

United Nations Development Program  
'Aid for Trade in Central Asia -Phase IV' Project

16<sup>th</sup> April, 2021

Dear ELSOFP team,

The fourth phase of the Aid for Trade in Central Asia project works on promoting inclusive growth through the promotion of green productive capacities and competitiveness. The main logic of the project is to build productive capacities that are forward looking (future proof) and that address rapidly changing global market demands, may this be from changing consumption patterns, technological or climate change.

The strategy is to provide support to building productive and export capacities for niche products, identified in the agricultural, agro-industrial, but also in other employment-rich and potentially "green" sectors, to contribute to more economically, socially and environmentally sustainable growth patterns. To this end, the project will work on three different levels – macro, meso and micro - which mutually reinforce each other.

We are pleased to learn about the EU-financed action "Expansion of Kyrgyz, Tajik and Uzbek local smallholder organic agriculture and forest-based food products to the EU markets" (ELSOFP). The project's mission of promoting Central Asian food MSMEs to enter European markets closely echoes Aid for Trade project objectives. So far, we have been mutually supporting each other with information sharing, analyses, joint B2B missions, assessment of potential food producing companies to enhance their export potential. We hope that it is only the beginning of our cooperation and mutual support.

In addition, two cross-cutting themes are gender equality and environmental sustainability similar to the ELSOFP's approach. The Aid for Trade project is aligned with the SDGs and currently contributes to the achievement of 8 goals and 24 related indicators.

Strengthening the capacities of trade/export promotion institutions (TSI) to a) provide professional services to SMEs to access developed markets, b) establish new trade/export promotion services through tailor made trainings and promotion of cooperation with advanced counterparts in Russia, Central Asia and/or Europe

In relation to facilitating access to target markets, we have conducted a number of activities aimed at strengthening the capacities of SMEs on advanced trade and market analysis tools, as well as food safety and quality compliance issues. As part of the program, the project was launched to support market analysis and expand online content for exporters. In this regard, we support your initiative on creating trade and information portal for different stakeholders and participants of food value chain to improve regional and international knowledge and information sharing.

Let me once again point out importance of the work ELSOFP project does for improving regional trade potential. We wish you and your team all the best and believe our cooperation will continue.

Yours sincerely,

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