cooperation with other donors, such as the UNDP and TengizCevOil (TCO), and the district Ministry of Agriculture.

MASHAV Agribusiness consulting centers also operate in Almaty, Astana, Chimkent and Kyzylorda.

HORTICULTURE AND FIELD CROPS DEMONSTRATION

The MASHAV-USAID program provides support for local MASHAV-sponsored agricultural demonstration projects. The first demonstration project, Kunarly, was launched in the late 1990s – and has established hundreds of projects employing new advanced technologies in cropping, stockbreeding and fish farming. Vegetable and flower greenhouses have also been constructed in the Almaty, Atyrau, Kyzylorda, Aral and Shymkent regions.

All the farms have achieved high yield harvest and produce high quality products. The experience attained will be used in the future within a state program for the encouragement of the agricultural sector.

LIVESTOCK SECTOR PROMOTION

The stock-breeding program comprises 15 farms in the Almaty, Akmola and south Kazakhstan regions working in cooperation with MASHAV experts. The milk yield on these farms has risen to 5,000 liters per cow a year as compared to the average milk yield in Kazakhstan of less than 2,000 liters a year. Another aspect of livestock sector activities is the efficient operation of unique camel breeding farms and the launch of the first camel milk plant in Kazakhstan.

KYRGYZSTAN

AGRIBUSINESS CONSULTING CENTERS

MASHAV operates three Consulting Centers in Bishkek, Osh and Chulpan-Ata. These centers support former MASHAV demonstration farms in the region and assist farmers interested in planning, financing and implementing improved systems. Application of advanced technologies has resulted in diversification of crops and higher yields for local farmers.

Agribusiness consultation services are given in close cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and other donors and organizations that provide agricultural credits to Kyrgyz farmers, such as KAFC (Kyrgyz Agricultural Financial Corporation), Mercy Corps, PRAGMA, IFDC, etc.

UPGRADING DAIRY AND VEGETABLE PRODUCTION

A number of former MASHAV demonstration projects in Kyrgyzstan have been transferred to local management and are now thriving, with the support of MASHAV agricultural experts. Most of these farms are managed by women.

The first two MASHAV demonstration projects in Kyrgyzstan, the Sokoluk dairy farm and the Belovodsk crop growing farm, are now self-sustaining, and are also instrumental in disseminating more advances agricultural technologies to private farms in the region. The Sokoluk mini-dairies demonstrate advanced technologies in the fields of up-to-date dairy production and stock breeding. Similar former MASHAV farms are operational in other regions of Kyrgyzstan. Women run a majority of these farms.

The Mic demonstration farm is also equipped and supported by MASHAV. A government farm, it has become one of the largest and most advanced cooperative farms in the CIS, demonstrates modern methods of growing and management, particularly of field crops and vegetables. The Mic Farm introduced modern methods of irrigation and water management. In addition, the cooperative management system has been transformed with the help of MASHAV, for far greater efficiency and accountability. The project serves as a center for demonstrations and workshops for farmers all over Kyrgyzstan and exports high value crops to CIS countries.

Among the farm's achievements:

- * Output and quality of the product, as well as vegetable shelf life, have increased as a result of the modern and more efficient methods.
- * New varieties that better meet market demands for yield crops and vegetables have been introduced.
- * The Mic farm serves as a seed farm, developing and marketing improved seed varieties to farmers in Kyrgyzstan. In this way, crop output and quality is improved.
- * The Mic farm is among the most successful stock-breeding farms, with milk yields exceeding 5,000 liters per cow per year, development of new breeds of cattle, now in their third generation of Israeli lines, and computerization of the milking parlor.

UZBEKISTAN

DAIRY CATTLE HUSBANDRY – AKURGAN AGRICULTURAL DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

The project's goals are the modernization of dairy farming, combining management improvements to the central dairy farm at Akurgan, as well as the development of two model family dairy farms.

The activities of the project focus on improving feeding systems, marketing and overall dairy management practices, including establishment of a mini-dairy processing unit.

The project, and in particular the two model family dairy farms, demonstrates a successful and sustainable farm unit and has attracted the interest of the Ministry of Agriculture and financing institutions to promote and support this type of development at the national level.

DAIRY CATTLE HUSBANDRY – KIBRAI AGRICULTURAL DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

The project is a further expansion of the Akurgan family dairy farm development, and involves the initiative if the Kibrai authorities and various new private dairy farms in the vicinity to formulate a privately operated commercial undertaking.

The farmers are the shareholders of the project, financing the construction of the processing unit, and at the same time being provided with technical and professional extension and other advisory services. This project, along with other family farm developments demonstrates possibilities of market-oriented developments of former kolkhozes and sovkhoses transformed into economically sound family dairy farms.

CENTRAL EUROPE & EURASIA

ALBANIA

TRAINING	
TRAINING IN ISRAEL	
TOTAL NUMBER OF TRAINEES	6
Economic and social development	3
Medicine and public health	2
Education	1
ON-THE-SPOT COURSES	
TOTAL NUMBER OF COURSES	2
TOTAL NUMBER OF TRAINEES	135
Agriculture	2
CONSULTANCIES	
SHORT-TERM CONSULTANCIES	
TOTAL NUMBER	1
Agriculture	1

ARMENIA

TRAINING	
TRAINING IN ISRAEL	
TOTAL NUMBER OF TRAINEES	4
Agriculture	1
Economic and social development	1
Medicine and public health	2

AZERBAIJAN

TRAINING	
TRAINING IN ISRAEL	
TOTAL NUMBER OF TRAINEES	23
Agriculture	4
Economic and social development	8
Community development	2
Rural and urban development	8
Science and technology	1
INTEGRATED RURAL REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING:	
TWO-PHASE COURSE	
Theoretical component: Israel (1.5–13.9)	
Practical component: Azerbaijan (23.9–16.11)	
ON-THE-SPOT COURSES	
TOTAL NUMBER OF COURSES	1
TOTAL NUMBER OF TRAINEES	21
Community development	1
CONSULTANCIES	
SHORT-TERM CONSULTANCIES	
TOTAL NUMBER	1
Agriculture	1
BELORUSSIA	
TRAINING	
TRAINING IN ISRAEL	
TOTAL NUMBER OF TRAINEES	39
Agriculture	6
Economic and social development	20
Community development	3
Rural and urban development	1
Medicine and public health	1
Education	8

BULGARIA

TRAINING	
TRAINING IN ISRAEL	
TOTAL NUMBER OF TRAINEES	45
Agriculture	12
Economic and social development	24
Community development	1
Medicine and public health	1
Management	1
Science and technology	2
Education	4

CROATIA

TRAINING	
TRAINING IN ISRAEL	
TOTAL NUMBER OF TRAINEES	4
Medicine and public health	1
Education	3

ESTONIA

TRAINING	
TRAINING IN ISRAEL	
TOTAL NUMBER OF TRAINEES	6
Economic and social development	2
Science and technology	1
Education	3

ON-THE-SPOT COURSES	
TOTAL NUMBER OF COURSES	1
TOTAL NUMBER OF TRAINEES	28
Medicine and public health	1

GEORGIA

TRAINING

TRAINING IN ISRAEL

TOTAL NUMBER OF TRAINEES 49

Agriculture	13
Economic and social development	22
Medicine and public health	3
Management	3
Science and technology	4
Education	4

CONSULTANCIES

SHORT-TERM CONSULTANCIES

TOTAL NUMBER 4

Agriculture	2
Science and technology	2

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Medical equipment was donated following the earthquake in June

HUNGARY

TRAINING

TRAINING IN ISRAEL

TOTAL NUMBER OF TRAINEES 21

Agriculture	1
Economic and social development	3
Community development	1
Medicine and public health	1
Management	4
Science and technology	4
Education	7

HUNGARY

IRRIGATION AND EXTENSION PROJECT

The project emphasizes R & D field activities including irrigation technologies, greenhouse and fruit production. The project involves agricultural extension, demonstration and experimental plots at different sites in the country, aiming to improve the technological level of family farms, and larger commercial farm operations.

The project is being carried out in cooperation with the Agricultural University of Szarvas within a bilateral agreement between MASHAV and the Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture.

KAZAKHSTAN

TRAINING	
TRAINING IN ISRAEL	
TOTAL NUMBER OF TRAINEES	96
Agriculture	21
Economic and social development	39
Community development	10
Rural and urban development	4
Medicine and public health	5
Management	2
Science and technology	7
Education	8
ON-THE-SPOT COURSES	
TOTAL NUMBER OF COURSES	4
TOTAL NUMBER OF TRAINEES	131
Agriculture	2
Community development	1
Medicine and public health	1
CONSULTANCIES	
SHORT-TERM CONSULTANCIES	
TOTAL NUMBER	10
Agriculture	9
Medicine and public health	1
LONG-TERM CONSULTANCIES	
TOTAL NUMBER OF EXPERTS	3
Agriculture	3



First Greenhouse Project at Akpai Village in the Aral Region, Kazakhstan

KAZAKHSTAN

MASHAV-USAID PROGRAM FOR REHABILITATION OF THE LAKE KAMBASH REGION

In the context of the MASHAV-USAID/CAR joint project in Central Asia for the environmental and economic rehabilitation of the Aral Sea area, in 2002 MASHAV reconstructed a fish hatchery by Lake Kambash in the village of Kosjar. The hatchery will be used to raise fingerlings for the repopulation and enrichment of local natural bodies of water which have been devastated by poor environmental practices. The fish, when reintroduced into the natural environment, will serve as the basis for developing the fishing industry in the region. The hatchery project is being overseen by an Israeli on-site expert. This expert is also responsible for managing a wide range of other programs in the remote region of Lake Kambash, including monitoring ecological changes in the lake as a result of the program with a view to rehabilitating local natural bodies of water and conducting training courses on commercial fish production.

In addition to these agricultural activities, MASHAV's on-site expert is also responsible for managing the project field operation office of the MASHAV-USAID Wetlands Management and Peoples' Livelihood program in the Aral Sea area. In 2002 these activities included:

- * Dispatch of local women leaders to Israel for a short-term course in women's leadership (one of whom has since been hired by MASHAV to organize

community-building and youth activities locally).

- * Dispatch of medical personnel to Israel for training.
- * Construction of a new greenhouse demonstration unit for vegetable cultivation as a center of training activities for local farmers as part of a larger water efficiency and income generating projects program to improve livelihoods and income levels for small farmers in the region.
- * Planting of 1,500 trees on four sites for sand stabilization and amelioration of urban environments.

SELF-SUPPORTING HUMANITARIAN ORPHANAGE PROJECT

The MASHAV-USAID program has established greenhouses for an orphanage and boarding school in Almaty and another orphanage in Atyrau. Children contribute to crop cultivation in these greenhouses under the supervision of Israeli experts, providing a source of fresh vegetables for the children and skills training for later life.

CENTRAL EUROPE & EURASIA

KYRGYZSTAN

TRAINING	
TRAINING IN ISRAEL	
TOTAL NUMBER OF TRAINEES	49
Agriculture	16
Economic and social development	22
Community development	4
Medicine and public health	1
Management	2
Science and technology	1
Education	3
ON-THE-SPOT COURSES	
TOTAL NUMBER OF COURSES	1
TOTAL NUMBER OF TRAINEES	45
Agriculture	1
CONSULTANCIES	
SHORT-TERM CONSULTANCIES	
TOTAL NUMBER	7
Agriculture	7

LATVIA

TRAINING	
TRAINING IN ISRAEL	
TOTAL NUMBER OF TRAINEES	19
Agriculture	1
Economic and social development	10
Community development	1
Medicine and public health	1
Management	1
Science and technology	1
Education	4
ON-THE-SPOT COURSES	
TOTAL NUMBER OF COURSES	1
TOTAL NUMBER OF TRAINEES	29
Medicine and public health	1
LITHUANIA	
TRAINING	
TRAINING IN ISRAEL	
TOTAL NUMBER OF TRAINEES	18
Agriculture	3
Economic and social development	8
Rural and urban development	1
Medicine and public health	1
Science and technology	2
Education	3
ON-THE-SPOT COURSES	
TOTAL NUMBER OF COURSES	2
TOTAL NUMBER OF TRAINEES	56
Medicine and public health	1
Science and technology	1

MACEDONIA

TRAINING	
TRAINING IN ISRAEL	
TOTAL NUMBER OF TRAINEES	4
Agriculture	2
Medicine and public health	1
Science and technology	1

MOLDOVA

TRAINING	
TRAINING IN ISRAEL	
TOTAL NUMBER OF TRAINEES	13
Agriculture	2
Economic and social development	9
Medicine and public health	2

POLAND

TRAINING	
TRAINING IN ISRAEL	
TOTAL NUMBER OF TRAINEES	40
Agriculture	9
Economic and social development	2
Community development	1
Rural and urban development	2
Medicine and public health	1
Management	3
Science and technology	14
Education	11
ON-THE-SPOT COURSES	
TOTAL NUMBER OF COURSES	1
TOTAL NUMBER OF TRAINEES	45
Community development	1
CONSULTANCIES	
SHORT-TERM CONSULTANCIES	
TOTAL NUMBER	6
Medicine and public health	6

CENTRAL EUROPE & EURASIA

ROMANIA

TRAINING	
TRAINING IN ISRAEL	
TOTAL NUMBER OF TRAINEES	18
Agriculture	4
Economic and social development	2
Rural and urban development	1
Medicine and public health	2
Science and technology	4
Education	5

CONSULTANCIES	
SHORT-TERM CONSULTANCIES	
TOTAL NUMBER	5
Agriculture	5

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

TRAINING	
TRAINING IN ISRAEL	
TOTAL NUMBER OF TRAINEES	76
Agriculture	17
Economic and social development	43
Community development	1
Medicine and public health	6
Science and technology	2
Education	7

CONSULTANCIES	
SHORT-TERM CONSULTANCIES	
TOTAL NUMBER	5
Medicine and public health	5

SERBIA-MONTENEGRO

TRAINING	
TRAINING IN ISRAEL	
TOTAL NUMBER OF TRAINEES	6
Economic and social development	1
Rural and urban development	1
Management	1
Science and technology	1
Education	2

SLOVENIA

TRAINING	
TRAINING IN ISRAEL	
TOTAL NUMBER OF TRAINEES	1
Medicine and public health	1

TAJIKISTAN

TRAINING	
TRAINING IN ISRAEL	
TOTAL NUMBER OF TRAINEES	14
Agriculture	9
Community development	4
Medicine and public health	1

THE CZECH REPUBLIC

TRAINING	
TRAINING IN ISRAEL	
TOTAL NUMBER OF TRAINEES	7
Agriculture	1
Economic and social development	1
Community development	1
Medicine and public health	2
Science and technology	2

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE
Electric pumps were dispatched immediately following floods in August. Food, blankets and equipment were also donated.

TURKMENISTAN

TRAINING	
TRAINING IN ISRAEL	
TOTAL NUMBER OF TRAINEES	14
Agriculture	3
Economic and social development	5
Community development	3
Management	3

UKRAINE

TRAINING	
TRAINING IN ISRAEL	
TOTAL NUMBER OF TRAINEES	33
Agriculture	8
Economic and social development	19
Medicine and public health	2
Science and technology	1
Education	3

CONSULTANCIES	
SHORT-TERM CONSULTANCIES	
TOTAL NUMBER	4
Medicine and public health	4

UZBEKISTAN

TRAINING	
TRAINING IN ISRAEL	
TOTAL NUMBER OF TRAINEES	157
Agriculture	25
Economic and social development	27
Community development	8
Rural and urban development	3
Medicine and public health	81
Science and technology	6
Education	7

CONSULTANCIES	
SHORT-TERM CONSULTANCIES	
TOTAL NUMBER	11
Agriculture	3
Medicine and public health	8

CENTRAL EUROPE & EURASIA

UZBEKISTAN

BIOLOGICAL DRAINAGE AND COMMERCIAL FOREST PROJECT

Within the framework of the MASHAV-USAID/CAR Grant Agreement, and in cooperation with the Forestry Institute of Uzbekistan, a tree nursery was inaugurated in Tashkent in October. The newly-established nursery will serve forestry plantation needs for the Israeli-U.S.-Uzbek bio-drainage project for the Ferghana Oblast (region). This project uses tree plantings in order to provide a means of livelihood for the region while addressing flooding and waterlogging endemic in the region in Uzbekistan, which has caused extensive damage to local homes and severe degradation of agricultural lands.

The project has two elements: commercial tree planting, in the Ferghana Valley and near the Syr Darya River in order to drain excess water, efficiently uses lands too degraded to continue to support agriculture and provides a means of livelihood through forestry; and reclamation of lands with high salinity and flooding due to over-irrigation uses ecologically sound techniques to reverse environmental damage to agricultural lands.

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING: EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Education and leadership training for nurses, a part of the cooperation program between MASHAV and USAID/CAR, aims at developing and expanding clinical, administrative and leadership roles

and enhancing the professional status of the community health nurse in the Ferghana Valley, Uzbekistan. The program aims to achieve improvements in the quality of health care, education and counseling at primary health care delivery points, focusing on training two groups of nurses: selected nurse leaders and staff nurses (this latter group including nurse educators, the district chief nurse, the regional chief nurses, and the head nurses from the primary health care practices in the pilot regions of Yazzevan, Quva and Besharik). Staff nurses are targeted according to specific criteria including position occupied in the Ferghana District. Following successful completion of training, similar activities are being conducted in other regions.



Inauguration Ceremony of the Tree Nursery in Tashkent, Uzbekistan