

**REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE**

**ADDITIONAL FINANCING FOR TAJIKISTAN
STRENGTHENING RESILIENCE OF THE AGRICULTURE
SECTOR PROJECT**

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN

November 2022

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ACP	Agriculture Commercialization Project
AED PMU	State Institution Agriculture Entrepreneurship Development Project Management Unit under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Tajikistan
AF	Additional Financing
ALC	Agri-Logistical Center
ASDP	Agriculture Sector Development Program
AWP&B	Annual Work Plan and Budget
CIF	Cost, Insurance and Freight
CLMP	Child Labor Monitoring Plan
CPI	Consumer Price Index
CRW ERF	Crisis Response Window Early Response Financing
CSA	Climate Smart Agriculture
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
DP	Development Partner
ECA	Europe and Central Asia
ECD	Early Childhood Development
ESCP	Environmental and Social Commitment Plan
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
ESS	Environmental and Social Standard
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FSC	Food Security Committee
FSCPP	Food Security Crisis Preparedness Plan
GAM	Global Acute Malnutrition
GBAO	Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GNI	Gross National Income
CGDMP	Children Growth and Development Monitoring Program
GRID	Green, Resilient and Inclusive Development
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism
GRS	Grievance Redress Service
IA	Implementing Agency
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
IP	Implementation Progress
IPC	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
IRI	Intermediate Results Indicator
IYCF	Infant and Young Children Feeding
L2T	Listening to Tajikistan
LMP	Labor Management Procedures
SIP	Social Inclusion Plan
SUN	Scaling Up Nutrition
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MINT	Ministry of Industry and New Technologies
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
MOHSP	Ministry of Health and Social Protection
MSNAP	Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Action Plan
MTDP	State Program for Medium-Term Development of the Republic of Tajikistan

NAIP	Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agricultural Development for the Republic of Tajikistan
PAD	Project Appraisal Document
PDO	Project Development Objective
PMU	Project Implementation Unit
POM	Project Operations Manual
PP	Procurement Plan
PPSD	Project Procurement Strategy for Development
PSC	Project Steering Committee
PTC	Project Technical Committee
REDP	Rural Economic Development Project
RPF	Resettlement Policy Framework
RPO	Regional Project Office
RUTF	Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SEP	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
SRASP	Strengthening Resilience of the Agriculture Sector Project
SUN	Scaling Up Nutrition
TA	Technical Assistance
TAJSTAT	Agency of Statistics under President of the Republic of Tajikistan
TORs	Terms of Reference
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WB	World Bank
WBG	World Bank Group
WFP	World Food Programme
WRA	Women of Reproductive Age

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1. INTRODUCTION

1. INTRODUCTION

PARENT PROJECT OBJECTIVE, DESIGN, AND SCOPE

The World Bank (WB) and the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan (GOT) are currently preparing the additional financing under the project “Strengthening Resilience of the Agriculture Sector Project (SRASP)-the parent project” aimed at supporting the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) in the implementation of the Medium Term Development Program of the Republic of Tajikistan (SDP) for 2021-2025 and the National Investment Plan for Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Development of Agriculture (NAIP) for 2021-2030 for the Republic of Tajikistan, approved in February 2021.

The SRASP’s development objective (PDO) is to strengthen the foundations for a more resilient agricultural sector in Tajikistan. The SRASP consists of four components and nine sub-components:

(a) *Component 1: Strengthening seed, seedling, and planting material systems* supports the development of viable seed, seedling, and planting material systems to ensure the availability of improved, locally adapted, market oriented, farmer-preferred, and climate resilient seeds, seedlings, and planting materials for priority crops, and in sufficient quantity and acceptable quality. The component has four sub-components: 1.1) Enabling environment; 1.2) Research and Development; 1.3) Multiplication of seeds, seedlings, and planting materials; and 1.4) Quality assurance.

(b) *Component 2: Support investments in Agri-Logistical Centers (ALCs) for horticulture value chains* supports investments in ALCs to improve competitiveness of horticulture value chains and access to markets (e.g., domestic retail chains and export). The component has two sub-components: 2.1) Support the establishment and operation of ALCs; and 2.2) Capacity building for operation and management of ALCs and awareness raising.

(c) *Component 3: Strengthen public capacity for crises prevention and management* supports strengthening the capacity of relevant public institutions on agricultural crises prevention and management, focusing on selected programs, which can significantly enhance the resiliency of agricultural sector. The component has three sub-components: 3.1) Real-time monitoring of agricultural production, land use, and agrometeorology; 3.2) Soil fertility management; and 3.3) Crop protection and locust control; and

(d) *Component 4: Project management and coordination* supports all aspects of project management including: i) management and coordination; ii) monitoring and evaluation (M&E); iii) fiduciary and safeguard compliance, iv) technical assistance (TA); and v) a grievance redress mechanism (GRM).

The SRASP’s primary beneficiaries are farmers, both smallholders and larger farms, agri-businesses, exporters, and other value chain actors, as well the staff of public institutions, from agricultural researchers and extension officers to the staff working in various Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) departments and agencies and in the local government as well as public and private seed farms and nurseries. The SRASP is open to beneficiaries across the country (Components 1 and 3), while the ALCs supported under Component 2 will be located one each in Khatlon, Sughd, and Dushanbe regions selected for their agro-ecological potential, horticultural production patterns, export opportunities (the case for Khatlon and Sughd), and proximity to major urban market (in the case of Dushanbe). The sub-sectoral focus of the ALCs is horticulture.

MOA is the lead implementing agency (IA) of the SRASP with the overall responsibility for coordinating all aspects of the project, including contributions by the different relevant ministries and agencies participating in the project’s implementation. MOA is supported by a project implementation unit (AED PMU), which follows the day-to-day implementation of the project. MOA is also supported by a Project Steering Committee (PSC), a Project Technical Committee (PTC) and technical assistance (TA).

RATIONALE FOR ADDITIONAL FINANCING

The proposed AF (SRASP AF) will primarily focus on addressing the short-term emergency needs but will also finance some medium-term investments to enhance food and nutrition security and build resilience. The funds will co-finance project activities planned under the various sub-components of the SRASP as well as finance new project activities planned under a new sub-component. As such the grant funds will be used to: i) review the food security law and institutional arrangements for food and nutrition security, ii) develop a food security crisis preparedness plan (FSCPP) within six months of project effectiveness, ; iii) support emergency procurement and distribution of improved seeds and fertilizers to the farmers and vulnerable group of society; iv) support the establishment and operationalization of additional ALCs; v) strengthen public capacity for crises prevention and management by a) strengthening livestock early warning systems, and b) improving price information systems, including scaling up of digital technologies and information platforms; vi) complement existing efforts to roll out the IPC methodology; vii) establish a “premix revolving fund” to support the government in procuring and distributing quality micronutrient premixes and potassium iodate for food fortification and capacity building of the agency that will host the national premix revolving fund facility; viii) support the government in the procurement and distribution of micronutrient and vitamin supplements for pregnant and lactating women and young children (6-59 months), and/or ready-to-use therapeutic foods (RUTFs) for children with a risk of severe acute malnutrition, including media and communication campaign on the importance of healthy and diverse diets and of micronutrients intake; consequences of micronutrient deficiencies; good infant and young children feeding (IYCF) practices; and other critical nutrition messages; ix) support the government in the implementation of priority nutrition-sensitive agriculture interventions and enhancing knowledge and capacity of the MOA in nutrition-agriculture programming; x) support the government in addressing acute bottlenecks in food distribution and production systems; xi) develop an M&E framework to provide timely and reliable information to support informed decision-making in managing food security; xii) procure and distribute small agricultural machinery to women farmers to simplify women's manual labor; and xiii) provide training on seed multiplication, seedlings and planting material and the use of small innovative equipment to vulnerable farmers. The proposed measures are currently not financed by the government, and the proposed emergency response will be complementary to other stakeholders’ efforts.

The SRASP design, component and sub-component structure and objectives will remain largely unchanged except for Component 3 where an additional sub-component is proposed on the planned nutrition activities. The PDO of the SRASP will be revised to reflect the nature of activities that are being financed especially as they relate to food insecurity and nutrition needs. The proposed (revised) PDO is to strengthen the foundations for a more resilient agricultural sector and support emergency interventions to address food and nutrition security in Tajikistan. One additional PDO indicator will be added to capture the new dimensions of the PDO, specifically Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) (disaggregated by gender) and four IRIs will be added to monitor the newly added emergency operations, namely Number of people benefiting from emergency operations (disaggregated for: vulnerable rural households benefitting from procurement and distribution of improved seeds, fertilizers, and small farm machinery; women (pregnant and lactating) and children (6-59 months) receiving micronutrient and vitamin supplements; children with a severe and moderate risk of malnutrition receiving therapeutic foods), and National agriculture strategies, policies, and/ or programs in which nutrition objectives and indicators are mainstreamed. Targets for SRASP PDO indicators and IRIs will be scaled up, and revised to reflect higher values for indicators linked to activities that will receive additional resources and to include indicators measuring new activities.

The SRASP AF will co-finance existing sub-components thereby expanding their coverage and reach. The SRASP AF will follow the same geographic focus and selection criteria as the SRASP, while the new Sub-component 3.4 will have nationwide coverage. Beneficiaries will be expanded due to the increased resources and outreach, and also to include beneficiaries of the emergency seed and fertilizer distribution and nutrition-enhancing activities. Beneficiaries (rural households) for the agriculture-related AF activities will be identified through the Farmers’ Registry maintained by TAJSTAT and based on specific criteria to be defined at Appraisal. The proposed supplementation activity under the SRASP AF will target pregnant and lactating

women and young children (6-59 months), the selection of which will be based on the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) of 2017, while the children to receive RUTFs will be screened by the local primary healthcare facilities. In terms of food fortification, all operating wheat flour producers (currently 37 private wheat milling companies and four state-owned milling companies) and edible salt producers (currently 16 producers) will have access to the premix through the established revolving fund. It is expected that some rural households will benefit from both agriculture- and nutrition-related activities (co-targeting). The current parent project closing date of June 30, 2027 will be retained. The SRASP AF will co-finance and/or finance the following activities:

Component 1: Strengthening seed, seedling, and planting material systems. The objectives and sub-component structure of the component will remain the same. The SRASP AF will finance the following activities aiming to improve the enabling environment, and ensure the availability of improved, locally adapted, market oriented, farmer-preferred, and climate resilient seeds, seedlings, and planting materials for priority crops, in sufficient quantity and quality:

(a) Under Sub-component 1.1: Enabling environment, the SRASP AF will increase the amount of funding allocated to this sub-component (co-financing), and the objective of the sub-component, which is improving the enabling environment of the seed, seedling, and planting materials system will be broadened to include food and nutrition security. The additional resources allocated to the sub-component will help the government to: (i) develop a FSCPP, (ii) review the existing Food Security Law #1591 (April 2019); and (iii) review the institutional arrangements for food and nutrition security.

(b) Under Sub-component 1.3: Multiplication of seeds, seedlings, and planting materials, the SRASP AF will scale up the sub-component scope to include emergency procurement and distribution of improved seeds and fertilizers to farmers and vulnerable groups. The SRASP AF will support (co-finance) the procurement and distribution of seeds and fertilizers to farmers and vulnerable rural households for homestead gardening, as a short-term food crisis response. The SARSP AF will also support the procurement and distribution to women farmers of small agricultural machinery to simplify women's manual labor; and provision of training for seed multiplication, seedlings and planting material and the use of small innovative equipment to vulnerable farmers. The SRASP AF design will also look into supporting potential additional measures that may address the acute bottlenecks in food distribution and production systems, including targeting vulnerable households, returning migrants, and women.

Component 2: Support investments in ALCs for horticulture value chains. The objectives and sub-component structure of the component will remain the same. The SRASP AF will allow the component to scale up activities of the parent project by supporting the establishment and operationalization of additional ALCs with the objective of building resilient food systems, promoting agricultural diversification, ensuring better market linkages, and improving competitiveness of horticulture value chains and access to markets.

(a) Under Sub-component 2.1: Support the establishment and operation of ALCs, the SRASP AF will support (co-finance) the establishment and operationalization of two additional ALCs in geographical locations to be identified following the same procedure and operation and management modality as in the parent project. They will fill a critical gap in cooling, storage, packing and logistics facilities in the selected areas and initiate the development of an integrated network of market/distribution infrastructure. The design feature (small in size) and services (cooling, storage, packing, logistic facilities etc.) of the ALCs will also be the same as the parent project.

Component 3: Strengthen public capacity for crises prevention and management. The objectives of the component and sub-components will remain the same, but there will be a new sub-component that will be included. The proposed SRASP AF-will allow the component to include additional activities that will further strengthen the capacity of the public sector to prevent and manage crises, and the new sub-component will help improve nutritional outcomes.

(a) Under Sub-component 3.1: Real-time monitoring of agricultural production, land use, and

agrometeorology, the SRASP AF will expand (co-finance) the scope of the sub-component which aims to enhance the early warning systems infrastructure, including:

- (i) developing an early warning system for livestock, including to prepare for hydro-meteorological and temperature extreme events and animal diseases; and strengthen national participation in regional and global early warning systems for hydro-meteorological events, including the procurement of additional mobile agrometeorological stations;
 - (ii) improving market and agriculture inputs price information systems, including the scaling up of digital technologies and information platforms;
 - (iii) complementing ongoing efforts led by FAO, UNICEF, and WFP to introduce the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) methodology in the country as an innovative multi-stakeholder initiative to improve analysis and decision-making on food security and nutrition.
 - (iv) supporting the government in implementation of the FSCPP through possible follow-up capacity building support based on the identified needs under the FSCPP
- (b) Addition of Sub-component 3.4: Nutrition improvement. The SRASP AF will provide financial resources to set-up a new sub-component that will aim to improve national nutritional outcomes and focuses on the immediate nutrition needs, specifically through:

- (i) Procurement and distribution of micronutrients and vitamin supplements for pregnant and lactating women and children (6-23 or 6-59 months) and/ or procurement and distribution of RUTFs for children at risk of severe acute malnutrition. The micronutrient and vitamin supplements and RUTFs for children will be distributed through the Clinical Research Institute for Pediatrics and Pediatric Surgery under the Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MOHSP) to the primary healthcare facilities. This activity will be accompanied by a media and communication campaign on the importance of healthy and diverse diets and of micronutrients intake; consequences of micronutrient deficiencies; good infant and young children feeding (IYCF) practices; and other critical nutrition messages.
- (ii) Creation of a centralized supply for food fortification premixes by establishing a “premix revolving fund facility” for the premix (specifically, micronutrients and potassium iodate/iodine) and provision of “seed funds for premix” in collaboration with the Ministry of Industry and New Technologies (MINT), MOHSP, the National Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Coordination Council and other interested parties. Food fortification is expected to occur mainly in wheat flour and edible salt. The SRASP AF will also join other DPs, such as UNICEF, in supporting advocacy work for including the micronutrient premix and potassium iodate/iodine in the essential drugs list and/or for exempting procurement of premix and potassium iodate/iodine from customs fees and taxes.
- (iii) Implementation of priority nutrition-sensitive agriculture interventions specified under the Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Action Plan (MSNAP) (2021-2025) for which the MOA is responsible. The SRASP AF will support the human resource capacity development of the MOA to be able to mainstream nutrition considerations in policies and programs, including in the Republic of Tajikistan Food Security Program and render it capable to participate and report on the activities it is responsible for in global and national nutrition fora, including the National SUN Coordination Council Meetings, including reporting on dietary diversity under the Food Security Program. Additionally, the MOA will integrate into its agriculture extension and advisory services delivery of nutrition messages, such as the promotion of production and consumption of locally available folate-rich foods (such as dark leafy green vegetables, pulses, nuts and seeds, and citrus fruits). This also presupposes the development and dissemination of nutrition-sensitive agriculture training and information, education, and communication (IEC) materials that will enable the training of MOA staff at national, province and

district levels, including “Training of Trainers” who can then lead demonstrations in the field on for example diversified homestead gardening, and small livestock production. Lastly, this activity will support knowledge generation and exchange on nutrition-agriculture programming and organization and participation of national and international nutrition platforms to showcase the results and progress on nutrition-sensitive activities implemented by the MOA.

Under Component 4: Project management and coordination. The objectives and structure of the component will remain the same. The AF will increase financial resources allocated to project coordination and management, including incremental staffing e.g., hiring a health/ nutrition specialist, and operating costs to enhance project implementation, coordination, and result monitoring; ensure fiduciary and safeguards compliance, and improve grievance redress and citizen engagement.

1.2 Purpose of the SEP

The Government of Tajikistan recognizes that SRASP’s stakeholder profile is quite diverse and heterogeneous and that their expectations and orientation as well as capacity to interface with the project are different. This updated Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) enables the project to identify different stakeholders and develop an approach for reaching each group under the parent Project and its AF. These stakeholder engagement activities in turn are expected to create an atmosphere of understanding that involves project-affected people and other interested parties, reaching out to them in a timely manner so that each group is provided opportunities to voice their opinions and concerns. Overall, the SEP serves the following purposes: i) stakeholder identification and analysis; (ii) planning engagement modalities viz., effective communication tool for consultations and disclosure; and (iii) enabling platforms for influencing decisions; (iv) defining roles and responsibilities of different actors in implementing the Plan; and (iv) establishing the grievance mechanism (GM).

1.3 Scope and Structure of the SEP

The scope of the SEP shall be as outlined per the requirements of the World Bank’s ESS10 (Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure). The stakeholder engagement will be planned as an integral part of the environmental and social assessment and project design and implementation.

This document includes 8 chapters. The first chapter serves as an Introduction. It provides a brief about the project and the context in which the SEP is being prepared. Chapter 2 lists the regulatory framework in Tajikistan which provides a legitimacy for SEP. A summary of the consultations held so far is presented in Chapter 3. All the three chapters serve as a backdrop. Stakeholder Identification, Mapping and Analysis is elaborated in Chapter 4. Stakeholder Engagement Program is presented in Chapter 5. Chapter 6 includes the Resources and Responsibilities for Implementing Stakeholders Engagement Activities. Grievance mechanism (GM) follows in Chapter 7. Monitoring, documentation, and reporting are presented in the last Chapter 8.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE, POLICY AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

This chapter provides details on the social policies, laws, regulations as well as guidelines that are relevant to the activities proposed under the project. It also provides an assessment of the adequacy of the coverage on social aspects in the legislative and regulatory framework. Lastly, WB Environmental and Social Standard 10 on Information Disclosure and Stakeholder Engagement is described below.

2.1 Key National Citizen Engagement Legal Provisions

As the fundamental law of the State, the Constitution defines the structure of the government, basic rights, liberties, and responsibilities of its citizens, as well as the powers of the legislative, executive and judicial branches. Article 5 mandates that: The life, the honor, the dignity, and other natural human rights are inviolable. Human rights and freedoms are recognized, observed, and protected by the state. Article 12 guarantees that: The economy of Tajikistan is based on different forms of ownership: freedom of economic and entrepreneurial activity, equality of rights, and legal protection of all forms of ownership, including private property.

Some key strategies, laws, and regulations relevant to the Project are presented below.

Law on Dehkan Farms (2016) provides the legislative basis for the establishment and operation of private dehkan farms. It clarifies and fixes the rights and responsibilities of dehkan farm members as land users. The law improves the management of dehkan farms and defines the rights and duties of their members. It allows farmers to legally erect field camps on land as temporary buildings, which makes it possible to significantly improve productivity at the agricultural season. The law requires dehkan farms to take measures to improve soil fertility and improve the ecological status of lands, timely payments for water and electricity, and provide statistical information to government agencies. The law encompasses the legal provisions on equal access to information for all members of a farm and active participation in decision making process.

Law on Freedom of Information is underpinned by Article 25 of the Constitution, which states that governmental agencies, social associations, and officials are required to provide each person with the possibility of receiving and becoming acquainted with documents that affect her or his rights and interests, except in cases anticipated by law.

Per the *Law on Public Associations*, a public association may be formed in one of the following organizational and legal forms: public organization, public movement, or a body of public initiative. Article 4 of this law establishes the right of citizens to found associations for the protection of common interests and the achievement of common goals. It outlines the voluntary nature of associations and defines citizens' rights to restrain from joining and withdrawing from an organization. August 2015 amendments to this legislation require NGOs to notify the Ministry of Justice about all funds received from international sources prior to using the funds.

The 2014 *Law on Public Meetings, Demonstrations and Rallies* (Article 10) bans persons with a record of administrative offenses (i.e., non-criminal infractions) under Articles 106, 460, 479 and 480 of the Code for Administrative Offences from organizing gatherings¹. Article 12 of the Law establishes that the gathering organizers must obtain permission from local administration fifteen days prior to organizing a mass gathering.

¹ These provisions concern the hampering of gatherings (Article 106); disorderly conduct (Article 460); disobedience to police (Article 479); and violation of rules of conducting gatherings (Article 480).

Law on Local Governments (2004) assigns a district or city chairman the authority to control over the natural resource management, construction, and reconstruction of natural protection areas, to oversee the local structures in sanitary epidemiological surveillance, waste management, health and social protection of population within the administrative territory. No public gathering is implemented without official notification of local government (district khukumat).

Law of Republic of Tajikistan on Appeals of Physical and Legal Entities (2016) contains legal provisions on established information channels for citizens to file their complaints, requests, and grievances. Article 14 of the Law sets the timeframes for handling grievances, which is 15 days from the date of receipt that do not require additional study and research, and 30 days for the appeals that need additional study. These legal provisions will be considered by the project-based Grievance mechanism.

The Labor Code prohibits forced labor (Article 8). The Labor Code also establishes the minimum age at which a child may be employed, as well as the conditions under which he may work (Articles 113, 67 and 174). The minimum age for admission to employment is 15 years, however, in some cases of vocational training, light work may be allowed for 14-year-olds (Article 174 of the Labor Code). In addition, there are some labor restrictions on what type of work can be done and what hours of work are allowed for workers under the age of 18. Examples of labor restrictions include workers between the ages of 14 and 15 cannot work more than 24 hours a week, while those under 18 cannot work more than 35 hours a week; during the school year, the maximum number of hours is half that, 12 and 17.5 hours respectively. These restrictions are in line with the ILO Minimum Age Convention.

In addition, the *Parental Responsibility for the Upbringing and Education of Children Act* makes parents responsible for ensuring that their children do not participate in hard and dangerous work and attend school. Established in 2009, the Child Labor Monitoring Office under the Ministry of Labor conducts methodological analysis and trains professionals involved in monitoring child labor and collecting statistics to introduce effective methods to reduce child labor and prevent its worst forms throughout the country.

The National Development Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan for the period up to 2030 speaks of the fundamentals of the concept of sustainable human development. Based on this, the complete eradication of poverty, the replacement of unsustainable and the promotion of sustainable patterns of consumption and production, as well as the protection and rational use of natural resources for further economic and social development, are the main tasks and vital conditions for sustainable human development.

The Law of the Republic of Tajikistan on Providing the Population with Fortified Foods regulates public relations in the field of providing the population with fortified foods and defines the organizational and legal framework for the prevention of micronutrient deficiencies and related diseases.

List of International Treaties and Conventions related to Citizen Engagement ratified by Tajikistan:

- Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Procedure (1998);
- Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2006);
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;
- Convention on Minimum Age for Admission to Employment (1993);
- Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labor (2005);
- Convention on the Abolition of Forced Labor (1999);
- Convention on Employment Policy (1993);
- Convention on Labor Inspection (2009);
- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child CRC (1993)
- Tripartite Consultation (International Labor Standards) Convention (2014); and
- Occupational Safety and Health Convention (2009).

The legal and regulatory framework at the national and local levels provides an adequate and appropriate enabling framework for implementing the key activities to be supported under the Project. Responsiveness to complainants' inquiries/questions, and public accountability are adequately covered by the legal

framework at different levels. The legislation highlights the importance of state's commitment to serving and ensuring citizen protection, in general, and people to be affected by the project in particular. The laws on access to information, consumer rights; grievance redress; and ethics codes in place stipulate rules governing fair services; and the investments in strengthening the agricultural resilience systems to be implemented during the project implementation.

2.2 World Bank Environmental and Social Standard on Stakeholder Engagement

The World Bank's Environmental and Social Framework (ESF)'s Environmental and Social Standard (ESS) 10, "Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure", recognizes "the importance of open and transparent engagement between the Borrower and project stakeholders as an essential element of good international practice" (World Bank, 2017: 97). Specifically, the requirements set out by ESS10 are the following:

- "Borrowers will engage with stakeholders throughout the project life cycle, commencing such engagement as early as possible in the project development process and in a timeframe that enables meaningful consultations with stakeholders on project design. The nature, scope and frequency of stakeholder engagement will be proportionate to the nature and scale of the project and its potential risks and impacts.
- Borrowers will engage in meaningful consultations with all stakeholders. Borrowers will provide stakeholders with timely, relevant, understandable, and accessible information, and consult with them in a culturally appropriate manner, which is free of manipulation, interference, coercion, discrimination and intimidation.
- The process of stakeholder engagement will involve the following, as set out in further detail in this ESS: (i) stakeholder identification and analysis; (ii) planning how the engagement with stakeholders will take place; (iii) disclosure of information; (iv) consultation with stakeholders; (v) addressing and responding to grievances; and (vi) reporting to stakeholders.
- The Borrower will maintain and disclose as part of the environmental and social assessment, a documented record of stakeholder engagement, including a description of the stakeholders consulted, a summary of the feedback received and a brief explanation of how the feedback was considered, or the reasons why it was not." (World Bank, 2017: 98).

A Stakeholder Engagement Plan proportionate to the nature and scale of the project and its potential risks and impacts needs to be developed by the Borrower. It has to be disclosed as early as possible, and before project appraisal, and the Borrower needs to seek the views of stakeholders on the SEP, including on the identification of stakeholders and the proposals for future engagement. If significant changes are made to the SEP, the Borrower has to disclose the updated SEP (World Bank, 2017: 99). According to ESS10, the Borrower should also propose and implement a grievance mechanism to receive and facilitate the resolution of concerns and grievances of project-affected parties related to the environmental and social performance of the project in a timely manner (World Bank, 2017: 100).

For more details on the WB Environmental and Social Standards, please follow the below links:

www.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/environmental-and-social-framework/brief/environmental-and-social-standards and <http://projects-beta.vsemirnyjbank.org/ru/projects-operations/environmental-and-social-framework/brief/environmental-and-social-standards>

3. PREVIOUS STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

3.1. Key stakeholder meetings and consultations

The MOA and the AED PMU held a number of meetings, consultations and discussion on the project design during January -March, 2021 to: (i) discuss the details of project activities with relevant state and non-state institutions; (ii) agree on the approach to project preparation; (iii) agree on fiduciary and safeguards requirements related to the project preparation; and (iv) address additional issues and guidance that were provided during the World Bank’s internal project concept note review meeting.

Details about the previous stakeholder meetings and consultations held are presented Table 1 below.

Table 1. Stakeholder Consultations

Place and Method	Date	Participants	Key points raised
Dushanbe, virtual Webex discussions	January 18, 2021	Ministry of Agriculture (MOA)-Mrs. Nigina Anvari, Deputy Minister of agriculture, Project design team (PDT) and WB Task Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial meeting and discussion on project preparation process, timelines, and requirements from the GOT side • Preparation of the social and environmental risk management documents by the MOA with the WB technical support.
Dushanbe, virtual meeting through Webex	January 19, 2021	WB Task Team, Ministry of Agriculture, all PDT members (relevant MoA departments, Tajik Academy Agricultural Sciences, Tajik Agrarian University by name Sh. Shohtemur, staff members of Agricultural Commercialization Project Implementation Unit)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed Presentation by the PDT on ideas for investment by component and/sub-component and discussion on the presentation
Dushanbe, Webex virtual discussions	January 20, 2021	PDT, WBG task team, representatives of Research Institutes, Tajik Agrarian University (TAU), Tajik Academy of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS) and Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on Component 1: Seeds, Seedlings and Planting Materials and discussion • Presentation on Component 2: Agro-logistic Centers and discussion • Presentation on Component 3: Strengthening the Capacity of Selected Public Institutions for early warning, preparedness and response and discussion
Dushanbe, WebEx meeting	January 21, 2021	PDT, WBG, and Relevant Directorates within the MOA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on fiduciary (procurement and financial) management requirements and discussion

Dushanbe, Presentation, and consultation with key state stakeholders, Webex	January 22, 2021	PDT, WBG task team and Relevant Directorates within the MOA and Committee on Environmental Protection.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion with PDT of Component 3: Strengthening selected public institutions for crises prevention and management • Presentation on the Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) requirements and discussions
Dushanbe, Webex Presentation, and consultation with key state stakeholders	January 27, 2021	PDT, WBG Task Team and representatives of relevant directorates/departments MOA, Representatives of Seed Enterprises, Seed Associations, and relevant stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on Component 1: Seeds, Seedlings and Planting Materials and discussion
Dushanbe, Email exchange, phone calls, meetings	February 11- March 10, 2021	WB, MoA, ACPPMU, TAU, TAAS, Association of Dehkan Farmers, Employers Association, Sarob Cooperative, and other interested parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of E&S risk management instruments: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Environment and Social Management Framework (ESMF), including an assessment of current pest management practices; 2. Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF); 3. Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP); and 4. Labor Management Procedures (LMP).
Face to-face public consultations	April 15-21, 2021	Multi-stakeholder workshops in Dushanbe and Bokhtar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public consultations of the draft ESF instruments
Face to-face a series of meetings and consultations, in Dushanbe	October, 2022	Ministry of Industry and New Technologies of the Republic of Tajikistan, UNICEF, WFP, USAID Healthy Mother Healthy Child Project, GIZ SUN and Center for Development of Entrepreneurship in Agriculture.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of the design and details of sub-components on additional financing
Face to-face public consultations	November, 2022	Multi-stakeholder workshops in Dushanbe and Bokhtar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public consultations of the updated SEP

Several issues were raised during the consultations. First, several sub-projects will have potential negative environmental impacts, mainly because of activities related to small-scale agro-industrial enterprises; small-scale repairs, maintenance and upgrades of various premises or storage facilities. The project takes steps to mitigate these impacts through efficient subproject designs and best practices for implementation.

Secondly, there is a risk of involuntary alienation of land. The project provides for construction work, some new, and others repair and restoration work. New construction will invariably require "plots of land". The government will provide the land; however, due diligence must be carried out on all aspects to ensure that physical and/or economic displacement does not result. The risks associated with this will need to be avoided or mitigated, or if involuntary land acquisition is unavoidable, it will need to be followed up as described in the RPF.

Thirdly, the project drew lessons from previous contacts with relevant stakeholders, and in this regard, not only direct beneficiaries, but also indirect beneficiaries such as dehkan farmers and owners of small households were included in the stakeholder mapping. In addition to direct impacts such as job creation

through selected sub-projects for vulnerable groups, including the poor and women, this project also directly targets secondary beneficiaries and suppliers to increase the multiplier effect of supporting the value chain. The expansion of large-scale horticulture and greenhouse farming facilitated by the upcoming project could negate the involvement of private households, greenhouses, and orchard owners in rural areas, especially those whose main source of income is agriculture

Fourth, special attention should be paid to women, who make up most temporary and seasonal agricultural workers. Women are often employed in positions with lower qualifications. Working on a temporary or occasional basis without a formal contractual relationship entails less job security and less social protection. Wage discrimination can also arise, for example, when using generally accepted norms for remuneration of men and women that are not related to actual labor productivity. In response, the project should develop a gender action plan that summarizes project activities planned to address identified gender gaps.

Fifth, since production in the horticultural sector is much more labor intensive, especially during harvest periods, there is a moderate risk of child labor in project supported areas. To mitigate this risk, the project will work with the ILO and the Ministry of Labor to strengthen the capacity of local governments and regional PMU offices to monitor child labor in target regions.

Sixth, there is a low capacity for active participation among project beneficiaries, as large farms are better off. Technologies to be developed should be friendlier for diverse range of beneficiaries/farmers. Special attention will be paid to channel information through technologies that are accessible also to women farmers.

Overall, 6 virtual meetings and 15 individual phone interviews were held. The participants were medium to large horticulture farmers, large agribusiness entrepreneurs, greenhouse firm representatives, cold storage enterprise managers, mahalla leaders and general population (the latter includes small-holder farmers – of dehkan and household plots, as well as employees of larger farms and agri-business enterprises). The vulnerable groups were represented by the Association of Dehkan Farmers and Sarob Cooperative. Summary of findings from the public consultations and interviews held is described in Section 4.2 below.

Three multi-stakeholder consultations were held on the draft E&S documents prepared for the project at the target regions (Dushanbe and Khatlon) before the Project Appraisal. The participants included professionals from state and non-state organizations and institutions. The main objective of the meetings was to familiarize the participants with the scope of the upcoming project and summarize the potential impacts and risks and mitigation measures planned by the project. Minutes of the consultations held are enclosed in Annex 1.

Meetings and consultations with key stakeholders on Additional Funding

To discuss the details of sub-components on additional financing, the MOA/PMU supported by WB working group held a series of meetings and consultations during October 2022. The focus of meetings was AF project design and approaches on creation of a revolving fund for premix and potassium iodate. Discussions were held with the Ministry of Industry and New Technologies of the Republic of Tajikistan, UNICEF, WFP, USAID Healthy Mother Healthy Child Project, GIZ SUN and Center for Development of Entrepreneurship in Agriculture.

In general, the risk assessment for the components of additional financing remains unchanged, additional focus shall be placed to availability of information and nutrients in the target sites to be covered by the project. Some beneficiaries may remain unaware of the activities of the project due to living in remote areas of the republic. A social inclusion plan shall be widely implemented to increase access to project benefits and investments for a wide range of project beneficiaries.

3.2 Lessons Learned in Engaging Communities / Stakeholders from Previous Projects

Community mobilization and involvement play important roles in ensuring relevance and ownership of interventions. The project draws on the stakeholder engagement experience under several World Bank (WB) and other donor-supported projects¹ to identify effective approaches to citizen engagement.

The State Enterprise “Project Implementation Unit for Agricultural Commercialization Project” (ACP PMU) established under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan currently implements the World Bank funded Agricultural Commercialization Project (ACP), aimed at increasing the commercialization of agriculture by strengthening the ability of the new generation of small-scale, private farmers to engage in commercialization activities within the agribusiness sector and to gain access to markets. The PMU conducts mid-term semiannual assessments to measure socio-economic impacts of the Project and makes necessary adjustments to it. To ensure the proper implementation of the Grievance mechanism (GM) and adherence to the WB Environmental and Social Safeguards Operational Policies the PMU hired a local NGO and installed 80 special grievance boxes in all target areas for receiving stakeholders’ complaints. Periodic assessments helped to improve the GM mechanism that in the first stage of the Project implementation didn’t sufficiently cover regional credit banks, dehqan farms receiving sub-projects through participating financial institutions (PFIs).

The ACP PMU recommends considering the following during project implementation:

- Apply midterm assessments to measure the project progress and make timely adjustments, if needed
- Widely implement, along with existing methods (complaint boxes, PMU website, letters), electronic methods such as e-mail and SMS, as the most reliable anonymous mechanism for submitting complaints and information delivery;
- Widely inform not only direct beneficiaries, but all stakeholders about a GM and the project opportunities from the beginning of the project
- Involve representatives of formal (khukumats, jamoats, land management institutions, etc.) and informal (mahalla committees, associations, NGOs, etc.) structures in the grievance redress commissions at the regional / national levels
- Conduct special seminars for women and girls in rural areas;
- Ensure a smooth transition upon completion of the ACP to implementation of the SRASP in order to save time, material resources and human resources;
- Extend the project implementation period up to 7 years, to ensure sustainability of the SRASP results.

¹ World Bank Agricultural Commercialization Project (ACP), 2015-2021

4. STAKEHOLDER MAPPING, SEGMENTATION AND ANALYSIS

The project will have mostly positive benefits as the interventions will address bottlenecks in the seed/seedling value chain encompassing the public and private sectors and help improve enabling (policy, institutions and regulatory) environment for the seed/seedling sector. The positive social impacts are as follows: a) increased access to better seeds and seedlings will improve productivity, and as such will increase income-generation; b) increased export of horticulture products due to establishments of agri-logistics centers, which will create employment opportunities in rural areas; and c) enhanced early warning and crop forecasting systems will strengthen the institutional capacities for better agrobusiness planning and practices.

The proposed SRASP AF will primarily focus on addressing the short-term emergency needs but will also finance some medium-term investments to enhance food and nutrition security and build resilience. The funds will co-finance project activities planned under the various sub-components of the parent project as well as finance new project activities planned under a new sub-component. As such the grant funds will be used to: i) review the food security law and institutional arrangements for food and nutrition security, ii) develop a food security crisis preparedness plan (FSCPP) within six months of project effectiveness;² iii) support emergency procurement and distribution of improved seeds and fertilizers to the farmers and vulnerable group of society; iv) support the establishment and operationalization of additional ALCs; v) strengthen public capacity for crises prevention and management by a) strengthening livestock early warning systems, and b) improving price information systems, including scaling up of digital technologies and information platforms; vi) complement existing efforts to roll out the IPC methodology; vii) establish a “premix revolving fund” to support the government in procuring and distributing quality micronutrient premixes and potassium iodate for food fortification and capacity building of the agency that will host the national premix revolving fund facility; viii) support the government in the procurement and distribution of micronutrient and vitamin supplements for pregnant and lactating women and young children (6-59 months), and/or ready-to-use therapeutic foods (RUTFs) for children with a risk of severe acute malnutrition, including media and communication campaign on the importance of healthy and diverse diets and of micronutrients intake; consequences of micronutrient deficiencies; good infant and young children feeding (IYCF) practices; and other critical nutrition messages; ix) support the government in the implementation of priority nutrition-sensitive agriculture interventions and enhancing knowledge and capacity of the MOA in nutrition-agriculture programming; x) support the government in addressing acute bottlenecks in food distribution and production systems; xi) develop an M&E framework to provide timely and reliable information to support informed decision-making in managing food security; xii) procure and distribute small agricultural machinery to women farmers to simplify women's manual labor; and xiii) provide training on seed multiplication, seedlings and planting material and the use of small innovative equipment to vulnerable farmers. The proposed measures are currently not financed by the government, and the proposed emergency response will be complementary to other stakeholders' efforts.

The project's primary beneficiaries are farmers, both smallholders and larger farms, agri-businesses, exporters, and service providers operating in horticulture value chains. Primary beneficiaries will also be the staff of public institutions, from agricultural researchers and extension officers to the staff working in various MoA departments and subordinate substructures and in local governments.

ESS 10 recognizes two broad categories of stakeholders: Project Affected Parties and Other Interested Parties. **Project-affected parties (PAPs)** include those likely to be affected by the project because of actual impacts or potential risks to their physical environment, health, security, cultural practices, well-being, or livelihoods. These stakeholders may include individuals or groups, including local communities. They are the individuals or households most likely to observe/feel changes from environmental and social impacts of the project. The term “**Other interested parties (OIPs)**” refers to individuals, groups, or organizations with an interest in the project, which may be because of the project location, its characteristics, its impacts, or

² The preparation of a FSCPP is a requirement under the CRW financing.

matters related to public interest. For example, these parties may include regulators, government officials, the private sector, the scientific community, academics, unions, women’s organizations, other civil society organizations, and cultural groups.

4.1 Stakeholder Mapping

One of the key challenges will be mapping out comprehensively the stakeholder profile and the ‘system’ thereof. This would imply identifying various sub-groups of beneficiaries/actors/functionaries; soliciting their expectations (from the project) and ascertaining the issues and concerns. Results emanating from these enquiries will have to be adjudicated against the existing ‘system’ – policies, programs, legislation, institutions and service deliveries. The stakeholders hence have been classified into three groups, including PAPs, such as MoA subordinate structures, associations and farmers); and other interested parties such as ministries, local governments, IFIs, CSOs, and media and vulnerable groups, including women headed households, women farmers, youth and people with physical disabilities. Table 2 below describes the mapping of the Project stakeholders.

Table 2. Project Stakeholders

PROJECT AFFECTED PARTIES			
Ministry of Agriculture Substructures			
State Enterprise for Testing of Crop Varieties and Variety Protection\	State Unitary Enterprise "Center for Advanced Studies in the Field of Agriculture"	State Crop Protection Center	State Commission for Agricultural Crops Variety Testing
Institutions of Academy of Agricultural Sciences of Tajikistan			
Institute of Horticulture, Viticulture and Vegetable Growing	Ziroatkori Crop Production Institute	Republican National Center for Genetic Resources	Center for Innovation and Mechanization of Agriculture
Tajik Agrarian University (TAU)			
Faculty of Horticulture and Agricultural Biotechnology			
State Committee for Land Management and Geodesy			
Land Cadaster and Management of Land Resources Department			
Dehkan farms and agribusinesses			
Seed producers and nurseries	Cooperative seed farms	Commercial farmers	Smallholder/dehkan farmers
Enterprises, exporters and service providers			
Extension service centers	Wholesale Distribution Centres	Export organizations	Agro-industrial enterprises, fortified products producers
Project affected people			
Individuals and groups, including local communities in target sites, likely to be affected by project impacts	Community members to be affected by land acquisition	Contracted workers	Farmers’ cooperatives, and farming groups formed by ACP.
OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES			
Enabling Ministries and Agencies			
Ministry of Finance	Ministry of Agriculture	Ministry of Labor	Majlisi Namoyandagon Majlisi Oli (Parliament)

Food Safety Committee	Committee for Environmental Protection	State Investments Committee and Immovable Property Management	Committee on Women, and Family Affairs
Tajik Standard	Agency for the Procurement of Goods, Works and Services	Agency for Meteorology	Provincial and local governments, and self-governing bodies
International Financing Institutions and International NGOs			
Food and Agriculture Agency of the United Nations (FAO)	IFC	ADB	Other IFIs, International Organizations/Consulting Firms
JICA	USAID Feed the Future Project	International Labor Organization/IPEC	
National NGOs			
National Association of Dehkan Farms (NADF)	Sarob Cooperative	Agro-service Consulting firms	Other consulting firms
Water Users Associations	Seed Association of Tajikistan	Employers Association	
Media			
Print and broadcast – newspapers, TV channels, radio programs	Electronic Media – web sites, news agencies		Social media – Facebook, Instagram etc.
DISADVANTAGED AND VULNERABLE GROUPS			
Women farmers, Youth, female headed households	Disabled people, who may be physically challenged or handicapped in other ways		Breastfeeding women and parents of infants of 6 up to 59 months.

4.2 Stakeholder Analysis.

Consultation meetings were held with representatives of different stakeholder groups. Project information was shared to evince their expectations and the issues/concerns thereof. These consultations helped in understanding not only the current functioning of the system but also in ascertaining the social issues likely to be addressed by the project. The results so obtained were consolidated and the initial set of impacts likely to occur as a result of the project interventions drawn. Consultations were held that covered a variety of stakeholders in order to identify gaps, risks, and potential actions. The Project beneficiaries and stakeholders will have different expectations from, and issues related to the Project.

Table 3. Expectations, Issues, and Concerns

Project Affected Parties (PAPs)					
1. Group/ Subgroup	2. Expectations from the project	3. Current Status	4. Concerns and issues	5. Significance of Risks	6. Enabling Conditions required
State Enterprise for Testing of Crop Varieties and Variety Protection	Currently there are seven state variety testing stations in the main agro-climatic zones of Tajikistan. Stations located in the districts of Kanibadam, Muminobod, Tursunzade and Spitamen. are expected to be modernized by the project.	<p>Implements testing and protection of crop varieties in accordance with the national legislation</p> <p>Registration for sale does not include protection of the variety under the provisions of plant variety protection. Registration of varieties is only done at the national level. While all varieties sold in Tajikistan are required to be registered, in the past many have not been, including those which were imported. Samples of imported seeds and seedlings are tested, and certificates issued:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. seed quality certificate, 2. plant variety identification certificate 3. Grafting certificate <p>Methods of testing:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Laboratory based 2. Test plots 3. Field testing <p>There are three seed testing laboratories. The main seed laboratory located in Dushanbe, which was renovated by the SIDA-funded project in 2006.</p>	Insufficient funding for infrastructure development and maintenance and human resource management has resulted in the continued deterioration of facilities and the ability of the enterprise to retain capable staff	Moderate	Development of a robust variety and quality certification scheme supported by internationally accepted standards using Laboratory and other testing facilities with the capacity and capability to operate at an international level. A certification scheme guaranteeing origin and quality that could be tracked throughout the stakeholder and consumer chain.

1. Group/ Subgroup	2. Expectations from the project	3. Current Status	4. Concerns and Issues	Signifi- cance of Risks	6. Enabling Conditions required
Republican National Center for Genetic Resources	Being in very poor condition, expects major project investments in construction and equipment of laboratories/ green houses	Responsible for maintenance of plant genetic resources both seed and plants; Produces printed educational materials on plants. Total number of employees is 37, including 20 researchers. Located in Hissor district	As a stakeholder in the support and development of the seed and seedling sectors, research institutes are poorly equipped. There are no laboratories nor greenhouse facilities to facilitate basic technical support in farming technologies, greenhouse cultivation, produce storage, plant pathology, soil chemistry, entomology, plant tissue culture, nor molecular biology. Knowledgebase is poor and restricts development and innovation.	Substantial	Research and development on a sustainable level that is supported not just in terms of infrastructure, but more importantly in the institutional capacity development and capability building of stakeholders. Collaborative research programs for local researchers with international partners.
State Crop Protection Center	Project investments in infrastructure modernization, institutional capacity building	Enacts the crop variety protection rights	Slow action on implementation of existing policies and legislation on seed and planting material.	Moderate	Harmonization of legislation extending the right to crop producers to legally protect their intellectual property.
State Commission for Agricultural Crops Variety Testing	Improvement and harmonization of legislation with regional and international rules for seed certification, variety testing, plant quarantine and variety protection	Evaluation trials generally take at least two years and are reviewed at various crop stages by the State Commission for Agricultural Crops Variety Testing. The trials are evaluated based on the criteria designated by the Commission and may, apart from the basic criteria, include productivity, quality, uniformity, stability and disease resistance. Crops include both open pollinated and hybrids, although in the case of the hybrids only the hybrid itself is evaluated.	The national seed systems continued to face major challenges due to the inadequacy of policy guidelines, weak infrastructure for seed production and certification, lack of technical know-how and experience in seed marketing and seed enterprise management	Substantial	The specific issues need to be addressed: (i) formulation of national seed policies and legislations to ensure efficient cooperation and co-ordination of stakeholders involved in the seed industry; (ii) improvement and harmonization of legislation with regional and international rules for seed certification, variety testing, plant quarantine and variety protection; (iii) human and technical capacity building of national seed sectors

Academy of Agricultural Sciences of Tajikistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of national programs on seeds industry development. • Establishment of complete seeds value chain in the country. • Support capacity building of research institutes and laboratories and 90 local seeds farms\producers throughout the country, including provision of new equipment and machinery, and irrigation water • Seeds production “in vitro” and “in vivo” • Support Center for genetic resources under the Academy to collect and create a bank of unique local seeds for producing \ selection of elite seeds. • Analysis of soil fertility 	<p>Lack of budgetary resources to implement national programs on seeds production. There are 90 local seeds production enterprises, left after the collapse of Soviet Union that operate as a state network under MoA overseeing. However, their material and human capacity is low, and they cannot effectively operate and produce high quality elite seeds. Irrigation water is a big problem on the ground as well.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of professionals in the agriculture structure due to low motivation of working in the sector; • Lack of analytical capacity and insufficient knowledge of modern technologies. • Lack of laboratories, office equipment and technologies; • No analysis of soil fertility • Lack of water for irrigation 	<p>High</p>	<p>Establishment of the project implementation group (PIG) under the MoA</p> <p>Conduct analysis of soil fertility</p> <p>An integrated approach to the implementation of project components</p> <p>Prevent local authorities from interfering in the activities of seed farms</p> <p>Development of a system of continuous training, mentoring and improving employee knowledge and skills</p>
1. Group/ Subgroup	2. Expectations from the project	3. Current Status	4. Concerns and issues	Significance of Risks	6. Enabling Conditions required

<p>Tajik Agrarian University (TAU)</p>	<p>Improved education system in agricultural sphere. Availability of modern educational tools and opportunities;</p> <p>A gradual transition from purchasing elite seeds abroad to growing local elite varieties. Creation of independent and effective seeds value chain in the country.</p> <p>Providing biotechnological laboratories with new equipment for “in vitro” seeds development</p>	<p>Tajik Agrarian University (TAU) named after Sh. Shohtemur, is the focus of university level education on agricultural production in Tajikistan. Established in 1931, it currently has around 6,000 students engaged in Bachelors, Masters and PhD programs; plus 2,500 distance-learning students. The university has 9 departments. ACP PMU organized 3 study tours on new curricula development to Belgium for the Tajik Agrarian University staff within the WB funded ACP.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change • Political stability in the region (Afghanistan) • Increase in prices for imported elite seeds and equipment • Inability to obtain equipment and seeds from abroad due to quarantine • Lack of cadres 	<p>High</p>	<p>Capacity building of all stakeholders in the system, starting with university professors, research institutes, laboratories, service providers, and farmers</p> <p>Develop infrastructure in support of R&D including laboratories for plant pathology, tissue culture, molecular breeding, soil science, plant physiology, support for training programs, staff retention, sustainability.</p>
<p>Seed producers and nurseries</p>	<p>Access to high quality material for commercial production</p> <p>Access to knowhows</p>	<p>Seed produced for sale is either done by individuals and farmers or are produced at facilities registered as businesses for the production of seed. There are 90 such facilities currently in operation, located in Khatlon (42), Sughd (28), the Districts of Republican Subordination (17), and GBAO (3). Of these 90 facilities, 46 are engaged solely in cotton seed production, 13 in wheat and cotton, 16 in potato seed, nine in various cereals, three in vegetables, two in lucerne and one in both cotton and vegetables.</p>	<p>Most seed production facilities and nurseries are poorly equipped necessitating substantial investments in storage facilities, seed cleaning and processing equipment, farm machinery and human resource development.</p> <p>There are no restrictions on seed production, the vast majority being done by private seed producers. While all seed sold must be through registered organizations, this is not the norm considering the prevalence of trading of farmer saved seed, the quality of which is very low. Only 60% of the seed producers produce acceptable quality seeds. This is largely due to their substandard location (climate, soil), management, and access to inputs such as fertilizers, mechanization, insecticides, herbicides, etc. The level of knowledge in the cultivation of crops, other than cereals and cotton, is limited and seed production management and expertise are also poor.</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Main elements of support should include: (i) construction and/or rehabilitation of storage facilities, office and laboratory buildings, greenhouses, and rehabilitation of existing irrigation facilities; (ii) procurement of office furniture, field and laboratory equipment, vehicles and farm machinery; (iii) consultancy services in support of capacity and capability assessment; (iv) capacity building of technicians, consulting support services; and (v) purchase of super elite and elite seed, seedlings and planting material of high value</p>

1. Group/ Subgroup	2. Expectations from the project	3. Current Status	4. Concerns and issues	Significance of Risks	6. Enabling Conditions required
Dehkan farms and small agribusinesses	Expansion of large horticulture and greenhouse farming facilitated by the upcoming project may squeeze out the participation of the private household greenhouse and orchard owners in rural areas, especially those whose main source of income is farming.	Private household greenhouse owners Private smallholder orchard owners Because of the low quality of locally produced seed, farmers have a preference for seed of imported varieties, however, access to imports is limited due to the cost	Lack of appropriate infrastructure including energy supply (natural gas) for horticulture practices e.g. greenhouses remains as one of the biggest constraints for smallholder/dehkan farmers. In addition, they can only sell their products in the local market, as they don't have external market information, and produce low quantity and relatively poor quality of goods. In order to export the fruits and vegetables, farmers are required to provide certificates which confirm the originality of the plants and seeds. However, smallholder/dehkan farmers cannot buy these certificates since they are too costly for them, and thus will not be able to export their products. They also encounter very high formalities and difficult procedures in preparing official documents for bank loan applications since they don't have sufficient collateral and creditworthiness.	Substantial	The project focus on public services, such as extension services and support to farmer cooperatives, can help smallholder farmers improve quality of production and via cooperation, access finance. Transparent information on project activities and benefits with outreach targeted at a broad circle of potential beneficiaries, including by using different social media channels, and face-to-face support for agro-experts Promote establishment of cooperatives to comprise small dehkan farms to afford costly certificates.
Rural women groups, women farmers	To have access to the project benefits, investments, income generating activities and trainings	Women with no skills (school education only). Women engaged in seasonal agriculture. Women with secondary vocational education. Single mothers/Female headed households.	Women comprise most of the casual and temporary workers in agriculture. Women are often employed in lower-skill positions; they also face additional obstacles to acquiring permanent jobs due to childcare and family obligations. Working on temporary or casual basis with no formal contractual relationships, entails they have less job security and are less socially protected. Wage discrimination may also occur, for example, by using commonly accepted norms for wages for men and women that are not related to actual productivity. Women are more vulnerable to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment	Medium to high	In addition to mitigation measures included in the project LMP and ESMF, the project will raise awareness of labor standards, equity and non-discrimination requirements, SEA/SH risks and mitigation measures. These will also be included in project information materials, consultations and information campaigns

			(SEA/SH) at the workplace that can also affect their job security, productivity, health, and well-being.		
Enterprises, exporters and service providers, fortified products producers	Many commercial farms mentioned that they had ready business plans to expand their investments in different agriculture sectors but current interest rates on operating loans from commercial banks are too high for them. Furthermore, the short-term nature of the current loans makes it increasingly difficult for agribusiness entrepreneurs and large-scale intensive orchard owners to pay back loans on time. Banks require the farmers to put their properties as a collateral. However, it takes about 6 months for horticulture products to be ready for sale, and farmers, in most cases, cannot pay credits during these 6 months. They expect longer-term loans with lower interest rates.	Large intensive horticulture farmers Large agribusiness entrepreneurs Entrepreneurs engaged in greenhouse farming Large cold-storage enterprises	Technology inputs and support, especially for the cultivation of vegetables in greenhouses, produce storage, rely solely on the private sector through individual enterprises, imported agriculture supplies and local distributors and retailers.	Substantial	A nationwide system of demonstration farms in support of technology and information transfer to stakeholders including seed and planting material producers, extension officers and farmers, furthering the profitability of the sectors.
Breastfeeding women and households with infants of 6 up to 59 months.	Breastfeeding women and children at risk will have access to project benefits. Improvement in national nutrition results is expected.	More than 8% of children in Tajikistan are underweight and 6% are starved. Only 40% of children aged 6-23 months receive optimal food variety and frequency of meals.	Stunting, malnutrition, lack of vitamins and minerals are the main problems affecting the life and health of children in Tajikistan.	Medium to high.	Establishing an enabling governance environment to ensure coordinated and coherent multisectoral action on nutrition; defining overall nutrition goals and multisectoral actions to achieve them; improved focus on nutrition; focus on women and their

					empowerment.
Population of the Republic of Tajikistan	<p>It is expected to provide the population with flour and salt enriched with iodine.</p> <p>Integration of agricultural extension services with nutritional information, such as promoting the production and consumption of local foods rich in folic acid</p>	<p>Stunting rates in Tajikistan are the highest in the Central Asia region, and rates of micronutrient deficiencies, including anemia, vitamin A, folic acid deficiency, and iodine deficiency, remain very high and are serious public health problems</p>	<p>Stunting, malnutrition, lack of vitamins and minerals are the main problems affecting the life and health of children in Tajikistan.</p>	<p>Medium to high.</p>	<p>Establishment of a centralized supply of premixes for food fortification by establishing a “revolving fund” for premixes (specifically micronutrients and potassium iodate/iodine) and providing “seed funds for premixes”</p>

Other Interested Parties					
1. Group/ Subgroup	2. Expectations from the project	3. Current Status	4. Concerns and issues	Significance of Risks	6. Enabling Conditions required
Ministry of Agriculture Central Apparatus and its Departments	<p>Timely and effective implementation of all Components of the Strengthening Resilience of the Agriculture Sector in Tajikistan Project, 2022-2027</p> <p>Improve policy and legal environment for development of vibrant and resilient seed, seedling and planting material systems.</p> <p>Develop internal primary seed production.</p> <p>Enhance capacity of existing seeds producers, research institutes and</p>	<p>The MoA develops comprehensive sectoral and regional programs aimed at development of agriculture sector, food security, increase employment and rural incomes, maintain a stable level of prices for food products in the domestic market.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timely and effective targeted disbursement of funds • Lack of qualified personnel at all levels of the project implementation • Selection of qualified service providers <p>Current agricultural challenges related to the project specifics are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited access to high quality seeds; • Low capacity of local seeds producers, research institutes; • Lack of storage facilities for agriculture products; • Outdated equipment and technologies in existing laboratories and research institutes; • Limited access to/lack of quality fertilizers; <p>Lack of laboratories specialized in the production of quality seeds, in identification of seed diseases and treatment and/or prevention</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Establishment of the project implementation group (PIG) under the MoA</p> <p>Capacity building of all involved in the project implementation structures at the national and local levels, including the project implementation unit, employees of research institutes, laboratories, seeds producers, farmers</p> <p>Ensure selection of qualified service providers</p> <p>Ongoing monitoring and technical support from the WB</p>

	<p>laboratories, support them by modern equipment and machinery/techniques.</p> <p>Construction of new laboratories, rehabilitation of research infrastructure, irrigation facilities and greenhouses.</p> <p>Construction of three or more ALCs</p>		of these diseases.		
<p>State Enterprise “Project Implementation Unit for Agriculture Commercialization Project” (ACP PMU)</p>	<p>Capacity building and support of local state and private seed producers. Production of local high-quality seeds that meet market requirements. Construction and effective operation of three agro-logistical centers (ALCs) one each in Khatlon, Sughd, and Dushanbe regions tailored to the regional market opportunities and needs to establish an efficient distribution system network in Tajikistan</p> <p>Capacity building of MoA structures in the regions</p>	<p>Implementing agency for WB-funded ACP, 2015-June 2021. Up to date: trained 102 local trainers on selected products value chain; established 545 farming groups (13 591 beneficiaries, including 6 524 women (48%); developed business models on agricultural products production and post-harvest activities-processing, storage, packaging (with international partner support NIRAS Sweden AB); signed 342 commercial partnership contracts; trained 1238 women and girls in production and storage of agricultural products; implemented 112 grants (47% women);</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality seeds are needed to ensure food security. Whether imported seeds will be adapted to the conditions of the country is under the question. • Preparatory period of a new project, including preparation of all requested documents may take up to 2 years. The project period may not be enough for effective implementation of all the tasks. • Current PMU staff have no experience with WB’s new ESF requirements. To comply with them E&S consultants should be also recruited at the regional PMU units. 	High	<p>Ensure a smooth transition upon completion of the ACP to implementation of the new project in order to save time, material and human resources;</p> <p>Extend the project implementation period up to 7 years, to ensure sustainability of the SRASP results.</p> <p>Increase number of specialists, up to 6 at the regional units of the PMU, including technical specialists, E&S consultants;</p> <p>Establish effective cooperation between all stakeholders on the national and local levels, between private farms/enterprises and MoA and scientific entities</p>
<p>Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Republic of Tajikistan</p>	<p>Maintaining multi-sectoral mechanisms for coordinating nutrition activities at the national and subnational levels (oblast, city and district), including the appointment</p>	<p>The Ministry of Health is responsible for the timely development of a plan for the distribution of vitamins and trace elements, and distribution through primary health care institutions</p>	<p>Distribution of micronutrients and vitamin supplements for pregnant and lactating women and children (6-59 months).</p> <p>Distribution of micronutrients and vitamin supplements will be distributed through primary health care facilities of the MOHSP.</p>	Moderate	<p>Development of a plan for the distribution of vitamins and trace elements.</p> <p>Development of informative booklets and awareness campaigns</p>

	of representatives (nutrition coordinators)		<p>The micronutrient distribution activities will be accompanied by a media campaign.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information will be provided on the importance of a healthy and varied diet and micronutrient intake; the consequences of micronutrient deficiencies; infant and young child feeding practices (IYCF); and other important messages. 		
Ministry of Industry and New Technologies, Economic Development and Trade	<p>Creation of a revolving fund of centralized supplies of potassium iodate for existing salt producers. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> approval of the revolving fund; creation of a financial plan and a revolving fund mechanism 	<p>The Ministry of Industry and New Technologies, Economic Development and Trade is responsible for the creation and implementation of a plan to establish a revolving fund for premixes.</p>	<p>Creation of a “revolving fund” for premixes and potassium iodate for the purpose of centralized supply of premix and potassium iodate to Tajikistan for wheat flour fortification and salt iodization, which will be purchased from flour mills and edible salt producers.</p>	Moderate to significant	<p>The environment for project work: a) includes the laying of information protocols that form a set of values for future project beneficiaries. b) providing access to the necessary equipment for the sale and creating the prerequisites for the formation of a revolving fund for premixes. c) involvement of sectoral experts to develop the structure of the revolving fund.</p>
Committee for Environmental Protection	<p>While temporary and local, environmental risks may include soil loss related to planting activities; temporary, construction related, air or water pollution, or mishandling of pesticides. Such risks are expected to be reversible, short-term, and easily mitigable.</p>	<p>The CEP mandate is to coordinate policies and investments on sustainable natural resource management, climate change mitigation and adaptation, environmental monitoring & awareness. It issues environmental permits and conducts environmental expertise for any civil works subprojects.</p>	<p>Potential for pesticide use in different sub-projects, but that use is expected to be well defined and easily mitigable with proper pest management plans.</p> <p>Works related risks are likely to occur during the construction phase (occupational health and safety hazards, generation of solid waste, air pollution and noise, disruption of traffic, etc.) and are easily managed and mitigated.</p> <p>Increased exposure of farmers and their families to dangerous agrochemicals could also be considered as a significant risk.</p>	Moderate to substantial	<p>Development and implementation of ESMF, site specific ESMPs for small rehabilitation works, ESIA for new constructions and a Pest Management Plan, covering the whole project.</p>
Ministry of Labor,	<p>Labor risks are considered limited because all project</p>	<p>The Labor Inspection under the MoLEM has primary</p>	<p>Non-regular labor audits and inspections of state organizations are conducted;</p>	Moderate	<p>The MoA will develop and implement Labor</p>

Employment and Migration	workers, other than civil servants assigned for project implementation at the PMU are government by the mutually agreed labor contracts.	responsibility for overseeing labor conditions, occupational health and safety.	Use of child labor, forced or conscripted labor is prohibited in the project No measures to prevent Sexual Exploitation, Abuse/ Harassment (SEA/H) at work are included in labor contracts according to the national legislation.		Management Procedures (including measures on occupational health and safety and Code of Conduct for all project staff, workers and consultants) for the project.
Tajik Standard	The project will improve seed quality standards and enhance their compliance to the international standards Capacity of relevant stakeholders is increased to comply with national seed quality standards and certification	Key function is to ensure that, products manufactured locally in the country and those imported into the country are standardized. Tajik Standard assesses products with a view to ascertain their conformity to standard and specification.	Registration of varieties is only done at the national level. While all varieties sold in Tajikistan are required to be registered, in the past many have not been, including those which were imported. Tajik standard has regional offices to facilitate certification and standardization processes at the regional level.	Moderate	Improvement and harmonization of national legislation and practices with regional and international rules for seed certification, variety testing, plant quarantine and variety protection
State Procurement Agency (SPA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance the institutional capacity of the MoA in e-procurement of goods, services, and works to be procured under the project Improving the mechanisms for the exchange of information between state bodies and organizations. 	Controls over the implementation of state procurement of goods, services and works by the state organizations Builds the capacity of state procurement staff Conducts international tenders and monitors the compliance to the national legislation	Low penetration of technologies and lack of digitization in rural areas; Low investment attractiveness of the sector; Insufficient number of procurement staff countrywide; SPA maintains a separate registration database for national service and good providers	Substantial	Preparation, disclosure and implementation of the Project Procurement Strategy for Development Use of large-scale data-matching systems to detect inaccurate reporting between the state agencies
Regional and local executive bodies	Would like to know much more project details along with their expected roles and responsibilities in project implementation. Interested in construction of agro-logistical centers and laboratories in their territories	Responsible for socio-economic development of territories and development of business entities. District khukumats are also key actors in provision of local services, such as electricity, water, maintenance of road network, issuance of relevant permits and land allocation issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not know details of the project investments and the requirements thereof. Lack of capacity in terms of personnel. 	Moderate	Engage them during project activities design and implementation, solicit their support in public outreach and stakeholder engagement Enroll their staff in capacity building activities

<p>National CSOs, agrobusiness associations, women business associations, agro-consulting companies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperate in terms of timely raising awareness and capacity building of farmers and seed producers on seed production innovations; • Promote extension services and render support to players along the value chain; • Facilitate feedback mechanisms to strengthen relationships with project beneficiaries and project implementation unit. • Voice the challenges faced by vulnerable farmers, with special attention to the needs of women and disabled 	<p>There are wide range of service CSOs, associations and consulting firms functioning in agricultural sector. They have established good partnerships with the MoA under the ACP. Their institutional capacity is sufficient to facilitate the project activities in rural areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited donor and state funding; • Beneficiary surveys results are not publicized and not used to enhance services; • All gatherings and activities should be agreed prior implementation with local governments; • Constant monitoring of CSO activities and funding received from donor organizations by the justice authorities; • Poor engagement of NGOs in public consultations on the agricultural reforming agenda; • Limited third-party monitoring (TPM) practices to assess the performance and verify the goods and services offered by the Government under the donor funded projects. 	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Partnership agreements with CSOs/firms to provide outreach and capacity building services on (a) development and implementation of a public education campaign and training and educational programs for farmers; (b) creating a system to provide timely, high-quality advisory services to farmers; (c) improving and scaling up operations of the ALCs.</p> <p>Engage CSOs in TPM activities.</p>
<p>Media</p>	<p>Cooperate in terms of timely raising awareness of ongoing reforms and project accomplishments; Promote farmers willingness to use the certified new seeds and seedlings and modernized methodologies to improve productivity and raise food security.</p>	<p>Wide range of national and local media outputs are available, especially popular in rural areas where the internet access is limited.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beneficiary Survey results have not been disclosed and disseminated; • Limited partnerships with national mass media outlets, as the MoA has its own state-owned national newspaper; • High censorship on behalf of the state authorities; • Blocked public access to online resources of some media institutions. 	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Partnership agreements with state establishments to provide outreach and capacity building services on development and implementation of a public education campaign using multiple communication channels including new media (social media, mobile) and mass media; updating and enhancing MoA websites</p>

4.3 Disadvantaged and Vulnerable Groups

As per ESS10, it is particularly important to understand project impact and whether it create equitable opportunities accessible to the vulnerable and disadvantaged groups or disproportionately fall on them. These groups often do not have a voice to express their concerns or understand the impact of a project.

Women dominate in the agriculture sector, due to men labor migration, but their participation tends to be mostly informal, seasonal, low-wage, or unpaid. Other disadvantaged groups include disabled people, who may be physically challenged or handicapped in other ways. They would not be able to benefit from the project without assistance.

Human, financial, and social capital constraints as well as traditions and norms hinder women employment and leadership opportunities in the agriculture sector. Although there are many different types of associations and groups in the agriculture sector, ranging from self-support groups to formal dehkan groups, very few women participate in them. This is an unfortunate participation rate because these (informal and formal) groups deliver extension, training, and even credit. This is reflected also in women's use of new technologies and access to productive resources and information, which are lower than men. Female-headed households are also less likely to own their assets (instead they share equipment, or rent), and they use less inputs in their land. Constraints on women's access to and control over resources, such as technologies and inputs, limit the success and sustainability of development. Deep seated perceptions and social norms about male and female roles in the household and agriculture cast women as lacking skills and knowledge either as farmers or farm managers. Lastly, even though men are absent from their households and farms, this does not always translate into women's increase in decision making. The composition of extended rural households, other male relatives, migrant males still taking decisions for the farm, do not allow for meaningful assumption of a decision-making role for many women.³

Child labor is used in many sectors and activities. Considering that the majority of population of Tajikistan lives in rural areas and is involved in the agriculture sector, most of the working children reside in rural areas. In 2004 the proportion of children involved in cotton-picking campaigns in different districts varied from 20.4 percent to 71.9 percent from the overall number of schoolchildren. The Government of Tajikistan has increased its efforts to prohibit the use of child labor in the cotton harvest. The turning point in this process came in April 2009, when President Rahmon gave a speech to the Tajik parliament, the Majlisi Oli, on the topic, and categorically stated that 'local governments in provinces, cities, and districts are mandated to categorically refrain from involving students and children in field work, especially in the cotton harvest.' Following efforts made by the Government of Tajikistan and pressure exerted by foreign governments and international bodies, the past few years appear to have seen a drop in the overall use of child labor in the cotton harvest.

Cotton Monitoring and Research Campaign implemented by the International Organization for Migration during 2010-2013 provided immediate and targeted support to the Government of Tajikistan's efforts to remove cases of labor violations from the harvest. During the 2013 campaign no cases were identified in which children were skipping school to participate in the cotton harvest. Some children identified in the field picking cotton on Sundays, while others did so a few hours a day after their school classes.⁴

Over the past decade, ILO's third-party monitoring (TPM) has demonstrated Tajikistan's major progress in eradicating child labor and forced labor in the country. The Child Labor Monitoring System (CLMS) in Tajikistan has been developed in phases and piloted during 2008-2018, and it has become one of the main factors in decreasing the number of working children and eliminating the worst forms of child labor. Analysis of the activities of the child labor monitoring committees or commissions within local governments have demonstrated that it is more efficient to monitor child labor at the level of administrative districts.

³ USAID. 2014. *AgTCA Tajikistan: Agricultural Technology Commercialization Assessment*. USAID Enabling Agricultural Trade (EAT) project. June 2014.

⁴ https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/tajikistan_cotton_2013annualassessment_final.pdf

5. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

5.1 Purpose and timing of stakeholder engagement program

The project interventions are countrywide; therefore, the project team needs to be strategic in designing the SEP. The project stakeholder engagement activities need to be streamed horizontally and vertically. The horizontal stream implies an engagement with stakeholders at the national level. Activities on the horizontal level are assumed to improve awareness and coordination of efforts in the agriculture sector of the country. Whereas vertical stream implies the application of cascading mode which will allow the project to establish the communication with project-affected parties. As part of SEP the project will finance activities to improve the system of beneficiaries' outreach and education: development and delivery of training courses and modules in different formats, which among other things, will promote and embed formal and regular consultation with farmers, civil society, and other stakeholders. The outreach and education activities will provide specific stakeholder groups with relevant information and opportunities to voice their views on topics that matter to them.

5.2 Proposed strategy for information disclosure

The outreach and education approaches will be expanded by development and delivery of training courses and modules for (a) personnel involved in the development of policy and legal provisions as well as strategies and development programs; (b) research and academic institutes, including short-term training for researchers and technical assistants, workshops and knowledge sharing visits; (c) technicians of existing seed production and multiplication facilities, consulting support services and other associated personnel through participation in individually targeted training (both short and long-term), workshops, and conferences; (d) capacity building of potential management staff for operation and management of agro-logical centers (ALCs) through specialized trainings; technical assessments, workshops, and study tours. (e) strengthening the capacity of relevant public institutions on soil fertility management and locust control.

Website coverage

The SEP and other ESF instruments have been disclosed at the MoA website on April 8, 2021. Currently MoA website (<http://www.moa.tj>) is being used to disclose project related information in Tajik and Russian. The project will include enhancing the MoA website. The MoA will create a webpage on the Project on its existing website. All future project-related monitoring reports listed in the above sections will be disclosed on this webpage. Project updates will also be posted on the homepage of MoA website. The updated SEP and site-specific ESF instruments will be disclosed at the MOA website.

Mass/social media communication

PMU Social Development Specialist is responsible for maintaining close communication with media. The PMU representative will be responsible for posting relevant information on the dedicated MoA webpage, social media channels and on information boards throughout the project's lifecycle. PMU will also inform citizens about the project progress through radio & TV programs.

Communication materials

Written information will be disclosed to the public via a variety of communication materials including articles in newspapers, brochures, flyers, posters, etc. A public relations kit will be designed specifically and distributed both in print and online form. MoA will also update its website regularly with key project updates and reports on the project's performance in Tajik, Russian and English. The website will also provide information about the grievance mechanism for the project.

Information Desks

Information Desks in target regions and districts will provide information on stakeholder engagement activities, project interventions, contact details of the focal point, etc. The focal point, in turn, will set up these information desks, either in their offices or other easily accessible places where they can meet and share information about the project with PAPs and other stakeholders. Brochures and fliers on various project related social and environmental issues will be made available at these information desks. The E&S

documents prepared for the project will be also physically available in the local language at the information desks in the target regions and districts.

5.3 Proposed strategy for consultations

Beneficiary Perceptions Surveys (mid-term and end of the project)

The Project has been designed to support mechanisms for citizen engagement. It will finance periodic assessments to measure the progress and make necessary adjustments to the project, including mid-term, and end of project surveys and studies to be carried out by independent specialists that will be recruited under the proposed Project. Semi-annual joint implementation support missions with representatives from WB and GoT will ensure compliance with legal covenants and implementation progress. A mid-term review will be undertaken three years after project effectiveness to review progress and, if necessary, adjust project design.

Focus Group Discussions

Focus group discussions will be primarily conducted with the women engaged in agriculture on the ground, to gather their perspective on their specific needs and issues that women encounter as they navigate the work environment. In a well-facilitated FGD, a discussion between participants is possible that enables to record voices expressing the risks, barriers and needs from their perspective. This forum will provide a more dynamic environment for women to express their viewpoints on the relevant issues. The results of the FGD will form part of a gender gap analysis to promote equal opportunities and help increase female participation in all levels.

Grievance Mechanism (GM)

In compliance with the World Bank's ESS10, a project-specific grievance mechanism will be set up to handle complaints and issues, and this will be integrated into the GM country system that are available to citizens. Dedicated communication materials (specifically, a GM brochure or pamphlet) will be developed to help residents become familiar with the grievance redress channels and procedures. Locked suggestion/complaint boxes will be posted in regional PMU offices and selected national service provider (local NGO) will maintain a grievance register in order to capture and track grievances from submission to resolution and communication with complainants.

Also, details about the Project Grievance Mechanism will be posted on the MoA website. An online feedback mechanism will also function as a grievance mechanism, allowing data-users to provide comments or lodge complaints. Contact details of the PMU representative will also be made available on the MoA website.

5.4 Proposed strategy to incorporate the view of vulnerable groups

The SRASP will focus on closing two gender gaps (low use of new technologies and of agricultural inputs) and on contributing to reducing gender stereotypes in the agriculture sector. The project will address gender disparities in the agriculture that hamper female productivity and entrepreneurship: (i) under Component 1, by promoting gender-inclusive development of technology (e.g. consideration of both male and female physiques; mechanization of women's traditional tasks in agriculture, such as weeding); (ii) under Component 2, by taking into consideration how accessible agro-logistics centers are for women entrepreneurs. Prospective contractors will be responsible for suggesting in their bidding documents ways to make ALCs female-friendly (e.g. by providing for childcare options, etc.); and under Component 3 by paying attention to channel information through technologies that are accessible also to women farmers and agri-entrepreneurs. The project will contribute to reducing gender biases in agriculture by incorporating in capacity building messages that do not confine women to defined gender roles and social expectations. Within three months of the project effectiveness date, the Project will develop the Gender Action Plan, which summarizes the project actions planned to fill in the gender gaps identified.

Based on the experience of the Agricultural Commercialization Project (ACP), the new project will ensure inclusion of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups throughout the project activities. Within the ACP a training series on "Production and storage of food (agricultural products) and its diversity" were implemented for women, labor migrants, housewives, women, and people with disabilities. In total, 1238

women and girls were covered by the training activities. Overall, the ACP's indicator was no less than 30% of the project beneficiaries should be women and 15% young people (age 18-35). Similar approach will be applied by the follow-on project.

The new project will undertake stakeholder engagement activities to ensure that these groups are not disproportionately affected and have equal opportunity in partaking in project benefits. Such activities will include awareness and information campaigns including targeting women and mahalla-level meetings which community members of all backgrounds can join, distributing information materials through multiple channels such as media, social media, and mahalla leaders, emphasizing the rules and principles of equity and non-discrimination for example in relation to employment opportunities in all training and consultation activities. Where ethnic and linguistic minorities are present, the project will ensure that information materials and consultations are accessible in the simple language common to the local groups. Where gender balanced consultations cannot be ensured, the project will undertake separate consultations with women in order to record and consider their feedback, questions, and concerns. Community liaison officers will identify, map, and ensure tailored outreach to women, disabled, socially or spatially isolated communities to ensure that they are aware and able to participate in project-related activities. This may include, for instance, tailored information meetings for small farmers, female farmers on benefitting from project-financed services (such as extension and advisory services), support to farmer cooperatives to link to export value chains, mahalla-level meetings on project benefits for farmers as well as the broader community, among others. Such meetings and consultations will highlight project commitments with regard to good environmental, social, labor/OHS, and stakeholder engagement practices, as well as explain the project grievance mechanism to raise awareness on the above among vulnerable groups and their communities.

A listing of disadvantaged groups and/or individuals may be by the following associations and unions:

- a. Dehkhan farmers with low skills/experience and women farmers may be represented by the National Association of Dekhan Farms (NADF)
- b. Disabled farmers may be represented by the Association of Disabled People of Tajikistan.

Ultimately the objective of engaging with the different categories of stakeholders above is to create an atmosphere of understanding that actively involves project-affected people and other stakeholders in a timely manner, and that these groups are provided sufficient opportunity to voice their opinions and concerns that may influence Project decisions.

The project will also support measures to ensure no forced labor and child labor are used within the project activities. The mitigation measures will include engagement of district level children rights departments in raising awareness of local dehkhan farms on legal restrictions on the use of child labor; and capacity building of regional project offices (RPOs) in monitoring of child and forced labor at the project sites. For this purpose, PMU will collaborate with specialists from the International Labor Organization (ILO) and labor inspectors from the Ministry of Labor, Migration and Employment (MoLME) to: (i) provide regular trainings to local governments and RPO staff on labor practices and use of monitoring tools; (ii) monitor and report on any cases identified; and (iii) implement a public awareness campaign on labor rights, practices, and grievance mechanisms. The PMU will build an internal communications channel with MoLME's State Supervision Service to report on cases of forced and child labor submitted through the Project's GM and facilitate the investigation process. The PMU will also continue to engage with the Employers' Association Republic of Tajikistan and National Association of Dehkhan Farms of Tajikistan to raise awareness of farmers and agricultural employers on legal restrictions on the use of child labor and forced labor.

5.5 Timeline of SEP for the Parent Project and its AF

Keeping the above in mind, following is the tentative work plan and timeline:

Table 4. Proposed tentative strategy for stakeholder engagement activities during implementation

Activity	Purpose	Stakeholders	Responsible	Timeline/ Frequency
Design Stage				
Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meetings	(i) establishing policy guidelines and providing overall oversight and strategic guidance; (ii) review of project's progress towards the PDO, (iii) review and approve the Annual Work Plans and Budgets (AWP&Bs) submitted by the PMU, (iv) review and approve annual implementation performance report prepared by the PMU and overseeing the implementation of corrective actions, and (v) ensure inter-ministerial coordination, harmonization and alignment among donors.	Representatives of relevant ministries, agencies and MOA substructures, farmer associations	MoA	First half of Year 1
Project Technical Committee (PTC) meetings	The PSC will be assisted by a project technical committee (PTC) to be established. The PTC will be responsible for providing technical advice to the PMU on the quality of implementation reports and special studies, guidelines, documentation of best practices, and M&E reports under the project's responsibilities providing recommendations and advising on improvement.	The PTC will be chaired by the Deputy MoA and represented by technical experts from various entities involved in project implementation.	MoA/PMU	Quarterly, on needed basis
Interdepartmental Coordinating Council on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor (ICC)	Performance on implementation of the National Program for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor and the results of statistical surveys, evaluation	The ICC includes representatives of the MoLEM, MoES, MoH, MoJ, MoIA, MoF, MoA,	Ministry of Labor, Employment and Migration	First half of Year 1

Activity	Purpose	Stakeholders	Responsible	Timeline/ Frequency
	and monitoring are considered during its sessions.	National Children’s Rights Commission, Children’s Rights Ombudsman, Statistics Agency, Federation of Independent Trade Unions, Employers’ Association, Women Committee, Youth Committee, international organizations, interdepartmental commissions, and CSOs		
Consultative meetings with relevant stakeholders at the regional and local levels: share and consult with the relevant stakeholders on matters related to the planned project activities, provide them with regular briefs, and solicit their views on future envisioned actions.	The objective is to strengthen effective public consultations, incorporate the board’s views into the project design, and thereby ensuring a proper implementation of the project Components.	Dehkan farms, seeds producers, agribusiness representatives, respective NGOs and associations	PMU/selected national service provider	Quarterly, on needed basis
Beneficiary Perceptions Surveys	To facilitate independent feedback from a wide range of stakeholders on the project interventions progress and effectiveness.	All stakeholders (disaggregated by gender to better tailor interventions)	PMU/MoA	Mid-term and end of the project
Development of public awareness campaigns	To address the social exclusion risk.	All stakeholders from private sector.	PMU	Continuously throughout project implementation
Focus group discussions, including separate ones with rural women/female farmers	To learn about women’s and disabled people’s issues and needs. To develop a Gender Action Plan	Women farmers, agriculture workers.	PMU/recruited NGO	During the first year During Quarter 1
Community awareness and information campaigns	To raise community awareness on the potential E&S impacts and risks and mitigation measures to comply with ESS10	Community members in target districts	Local governments, mahalla leaders, PMU Regional office	During the first year of the project implementation.
Public consultations, social screening, and social census, if needed	To identify the resettlement impacts and mitigate them based on the RPF in compliance with ESS5	Project affected community members	PMU Regional office	As soon as the technical designs for sub-projects are finalized

Activity	Purpose	Stakeholders	Responsible	Timeline/ Frequency
Training on monitoring of child and forced labor at the project sites	To build the capacity of regional project offices (RPOs) and local governments in monitoring of child and forced labor at the project sites	RPO staff and representatives of the target local governments	PMU in collaboration with ILO staff and Child Labor Monitoring Unit under the State Agency on Labor and Employment	During the first year of the project implementation.
Consultative meetings with relevant stakeholders at the regional and local levels: exchange of information and consultations with relevant stakeholders on issues related to planned activities project, providing a regular briefing, and determining their views on future proposed actions.	The goal is to enhance effective consultation with the public, consider the opinion of the board of directors in the development of the project and thereby ensure the proper implementation of the project components.	Vulnerable groups of the population in need of nutrition adjustment, due to the lack of vitamins and trace elements in the diet, including lactating women and infants.	Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population, MOA, PMU	During the implementation of the subproject
Community outreach campaigns to raise awareness through dissemination of educational materials and information resources for nutrition education.	To inform the population about the action and timing of the subproject, about the benefits of good nutrition and timely consumption of microelements in the diet.	All stakeholders of the subproject.	Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population, MOA, PMU	During the implementation of the subproject
Construction Stage				
Community awareness campaigns	To keep informed about the upcoming and ongoing civil works	All stakeholders at national and local level	MoA/PMU/NGO	Based on annual plan timelines
Information campaign on legal restrictions on the use of child labor	Raising awareness on legal restrictions on the use of child labor	Local contractors, dehqan farms	PMU/RPO/Local Governments/Associations	Before the launch of any civil works, upon completion of the capacity building trainings for local governments
Monitoring of the use of child labor and LMP implementation at the project sites	To comply with ESS2	Local contractors	PMU/RPO/Local Governments/Associations	During civil works
Monitoring of ESMP implementation	To comply with ESS1	Contracted vendors and contractors		

Beneficiary Perception Survey	To facilitate independent feedback from a wide range of stakeholders on the project interventions progress and effectiveness.	All stakeholders (disaggregated by gender to better tailor interventions)	PMU/MoA	Mid-term of the project
Operations Stage				
Stakeholder awareness, education, and consultations campaigns	To keep informed about the project achievements; to improve knowledge and skills in respective agriculture sphere	All stakeholders at national and local level	MoA/PMU/NGO	Based on annual plan timelines
Beneficiary Perception Survey	To facilitate independent feedback from a wide range of stakeholders on the project interventions progress and effectiveness.	All stakeholders (disaggregated by gender to better tailor interventions)	PMU/MoA	End of the project
Implementation of public awareness campaigns	To address the social exclusion risk, labor rights & practices, and grievance mechanism.	All stakeholders from private sector.	PMU/RPOs, local governments, associations	Continuously throughout project implementation

6. RESOURCES AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR IMPLEMENTING STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

6.1 Resources

The MoA carries out its activities directly or through its territorial bodies (at province level in Sughd, Dushanbe and Khatlon) in cooperation with other central and local public authorities, enterprises, institutions, organizations regardless of their forms of ownership and organizational and legal form.

The PMU established under the MoA will be responsible for the SEP implementation and update, if needed. The PMU has a Social Development Specialist with a clear role, responsibilities, and authority for the implementation and monitoring of stakeholder engagement activities and compliance with the ESS10. Based on the needs of the SEP, the stakeholder engagement budget (to be funded from Component 4) will cover the following activities: additional staffing at regional level, travel, development of communication strategy, beneficiary survey, recruitment of an NGO, media coverage expenditures; printed outreach materials; workshops/sessions/events, training, GM, etc.

6.2 Implementation Arrangements

The implementation of the SRASP will rely on existing GoT structures and the MOA will be the lead implementing agency (IA). The implementation of SRASP will build on institutional arrangements and implementation mechanisms already established for the ACP and those substructures that will be established as new. It will be implemented in 3 regions/oblasts of Tajikistan, including at national, regional and local/district levels involving relevant government institutions but also the private sector as and when it is deemed necessary.

The MOA

The MoA has an overall responsibility for coordinating all aspects of the project, including contributions by the different relevant ministries and agencies participating in the project's implementation. The main responsibilities of the MoA will include project oversight, coordination, planning, technical support, financial management, procurement support and monitoring and evaluation. The MoA will be accountable for authorizing and verifying all project transactions and will work closely with the World Bank's Task Team during project implementation. To fulfill its responsibilities, the MoA will use the institutional mechanisms established for the implementation of ACP, including the Project Steering Committee (PSC) and a Project Implementation Unit under the MoA (MoA-PMU) established.

Project Steering Committee (PSC)

The project's oversight and strategic direction is performed by the PSC. This is important since project implementation involves a number of institutions, including those that were not part of the ACP. The PSC ensures coordination and effective and enhanced project implementation. In this regard, the project will use the Project Steering Committee (PSC) established for the ACP with additional members, as deemed necessary, by drawing from institutions involved in project implementation.

The PSC, chaired by the Minister of Agriculture, will provide strategic guidance for Project implementation, ensure coordination as well as help identify key issues that need to be brought to the attention of the Government and facilitate their resolution. It shall have the following broad responsibilities: (i) establishing policy guidelines and providing overall oversight and strategic guidance; (ii) review of project's progress towards the PDO, (iii) review and approve the Annual Work Plans and Budgets (AWP&Bs) submitted by the PMU, (iv) review and approve annual implementation performance report prepared by the PMU and overseeing the implementation of corrective actions, and (v) ensure inter-ministerial coordination, harmonization and alignment among donors. The PSC will meet bi-annually focusing on review and approval of annual work plans and budget and monitoring of project performance on the basis of annual and bi-annual reports. The membership, terms of reference, duties and responsibilities, frequency of meetings as well as modalities of the PSC will be determined in the Project Operations Manual (POM).

Project Management Unit (PMU)

The MOA and PSC is being supported by a MOA PMU is responsible for the parent project management and coordination, including following the day-to-day project implementation, leveraging existing staff. The PMU has been strengthened to address the expanded project scope. Additional staff could be hired as required to successfully implement/coordinate the project. Two Regional Project Offices (RPOs), in addition to the PMU in Dushanbe, were established i.e. one RPO in the north (Sughd) another one in the south (Khatlon). The PMU and RPOs ensure: (i) the overall management and coordination of the project; (ii) the annual planning and the preparation of consolidated AWP&Bs and progress reports; (iii) the follow-up and reporting on project implementation, including the M&E and learning, the supervision and monitoring of the activities and the evaluation of project impacts, (iv) the fiduciary management and reporting (financial management and procurement), (v) the liaison and coordination with other stakeholders; (v) E&S risk management compliance, including social and environment and (vi) the overall knowledge management, and the strategic staff capacity-building and mobilization. The composition of PMU staff, including specialization, responsibility, salary scale and benefits and incentives e.g. annual and sick leave etc. will be detailed in the POM.

Project Technical Committee (PTC)

The PSC is being assisted by a project technical committee (PTC) established by drawing technical experts from various entities involved in project implementation. The PTC, chaired by the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, would be responsible for providing technical advice to the PMU on the quality of implementation reports and special studies, guidelines, documentation of best practices, and M&E reports. More specifically, the PTC will be responsible for: (i) reviewing, providing recommendations and advise on improving the AWP&Bs submitted by the PMU, (ii) providing technical advisory services on implementation modalities, (iii) providing institutional capacity building to the PMU and to relevant implementation entities, (v) reviewing and analyzing all documents prepared under the project's responsibilities providing recommendations and advising on improvement. The PTC meets quarterly focusing on reviewing the technical aspect of annual plans and monitoring reports. The membership, terms of reference, duties and responsibilities and frequency of meetings of the PTC are detailed in the POM.

Planning and Implementation

The project follows an annual work plan and budget (AWP&B) preparation, review and approval and implementation process. The preparation of the AWP&B is consultative involving all implementation agencies while the primary responsibility of preparing investment proposals to be financed by the project and their implementation is that of the responsible institution. The MOA has the responsibility of leading the preparation and implementation of strategic investments e.g. feasibility studies etc. in close collaboration with relevant institutions. Annual plans for activities related to coordination and management of the project (e.g. M&E, fiduciary, etc.) are being prepared and implemented by the PMU. The AWP&B, after going through technical review by the PTC, will be reviewed and approved by the PSC in one of the bi-annual PSC meetings. The AWP&B preparation process with eligible project activities and indications of the type of investment and, when appropriate expected contribution of both project and beneficiaries are provided in the POM.

6.3 Management functions and responsibilities

The PMU along with the selected National Service Provider (NSP), a CSO or Firm, will take responsibility for and lead all aspects of the stakeholder engagement. In order to implement the various activities envisaged in the SEP, the PMU will need to closely coordinate with MoA's internal departments/ units such as Department for Organizing Document Flow, Office Work and Department of International Relations, Science and Implementation of Scientific Achievements, Department of Agricultural Policy and Food Security Monitoring. The SRASP uses the existing Project Steering Committee (PSC) and Project Technical Committee (PTC) established for the ACP. The PTC, chaired by the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, is responsible for providing technical advice to the PMU on the quality of implementation reports and special studies, guidelines, documentation of best practices, and M&E reports. The PMU helps the MoA undertake tasks including stakeholder engagement.

The PMU facilitates stakeholder/citizen engagement through the creation of an advisory board. This board may comprise dehqan farms, seeds producers, agribusiness representatives, respective NGOs and business associations and will meet on a quarterly or a semi-annual basis. The MoA, through the PMU, consults with the board on matters related to the project components, brief them on latest actions, and solicit their views on the project progress. The purpose is to strengthen public consultations and secure the buy-in of stakeholders to ensure smooth and proper implementation of reforms. The roles and responsibilities of main actors are summarized in the Table 5 below.

Table 5. Responsibilities of key actors/stakeholders in SEP Implementation

Actor/Stakeholder	Responsibilities
PMU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning and implementation of the SEP activities; • Leading stakeholder engagement activities; • Management and resolution of grievances; • Monitoring of and reporting on ESF performance to the World Bank. • Consulting upon, disclosure and implementation of site specific ESF instruments (ESIAs/ESMPs, RAPs, if needed).
PMU Regional Offices (Sughd, Khatlon)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In collaboration with Regional Agricultural Departments Planning and implementation of the SEP activities at the regional level; • Establish and facilitate the work of the Regional Grievance Redress Group; • Submit quarterly reports on complaints received to the National GM Focal Point; • Transmit and resolve complaints caused by the project interventions in close collaboration with and as directed by PMU;
Agricultural departments (district level) in DRS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor Project compliance with national legislation; • Participate in implementation of assigned activities in the SEP; • Provide report on all complaints to the Regional GM Focal Point; • Establish and facilitate the work of the Local Grievance Redress Group; • Make available the disclosed SEP and GM procedures.
MoA/Minister assistant, Department for Organizing Document Flow and Office Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registering the appeals; • Share a summary report on all project specific complaints to the PMU GM Focal Point.
Project stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lodge their grievances using the Grievance Mechanism defined in the SEP; • Help the Project to define mitigation measures.

7. GRIEVANCE MECHANISM

7.1 Overview of Grievance Mechanism

The main objective of a Grievance Mechanism (GM) is to assist to resolve complaints and grievances in a timely, effective and efficient manner that satisfies all parties involved. Specifically, it provides a transparent and credible process for fair, effective and lasting outcomes. It also builds trust and cooperation as an integral component of broader community consultation that facilitates corrective actions. Specifically, the GM:

- Provides affected people with avenues for making a complaint or resolving any dispute that may arise during the course of the implementation of projects;
- Ensures that appropriate and mutually acceptable redress actions are identified and implemented to the satisfaction of complainants; and
- Avoids the need to resort to judicial proceedings.

The PMU will set up a project specific GM to address all citizen complaints and requests related to the project. Day-to-day implementation of the GM and reporting to the World Bank will be the responsibility of the PMU. The Social Development Specialists/Consultants will be the key nodal officers for GM in the PMU' central and regional offices. The project specific GM is based on the Laws of the Republic of Tajikistan “Appeals of Physical and Legal Entities” (2016) and “On Civil Service”, as well as the Instructions of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan “On the Procedures of Records Management on the Appeals of Citizens”.

Though the Tajik Law on Appeals of Physical and Legal Entities does not require processing the anonymous complaints, the Project would encourage receiving complaints by a variety of channels, including *anonymous complaints*, at different levels as per ESS10. The GM also must handle with confidentiality and sensitivity complaints about SEA/SH. The system and requirements (including staffing) for the grievance redress chain of action – from registration, sorting and processing, and acknowledgement and follow-up, to verification and action, and finally feedback – are incorporated in the GM, based on the existing practices described in the Instructions “Records Management Procedures for Citizens Appeals”. To ensure management oversight of grievance handling, the PMU M&E is responsible for monitoring the overall process, including verification that agreed resolutions are implemented.

7.2 GM Structure

The project adapts the existing GM system within the country, which encourages bottom-up structure for GM processing. At the same time, the project affected parties can also file their complaints with the central apparatus of the MoA directly through the Minister Assistant, and/or Department for Organizing Document Flow and Office Work. The timeline for the grievance processing is 30 days upon registration.

The project has adapted the existing GM practices and is establishing GM Management Groups at the following three levels:

Local level: *Local Grievance Management Group (LGMG)* is being established in each district administration (khukumat) to be facilitated by the agricultural departments. The group will be chaired by Deputy Head of Khukumat and comprising representatives of the department of agriculture (DoA); environmental protection; land administration committee; jamoats; and other civil society organizations. The DoA representative will function as the Secretary of the LGMG and serve as local Grievance Focal Point (GFP) to be responsible for maintaining feedback logs. If the issue cannot be resolved at the local level, then it will be escalated to the regional level. Mahalla committee members, community leaders and other civil society organizations will be fully coopted in reaching out to the local communities and individuals and provide intermediation support, in general, and airing grievances, in particular.

Regional level: *Regional Grievance Management Group (RGMG)* will be established in each target region. The RGMG will be chaired by Regional Project Officer and will consist of representatives of the department of agriculture; environmental protection; land administration committee; regional farmer associations and other civil society organizations. The PMU Social Development Consultant at the province level will function as the Secretary of the RGMG and serve as regional Grievance Focal Point (GFP) to file the grievances and appeals. If the issue cannot be resolved at the regional level *within 15-30 days* depending on additional investigations needed, then it will be escalated to the national level.

National level: If there is a situation in which there is no response from the local or regional level GMCs, or if the response is not satisfactory then complainants and feedback providers have the option to contact the PMU directly to follow up on the issue. *National Grievance Management Group (NGMG)* will be chaired by the PMU Director, comprising representatives of MoA, CEP, Land Management Committee, and national NGOs. The PMU's Social Development Specialist will function as the Secretary of the NGMG and serve as national Grievance Focal Point (GFP) to file the grievances and appeals. S/he will be responsible for summarizing the number and types of all the complaints and issues received by the districts and two regions.

The timeline for complaint resolution at the national level will be *15 days* upon receipt of the complaint that does not require additional study and research, and *30 days for the appeals* that need additional study. The complainant will be informed of the outcome immediately and at the latest within *5 days* of the decision.

Appeal Mechanism. If the complaint is still not resolved to the satisfaction of the complainant, then s/he can submit his/her complaint to the appropriate court of law.

The project will also establish a separate GM for project workers. Essentially, it will be at two levels – local (at contractor level) and national (in Dushanbe at central PMU office). Please refer to the Labor Management Procedures, which described the GM structure for project workers in detail.

7.3 Grievance Resolution Process

Information about the GM will be publicized as part of the Public/community communication (e.g. through websites, social media). Brochures and leaflets will be displayed in regional offices, target district agricultural departments, targeted jamoats, if appropriate, and local governments information boards, etc. Information about the GM will also be posted online on the MoA website. The overall process for the GM will be comprised of six steps, as described below.

Step 1: Uptake. Project stakeholders will be able to provide feedback and report complaints through several channels: contacting PMU by mail, telephone, email, social media and messaging.

Step 2: Sorting and processing. Complaints and feedbacks will be compiled by the Social Specialists at PMU at central or regional offices and recorded in a register. These are assigned to the respective individuals / agencies to address. They are expected to discuss/ deliberate with the complainant and arrive at a resolution, within 15 working days of receipt.

Step 3: Acknowledgement and follow-up. Within five (5) working days of the date a complaint is submitted, the responsible person/ agency will communicate with the complainant and provide information on the likely course of action and the anticipated timeframe for resolution of the complaint. If complaints are not resolved within 15 days, the responsible person will provide an update about the status of the complaint/question to the complainant and again provide an estimate of how long it will take to resolve the issue.

Step 4: Verification, investigation and action. This step involves gathering information about the grievance to determine the facts surrounding the issue and verifying the complaint's validity, and then developing a proposed resolution, which could include changes of decisions concerning eligibility for mitigation, assistance, changes in the program itself, other actions, or no actions. Depending on the nature of the complaint, the process can include site visits, document reviews, a meeting with the complainant (if known and willing to engage), and meetings with others (both those associated with the project and outside) who may have knowledge or can otherwise help resolve the issue. It is expected that many or most grievances would be resolved at this stage. All activities taken during this and the other steps will be fully documented, and any resolution logged in the register.

Step 5: Monitoring and evaluation. Monitoring refers to the process of tracking grievances and assessing the progress that has been toward resolution. The PMU will be responsible for consolidating, monitoring, and reporting on complaints, enquiries and other feedback that have been received, resolved, or pending. This will be accomplished by maintaining the grievance register and records of all steps taken to resolve grievances or otherwise respond to feedback and questions.

Step 6: Providing Feedback. This step involves informing those to submit complaints, feedback, and questions about how issues were resolved, or providing answers to questions. Whenever possible, complainants should be informed of the proposed resolution in person (communicating by telephone or other means).

If the complainant is not satisfied with the resolution, she/he will be informed of further options, which would include pursuing remedies through the World Bank, as described below, or through avenues afforded by the Republic of Tajikistan legal system. On a quarterly basis, the PMU will report to MoA on grievances resolved since the previous report and on grievances that remain unresolved, with an explanation as to steps to be taken to resolve grievances that have not been resolved within 30 days. Data on grievances and/or original grievance logs will be made available to World Bank missions on request, and summaries of grievances and resolutions will be included in semiannual reports to the World Bank.

Grievance Logs will include at least the following information:

- Individual reference number
- Name of the person submitting the complaint, question, or other feedback, address and/or contact information (unless the complaint has been submitted anonymously)
- Details of the complaint, feedback, or question/her location and details of his / her complaint.
- Date of the complaint.
- Name of person assigned to deal with the complaint (acknowledge to the complainant, investigate, propose resolutions, etc.)
- Details of proposed resolution, including person(s) who will be responsible for authorizing and implementing any corrective actions that are part of the proposed resolution
- Date when proposed resolution was communicated to the complainant (unless anonymous)
- Date when the complainant acknowledged, in writing if possible, being informed of the proposed resolution
- Details of whether the complainant was satisfied with the resolution, and whether the complaint can be closed out
- Date when the resolution is implemented (if any).

The MoA has GM focal points at the central, province and district levels (agricultural departments) that allow the project to address effectively all grievances raised at grass root level, which will have countrywide scattered pattern including those in remote areas. PAPs will have an option of submitting grievance to the PMU directly.

7.4 Monitoring and Reporting on Grievances

The PMU is responsible for:

- Analyzing the qualitative data on the number, substance and status of complaints and uploading them

- into the project databases established by PMU;
- Monitoring outstanding issues and proposing measures to resolve them;
- Preparing quarterly reports on GM to be shared with the WB.

Semiannual reports to be submitted to the WB include section related to GM which provides updated information on the following:

- Status of GM implementation (procedures, training, public awareness campaigns, budgeting etc.);
- Qualitative data on number of received grievances (applications, suggestions, complaints, requests, positive feedback), highlighting number of resolved grievances;
- Quantitative data on the type of grievances and responses, issues provided and grievances that remain unresolved;
- Level of satisfaction by the measures (response) taken;
- Any correction measures taken.

7.5 World Bank Grievance Redress System

Communities and individuals who believe that they are adversely affected by a World Bank (WB) supported project may submit complaints to existing project-level grievance mechanisms or the WB's Grievance Redress Service (GRS). The GRS ensures that complaints received are promptly reviewed in order to address project-related concerns. Project affected communities and individuals may submit their complaint to the WB's independent Inspection Panel which determines whether harm occurred, or could occur, as a result of WB non-compliance with its policies and procedures. Complaints may be submitted at any time after concerns have been brought directly to the World Bank's attention, and Bank Management has been given an opportunity to respond. For information on how to submit complaints to the World Bank's corporate Grievance Redress Service (GRS), please visit <http://www.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/products-and-services/grievance-redress-service>. For information on how to submit complaints to the World Bank Inspection Panel, please visit www.inspectionpanel.org. A complaint may be submitted in English, Tajik or Russian, although additional processing time will be needed for complaints that are not in English. A complaint can be submitted to the Bank GRS through the following email: grievances@worldbank.org

Communities and individuals who believe that they are adversely affected by a project supported by the World Bank may also complaints directly to the Bank through the Bank's Country Office through the following channels.

By phone: +992 48 701-5810

By mail: 48 Ayni Street, Business Center "Sozidanie", 3rd floor, Dushanbe, Tajikistan

By email: tajikistan@worldbank.org

The complaint must clearly state the adverse impact(s) allegedly caused or likely to be caused by the Bank-supported project. This should be supported by available documentation and correspondence to the extent possible. The complainant may also indicate the desired outcome of the complaint. Finally, the complaint should identify the complainant(s) or assigned representative/s and provide contact details. Complaints submitted via the GRS are promptly reviewed to allow quick attention to project-related concerns.

8. MONITORING AND REPORTING OF THE SEP

The Project is being monitored by Project Steering Committee (PSC) and a Project Technical Committee (PTC) that play oversight and technical support roles respectively to project implementation. The SRASP and its AF use the existing Project Steering Committee (PSC) established for the ACP, which it will supplement with additional members, as deemed necessary, by drawing from institutions involved in project implementation. The PSC, chaired by the Minister of Agriculture, provides strategic guidance for Project implementation, ensure coordination as well as help identify key issues that need to be brought to the attention of the Government and

facilitate their resolution. The PTC, chaired by the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, is responsible for providing technical advice to the PMU on the quality of implementation reports and special studies, guidelines, documentation of best practices, and M&E reports.

The PMU supports monitoring and evaluation (M&E) activities to track, document, and communicate the progress and results of the project, including monitoring of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan. M&E Specialist supported by the PMU Social Development Specialist is responsible for overall compilation of SEP implementation progress reports and results and summarizing them in semiannual reports to be submitted to the WB.

Feedback and grievances received through the GM focal points are also be included in the semiannual reporting. The M&E Specialist supported by the PMU Social Development Specialist collates and analyze these outcome assessments and perception-based results and include them in semiannual reports to be submitted to the WB.

ANNEX 1. MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS ON ESF INSTRUMENTS

prepared under the Strengthening Resilience of the Agriculture Sector Project (P175952)

April 15, 2021

Dushanbe

The public consultation was attended by: MOA and its District Departments of Agriculture staff (Shahrinav District, Rudaki District, Gissar Town and Tursunzade Town), Mr. Sh. Safarov, TAAS Vice President, Ms. Z.K. Bobohonova, TAU Vice Rector, Ms. M. Anvarova, Director of TAU R&D Institute of Biotechnology, Mr. I. Asoev, Director of SUE “Tojikniholparvar”, Ms. N. Yuldasheva, Director of NGO “Source of Life” Chairman of Cooperative “Latif Murodov”, Mr. I.S. Tursunov, директор Director of SUE “Tojikniholparvar” Branch in Tursunzade, Mr. A. Azimjonzoda, Director of Commercial Cooperative “Ziyod”, Ms. N.S. Rajabova, CAP National Consultant under the MOA, Mr.

F. Ashurov, Lawyer, EFCA-Tajikistan, Mr. P. Khakimov, Agriculture Specialist, Agriculture and Food Global Practice, World Bank Group in Dushanbe and other officials from the Ministry of Agriculture.

A total of 28 persons attended the public consultation.

Ms. D.R. Rahmatova, Social Safeguards Consultant, ACP PMU delivered three presentations on the following:

1. Labor Management Procedures.
2. Stakeholder Engagement Plan.
3. Resettlement Policy Framework

The presenter, as part of her Labor Management Procedures presentation highlighted that the LMP was developed in accordance with the requirements of the World Bank Environmental and Social Standard 2: Labor and Working Conditions. They outline the basic requirements in the area of labor legislation, the risks associated with them and the resources required to address issues related to labor and working conditions.

The key objectives of the Environmental and Social Standard 2 (ESS 2) are to promote safety and health at work, promote the fair treatment, nondiscrimination and equal opportunity of project workers; protect project workers, including vulnerable workers such as women, persons with disabilities, children (of working age, in accordance with legislation and this ESS) and migrant workers, contracted workers, community workers and primary supply workers, as appropriate; prevent the use of all forms of forced labor and child labor; support the principles of freedom of association and collective bargaining of project workers in accordance with the national legislation; provide project workers with accessible means to raise workplace concerns.

The presenter also highlighted the importance to identify potential labor risks associated with the project implementation such as Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) risks, which are moderate and will depend on the type of subproject works to be implemented. It is assessed that key labor risks would be associated with occupational health and safety risks related to the construction of agro-logistics centers and rehabilitation of buildings such as exposure to physical, chemical and biological hazards during construction activities, use of heavy equipment, trip and fall hazards, exposure to noise and dust, falling objects, exposure to hazardous materials and exposure to electrical hazards from the use of tools and machinery. In the event that a Project event involves heavy work, persons under the age of 18 will not be allowed to be employed. All contractors will be required to have written contracts with their

employees. The risk of child labor/forced labor is assessed as moderate because the national legislation requires contractors to meet a minimum age for employment and work under agreed-upon contracts. Sexual Exploitation and Abuse/Sexual Harassment (SEA/SH) risk is assessed as moderate mostly due to the status of national Gender-Based Violence (GBV) legislation, gender norms, and the rural location of most project activities.

What might be labor risks associated with contracted workers at the subproject level? Subprojects will be implemented by local contractors and most contracted workers will be hired locally with the exception of a few skilled workers. All contractors will be required to have a written contract with their workers materially consistent with objective of ESS2, in particular about child and forced labor. Employment risks should be noted as well. Workers will be hired by the PMU, either directly as PMU staff or indirectly as part of contracts with NGOs, or service providers. The experience shows that the civil works subcontractors do practice employment contracting and official payrolls to their workers.

The presenter highlighted the employee grievance redress mechanism, which particularly attracted the attention of the meeting participants. It was specifically highlighted that the GRM was not an alternative/replacement to the legal/regulatory system for receiving and resolving complaints. Nevertheless, it is established to mediate and identify appropriate solutions to grievances related to labor relations, without proceeding to higher levels. That said, in accordance with Tajik law all employees are always entitled to access the judicial/legal system for resolving complaints and grievances.

The second presentation was dedicated to the Stakeholder Engagement Plan. The presenter emphasized the purpose of developing this plan which is to proactively engage with project-affected persons and other stakeholders through the consultation and provision of each group with an opportunity to express their opinions. The GRM provides project-affected persons with the opportunity to file a complaint or resolve any dispute that may occur during the Project implementation.

- GRM secures that appropriate and mutually acceptable remedies are identified and implemented to the satisfaction of complainants;
- GRM allows avoiding litigation.

The project specific GRM will be based on the existing MOA mechanism, information about which will be posted on the Ministry's website. The MOA has contact persons at central, oblast and district levels, which will allow the project to effectively handle all grievances/complaints filed at the local level throughout the country, including in remote areas. Persons affected by the project can file their complaints directly to the PMU.

Ms. D. Yuldasheva, Director of NGO "Source of Life" noted that this presentation emphasized very crucial issues that might be faced by local residents in towns and districts where the project would be implemented. It is very important to scrutinize what the issues of the population in those areas are before the start of the project implementation. Ms. D. Yuldasheva shared her experience. She noted that as part of an ADB-financed project it was required to resettle residents of several villages in one of the regions. However, in the resettlement process of residents in that region there were big issues associated with their housing property titles. That was basically specific for women. Many women are not really very much concerned about their property ownership titles, therefore in the absence of documents, they could not get housing. The NGO "Source of Life" extended their assistance to those women and, because of the NGO's intervention about 120 women were able to get access to housing. Ms. D. Yuldasheva suggested such specific issues should be taken into consideration during the project implementation.

Mr. Rakhimbek Nosirov, Environmental Safeguards Consultant, ACP PMU, made his presentation about the environmental aspects related to the ESF document and mitigation of environmental risks during the implementation of project and subprojects. Mr. Fakhrullo Ashurov noted that the environmental protection issues were very crucial, since we witness currently the application of uncertified mineral fertilizers, as well as toxic chemicals. There is a lack of knowledge among agricultural producers about the amount of mineral fertilizers to be applied. Multiple agricultural producers apply mineral fertilizers above the established norms and standards, which as a result affects the quality of agricultural products and land conditions. Mr. F. Ashurov emphasized that currently agricultural producers do not approach and seek advice from professional agronomists, and therefore they need to improve their knowledge and skills.

The public consultation participants noted the transparency of the prepared technical documentation, which represents the effective approaches to the project implementation

Prepared by the Meeting Secretary: N. Rajabova

MINUTES ON PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON ESF INSTRUMENTS

April 16, 2021

Bokhtar Town

The public consultation was attended by: Mr. L. Rahimov, MOA specialist, Department of Agriculture staff, Khatlon Oblast, District Departments of Agriculture staff (districts of Dusti, Balkhi, Vakhsh, A. Jomi, Levakand Town, Bohtar Town), Mr. A. Nazarov, Mr. M. Safarov, Mr. S. Mavlonov, Ms. M. Abdulloyeva, Ms. Z. Sayfulloyeva, Mr. A. Azizov, Mr. A. Sayfuddinov, Mr. Safarbekov A., Mr. N. Kubotov, managers of dehqan farms and Mr. Z. Naimov and Mr. K. Muminov, managers of nursery farms, Ms. D.R. Rahmatova, Social Safeguards Consultant, AED PMU and Mr. Rakhimbek Nosirov, Environmental Safeguards Consultant, AED PMU. A total of 27 persons attended the public consultation.

Ms. D.R. Rahmatova, Social Safeguards Consultant, ACP PMU delivered three presentations for the following:

1. Labor Management Procedures;
2. Stakeholder Engagement Plan.
3. Resettlement Policy Framework

The presenter as part of her Labor Management Procedures presentation highlighted that these were developed in accordance with the requirements of the World Bank Environmental and Social Standard 2: Labor and Working Conditions. They outline the basic requirements in the area of labor legislation, the risks associated with them and the resources required to address issues related to labor and working conditions.

The key objectives of the Environmental and Social Standard 2 (ESS 2) are to promote safety and health at work, promote the fair treatment, nondiscrimination and equal opportunity of project workers; protect project workers, including vulnerable workers such as women, persons with disabilities, children (of working age, in accordance with legislation and this ESS) and migrant workers, contracted workers, community workers and primary supply workers, as appropriate; prevent the use of all forms of forced labor and child labor; support the principles of freedom of association and collective bargaining of project workers in accordance with the national legislation; provide project workers with accessible means to raise workplace concerns.

The presenter also highlighted the importance to identify potential labor risks associated with the project implementation such as Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) risks, which are moderate and will depend on the type of subproject works to be implemented. It is assessed that key labor risks would be associated with occupational health and safety risks related to the construction of agro-logistics centers and rehabilitation of buildings such as exposure to physical, chemical and biological hazards during construction activities, use of heavy equipment, trip and fall hazards, exposure to noise and dust, falling objects, exposure to hazardous materials and exposure to electrical hazards from the use of tools and machinery. In the event that a Project event involves heavy work, persons under the age of 18 will not be allowed to be employed. All contractors will be required to have written contracts with their employees. The risk of child labor/forced labor is assessed as moderate because the national legislation requires contractors to meet a minimum age for employment and work under agreed-upon contracts. Sexual Exploitation and Abuse/Sexual Harassment (SEA/SH) risk is assessed as moderate mostly due to the status of national Gender-Based Violence (GBV) legislation, gender norms, and the rural location of most project activities.

What might be labor risks associated with contracted workers at subproject level? Subprojects will be implemented by local contractors and most contracted workers will be hired locally with the exception of a few skilled workers. All contractors will be required to have a written contract with their workers materially consistent with objective of ESS2, in particular about child and forced labor. Employment risks should be noted as well. Workers will be hired by the PMU, either directly as PMU staff or indirectly as part of contracts with NGOs, or service providers. The experience shows that the civil works subcontractors do practice employment contracting and official payrolls to their workers.

The presenter highlighted the employee grievance redress mechanism, which particularly attracted the attention of the meeting participants. It was specifically highlighted that the GRM was not an alternative/replacement to the legal/regulatory system for receiving and resolving complaints. Nevertheless, it is established to mediate and identify appropriate solutions to grievances related to labor relations, without proceeding to higher levels. That said, in accordance with Tajik law all employees are always entitled to access the judicial/legal system for

resolving complaints and grievances.

The second presentation was dedicated to the Stakeholder Engagement Plan. The presenter emphasized the purpose of developing this plan which is to proactively engage with project-affected persons and other stakeholders through the consultation and provision of each group with an opportunity to express their opinions. The GRM provides project-affected persons with the opportunity to file a complaint or resolve any dispute that may occur during the Project implementation;

- GRM secures that appropriate and mutually acceptable remedies are identified and implemented to the satisfaction of complainants;
- GRM allows avoiding litigation.

The project specific GRM will be based on the existing MOA mechanism, information about which will be posted on the Ministry's website. The MOA has contact persons at central, oblast and district levels, which will allow the project to effectively handle all grievances/complaints filed at the local level throughout the country, including in remote areas. Persons affected by the project can file their complaints directly to the PMU.

Mr. Rakhimbek Nosirov, Environmental Safeguards Consultant, AED PMU, also made his presentation about the environmental aspects related to the ESF document and mitigation of environmental risks during the implementation of project and subprojects. Mr. R. Nosirov noted that it was necessary to keep in mind the project implementation impact on the ecosystems during the project design preparation and implementation, and he spoke about the environmental aspects of the ESF tools and environmental risk mitigation in the course of project and subproject implementation.

The following suggestions were made by the public consultation participants:

1. The Director of the Khatlon Oblast Department of Agriculture proposed to establish a biolaboratory as well as laboratories to analyze the composition of mineral fertilizers;
2. Director of the A. Jomi District Department of Agriculture proposed to provide seed farms in his district with quality seeds as well as support the activities of seed farms;
3. Mr. S. Jobirov, dehqan farm manager, suggested to support the construction of a greenhouse for lemon growing.

The public consultation participants expressed their satisfaction with the presentations, organized discussions, and appreciation for the opportunity to highlight the current issues in seed production and expressed their willingness to cooperate closely during the project implementation.

MINUTES ON PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON ESF INSTRUMENTS

Updated for Strengthening Resilience of the Agriculture Sector Project Additional Financing (P179851)

November 15, 2022

Dushanbe City

The presentation was attended by employees of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Tajikistan and regional departments of agriculture (Shahrinav district, Rudaki district, Gisar, Tursunzade), Deputy President of the Tajik Agricultural Society Yatimzoda Kh.N., Acting Head of the Monitoring Department of the State Sanitary and Epidemiological Supervision Service Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population - Khalimov O.A., Chief Specialist of the State Unitary Enterprise "Khurokvori" - Saidov M.M., Vice-Rector of TAU - Miralizoat T., specialist in international relations of TAU - Melikova L.Yu., Director of the State Unitary Enterprise "Tojikniholparvar" Asoev I., Head of the Department of International Relations of the Ministry of Agriculture - Amonov F.N., Chairman of the Dehkan Farm "Kayumov" - Kayumov N., National Consultant of the CAP under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Tajikistan Radzhabova N.S., Public Relations Specialist of the Project for Improving the Sustainability of Agriculture in Tajikistan Oripov ZM, and other senior officials of the Ministry of Agriculture, and representatives of dekhkan and seed farms.

Social Development Specialist of the Project, Rakhmatova R.N., made a presentation to the audience on the updated tools of the World Bank's Environment and Social Matrix, in which she provided a summary of additional funding for the Project. Additional funding is aimed at strengthening the anti-crisis resilience of the agricultural sector, improving domestic food security, strengthening the basis for increasing production and export competitiveness of the growing fruit and vegetable sector. The main project also aims to improve the capacity of early warning, preparedness and crisis response of the Ministry of Agriculture and other relevant government and scientific institutions.

Details were also provided on the intended purpose of the Additional Funding which is to support the Government's efforts to respond to the food security and nutrition emergency. The proposed additional funding will primarily focus on meeting short-term emergency needs but will also fund some medium-term investments to improve food security and resilience.

During the presentation, a new sub-component was presented, which will subsequently be introduced into the current Project. This subcomponent includes:

- (i) Establish a centralized supply of premixes for food fortification by establishing a “revolving fund” for premixes (in particular micronutrients and potassium iodate) and providing a “seed fund for premixes”.
- (ii) Purchase and distribution of micronutrients and vitamin supplements for pregnant and lactating women and children (6-23 or 6-59 months). These trace elements and vitamin supplements will be distributed through the primary health care facilities of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population.
- (iii) Implement priority nutrition-informed agricultural interventions outlined in the Multisectoral Nutrition Action Plan (MSNAP) (2021-2025), which is the responsibility of the MOA.

Further, the presentation presents the goals, objectives and components of the Project, as well as a brief message about each of them. Rakhmatova R.N. also reminded that last week the participants were presented with a message about two updated documents on social aspects, namely:

- Stakeholder Engagement Plan;
- Social Inclusion Plan.

A full document is also presented for the general consideration of the participants: the Environmental and Social

Management Framework, which includes aspects of environmental protection. This document is one of the main technical documents of the Project, where all regulatory environmental and social standards of the World Bank and their requirements are considered. It also reviews national institutional frameworks relating to social and environmental issues. In her presentation on the assessment of environmental and social risks and measures to prevent them, Rakhmatova R.N. briefly described the impact of subproject implementation on the environmental aspects of the Project within each component.

Further, a presentation on the topic of the updated Stakeholder Engagement Plan was provided for general consideration. The presentation covered such aspects as the increase in the number of affected parties due to the proposed introduction of additional funding. It was noted that under the new component, which aims to improve the quality of nutrition at the national level and focuses on urgent nutritional needs, the Project Operations Center will need to work jointly with the new Project beneficiaries, which are the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Tajikistan, Ministry of Industry of the Republic of Tajikistan, as well as the State Unitary Enterprise "Khurokvori". It is also expected to expand the circle of stakeholders, due to new beneficiaries of the project - the general population of the Republic, as well as breastfeeding women and infants.

In accordance with the proposed changes in the form of expanding the circle of stakeholders in the structure of the "Stakeholder Engagement Plan", the schedule for the implementation of the above plan was also supplemented, which describes in detail the activities, purpose, responsibility of stakeholders in the implementation of the Project.

In the presentation on the Social Inclusion Plan (SIP) during the implementation of project, the presenter noted that the SIP was developed for the parent project in accordance with the requirements of the World Bank for Environmental and Social Standard 1 and has been updated to cover the additional project stakeholders and beneficiaries under AF activities. It defines the social exclusion risks and the resources and measures needed to address them. The updated SIP describes social inclusion approaches to be applied by the project to secure equal opportunity for project beneficiaries, including vulnerable groups such as women, persons with disabilities, migrants and households with children up to 59 months to participate in the project activities and benefit from them.

When discussing the presented presentations on updated documents, the Acting Head of the Monitoring Department of the State Sanitary and Epidemiological Surveillance Service (SES) of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Republic of Tajikistan Khaitov O.A. with a proposal to include SES in the table on other interested parties.

In his comments on the proposed new component under the additional funding of the Agricultural Sustainability Project, Saidov M.M. - Chief Specialist of the State Unitary Enterprise "Khurokvori" noted that this component is an absolute necessity, since food products enriched with vitamins and minerals, in times reduce the number of people with anemia. Also, Mr. Saidov M.M. drew the attention of those present to the fact that in neighboring countries, for example, in Uzbekistan, these issues were resolved five years ago, and they are quite successfully implementing state and investment programs in this direction.

Khaitov O.A. and Saidov M.M. made a proposal on the selection of qualified personnel for the implementation of the Project, based on the fact that the successful implementation of the project largely depends on the qualifications of the hired specialists.

Vice-rector for organizational issues of the Tajik Agrarian University, Mr. Mirzoalizoda T., made a request to introduce into the project, within the framework of the proposed additional funding, components that contribute to the renovation of the university's technopark.

At the request of the Vice-Rector of the Tajik Agrarian University, Ms. Radjabova N., National Consultant to the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Tajikistan, replied that the proposed additional funding is aimed at responding to an emergency in the field of food security and nutrition. And she expressed hope that these issues will be resolved in future investment projects.

After listening and discussing the presentation and speeches of the participants, all those present expressed their support for the submitted documents. They also approved the transparency of the project implementation mechanism

when approving the technical documentation; expressed their gratitude to the leadership of the World Bank for the much needed and timely support of the agricultural and nutrition sectors, as well as their willingness to closely cooperate in the implementation of the Project.

Secretary

Musammirov M.

Рӯйхати иштирокиёни чорабиниҳо оид ба "Нақшаи ҷалби ҷонибҳои маънафатдор" ва дигар ҳуҷҷатҳои навшудаи иҷтимоӣ - экологии Бонки Ҷаҳонӣ дар доираи маблағгузории иловагии Лондаи баланд бардоштани устувории кишоварзӣ. Ҷои баргузорӣ Вазорати кишоварзии ҶТ, ш. Душанбе 15.11.2022

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