

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMPLETION REPORT<sup>1</sup>

Division: CWEN

TA No., Country and Name TA 4924- KGZ: Preparing the Agricultural Land Improvement Project			Amount Approved: \$700,000.00	
			Revised Amount: \$700,000.00	
Executing Agency: Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Processing Industry		Source of Funding: Technical Assistance Special Fund	Amount Undisbursed: \$401,827.15	Amount Utilized: \$298,172.85
TA Approval Date 23 March 2007	TA Signing Date 10 May 2007	Fielding of First Consultants 1 October 2007	TA Completion Date Original: 29 February 2008      Actual: 21 January 2008 Account Closing Date Original: 29 February 2008      Actual: 24 June 2009	
<b>Description</b>  The Kyrgyz Republic, despite continuing urbanization, remains a predominantly rural society, with agriculture and animal husbandry providing most employment. Approximately 90% of the country's agricultural lands can be defined as lands prone to desertification, and over 40% of farmlands are already considered degraded. Land degradation matters greatly, as agriculture is the main activity of the rural population (accounting for 75% of the poor and about 80% of the extremely poor). Land degradation has led to decreased fertility of arable and natural forage lands, and decreased animal breeding capacity, resulting in decreasing incomes, declining quality of life, and migration from villages to urban areas, both within the country and abroad. The Government of the Kyrgyz Republic requested the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to provide Technical Assistance (TA) to prepare the Agricultural Land Improvement project to increase agricultural productivity and profitability in the northern regions of Issyk Kul, Naryn, Talas, and Chui oblasts. The TA was included in ADB's <i>Kyrgyz Republic: Country Strategy and Program Update (2006–2008)</i> as a proposed loan for 2008.				
<b>Expected Impact, Outcome and Outputs</b>  The impact of the TA is sustained improvement in the productivity of agricultural land. The Outcome is an agreed project design and feasibility study. The TA was divided into two phases over a period of 9 months. The expected outputs were (i) in phase 1, a situational analysis of key aspects of agriculture sector and sustainable land management, which will lead to an initial assessment of alternative project designs, and (ii) in phase 2, a detailed feasibility study with supporting social, environmental, economic, financial, and procurement analysis.				
<b>Delivery of Inputs and Conduct of Activities</b>  The TA included 24 and 48 person-months of international and national consultants, respectively, provided through a firm. Actual utilization of inputs was 10.33 person-months of international and 20.27 person-months of national consultants. The terms of reference for phase 1 were satisfied and the consultant performed satisfactorily. <sup>2</sup> An inception mission was conducted for the TA. The executing agency was responsive, and provided office space and available data. Competent				

<sup>1</sup> In preparing any country program or strategy, financing any project, or by making any designation of or reference to a particular territory or geographic area in this document, the Asian Development Bank does not intend to make any judgments as to the legal or other status of any territory area.

<sup>2</sup> Performance Evaluation of consulting firm, completed on 1 October 2008.

counterpart staffs were assigned and were genuinely interested in project preparation. In early 2008, due to changed priorities and funding constraints, the proposed project was removed from ADB's program in the Kyrgyz Republic. ADB terminated the consulting services contract effective 21 February 2008 as there was no further need for the TA.

#### **Evaluation of Outputs and Achievement of Outcome**

The inception phase including a report was timely and successfully completed. The situational analysis (output 1) was completed. A Situational Analysis Report (phase 1 Report) was prepared in both English and Russian. Specialist reports by the consulting team agronomist, pasture land specialist, institutional development specialist, agriculture economist, rural engineer, and animal health and livestock specialist provide more in depth assessment of current conditions and implications for the project design. The phase 1 reports provided, completed the problem analysis and suggested alternate design approaches. At the completion of phase 1, agreement with the Government had been reached on the geographic coverage and scope of the project. As the TA was terminated shortly after phase 1 was completed, the project design and feasibility study (output 2) was not undertaken. As a result the desired outcome was not achieved.

#### **Overall Assessment and Rating**

The TA focus on increasing agricultural productivity and profitability was relevant. The TA was also efficient in the timely delivery of inputs and outputs. However, as the TA was terminated shortly after completion of Phase 1, the intended outcome was not achieved. Overall, the TA is rated as partly successful.

#### **Major Lessons**

While the TA was adequately designed to achieve its intended outcome, changed priorities and funding constraints were unavoidable.

#### **Recommendations and Follow-Up Actions**

None.

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