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## THE PROJECT RESULTS' SUSTAINABILITY PLAN (D4.3)

elaborated in the frame of the project  
"Development of Higher Education Content Aimed to Support  
Industries for Sustainable Production of Qualitative Agri-food"  
(AgroDev)

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## List of Abbreviations

AKIS	Agricultural Knowledge Information Services
CA	Central Asia
GSP	General Scheme of Preferences
HEI	Higher Education Institution
HWI	Hilfswerk International, Austria
KNAU	Kyrgyz National Agricultural University named after K.I. Skryabin
LLU	Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies, Latvia
LNU	Linneus University, Sweden
MoC	Memorandum of Cooperation
NSU	Naryn State University named after S.Naamatov
NWG	National Working Group
TSAU	Tashkent State Agrarian University
SBTSEU	Samarkand Branch of Tashkent State Economics University
UAK	University of Agriculture in Krakow, Poland

## I. INTRODUCTION

The sustainability plan has been elaborated within the EU Erasmus+ Programme funded project "**Development of Higher Education Content Aimed to Support Industries for Sustainable Production of Qualitative Agri-food**" (further named – AgroDev) and is being in implementation of the consortium of Uzbekistan's, Kyrgyzstan's and European Union universities, as well public and private sector partners from Central Asia and Austria. The project takes place from 15 January 2021 to 14 January 2024.

The sustainability plan aims at identifying:

- a) the results to be sustained,
- b) the actions and resources required to ensure sustainability,
- c) the responsible organisations or persons as well as external stakeholders, which should be involved, such as higher education institutions (HEIs), teaching staff, state stakeholders, business organisations, etc.,
- d) the timeframe and deadlines for the realisation of the predefined measures.

Concrete short-term and long-term measures to ensure the sustainability of the project outcomes are defined.

The sustainability plan provides an overview of the accomplished results and the indicators, used to measure the achievements. The plan includes conclusions on how the results meet the identified needs of the involved Central Asia HEIs. These needs were assessed in 2019, and in in-depth analysis carried and completed in 2021. The consortium partners, as well as the associated partners have been actively participating in the elaboration of the sustainability plan, which ensures the ownership and accountability for the results.

### **OBJECTIVES and PILLARS of the AgroDev project:**

#### **Overall aim:**

To modernise agro-industry related higher education thus promoting implementation and effective management of sustainable agro-food production systems in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.

#### **Specific objectives (SO):**

- SO1. To modernize agro-food production related study programmes in 4 Central Asia universities.
- SO2. To promote availability of knowledgeable and skilful specialists for agro-food production industry.
- SO3. To develop capacity of academic staff.
- SO4. To improve study environment.
- SO5. To strengthen links among universities and agro-food production industry.
- SO6. To enhance networking among Central Asia's and EU's higher education institutions.

Specific objectives were set considering overall aim and need to create study environment which **pillars** are:

- 1) qualitative study content, developed using the latest scientifically justified knowledge,
- 2) highly knowledgeable and skilful academic staff, following the latest scientific developments and using effective pedagogic methods,
- 3) productive and mutually complementary collaboration with relevant industries, where knowledge flows both directions,
- 4) qualitative study environment, ensuring access to laboratories and study literature,
- 5) assessment of study performance and permanent development of performance, and
- 6) openness to the collaboration across borders.

## **CONSORTIUM PARTNERS:**

### **Universities of Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan:**

- Naryn State University named after S.Naamatov (NSU)
- Kyrgyz National Agricultural University named after K.I. Skryabin (KNAU)
- Tashkent State Agrarian University (TSAU)
- Samarkand Branch of Tashkent State Economics University (SBTSEU)

### **Universities and other partners in the European Union:**

- Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies, Latvia (LLU)
- University of Agriculture in Krakow, Poland (UAK)
- Linneus University, Sweden (LNU)
- Hilfswerk International, Austria (HWI)

### **Associates:**

- Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialised Education of the Republic of Uzbekistan (MEDU)
- Agribusiness Association of Uzbekistan (AgroA)
- Centre for Agro-Information-Innovation of Uzbekistan (AgroAIM)
- Council of Farmers, Farmers and Owners of Household Lands of Uzbekistan - OOO «Maroqand Meva-Sabzavot»; COOO Agromir
- Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan (MARU)
- Agricultural cooperative "Shamshy-Ata" in the Kyrgyz Republic
- Ministry of Agriculture of the Kyrgyz Republic
- Association for the development of the Agro-Industrial Complex in the Kyrgyz Republic
- Association of dairy farming "Kyrgyz sut" in the Kyrgyz Republic
- Agro-holding Atalyk Group in the Kyrgyz Republic
- Association of fruit and vegetable enterprises of Kyrgyzstan

## **II. RESULTS OF THE PROJECT**

The sustainability plan is aiming to ensure sustainability of the results created and achieved within the project, and results arise from outcomes and outputs to be produced till the end of the project. The plan is divided in two periods: 1) short term plan for 3 years period and 2) long term plan for 5 years period.

### **The predefined main outcomes and outputs (as in the Grant Agreement) are as following:**

**WP1.** The joint report – overview of finding, recommendations on what must be done to improve higher education content. 2 national workshops held, at least 60 stakeholders participated.

**WP2.** 6 study programmes modernised. Study materials elaborated.

**WP3.** 5 study visits held, at least 24 CA universities teachers participated, training of teachers provided, at least 48 teachers' professional competencies increased. 4 sets of laboratory equipment (70 units) and 4 sets of study literature (about 30 books each) delivered to CA HEIs.

**WP4.** Modernised study programmes' quality assurance methodology.

**WP5.** Pilot studies provided for 6 groups, at least 220 students participated.

**WP6.** 2 national and 1 international event with participation of academic-business-public stakeholders organised, at least 120 participants participated.

## II.a Joint project results to be sustained and their measuring indicators, according to the agreement of the consortium:

No.	Achieved Results (R)	Measurable indicators (MI)
1.	R1 Modernized agro-food production related study programmes at 4 Central Asia universities.	<p>As of autumn 2022, the content of 6 bachelor level curricula and teaching and learning materials, meeting the needs defined in the joint report and national workshops (WP1) and the defined quality criteria in the provided quality assurance methodology &amp; quality assessment and monitoring plan (WP4), available on regular basis at 4 CA higher education institutions, has been modernized.</p> <p>Specific weight of modernised content in comparison to total volume of the professional disciplines in each curriculum is as following:                      27 % of P2 NSU curricula "Technology of production and processing of agricultural products"                      28 % of P3 KNAU curricula "Zootechnics"                      27 % of KNAU curricula "Technology of production and processing of agricultural products"                      6 % of KNAU curricula "Agronomical science"                      42 % of P4 SBTSEU curricula "Agribusiness and investment activities"                      43% of P5 TSAU curricula "Technology of production and processing of agricultural products".</p>
2.	R2 Increased number of knowledgeable and skilful specialists prepared for agro-food production industry.	<p>The pilot studies (WP5) in the Kyrgyzstan's universities NSU and KNAU are planned for spring 2023.                      P2 - NSU plans to involve 30-35 students (10-15 more as initially planned), from which 18 from remote areas.</p> <p>P3 - KNAU has planned to raise the capacity of 100 students (100 according to project proposal).</p> <p>P4 – SBTSEU has already involved 104 students (40 female and 64 male) in the pilot studies provided by the project (WP5).</p> <p>P5 – TSAU has already involved 42 students (24 male and 18 female) in the pilot studies. Until the end of the project at least 10 more students will enhance their skills (reaching out to the initially planned 50 students).</p>
3.	R3 Capacity of academic staff increased at 4 Central Asia universities.	<p>Initially it was planned that the capacity of universities' will be increased after having participated in 5 study visits and additional trainings for teaching staff (WP5). The performance of those teachers has been assessed and valued by students and external stakeholders as "highly professional and relevant to the needs of economy".</p> <p>Compared to the target planned - 24 teachers in total (6 per HEI), as of end of the 1<sup>st</sup> reporting period (October 2022) 34 teachers (counted by</p>

		<p>unique name) have participated in the <b>study visits</b>:</p> <p>P2 - NSU - 6 teachers (3 females and 3 male)  P3 – KNAU – 8 teachers (7 female &amp; 1 male)  P4 – SBTSEU - 11 teachers (4 female &amp; 7 male)  P5 - TSAU – 9 teachers (all male).</p> <p>The planned target of P2 – 10, P3 – 12, P4 - 14, P5 – 12 regarding the teachers training has been already overachieved as of end of the 1<sup>st</sup> reporting period:  Total number of teachers participated in <b>Teaching methodology training</b>:</p> <p>P2 – NSU – 11 participants (4 female &amp; 7 male)  P3 – KNAU – 17 teachers (11 female &amp; 6 male)  P4 – SBTSEU – 11 teachers (4 female &amp; 7 male)  P5 – TSAU – 12 teachers (5 female &amp; 7 male)  Number of teachers completed the whole teaching methodology training course amounts to 35.</p> <p>Teachers participated in <b>Thematic trainings</b>:</p> <p>P2 – NSU – the activity is planned for spring 2023  P3 – KNAU – the activity is planned for spring 2023  P4 – SBTSEU – 46 teachers (16 female &amp; 30 male)  P5 – TSAU – 7 teachers (3 female &amp; 4 male).  Number of teachers completed the whole teaching methodology training course amounts to 30.</p>
4.	R4 The study environment in 4 Central Asia universities improved.	<p>New study laboratories created, sets of literature are acquired and made available for academic staff and for students, modern learning teaching methods acquired &amp; tools used in each involved CA universities.</p> <p>As of the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> reporting period, two sets of laboratory equipment (P4 SBTSEU and P5 TSAU) and 1 set of literature (P2 NSU) have been acquired. It is planned to complete procurements of the equipment for P2 NSU and P3 KNAU till the end of 2022 and books - till the beginning of January 2023.</p>
5.	R5 Links and cooperation among universities and agro-food production industry are strengthened.	<p>Cooperation of different sectors local stakeholders was launched – a number of joint events for universities and food production industries have been conducted.</p> <p><b>T1.5 National seminars</b> have been implemented already with the following number of participants:</p> <p>P2 – NSU – 31 participants (13 female &amp; 18 male)  P3 – KNAU – 20 participants (12 female &amp; 8 male)  P4 – SBTSEU – 36 (21 female, 11 male)  P5 – TSAU – 12 9 (all male).</p> <p><b>T3.5 Field trainings</b> have been implemented already with the following number of participants:</p> <p>P2 – NSU – 24 participants (13 female &amp; 11 male)  P3 – KNAU – 33 participants (22 female &amp; 11 male)  P4 – SBTSEU – 58 (27 female, 31 male)  P5 – TSAU – 35 participants.  Number of teachers completed the whole teaching methodology training course amounts to 71.</p>

		<p>Additionally, NSU organised a Forum "Competence-based approach to vocational education and training". In total 57 participants (university's staff, representatives of agro-food production industry took part (13 female, 44 male). Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) were signed with several companies.</p> <p><b>T6.5 National seminars</b> are planned for 2023.</p> <p>P4 (SBTSEU) - 7 joint events for HEIs and industries were conducted with participation of enterprises and public authorities was organized in which 34 Internal staff, 6 Public authorities, 15 Enterprises participated.</p> <p>Further initiatives, such as the new cooperations between HEIs and industries in the frame of the meetings of the National Technical Groups on the formation of the institutional pre-conditions of introduction of Global GAP are planned.</p>
6.	R6 The networking among Central Asia's and EU's higher education institutions is enhanced.	<p>New common initiatives in the field of education and research have been started among involved CA and EU universities:</p> <p>The cooperation among the four CA HEIs and the three EU HEIs has been successfully started during the project. The CA HEIs plan to continue the cooperation and signed MoC with the EU HEIs partners in this project.</p> <p>In P4 (SBTSEU) 8 foreign teachers are involved for provision of lectures and practical classes, at least 16 hours each. As part of the project universities' representatives participated in the international scientific and practical conference "Perspective tasks for the development and implementation of innovative technologies in veterinary medicine and animal husbandry" on October 14-15, 2022.</p> <p><a href="https://telegra.ph/KRAKOV-AGRAR-UNIVERSITETI-Polsha-PROFESSORLARI-UNIVERSITET-%D0%8E%D2%9AUV-ZHARAYONIDA-ISHTIROK-EHTISHMO%D2%9ADA-10-18-4">https://telegra.ph/KRAKOV-AGRAR-UNIVERSITETI-Polsha-PROFESSORLARI-UNIVERSITET-%D0%8E%D2%9AUV-ZHARAYONIDA-ISHTIROK-EHTISHMO%D2%9ADA-10-18-4</a></p> <p><a href="https://telegra.ph/Latvivaning-Tabijj-fanlar-va-tehnologiyalar-universiteti-professorlari-%D1%9E%D2%9Buy-zharayonida-10-27">https://telegra.ph/Latvivaning-Tabijj-fanlar-va-tehnologiyalar-universiteti-professorlari-%D1%9E%D2%9Buy-zharayonida-10-27</a></p>

## II. b Additional results achieved and created by Kyrgyzstan's universities and measures to sustain these results:

### Results:

a) A National Interdepartmental Working Group (NWG) on the formation of preliminary institutional conditions for the implementation of Global G.A.P. into industrial practice in the Kyrgyz Republic has been established at the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic (KR). The NWG was established in accordance with the Order of the Minister of Economy of the Kyrgyz Republic No. 37 of December 17, 2020. Later the NWG was transferred to the responsibility area of the Ministry of Agriculture. The NWG involves representatives of the relevant state agencies and ministries, the universities, and the private sector. One of the main objectives in the Road Map of the NWG is related to the capacity building of staff, which is one of the main areas of intervention of the universities. NSU and KNAU participate at the meetings of the group. The official registration of the NWG at the Global G.A.P. secretariat is planned for 2023.

b) A national interpretative interpretation guideline (NIG) has been developed by the NWG and approved at the national level according to the requirements of the Global G.A.P. The specialists, whose capacity has been enhanced by the project will apply the NIG during the introduction, inspection, and audit of Global G.A.P.

c) A Science Entrepreneurial Platform (SEP) to ensure communication, cooperation and interaction between science and food sector enterprises is working in the KR. The platform brings together food processing enterprises, local experts, technologists, the Academy of Sciences, and laboratories. The platform focuses on the discussion of scientific and technological issues, considering aspects of food safety, including the development of recipes and technologies for food production to increase the product line, improve quality and food safety, as well as reduce the production cost of local food processing enterprises.

The main task of the platform is as follows:

- Implementation of international quality and food safety standards (including GAP & Global G.A.P.) into production practices.
- Stimulating cooperation between science and business.
- Enhance interaction between higher and vocational education institutions and enterprises.
- Enhance the competitiveness of higher education institutions by increasing their ability to combine the educational process with the practice of mastering and implementing advanced technologies, techniques and managerial innovations, generating knowledge and turning it into capital.

A working group has been established on the basis of the Kyrgyz National Agrarian University named after K.I.Skryabin jointly with the Centre for Quality Management in Agricultural System (Tajikistan) to develop an application for filling in the check lists of Global G.A.P. standard on "Livestock Production" for farmers.

### **Sustainability measures:**

The results of the project will support the Kyrgyz Republic Food Security and Nutrition Programme 2018-2023. The specialists, who have enhanced their knowledge and skills due to the project and finish the modernized programmes will be able to introduce food safety and sustainable agriculture standards and methods in cooperatives and companies (those who choose to develop their career in the private sector, and to contribute to enabling policy and environment to promote food safety and sustainable agriculture (those who choose to engage in state agencies and ministries) and to further multiply this knowledge and skills (for those who decide to make an academic career and stay at the universities). This will contribute to increased food safety, enhanced health of population and export potential of the countries. One of the external factors affecting food safety and nutrition (FSN) is the low level of effectiveness of the food safety infrastructure in the Kyrgyz Republic. Internal factors include low agricultural productivity, which negatively affects the volume of domestic agricultural production and causes the low competitiveness of domestic agricultural producers; weak food safety infrastructure, insufficient awareness of citizens about good nutrition, which creates sustainable risks of consumption of low-quality and harmful products for human health.

The programme sets out the main policy requirements for the provision of food security and nutrition, in that the Kyrgyz Republic needs to radically improve its nutritional structure by substantially increasing the proportion of protein- and vitamin-rich foods consumed. For this purpose, it is necessary to stimulate the growth of agricultural production to saturate the domestic market with safe agricultural products. It is necessary to improve access to quality food for all segments of the population. Stringent requirements for food safety and quality must also be in place. The citizens of the country should be informed and oriented towards the consumption of healthy and safe products.



The country's trade and catering system plays an important role in meeting this challenge, as it is this value chain that operates for consumers.

The results of the project will also address the implementation of the Action Plan to ensure the promotion of priority products on the EU market, approved by the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic on 20.10.2018. This Plan includes the following activities: development of educational programmes for SMEs and farmers on the benefits of certification to international standards and their requirements, development of educational programmes (courses at universities) for future experts in food certification and quality control, promotion of consulting and certification services on FSSC, ISO, GLOBAL G.A.P, IFS, Fairtrade standards.

Strategically, the sustainability of the project is conditioned for the Kyrgyz Republic by its membership in the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) and the need to implement the Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP+) signed by the Kyrgyz government and the EU European Commission in 2018.

For the sustainability of the project results, the Kyrgyz partners are planning to:

1. Establish an advisory centre for agribusiness at the NSU and KNAU. Farmers can receive consulting (standards, food safety), or request trainings (in KNAU there are already laboratories, which offer analysis to farmers (related to varieties, soil, etc.). The latter can be extended. The main activities of the centre will be:
  - Creation of an information base on agro-trading companies and cooperatives, large farming households interested in implementing the Global GAP standard.
  - Provision of consulting services and short-term training courses, seminars, webinars, and trainings on the basics of GAP & Global G.A.P., for agri-trade companies and cooperatives, large farming households.
  - Creating a video course on completing the Good Agricultural Practice Checklists for farmers.
2. Conduct round tables, institutional meetings, seminars and trainings for farmers and members of the associations interested in application of Global GAP standards and quality. These activities will result in the training of specialists in accordance with the demands and needs of employers.
3. Strengthen the capacity of the manufacturing and processing industry with expertise in implementation and proper compliance with GAP and the Global GAP standard.
4. Promote companies' competitiveness and creation of prerequisites for starting exports to the EU and other countries, considering the opportunities provided under GSP + (GSP+) (General Scheme of Preferences GSP+).
5. Conduct applied case studies and analysis on the implementation and effective application of Global GAP standards in the agricultural sector.
6. Improve the competitiveness of universities for attracting and training students through updated curricula and improved facilities.
7. Train bachelors and masters with the knowledge and practical skills to carry out work in the agro-industrial complex to establish modern food quality and safety management systems.
8. Conduct short training courses and trainings on GAP & Global G.A.P. fundamentals, for agro-industrial complexes.
9. Issue state certificates, based on the licence of KNAU obtained from the Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic to trainees of training courses and trainings.
10. Assess the quality of knowledge and determine the competence of students; for this, tests developed by lecturers of partner universities from Europe and supplemented by the teaching staff of the department and the department of quality of education at KNAU will be used.
11. Use the laboratory facilities updated as part of the AgroDev project for practical classes and pilot tests on extended topics of food safety and quality determination. Research and graduate works of undergraduate, postgraduate, graduate students and teachers will also be carried out.

12. Promote the results of the AgroDev project through mass telecommunication and information systems in Kyrgyzstan, as well as at conferences, seminars, roundtables dedicated to the problems of training a new generation of higher education specialists in the field of quality assurance, food safety.

## **II.c Additional results achieved and created by Uzbekistan's universities and measures to sustain these results:**

### **Results:**

a) With the active participation and contribution of Uzbek higher education institutions, a mechanism has been developed to promote the introduction of internationally recognized quality standards, including Global G.A.P, Organic, HACCP, etc., as provided for in the Roadmap for the Implementation of the Agricultural Development Strategy of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2020-2030, which was approved by Presidential Decree No. UP-5853 of 23 October 2019. The Ministry of Agriculture and the Agency "Uzstandard" are responsible for the implementation of the programme. In 2020-2021 all universities were involved in the elaboration of the road map.

b) Supported by the NPP "Science Enterprise Platform" at Uzstandard and the Ministry of Agriculture to ensure communication, cooperation and collaboration between science and the food sector enterprises. The platform brings together food processors, local experts, technologists, academy of sciences, laboratories. Teachers recruited from SBTSEU involved in the above (Scientific Entrepreneurial Platform).

The main tasks of the platform are:

- Implementing international quality and food safety standards (including GAP & Global G.A.P.) into production practices.
- Stimulating cooperation between science and business.
- Enhancing interaction between higher and vocational education institutions and enterprises.
- Improving the competitiveness of higher education institutions by increasing their ability to combine the educational process with the practice of mastering and implementing advanced technologies, techniques and managerial innovations, generating knowledge and turning it into capital.

The platform focuses on discussing scientific and technological issues from a food safety perspective, including the development of recipes and food production technologies to increase the product range, improve quality and food safety, and reduce the production costs of local food processing plants.

### **Sustainability measures:**

a) A "national technical working group" for the development of an integrated standardisation and certification system based on the Global G.A.P. standard has been established and registered, and on the formation of institutional preconditions for the implementation of the Global G.A.P. in the production practices of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The leading body of the technical working group is the Research Institute of Standardization, Metrology and Certification of the Republic of Uzbekistan. It is planned that the Uzbek partner universities of the current project will become members of the Working Group and actively participate in its work.

The project results will support the implementation of the Roadmap for the Agricultural Development Strategy of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2020-2030 in order to diversify production, improve land and water relations, create a favourable agribusiness climate and a high added value chain, support the development of cooperative relations, widely introduce market mechanisms and information and communication technologies into the sector, and effectively use scientific achievements and improve human resources capacity.

The project will also result in the implementation of an action plan to increase the export potential of the agricultural sector, increase value-added production, widely implement a certification system based on international standards and develop cooperation mechanisms: organisation of short-term and distance training courses for horticultural and greenhouse specialists, development and distribution of training manuals; creation of an innovative educational centre – AKIS (Agricultural Knowledge Information Services)

To ensure sustainability of the project results, the Uzbek partners are planning to

1. Conduct regional and international scientific and practical conferences, seminars, round tables, meetings, etc. with specialists from Europe.
2. Strengthen the capacity of the manufacturing and processing industry with expertise in implementation and proper compliance with GAP and the Global GAP standard.
3. Contribute to the competitiveness of companies and creating prerequisites to start exporting to the EU and other countries, considering the opportunities provided under GSP+ (GSP+).
4. Improve the competitiveness of universities for attracting and training students, through updated curricula and improved facilities.
5. Train bachelors and masters with the knowledge and practical skills to work in the agro-industrial complex to establish modern food quality and safety management systems.
6. Create a database of agro-trading companies and cooperatives, large farms and conclude agreements with them to provide them with training, methodological and advisory services on the overall results of the AgroDev project.
7. Conduct short training courses and trainings on the basics of GAP & Global G.A.P., for employees of large agro-clusters and holdings, large and small farms and dekhan farms.
8. Conduct annual scientific-practical conferences, round tables, seminars with the participation of the educational sphere, agricultural producers, specialists in food quality and safety. These activities will result in the training of specialists in accordance with the needs and demands of employers.
8. Tests developed by professors from partner universities in Europe and supplemented by faculty members from the department will be used to assess the quality of knowledge and determine the competence of students.
9. Use the laboratory facilities updated as part of the AgroDev project for practical classes and pilot tests on extended topics of food safety and quality determination. Research work by undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate students and teachers will also be carried out.
10. Promote the results of the AgroDev project through the mass telecommunication and information systems of Uzbekistan, as well as at conferences, seminars and round tables devoted to the problems of training a new generation of higher education specialists in the field of quality assurance and food safety.
11. Produce and promote e-learning (video materials)

Additionally, HEIs must look for synergies and try to strengthen their role and contribution to the implementation of important national strategies and policies

### III. Planned long term activities to ensure sustainability of the project results in Central Asia (5-year plan) 5 years after the end of the project - 2024 - 2028.

No	Results achieved	Further long-term quality and sustainability activities	Implementers
<b>1</b>	<b>Modernized agro-food production related study programmes at 4 Central Asia universities.</b>		
1.1	Syllabuses and teaching plans are developed. 6 modernised study programmes with academic content are developed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to train students on new and modernised content on an ongoing basis.</li> <li>• Regularly review and update the content of the developed training modules, especially in relation to information that is subject to change (legislation, standards, etc.)</li> <li>• The process of reviewing and possibly modifying the content of the developed training modules should be carried out jointly within one country. Wherever possible, this should also be done at regional level.</li> <li>• Develop and implement guidelines for practical work, seminars, and instructions for laboratory work.</li> <li>• Increase the proportion of practical classes and laboratory work in the curriculum structure.</li> </ul>	Universities Central Asia
1.2	A set of teaching materials (lectures, presentations, practical works, tests etc.) are developed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuously improve training materials by introducing new knowledge gained through the project.</li> <li>• Increase the use of learning methods such as discussions, group work, situation analysis and others.</li> <li>• Conduct an annual demonstration of the developed training materials to thematically relevant colleagues who have not previously been exposed to the materials - a demonstration workshop at each involved Central Asia university.</li> </ul>	Universities Central Asia
1.3	Modernised study programmes quality assurance methodology (criteria, indicators, tools and mechanisms for measuring quality) is developed and adopted at the involved CA universities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gradually implement and annually use the developed methodology for assessing the quality of modernised curricula.</li> <li>• Regularly review the quality assessment criteria, making changes as necessary.</li> </ul>	Universities Central Asia
<b>2</b>	<b>Increased number of knowledgeable and skilful specialists prepared for the agro-food production industry.</b>		
2.1	The content developed and implemented meets the needs of agricultural enterprises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disseminate the knowledge, skills and experience gained amongst agro-entrepreneurs and farmers, thus encouraging interest in the subject, and fostering cooperation.</li> <li>• Agro-industries and branch associations should continually provide universities with suggestions on the needs of the agribusiness sector regarding the necessary knowledge.</li> </ul>	Universities Central Asia  Associations  AKIS Samarkand branch

2.2	Additional prerequisites have been created to match specialists with the needs of the agro-industrial complex.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To pay more attention to the English level of students, to provide more intensive teaching where possible, thus increasing their ability to use the academic literature and information available in English.</li> </ul>	Universities Central Asia
2.3	Field (farm based) training for teaching staff of each CA university is conducted.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To organise the launched field trainings on a regular basis to ensure further skills of teaching staff to provide the relevant knowledge and skills to the students by enhanced cooperation between universities and business intermediaries (association of SMEs &amp; consulting companies).</li> <li>To adapt (to update) knowledge and skillset of teachers considering the development and changes of Global G.A.P. standard.</li> </ul>	Universities Central Asia Agribusiness associations AKIS Samarkand branch Department of Agriculture of Samarkand region
3	<b>Capacity of academic staff is increased at 4 Central Asia universities.</b>		
3.1	The professional level of teachers at the universities involved in Central Asia has been improved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue the professional development of teachers, using the training materials received, sources of knowledge indicated by colleagues from European universities, and industry experience.</li> <li>To organise the exchange of knowledge, information and experience continuously and regularly between teachers within the university, the faculty.</li> <li>Organise in-house professional development activities for teachers.</li> <li>Encourage teachers to participate in courses, seminars organised by other organisations.</li> <li>Include in the criteria for evaluating the work done by teachers and their achievements criteria for participation in educational events and skills development, as well as for sharing knowledge and experience with colleagues.</li> <li>As far as possible, provide financial incentives (extra pay, bonuses) to teachers for actively improving their own professional level and sharing their knowledge and experience.</li> <li>Introduce an approach in which teachers can attend educational events paid for by the university.</li> <li>Discuss with government agencies the possibilities of budgeting for regular educational activities through public funding.</li> <li>Find opportunities to increase mobility opportunities for teachers internationally and regionally.</li> <li>Pay more attention to the level of English language skills, organise training for teachers.</li> <li>Ensure the professional development and motivation of technical staff in the laboratories.</li> </ul>	Universities Central Asia
4	<b>The study environment in 4 Central Asia universities is improved.</b>		
4.1	The universities involved in Central Asia have been better equipped - laboratories have been set up and up-to-date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to improve the technical equipment of the established laboratories.</li> <li>Include in the annual budget funding for the purchase of laboratory supplies, reagents, maintenance, and proper upkeep of the equipment.</li> <li>Create a learning environment with accessible computer equipment and permanent, high-speed internet.</li> </ul>	Universities Central Asia

	teaching materials have been purchased.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organise practical training sessions for all thematically relevant teachers to learn the capabilities, functions and use of the laboratory equipment purchased.</li> <li>Familiarise all relevant teachers and students with the new educational literature.</li> </ul>	
<b>5</b>	<b>Links and cooperation among universities and the agro-food production industry are strengthened.</b>		
5.1	Cooperation between universities and agribusiness associations has been developed and strengthened and mutual understanding of problems, needs, necessary solutions and possible forms of cooperation has been obtained.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agribusinesses and their associations should continually communicate proposals on the needs of the agro industry to universities.</li> <li>Enterprises shall promote internships in agribusinesses and the employment of young professionals.</li> <li>Involve scientists in solving current problems of agricultural producers.</li> <li>Organise short courses on Global G. A. P. for agri-entrepreneurs, thus encouraging their awareness, interest, cooperation.</li> <li>Invite and include agro entrepreneurs in working groups of universities dealing with training content and research on relevant topics.</li> <li>Organise permanent internships and field workshops for students.</li> <li>Organise regular guest lectures by advanced agricultural producers and agricultural consultants at universities</li> </ul>	<p>Associations of businesses</p> <p>Universities Central Asia</p> <p>AKIS Samarkand branch Department of Agriculture of Samarkand region</p>
5.2	Partly strengthened 3-way cooperation between universities, AKP associations and governmental bodies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organise short courses on Global G. A. P. and Sustainable Agricultural Practices (GAP) for the staff of the relevant government agencies, thus encouraging their awareness, interest, cooperation.</li> <li>Invite and include staff from relevant government agencies in university working groups dealing with teaching content and research on relevant topics.</li> <li>Encourage the incorporation of the project results in the sections of national strategies that set goals and targets in relation to food quality, safety and exports.</li> <li>Join and actively participate in the Scientific Entrepreneurial Platform (STP) for communication, cooperation and collaboration between science and food sector enterprises (Scientific Entrepreneurial Platform) in Kyrgyzstan and identify and use similar platforms in Uzbekistan.</li> </ul>	<p>Associations of businesses</p> <p>Government structures</p> <p>Universities Central Asia</p> <p>AKIS Samarkand branch Department of Agriculture of Samarkand region</p>
<b>6</b>	<b>The networking among Central Asia's and EU's higher education institutions is enhanced.</b>		
6.1	Cooperation between Central Asia and EU universities, as well as between EU universities and associations of Central Asia enterprises, is well developed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Central Asia universities shall identify promising directions and further needs for the development of higher education curricula.</li> <li>Central Asia universities will create concepts for promising directions and discuss with European Union partners.</li> <li>Prioritise the development of new projects for submission to Erasmus+ competitions.</li> <li>Consider the mobility of academics from the universities involved in Central Asia and the European Union.</li> </ul>	<p>Universities Central Asia</p> <p>Universities European Union</p> <p>Agribusiness associations</p>

#### IV. Planned short-term activities to ensure sustainability of project results in Central Asia

The plan is designed for the period until the end of 2026. The **activities are structured in three blocks: 1) knowledge, 2) funding, and 3) cooperation and interaction.**

No	Block	Actors involved, organisations involved	Execution period
<b>1</b>	<b>Knowledge</b>		
1.1	To organise short courses, knowledge, and experience exchange seminars for teachers to improve their professional level and qualifications within each university.	Faculty members of CA universities within their university	2024-2026
1.2	Organise long-term courses, seminars to share knowledge and experience between CA universities and consulting companies.	Faculty members of CA universities Experts from consultancy companies	2024-2026
1.3	Universities in Central Asia to organise training for agribusiness professionals from cooperatives and farmers/producers.	Faculty members of CA universities Agribusiness associations and their members - businesses	2024-2026
1.4	CA universities to exchange and share training materials.	CA universities	2024-2026
1.5	Universities in Central Asia to identify promising areas and further needs for the development of higher education curricula, compile a list of thematic interests, and needs and send it to EU universities for consideration and to find opportunities for cooperation.	CA universities	2024-2026
1.6	Organise exchange of teachers between CA universities.	CA universities	2024-2026
1.7	Conduct a demonstration of the developed training materials to relevant colleagues (who were not involved in the AgroDev project) (demonstration workshop) of the involved Central Asia universities.	CA universities	2024-2026
1.8	Organise short courses (information sessions) on Global G. A. P. and sustainable agricultural practices for the staff of the relevant government agencies.	CA universities	2024-2026
<b>2</b>	<b>Funding</b>		
2.1	Support and actively participate in the established working groups at national level, involving universities and public authorities, to address the resource needs for short- and long-term activities and development in relation to GAP & Global G. A. P.	CA universities Government structures	2024-2026
2.2	At the university level, develop and implement regulations for the use of laboratory equipment and research services.	CA universities	2024-2026
2.3	Include in the annual budget funding for laboratory supplies, reagents, equipment maintenance.	CA universities	2024-2026
<b>3</b>	<b>Cooperation and collaboration</b>		
3.1	Participate in the CARG regional platform, the agenda of which includes Global G. A. P. ( <a href="https://ca-wg.net/">https://ca-wg.net/</a> ) as well as NPGs and WGs on Global GAP	CA universities Associations	2024-2026
3.2	Organise thematic events on GAP & Global G.A.P. issues (roundtables, conferences and forums) at the regional level with the participation of all stakeholders.	CA universities Associations	2024-2026