

REGIONAL & COUNTRY ACTIVITY SUMMARY REGIONAL & COUNTRY ACTIVITY SUMMARY REGIONAL & COUNTRY ACTIVITY SUMMARY

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REGIONAL PROGRAM IN AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

The Regional Program in Agribusiness Development, part of the cooperative agreement between MASHAV/USAID, 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

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

Horticulture and Field Crops Demonstration

The MASHAV-USAID program provides support for local MASHAV-sponsored agricultural 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, fruit and flower greenhouses have been constructed in the Almaty, Atyrau, Kyzylorda, Aral and Shymkent regions. All the farms have achieved high yield harvest and produce high quality products.

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 over 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 assist farmers interested in planning, financing and implementing improved systems and support former MASHAV demonstration farms in the region. Application of advanced technologies has resulted

in diversification of crops and higher yields for local farmers.

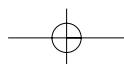
Agribusiness consultation services are given in close cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and other donors and organizations that provide agricultural credits to Kyrgyz farmers, such as KAFC (Kyrgyz Agricultural Financial Corporation), Mercy Corps, PRAGMA, IFDC, etc.

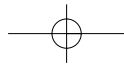
Upgrading Dairy and Vegetable Production

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 Sokuluk dairy farm and the Belovodsk crop growing farm, are now self-sustaining, and are also instrumental in disseminating more advanced agricultural technologies to private farms in the region. The Sokuluk 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





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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.



Armenia

TRAINEES IN ISRAEL	10
Agriculture	6
Small and Medium Enterprises	2
Communication	2

SHORT-TERM CONSULTANCIES	4
Agriculture	3
Science and Technology	1



Azerbaijan

TRAINEES IN ISRAEL	9
Agriculture	3
Rural and Urban Development	1
Gender Issues	2
Science and Technology	1
Communication	2

SHORT-TERM CONSULTANCIES	6
Agriculture	4
Medicine and Public Health	1
Gender Issues	1



Belarus

TRAINEES IN ISRAEL	7
Agriculture	2
Rural and Urban Development	1
Small and Medium Enterprises	2
Communication	2



Bosnia & Herzegovina

TRAINEES IN ISRAEL	1
Community Development	1



Bulgaria

TRAINEES IN ISRAEL	17
Agriculture	4
Rural and Urban Development	1
Science and Technology	1
Management	1
Small and Medium Enterprises	8
Communication	2



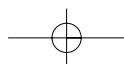
Croatia

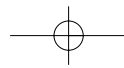
TRAINEES IN ISRAEL	5
Agriculture	1
Education	1
Communication	3



Czech Republic

TRAINEES IN ISRAEL	10
Agriculture	6
Education	1
Community Development	2
Rural and Urban Development	1





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Estonia

TRAINEES IN ISRAEL	1
Education	1



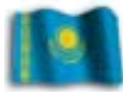
Georgia

TRAINEES IN ISRAEL	33
Agriculture	13
Medicine and Public Health	4
Education	1
Community Development	2
Rural and Urban Development	1
Gender Issues	1
Science and Technology	2
Small and Medium Enterprises	6
Communication	3
SHORT-TERM CONSULTANCIES	4
Agriculture	3
Gender Issues	1



Hungary

TRAINEES IN ISRAEL	32
Agriculture	4
Medicine and Public Health	2
Education	8
Community Development	6
Rural and Urban Development	3
Science and Technology	5
Small and Medium Enterprises	4



Kazakhstan

TRAINEES IN ISRAEL	95
Agriculture	54
Medicine and Public Health	3
Education	3
Gender Issues	2
Science and Technology	2
Small and Medium Enterprises	28
Communication	3

ON-THE-SPOT COURSES	9
Agriculture	4
Medicine and Public Health	2
Community Development	2
Gender Issues	1
TOTAL NUMBER OF TRAINEES	227

SHORT-TERM CONSULTANCIES	6
Agriculture	6

LONG-TERM CONSULTANCIES	2
Agriculture	2

Kazakhstan

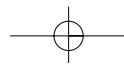
MASHAV-USAID Program for Rehabilitation of the Lake Kambash Region

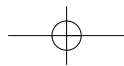
In the context of the MASHAV-USAID/CAR joint project in Central Asia for the environmental and economic rehabilitation of the Aral Sea area, in 2002 MASHAV reconstructed a fish hatchery by Lake Kambash in village of Kosjar. The hatchery is used to raise fingerlings for the repopulation and enrichment 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.

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.





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Kyrgyzstan

TRAINEES IN ISRAEL	29
Agriculture	15
Medicine and Public Health	1
Rural and Urban Development	1
Small and Medium Enterprises	10
Communication	2

ON-THE-SPOT COURSES	5
Agriculture	5
TOTAL NUMBER OF TRAINEES	115

SHORT-TERM CONSULTANCIES	4
Agriculture	3
Gender Issues	1



Latvia

TRAINEES IN ISRAEL	11
Agriculture	1
Medicine and Public Health	2
Education	2
Community Development	1
Small and Medium Enterprises	2
Communication	3



Lithuania

TRAINEES IN ISRAEL	78
Agriculture	5
Education	1
Community Development	1
Gender Issues	2
Management	22
Small and Medium Enterprises	45
Communication	2



Macedonia

TRAINEES IN ISRAEL	3
Medicine and Public Health	3



Moldova

TRAINEES IN ISRAEL	3
Agriculture	1
Education	1
Science and Technology	1

SHORT-TERM CONSULTANCIES	1
Agriculture	1



Poland

TRAINEES IN ISRAEL	22
Agriculture	6
Medicine and Public Health	2
Education	6
Community Development	3
Rural and Urban Development	1
Science and Technology	4

SHORT-TERM CONSULTANCIES	1
Medicine and Public Health	1



Romania

TRAINEES IN ISRAEL	21
Agriculture	8
Medicine and Public Health	1
Community Development	3
Rural and Urban Development	2
Science and Technology	2
Management	1
Small and Medium Enterprises	4

ON-THE-SPOT COURSES	2
Agriculture	2
TOTAL NUMBER OF TRAINEES	50

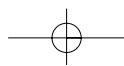
SHORT-TERM CONSULTANCIES	3
Agriculture	3

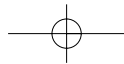
LONG-TERM CONSULTANCIES	1
Agriculture	1



Russian Federation

TRAINEES IN ISRAEL	50
Agriculture	20
Medicine and Public Health	2
Community Development	1
Rural and Urban Development	2
Gender Issues	1
Management	15
Small and Medium Enterprises	5
Communication	4





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Serbia & Montenegro

TRAINEES IN ISRAEL	3
Agriculture	2
Medicine and Public Health	1
SHORT-TERM CONSULTANCIES	1
Small and Medium Enterprises	1



Slovenia

TRAINEES IN ISRAEL	2
Communication	2



Tajikistan

TRAINEES IN ISRAEL	25
Agriculture	3
Medicine and Public Health	1
Education	14
Small and Medium Enterprises	5
Communication	2
ON-THE-SPOT COURSES	1
Agriculture	1
TOTAL NUMBER OF TRAINEES	14
SHORT-TERM CONSULTANCIES	3
Agriculture	1
Medicine and Public Health	1
Gender Issues	1



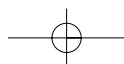
Ukraine

TRAINEES IN ISRAEL	20
Agriculture	10
Medicine and Public Health	1
Education	1
Gender Issues	1
Small and Medium Enterprises	5
Communication	2



Slovak Republic

TRAINEES IN ISRAEL	2
Rural and Urban Development	1
Gender Issues	1



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Uzbekistan

TRAINEES IN ISRAEL	137
Agriculture	30
Medicine and Public Health	100
Small and Medium Enterprises	5
Communication	2
ON-THE-SPOT COURSES	1
Agriculture	1
TOTAL NUMBER OF TRAINEES	100
Short-Term Consultancies	20
Agriculture	10
Medicine and Public Health	9
Distance Learning	1

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 established in Tashkent. The nursery serves the 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 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 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 implemented in the region of Bukhara.

