

Statement of Development Partners
on the
Proposal of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic
for the
Global Agriculture and Food Security Program Funding

Although the poverty level in the Kyrgyz Republic is declining, the level of rural poverty, food insecurity and under-nutrition are significant. We recognize that food security, nutrition security, and poverty reduction are interlinked and need to be addressed simultaneously to ensure food production, food security and rural incomes are enhanced, and therefore support the proposal of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic for the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP).

The Development Partners represented herein, are jointly working in a coordinated effort with Government and non-government organizations to provide a program of assistance and investments to reduce poverty, improve food security and reduce under-nutrition.

We have been active participants in an extensive consultation process that has enabled us to review the 2010 proposal to the GAFSP, make suggestions on new directions, and comment on the revised proposal. We note that the consultation process has been instrumental in influencing the revised proposal. We commend the Government for conducting this consultation process.

The investment needs of the country are substantial because of limited government, non-government and development partner resources. Although there have been considerable investments in rehabilitation of irrigation and drainage infrastructure and development of water user associations over the last 15 years, funded through the investments of government, non government organisations and development partners, many of the systems still require extensive rehabilitation, and there is a very strong demand from rural communities for such investments.

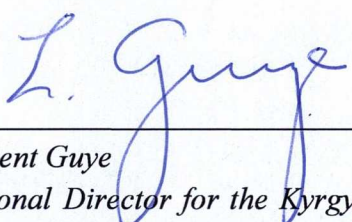
Irrigation is the backbone of the agricultural sector in the Kyrgyz Republic, and investment in improving water supply through rehabilitating irrigation and drainage infrastructure and improving water management increases food production and agricultural productivity. In addition, farmers' access to quality agricultural advisory services is essential for further improvements in crop and livestock yields and increasing agricultural productivity and profitability.

At the household level, especially for vulnerable groups like women and children, food security can be improved by enhanced nutrition. Under-nutrition needs to be addressed directly through targeted interventions providing food supplements in order to avoid continued losses in productivity and to lower infant and maternal mortality. In addition, increasing the population's

awareness of the nutrition quality of foods, and good nutrition practice will provide a more sustainable improvement in overall nutrition levels.

The Government's proposal to the GAFSP builds on successful programs implemented in partnership with the Development Partners. Therefore, the Development Partners support the Government's efforts to invest further in: (i) the rehabilitation and modernization of irrigation and drainage systems; (ii) building strong water user associations and supporting WUA related organizations; (iii) providing access to agricultural advisory services; and (iv) supporting nutrition interventions. We believe funding of the GAFSP for this proposal, would be an important foundation for our joint efforts to build the rural economy in the Kyrgyz Republic and ensure food security for its people.

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