

## Major Change in Scope and Amount

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Project Number: 38079  
Technical Assistance Number: 4408  
January 2006

### TA 4408-KGZ: A Study of the Impact of Land Reform on Agriculture, Poverty Reduction, and Environment

1. The TA was approved on 12 October 2004 in the amount of \$400,000 equivalent from the Poverty Reduction Cooperation Fund (PRCF). The purpose of the TA is to assess the process and impact of land reform on agriculture growth, poverty reduction, and the environment. The outcome of the study will provide lessons learned and recommendation for the Kyrgyz Republic and other Central Asian countries. The Executing Agency (EA) is the Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources, and Processing Industry (MAWRPI). A consulting firm was recruited and field services commenced on 22 March 2005. Consulting services includes 12 pm of international and 42 pm of domestic consulting services. A lump sum contract was negotiated with the consulting firm, GRM International (The Netherlands) in association with The Land Tenure Center, University of Wisconsin (United States). The period of the TA is 18 months and the completion date is currently set on 1 November 2006.

2. The TA is to undertake a comprehensive study of the land reform program. It is reviewing the process from its origin, including the evolution of the policy, legislation, and institutions. It will also assess the impact of the program on agricultural growth, poverty reduction and the environment. The study will assist the Government in the next phase of the program which should see a consolidation of policy, legislation and institutions.

3. The study is being undertaken in a strong collaborative and participatory approach. The collaboration is between the international and domestic consultants and other resource personnel in undertaking the study. The limited international consulting inputs mean that the majority of the study is currently being conducted by the domestic consultants. The participatory approach is to be pursued through a study coordination group, extensive group interviews, comprehensive and in-depth survey, several workshops at local and national levels, and a final workshop involving international participants. Another feature is the preparation of case studies for each of the three regions being surveyed to focus on the common and specific attributes of the response in implementation to the land reform program. Special studies are also envisaged following the initial survey work to focus on specific aspects that warrant further detailed assessment. The study also has a strong social and gender focus. It is expected the study will be formally published.

4. The EA has requested ADB to provide supplementary funding on a grant basis from the PRCF to provide sufficient additional resources across the study to ensure that it is comprehensive and of high quality for publication. The study has received increased attention from the Government and the donor community in view of the increasing issues related to land reform. Since the revolution there has been more demand for an increased allocation of land as the plots are small and fragmented, increasing land disputes, and more attention to alternative farming structures, particularly cooperatives. The study will make recommendations for the further development of land reform in the Kyrgyz Republic.

5. The Board is notified of the increase in the TA budget by \$130,000 financed on a grant basis from the PRCF. The Department for International Development has given its approval of the increase in funding on 27 October 2005, and the administration by ADB of the proposed cofinancing. In accordance with Project Administration Instructions (PAI) 5.11, paras. 31 and 32, the Board is notified of this approval.