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FAO flag flies 7 000 m above Kyrgyzstan

FAO flag flies 7 000 m above Kyrgyzstan to promote eightieth anniversary, draw attention to climate change

On 16 October 2025, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) marks 80 years of work. In Kyrgyzstan, this milestone celebrates decades of joint effort to achieve better production, nutrition, environment, and life for all.

To commemorate this anniversary, Kyrgyz climbers ascended Lenin Peak, one of Central Asia's highest summits at 7 134 meters, and raised the FAO flag at the summit.

This symbolic act was timed for the FAO anniversary and designed to draw global attention to climate change and its consequences for mountain regions and their residents.

The ascent – one of the last in the 2025 season – was a true test of resilience, with the climbers reporting storm-force winds. The assault on the summit was organized as a relay, with Roman Kuropyatnikov ultimately installing the FAO flag at the summit.

The action holds deep meaning for Kyrgyzstan, a high-altitude country experiencing the effects of climate change earlier and more acutely than most.

“Mountain ecosystems play a key role in providing water and food for the population, but they are now under increasing pressure,” said Oleg Guchgeldiyev, FAO Representative in Kyrgyzstan.

He noted that temperature changes are leading to aridity, drought in mountain pastures, and the melting of glaciers, which poses a severe long-term threat to water resources for the entire region.

These climate risks, including droughts, glacier melt, and landslides, are already disrupting growing seasons and threatening food security. FAO actively supports Kyrgyzstan and other countries in adapting by implementing projects for better natural resource management, introducing water-saving technologies, and training farmers in climate-oriented practices.

Raising the FAO flag on the roof of the Pamirs is a call for solidarity. It serves as a powerful reminder that the future of food security and sustainable development depends on our collective actions today to preserve the fragile mountain environment.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **FAO trains farmers in Kyrgyzstan in modern marketing techniques.**
- **FAO helps veterinarians and farmers in Kyrgyzstan improve their skills in diagnosing fish diseases.**
- **FAO supports Kyrgyzstan in updating the national action plan on antimicrobial resistance.**
- **FAO helps Kyrgyzstan produce and promote organic products for export markets.**
- **Work on the Innovative “Glacier – Reservoir – Farmer” System continues in Batken.**
- **With FAO support, experts enhance skills in detecting GMOs in food products.**

FAO supports women's role in rural development and peacebuilding in the context of climate change

From 2 to 4 July 2025, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in collaboration with national partners and international organizations, held a technical workshop in Issyk-Kul region for members of the Inter-agency working group tasked with revising the draft National Action Plan for the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security for the period 2025–2027.

Women's participation in rural development is particularly important in the context of climate change.

Resolution 1325 highlights the critical role of women in conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and sustainable development. In Kyrgyzstan, the National Action Plan is regarded as an important instrument for strengthening the role of women, particularly in the face of growing challenges such as climate change, land degradation and water scarcity.

The workshop brought together representatives of government institutions, the expert community and civil society to refine the objectives and activities of the plan, develop indicators for monitoring and evaluation, and identify budgeting approaches. Special attention was given to integrating climate-related aspects into the structure of the document.

"Climate change increases social vulnerability, especially in remote and rural areas," said Oleg Guchgeldiyev, FAO Representative in Kyrgyzstan. "Here, the impacts of land degradation, reduced crop yields and water scarcity create additional risks. In this context, women play a vital role in ensuring food security and building the resilience of local communities."

FAO shared lessons learned from project implementation in Batken region, focusing on water-saving technologies, climate-resilient agricultural practices, the promotion of women's entrepreneurship, and the enhancement of women's participation in local decision-making processes. These initiatives are part of the project "Active women's civil society organizations for peace in Kyrgyzstan", implemented by FAO in collaboration with UN Women and the "Roza Otunbayeva Initiative" International Public Foundation, with financial support from the UN Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund.

"Women's participation in rural development is particularly important in the context of climate change," said Jyldyz Toktomametova, FAO national project manager. "FAO is providing technical support in Batken Province through the introduction of drip irrigation, the construction of artificial glaciers, and the cultivation of drought-resistant crops such as almonds and wild rose. These measures enable women to take a more active role in adapting to climate challenges and advancing the agricultural sector."

The workshop concluded with the development of concrete proposals that will contribute to further advancing the implementation of Resolution 1325 in Kyrgyzstan.

FAO trains farmers in Kyrgyzstan in modern marketing techniques

Farmers from various regions of Kyrgyzstan took part in a training organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The event was held within the framework of the project "Small-Scale Farmers as Agricultural Innovators for Sustainable Agrifood Systems," which supports family farms engaged in fruit and vegetable production.

To successfully sell their products, farmers need to understand how the market works.

The training focused on developing practical skills in marketing, understanding market dynamics, and building value chains. Participants learned how to assess market opportunities, develop sales strategies, understand consumer needs, and adapt their products to modern market demands.

FAO will continue to support small-scale and family farms in Kyrgyzstan through training, technical assistance, and capacity development contributing.

"Farmers play a vital role in ensuring food security," said Henry Matthews, FAO agricultural development expert. "To successfully sell their products, they need to understand how the market works. Trainings like this provide farmers with both knowledge and practical tools to grow their businesses."

During the sessions, participants discussed key elements of value chains – from production and processing to packaging, logistics, retail, and customer engagement. Special attention was given to economic trends such as the growing demand for organic products and the importance of reducing losses at every stage of the agrifood chain.

"Now I understand how important it is to know your customer, present your product properly, and stand out in the market," said Aynura Satarova, a farmer from Chuy region. "This has been a big step forward in developing my business."

The training also addressed common challenges faced by farmers in Kyrgyzstan, including lack of storage facilities, limited access to logistics and market information, and difficulties with packaging and branding.

Participants proposed improvements to infrastructure and the creation of new partnerships between producers, processors, and retail networks.

FAO international expert visits Kyrgyzstan to assess forest conditions

From 23 June to 2 July, Kyrgyzstan received a technical visit from Shiroma Sathyapala, an international forestry expert of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

Kyrgyzstan's forests face spreading pest infestations and diseases that directly impact their productivity and ecological functions. Particular challenges include combating the gypsy moth and cherry slug sawfly in nut-bearing forests, as well as the black pine beetle in coniferous stands.

During her program, Shiroma Sathyapala, accompanied by project experts and representatives of Kyrgyzstan's Forest Service, visited the Forest Protection Station in Jalal-Abad, held discussions with scientific community representatives, and conducted field training sessions on forest protection for station specialists, engineers, and forestry personnel.

Practical sessions took place at the Ortok Forestry Unit, addressing pest and disease control in nut-bearing forests, and at the Avletim Forestry Unit, focusing on juniper forest protection. Additionally, the expert visited the Chuy Forestry Unit to assess the forest pathology situation in coniferous stands, including the red pine grove in Kegeti Gorge, where severe infestation by pine weevils has been documented.

Insects can cause significant damage to forests by feeding on leaves, needles, bark, wood, and tree roots.

The expert commended local specialists' efforts in conducting sanitary cuttings, using pheromone traps, and implementing measures to remove infected trees. She further recommended exploring mobile units for processing affected timber and suggested planting diverse tree species to create more resilient and biodiverse forest ecosystems.

expert report to improve forest pest and Following the visit, the expert is currently preparing recommendations and an disease management methods, enhance forestry operational efficiency, and promote biodiversity conservation.

Based on the visit outcomes and received recommendations, the project team plans to organize a meeting with the scientific community and Forest Service representatives to discuss next steps and inform other forestry stakeholders about necessary measures for identifying and preventing threats to forest health.

Strengthen efforts against echinococcosis and brucellosis

In the face of global health challenges, Kyrgyzstan is actively implementing cross-sectoral initiatives based on the "One Health" approach to strengthen resilience against zoonotic diseases. As part of the “Pandemic Fund” project, a seminar titled “Strengthening efforts to combat echinococcosis and brucellosis” was held on 25 July in Karakol, organized by the national Veterinary Service with FAO support.

Joint efforts at the national level, supported by international partners, help reduce the risks of pandemics.

The event brought together representatives from the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Office of the Presidential Plenipotentiary Representative in Issyk-Kul region, international experts, and development partners.

The primary objective was to foster collaboration in addressing high-impact zoonotic diseases like echinococcosis and brucellosis, which pose a serious threat to public health and the economy. Discussions centered on the current epidemiological situation, sanitary conditions, and the latest methods for prevention, diagnosis, and treatment.

“Now more than ever, it is critical to strengthen collaboration between veterinary and health sectors, especially in regions with high incidence of these diseases,” said Maripa Kichinebatyrova, FAO Country Team Lead. She emphasized the project's role in uniting efforts to establish a resilient response system based on the One Health approach.

Participants reviewed reports on the situation in animals and humans, underscoring the need for a robust disease surveillance system. Special attention was given to the impact of climate change on the spread of infections and the importance of mainstreaming the intersectoral One Health approach.

“We must develop a veterinary and sanitary system that can effectively detect, prevent and respond to zoonotic threats,” stated Ulukbek Kozhobergenov, Director of the Veterinary Service. “This requires coordination at all levels – from local authorities to national institutions.”

In conclusion, participants expressed readiness to continue cooperation for the common goal of more effectively predicting, preventing, and controlling diseases transmitted between animals and humans at both national and local levels.

FAO discusses strengthening women's role in agrifood systems in Kyrgyzstan

Empowering rural women is central to fulfilling the mission of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to eradicate hunger and ensure global food security. Women play critical roles in agrifood systems, yet their contributions are often limited by systemic inequalities. These issues were the focus of the FAO conference “Women in Agrifood Systems: Roles, Challenges, and Prospects,” held on 28 July in Bishkek.

The event brought together government representatives, parliamentarians, farmers, and international organizations to discuss women's key role in ensuring food security. Participants noted that women often have limited access to productive resources and opportunities compared to men, which hinders their development and reduces the productivity of agrifood systems.

Equal access to resources, education, and technologies not only improves the efficiency of agrifood systems but also strengthens social cohesion.

“Rural women are the backbone of agrifood systems,” said Oleg Guchgeldiyev, FAO Representative in Kyrgyzstan. “Yet they often face systemic barriers. FAO, together with partners, is working to remove these barriers to create conditions for sustainable and inclusive rural development.” Discussions focused on gender equality in agriculture, including access to land, credit, and modern technologies.

Rural women are not just workers, they are leaders who can drive positive change.

FAO's experience shows that equal access to resources not only improves the efficiency of agrifood systems but also strengthens social cohesion. To enhance the capacity of women's civil society organizations, FAO, with UN Women and the “Rosa Otunbayeva Initiative” Foundation, launched the project “Active Women's Civil Society Organizations Promote Peace in Kyrgyzstan” in 2023.

Thanks to these efforts, women are acquiring essential skills, gaining new economic opportunities, and playing a key role in ensuring environmental sustainability.

“Rural women are not just workers, they are leaders who can drive positive change,” said Dinara Ashimova, a member of the Jogorku Kenesh. “We need to secure their participation in strategic decision-making.”

Participants unanimously recognized the conference as an effective platform for sharing experiences. The parties agreed to develop cooperative models, introduce innovative technologies for women, and improve training programs. Participants from the regions also highlighted the critical issue of registering property rights in women's names to facilitate access to loans.

Ahead of the International Year of Women Farmers in 2026, FAO is intensifying efforts to highlight and celebrate the indispensable role of women in agriculture.

FAO helps veterinarians and farmers in Kyrgyzstan improve their skills in diagnosing fish diseases

Fish diseases pose a serious threat to the sustainable development of aquaculture, negatively impacting production and the sector's economy.

In Kyrgyzstan, factors such as climate change, limited water resources, and high stocking densities on trout farms contribute to the spread of diseases, leading to reduced product quality and economic losses.

To mitigate these risks, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) organized a series of trainings on fish disease diagnostics from 28 July to 31 August.

The sessions brought together veterinarians, laboratory experts, educators, and fish farmers as part of an FAO project supporting the country's trout farming sector.

“Sustainable aquaculture development is impossible without an effective veterinary control system and knowledge of fish diseases,” said Oleg Guchgeldiyev, FAO Representative in Kyrgyzstan. “Such trainings strengthen the capacity of national specialists, leading to long-term sustainable development and enhanced sector safety.”

The training program combined theoretical lectures with practical sessions at the national Veterinary Diagnostics and Expertise Center, with special attention given to impactful pathologies and diseases.

“We see a high demand from veterinarians and farmers for practical knowledge,” noted Evgeniy Frolov, a Russian expert involved in the training. “The focus on clinical cases and real-life diagnostics enables participants to immediately apply their knowledge.”

Fish diseases pose one of the most serious threats to the sustainable development of aquaculture.

These courses are part of FAO’s broader efforts to support the country's aquaculture sector, aiming to enhance food security and ensure compliance with international phytosanitary standards in fish production.

FAO continues to assist Kyrgyzstan in the sustainable development of aquaculture through capacity-building for specialists, improving veterinary infrastructure, and expanding farmers’ access to knowledge and innovative solutions.

From farm to fork: Farmers in Kyrgyzstan adopt innovations in tomato and pepper cultivation

On 1 August, a hands-on training session for participants of the Farmer Field School was held at the Kyrgyz Scientific Research Institute of Agriculture. The event, part of the FAO project “Small Farmers as Agricultural Innovators,” focused on advanced cultivation techniques for tomatoes and bell peppers to reinforce knowledge on seed production.

Since its launch in 2024, the project has been working to improve access to modern resources, technologies, and knowledge for smallholder farmers.

The training was led by FAO international expert, Ahmed Hamdino. Participants visited demonstration plots to gain practical insights into plant care, weed control, disease prevention, and efficient water use. Dr. Hamdino demonstrated the impact of weeds on plant health, stressing the importance of timely removal in Solanaceae crops.

“Modern vegetable cultivation requires an integrated approach,” said Ahmed Hamdino, FAO international expert in vegetable production. “By adopting advanced agrotechnologies, farmers can significantly boost their farm productivity.” Master trainers also advised farmers on managing specific issues like blossom-end rot and demonstrated the installation of drip irrigation systems for optimal water efficiency.

Participants analyzed the drought resistance of different varieties, highlighting the “Aibermet” pepper and “Volgogradskiy 5/95” tomato as particularly promising. They also learned about the Institute’s breeding programs for new tomato varieties and initiatives to develop fruit and berry nurseries.

Birzhan Usubaliev, director of the Institute, emphasized that developing new varieties and adopting modern technologies are key to increasing yields. In conclusion, participants thanked FAO and the Research Institute for the training, praising its practical value in strengthening the skills of the farming community.

FAO supports Kyrgyzstan in updating the national action plan on antimicrobial resistance

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a pressing global issue affecting public health, socio-economic development, and food security in Kyrgyzstan and worldwide. To address the growing threat of drug-resistant pathogens, a working group meeting on AMR was held on 1 August, organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) under its “Pandemic Fund” project.

The meeting brought together representatives from key Kyrgyz ministries and leading AMR experts. The primary focus was drafting a new National Action Plan on AMR (2024–2028) to strengthen the country's defenses through a robust, multi-sectoral health system.

“Addressing antimicrobial resistance requires consolidated efforts across all sectors,” said Oleg Guchgeldiyev, FAO Representative in Kyrgyzstan. “Implementing the National Action Plan through the One Health approach will enable Kyrgyzstan to effectively counter this global threat.”

Participants highlighted that AMR is increasingly limiting treatment options in both human medicine and veterinary practice.

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a complex global health challenge that necessitates a collaborative, multi-sectoral approach to address effectively.

Experts emphasized the fundamental role of the One Health approach, given the interconnectedness of human, animal, and environmental health.

“Updating the National Action Plan is a crucial step in preserving the efficacy of antimicrobial drugs,” noted Aike Moltotashova, a medical expert, stressing the need for strengthened regulation.

Following the meeting, participants agreed to continue joint efforts in finalizing the National Action Plan, which will serve as the foundation for a systematic and collaborative response to AMR in Kyrgyzstan.

Smallholder farmers – leaders of sustainable agri-food systems

On 8 August, a hands-on "Field Day" was held in Karakol at a demonstration plot of the Issyk-Kul Experimental Breeding Station. The event, held under the motto "Smallholder farmers – leaders of sustainable agri-food systems," brought together farmers from local Field Schools and specialists from the Ministry of Agriculture.

The project is aimed at enhancing capacities of small-scale farmers in Kyrgyzstan with sustainable, productive and climate resilience practices.

The main goal was to facilitate knowledge exchange and enhance skills in climate-smart agriculture. "Such events play a crucial role in advancing sustainable agriculture and supporting smallholder farmers, who are the driving force behind the country's food security," said Oleg Guchgeldiyev, FAO Representative in Kyrgyzstan.

These Farmer Field Schools operate under the FAO project "Smallholder Farmers as Innovators for Sustainable Agri-Food Ecosystems," which improves access to modern technologies and knowledge for family farms. To date, six demonstration plots have been established across three regions, and trainers have been prepared to educate farmers.

During the event, an FAO specialist presented the results of experiments evaluating locally adapted tomato and pepper varieties and climate-smart farming techniques. Farmers learned practical applications of these technologies, including the use of biohumus, soil mulching, biological pest control, and water-saving irrigation.

Participants also gained insights into common tomato and pepper diseases and received prevention recommendations. A researcher from the Kyrgyz Scientific Research Institute of Agriculture shared practical tips on establishing fruit and berry nurseries in changing climatic conditions, with over 17 000 rootstocks already planted in the nursery.

In conclusion, participants highlighted that the Farmer Field Schools provide invaluable hands-on experience, expert knowledge, and innovative technologies that can increase yields, boost incomes, and help conserve vital natural resources like soil and water.

With FAO support, experts enhance skills in detecting GMOs in food products

Monitoring genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in food is critical for public health, making initiatives that strengthen national laboratory capacity highly important. With FAO support, the Center for Standardization and Metrology (Kyrgyzstandart) is hosting a hands-on workshop on GMO detection. This event, held at a dedicated GMO testing laboratory, is part of the FAO/GEF project to implement the national biosafety framework.

The workshop, occurring in FAO's 80th anniversary year, highlights the organization's long-term mission to ensure food security and quality control. Its goal is to enhance the skills of specialists from testing laboratories in biosafety and food safety, providing them with both theoretical knowledge and practical skills in modern GMO analysis methods aligned with international standards.

The training is led by Galina Mozgova, a leading expert from Belarus. She noted that a significant number of Kyrgyz laboratories are now accredited for both qualitative and quantitative GMO analysis. "This demonstrates the country's readiness to fulfill its international obligations in biosafety and food security," she stated.

The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety focuses on developing and applying effective legal frameworks for the use of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs).

The practical segment of the workshop covers modern screening and quantification methods, DNA extraction from various samples, and the principles of GMO identification and quantitative analysis. Participants gain hands-on experience in sample preparation, preparing reaction mixtures, and interpreting results using advanced equipment. Such training initiatives are vital for strengthening national biosafety capacity, advancing laboratory competencies, and ensuring Kyrgyzstan's compliance with its international commitments under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

FAO trains veterinarians in Kyrgyzstan on modern artificial insemination techniques

Artificial insemination of cattle is a highly effective breeding method, particularly relevant for Kyrgyzstan where livestock farming is crucial for the economy and rural food security. This technology provides farmers access to high-quality genetic material, improving productivity in dairy and meat production, enhancing herd health, and reducing disease risks.

Farmers need access to modern technologies that not only increase productivity but also make livestock farming more economically viable.

As part of the project "Enhancing the Capacity of Local Communities in Animal Breeding," FAO organized training sessions in Sokuluk District for over thirty veterinarians and specialists. "Artificial insemination opens new opportunities for Kyrgyz agriculture, and our task is to train specialists who can apply this knowledge in practice," said Ulan Imanbaev, a cattle AI expert.

Participants gained both theoretical knowledge and practical skills in key areas such as semen storage and transportation, hygiene compliance, insemination techniques, and proper animal care. The program was designed to benefit both novice inseminators and experienced professionals seeking to update their skills.

"FAO continues to strengthen the capacity of veterinary services so that local producers gain access to modern knowledge," said Emil Akybaev, FAO Livestock Production Specialist. He emphasized that improving veterinary services and genetic potential is directly linked to sustainable agricultural growth and better livelihoods for rural families.

FAO's comprehensive work in livestock includes supporting breeding farms, introducing innovative technologies, and upgrading veterinary skills.

These efforts aim to help farmers build more sustainable and profitable operations, thereby ensuring food security and the development of the country's rural regions.

FAO helps Kyrgyzstan produce and promote organic products for export markets

Kyrgyzstan possesses significant export potential for organic products, thanks to its favorable climate, pristine territories, and traditional farming methods. The processing of wild nuts, fruits, and berries is particularly promising. However, a major challenge for local producers is obtaining the international certification required to access global markets, as it demands compliance with strict standards at every stage from farming to transport.

Since 2017, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has actively supported the development of this sector. "FAO supports Kyrgyzstan in establishing an organic product certification system, a regulatory framework, and institutional mechanisms," said Oleg Guchgeldiyev, FAO Representative. This includes training on international standards and certification procedures, as well as providing equipment to help producers meet European Union requirements.

A notable success story is the "Ishker – KG" cooperative, a beneficiary of FAO support since 2022. Established in 2021, the cooperative has grown to unite over 300 farmers from the Jalal-Abad region, specializing in processing walnuts, pistachios, and almonds into a range of value-added products. With FAO's help, the cooperative modernized its production line and its staff received training from international experts on EU organic standards.

With FAO's support, the cooperative modernized its production to meet European standards.

This focused effort culminated in a significant achievement in August 2025, when the "Ishker – KG" cooperative received official certification to export its products to the EU. This milestone was facilitated with crucial support from partners like the Association of Forest and Land Users and the "Bio Service" Public Foundation, who helped navigate the complex and costly certification process.

This success demonstrates that organic agriculture offers triple benefits for the environment, farmers, and public health.

Kyrgyzstan conducts evaluation of veterinary service performance according to World Organisation for Animal Health standards

At the initiative of Kyrgyzstan's Veterinary Service and with FAO support, a comprehensive evaluation of the national veterinary service was conducted from 11 to 23 August, following the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) methodology. Experts analyzed the service's activities against international standards and developed practical recommendations for its development.

The assessment documented positive changes and achievements.

The assessment documented positive changes and progress in aligning with international requirements, while also identifying key areas for further improvement. It confirmed Kyrgyzstan's commitment to strengthening its veterinary control and disease surveillance systems. The WOAH's Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) Pathway, used in over 140 countries, provides a unified global methodology for such independent evaluations.

This approach gives veterinary services a clear understanding of their potential by analyzing 45 key competencies. The resulting report offers detailed analytics that objectively reflect performance. This process allows countries to independently determine priorities for enhancement, which is particularly valuable for optimizing limited budgets and attracting targeted investments.

The evaluation will serve as a foundational basis for modernizing the veterinary service. Its outcomes are crucial for ensuring national food security, protecting animal and public health, and developing effective, long-term strategies for the sector.

FAO has committed to supporting Kyrgyzstan in utilizing these results to implement national strategies for preventing biological threats. Furthermore, FAO will facilitate the strengthening of intersectoral collaboration between critical areas such as healthcare, agriculture, and environmental protection.

Harvest festival in Talas dedicated to World Food Day and FAO's 80th Anniversary

On 9 September, the vibrant "Shirge Zhiar" (Rich Harvest) festival took place in the village of Kopuro-Bazar, Talas Region. Organized by FAO in partnership with national organic bodies, the event celebrated and promoted organic agriculture as part of a larger capacity-building project.

“Over three and a half million farmers worldwide successfully practice organic farming methods,” said Oleg Guchgeldiyev, FAO Representative in Kyrgyzstan, highlighting the global trend.

The festival featured over 30 organic farms and companies from various regions, which supply products to both local and international markets, including China, Europe, and the USA. Guests were able to sample a wide array of organic goods and observe the “Organic Aimak” model in practice.

A special historical reenactment of a Great Silk Road trade caravan added a unique cultural dimension, symbolizing the continuity of traditional farming and trade.

A special atmosphere was added to the festival by a historical reenactment of a trade caravan, recreating the traditions of the Great Silk Road.

The event served as an effective platform for professional communication and showcasing local achievements. "We are proud that our Talas beans have gained recognition in European markets," said Akylbek Zhakshylykov, head of the “Beren” cooperative, noting that adherence to organic standards opens new opportunities for local farmers.

Organic production is one of the modern global trends gaining momentum worldwide.

The choice of location was strategic, as farmers from Kopuro-Bazar and the neighboring village were among the first in Kyrgyzstan to successfully implement the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS). This community-based mechanism allows farmers to independently monitor and verify each other's compliance with organic standards, fostering transparency and trust.

The festival was timed to coincide with World Food Day and FAO's 80th anniversary, under the slogan “Hand in Hand for Better Foods and a Better Future.” It highlighted the importance of cooperation in building a sustainable and food-secure future.

According to participants, the festival proved that the future of agriculture is linked to producing environmentally friendly and safe products. Scaling up the successful models demonstrated at the event will be a crucial step in strengthening Kyrgyzstan's position in the global organic market.

FAO supports Kyrgyzstan in developing new aquaculture biosafety guidelines

A workshop to finalize the Guidelines on Best Management Practices for Biosafety and Fish Health in Aquaculture was held in Bishkek. The event was organized within the framework of the FAO project "Support to the Trout Production Sector," which aims to build capacity, introduce modern biosafety systems, and enhance the resilience of fish farms to biological threats.

These Guidelines serve as a practical tool for farmers and specialists. “Aquaculture is a vital source of food and jobs,” said Oleg Guchgeldiyev, FAO Representative in Kyrgyzstan. “However, its sustainability directly depends on the effectiveness of preventing and controlling biological risks.” The document provides a framework to help farms comply with standards, reduce disease risks, and maintain market access.

The Guidelines place special emphasis on preventive measures, which are crucial given the limited methods for treating fish diseases. They also include recommendations for the early detection and prompt reporting of suspicious cases. This is particularly important as fish farms often share common water sources, making coordinated actions and comprehensive biosafety measures critical for all producers.

The workshop brought together key stakeholders, including representatives from the Department of the Fisheries Complex, the Veterinary Service, fish farm owners, and researchers. The development and implementation of these Guidelines are a significant step towards developing a sustainable and resilient aquaculture sector in the country.

The sustainability of aquaculture directly depends on the effectiveness of preventing and controlling biological risks.

FAO and national partners are confident that the widespread adoption of these best practices will be instrumental in maintaining fish health, ensuring stable production, and guaranteeing compliance with national and international veterinary and aquaculture standards.

FAO-supported workshop on GMO labeling kicks off in Osh

The issue of labeling products containing genetically modified organisms (GMOs) is increasingly important for developing Kyrgyzstan's biosafety system.

A seminar titled “Legal and technical aspects of GMO labeling,” supported by FAO and the national Center for Standardization and Metrology (Kyrgyzstandart), was held on 18 September in Osh. This event was part of an FAO/GEF project and dedicated to FAO's 80th anniversary.

The issue of labeling products containing GMOs is becoming increasingly important in the context of developing the biosafety system.

The seminar brought together regional specialists from relevant ministries and laboratories. Participants studied the regulatory framework for GMO labeling, international standards, and modern methods for GMO control and detection. "Such seminars are particularly valuable for regional specialists, as the mechanisms for controlling GMO products are implemented locally," said an FAO project expert, adding that this initiative is the first of its kind in Central Asia.

The project has already yielded significant results, including expert contributions to the new 'On Biological Safety' Law adopted in early 2025. Work is now underway to prepare the necessary regulatory acts to implement the law. This progress establishes a critical legal foundation for the country's biosafety framework.

For laboratory specialists like Ainagul Abdurakhmanova, participation provided crucial knowledge. She stated that the seminar significantly expanded her understanding of the Cartagena Protocol and GMO-related issues, information that will directly help improve her laboratory's work in testing everyday food products.

The implementation of such initiatives is of strategic importance. It builds a resilient national biosafety system by enhancing the skills of local specialists, strengthening laboratory technical capacity, and ensuring Kyrgyzstan fulfills its international obligations under the Cartagena Protocol.

FAO supports Kyrgyzstan in strengthening the climate resilience of mountain areas

In early September, a series of roundtable discussions on sustainable mountain development and climate change adaptation were held in the cities of Manas, Batken, and Osh. The events were convened by the Special Representative of the President of Kyrgyzstan with the support of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

The meetings brought together a diverse group of international organizations, government institutions, researchers, farmers, and local residents. Participants explored practical measures to strengthen agricultural resilience, promote innovative technologies, and expand opportunities for mountain communities.

"Mountain areas have significant potential," noted Oleg Guchgeldiyev, FAO Representative in Kyrgyzstan. "To realize this potential, it is essential to scale up innovative technologies and ensure farmers have access to knowledge and resources."

Discussions in Batken focused on specific FAO projects implemented with local communities, such as the creation of artificial glaciers and reservoirs, the establishment of new orchards, and the introduction of water-saving technologies. In the Osh region, the conversations centered on initiatives to support women farmers who are adopting climate-resilient practices.

Mountain populations have enormous potential for climate-resilient development.

These actions are critically important given the high vulnerability of mountain ecosystems to accelerating climate impacts like glacier retreat, droughts, and landslides.

Participants emphasized the need for continued equipment provision and training programs to enhance agricultural efficiency and promote sustainable development.

The roundtables echoed the sentiment expressed earlier in 2025 by FAO Director-General Qu Dongyu, who noted that while mountain regions face growing pressure, their populations possess enormous potential for climate-resilient development, and modernization efforts are already bearing fruit.

Kyrgyzstan summarizes the outcomes of the FAO project, which aimed to ensure veterinary standards in trout farming

Fish diseases represent a key threat to the sustainable development of aquaculture in Kyrgyzstan. Factors like climate fluctuations and limited water resources can lead to disease outbreaks, causing reduced product quality and economic losses. To address this, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) launched a project in early 2024 to support the trout farming sector and strengthen the national veterinary control system.

The development of sustainable aquaculture in Kyrgyzstan is impossible without an effective veterinary control system and knowledge of fish diseases.

A major project outcome was the development of an Action Plan for monitoring aquatic animal diseases. This document will enable systematic prevention and response to outbreaks. "The development of sustainable aquaculture is impossible without an effective veterinary control system," noted Oleg Guchgeldiyev, FAO Representative, adding that the project has strengthened national capacity and laid the foundation for the sector's safe development.

Significant attention was paid to strengthening laboratory infrastructure. An assessment was conducted of key national facilities, and technical specifications were developed for 46 types of essential equipment, including PCR tests, microscopes, and water quality analyzers. Furthermore, nearly 100 regulatory acts were reviewed to adapt 32 Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for diagnosing fish diseases for national use.

To enhance sector resilience, a Guide on Best Practices for Biosecurity and Fish Health Management was prepared. Practical workshops for farmers and government specialists were held across several regions, with special emphasis placed on preventive measures to reduce antibiotic use and improve product quality.

The project successfully fostered a professional community. "The final workshop demonstrated that Kyrgyzstan has formed an active group of veterinarians, farmers, and scientists ready to implement international standards," emphasized Mairam Sarieva, FAO Project Manager. International experts noted the project enhanced understanding of fish health and disease management among all stakeholders.

FAO continues to support Kyrgyzstan in the sustainable development of aquaculture. This ongoing commitment includes training specialists, improving veterinary infrastructure, introducing international standards, and expanding farmers' access to knowledge and innovative solutions for a more resilient future.

The role of financial institutions in developing green value chains was discussed in Bishkek

A roundtable titled "Development and Financing of Green Value Chains" was held in Bishkek, organized within the framework of the FAO "CS-FOR" project supported by the Green Climate Fund. The meeting brought together representatives from leading financial institutions, relevant ministries, and project beneficiaries to discuss promoting climate-oriented investments and credit products for sustainable agriculture.

Participants addressed the barriers agribusinesses face in accessing financing, such as high interest rates and collateral requirements. "We are confident that the participation of banks and development funds will pave the way for scaling up green initiatives," said Oleg Guchgeldiyev, FAO Representative. He stressed that increasing access to finance for rural producers is crucial for strengthening the green economy and achieving carbon neutrality.

The FAO project aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through the restoration of forests and pastures.

The FAO project aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through the restoration of forests and pastures. Its implementation is expected to sequester 19.8 million tonnes of CO_2-equivalent over 20 years, which accounts for 7.6 percent of the country's total emissions. Oleg

Guchgeldiyev emphasized that this is the first large-scale climate project of its level in Kyrgyzstan, creating real opportunities for regional economic growth.

Discussions also focused on adapting banking products to the needs of climate-sensitive projects, mechanisms to enhance support for women and youth in agriculture, and opportunities for using FAO tools to develop green financing.

FAO hopes the event will serve as a basis for developing specific solutions and strengthening partnerships between financial institutions and the agricultural sector to advance the green economy goals in Kyrgyzstan.

Bishkek meeting supported by FAO defines priority measures to protect Kyrgyzstan’s forests from insect pests

A roundtable discussion on threats to Kyrgyzstan’s forests from insect pests and diseases was held on 25 September in Bishkek. Organized by FAO in collaboration with the national Forest Service, the event brought together representatives from relevant ministries, scientific institutions, and forestry enterprises.

The main goal of the event was to consolidate efforts to address the widespread outbreak of pests in the country’s natural forests.

The primary goal was to consolidate efforts against widespread pest outbreaks, such as the gypsy moth in nut-fruit forests and the cherry slug sawfly in coniferous areas. “The issue of forest health extends far beyond forestry alone,” emphasized Oleg Guchgeldiyev, FAO Representative. “It is a matter of food security, biodiversity, and climate resilience for the entire region.”

Held within the framework of the FAO-Green Climate Fund “CS-FOR” project, the initiative focuses on restoring forests to enhance carbon sequestration. The discussion was informed by a recent technical visit from an international FAO expert, who confirmed the urgent need for large-scale pest control measures.

Participants warned that without action, the spread of forest diseases could disrupt the ecological balance, impacting biodiversity and the environmental well-being of Central Asia. This is especially critical given the global significance of Kyrgyzstan’s nut-fruit forests.

Following the meeting, participants developed specific recommendations to improve forest protection, proposed interagency cooperation mechanisms, and adopted a resolution. A key focus was on mobilizing financial, technical, and human resources to safeguard these vital ecosystems.

Work on the Innovative “Glacier – Reservoir – Farmer” System continues in Batken

The Batken region is advancing the innovative “Glacier – Reservoir – Farmer” system to promote sustainable water management and strengthen rural communities against climate change. Artificial glaciers and water-saving technologies are vital tools for adapting to water scarcity, helping to preserve winter runoff and ensure stable water reserves for agriculture, even in dry areas.

As part of a FAO project, a meeting in Batken featured a new Guidance Document on constructing artificial glaciers, developed at the official request of the Ministry of Water Resources, Agriculture and Processing Industry of Kyrgyzstan.

This document will serve as the foundation for scaling up the approach nationwide. The event brought together local authorities and farmers to discuss how these technologies can redirect winter water flows to agricultural needs.

Seven artificial glaciers created in Batken region for sustainable agriculture and climate change adaptation.

“Artificial glaciers are not merely a technological solution,” said Oleg Guchgeldiyev, FAO Representative in Kyrgyzstan. “They are an example of how innovation can support the resilience of rural communities to climate change, strengthen food security, and contribute to long-term agricultural development.”

Last year, with FAO's support, seven artificial glaciers constructed in Batken and Leylek districts accumulated over 1.5 million cubic meters of ice, which will provide water for about 1 750 hectares of farmland.

Invited experts consulted with local farmers on preparing the glacier and pipeline systems for winter and shared advice on drip irrigation. Specialists from Uzbekistan joined field visits to learn from Kyrgyzstan's experience.

"A properly constructed artificial glacier can provide water for hundreds of hectares," emphasized Matraim Jusupov, FAO expert. "The key is selecting the right location and combining glaciers with small reservoirs and modern irrigation systems to reduce water losses and improve yields."

FAO's experience in Batken demonstrates that such innovative solutions can be implemented by local communities and deliver tangible results within the first season. This success lays the groundwork for scaling up these practices across Kyrgyzstan and the wider Central Asian region as a model for climate resilience.

FAO promotes the development of organic agriculture in Kyrgyzstan

Organic agriculture is a strategic tool for strengthening food security, increasing rural incomes, and conserving natural resources. On 30 September, the final forum of an FAO project, "Organic Bridges: Connecting Tradition, Innovation, and Global Markets," was held in Bishkek to summarize results in building a sustainable regulatory framework and supporting farmers.

Through the project, farmers received modern equipment for processing and packaging, training in organic standards, and access to new markets. "With the adoption of laws and support for farmers, we have laid a solid foundation for the sector," said Oleg Guchgeldiyev, FAO Representative. "This project has proven that with comprehensive support, tangible results can be achieved in a short time."

A notable success is the "Ishker – KG" cooperative, which received EU organic certification in August 2025, opening access to European and American markets. The cooperative expanded its product range to include pistachios, oils, and pastes, achieving a 60 percent increase in nut sales and an 80 percent improvement in product quality through automation.

Organic production is one of the modern global trends gaining momentum worldwide.

Significant results were also achieved by other farms. Valerian producers gained export opportunities to Spain, a biohumus producer tripled its output, and the "Kun-Chygysh" cooperative began producing high-value dried fruit pastila. Producers of medicinal herbs started making packaged teas that meet international standards.

Beyond technical support, the project developed farmers' competencies through training on certification, standards, and marketing. This enabled participation in international exhibitions, including an upcoming showcase in Japan. A major achievement was the creation of a regulatory framework, including the 2023 Law "On Organic Production" and subsequent by-laws approved in 2024.

The project's experience demonstrates that organic agriculture can serve as a powerful economic and social driver for development.

FAO has partnered with Kyrgyzstan since the country joined the United Nations in 1993.
The country office was opened in 2009.

FAO partners with Kyrgyzstan through the jointly approved Country Programming Framework (CPF) that outlines the principal areas of cooperation for the forthcoming five years. The CPF aims to support the Government in achieving its national strategic priorities related to the transformation of its food systems, green economy and climate change.

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