

Achievements for January - December, 2006

Result 3: Improved Technologies adoption below WUA levels facilitated

The main component objectives of operations in 2006 was to disseminate improved technologies developed by the project and directed at water conservation and water productivity improvement, water use management and water demand management. Improved technologies were disseminated among farms through organization specialists, trainers and consultants of extension services cooperating with farms. The main solution of the given objective was to train consultants and trainers in the methodology on effective irrigation water use and to work out technology on advisory work with farmers, developed by IWRM-Fergana Project. In order to achieve the given goal, we had to resolve some organizational problems which objectively existed in all states but differed from each other:

It was significant to search for extension services or organizations prepared on its organizational structure and investigated objectives for resolving IWRM-Fergana Project's issues.

If there were no doubts on appropriateness of cooperation with RAS in Osh province, then in Uzbekistan created polygons under BISA regarding its organizational structure did not meet fully advisory activity's needs, for which the technology, worked out by the project, provided. In Tajikistan at the beginning of the year the project had no any organization, with which it could cooperate and impart the experience.

What has been achieved in resolving these objectives?

The decision was made to start training activity on training field polygons' specialists in Uzbekistan in spite of absence of organizational structure and to organize the structure under BISA meeting extension service's needs through the ministry interested in developing created polygons for farmers. As a result of implemented monitoring and meetings with administration of several districts, it was determined that beside of BISA from 2006 MTP were established in districts under the khokimiyat. MTP specialists should provide any assistance for farmers in improving their productivity. Khakimiyats in Kuva, Tashlak, Yaz'yavan districts proposed to cooperate with the project regarding training MTP specialists. Provincial project executors held several meetings with MTP specialists in Tashlak district using guidelines and bulletins prepared for them and farmers. We failed to cover all MTP in all districts and train their specialists because of objective reasons: firstly, it was impossible to assemble all specialists at one time in Training Center under BISA or in another place, and secondly, it was decided that it would be the most real to carry out training in districts by themselves for certain MTP jointly with farmers during khokimiyat meetings held two times a month.

In Tajikistan non-governmental organization Agency Support Development Process NAU (ASDP-NAU) has been established, which cooperates with farmers already for 7 years rendering them any advisory services in agriculture production. ASDP-NAU Direction agreed to cooperate with the project and in particular regarding the issues on effective irrigation water use, in the field of which ASDP-NAU had no both specialists and experience.

2. To give to each trainer of extension service during one year not only the concept on project technology and methods but to realize them when working with farmers without assistance of project specialists.

The objective was very difficult.

Trainings were held during a year in every province regarding the issues on water effectiveness and productivity improvement, which were investigated by IWRM-Fergana Project in the previous phase. Guidelines, forms for filling in received information, bulletins for every measure conducted in the field were developed regarding every theme and submitted to consultants. Provincial project executors held field trainings in demonstration polygons for the whole growing season and with farmers located in the area of these polygons.

As a result encouraging results were gained in demonstration fields of extension services in Uzbekistan (Andijan and Fergana provinces). Under the observation and consultation of field trainers and provincial project specialists, farmers, in whose lands demonstration sites are located, use irrigation water at the level of recommended norms for the conditions, under which the farm is and have received yield, which has been significantly higher than average yield of neighboring farms. Water productivity was on average 0,46 kg/m³ and was increased up to 0,8 kg/m³ in certain farms. RAS consultants presented water accounting methods and effective technologies of irrigation water use in the field for farmers in Osh province based on gained knowledge and guidelines.

In Tajikistan cooperation between provincial project specialists and ASDP-NAU trainers allowed to give understanding for farmers regarding the importance of proposed technologies on their

productivity and profit improvement. But it was difficult for one growing season to train consultants and trainers fully in that technology, which was used by the project. More detailed and broadened training is expedient, since not all specialists have respective preparation on water use and not everyone is able to absorb during a year that capacity, which has IWRM-Fergana Project.