

The Prime-Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan

Dushanbe №13/2-24

September 30, 2010

Mr. Rojer Ehrhardt  
Chair of the Steering Committee  
Global Agriculture and Food Security Program

*Subject: Global Agriculture and Food Security Program  
Proposal from the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan*

Dear Mr. Ehrhardt,

Government of the Republic of Tajikistan presents its high respect to the Steering Committee of the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program and is pleased to submit the enclosed proposal seeking funding support in the amount of 30 mln. USD for support of the Public Employment for Sustainable Agriculture and Water Resources Management Project.

The main objective of the Project is to improve food security of farms through creation of short-term employment and rehabilitation of the irrigation and drainage infrastructure in 10 selected rayons of Khatlon oblast, one of the highly food insecure regions in Tajikistan. It is expected that proposed GAFSP financing would allow the most vulnerable rural population to benefit from more effective method of water utilization and water supply. In general, project would increase agricultural productivity and contribute to the improvement of household food security through households' production and income increase that would lead to the improvement of purchase power.

The proposal would expand funding provided by the European Union under the Food Crisis Rapid Response Facility Trust Fund (EU-TF) for EUR 7.42 million (10 mln. US Dollars) for the similar Project that covers 5 rayons in Khatlon oblast and is currently under implementation.

I would also like to add, that measures included into this proposal would support successful implementation of agriculture reform. The Government of the Republic of Tajikistan fully recognizes importance of this reform and has started its implementation. Several elements of an ongoing reform agenda are now in place which collectively provides a policy environment conducive to optimising the impact of the proposed investment programme.

A key plank of this process is reform of the irrigation sector. Without action on a large scale in the near future we risk substantial reductions in productivity and output levels due to inadequate water availability and poor land drainage.

We are certain that investments in the system will generate significant and sustainable returns. Successful implementation of the Project will allow us to rapidly upscale programs and as a result we can achieve a relatively rapid turnaround in the refurbishment of the irrigation system, which is a vital factor for rehabilitation and development of agriculture sector. The social benefits should also not be forgotten. Short-term gainful employment will be provided for significant numbers of people in rural areas, including women, under the program of temporally employment.

Activities, included into the submitted project proposal also fit with the long term national development documents, such as National Development Strategy up to 2015., Poverty Reduction Strategy for 2010-2012, Agrarian and Food Security Policy Concept and Agricultural Development Plan targeted for agriculture productivity and output growth.

Presenting this project proposal the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan hopes that the GAFSP Steering Committee will look favourably on our submission, considering urgent need in support of agriculture sector and will positively confirm it.

Taking the opportunity I would like to express sincere gratitude for your support and look forward for our further fruitful cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

A. Akilov