





Main Implementing organisation(s)	KAFLU (Kyrgyz Association of Forest and Land Users); FiBL (European Research Institute of Organic Agriculture); RWUAS (Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences); QMC (Quality Management Center «Markazi Idorakunii Sifat»); Ekomaktab
Duration	01/01/2020 – 31/12/2022
Project budget	Total budget 1 100 000 € EU contribution - 990 000 €
Project partners	Advisory partners: NFG "Norwegian Forestry Group"; Independent Agency for Strategic Researches and Planning in Agro-Industrial Complex; National Association of Marketing Managers; Market development partners Interfruits LLC; Oro Isfara LLC; Isfarafood LLC; Avalin CJSK; NATFOOD AGROEXPORTS; TJ Trade
Location	Kyrgyzstan: Batken, Jalal-Abad, Osh, Talas Tajikistan: Khatlon, Sughd Uzbekistan: Andijan, Fergana, Jizzakh, Namangan, Samarkand, Sirdarya, Tashkent
Keywords	Central Asia, Organic Farm and Forest-based products, Smallholders
Contract Nr.	ACA/2019/412-076
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Project Description

Boost the **competitiveness of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs)** in the agri-food sector of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan through increasing the efficiency and sustainability of production and processing of food products from smallholder farming and forest management operations Promoting the **sustainable management of natural resources**, through organic production practices, which reduce adverse impacts on climate change and enhance natural biodiversity. Establishing sustainable **high-quality value chains for Central Asian food products** to EU markets through improving collaboration and coordination of stakeholders along the value chain, particularly of smallholder producers, food processing/manufacturing enterprises and traders to EU markets. Strengthening **enabling environments for local agri-food and forestry systems** through promoting certification of selected food products in line with market and relevant food hygiene requirements. Increasing the **capacity of local advisory**

services, and support **gender equality and sustainable economic development**.

Main target groups

Local small-scale farmers and forest users; Rural women and youth; Local communities; Local advisory service providers; Central Asian food processing MSMEs, traders and export retailers; European and Central Asian consumers

Expected results

Improvement of the local agricultural and NTFP production systems; Enhancement of the quality of food products; Building of professional capacity of smallholder producers through gender balanced participatory approach.

Achievements to date

Participatory assessment of current value chains to identify barriers and opportunities for smallholder agricultural producers and MSMEs; Socio-economic analysis of current farming and forest management practices and identification of improvement potential; The local rural advisory services mapped; Facilitating market information and linkage of smallholder producers and MSMEs – **45 B2B meetings between EU traders (Germany, Switzerland, Denmark, Baltic States etc) and CA food producers = Contracts signed for over 170 tons of products from CA, other contracts are under negotiation due to COVID-19**. CA organic and NTFP food brand promotion campaign to increase product awareness and demand in local and export markets – (e.g. biggest fair on organic products in the world - BIOFACH (Nuremberg) + establishment of new collaborations and future perspective contacts for further expansion of Central Asia products to the EU). **Traders from the EU are negotiating for different CA food items** which are either conventional or already certified Organic as well as for the products which are expected to be converted to Organic by the end of the project. **ELSOFP Project On-line trade-info platform ready-to-use - <https://rural-cluster.org>**

COVID-19 ELSOFP response

All the materials produced during the ELSOFP Project are accessible in a user-friendly manner/language via on-line platform specially designed for farmers, producers, and traders. The ELSOFP platform is first launched on 10th of October (and edited using gender-balanced participatory approach together with stakeholders by the end of 2020). Platform contains all the training, marketing, international standards, export, and other useful materials, which can be accessed at any time free of charge. The advantage of such an approach = **Eternal access → any materials can be accessed by any users at any moment** (primary wish of farmers/forest users and MSMEs, due to field work and production busy schedule). Any of the materials can be downloaded for free in an adapted to user needs "packages" formed by users themselves ("shopping-basket" principle), therefore avoiding bulky chapters/documents but forming "manuals" reflecting only topics/questions necessary to each individual.