



INCREASING YOUTH EMPLOYMENT IN AGRICULTURE

As in other developing nations, maximizing the potential of young workers in Azerbaijan is essential for the advancement of growth and development, and the reduction of poverty. The country's agriculture sector, mainly based on subsistence-type farming, provides employment to 36.3 percent of the workforce. The sector also generates about two-fifths of household income in rural areas. Recognizing the need to safeguard opportunities for rural youth, the government set youth employment in the agriculture sector as a country priority. The aim of the project was to enhance the self-employability and entrepreneurship opportunities of rural young women and men.



WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The project recognized the need for a strong strategy for rural employment and an estimate of the future rural labour market, including both young men and women, to guide subsequent initiatives. Following an analysis of rural youth employment, a workshop was held to present the findings and policy recommendations to the relevant government entities. In addition, the project created proposals for a mechanism to enable young people in the regions to realize agrarian business initiatives. To this end, an analysis was conducted and a document prepared. A document containing best practices in support of youth employment and business initiatives was also prepared and submitted to AACD. Considering the broad scope and regional coverage of the project, 32 young men and women were selected as AMAL ambassadors to promote the AMAL network and project activities in 28 regions of Azerbaijan. A major challenge faced by rural youths when setting up a business is lack of access to financial resources. The project addressed this by supporting access to concessional loans and in-kind assets. The capacity of stakeholders and young farmers was built through training, internships and study tours, including a study tour to Turkey. In addition, the project facilitated communication between young farmers and relevant agencies, such as AACD, to increase awareness of the need to make available support tools and to put measures in place to meet the needs of rural youth.

Recognizing the importance of visibility in promoting rural employment, the project used various channels to reach the target group and communicate project activities and successes to a broader public. Social media pages were developed and visibility materials produced, displayed and distributed. An effective means of increasing interest in agriculture among the young is to allow young people to share their success stories with their peers. For this purpose, videos of beneficiaries' success stories were produced and presented to the public.

KEY FACTS

Latest Approved Budget
USD 1 000 000

Duration
February 2019 – June 2022

Resource Partners
Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan,
FAO-Azerbaijan Partnership
Programme (FAPP)

Partner
Agency for Agro Credit and
Development (AACD), Ministry of
Agriculture

Beneficiaries
Rural youth and women



IMPACT

The project has increased diversification and decent rural work in rural regions, enhancing the self-employability and entrepreneurship opportunities of rural youth. Rahib Aghaev is a 32-year-old farmer who started crop production on a small plot with old equipment and 10-15 heads of cows and sheep. He applied for financial support and received a loan that allowed him to buy more sheep and increase his income. He is now the proud owner of 380 sheep, 6 cows and 20 goats. "The livelihood and living conditions of my family have all changed for the better," Rahib said.

ACTIVITIES

- Study conducted on the labour market in Azerbaijan.
- Strategy developed for youth employment in agriculture.
- Study visit to Turkey conducted.
- Project website established.
- Success stories of AMAL ambassadors and beneficiaries published.
- AMAL network established and strengthened.
- AMAL network affiliated into the Asian Farmers Association.
- Assistance provided to AMAL ambassadors and beneficiaries through equipment and loans.
- Training provided to AMAL ambassadors and beneficiaries.
- An effective monitoring system established.
- Field visits of AMAL ambassadors and beneficiaries organized to scientific and economic institutions.
- Demonstration vineyards established in Shamakhi.
- Capacity of AMAL ambassadors and beneficiaries built regarding access to markets, organization of sales and procurement, and access to inputs.
- Internship programmes organized in 2021 and 2022.
- Strategy for business incubation in rural areas prepared.
- Support provided to AMAL ambassadors and beneficiaries to improve their access to finance and to obtain loans.



Project Title

Increasing Agrarian Employment Project (AMAL Phase I)

Project Code

FAO: UTF/AZE/013/AZE

Contact

FAO Partnership and Liaison Office in the Republic of Azerbaijan
FAO-AZ@fao.org



Partnerships and Outreach
For more information, please contact: Reporting@fao.org

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome, Italy