Asian Development Bank

Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction

JFPR 9052 Regional Project
Sustainable Food Fortification in Central Asia and Mongolia

http://www.adb.org/Projects/sustainable-food-fortification/default.asp
http://www.caffproject.net

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

October - December 2006

RCAO, Almaty
February 2006

ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	–	Asian Development Bank
CIP	–	Country Investment Plan
CPO	–	Country Project Office
EA	–	Executing Agency
IDA	–	Iron Deficiency Anaemia
IDD	–	Iodine Deficiency Disorders
IMR	–	Infant Mortality Rate
JFPR	–	Japan Fund For Poverty Reduction
KAN	–	Kazakh Academy of Nutrition
MDG	–	Millennium Development Goal
MMR	–	Maternal Mortality Ratio
MOH	–	Ministry of Health
NGO	–	Nongovernmental Organization
PHC	–	Primary Health Care
RCAO	–	Regional Coordination And Administration Office
SC	–	Steering Committee
SES	–	Sanitary Epidemiological Services
UNICEF	–	United Nations Children's Fund
USI	–	Universal Salt Iodization

NOTE

In this report, "$" refers to US dollars.

A. Background

1. The aims of the governments of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan are to eliminate iodine deficiency disorders (IDD) and reduce iron deficiency anaemia (IDA) and folic acid deficiency. These deficiencies are more common in Central Asia than in many other developing countries.

2. The Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction (JFPR) 9005 Regional Project[1] (2001-2004) has focused its support on the following Central Asian countries whose economy is in transition: Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. JFPR 9005 aimed at eliminating IDD and IDA through salt and wheat flour fortification. Most of the activities were focused on a few pilot provinces in each country. Due to the direct and catalytic effects of JFPR 9005, these countries have moved toward universal salt iodization (USI) and have also begun fortifying wheat flour. After a decade of limited success trying to iodize salt and reduce iron and folate deficiencies, JFPR 9005 created an environment of national commitment and focused its activities on these key nutritional issues. As a result, substantial increases in iodized salt production and the passage of supporting legislation were achieved in all participating countries. While only the Kyrgyz Republic and Azerbaijan had USI legislation at the beginning of JFPR 9005, Tajikistan enacted USI legislation in 2002, followed by Kazakhstan and Mongolia in 2003. Today, the iodization level has been adjusted to the world standard, and most of the salt industries have made significant progress in making arrangements for self-procurement of potassium iodate. Each country was able to obtain the necessary regulations that allowed fortification equipment and fortificants to be brought in and for fortified flour to be produced and sold. While these considerable achievements have convinced the governments and private owners of salt industries and flour mills that USI and substantial wheat flour fortification are possible, the governments and private sector also realize that these achievements may be lost if they are not made firm and sustainable. The JFPR 9005 experience has helped the governments and private sector identify the steps required for sustainable food fortification, and clarify further developments/actions.

3. In July 2004, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a US$2 million grant assistance under JFPR's regional project[2] for five Asian Countries in Transition (ACT)[3]. The goal of the Project is to reinforce and sustain the reduction of IDD, IDA and folic acid deficiency among poor children and women in Central Asia through paying special attention to supply (production and distribution); demand (public awareness and demand creation); and regulation (quality control, implementation of regulations and legislation, and trade facilitation). The specific objectives are to (i) obtain and sustain the use of iodized salt by 90% of households; (ii) sustain fortification of at least one third of the wheat flour consumed domestically; (iii) enable the private and public sectors to produce quality fortified food; (iv) develop regulatory institutions or incentive schemes to facilitate fortification and ensure the trade of quality fortified food among Central Asian countries; and (v) build awareness of consumers about IDD and IDA prevention, and the benefits of micronutrient-enriched food.

4. The JFPR Project has four major components:

(i) Strengthening of salt industry and flour mill capacities;
(ii) Strengthening of Government capacities;
(iii) Social mobilization and poverty targeting;
(iv) Project management, monitoring, and evaluation.

5. In contrast to the pilot nature of JFPR 9005, the Project will primarily build the capacity of the public and private sectors in sustaining food fortification. The Project will (i) focus on sustaining salt and flour fortification, which JFPR 9005 has proven technically

[1] ADB, 2001. *Improving Nutrition for Poor mothers and Children in Asian Countries in Transition*.
[2] JFPR 9052 – *Sustainable Food Fortification in Central Asia and Mongolia*, approved on 22 July 2004.
[3] Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Republic of Tajikistan, and the Republic of Uzbekistan.

feasible; (ii) work with the private sector and government agencies nationwide rather than in a few pilot districts; (iii) help the private salt enterprises and flour mills access information, and tender and procure fortificants and equipment on their own; (iv) deal with the difficult issue of premix procurement by establishing links between the global producers of premix and by encouraging premix production within the region; and (v) strengthen and upgrade the quality assurance system of the public and private sectors to ensure that consumers receive fortified food that meets quality standards.

6. An enhanced and expanded social-marketing campaign, joining millers with civil-society groups and the media, will greatly increase the demand for the new fortified wheat flour and its products, especially among poor families who are at the greatest risk from IDA. The Project will also help consumers monitor the quality of iodized salt. Universal salt iodization will ensure that the poor have access to quality-iodized salt. Fortified flour has been sold at the same prices as unfortified flour. To increase the access of poor and rural households to fortified flour, the Project will review flour distribution methods, and support the testing of various cost-effective fortification means, including flour fortification in smaller mills and the use of fortification packets at home.

B. Technical/Project Components

B.1 Regional Meetings, Conferences and Workshops

7. In accordance with the CIP Workplan, a number of workshops and trainings were conducted at national and local level in the participating countries. The summary of the regional meetings, workshops and conferences is attached at Annex 4.

8. Representatives of the flour milling industries took part in the inaugural conference of the Eurasian District of the International Association of the Operative Flour Millers (IAOM) on 10-13 November 2006 in Istanbul. The conference reviewed the ongoing progress in Central Asia and Mongolia and acknowledged the achievements in legislation and in sustaining the quality wheat flour fortification. Mr. Evgeny Gahn, President of the League of Grain Processors and Bakers of Kazakhstan, was elected as Director of the Eurasian Branch. The first Eurasian conference will take place in November 2007 in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

B.2. Strengthening the Capacities of Salt Industries and Flour Mills

9. From 2001, and within the framework of the JFPR 9005 Project, each of the multisectoral Country Teams from the participating countries have been designing their own Country Investment Plans (CIPs). The CIPs were founded on a regional consensus regarding the need for regulatory and trade structures to support investment in the fortification of food staples, and proposed national food fortification programs to reduce the high prevalence of IDA and IDD. The activities of the country were developed through a collaborative process amongst cross-sector information sharing, priority and recommended investment identification, capacity building, advocacy, and public health analysis. The specific fortification projects outlined in the CIPs were identified on the basis of a feasibility analysis assessing the industrial capacity and commercial potential in each country. JFPR made the initial investment on the establishment of production (feeders and fortificants purchase, food producers training on fortification technology and quality assurance and control issues) and the building of critical public systems, including regulation, monitoring, and public education and advocacy on the benefits of fortified food products.

a) Fortified Wheat Flour Production

10. Wheat flour is the main food staple for all countries of Central Asia, but only Kazakhstan has the capacity to produce wheat grain and wheat flour for domestic consumption and export. Meanwhile, the other participating countries traditionally import wheat grain and wheat flour from Kazakhstan, Russia and Ukraine (see **tables 1** and **2**.)

Table 1. Wheat Grain Production, Export and Import in Central Asia and Mongolia in 2001-2006 (*thousand metric tons; calendar year)*

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Kazakhstan						
production [a]	12 707	12 700	11 537	9 937	11 198[b]	11 500[c]
export [c]	…	…	…	2 588	1 899	1 403
import [c]	…	…	…	…	…	…
Kyrgyz Republic						
production [b]	1 190	1 163	1 014	998	950	
export	-	-	-	-	-	-
import [d]	…	…	…	80	140.4	
Mongolia						
production [b]	139	123	160	135.6	75.5	130.9[e]
export	-	-	-	-	-	-
import [e]	…	…	…	114.8	75.0	76.7
Tajikistan						
production [b]	489	701	660	631	618	701.3[f]
export	-	-	-	-	-	-
import [g]				94	289	310
Uzbekistan	…					
production [b]	3 690	4 967	5 437	5 378	5 928	…
export	…	…	…	…	…	…
import	…	…	…	…	…	…

Sources: [a] Statistical Yearbook of Kazakhstan, 2005; [b] Asian Development Bank (ADB) - Key Indicators 2006;
[c] League of Grain Processors and Bakers of Kazakhstan;
[d] Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Processing Industry of Kyrgyz Republic;
[e] Ministry of Food and Agriculture of Mongolia; [f] Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Tajikistan;
[g] Ministry of State Revenues and Taxes of Tajikistan

11. KAN, with the help of nutritionists from the participating countries and JFPR's consultants, formulated a unique premix (KAP Komplex-1). Electrolytic elemental iron was specified as a source of iron. The JFPR Project provided to all countries, on a co-shared basis, an adequate amount of KAP Premix to be processed within 2002-2004. Although the production of fortified wheat flour was lower than expected, stocks of the granted KAP Premix allowed countries to continue fortification programs within 2005-2006. In 2005 KAN started research on additional premix formulations. Uzbekistan and Mongolia were the only countries to use the granted premix from the beginning of 2006. The purchase of an additional amount in Uzbekistan was made within the World Bank/GAIN Project. In Mongolia the Country Team procured 4.1 metric tons of premix from co-shared funds, and a leading flour milling company procured an additional 4 metric tons. The League of Grain Processors and Bakers of Kazakhstan (LGBK) and the Association of Fortified Food Producers of Tajikistan negotiated the contracts on premix supplies with the international vendors from Germany and India.

12. The Country Teams started directing their plans to the largest mills (with milling capacities greater than 200 MT/day). Then the project implementation faced problems with wheat shortages, lack of electricity, equipment in poor maintenance state, and a lack of spare parts. Since these larger mills required a large amount of wheat to start up, smaller

and more efficient mills with newer equipment gradually replaced them. Many of these smaller mills were well suited for fortification, but because of their smaller size many were omitted from the first phase of the project. In 2004-2005, the ADB agreed to support the procurement and installation of the fortification equipment at 17 mid-size mills in the Kyrgyz Republic, 20 mills in Mongolia and 15 mills in Tajikistan. The selection involved mills with 20 MT/day capacities.

Table 2. **Wheat Flour Production, Export and Import in Central Asia and Mongolia in 2001-2006** (*thousand metric tons; calendar year)*

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Kazakhstan						
production [a]	2 889[a]	3 720[a]	4 023[a]	3 669[a]	2 756[b]	2 704[b]
export [b]	170	298	484	532	932	1,122
import	…	…	…	…	…	…
Kyrgyz Republic						
production	…	…	…	…	…	…
export	-	-	-	-	-	-
import [c]	…	…	…	50.0	47.5	…
Mongolia						
production [d]	…	…	…	57.8	40.5	…
export	-	-	-	-	-	-
import [d]	…	…	…	79.3	103.0	74.1
Tajikistan						
production [e]	…	…	…	375.9	389.2	375.2
export	…	…	…			
import [f]	…	…	…	224	428	456.8
Uzbekistan						
production [b]	…	…	…	…	…	…
export	…	…	…	…	…	…
import	…	…	…	…	…	…

Sources: [a] Statistical Yearbook of Kazakhstan, 2005; [b] League of Grain Processors and Bakers of Kazakhstan; [c] Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Processing Industry of Kyrgyz Republic; [d] Association of Flour Producers of Mongolia; [e] Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Tajikistan; [f] Ministry of State Revenues and Taxes of Tajikistan

13. The data in the **tables 3 and 4** shows the dynamic progress in fortified flour supplies across countries and eventually to all JFPR countries. Despite the fact that flour milling is highly variable due to weather changes, international wheat grain markets and trade environment, clear improvements are apparent in the fortified flour supply in 2006 compared to 2005. The consolidated production data of the fortified flour in participating countries by the end of December 2006 had reached about 63.9% of the planned annual target (the data for Uzbekistan were not available). **Table 5** gives the overview on the wheat fllour fortification at medium-scale flour mills in the Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia and Tajikistan.

Table 3. Wheat Fortified Flour Production in Central Asia and Mongolia in 2003-2006 (*metric tons and number of industries; calendar year)*

	2003	2004	2005	2006
Kazakhstan[a]				
production	72 445	120 877	86 570	214 747
industries, total	16	16	16	16
active industries	7	13	13	13
Kyrgyz Republic[b]				
production	20 257	30 609	13 513	13 470
industries, total	10	10	22	22
active industries	8	8	11	17
Mongolia[c]				
production	7 382	11 904	33 118	50 483
industries, total	6	28	28	28
active industries	4	5	6	25
Tajikistan[d]				
production	24 873	58 063	72 773	84 245
industries, total	6	6	18	18
active industries	4	6	15	18
Uzbekistan[e]				
production	220 783	353 608	36 859	…
industries, total	14	14	14	…
active industries	12	14	14	…

Sources: [a] League of Grain Processors and Bakers of Kazakhstan;
[b] Association of Producers of Fortified Flour and Bakery of Kyrgyzstan;
[c] Association of Flour Producers of Mongolia;
[d] Association of Fortified Salt and Flour Producers of Tajikistan;
[e] 2003-2004: JSC Uzdonmakhsulot Company;
2005-2007: GAIN Country Project Office in Uzbekistan

Table 4. Wheat Fortified Flour Production in Central Asia and Mongolia in 2006 (reporting period) *(metric tons and number of industries; calendar year)*

	2005	2006		
		Jan-Sep	Oct-Dec	Annual
Kazakhstan[a]				
production	86 570	170 591	44 156	214 747
industries, total	16	16	16	16
active industries	13	13	10	13
Kyrgyz Republic[b]				
production	13 513	12 070	1 400	13 470
industries, total	22	22	22	22
active industries	11	14	8	17
Mongolia[c]				
production	33 118	11 904	33 118	50 483
industries, total	28	28	28	28
active industries	6	5	6	25
Tajikistan[d]				
production	72 773	70 484	13 761	84 245
industries, total	18	6	18	18
active industries	15	6	15	18
Uzbekistan[e]				
production	36 859	…	…	…
industries, total	14	…	…	…
active industries	14	…	…	…

Sources:
[a] League of Grain Processors and Bakers of Kazakhstan;
[b] Association of Producers of Fortified Flour and Bakery of Kyrgyzstan;
[c] Association of Flour Producers of Mongolia;
[d] Association of Fortified Salt and Flour Producers of Tajikistan;
[e] 2003-2004: JSC Uzdonmakhsulot Company;
2005-2007: GAIN Country Project Office in Uzbekistan

Table 5. Wheat Fortified Flour Production at Medium-Scale Industries in 2005-2006 (*metric tons, share in total production and number of industries; calendar year)*

	2005	2006
Kyrgyz Republic[a]		
production	3 892	6 270
share in total production (%)	28.8	46.5
medium industries, total	17	17
active industries	7	14
Mongolia[b]		
production	2 900	10 268
share in total production (%)	8.8	20.3
medium industries, total	25	25
active industries	4	23
Tajikistan[b]		
production	18 447	10 592
share in total production (%)	25.3	12.6
medium industries, total	12	12
active industries	10	12

Sources: [a] Association of Producers of Fortified Flour and Bakery of Kyrgyzstan;
[b] Association of Flour Producers of Mongolia;
[c] Association of Fortified Salt and Flour Producers of Tajikistan

Kazakhstan

14. In the reporting period, Kazakhstan flour millers increased the production of fortified wheat flour at 13 industries from the 16 participating ones. Three flour mills run of stocks of premix, and the League of Grain Processors and Bakers of Kazakhstan (LGBK) signed the contract with Mulenchemie (Germany) on the supply of 100 tons of premix in 2007. New flour mills indicated their interest in wheat flour fortification and requested technical assistance from LGBK on purchase of feeders and premix. The total amount of produced fortified wheat flour in Kazakhstan in 2006 reached 13.6% of the annual consumption (see **table 6** for details). The export of fortified wheat flour has also increased. 10 flour mills have been using the 'Healthy Food' logo on their production labels, while the others just indicate on their label that the wheat flour is frotified.

Table 6. Production of fortified Wheat Flour in Kazakhstan in 2003-2006

Criteria	2003	2004	2005	2006
Consolidated production, *tons*	72 445	120 877	86 570	217 747
Share of domestic consumption[a], *%*	4.53	7.55	5.41	13.6
Export of fortified wheat flour, *tons*	-	-	3 200	3 936

[a] The calculation is based on the amount of 1,600,000 tons indicated for annual consumption of wheat flour.
Source: League of Grain Processors and Bakers of Kazakhstan, 2007

15. The internal quality control is provided by spot tests (but only few of the internal laboratories have the authorization to use hydrochloric acid (precursor)). Still 3,162 spot tests were made within the reporting period, as the flour millers consider the spot test the most suitable for the production process. The HPLC tests are rather costly, and not all participating flour mills were planning to purchase spectrophotometers. That's why the CPO and flour mills agreed on the 64 comprehensives tests within a year (one per flour mill per three months), in order to justify the adequacy of production. 7 HPLC tests were made in the reporting period.

16. The local workshops of flour millers (scheduled for IV quarter 2006 and I quarter 2007) were postponed until the disbursement of the JFPR funds resume.

Kyrgyz Republic

17. In Kyrgyz Republic the annual demand of wheat flour is 420,000 tons. The whole flour milling industry is comprised of 35 large and medium-size flour mills and 3,143 small-size ones. JFPR's technical assistance was provided to 5 large-size flour mills and 17 medium/small-size ones. The estimated annual capacity of the involved flour mills is 68,000 tons of fortified wheat flour. However the actual production of fortified wheat flour in 2006 was 13,470 tons only (18.9%). In the reporting period, the large and some of medium-size flour mills stopped the production because of lack of wheat grain.

18. The low level of wheat flour production is a result of the low quality and irregular supply of domestic wheat grain. The Association of Fortified Flour Producers (AFFP) informed about the increase of illegal import of wheat flour from Kazakhstan, which has better quality and low prices. The association also reported on the technical problems with the micro feeders functioning, which urged the technicians to allocate most of their time to the maintenance of such micro feeders. The vendor (TechnoMight Engineering Company) provided replacement of the devises and some technical assistance, but it did not result in visible improvement. The local wheat flour fortification consultant has assisted the flour mills in addressing this problem.

19. Three large-size flour mills (Akun, Bishkekmolkombinat and Issykkul Dan Azyk) stopped the production of fortified wheat flour as they ran out of premix stocks. EA and CPO rejected the request to redistribute the retained premix because the given industries did not implement their commitments on the agreed co-sharing of the one-third of premix costs. The total retained premix amount was 4.7 tons, the CPO applied to the Kazakh Academy of Nutrition on testing the micronutrients' content in premix in order to consider the issue of its further utilization (the expiration date was limited to the end of 2006).

20. In accordance with the decision of the Steering Committee, the feeder and premix was reallocated from the non-working Tokmok Molzavod to Maiam Jalalbat. The new medium-size flour mill Intershak joined the project and started the production of fortified wheat flour.

21. The internal laboratories provided 37 tests of the samples of fortified wheat flour, and 15 tests were provided by the Independent Bakery Inspection. Only 5 samples had violations in micronutrients content.

Mongolia

22. In Mongolia the annual demand of wheat flour is about 240,000 tons, however, statistical data for the last 3 years showed lower figures due to the increase in rice and noodles consumption.Wheat flour production is heavily import dependant, as domestic wheat grain production covers only one-third of the demand. The shortage of wheat grain and the negative impact of the transition to the market economy affected the production of wheat flour at most of the flour mills. The Mongolian Flour Mills Association (MFMA) estimates the import of wheat flour as 60-70% of the annual demand. The lack of turnover funds at small-scale flour mills contributes to lower wheat flour production. The Food Producers Association continued its attempts to reduce the VAT on wheat flour production.

23. In Mongolia, in the reporting period, 20 flourmills produced 21,155 tons of fortified flour (8.8 % of annual demand). In spite of the shortage of wheat grain, the medium-size flour mills Altan Taria, UB flour, Uulen Khur, Namuun Taria, and Baril Trade still produced fortified flour on a regular basis.

Tajikistan

24. In Tajikistan the annual demand of wheat flour is about 950,000 tons. JFPR's technical assistance was provided to 6 large-size flour mills and 12 medium/small-size ones. The estimated annual capacity of the involved flour mills is 145,000 tons of fortified wheat flour. However, the actual production of fortified wheat flour in 2006 was 84,245 tons only (58.1%). In the reporting period, the large and most of the medium-size flour mills produced wheat flour on an occasional basis because of the lack of electric power supply. In general, the production of fortified wheat flour in 2006 increased by 15.8% against the year 2005 which showed the interest of the producers and consumers.

25. The Ministry of Economy and Development of Tajikistan informed on the supply of 13,450 tons of fortified wheat flour within the framework of humanitarian aid supplies. In October 2006 the Association of Fortified Food Producers of Tajikistan conducted an information meeting with the importers of wheat flour and advocated the importation of the fortified wheat flour from participating countries. 2,500 tons of fortified wheat flour from Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan were imported in the reporting period. At the same time, the shortage of domestic wheat grain and frequent cut-offs of power supplies limited the whole wheat flour production and significantly affected their prices: the price for a bag of 50 kilograms flour increased from $12.3-13.7 (October 2006) to $20.7 (December 2006).

26. The Association continued its efforts to strengthen the quality assurance and control at industrial sites. The spectrophotometer's tests of iron and niacin content in samples of fortified flour showed that 78% of the samples were adequate, and the amount of tests in the reporting period was 147 (against only 18 tests in the third quarter of 2006). The Association designed the field laboratory pack for flour mills in order to provide all medium-size flour mills with unified and adequate equipment and reagents to ensure the spot-tests of fortified wheat flour.

27. The Association conducted the negotiations with the premix suppliers and discussed the contract with a company from India on KAP Premix supply for the amount of $60,000. However the lack of response from the flour millers (within the absence of the mandatory wheat flour fortification legislation) cancelled the negotiations at this stage.

28. Pilot flour fortification at small mills (in cooperation with UNICEF/GAIN Project) revealed the technical feasibility of fortification at small mills on the condition of premix dilution and increased control of the feeder's work. However the introduction of the fortification at small mills seems not to be cost-efficient, as the costs of feeders, installation, and quality monitoring are higher than the cost of the small flour milling equipment itself.

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29. The Project agreements ensured the design and adoption of the quality assurance and control procedures. The internal control procedures include measuring of the iron content in wheat flour samples by: spot tests; spectrophotometer's method and use of HPLC tests. While the adopted methods vary from country to country, the use of spot test for qualitative analysis was proved by the flour millers. Conducting HPLC tests on micronutrient complete content in premix and wheat flour samples at least once every three months was recommended for each participating flour mill. **Table 7** provides an overview of the internal quality monitoring at industrial sites.

30. The external quality control on the fortified wheat flour was conducted in Kazakshtan (10 spetrophotometer tests and 44 spot tests) and Mongolia (40 spot tests).

Table 7. Internal Quality Control on Fortified Wheat Flour at Industrial Sites in 2004-2006

Country (years)	HPLC tests			Spectrophotometers' Tests			Spot tests**		
	Number of samples		Percentage of adequate samples (%)	Number of samples		Percentage of adequate samples(%)	Number of samples		Percentage of adequate samples(%)
	Total	Iron content 50 ppm		Total	Iron content 50 ppm		Total	Iron content 50 ppm	
Kazakhstan									
2004	30	30	100	-	-		8,850	8,850	100
2005	1	1	100	-	-		10,473	10,473	100
Jan-Sep 2006	4	4	100	6	6	100	7,232	7,232	100
Oct-Dec 2006	7	7	100	3	3	100	3,162	3,162	100
Kyrgyz Republic									
2004	24	24	100	92	92	100	2,400	2,400	100
2005	-	-		23	23	100	262	262	100
Jan-Sep 2006				28	28	100	227	227	100
Oct-Dec 2006				15	10	66.7	37	37	100
Mongolia									
2004	11	11	100				425	425	100
2005	4	4	100				1,341	1,341	100
Jan-Sep 2006	18	18	100				2,904	2,904	100
Oct-Dec 2006	7	7	100				1,555	1,555	100
Tajikistan									
2004	32	32	100				789	647	82.0
2005							336	256	76.2
Jan-Sep 2006				131	102	77.9	430	313	72.8
Oct-Dec 2006				147	115	78.2	219	185	72.8
Uzbekistan									
2004	36	36	100				3,025	3,025	100
2005	n/a	-	-	n/a	-	-	n/a	-	-
Jan-Sep 2006	n/a	-	-	n/a	-	-	n/a	-	-
Oct-Dec 2006									

* Measurement of iron content only

** qualitative test of iron content

Source: League of Grain Processors and Bakers of Kazakhstan; Association of Fortified Wheat Flour and Bakery Producers of Kyrgyz Republic; Association of Food Producers of Mongolia; Association of Salt Producers and Flour Millers of Tajikistan; Uzbekistan National Flour Fortification Program

b) Salt Iodization

31. In October-December 2006, quality salt iodization continued in all the participating countries. The amount of iodized salt produced by each country also progressed, ranging from 44.3% to 94.1% of the total desired amount. Consolidated data on the activities of salt industries and the production of quality-iodized salt can be found in **Tables 8 and 9** below.

Table 8. **Iodized Salt Production, Export and Import in Central Asia and Mongolia in 2003-2006** (*metric tons and number of industries; calendar year)*

	2003	2004	2005	2006
Kazakhstan				
desired production [a]	54 571	55 023	55 257	
active industries [b]	2	2	2	2
actual production [b]	64 356	65 658	66 494	65 171
import [b]	…	16 000	15 660	8 765
export [b]	…	3 000	1 344	2 688
Kyrgyz Republic				
desired production [b]	18 290	18 487	18 673	
active industries [c]	6	10	10	12
actual production [c]	10 637	13 705	12 051	12 050
import [c]	5 630	6 700	7 000	6 740
export	…	…	…	…
Mongolia				
desired production [b]	9 125	9 235	9 490	
active industries [d]	17	19	19	18
actual production [d]	3 891	5 430	5 694	6 234
import [e]	…	…	16 000	8 380
export [e]	…	…	3 000	…
Tajikistan				
desired production [b]	23 991	24 492	25 003	
active industries	3	3	4	5
actual production [f]	40 952	22 588	30 475	38 870
import	-	-	-	-
export [g]	…	1 560	2 570	5 100
Uzbekistan				
desired production [b]	93 805	94 900	95 995	
active industries [h]	13	13	13	13
actual production [h]	44 861	43 004	66 595	71 575
export	…	…	…	…
import	…	…	…	…

Sources: [a] Estimated amount calculated on the needs of 10 grams per person/day;
[b] Salt Producers Association of Kazakhstan; [c] Association of Salt Producers of Kyrgyzstan;
[d] Association of Salt Producers of Mongolia; [e] Ministry of Food and Agriculture of Mongolia;
[f] Association of Fortified Salt and Flour Poducers of Tajikistan;
[g] Ministry of State Revenues and Taxes of Tajikistan; [h] Ministry of Health of Uzbekistan

Table 9. Iodized Salt Production in Central Asia and Mongolia in 2006 (reporting period) *(metric tons and number of industries; calendar year)*

	2005	2006		
		Jan-Sep	Oct-Dec	Annual
Kazakhstan[a]				
production	66 494	48 242	16 929	65 171
industries, total	3	3	3	3
active industries	2	2	2	2
Kyrgyz Republic[b]				
production	12 051	6 740	5 310	12 050
industries, total	12	12	12	12
active industries	11	12	12	12
Mongolia[c]				
production	5 694	5 592	641	6 234
industries, total	19	19	19	19
active industries	18	18	18	18
Tajikistan[d]				
production	30 475	31 195	7 445	38 870
industries, total	5	5	5	5
active industries	4	5	5	5
Uzbekistan[e]				
production	66 595	51 425	20 150	71 575
industries, total	13	13	13	13
active industries	13	13	13	13

Sources: [a] Salt Producers Association of Kazakhstan;
[b] Association of Salt Producers of Kyrgyzstan;
[c] Association of Salt Producers of Mongolia;
[d] Association of Fortified Salt and Flour Poducers of Tajikistan;
[e] Ministry of Health of Uzbekistan

Kazakhstan

32. The annual demand for iodized salt is about 55,000 tons. In the reporting period, two main salt companies in Kazakhstan (AralTuz and Pavlodar Salt Company) produced 16,929 tons, the annual production for 2006 was 65,171 tons, and 8,765 tons were imported.

33. SES provided regular monitoring on the quality of the iodized salt both at the industrial sites and local markets. In the reporting period, SES made 3,412 tests, the amount of adequately iodized test reached 98%.

Kyrgyz Republic

34. The annual demand of the country is 18.6 thousand tons of iodized salt. While about 38% of the demand is covered by sustainable import from the CIS countries (7,000 tons were imported in 2005), the annual domestic production is 12-13 thousand tons. The total amount

of salt industries in the Kyrgyz Republic is 12, and 6 of them are members of the Salt Producers Association (ASP).

35. The internal quality control on the iodine content was provided by WYD-Checkers. The total amount of test samples was 1901 in 2006 (55 in the reporting period).

36. ASP initiated the process of self-procurement of potassium iodate for salt industries in 2005. While the annual demand of potassium iodate is 1.2-1.5 tons, in 2006 ASP purchased 470 kilograms of potassium iodate. The other demands were covered by the salt producers themselves.

Mongolia

37. The annual demand of the country is 9 thousand tons of iodized salt. There are 60 salt deposits in the country, but only at 14 deposits does the salt fit to food standard and can be processed as table salt. Two medium-size salt factories and 17 small-size enterprises are engaged in salt production. In addition, simple salt iodization equipment was granted to 6 hospitals in remote area for salt iodization. The salt industries process the domestic salt and also iodize and distribute the imported salt. In the reporting period the iodized salt production was 641 tons, while the annual production reached 6,236 tons (69.2% from desired amount).

Tajikistan

38. The annual demand of the country is 25.6 thousand tons of iodized salt. Only five participating salt industries produced 38.6 thousand tons in 2006 (7.44 thousand tons in reporting period). Most of the salt producers used the 'Healthy Food' logo to mark the iodized salt; and all salt is labeled as 'iodized salt'. However, according to the national survey (June 2006) 87.2% of households were consuming iodized salt, and only at 57.8% households the salt was adequately iodized. 17% of households were consuming non-iodized salt. This misbalance appeared due to the following factors: (i) continued supply of unprocessed salt in bulk from individual entrepreneurs in Khatlon Province to the households and local markets; (ii) labeling of non-iodized salt as properly iodized by the illegal retail companies and individual entrepreneurs. At Kurgantyube local market Tajikistan Standard Committee exempted 13 tons of non-iodized salt from sale.

39. The procedures for self-procurement of the potassium iodate, fortification equipment and packaging supplies were discussed with salt producers and the MOH. The Association of Fortified Food Producers made the contract on procurement of 2,000 kilograms of potassium iodate and received the first shipment of 600 kilograms in November 2006.

Uzbekistan

40. During the reporting period, the 13 participating salt companies produced 20,150 tons of iodized salt (71,575 tons for the year 2006). The salt industries reported about 3,190 tests at the industrial sites.

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41. The Project agreements ensured the design and adoption of the quality assurance and control procedures. The internal control procedures include measuring of the iron content in salt samples by: salt test indicators; spectrophotometer's method and/or WYD iodine checkers and titration method. **Table 10** provides an overview of the internal quality monitoring at industrial sites, and **table 11** – at local markets.

Table 10. Data on Quality Control of Iodized Salt at Industrial Sites in 2004-2006

Country (years)	Titration Method			WYD Checkers			Salt Test Indicators**		
	Number of samples		Percentage of Adequate samples (%)	Number of samples		Percentage of Adequate samples (%)	Number of samples		Percentage of Adequate samples (%)
	Total	Iodine content 40±15 ppm*		Total	Iodine content 40±15 ppm*		Total	Iodine content 40±15 ppm*	
Kazakhstan									
2004	13,280	11,155	84.0	-	-		206,531	181,747	88.0
2005	2,183	2,175	99.6	-	-		-	-	
Jan-Sep 2006	1,785	1,783	99.9	-	-		-	-	
Oct-Dec 2006	496	496	100	-	-		-	-	
Kyrgyz Republic									
2004	79	77	97.5	56	52	92.2	500	500	100
2005				30	30	100	1,600	1,600	100
Jan-Sep 2006				137	137	100	2,500	2,500	100
Oct-Dec 2006				55	55	100	1,000	1,000	100
Mongolia									
2004	211	158	74.9						
2005	1,128	1,126	99.8						
Jan-Sep 2006	7,755	7,567	97.6						
Oct-Dec 2006	582	558	95.8	8	8	100	2,182	2,146	98.4
Tajikistan									
2004	9,143	6,125	67.0	560	397	70.9	35,600	29,370	82.5
2005	2,566	2,432	94.8	193	187	96.9	156	139	89.1
Jan-Sep 2006	3,159	3,030	95.9	204	197	96.6	506	506	100
Oct-Dec 2006	1,341	1,274	95.0	78	74	94.9	191	175	91.6
Uzbekistan									
2004	2,945	2,945	100				13,595	13,595	100
2005	2,039	2,039	100	190	190	100	6,969	6,969	100
Jan-Sep 2006	1,517	1,517	100	137	137	100	5,695	5,695	100
Oct-Dec 2006	691	691	100	79	79	100	2,420	2,420	100

* The adopted iodine content in Mongolia is 30±10 ppm

** The appropriate iodine content was ≥ 15 ppm

Source: League of Grain Processors and Bakers of Kazakhstan; Association of Fortified Wheat Flour and Bakery Producers of Kyrgyz Republic; Association of Food Producers of Mongolia; Association of Salt Producers and Flour Millers of Tajikistan; Uzbekistan National Flour Fortification Program

Table 11. Data on Quality Control of Iodized Salt at Local Markets in 2005-2006

Country (years)	Titration Method			WYD Checkers			Salt Test Indicators**		
	Number of samples		Percentage of Adequate samples (%)	Number of samples		Percentage of Adequate samples (%)	Number of samples		Percentage of Adequate samples (%)
	Total	Iodine content 40±15 ppm*		Total	Iodine content 40±15 ppm*		Total	Iodine content 40±15 ppm*	
Kazakhstan									
2005	9,839	9,544	97.0	n/a			n/a		
Jan-Sep 2006	7,681	7,504	97.7	n/a			n/a		
Oct-Dec 2006	3,412	3,356	98.3	n/a			n/a		
Kyrgyz Republic									
2005	2,438	1,969	80.8	930	755	81.2	5,700	5,700	100
Jan-Sep 2006	1,286	1,078	83.8	256	212	82.8	600	600	100
Oct-Dec 2006	n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a	
Mongolia									
2005							1,789	1,764	98.6
Jan-Sep 2006							1,599	1,584	99.1
Oct-Dec 2006							840	835	99.4
Tajikistan									
2005	648	530	81.8	526	431	81.9	22,249	17,212	77.4
Jan-Sep 2006	507	409	80.7	482	397	82.4	21,056	18,157	86.2
Oct-Dec 2006	174	162	93.1	188	176	93.6	6,505	6,421	98.7
Uzbekistan									
2005	21,675	15,960	73.6	1,631	1,275	78.2	n/a		
Jan-Sep 2006	n/a			n/a			n/a		
Oct-Dec 2006	n/a			n/a			n/a		

* The adopted iodine content in Mongolia is 30±10 ppm

** The appropriate iodine content was ≥ 15 ppm

Source: Ministry of health of Kazakhstan; Confederation of NGOs of Kazakhstan; Association of Salt Producers of Kyrgyz Republic; Association of Food Producers of Mongolia; Association of Salt Producers and Flour Millers of Tajikistan; Ministry of Health of Uzbekistan

B.3 Strengthening the Capacities of the Government

a) Legislation and Regulations on Fortified Food

42. In *Kazakhstan* the Parliament's Committee of Agriculture continued consideration on the revised draft Food Safety Law, which plans to shift from mandatory wheat flour fortification to voluntary fortification.

43. The parliamentarians of the *Kyrgyz Republic* designed the draft law on the mandatory wheat flour fortification, which is the subject of consideration by the committees of the Zhogorku Kenesh (Lower Chamber of the Parliament). CPO designed the procedure for use of the 'Healthy Food' logo and submitted it to Kyrgyz Patent Agency for consideration and approval.

44. In *Mongolia* CPO conducted an information meeting on strengthening the legal environment for the fortified flour on 26 December 2006.The participants discussed the various legal aspects of wheat flour fortification and agreed on the importance of the law on mandatory wheat flour fortification.

45. In *Tajikistan* the Olii Mazhilis (Lower Chamber of the Parliament) conveyed, in November 2006, the draft law on the mandatory wheat flour fortification for the Government Review. The Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of State Revenues rejected the proposal of the Ministry of Health on the elimination of taxes and tariffs on the imported potassium iodate. The Ministry of Health designed the proposal to include the fortificants in the list of essential medicine and drugs which were tax-exempted by the Government.

46. In *Uzbekistan,* on 27 December 2007, the Olii Mazhilis (Lower Chamber of the Parliament) of Uzbekistan adopted the law on prevention of iodine deficiency disorders, which stipulated the universal salt iodization. In accordance with the Parliament's procedures the law would be conveyed for the consideration of the Senate and the President of Uzbekistan.

b) Quality Control on Fortified Food

47. In *Kazakhstan,* CPO, in cooperation with SES and KAN, conducted a national wiorkshop on the issues of monitoring the quality of the fortified food products and evaluation of the efficiency of the IDD prevention programs (30-31 October 2006).

48. The Association of Salt Producers of the *Kyrgyz Republic,* in cooperation with the State Service of Sanitary and Epidemiological Surveillance, conducted regular tests on the quality of iodized salt at wholesale and retail markets and considered the high rate of non-adequate samples and checked the production process and quality of internal control at the salt industries. ASP reported that some of the salt industries did not have the adequate salt iodization equipment (only 3 enterprises got the support from the JFPR Project); also the industries were not strictly following the requirements on quality assurance and monitoring. SES terminated the production of non-adequate iodized salt at three salt enterprises in Chui Province.

49. A reference laboratory on the quality of iodized salt was established at the Centre of Preventive Medicine. CPO and SES designed and submitted for consideration and approval the amendments to the national standard on testing the iodine content based on the use of the single-wave spectrophotometers (WYD-Checkers).

50. CPO conducted 5 local trainings for the staff of the governmental control agencies (SES and Standard Committee) in Chui, Issykkul, Talas, Jalalbad and Osh provinces, which involved 143 participants in total.

51. In *Mongolia* the Professional Inspection, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Food and Agriculture adopted, on 1 December 2006, the new regulations on the quality control of fortified wheat flour.

B.4 Social mobilization and poverty targeting

52. In *Kazakhstan* CPO, in cooperation with NGOs, arranged local activities on food fortification advocacy in Akmola, Aktobe, Kyzylorda provinces and Southern Kazakhstan. In Akmola CPO, in cooperation with local authorities, conducted the workshop on poverty reduction isues.

53. In the *Kyrgyz Republic, the* NGO 'Let's Keep Our Health' designed the communication kit on the advantages of using fortified food products. This NGO also designed the criteria on competition for mass media on the best advocacy of the fortified food. The JFPR Project provided financial support to the National Endocrinology Center to pring the guidelines for IDD prevention programs, including mandatory salt iodization. The NGOs (Congress of Women of Kyrgyzstan, Oy-Kaiyn, RDC-Elet, Health Promotion and

Disease Prevention, El-Elion and Association of Public Health) started the social mobilization campaigns at community level in targeted districts.

54. In *Mongolia* Altan Taria Company (the biggest flour mill in the country), in cooperation with MyStore supermarket, conducted the 'Day of Fortified Wheat Flour' on 4 November 2006. During the event the consumers got information on the advantages of using fortified food. CPO supported broadcasts and TV-spots on the main TV channels (TV-5, TV-9 and NTV) and publications in local newspapers. In order to support food fortification advocacy in remote areas, CPO supported an information meeting with the local confessions' authorities in Bayan-Ulgii Aymag.

C. Financial Performance

55. The Project, funded by the Government of Japan and financed on a grant basis by JFPR, received US$2 million or its equivalent for the estimated total costs of project. JFPR funds are spent within the framework of CIPs (Appendix I). A consolidated Statement of Expenditure from the beginning of the Project until 31 December 2006 (Appendixes II and III) shows the progress in funds utilization. Of the total grant amount, an estimated 30.7% had been used by the end of the reporting period. The consumption of JFPR funds by 31 December 2006 had been $613,932 (see **table 12**).

Table 12. Utilization of JFPR Funds in October-December 2006

Project Expenditures Category	Cost Estimates	Beginning to date (US$)	This period		Accumulated expenditures	
			US$	%	US$	%
Equipment and Supplies	301,805	78,647.07	5,859.48	1.94%	84,506.55	28.00%
Training, Workshops, Seminars	360,259	100,809.75	28,140.18	7.81%	128,949.93	35.79%
Advocacy and Communication Activities	53,421	13,438.32	6,265.91	11.73%	19,704.23	36.88%
Consulting Services	158,634	40,244.68	35,181.38	22.18%	75,426.06	47.55%
Social Mobilization by NGOs	241,212	48,629.28	20,582.32	8.53%	69,211.60	28.69%
Project Management	222,686	151,588.91	50,085.99	22.49%	201,674.90	90.56%
Operational Studies and Impact Assessment	37,915	24,842.54	6,965.69	18.37%	31,808.24	83.89%
Other Project Inputs	624,068	2,500.67	150.00	0.02%	2,650.67	0.42%
Total	**2,000,000**	**460,701**	**153,230.78**	**7.66%**	**613,932.20**	**30.70%**

Source: Country Project SOE Forms, 2006

56. The use of JFPR's funds was sufficiently low in Kazakhstan and in Uzbekistan; it was also noted that most of the CPOs limited the project implementation to training and workshops, production of communication materials, and routine project management activities. In Kazakhstan all bank accounts opened under the Ministry of Health were arrested by the Procurate Office and the funds were sequestrated in accordance with Court decision. Although the issues had no relations with the ADB/JFPR Projects, it was treated just as if the account belonged to the Ministry of Health. The EA and CPO approached the Governmnet to release the account and return the sequestrated funds. In Uzbekistan the disbursement of funds was conditioned to the adoption of the salt iodization law, and the JFPR funds were transferred to the Project Imprest Account in November 2006. The details of JFPR fund utilization at each country level until 31 December 2006 can be found in **Tables**

13a-e. (due to the external problems with the Project Imprest Account) (due to the delayed start of work)

Table 13a. Kazakhstan. Utilization of JFPR Funds in 2005-2006

Project Expenditures Category	Cost Estimates (US$)	2005 (US$)	2006 (US$)	Accumulated expenditures	
				US$	%
Equipment and Supplies	33,100	947.45	26,805.51	27,752.96	83.85%
Training, Workshops, Seminars	40,329	6,907.55	18,439.85	25,347.40	62.85%
Advocacy and Communication Activities	19,321	6,000.00	-	6,000.00	31.05%
Consulting Services	53,861	16,890.00	25,411.95	42,301.95	78.54%
Social Mobilization by NGOs	53,679	11,000.00	9,235.00	20,235.00	37.70%
Project Management	67,830	25,012.54	32,797.79	57,810.33	85.23%
Operational Studies and Impact Assessment	10,550	2,550.54	13,822.90	16,373.44	155.20%
Other Project Inputs	21,330	-	-	-	0.00%
Total	300,000	69,308.08	126,513.00	195,821.08	65.27%

Source: Country Project SOE Forms, 2005-2006

Table 13b. Kyrgyz Republic. Utilization of JFPR Funds in 2005-2006

Project Expenditures Category	Cost Estimates (US$)	2005 (US$)	2006 (US$)	Accumulated expenditures	
				US$	%
Equipment and Supplies	107,500	-	668.36	668.36	0.62%
Training, Workshops, Seminars	57,584	3,297.72	16,551.66	19,849.38	34.47%
Advocacy and Communication Activities	9,500	-	6,933.05	6,933.05	72.98%
Consulting Services	20,000	1,600.00	10,317.15	11,917.15	59.59%
Social Mobilization by NGOs	40,422	-	37,783.39	37,783.39	93.47%
Project Management	36,000	13,790.75	19,998.87	33,789.62	93.86%
Operational Studies and Impact Assessment	5,985	-	2,214.59	2,214.59	37.00%
Other Project Inputs	23,009	-	-	-	0.00%
Total	300,000	18,688.47	94,467.07	113,155.54	37.72%

Source: Country Project SOE Forms, 2005-2006

Table 13c. Mongolia. Utilization of JFPR Funds in 2005-2006

Project Expenditures Category	Cost Estimates (US$)	2005 (US$)	2006 (US$)	Accumulated expenditures	
				US$	%
Equipment and Supplies	47,808	-	12,686.32	12,686.32	26.54%
Training, Workshops, Seminars	131,013	8,425.23	42,030.73	50,455.95	38.51%
Advocacy and Communication Activities		-	2,771.18	2,771.18	0.00%
Consulting Services	31,006	1,229.19	10,400.00	11,629.19	37.51%
Social Mobilization by NGOs	19,836	-	-	-	0.00%
Project Management	50,529	8,309.84	18,198.05	26,507.89	52.46%
Operational Studies and Impact Assessment	4,380	1,534.31	6,329.67	7,863.98	179.55%
Other Project Inputs	15,427	200.67	2,450.00	2,650.67	17.18%
Total	300,000	19,699.24	94,865.94	114,565.19	38.19%

Source: Country Project SOE Forms, 2005-2006

Table 13d. Tajikistan. Utilization of JFPR Funds in 2005-2006

Project Expenditures Category	Cost Estimates (US$)	2005 (US$)	2006 (US$)	Accumulated expenditures	
				US$	%
Equipment and Supplies	65,297	16,321.10	27,077.81	43,398.91	66.46%
Training, Workshops, Seminars	67,133	-	23,269.20	23,269.20	34.66%
Advocacy and Communication Activities	0	-	4,000.00	4,000.00	0.00%
Consulting Services	26,367	-	9,577.77	9,577.77	36.32%
Social Mobilization by NGOs	65,275	-	11,193.21	11,193.21	17.15%
Project Management	47,327	16,499.64	29,185.67	45,685.31	96.53%
Operational Studies and Impact Assessment	10,000	711.18	4,645.05	5,356.23	53.56%
Other Project Inputs	18,600	-	-	-	0.00%
Total	300,000	33,531.92	108,948.72	142,480.64	47.49%

Source: Country Project SOE Forms, 2005-2006

Table 13e. Uzbekistan. Utilization of JFPR Funds in 2005-2006

Project Expenditures Category	Cost Estimates (US$)	2005 (US$)	2006 (US$)	Accumulated expenditures	
				US$	%
Equipment and Supplies	48,100	-	-	-	0.00%
Training, Workshops, Seminars	64,200	-	10,028.00	10,028.00	15.62%
Advocacy and Communication Activities	24,600	-	-	-	0.00%
Consulting Services	27,400	-	-	-	0.00%
Social Mobilization by NGOs	62,000	-	-	-	0.00%
Project Management	21,000	8,010.86	29,870.89	37,881.75	180.39%
Operational Studies and Impact Assessment	7,000	-	-	-	0.00%
Other Project Inputs	45,700	-	-	-	0.00%
Total	300,000	8,010.86	39,898.89	47,909.75	15.97%

Source: Country Project SOE Forms, 2005-2006

D. Management and Operations

57. The arrangements for the implementation of the JFPR Project are as follows: ADB coordinates the overall implementation in all five countries through the RCAO set up in Almaty, Kazakhstan. RCAO is also responsible for the centralized procurement of equipment and fortificants. The participating countries set up Country Steering Committees for project oversight, comprising of representatives from the finance, economic development, and health ministries; the private food industry; and the NGO community. The MOH of each participating country was functioning as the EA of the JFPR project and established the CPO. The EA in each participating country is responsible for the overall coordination of the Project activities in its country, including the following: (i) coordination with other ministries, agencies and NGOs; (ii) approval of annual work plans and disbursement plans; and (iii) ensuring compliance with ADB rules for procurement and disbursement. A Country Project Coordinator (medical doctor), a Financial Specialist and an Administrative Assistant (optional) staffed the CPO in each participating country. The CPO staff has formal contract arrangements with the EA based on the terms of reference approved by ADB. The RCAO staff is recruited by ADB and financed under the Project. The RCAO acts as the central project implementation unit and coordinates Project planning, reporting, monitoring of implementation progress, international procurement, and the organization of workshops and round table meetings. RCAO's responsibilities also include: (i) detailed project planning and management; (ii) assistance to EAs on local procurement and contract administration; (iii) review of withdrawal applications for CPOs imprest accounts; (iv) monitoring the disbursement of funds, including timely submission of withdrawal applications to ADB; (v) preparation of consolidated quarterly progress and completion reports; (vi) coordination of annual audits; (vii) design and support of the project website; and (viii) assistance to ADB/JFPR staff and consultants' missions. KAN acts as a technical advisor to the RCAO and facilitates exchanges with nutritional institutes in the other Project countries.

58. Regular meetings of the Steering Committees were conducted in Mongolia only.

APPENDIXES