Date: 15 March 2010

REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN

UNLOCKING PAMIRS’ DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL

PARTICIPATORY RURAL INVESTMENT PLANNING WORKSHOP REPORT

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS – ROME
TECHNICAL COOPERATION DEPARTMENT INVESTMENT CENTRE DIVISION (TCI)
# ACRONYMS

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<tr>
<td>ACTED</td>
<td>Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development</td>
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<td>Asian Development Bank</td>
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<td>AKF</td>
<td>Aga Khan Foundation</td>
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<td>Community Agriculture and Watershed Management Project</td>
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<td>FAO</td>
<td>Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations</td>
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<td>Gorno Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast</td>
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<td>GTZ</td>
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<td>IDOS</td>
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Pamir Plateau in Gorno-Badakhshan
Preface

This report summaries the results of the participatory investment planning workshop organized by FAO Investment Centre together with the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Tajikistan and held in Dushanbe on 8-9 December 2009. It consists of four chapters: i) an introduction describing present development activities and future prospects in Gorno-Badakhshan in general and the potential for launching a Pamirs Rural Investment Program in particular, ii) an appraisal of the workshop objectives and participatory rural investment planning, iii) a narrative of individual project experiences made by participants and presented during the four sessions, and iv) a summary of conclusions and the next steps forward.

The successful implementation of the workshop was the result of significant efforts contributed by many people working at the Ministry of Agriculture in Dushanbe, at the Department of Agriculture in Khorog, at the Hydro-meteorological Authority of the Republic of Tajikistan, at the FAO headquarters in Rome, in the FAO Coordination Office in Dushanbe and in other parts of Central Asia and Europe. The most important input, however, was given by the participants of the workshop themselves who not only presented their experience and ideas about rural investment constraints and opportunities in Gorno-Badakhshan but also encouraged the organizers to continue with program/project preparation on the basis of the conclusions and recommendations made at the end of the workshop.

1. INTRODUCTION

“Production concentrates in big cities, leading provinces, and wealthy nations. Half the world’s production fits onto 1.5 % of its land. But economic concentration leaves out some populations: A billion people, living in the poorest and most isolated nations, mostly in Sub-Saharan Africa and South and Central Asia, survive on less than 2 % of the world’s wealth. These geographically disadvantaged people cope every day with the reality that development does not bring economic prosperity everywhere at once; markets favor some places over others. I expect that Reshaping Economic Geography will stimulate a much-needed discussion on the desirability of balanced growth, which has proved elusive. And by informing some important policy debates, it will point the way toward more inclusive and sustainable development” (Robert Zoellick in his foreword to the World Development Report 2009).

Almost one quarter of a million people live in one of those “poorest and most isolated nations”: 220,000 Pamiri of Tajik, Kyrgyz and Afghan origin are trying to make a living in the Pamirs in the Autonomous Oblast of Gorno-Badakhshan (GBAO) of Tajikistan at altitudes ranging from 3,000 m to 5,000 m. At the same time, the Pamirs are one of the most scenic alpine plateaus in the world, featuring permanently snow-capped mountains up to 7,300 m in height and an extraordinary biodiversity, including such rare species as Marco Polo sheep and snow leopards.

Tajikistan is the most vulnerable and most sensitive country to climate change in Central Asia and second only to Turkmenistan in having the least adaptive capacity for climate change. In part because of this fact, the President of the Republic of Tajikistan has given the highest priority to development of the GBAO, covering large parts of the Pamirs. The population living in GBAO includes 14,000 inhabitants in Murghab Raion, which covers 38,000 km² (Eastern Pamirs = 26% of Tajikistan), and 206,000 inhabitants in the other six Raions, which cover 26,200 km² (Western Pamirs = 18% of Tajikistan).

1 Prepared by Inna Punda, FAO/TCIN, Walter Klemm, FAO/TCIN, and Jalaluddin Shah, Consultant, with contributions from almost all workshop participants, and reviewed by Sarina Abdysheva, FAO/SEC and David Colbert, FAO/TCIN.

2 Situated at the crossroads of five countries: Afghanistan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, and Tajikistan

3 The World Bank: Adapting to Climate Change in Europe and Central Asia, Washington DC, 1 July 2009

4 Investment Department of GBAO: Mountainous Badakhshan, Proposals to Investors, Khorog, 2008
The major natural assets (excluding mineral deposits) of the region are:

- Surface water for hydropower generation and irrigation purposes;
- High alpine pastures (‘Pamirs’) of great nutritious value for livestock breeding;
- Limited but fertile soils for agricultural production; and
- A high alpine landscape with unique fauna and flora.

Any development activities “on the ground” (such as community development projects and/or private enterprise development) will require investments, which in turn stipulate an “enabling” environment (i.e. legal and financial regulations as well as infrastructure facilities, such as energy, communication and roads), including assured markets. None of these elements are currently available in Gorno-Badakhshan in a satisfactory manner.

Thus development will be based on the premise that the Government prepares and approves an infrastructure development plan for Gorno-Badakhshan and ensures sufficient funding for its implementation. Only then will the active population of Gorno-Badakhshan stop emigrating and explore job opportunities “at home” and/or invest in potential development projects.

Following intensive discussions with Government officials in Dushanbe and Khorog as well as with NGO staff active in Gorno-Badakhshan, and with potential beneficiaries living in the districts of Khorog, Ishkashim and Murghab during a fact-finding mission carried out in June 2009, three major investment opportunities in the agricultural sector have been identified:

1. Cashmere goat breeding for wool, diary and meat production, processing and marketing (emphasis on wool);
2. Yak breeding for leather, diary and meat production, processing and marketing (emphasis on meat); and
3. Fruit production, processing and marketing (emphasis on apricots).

Additionally, those local people already providing basic facilities for tourists, rightly requested to be much more supported in future through assistance and increased investment in eco-tourism (i.e. accommodations, gastronomy, transport, publications, surveys, marketing, and guidance). At the end of the last year’s fact-finding mission, it was also concluded that any investment project initiative has to be embedded in an overall (Pamirs) rural investment program actively supported by the Government and being an integral part of a future AmuDarya Basin management plan.

There are six good reasons why to care about Gorno-Badakhshan and its population:

- Gorno-Badakhshan covers the upper Amu Darya River basin (i.e. headwaters of the Amu Darya), being the source of fresh water used for hydropower and irrigation purposes in the four countries situated in the lower Amu Darya River basin: Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan.
- It is predicted that the currently available water volume of the Amu Darya River will increase temporarily (up to 2060) and then decrease gradually by 20% to 30% due to the impacts of climate change at the latest in 2080, if not before.
- The currently available water of the Amu Darya irrigates an estimated gross area of some six million hectares, feeding about 30 million people.
- The proven hydropower potential of more than 30,000 MW in Gorno-Badakhshan alone can make Tajikistan the largest energy exporter in Central Asia and thus lead to an unprecedented high living standard for the local population.
- The present rate of denudation of the upper Amu Darya River basin is accelerating due to the demand for fuel by the inhabitants, who consume on average one bush of Teresken (at time of harvest about 40 years old) per family per day.
- Finally, the empty Pamirs Plateau is an ideal refuge and future base for the Taliban, who are being pushed farther to the northeast in Northern Afghanistan (now under even increasing

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5 Population density in the Pamirs is on average 3.4 inhabitants per km²; in the Eastern Pamirs: 0.4 inhabitants per km², and in Western Pamirs 7.9 inhabitants per km².
pressure in Kunduz Province), and who are reported to have already crossed the Panj River several times in 2009.

In order to properly plan and efficiently implement the most effective agricultural development project for Gorno-Badakhshan under a well-defined Rural Investment Program, a series of background studies on land and water resources were undertaken as follows:

(1) A climate impact study on stream flow (in the Vakhsh and Panj sub-basins of the Amu Darya) and the consequences for irrigated agriculture in the lower Amu Darya basin.

(2) State-of-the-art glacier modelling, its application on glaciers situated in Gorno-Badakhshan, and its consequences for irrigated agriculture in the lower Amu Darya basin.

(3) Assessment of land carrying capacity and fodder production potential in the upper Vakhsh and Panj sub-basins of the Amu Darya.

(4) Value chain analysis of cashmere production in Gorno Badakhshan.

(5) Appraisal of agricultural development project implementation in Gorno-Badakhshan during the last decade (2000-2009) and its impact on the livelihoods of the rural population.

Two further studies are planned and postponed for the time being until project preparation funds are replenished. These are:

(6) Assessment of the renewable energy potential in Gorno Badakhshan, with an emphasis on solar energy for small cottage industry purposes (e.g. meat processing).

(7) Reference study: Assessment of land carrying capacity and fodder production potential on the Changthang Plateau in the upper Indus River basin.

This report summarizes the workshop presentations and working group results of the two-day Rural Investment Planning Workshop convened by FAO’s Investment Centre in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture at the Hotel Tajikistan in Dushanbe on 8 - 9 December 2009. The objectives of the workshop were:

• To facilitate the exchange of know-how and experience in rural development in general and rural investment in the Pamirs/GBAO in particular – to know and understand, who is doing what, how and when;

• To provide a forum for interested stakeholders to actively participate in rural investment planning in the Pamirs/GBAO and to focus especially on agriculture, including cashmere production as investment opportunities, but also on other potential investment options as articulated by interested stakeholders – to understand the felt needs of potential stakeholders;

• To identify potential rural investment projects, including institutional mechanisms for project implementation – to appraise constraints and opportunities for investment; and

• To design a cashmere project component, if deemed appropriate – to agree on a promising first investment project.

Inviting non-governmental organizations (NGOs), government officers, and representatives of the private sector, professional associations, international financing institutions (IFIs) and other development partners active in Tajikistan to the workshop, ensured that the two-day workshop turned out to be a very lively venue benefiting from the active participation of all participants. Furthermore, the participants manifested their determination to produce concrete steps forward for implementation of the first project component under the umbrella of a Pamirs Rural Investment Programme.

Following the project fact-finding mission in June 2009, this workshop was the first of its kind under FAO’s initiative to support climate change adapted and livelihood-improving sustainable land and water use in the Pamirs. Albeit limited by time, the workshop was carried out in a participatory manner by giving each participant the opportunity to come forward and voice his/her queries, to identify and discuss potentially viable rural investment options for the Pamirs/GBAO, and to commit themselves to actively contribute in the near future to project development and its implementation.
2. WORKSHOP OBJECTIVE: PARTICIPATORY RURAL INVESTMENT PLANNING

2.1 Lessons learned and workshop rational

Conventional wisdom suggests that investment planning is usually carried out by the government of the respective country and one or several International Finance Institutions (IFIs) or donors, sometimes in parallel at the same time, sometimes in coordination with each other, the IFI trying to fill up its lending or grant portfolio, the government trying to invest in as much hardware - mainly infrastructure, factories and vehicles - as possible, often leaving future beneficiaries marginalised if not excluded. To date, there are changes in investment planning, and carrying out stakeholder consultations has become a routine planning tool. However, many if not most stakeholder consultations follow a common pattern: Government and donor agency and/or IFI invite the population concerned, together with representatives from civil society and the private sector, and present a programme or project, already identified and on the way to preparation or even appraisal. Eventually, main programme/project activities and budgets are defined, and only a few changes – if requested during the consultations – can be made to the programme/project, sometimes only resulting in “cosmetic changes”.

This workshop attempted “participatory rural investment planning” in order to avoid the usual “top down” approach and to give concerned beneficiaries a voice in the planning of a programme/project that will directly impact their lives. This, of course, is not an easy task, and time and patience are required to accommodate urban researchers and the semi-nomadic livestock breeders in their – often controversial – endeavours to improve the livelihood of rural communities.

This workshop may be considered to be a first attempt. Eventually, it was only held after the idea of a “Pamirs Rural Investment Programme” gradually developed over the preceding two years. This manifested itself with the identification of the first project component during the fact-finding mission carried out in June 2009, as a result of benefiting from positive feedback expressed by representatives from the Government of Tajikistan (GOT), representatives of civil society, and – most importantly – from the concerned population living in GBAO.

FAO’s Investment Centre facilitated such an elaborate, partly risky process by making available staff and financial resources, which additionally provided for a number of background studies. The programme/project preparation process will benefit from the results of those studies providing a better understanding of the present and future existing natural resources, of the investment environment, and of the readiness and capability of the Pamiri to unlock the proven development potential.

It is too early to consider this first participatory rural investment planning exercise as being successful, but nevertheless a first step has been made in a direction providing potential programme/project beneficiaries with a forum to participate in the decision-making process of investment planning that eventually affects their own livelihoods and prosperity, as well as that of future generations.

2.2 Workshop opening

Forty participants from Dushanbe, Khorog, Murgab, Alichur, Osh, and Bishkek attended the workshop. Different groups of stakeholders were represented: central and regional government (MOA), NGOs active in GBAO, private farmers and cashmere traders from Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, the local veterinary and scientific community, as well as a few donors (the World Bank and the Embassy of Japan to Tajikistan). The workshop was opened by Mr. Walter Klemm, Senior Land and Water Development Engineer of the FAO Investment Centre, who invited all participants to contribute actively to the discussion of a sound, integrated programme/project approach for rural investment planning in the Pamirs: outlining an overall rural investment programme, and developing its first climate change-adapted and livelihood-improving land and water use project component (e.g.
cashmere production, eco-tourism or yak meat processing). The overall goal of the exercise was to provide a forum for interested stakeholders to actively participate in rural investment planning in the Pamirs and to benefit from profitable and sustainable investment opportunities.

Mr. Nazri Nazriyev, Head of Ministry of Agriculture, Khorog/GBAO, outlined in his opening remarks the challenges and opportunities in the agriculture and livestock sector of GBAO. He described the causes of decline in the agricultural sector after the collapse of the Soviet Union and subsequent civil war in Tajikistan. He continued with the presentation of the potential sub-sectors, such as horticulture, vegetables and livestock, and the needs/opportunities of value addition to the respective products. He also described the agriculture sector development strategy of the Government.

Mr. Nassim Jawad, Head of the FAO Coordination in Tajikistan focused on energy issues prevailing in Tajikistan, and underlined the importance of water resources, migration issues, and the dependence on remittances as the main source of income. He outlined the perspectives of a suitable and targeted project within the international context (e.g. the Copenhagen Conference, Tajikistan’s melting glaciers, sharing of trans-boundary rivers, etc.), as well as on national level. He noted that, as a part of the ongoing reform, the Government had established high-level working groups, one of them targeting agriculture to become a backbone of the country’s economy.

3. WORKSHOP SESSIONS

There were four sessions held during the two days of workshop activities. The first day was dedicated to presentations of the findings and sharing the experience in rural development; the second day was entirely dedicated to the work in groups.

3.1 Session I: Status of Pamirs programme/project preparations

3.1.1. Pamirs rural investment programme and cashmere project proposal

Inna Punda presented the background of the programme and described a potential Cashmere Project Component. Particular attention was given to the Cashmere Forum already established on a website (www.Cashmere-Forum.net), which was created to connect cashmere producers in Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Afghanistan and Northern India (Ladakh) with each other and with high-end cashmere product traders in developed countries. Ms. Punda also reported on the results of the fact finding mission\(^6\) to Gorno-Badakhshan conducted by the FAO Investment Centre in June 2009. The overall interest in the development programme in general and in the cashmere project proposal in particular expressed by the Government and potential stakeholders encouraged the FAO team to hold this workshop.

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The team of specialists currently working on five out of the eight proposed studies that have been undertaken was presented to the meeting. It was explained that there work would facilitate a better understanding of the core development challenges facing the Pamirs. To address key issues more systematically and scientifically during programme/project development the following studies were conducted:

- **Cashmere value chain analysis** by Ms. Carol Kerven (present at the workshop);
- **Land carrying capacity study** by Ms. Sarah Robinson (present at the workshop);
- **Impact of past development projects on the livelihoods of the Pamiri** by Mr. Anton Rychener;
- **Climate impact study on stream flow**, and
- **Glacier modelling study**, both by a group of experts (Mr. Wilfried Hagg, Mr. Stephan Wagner, Mr. Martin Hoelzle, and Mr. Reinold Seidelmann).

All five studies were already ongoing and their results are expected to be available by the end of March 2010. They were supported administratively and logistically by Mr. Jalaluddin Shah (Workshop Facilitator), Ms. Robina Wahaj (Coordinator) and Mr. Haval Khoshnaw (Assistant Coordinator).

### 3.1.2 Cashmere value chain analysis (Ms. Carol Kerven, cashmere value chain expert, Consultant)

Ms. Carol Kerven arrived at the workshop directly from her mission to the Pamirs. The preliminary results of her study were summarized in the presentation “Strengthening the value chain for cashmere in the Pamirs: prospects and challenges”.

Ms. Kerven started her presentation with the statement that the cashmere goats do exist in the Pamirs and that the cashmere goats in the Pamirs are not a special breed. They are indigenous, local coarse-haired goats, called “jodori”. In the Soviet period, new breeds of angora goats were brought to some livestock sovkhoz in the Pamirs. Angora goats produce another kind of fibre, called mohair. Now the angora goats have become interbred with local cashmere goats in some Pamir villages. These mixed goats produce “cashgora” which is not very valuable in the world market. Luckily, some local cashmere goats still exist in the Pamirs. They are a very important genetic and economic resource and should be conserved.

Cashmere fibre is the fine diameter warm fluff that grows under the outer hair each year in winter. Goats naturally shed or moult this cashmere every spring. This can be harvested and sold. Cashmere is a luxury and expensive fibre in world markets. Fashion houses in Japan and Europe sell cashmere garments at very high prices, but what is the share of this added value for the local people? How to strengthen it? This is the issue to address in a project.

About five years ago the Chinese discovered that cashmere goats in Central Asia and Tajikistan produce very valuable fibre. However, the business is being done privately and informally without active participation of local stakeholders. Thus, it is estimated that some 10-13 tons of cashmere are sold outside Pamirs annually. Osh is the centre of cashmere trade; some 10-12 big traders with the warehouses collecting fibre from Tajikistan and Uzbekistan are located there. A trader from Osh sells to a Chinese factory a kilogram of cashmere at about USD 140, but the price to the livestock owner can be as low as USD 10 per kg. The price depends not only on genes, but on how the cashmere is harvested. Combing is an important skill to teach farmers. This skill can be taught in half an hour. How well marketing is organized from producers to factories is also very important.

In Mongolia and China, cashmere production has been organized for 20-30 years. Cashmere is the main income for many livestock owners in these countries. The knowledge of the real value of different fibres and sorting skills are fundamental. These herders don’t wait passively for a trader to come and buy their product for a minimal. They receive market information on their cell phones and decide which market to bring their cashmere to. The price paid to goat-owners in China and Mongolia
is between USD 25-40 per kg of combed cashmere. The cashmere industry has been well-organized in these countries for many years. Goat-owners there understand the value of their cashmere goats. They know how to harvest cashmere to get better prices. They also know that better quality receives better prices. Goat-owners in the Pamirs do not know this.

In the Pamirs, goat owners do not know how to harvest their cashmere or understand the price differences for quality. Very few Pamiri villagers actually comb cashmere goats. They were paid USD 4.60 kg for combed cashmere in 2009 and USD 9.20 kg in 2008.

The next steps would be to identify where good quality cashmere goats exist in the Pamirs and then establish elite breeding flocks to upgrade local flocks. Next, inform and train producers and small-scale local traders about the difference in prices according to quality. Producers will only be interested in upgrading their cashmere goats and harvesting methods if they get better prices for the result. Therefore, it will be necessary to inform international cashmere buyers where they can find good quality products and attract them to buy from the Pamirs.

3.1.3 Land Carrying Capacity Study (Ms. Sarah Robinson, pastures expert, Consultant)

This study was carried out by Ms. Sarah Robinson, an international expert from France who has lived for several years in the Tajik Pamirs studying pastures and livestock issues in Gorno-Badakhshan. Her main tasks were to analyze the potential of natural resource base to support livestock production and to identify areas and circumstances when and where there is a risk of land degradation or feeding competition with the natural animal population.

According to her analysis, the goats are not the ones causing the heaviest pressure on the pastures. The demand for feed and pressure on pastures come mainly from cattle. The current breakdown of total livestock units by species in GBAO - one head of cattle equals five heads of sheep - is 53% cattle, 22% sheep and only 13% goats. Each species of livestock uses the sources of animal feed in very different proportions: pasture (summer, winter, autumn/spring), field stubble, straw from cereal crops, natural hay, feed crops grown in the Pamirs, and concentrate imported to the region. There are no accurate figures available of pasture availability. Recent remote sensing studies suggest the existence of about 1.5 million hectares of pastures. Some 750,000 hectares (50%) are officially classified as usable pastures. The other 50% is inaccessible or lacks adequate soil moisture.

The migration of herds between districts has ceased. However, livestock mobility is a key to pasture management as it allows stocking rates matching demand with supply. Livestock mobility thus helps both to improve animal conditions and to avoid land degradation. As average livestock ownership by household is only nine heads of small stock and two heads of large stock, herding is managed collectively.

The importance of a legal framework for leasing pastures was also underlined: the problem is that one and the same law applies to both arable lands as well as to pastures. Privatization is ongoing and should be monitored closely. Its outcome will significantly influence the pasture management and conditions in the future.

Ms. Robinson pointed out that winter fodder and the lack of spring/autumn/winter pastures are limiting livestock numbers and productivity. There is a surplus of summer pasture, but livestock does not always use these pastures due to the lack of mobility. Remote winter pastures are highly valuable, but livestock must be able to go there. If herds could graze there, it would improve the condition of the animals and reduce the risk of land degradation. Presently, not all of these pastures are used to their full capacity. Among other issues that need to be addressed within a project are high transport costs; risks related to shepherds (how to trust them); the lack of accommodations; the lack of water points; and pasture use fees (people outside of Murghab District must pay a tax for using Murghab pastures).

7 See Land Registration and Cadastre System for Sustainable Agriculture Project (ongoing), World Bank.
3.1.4 Current situation and future prospects for horticulture and crop production: Apricot as a prospective crop in the Western Pamirs
(Parpisho Shonazarov, MOA of GBAO, PPP Focal Point for the Western Pamirs)

In the orchards established in GBAO, apricots are the second crop after mulberries. In the distant past, these crops served as a source of sucrose for local people. Apricot trees grow in GBAO up to 3000 m above sea level. The vegetation period is short (shorter than for apples), that is why apricots grow and give good yields in such an altitude. Apricots are the second most drought-resistant crops (after almonds). They require less than 220 mm of precipitation a year. The crop is also resistant to saline soils.

The best apricot orchards used to be in Vanj. Presently, there are good orchards in the upper parts of Ishkashim above 3000 m, in Languar village but also in Bartan and Izgalian. In 2008, 29 ha of orchards were re-introduced and another 69 ha of new orchards were created.

At the end of the speech, Mr. Shonazarov emphasized that the installation of a fruit processing line - presently non-existent - is essential if plans to develop orchards in the Western Pamirs are considered. With modern processing technologies and improved varieties, apricot drying activities could become a fair source of income for the villagers of this part of GBAO.

3.1.5 Privatization of veterinary services in the Pamirs (Mr. Karamatullo Khamroev, FAO Tajikistan)

Mr. Karamatullo Khamroev reported on the project “Support to the Animal Health Sector in Tajikistan”, where FAO is directly involved in cooperation with the Livestock Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA). This project is aimed to increase household food security by enhancing the productivity of family livestock, whilst strengthening national private sector capacities to respond to animal health concerns. Through this project FAO helps veterinary associations by providing in-kind start-up capital, such as equipment, medicines, vaccines and transportation means. In addition, the project provides extensive training to the members of the association. In central and northern parts of Tajikistan the project is accomplishing its anticipated goals; across the country 38 veterinary associations have been setup. In GBAO, however, no association exists at the moment. However, seven veterinary service centres have been established in Tajik Gorno-Badakhshan, namely in Khorog, Ishkashim, Darvaz, Shugnan, Rushan, Vanj and Roshtkala. The challenge for a project would be to establish veterinary association(s) in GBAO, set up private vet clinics and service network for the remote villages, and organize drugs supply.

3.1.6 Veterinary issues in Pamirs (Mr. Makhmadnazar Kashkuloev, Chairman of Veterinary Association of Tajikistan)

Mr. Makhmadnazar Kashkuloev provided an exhaustive overview of the epizootic situation in the country with a special focus on GBAO. The state provides free of charge the necessary vaccination material against eight diseases, but it is still sufficient for only 20% of the livestock in the country. With regards to GBAO epizootic situation, in 2008 only one case of Emkar and five cases of brucellosis were registered in the northern raions of GBAO. Also, this year one outbreak of pleuropneumonia was registered among goats (outside GBAO). Vaccinations were available (ten thousand doses).

Mr. Makhmadnazar underlined the increased number of foot and mouth disease outbreaks in GBAO. He assumed that cross-border markets with Afghan Badakhshan may be one of the causes. Mr Kashkuloev also emphasized that cross-breeding activities with the improved breeds from the other countries may bring some new diseases to Tajikistan. Therefore, trans-border veterinary points need to be setup in order to ensure proper quarantine and diagnosis.
Session 1 was ended by establishing a common understanding among the participants over the relevance of the proposed programme under climate change adaptation needs and triangulation of program objectives with the regional, national and provincial development priorities.

3.2 Session II: Lessons learned and future development perspectives in GBAO

3.2.1 Challenges and opportunities for integrated rural development in GBAO: Lessons learned from AKF Tajikistan projects (Mr. Kishwar Abdulalishoev, General Manager MSDSP)

The presentation highlighted the history of MSDSP in Tajikistan since 1993, from its interventions during relief time to a service provider in sustainable rural development and transformation into another phase where it acts as facilitation to government, civil society, and community organizations for sustainable and equitable development in Tajikistan. MSDSP has practical programmatic experience in almost all dimensions of integrated rural development in the mountain societies. It struggled to promote participatory development approaches which were not part of ex soviet culture. It established grassroots community organizations and set up a mechanism of participatory planning and identification of ways and means for optimum utilization of natural and other resources.

Socio-Economic Development Programme of GBAO

MSDSP experience in Tajikistan shows that development does not depend on resources but on the capacity of using these resources. The current strategy is aimed to promote equitable and sustainable development through building institutions and facilitating private, governmental and civil society to

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8 Source: MSDSP, July 2006
invest. Another lesson is that development requires a systematic approach: one has to deal with the system, not just a single problem.

Community institution building is a basic ingredient of sustainable development. The gap in planning skills inherited from the Soviet times calls for promoting village organization (400 in GBAO). Identification of priorities for people: the planning process should evolve in response to priorities.

A range of functions is needed to be developed along the value chain for cashmere production: breeders, processors, laboratory facilities for fibre quality analysis, market information system. Then next step is to analyze them: are they strong, weak or unavailable? But also well-established market linkages should provide appropriate incentives for cashmere producers.

In 2003, MSDSP conducted an income survey. The survey shows that an average income in GBAO is 361-889 TJS per year (USD 83-203). The share of non-agricultural income is 51%, mainly remittance salary, pensions. None of these incomes are stable. The other sources are livestock (29%) and agricultural income, estimated to be 20%. In this very context, promoting cashmere production and marketing is very relevant; it is a good alternative to those unstable sources of income. MSDSP expressed its readiness to support the programme.

Another challenge to consider is the access to land certification in GBAO. The procedure requires sending documents and soil samples to the capital, which is sometimes complicated and time consuming. Also, there is no organic certification system in Tajikistan, limiting marketing opportunities of the Pamiri products that could be marketed as organic in many cases.

3.2.2 Privatization of land: lessons learned from the Land Registration & Cadastre System for Sustainable Agriculture Project, LRCSP
(Mr. Khabirov, PMU LRCSP)

The World Bank’s Land Registration and Cadastre System for Sustainable Agriculture Project started in 2005 across the country and has an office in GBAO. The LRCSP for Tajikistan will expand farm privatization through a repeater project to enable more rural people to become independent farmers and take management decisions in response to market forces. This will be facilitated by providing them secure land use rights certificates distributed in a transparent and fair manner and providing essential complementary support services. The project has the following four components:

Component 1 will privatize 300 Collective and State Farm in a transparent and fair manner, issue at least 75,000 secure land use certificates, and establish a uniform, parcel-based system of registration of land use rights by further supporting the central office of the State Land Committee in Dushanbe.

Component 2 will involve three subcomponents: Information for farmers; On-farm irrigation and water management support; Integrated Pest Management and Demonstrations.

Component 3 will support the incremental costs of using the existing Project Management Unit to manage LRCSP.

Component 4 will support capacity development within the President's Economic Advisor's Office to enable Tajikistan to address national policy issues associated with scaling up the Farm Privatization Support Project approach.

Presently 2,500 certificates have been issued in Tajikistan. The project is also active in GBAO (Roshan, Darvaz, Vanz and a pilot project in Ishkashim). Without a proper certification on land any activity is difficult. The certification of the pastures remains to be an issue: how pastures can be divided, used, etc. Some pastures are remote; others are seriously degraded and carry scarce biomass. The current legal framework doesn't provide any solution on how to deal with these issues.
3.2.3 Developing a strategy and action plan for sustainable land management in the Pamir-Alai region: first results of the PALM project  
(Ms. Bettina Wolfgramm, University of Central Asia (UCA), Global Environment Facility)

The project on Sustainable Land Management in the High Pamir and Pamir-Alai Mountains is an integrated trans-boundary initiative of the governments of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, which aims to address the interlinked problems of land degradation and poverty within one of Central Asia's critical mountain 'water towers' and biodiversity hotspots.

The project is executed by the State Agencies for Environment Conservation and Forestry in the two countries with financial support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and other donors. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the GEF Implementing Agency for the project and the United Nations University is the international executing agency. The implementation process started in June 2009. MSDSP is the partner of the project on component 3 in six jomoats of GBAO. There is practical advantage to set up the nucleus flock of cashmere goats in one of these jomoats.

3.2.4 Livestock sector in the Eastern Pamir: Current situation and future prospects (Mr. Teshebay Kolchokbayev, FAO Focal Point for the Eastern Pamirs)

Mr. Teshebay Kolchokbayev gave detailed information on the current situation in the livestock sector of the Eastern Pamirs. The Eastern Pamirs occupy large deserted territories, which represent 26% of country’s total area. Traditionally, a great deal of attention is paid to the livestock sector, particularly to yak-breeding. Animal breeding is done extensively; it is almost fully dependent on weather conditions. In transition economies, the cessation of state supplies - fuel, concentrated feed, etc. - had a very significant impact on the livestock sector.

Unfortunately, there is no possibility to process meat and milk since there is no electricity supply. The local government allows transporting ruminants to Osh (400 km), part of the products being sold on Murghab and Khorog markets. Even for processed products, the marketing remains an issue due to the long distance between Murghab and Dushanbe (900 km). Perishable products are difficult to transport to these distant markets. In spite of these difficulties, some farmers have increased their stock. "New-born" farmers have about 100-300 yak flocks and 600-800 heads of ruminants. These entrepreneurs have build the facilities to keep their stock, purchased transport means, hired shepherds, use the most remote pastures, assure vaccination.

The unsolved issues remain pasture management and pasture degradation including small-scale farmers who have no possibility to bring their animals to the distant pastures and just destroy the pastures around the villages due to over-concentration of animals. Teresken has been destroyed on an area of about 60 km around the villages. With regards to wool and animal hides, there is no market at all. This focuses interest towards cashmere. A relatively new problem is the increased number of debtors. Local farmers just cannot pay back the credit because the terms are too short (1-3 years) and the interest rates are too high (24-36%). The banks simply ignore the specific conditionalities surrounding livestock rearing. For instance, a yak is ready to be sold only by the age of six.

The following centres of interest (necessary for development) were crystallized by the speaker:
- Livestock breeding: yak, sheep, goats with added value processing (dairy, meat, wool, cashmere, hives);
- Pasture management: legal framework, fodder bank, hayfields irrigation, compound feed;
- Credits: regulation streamlining;
- Eco-tourism: increase stock of horses and camels, equestrianism and traditional games.
3.2.5 **Ecotourism in the Eastern Pamirs** *(Mr. Suyuntbek Tadgidinov, ACTED Murgab)*

ACTED is very active in the Murghab region, helping its people to preserve their unique cultural and natural heritage. The NGO is running a specialized centre called *The Yak House*, where the advantages of renewable energy are show-cased. ACTED also promotes local handcrafters: a gift store has been organized at the Yak House. Local women can also receive training on various traditional techniques and get all necessary materials. Another activity of ACTED is the Murghab Eco-Tourism Association (META). Since 2005, this association has promoted eco-tourism in the Pamirs through its network of tour operators.

3.2.6 **Water management in GBAO: lessons from MSDSP projects** *(Bastiaan de Veen, AKF Tajikistan)*

Mr. Bastian de Venn presented the MSDSP approach to sustainable water management and shared on lessons learned.

The main sources of water in the Pamirs are the reserves from glaciers and winter snowfalls. The short-term forecast predicts increasingly melting season, increasing river run-off and an increasingly erratic rainfall. The temperature rise reduces snow as a natural water storage mechanism for gradual water release leading to less ground water recharge and more surface run-off. In the long-term, the run-off is expected to decrease. The impact of glacier melting is the most extreme in the Pamirs: 10-30% of river run-off, up to 70% during summer. Negative impacts, including increased seasonal variability of precipitation and stream flow may eventually offset benefits incurred by short-term increases in run-off from glacier melt.

For better water management, MSDSP seeks to set up reliable and sustainable Water Users Associations (WUAs) that would lead to improved agriculture production and effective farm water management. How?

- Based on genuine community participation, strive towards economically independent organizations;
- Clearly defined relations among all stakeholders; and
- Coordination among WUAs.

Among the main challenges, the following has been underlined:

- Data measurement and collection;
- Technical solutions appropriate to the region;
- Social solutions appropriate to the region; and
- Collaboration among partners.

3.2.7 **Watershed management in GBAO: Lessons learned from the Community Agriculture and Watershed Management Project (CAWMP)** *(Mr. Narzimurad Kholov, Project Manager, CAWMP PMU)*

The World Bank’s Community Agriculture and Watershed Management Project (CAWMP) is managed by a Project Management Unit located at the Republican Centre for the Farm Privatization Support under the Government of Tajikistan, in Dushanbe. Activities in the project areas are coordinated accordingly by watershed-based Project Coordination Units. In addition, for each of the four watersheds, a facilitating organization has been contracted by the Bank for implementing project activities: Welt Hunger Hilfe (WHH, formerly known as German Agro-Action) for Zerafshan watershed, UNDP for Surkhob watershed, the Aga Khan Foundation (AKF)/Mountain Societies Development and Support Program (MSDSP) for Vanj watershed in GBAO, and FAO for Toirsu watershed. The project’s duration is six years and total funding is USD 17.3 million.
The goal of the project is to build the productive assets of rural communities in selected mountain watersheds, in ways which sustainably increase productivity and curtail degradation of fragile lands and ecosystems. This would be achieved by three components:

- **Component I:** Rural Production Investments
- **Component II:** Institutional Support and Capacity Building
- **Component III:** Project Management

The project covers 39 *jamoats* in selected areas. Each *jamoat* within the project area benefits equally from project funded activities. Overall, at least 50% of the population (32,000 households) would benefit from the project. Improving people’s livelihoods is one of the key project objectives supporting the Poverty Reduction Strategy of the Government.

### Jamoats and villages covered by CAWMP:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Watershed</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Project Jamoats</th>
<th>Project Villages per Watershed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Per District</td>
<td>Per Watershed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanlob</td>
<td>Vanj</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surkhob</td>
<td>Jirgatol</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tojikobod</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zarafshon</td>
<td>Panjakent</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aini</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kuh.Masco</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toirsu</td>
<td>Danhara</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>39</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Scope and impact of project activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Sub-Projects</th>
<th>Scope</th>
<th>Benefitting HH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Livestock</td>
<td>272</td>
<td>4,576 heads</td>
<td>2,580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bee keeping</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>2,500 bee families</td>
<td>1,285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poultry</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>8,683 birds</td>
<td>609</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small-Scale Proc.</td>
<td>80</td>
<td></td>
<td>936</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horticulture</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>50 ha</td>
<td>410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenhouses</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>2.63 ha</td>
<td>269</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 3.2.8 Potential for biodiversity conservation through agriculture in the Pamir-Alai region (J. Haidar, AKF)

GBAO is a biodiversity hotspot and Tajikistan has a long history of sedentary agriculture with harsh and heterogeneous environments and strongly localized pockets of highly adapted diversity. Tajikistan will never be a competitive exporter of introduced varieties. However agro-biodiversity can be achieved by actively using knowledge, understanding of cultural practices and history. The presenter provided case study based data on different local and improved verities of fruits in the region.

Main issues for local varieties versus introduced ones:

- **Resilience:** Climate Change: pest resistance (Invasive + Climate dependent)
  Social Change: population increase, CSOs etc.
- **Marketability:** Processing
  Consumer preference
  Storage
  Infrastructure & Transport

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9 The *jamoats* of Tajikistan refer to the third-level administrative divisions, similar to communes or municipalities. There are approximately 406 *jamoats* in Tajikistan.
Ms Haidar drafted the list of future actions:
- Pamiri fruit growers association (co-op)
- Foster a culture of innovation among farmers
- Promote adaptive agriculture
- Improve processing and storage facilities
- Increase market value of crops (e.g. mulberry)

Within those should be considered:
- Biodiversity conservation vs. economic profitability
- Balance between ‘economies of scale’ and localized economy based on traditional culture and biodiversity
- Limitations of a custodian approach

Interesting data were also provided on fruit crop varieties present in the Pamirs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Latin name</th>
<th>Varieties</th>
<th>Local</th>
<th>Wild</th>
<th>Introduced</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mulberry</td>
<td>Morus alba spp.</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walnut</td>
<td>Juglans regia</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apricot</td>
<td>Armeniaca vulgaris</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>&gt;90%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apple</td>
<td>Malus sieversii</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pear</td>
<td>Pyrus spp.</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pomegranate</td>
<td>Punica granatum</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peach</td>
<td>Prunus persica</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Almond</td>
<td>Prunus amygdalus</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pistachio</td>
<td>Pistacia vera</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fig</td>
<td>Ficus L.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grape</td>
<td>Vitis vulgarus</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sour Cherry</td>
<td>Prunus cerasus</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawthorn</td>
<td>Crataegus monogyna</td>
<td></td>
<td>wild</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sea-buckthorn</td>
<td>Hippophae L.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dogrose</td>
<td>Rosa canina</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barberry</td>
<td>Berberis spp.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**3.2.9 Regional Program Sustainable Use of Natural Resources in Central Asia (Ms Maricla Costa, GTZ Khorog)**

GTZ is implementing a Sustainable Management of Natural Resources Project in Gorno-Badakhshan. This project is aimed to reduce the degradation of natural resources, the pressure on biomass (Energy Efficiency), to increase biomass production (Joint Forestry Management) and to enhance use of water on the household and community levels. The presenter shared the following key lessons and success factors of their projects:

- Work on all levels: supporting links between different stakeholders;
- Be present and dispose of sufficient time;
- Understand motivation of different target groups;
- Using market mechanism and stimulating initiatives of target groups;
- Enhance awareness of target groups on importance of natural resources;
- Being flexible; and
- Do understand the absorption capacity of partners (money).
Session 2 gave a good overview of the projects being implemented in GBAO. Public and private sector representatives received a better understanding of roles of different agencies and programs in the region. Coffee breaks allowed participants to establish first contact for eventual future cooperation. This session provided much of the ground for institutional arrangements for future program implementation.

3.3 Session III: Pamirs Rural Investment Program

During this session the participants were working mainly on three topics:

1. Investment options for integrated rural development in GBAO focusing on climate change adapted and livelihood improving (sustainable) land and water use;
2. Prioritization of rural development options; and
3. Identification and elaboration of suitable projects meeting the integrated rural development program objectives.

The objective of the discussions was to establish a basic understanding of opportunities and challenges in GBAO for a long-term investment option of integrated rural development. The sustainable livelihood framework was taken as a tool for brainstorming. The following key opportunities were identified by the participants (priorities in descending order):

a) Human resources base
   - Vocational/technical training
   - Relevant higher education
   - Early childhood development
   - Skill enhancement and exploration of international labor markets

b) Natural resources base
   - Land: land development, terracing, erosion control, fodder development, cereal crops, watershed management, rangeland rehabilitation;
   - Water: water user associations, efficient water use, sub-surface water retention (groundwater storage), snow melt tapping, micro hydropower;
   - Biomass: alternative energy technologies, reduction of pressure on marginal land, pasture management, rotational grazing, joint forest management; and
   - Livestock: breeding, processing, value chain based market development, training, vaccination.

c) Social capital
   - Governance: participatory good governance and capacity building; and
   - Civil Society: community ownership, active and effective participation, integration to avoid segregation and duplication, bottom up approach, value of farmer’s voice.

* * *

Session 3 was very productive and all participants took active part in the identification of above mentioned areas of consideration under each asset base option given to all participants. The objective of this session was to brainstorm for the next and final session. However, the discussion took longer than expected as most of the participants wanted to follow the outcomes of thematic cards. Hence workshop facilitators responded to major concerns of the participants over the outcomes of the “card exercise” and agreed to group the cards on the boards and let the participants rank the cards. At the end of the session, all participants were encouraged to look at the cards on the boards for reflection to the group exercise. The major outcome of the ranking corresponded well to the workshop objectives and impressively confirmed expected results.
In summary, priority was given to human resources management, including vocational and technical training to balance migration and maximize incomes from available local natural resources – one of the fundamental Pamir Rural Investment Program objectives\(^{10}\), namely to create skills among mountain communities for balanced, equitable and financially viable natural resources management. Top priority was given for sustainable land and water use, including livestock breeding and pasture management, all three – skill enhancement, livestock breeding and fodder production - being major pillars of the proposed Rural Investment Program. With regard to social capital, participatory governance and civil society strengthening was prioritized by the participants. This again was reflected in the Rural Investment Program approach: implementation of project components through civil society institutions which eventually strengthens capacity of community based organizations already established by MSDSP in managing their natural resources and in taking part in the governance process.

### 3.4 Session IV: Working Group Sessions on the Outcomes of Session I-III

Three groups were formed based on the investment opportunities identified during the Session 3. The participants were invited to join one of the thematic groups. One resource person was assigned to each group, respectively. Each team was working within the given investment framework and key areas identified for investment.

The three project components chosen were (i) fruit (apricot) processing in the Western Pamirs, (ii) cashmere goat breeding and cashmere production in the Eastern Pamirs, and (iii) biodiversity conservation and ecotourism. Institutional development and organizational strengthening was recognized to be an important part of work for each of the identified investment projects.

**Group 1: Apricot processing in Western Pamirs**  
*Led by Mr Kishwar Abdulishoev, MSDSP Khorog*

The group presented a systemic methodology for the socio-economic development of GBAO. Its mechanism gives an emphasis on the relationship and principle agreements among the actors involved in the development: investor - facilitator - service provider - end users\(^{11}\).

The core idea of social development interventions should be demand-driven. To sustain the efforts, the institutional building is fundamental. Monitoring and reflection over results should be an on-going essential process at all levels of the programmes and actors. To ensure the sustainability of

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\(^{10}\) See also Annex A3  
\(^{11}\) See also Chart on page 12: Socio-Economic Development Program of GBAO
the investment results, a holistic, multi-sector and integrated approach should be an essential part of the investment framework.

This group identified apricot processing as a priority area for development. One of the main argument being the fact that 60% of land in the Western Pamirs is under this fruit. Among the other possibilities considered were potato processing, bee keeping, poultry farming, livestock (yaks), fish, pastures assessment and management, and horses. Activities outside the agriculture sector should be also developed including mining, energy, roads, cross-border cooperation. A specific attention was drawn to health issues.

Several questions were addressed to the group, among others, why somebody else did not realize such a project before? The answers were limited access to credit and the current legal framework not being favourable to grow tree crops because of land tenure issues. Other questions were touching upon the marketing issues. In spite of the Facilitator’s expectations, the participants considered silk production is the Western Pamirs as not being profitable because of difficult marketing.

Group 2: Cashmere production in Eastern Pamirs
Led by Dr Carol Kerven

The second group worked on cashmere production project under the umbrella of a Rural Investment Program. The team found and provided evidence for a high potential of cashmere production in the Pamirs and its world-wide marketing. Cashmere goats do exist in the Pamirs, however, further breeding together with training of breeders in combing the goats would significantly enhance quantity and quality of cashmere. The group identified the following key areas of intervention:

- Cashmere goat breeding
- Fodder production
- Training farmers in combing the goats
- Development of the complete value chain: Elite flock => combing => raw cashmere => dehairing => carding => spinning => weaving => branding/marketing

Several useful discussion results were recorded by the group, for example: The German company “NATURFASE” specializes in production, processing and trade of natural fibres (wool, angora, “cashgora”, camel, cashmere). NATURFASE shared their experience with processors who ask for quality raw materials, i.e. combed cashmere in stead of fibre that has been sheared. In the case of combing, the yields of pure cashmere are about 40-60% of the raw cashmere, otherwise (sheared) as little as 25%. Besides, the goat keeps its beard hair (устеаый волос) and is protected against cold. Transport costs are very high in GBAO and it is thus more economical to transport only pure cashmere. Therefore, farmers should be taught to comb their goats. A comb (чесалка) costs about USD 5, average yield of pure cashmere ranges from 120 g to 200 g per goat, and the price varied from USD 4 to 9 per kilo during the last two years. A good fibre should be 16 microns or less in diameter (тонина).

Group 3 – Biodiversity Conservation and Eco-Tourism
Led by Jamila Haider, AKF Khorog

The third group brainstormed on other new ideas (potential investment projects) under a Pamirs Rural Investment Program, particularly when considering climate change adapted and livelihood improving land and water use. The team came up with a project idea for “reducing land degradation in the context of climate change”. The group identified three core areas of intervention:

1. Climate change adaptation and land degradation activities:
   - Enhance local capacity to collect relevant data and set up action-plan at household and community level (meteorological, water flow, crops etc.)
- Standardized documentation of existing local land use practices (for analysis and dissemination)
- Water storage (research, standardization and dissemination)
- Concrete investments in erosion prevention (water and wind)

2. **Pasture Management**:
- Set up and finance working group on pasture reform (including land committee)
- Shepherd trainings and development

3. **Processing for biodiversity conservation**:
- Fruit and nut
- Link orchards and high value products with eco-tourism
- Promotion of orchards with local varieties
- Bee-keeping
- Storage
- Community-based processing plants
- Fruit Growers Association
- Nurseries (local, resistant)
- Water bottling
- Pilot studies: resilient crop types

**Meat** was identified as an addition centre of interest:
- Meat processing plants (leather, meat, certification procedure)
- Veterinary Services Infrastructure- Capacity Building for quality control

Though eco-tourism was considered - especially as a suitable source of income - to play an important part when conserving bio-diversity, the group could not develop this further a time was limited. Eco-tourism in general is perceived as being a highly profitable undertaking. However, considerable investments in food supply, accommodation and transport facilities are required before any substantial number of eco-tourists can be expected to arrive in GBAO.

4. **CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS**

The Workshop was closed by Ms. Mohira Rakhimdjanova, Head of the Department of Poultry, Fisheries and Bee Keeping of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Tajikistan. She thanked the Investment Centre of FAO for the organization of the workshop and the participants for their active contribution to the preparation of a future rural investment program in general and to first potential investment projects in particular. Ms Rakhimdjanova stressed that 95% of the country is covered with the mountains, urging government and developing agencies to address the pressing issues of mountain communities. She extended MOA’s collaboration to follow-up activities including the next steps to move forward project funding and subsequently implementation.

Walter Klemm concluded the workshop with a vote of thanks and informed the participants of the next steps. Based on the outcomes of the workshop, the TCIN project preparation team will finalize a Project Concept Note (PCN) within the framework of a (Pamirs) Rural Investment Program. The PCN will be further shared with international financing institutions and interested donors. Upon any positive response including sufficient funding, a project preparation mission would be carried out by mid 2010, followed by an appraisal mission at the end of this year.

Meanwhile, first contacts have been made with the World Bank’s Agriculture and Rural Development Unit of the Sustainable Development Department for Europe and the Central Asia Region in Washington in January 2010 with the aim to verify the possibility of integrating a Pamir Rural Investment Program into the Bank’s funding pipeline. Contact has also been made with the Embassy of Japan in Dushanbe in order to ensure financial support from the Japanese Social

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12 see Annex A3
Development Fund (JSDF) for the implementation of a first (cashmere production) project\textsuperscript{13} under the umbrella of a future Rural Investment Program.

A complete set of all presentations presented at the workshop has been posted at www.Cashmere-Forum.net. They are accessible and downloadable without any password. On the website, too, interested readers may post their comments to any issue relevant to stakeholders and for the preparation of the Pamirs Rural Investment Program and its first suggested investment projects.

TCIN/FAO Rome, 15 March 2010

\textsuperscript{13} see Annex A5
ANNEXES

A1 Workshop Agenda
A2 Workshop Participants
A3 Pamir Rural Investment Program Concept Note
A4 Background Studies
A5 Cashmere Project Concept Note
A6 Website www.Cashmere-Forum.net
## A1 Workshop Agenda

**FAO Investment Centre**

**Ministry of Agriculture**

**Republic of Tajikistan**

**Unlocking Pamirs’ Development Potential**

**Project Preparation Workshop, Dushanbe, 8-9 December 2009**

**Day 1: Tuesday, 8 December 2009**

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<td>09:00</td>
<td>Welcome and introduction to the workshop</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- W. Klemm, Senior Land and Water Development Engineer, FAO Investment Centre</td>
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<td>- N. Nazriev, Head of the MOA branch in GBAO</td>
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<td>- N. Jawad, Head of FAO Coordination Office in Tajikistan</td>
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<td>10:00</td>
<td>Coffee break</td>
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<td>10:30</td>
<td><strong>Session 1: Status of program/project preparation and presentation of (preliminary) study results</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Unlocking Pamirs’ Development Potential: scope for investments in rural development by I. Punda, FAO Investment Centre</td>
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<td>- Strengthening the value chain for cashmere in Pamirs: Prospects and challenges (preliminary results) by C. Kerven, FAO Consultant</td>
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<td>- Land Carrying Capacity in Pamirs by S. Robinson, FAO Consultant</td>
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<td>- Current situation and future prospects of horticulture and crop production in Western Pamir by P. Shonazarov, MOA branch in GBAO, Focal Point for Western Pamirs (Khorog)</td>
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<td>- Privatization of Veterinary Services in Pamirs by K. Khamroev, FAO Tajikistan</td>
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<td>- Veterinary issues in Pamirs by M. Kashkuloev, Chairman of Tajikistan Veterinary Association</td>
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<td>12:30</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>13:30</td>
<td><strong>Session 2: Lessons learned and future development perspectives in GBAO</strong></td>
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<td>- Challenges and opportunities of integrated rural development in GBAO: lessons learned from AKF Tajikistan projects by K. Abdulalishoev, General Manager, MSDSP Khorog</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Privatization of land: lessons learned from LRCSP by M. Khabirov, PMU LRCSP</td>
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<td>- Developing a strategy and action plan for sustainable land management in the Pamir-Alai region: first results from the PALM project by B. Wolfgramm, UCA/GEF</td>
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<td>- Livestock Sector in Eastern Pamirs: Current situation and future prospects by T. Kolchokbayev, Focal Point for Eastern Pamirs (Murghab)</td>
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<td>- Ecotourism in Eastern Pamirs by S. Tadjidinov, ACTED Murghab</td>
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<td>- Water management in GBAO: lessons from MSDSP project by B. de Veen, AKF Khorog</td>
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<td>- Watershed management in GBAO: lessons learned from CAWMP by N. Kholov, PMU CAWMP</td>
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<td>- Potential for biodiversity conservation through agriculture in the Pamir-Alai region by J. Haidar, AKF Khorog</td>
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<td>- Regional programme Sustainable use of natural resources in Central Asia by M. Costa, GTZ Khorog</td>
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DAY 2: Wednesday, 09 December 2009

09:00  Session 4: Integrated Pamirs Rural Development Program  
   – Recap of day one

10:30 Coffee break

11:00 Session 4: Integrated Pamirs Rural Development Program (continued)  
   Work in groups:  
   Group 1: Apricot processing in Western Pamirs  
   Group 3: Cashmere production in Eastern Pamirs  
   Group 3: Biodiversity conservation and eco tourism

12:30 Lunch

14:00 Session 4: Integrated Pamirs Rural Development Program (continued)  
   Formulation of results and recommendations

15:30 Coffee break

16:00 Session 4: Integrated Pamirs Rural Development Program (continued)  
   Presentations of the groups

17:30 Closing remarks and sum up of the workshop  
   – Walter Klemm and Jalal Shah, workshop moderator  
   – Mohira Rahimjonova, Head of Department Poultry, Fisheries and Bee Keeping, MoA Tajikistan
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A3 Pamir Rural Investment Program Concept Note (PCN)

Introduction

This Project Concept Note (PCN) is part of a series of documents prepared in anticipation of an effort to solicit participation of the international donor community in investing in the Pamirs region of Tajikistan. A list of several study reports assembled as a background to this synthesis may be downloaded from www.cashmere-forum.net. It is recommended to also read these reports as it will contribute to better understand the somewhat complex situation that currently exists in the ‘Autonomous Oblast of Gorno-Badakhshan (GBAO)’.

It also helps explain why a modest package of investments aimed at restoring Pamirs’ ecological equilibrium will have positive social and economic implications far beyond the borders of the remote region. For starters it will restore sustainable management of headwater areas for availability of fresh water in the lower part of the river basins. In other words, not only Pamirs’ estimated rural population of 220,000 will benefit but also millions of rural inhabitants downstream that depend on fresh water provided by the headwater area as indicated in the table below.

Agricultural Sector Variables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Rural Population</th>
<th>Share of Women</th>
<th>Agriculture Value Added</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total millions</td>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>% total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2003-2005</td>
<td>growth %</td>
<td>Population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1990-2005</td>
<td>2003-2005</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tajikistan</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>75.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkmenistan</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>54.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uzbekistan</td>
<td>16.3</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>63.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Major Issues

For too long, the international community has chosen to ignore the difficulties encountered by regional governments in trying to protect and conserve headwater areas\footnote{Keynote of the 10th World Water Congress in Melbourne, 11-17 March 2000, Walter Klemm/TCIE.}, and their crucial, life supporting function along perennial rivers. Their protection and conservation are not feasible without offering local populations an economically viable and ecologically sustainable alternative to their present (usually traditional) farming systems, which are mostly ill adapted to the fragile, limited or shrinking natural resource base. For further illustration, a 2007 Country Environmental Analysis of Tajikistan by the World Bank states that ‘irrational land management practices exacerbated by intermittent droughts’ have resulted in many pockets of desertification, and between 96–100% of all national rangelands are degraded.

The Pamirs

Among the most important headwater areas worldwide is the upper Amur Darya river basin, the greatest part of it covered by the “Pamirs”\footnote{The Pamir(s) is a high altitude plateau (3,000-4,000m) at the meeting point of six countries: Afghanistan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan}.

Formerly, by its two major tributaries, the Vakhsh and the Panj rivers, the Amu Darya together with the Syr Darya rivers once fed the shrinking Aral Sea. It is the lifeline and
source of prosperity for over 25 million people living in the lower part of the Amu Darya basin in Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, and depending on its water for the irrigation of crops on over six million hectare of land (see map below). Most of the Pamirs is situated in the GBAO, the largest province of Tajikistan covering 44% of the national territory.

The population living in GBAO include 14,000 inhabitants in Murghab Raion covering 38,000 km² (Eastern Pamir = 26% of Tajik territory), and 206,000 inhabitants in the other six Raions covering 26,200 km² (Western Pamir = 18% of Tajik territory). Excluding mineral deposits (which are abundant), major natural assets are: surface water for hydropower generation and irrigation purposes; high alpine pastures for livestock breeding; limited but fertile soils for agricultural production; and high (and attractive) alpine landscape with unique fauna and flora.

Map of Amu Darya Drainage Basin

**OBJECTIVE OF PROPOSED ACTIVITIES**

The overall goal of the proposed investment program is to restore ecological equilibrium to the Pamirs in Tajikistan including the neighboring Tajiks in Afghan Badakhshan.

The most urgent objectives to be achieved are to:

- Set up a Rural Investment Desk at the Government in Dushanbe with delegated project implementation authority at the Governorate of GBAO in Khorog;
- Coordinate all investment related projects and develop a methodology to select investment projects on their merits to livelihood improvement, ecological balance and sustainability;
- Draw lessons from past project activities for the implementation of adapted farming systems that respond to, and ultimately restore, the fragile, degraded conditions of land and water in the different agro-ecological zones of the Pamirs;
- Set-up strategically located field schools to train farmers in new approaches as to how to treat the available farm land in a sustainable manner; and
- Establish integrated livestock breeding in Western Pamirs and Afghan Badakhshan.
Within the above framework three major investment opportunities were identified by an FAO/Investment Centre team together with principal stakeholders participating in the Pamirs Rural Investment Planning Workshop held in Dushanbe on 8 and 9 December 2009; they are:

- Cashmere goat breeding for wool, diary and meat production, processing and marketing (emphasis on wool); see Annex A5 of the Workshop Report;
- Yak breeding for leather, diary and meat production, processing and marketing (emphasis on meat); and
- Fruit production, processing and marketing (emphasis on apricots).

These activities could be launched without major preparatory work benefiting from experience already gained in the region or elsewhere, for example in Ladakh/India. Indeed, even the currently most experienced implementation agency, the Aga Khan Foundation, would be able to carry out the physical aspects of the program.

A major prerequisite to successful implementation would be the creation of a ‘GBAO Investment Committee’ in the offices of the Governor in Khorog that would have oversight of the implementation of the entire investment program. The need for such a committee arises as the local Government has so far had little say in the multitude of relatively small activities that were planned, developed and carried out over the past seven years on an ad hoc basis as financing became available from 23 multilateral and bilateral sources. Simply put, what has been lacking, and may be chief among the reasons for the current state of the Pamirs, is an officially coordinated planning, control and supervision mechanism empowered to take corrective actions when and if necessary.

The program approach is favored as sufficient information about the proposed investments is available to proceed with a rapid rural appraisal, followed shortly by implementation including continuous study of additional investment opportunities, e.g. small-scale, decentralized power generation possibly for the first, small processing enterprises, and eco-tourism (accommodation, gastronomy, transport, publications, surveys, marketing, guidance) as well as thermal bath development over hot springs.

**Audience and Relevance**

This PCN should interest primarily multilateral financing agencies operating in the region some of which have already invested in the GBAO. It should also interest neighbouring countries, China in particular, as the major trade route east-west passes through much of Pamirs. Finally, the EU whose strategy is regionally anchored should also be interested in participating in the program.

Eventually, the importance of assisting the region cannot be overemphasized as more evidence of future water shortages in the lower part of river basins emerges. Integrated water resources management (IWRM), therefore, must be shifted to the upper part, towards the headwater area which may be considered most crucial in a river basin: it is the origin of all surface water, of most of the renewable groundwater resources, and — being mountainous - one of the most sensitive ecological systems. Most mountain areas are populated by ethnic minorities, shifting cultivators, semi-nomads or other communities whose common features are subsistence agriculture and poverty, characterized – in many cases - by territorial disputes and political sensitivity.

In the case of the Pamirs, geo-political issues have and will dominated their natural resources use: caught in the middle of intensifying East-West trade, increased South-North drug trafficking, and the first Taleban crossing the Panj river into GBAO, the role of the 220,000 odd Pamiri cannot only be limited to practice survival strategies and rely on their well-known resilience but need to be enhance to face future challenges at a satisfactory living standard and a positive prospect for future generations.

**Scope and Methodology**

The scope of the program obviously would depend upon the availability of funds. Initial activities described above would require only a modest amount and could be prepared, appraised and implemented relatively rapidly, say over a 4-year period. Program activities lend themselves ideally for a rapid rural appraisal that should be undertaken in spring early summer time when agro-climatic conditions in
GBAO are best suited for review and appraisal. The Governor of the 
Oblast has demonstrated strong
interest in the program and is ready and willing to cooperate with the international community to address
Pamirs’ problems.

CONSULTATION WITH CLIENTS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

A two-day Rural Investment Planning Workshop was convened by FAO’s Investment Centre in collabora-
tion with the Ministry of Agriculture at the Hotel Tajikistan in Dushanbe on 8 - 9 December 2009. The
objectives of the workshop were:

- To facilitate the exchange of know-how and experience in rural development in general and rural
  investment in the Pamirs/GBAO in particular – to know and understand, who is doing what, how
  and when;
- To provide a forum for interested stakeholders to actively participate in rural investment planning
  in the Pamirs/GBAO and to focus especially on agriculture, including cashmere production as
  investment opportunities, but also on other potential investment options as articulated by
  interested stakeholders – to understand the felt needs of potential stakeholders;
- To identify potential rural investment projects, including institutional mechanisms for project
  implementation – to appraise constraints and opportunities for investment; and
- To design a cashmere project component, if deemed appropriate – to agree on a promising first
  investment project.

Inviting non-governmental organizations (NGOs), government officers, and representatives of the private
sector, professional associations, international financing institutions (IFIs) and other development
partners active in Tajikistan to the workshop, ensured that the two-day workshop turned out to be a very
lively venue benefiting from the active participation of all participants. Furthermore, the participants
manifested their determination to produce concrete steps forward for implementation of the first project
component under the umbrella of a Pamirs Rural Investment Programme.

Following the project fact-finding mission in June 2009, this workshop was the first of its kind under
FAO's initiative to support climate change adapted and livelihood-improving sustainable land and water
use in the Pamirs. Albeit limited by time, the workshop was carried out in a participatory manner by
giving each participant the opportunity to come forward and voice his/her queries, to identify and discuss
potentially viable rural investment options for the Pamirs/GBAO, and to commit themselves to actively
contribute in the near future to project development and its implementation.

The successful implementation of the workshop was the result of significant efforts contributed by many
people working at the Ministry of Agriculture in Dushanbe, at the Department of Agriculture in Khorog,
at the FAO headquarters in Rome, in the FAO Coordination Office in Dushanbe and in other parts of
Central Asia and Europe. The most important input, however, was given by the participants of the
workshop themselves who not only presented their experience and ideas about rural investment
constraints and opportunities in Gorno-Badakhshan but also encouraged the organizers to continue with
program/project preparation on the basis of the conclusions and recommendations made at the end of the
workshop (see also Workshop Report Annex A6: [www.cashmere-forum.net](http://www.cashmere-forum.net)).

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<th>TIME TABLE FOR NEXT STEPS</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Milestones</strong></td>
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<td>Conceptualisation of Activities/PCN</td>
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<td>Mobilisation of Funding/Resources</td>
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<td>Launching of Rapid Rural Appraisal</td>
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<td>Negotiations of financing/implementation</td>
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<td>Start of implementation of institutional aspect in the field</td>
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<td>Start of implementation of program activities in the field</td>
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A4 BACKGROUND STUDIES

(1) Climate Impact Study on Stream Flow

Gorno-Badakhshan covers the major part of the Amu Darya headwaters which are sub-divided into the Vakhsh sub-basin and the Panj sub-basin. The preservation of the Amu Darya headwaters is crucial for irrigated agriculture practiced along the lower Amu Darya where about 40 million people depend on the availability of irrigation water. There have been a number of hydrological studies (old and most recent) but their result is not conclusive and not always documented with objectively verifiable flow data. Additionally, most data series end before 1990.

The objective of the Study is to analyze the impact of climate change on the future flow of Amu Darya and its consequences for irrigated agriculture in the Lower Amu Darya basin.

The expected result of the Study is the presentation of the most likely scenario of Amu Darya flow variation over a 25 to 50 years time horizon, based on a thorough review of existing study reports on the subject, and the inclusion of historical stream flow data up to December 2008. The Study was implemented by international Hydrologists in collaboration with the specialists of the Hydro-meteorological Authority of the Republic of Tajikistan over a period of three months from 1 October to 31 December 2009.

(2) Glacier Modelling Study

Glaciers of Tajikistan occupy about 6% of the national territory (see Map below) and play an essential role in the formation of Amu Darya River flow – the largest water system of Central Asia. On average, glacier melt in Tajikistan contributes 10-20% of the total runoff in the major regional river systems, while in dry and hot periods the input of glacier water into summer flow could be as high as 70%. Dramatic retreat of the glaciers on the Panj River’s left bank in the Afghan Badakhshan is reported by remote sensing scientists. Comparison of the surveys from the 1950s, 1980s and the latest satellite imagery suggests that glaciers of Afghan Badakhshan may have declined by 50-70%.
The **objective** of the Study is to review the state-of-the-art of glacier modelling, verify its application on glaciers situated in Afghan and Gorno-Badakhshan, and the impact of future glacier melting on irrigated agriculture in the lower Amu Darya basin.

The **expected result** of the Study is the presentation of a suitable glacier melting model applied to simulate future Amu Darya flow for up to 25 to 50 years.

The Study was implemented by an international Glacier Specialist in collaboration with the specialists of the Hydro-meteorological Authority of the Republic of Tajikistan and the team of experts carrying out the Climate Impact Study on Stream Flow (see above).

(3) Land Carrying Capacity Study

The alpine vegetation covering large parts of the Pamirs is endangered by the local population using *Teresken* and *Artemisia* (dwarf-shrubs which requires about 40 years to grow to the size at which they are removed) as fuel for cooking and heating. Though the last (known) land survey was carried out by the University of Bern/CH only five years ago, available publications do not allow a comprehensive understanding of the state of vegetation cover in the Pamirs.

The **objective** of the Study is the assessment of the land carrying capacity and the potential for fodder production in the upper Amu Darya basin (= Panj sub-basins).

The **expected result** is a comprehensive report about the feasibility of grazing/feeding a sustainable number of goats and yaks in the Pamirs (Panj sub-basins) throughout the year.

Based on a thorough literature review, a livestock and range management specialist was to describe and to analyze in a quantitative manner the land and biomass resources of the (Eastern and Western) Pamirs (Tajikistan) as well as of the Afghan part of the Panj sub-basin, and their possible sustainable use expressed through a land carrying capacity index system which allows to determine a feasible number of goats and yaks to be kept (fed) throughout the year.

(4) Cashmere Value Chain Analysis

In 2008, a cashmere chain analysis has been carried out. One of the results revealed that the centre of (raw) cashmere collection and marketing is in Herat/Western Afghanistan whereas in Badakhshan/Northeastern Afghanistan little if any cashmere wool is collected or marketed. As no cashmere value chain analysis has been undertaken in the past in the Afghan part of the Panj sub-basin, there is a definite need to learn more about the potential of cashmere production and marketing in this (rather remote) part of Afghanistan.

The **objective** of the Study is to carry out a comprehensive cashmere value chain analysis in the upper Amu Darya basin (=Panj sub-basins).

The **expected result** of the Study is a presentation of the complete cashmere value chain in the Pamirs (Panj sub-basin) including an assessment of potential cashmere marketing outlets in Europe. The Study was implemented by an international Cashmere Specialist in collaboration with Tajik and Kyrgyz specialists and in close cooperation with the Agha Khan Development Network in Dushanbe.

(5) Energy Assessment Study

Except for the Oblast capital Khorog where temporary (‘load shedding’) electricity supply is concentrated on the centre of the town, there is virtually no reliable energy supply in all other districts including Murghab district with its 14,000 inhabitants living in seven Jamoats dispersed over some 20,000 km². Water for hydropower generation is abundant, and an investment plan for the installation of medium-sized and small hydropower plants has been established, but lack of investment capital prevents its rapid implementation so much needed. There are coal deposits in Gorno-Badakhshan but lack of efficient mining facilities and long distance transport over damaged roads create unaffordable costs for potential (poor) users.
The objective of this study is an assessment of the energy potential in Gorno Badakhshan with emphasis on renewable energy in general and solar energy for small cottage industry purposes (for example meat processing) in the Eastern Pamirs (Murghab district) in particular.

The expected result is a comprehensive report about the existing energy potential in Gorno-Badakhshan including a proposal of decentralized electricity supply for the seven Jamoats in Murghab district at pre-feasibility level.

Based on a thorough literature review, particularly the Government’s hydropower investment plans, a (renewable) energy specialist is to describe and to analyze in a quantitative manner the various types of energy resources available in the upper Amu Darya basin, and eventually validate their possible use for electricity supply (for domestic and cottage industry use). Special emphasis should be given to solar energy which is well suited for decentralized energy production – for example for individual farms/houses dispersed all over the seven Jamoats.

(6) Changthang Plateau Reference Study

In recent years, partially with financial and technical support by IFAD, semi-nomadic cashmere goat breeders (‘Chang-Pa’) living in Western Ladakh of Jammu & Kashmir/Northern India organized themselves in an association to make better use of their (raw) cashmere product of superior quality. They have a large number of cashmere goats grazing in marginal areas at 3,500 to 4,500 m altitude. Presently, the Association is launching their new cashmere label (‘layna’ from Ladakh) in order to better market their high quality product. In comparison to Tajik and Afghan cashmere goat breeders, the Chang-Pa are far ahead and have already sized the opportunity to not only process their raw cashmere in an efficient manner but also start marketing their processed high quality cashmere. For this reason, the result of this ‘reference study’ will provide future Tajik and Afghan cashmere producers with experience and lessons learned from their not so far away neighbors on the Western edge of the Tibetan (Changthang) plateau.

The objective of the reference study is to appraise the ‘business plan’ of the Chang-Pa Association in Leh/Ladakh including a detailed analysis of the cashmere production and its viability.

The expected result is a comprehensive report about the technical, economic, social, environmental, legal and financial viability of cashmere production by the Chang-Pa and their future prospect of improving their living conditions.

Based on a thorough literature review, particularly the IFAD Technical Assistance Project during the last decade, a livestock specialist together with a socio-economist are to describe and to analyse in a quantitative manner the way of cashmere production by the Chang-Pa, the various stages of the cashmere value chain, and the potential of marketing ‘layna’. Special attention should be given to pasture management, the carrying capacity of the mostly marginal land used for grazing, the variation of the number of cashmere goats throughout the year, and the correspondingly varying death rate particularly during long and/or harsh winters.

(7) Impact of Past Development Projects on the Livelihood of the Pamiri

Most Pamiri belong to the poorest inhabitants in one of the poorest countries in the world. They live in the upper Amu Darya drainage basin (= Panj sub-basins) on Tajik and Afghan territory and suffer because of lack of the most basic facilities (last year alone, eight Afghans died because of an inflamed appendix due to the impossibility to cross the Panj river to be operated in a hospital in Tajikistan). Although the water resources in the Panj sub-basins are crucial for irrigated agricultural production in the lower Amu Darya basin, little development progress is visible in the upper Amu Darya basin.

The objective of this study is to appraise the impact of the past development projects implemented in Tajik and Afghan Badakhshan during the last decade (2000-2009) and to develop a set of selection criteria for future priority investment projects to improve the livelihood of the Pamiri.

The expected result is a summary of all development projects implemented in Tajik and Afghan Badakhshan (within the boundaries of the Panj sub-basin), their evaluation with regard to the impact on the livelihood of the Pamiri, and the lessons learned so far. The latter should be transformed into a set of
criteria suitable for ranking investment projects according to priority as a function of livelihood improvement of the Pamiri.

Based on a thorough literature review, particularly of the Government’s and donors’ project implementation lists, an international economist with assistance of local economists is to describe and to appraise in a quantitative manner the impact of the various development/investment projects in Tajik and Afghan Badakhshan (within the boundaries of the Panj sub-basin) on the livelihood of the respective project beneficiaries as well as on the overall living standard in Badakhshan within the boundaries of the Panj sub-basin. From the results of such an appraisal, the economists are expected to draw conclusions and make recommendations in form of a set of suitable ranking criteria for development/investment projects in the upper Amu Darya basin, in considering, too, the trans-boundary water issues prevailing among the three countries (Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan) situated along the Amu Darya.
A5 CASHMERE PROJECT CONCEPT NOTE

Country: Republic of Tajikistan
Proposal Name: EASTERN PAMIRS COMMUNITIES SUPPORT PROJECT
Proposed Grant Amount (US$): 2.85 million
Implementing Agency: Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN
Task Team Leader: TBD
Date: March 2010

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES AND BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED GRANT:

Project Development Objectives. The overall goal is to facilitate sustainable farm operations enabling the rural population – and among them particularly women - to increase their family income and at the same time protect their natural resources base. This would be pursued over a period of about 10 years in three isolated alpine regions of similar character: In Ladakh/India, in Gorno-Badakhshan/Tajikistan, and in Badakhshan/Afghanistan, and would be realized by achieving the following three objectives in three different but at the same time similar regions:

Objective 1: All interested individuals/companies/NGOs/relevant international and Government agencies active in the project areas are linked via the Internet and able to communicate among themselves, exchange knowledge and learn from each other’s experience.
Objective 2: The Chang-pa in Ladakh/India are enabled to (i) increase cashmere production, (ii) produce cashmere fabrics of best quality, (iii) market their cashmere products profitably, (iv) ensure protection of the alpine ecosystem, and (v) transfer their know-how and experience to the Pamiri.

Objective 3: The Pamiri in Gorno-Badakhshan/Tajikistan and the Afghans in Badakhshan/Afghanistan are enabled to (i) increase cashmere production, (ii) produce cashmere fabrics of best quality, (iii) market their cashmere products profitably, (iv) integrate cashmere goat breeding in sustainable and profitable farm models, and (v) at the same time ensure protection of the alpine ecosystem.

In a first step, recognizing the importance of the Pamir Plateau being the top headwater area of the Amu Darya river basin corresponding to the Murghab Rayon (District covering 26,000 sqkm) of the Autonomous Oblast (province) of Gorno-Badakhshan (GBAO) in South Eastern Tajikistan, the project development objectives (DPOs) for the activities supported by the grant over a period of four years would be as follows:

DPO 1: To develop and establish a communication network among three mountain areas of similar agro-ecological conditions (Badakhshan/Afghanistan, GBAO/Tajikistan and Ladakh/India);

DPO 2: To transfer Chang-Pa experience and know-how from Ladakh to the Eastern Pamirs and prepare a sustainable land and water use project for livelihood improvement of the Chang-Pa living on Rupshu plateau/Ladakh;

DPO 3: To establish a nucleus herd of elite cashmere goats in Murghab including pilot cashmere production sub-projects in seven Jamoats (village communities) in Murghab; and

DPO 4: To develop a climate adapted natural resources use system by integrating cashmere goat breeding in sustainable and profitable farm models, and at the same time ensuring protection of the alpine ecosystem.

Sub-Comp. 1: Design, establishment and operation of a web-based cashmere forum
USD 0.15 m
This sub-component would cover all necessary activities including soft and hardware for managing a website under the name www.cashmere-forum.net over the project period of four years, as well as on-line learning/training facilities. It would include the development, establishment and operation of a web-based knowledge dissemination and communication tool for all type of cashmere related issues.

Expected outcome: Effective communication is assured among the stakeholders of three mountain regions (Badakhshan/Afghanistan, Gorno-Badakhshan/Tajikistan and Ladakh/India) and used to the benefit of cashmere goat breeders and cashmere producers.

Sub-Comp. 2: Provision of elite cashmere bucks and experience/know-how in cashmere goat breeding cashmere processing, and Chang-Pa community support project preparation.
USD 0.30 m
This sub-component would facilitate visits of Chang-Pa and Pamiri in Tajikistan and Ladakh, respectively, assist in the import of elite cashmere (Changthangi) bucks to Murghab, and include the elaboration of a project proposal for the provision of basic infrastructure facilities (such as stables and fencing), the introduction of modern technologies of fodder irrigation and storage, the improvement of
veterinary and goat breeding facilities, and assistance in weaving techniques and product marketing in Ladakh.

**Expected outcome:** Cashmere breeding stock of the Pamiri is improved and a Chang-Pa Community Support Project for cashmere production is ready for funding.

**Sub-Comp. 3:** Provision of cashmere breeding stock and basic infrastructure for the Pamiri living in Murghab Rayon, and assistance in sustainable range management and fodder production. USD 1.0 m

This sub-component would include basic infrastructure facilities and application of cashmere production and marketing methods successfully applied elsewhere, establishment of an elite cashmere nucleus herd in Murghab, and private pilot cashmere production units in the Jamoats of Murghab Rayon.

**Expected outcome:** The livelihood of about 1,000 families is improved through sustainable land and water use for cashmere production.

**Sub-Comp. 4:** Development of a climate change adapted natural resources use and alpine flora and fauna protection system – USD 0.80 m

This sub-component would cover a whole range of climate (change) adapted natural resources use related measures including basic energy supply, greenhouse trials (vegetables, fodder and possibly fruit crops) and eco-tourism

**Expected outcome:** The livelihood of about 1,000 families is improved through sustainable natural resources use and the eco-system is protected in an area of some 10,000 sqkm (or one million hectare).

**Sub-Comp. 5:** Technical assistance in project management, monitoring and evaluation (including training-on-the-job in relevant fields) – USD 0.60 m

This sub-component would include all activities required to enable local project teams to manage the individual project components relatively autonomously with selective assistance in financial management, procurement, monitoring and evaluation, and specialized technical assistance when and wherever needed.

**Expected outcome:** Project management is efficient and effective and carried out by regional/local teams supported by national and international expertise.

**ORIGIN OF THE PROPOSAL FROM THE BENEFICIARIES’ PERSPECTIVE, AND PARTICIPATORY ACTIVITIES WHICH LED TO THE PROPOSAL:**

In June 2009, after having studied the problems of irrigation water supply in the Lower AmuDarya Basin (Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan) and their linkage to the need of natural resources protection in the Upper AmuDarya basin (Panj + Vakhsh sub-basins), especially under future climate change impact, the Investment Centre of FAO launched a fact-finding mission to GBAO in order to discuss with the local population and Government officials opportunities of rural investment related to natural resources (land and water) use and natural resources protection. One of the most suitable investments proposed by the Pamiri is the development of a cashmere “cottage industry” based on the very suitable local cashmere goat breed and the opportunities to raise farm incomes by sustainable range management. The indigenous goats of Tajikistan produce cashmere of good quality (laboratory tested) but the Pamiri are not really aware of it, and they do not know how to make best use of their locally existing assets (indigenous cashmere goat breed and suitable pastures).

As a result of this fact-finding mission, the Government (Ministry of Agriculture, MOA) requested FAO to undertake several studies17 which would provide sufficient information about rural investment opportunities in general, and investment in cashmere production in particular. Additionally, the MOA - together with FAO - planned to hold a consultation workshop with all potential stakeholders.

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17 Up to now, four studies have been completed which relate to: Land Carrying Capacity, Cashmere Value Chain, Projects Impact on Livelihood, and Climate Impact on AmuDarya Flow
Eventually, on 8 and 9 December, a participatory rural investment planning workshop was held in Dushanbe under the heading “Unlocking Pamirs’ Development Potential”. This workshop experienced some 40 active participants who contributed with their significant experience and know-how in the rural development sector to a positive result documented in the Workshop Report of March 2010.

**RATIONALE FOR GRANT FUNDING VS. BANK LENDING:**

Though it is more than likely that the planned activities will lead to a sustainable cashmere cottage industry, they are, at present, of a “pilot character”, viz. for demonstration purposes. There is no direct benefit for the Government which would allow lending against an anticipated profit. This does not mean, however, that those families benefitting from project activities would not be able to contribute their share (in cash or labor) to the planned investment, and that they would not have a substantial economic benefit from it.

The Government’s GBAO Investment Program includes hydropower development, road construction and facilities (health, potable water supply, etc.) to render public services which often require lending, as they cannot all be funded through grants.

**TARGET BENEFICIARIES AND PROJECTED IMPACT OF THE GRANT:**

Among the 3,300 families living in Murghab Rayon, some 2,000 of them or 60% would benefit from the project in one way or another: about 1,000 households from additional incomes through cashmere goat breeding, cashmere processing and cashmere fabrics production alone, and another 1,000 households by integrating cashmere goat breeding into suitable farm models. On average, each household would annually generate about US$ 3,000 which would correspond to a net annual income increase of over 50% (based on 2008 statistics). In case the cashmere cottage industry was established successfully, potential turnover from only raw cashmere sales would be about US$ 200,000 per year (end of project); from pure cashmere sales about US$ 1 million per year (after some 7 years); and from the sale of cashmere fabrics about US$ 5 – 10 million per year (after more than 10 years).

**INNOVATIVE FEATURES OF THE PROPOSAL:**

“Innovation” is a challenging word. Let’s talk about “alternative” features:

First, this project is embedded in an overall comprehensive development concept. The area targeted (Eastern Pamirs) is the “headwater” area (Vakhsh and Panj sub-basins) of the AmuDarya, the lifeline of some 30 million people in Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. More than half of the AmuDarya’s water originates in the Eastern Pamirs which are subject to accelerated glacier melting (expected to be reduced by up to 70% in 2050). The project addresses sustainable land and water use issues which crucial for the protection of a headwater area endangered by land degradation through unsustainable land use and lack of a water resources management strategy.

Second, and contrary to the past development efforts by the Russians, the proposed project relies on locally available resources (indigenous cashmere goats) to produce a local product of high economic value, and at the same time ensures sustainable land management.

Third, the proposed projects pursues a holistic approach in developing climate adjusted farm models relying on three pillars:

- Livestock breeding (particularly cashmere goats) through better veterinary services and irrigation of fodder;

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18 See study of Climate Change Impact on AmuDarya Flow, FAO, Rome, March 2010
• Vegetable and fruit crop production through greenhouse cultivation (where feasible) and/or alternatively/supplementary eco-tourism development; and

• Processing and marketing of cashmere, eventually producing cashmere fabrics with a Pamir label.

Forth, relying – among others – on experience and know-how transfer provided by the ChangPa in Ladakh (and later by Kashmir spinners and weavers), “South-South” cooperation is fostered, probably the first of this type among semi-nomads (ChangPa) and already settled (former) semi-nomads ((Pamiri).

Fifth, the envisaged PPP (private public partnership) will facilitate private investment following government support in the livestock sub-sector (cashmere goat breeding) and auxiliary services.

And sixth, project preparation is given sufficient time (2-3 years) to design project activities under full and active participation of relevant stakeholders and potential beneficiaries.

MECHANISMS FOR SUSTAINABILITY AND EXIT STRATEGY AFTER GRANT COMPLETION:

The most important mechanism to ensure a chance of sustainability is careful, participatory project planning together with the concerned people. Nobody will be persuaded to do this or that without sensitization, training, guidance and support in achieving the objective set by both, the beneficiary and the project. Any required operation and maintenance (O&M) costs will be adjusted to the economic situation of the respective households, and any required change in managing the natural resources use and their protection will be adapted to the beneficiaries’ traditional understanding and available absorption capacity.

Once the project was successfully completed, the Government would either maintain the elite cashmere flock in Murghab or privatize it – whatever is more feasible. If pasture management and fodder production allows to further increase the number of goats, more households would benefit from the cashmere cottage industry. The exit from the project would simply mean a continuation of (former) project activities without supervision by a development agency. There are no issues to be addressed such as who will receive the project’s assets or who is going to pay for O&M of this or that machinery. The MOA running the cashmere goat breeding center in Murghab will cover their O&M costs through the sale of bucks and does, and the individual households having benefitted from project support will continue to manage their business privately according to the availability of means and resources.

IMPLEMENTING AGENCY(IES). BRIEF DESCRIPTION AND REASON FOR SELECTION OF AGENCY(IES):

There will be no additional institutional set-up to implement the project. Supported by an international NGO, the MOA branch office in Murghab will coordinate and also manage all project activities. Project implementation in the Jamoats will be delegated to the existing offices of the Mountain Societies Development Support Program (MSDSP). Such a project implementation structure does not necessarily require the presence of the (grant) implementing agency. The latter is proposed to be FAO, who has a coordination office in Dushanbe, and who has implemented emergency and development projects in Tajikistan for already more than a decade; or the Agha Khan Foundation (AKF), the most knowledgeable international, non-governmental development agency active for many decades in Badakhshan. FAO or AKF would be contracted through the standard Unilateral Trust Fund (UTF) Agreement which has proved to be a suitable contractual instrument in the past for many projects, governments and international finance institutions.
Cashmere Goat Breeding Under Climate (Change) Impact Adapted Land and Water Use
THE ORIGIN

This website was originally (in 2009) developed for the preparation of a cashmere investment project in the Pamirs’ Tajik and Afghan part, and in collaboration with the “All Changthang Pashmina Growers Cooperative Marketing Society LTD.” in Leh, Ladakh/India.

Overall goal was the preparation and implementation of a rural investment project in some of the poorest regions in the world, which would assist rural mountain communities in the Pamirs and Himalayas to cope with climate change impact and progressing land degradation. Major objective of the proposed project was the increase of income of those people who would become engaged in cashmere production, processing, weaving and marketing. To achieve this objective, all potential stakeholders should be part of the preparation process, being sensitized in state-of-the-art cashmere production, processing, weaving and marketing techniques, and being given the opportunity to express their needs and expectations but also making use of their own experience and know-how.

THE WEBSITE UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Meanwhile, one year has passed, a fact-finding mission to the Pamirs was carried out in June 2009, and a consultation workshop held in Dushanbe in December 2009. Though the overall goal has not changed, the specific objectives, however, and the methodology to achieve those objectives were modified and adapted according to the findings and conclusions gained throughout the last year – with many corrections due to the recommendations presented in a number of background studies (see Annex A4).

The website is also to be a platform for discussions, a forum as to be the virtual location of a future cashmere online community. And: an online place for learning about the preparation and implementation of rural investment projects related to climate change adapted and livelihood improving land and water use.

THE CASHMERE ONLINE COMMUNITY FORUM

The cashmere online community as well as its guests could discuss the following topics (list is not exhaustive):

- goat breeding issues to increase quantity and quality of cashmere,
- use of pastures in marginal area (biomass, overgrazing, carrying capacity, units per ha),
- shelter and fodder supply of cashmere goats during winter,
- cashmere losses during processing,
- cashmere spinning and weaving issues,
- color, quality and design of marketable cashmere fabrics,
- originality, labeling and marketing issues,
- environmental protection issues, and
- partnerships with national parks including UNESCO World Heritage sites.

Participants will gain access to project preparation documents, background papers about cashmere producing goat breeders and regions, most recent publications addressing cashmere related issues including the whole process from combing a cashmere goat to marketing a cashmere shawl, and be able to more effectively and successfully implement cashmere related projects. In other words: The purpose behind the forum is getting people interested in cashmere together and offering them a platform to exchange experience, skills, ideas, information and data, which in turn would be to the benefit of small-holders and endangered alpine ecosystems.

Of course, it may not be easy to offer rural mountain communities in remote regions a mechanism via which they will on the one side be able to offer their own experience to project preparation and implementation, and on the other side learn more about cashmere production. One possibility is to establish focal points for the various individual mountain communities, viz. a local person who knows to read and write (in English), and has an internet access. This person will be the “link” via the forum.
between local cashmere goat breeders (with local knowledge and skills) and the outsiders (with international know-how, such as technologies, equipment, marketing and funding).

Eventually, the website should facilitate the following:

1. Provide an overview about the forum together with a number of hyperlinks to other websites of interest to the newcomer (facilitate sensitization);
2. Give access (to the contents of the forum) to everybody who has identified him/herself, via a simple log-in procedure. S/he may now be called a "Forum Member (FM)" (connect all the key stakeholders);
3. Provide for each FM the possibility to post messages and read/answer those ones posted by others, to read and update news in a regularly manner, and to make use of on-line learning modules (provide means of communication, collaboration and training);
4. List of all FMs, possibly with a CV and/or a photograph attached (ensure transparency and authenticity);
5. Allow for live communication via Skype with selected FMs (ensure connectivity);
6. Provide access to publications, photographs and videos (via download facilities) to all FMs (share information);
7. Enable FMs to contribute themselves to the enlargement of the number of publications, photographs and videos (encourage active participation);
8. Give access to FMs and any other visitor to an online shop from which local cashmere products can be bought against payment by credit cards (provide shopping facilities of authentic and genuine products);
9. Be open to any other useful tool to share information and contribute to a common goal (ensure dynamic development); and
10. Be a management tool to loose not track of what is happening in the forum and in the real world (ensure continuity).

THE PAMIRS RURAL INVESTMENT PROGRAM FORUM

For the time being (and for another two months), the Pamirs Rural Investment Program Forum, is still under the umbrella of the www.cashmere-forum.net which eventually gave birth to the idea of initiating an overarching rural investment program which could harbor all individual investment projects dedicated to climate change adapted and livelihood improving land and water use in the Pamirs.

In collaboration with the Government of Tajikistan, it is planned to establish a new website in June 2010 which would exclusively focus on the participatory preparation of a Pamirs Rural Investment Program.