



# STRENGTHENING ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IN UZBEKISTAN

Agriculture is a major sector of the economy in Uzbekistan, but agrifood quality and productivity problems reduce the country's competitiveness in global markets. There are also significant environmental issues, such as wind and water erosion, and natural resources are being depleted. Quality guarantee systems, namely organic and Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), provide a certifiable and traceable system for high quality, sustainable products. Moreover, knowledge sharing and dissemination for these production systems can trigger the adoption of newly introduced techniques and help farmers access markets for high value products. In Uzbekistan, a lack of legislation, institutional framework, data and knowledge hindered the sound and rapid development of these guarantee systems. Therefore, this project aimed to increase rural and food security by increasing crop productivity and improving the competitiveness of domestic products and production of value-added products for export markets.



## WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The technical capacities of farmers and experts on knowledge management tools, general principles and techniques and specific priority crops in selected regions of the country were improved. Using a participatory approach, the project organized a series of training and awareness raising activities to familiarize stakeholders with quality assurance systems and promote the adoption of organic agriculture and GAP among experts and farmers. Based on analyses of current state of agrifood quality systems, especially organic agriculture and GAPs, a strong legal framework for agrifood quality assurance and certification systems was established and a national strategy and road map for the promotion of organic agriculture and GAP in Uzbekistan were drafted.

## IMPACT

The adoption of organic, GAP and certified quality agricultural production systems helped improve the economic, social and environmental performance of farmers. These activities enhanced farmers' capacities and contributed to developing markets for organic, GAP and certified agrifood products. Reducing the use of pesticides, synthetic fertilizers and other external inputs also increased household income. Profitability is higher in organic markets than conventional ones, and the entry into new markets and/or marketing channels will further support increased exports from Uzbekistan.

## KEY FACTS

**Contribution**  
USD 383 000

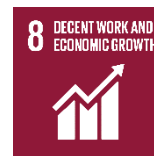
**Duration**  
September 2015 – December 2017

**Resource Partner**  
FAO

**Beneficiaries**  
Farmers and small households in rural areas; Farmers' organizations; Forest communities; Small manufacturers; Research institutions; Service providers; planners, Policy formulators, programme managers and technical staff from the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources; Grassroots organizations; Non-governmental organizations

# RESULTS

- Report on the current status of agrifood quality assurance systems and needs assessment prepared.
- Strong legal framework on agrifood quality assurance and certified agrifood chains established.
- Technical capacity of experts on knowledge management tools increased through research and trainings.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



## Project Code

TCP/UZB/3501

## Project Title

Institutional capacity building to develop organic agriculture and to promote Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) in Uzbekistan

## Contacts

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