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AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAINS ACTIVITY FACT SHEET

The Agricultural Value Chain activity's main goal is to increase agricultural productivity and prosperity in Uzbekistan. The activity works throughout the entire value chain of Uzbekistan's horticultural sector to create employment, increase fruit and vegetable yield, quality, and exports, and strengthen relationships between educational institutions and the private sector.

OUR WORK

Over the last four years, USAID's Agricultural Value Chains activity has incentivized over 10,000 horticultural producers and processors to adopt new technologies and practices, improving agricultural practices on 15,600 hectares of horticultural farms. Our assistance to date in 2019 leveraged \$7.9 million in private sector investment in the establishment of new orchards, installation of water saving technologies, expansion of the cold chain network, and upgrades in product packaging, marketing, and branding to meet international standards. This brings USAID's Agricultural Value Chains' cumulative private sector investment leveraged to \$14.3 million, which has resulted in a 213 percent increase in the value of exported goods. By providing 67,700 hours of training and facilitating the emergence of 51 new consulting service providers, this activity has contributed to a 67 percent increase in farm yields, increasing income among targeted farmers by 107 percent.

Improve the Quality and Volume of Agricultural Production

- In 2019, USAID hosted a National Exchange Program to link input suppliers and producers and

promote variety selection that balances climatic considerations with market demand. USAID facilitated a \$4.2 million investment in improved plant material for a partner's 107-hectare orchard as a result of participation in Agriculture Value Chain's 2018 input provider study tour to France and Italy.

- USAID prioritizes promoting Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) technologies. A USAID-facilitated drip irrigation investment forum linked farm enterprise to service providers, which resulted in 13 farm enterprises negotiating with vendors to install drip systems on a combined 265 hectares of land.

Improve Post-Harvest Handling and Production

- USAID's post-harvest team led a study tour to India in partnership with USAID's Competitiveness, Trade, and Jobs activity. Through meetings and site visits Uzbek cold chain actors observed how the grape value chain in India is organized around a high-value market opportunity as opposed to a more production-orientated organization, as traditionally found in Uzbekistan.
- USAID provided post-harvest and cold chain consultation to 109 cold storage facilities to date in 2019.

Expansion of Exports

- In 2019, USAID's Agricultural Value Chain activity continued to build connections in the Japanese market. The activity supported three exporters to exhibit their products at FoodEx Japan and hosted a Japanese buyers' delegation that resulted in negotiated trial shipments with four AVC partners. Our support resulted in six local companies entering the Japanese market, the introduction of three new Uzbek products and a total value of AVC-supported exports to Japan of over \$400,000.

Education

- This year, Tashkent State Agrarian University (TSAU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Mississippi State University – the culmination of multiple USAID-facilitated delegation exchanges between the two universities. The universities have committed to launching three dual degree master's programs focused on agrobusiness, agro-economics, and fishery in January 2020.
- In 2019, Agriculture Value Chain's Future Female Leaders program was officially launched, with one mentor matched with each campus of TSAU. Through role modeling and mentorship, the Future Female Leaders program aims to empower female students and provide them with female role models to demonstrate the skills needed to succeed in the agricultural workforce.

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