



Item 5 Results of the impact assessment survey in Central Asia

UNECE secretariat summary
Agricultural Standards Unit

DDP session – June 2020





IMPACT Assessment Results - 2020

UNECE-UNDP-GIZ-Hilfswerk
International (HWI)

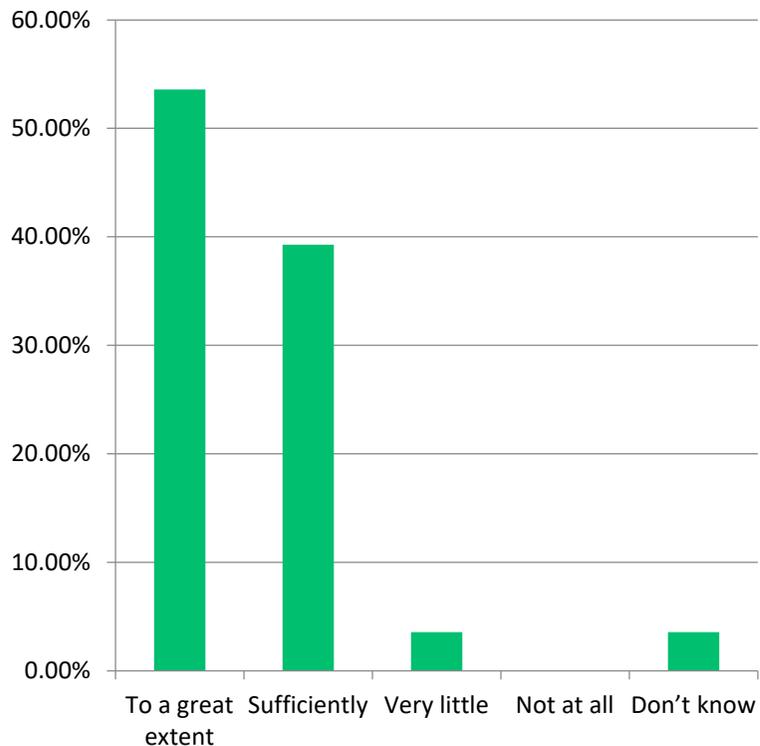


Training and support
UNECE events

- **Training events:**
 - **2015 Izmir Turkey - workshop and study tour**
 - **2016– 2019 Tashkent, Uzbekistan** - organized jointly with UNDP Uzbekistan and GIZ and HWI for four Central Asian countries (Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan) in partnership with e.g. FAO , UNCTAD, national government agencies and UNECE supported Central Asia Working Group.
- **“UNECE Code of Good Practice - Reducing food loss in handling fruit and vegetables”**
- **Support to Central Asia Working Group.**
- Integration into regular UNECE standardization activities in Geneva, Switzerland
- Organization of tasting and promotion events in Geneva Switzerland

The extent to which participants' organization supported the long-term objectives of the trainings

improved knowledge and capacities of public and private sectors of Central Asia to improve quality along the entire value chain and increase sustainability of agricultural production and trade



IMPACT:

➔ actively contributed to the promotion of UNECE quality standards on the national and regional levels

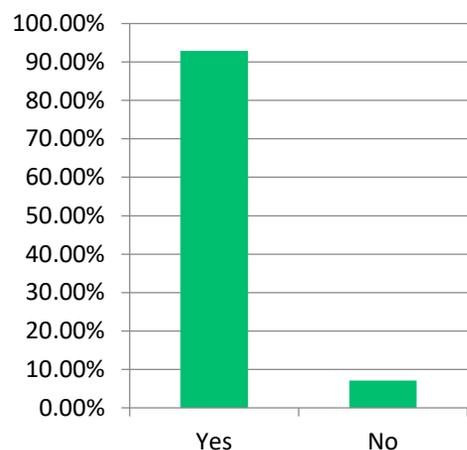
➔ applied gained knowledge to train commodity specialists and farmers

➔ capacity building is considered in government programs for industry and export promotion

➔ contributed to advancing opportunities for public and private sector in Central Asia towards improving quality throughout the value chain and increasing sustainability of agricultural production and trade

➤ Follow-up: assessment of existing and upcoming needs for targeted training

Gained knowledge of quality standards, food safety and produce trainings as it was used in participants' work after the training program



Key results:

- in 2019, as part of the working group, contributed to the revision process of UNECE standards
- exported dried apricots in accordance with DDP 15 standard
- included detailed specifications of standards in commercial contracts and offers
- 6 sales contracts signed with new clients in just one company companies
- moved from GOST USSR standards to the UNECE-based international standards and started working in accordance with HACCP
- introduced HACCP and FSSC 22000; received a corresponding certificate

Key highlights:

- trained producers, exporters, enterprises. Supported them in applying standards in production.
- contributed to improving national standards while ensuring harmonization with UNECE international standards
- developed guidance posters demonstrating potential defects of agro-products
- knowledge was applied for holding the government agency's information campaigns in the regions of the country
- knowledge gained was used to prepare the Presentation on Food Standards for the information seminar on the occasion of the First World Food Safety Day, which was held in Bishkek and attended by high-level government officials

IMPACT ACHIEVED

Increased sales opportunities

- Expanded the destination markets and customers' network, entered new markets with improved product quality
- Increased export volume, as a consequence of improved product quality
- In 2018, more than 200 tons of fresh plums were sold to EU countries and Russian Federation

Increased productivity

- Increased adherence to international food quality requirements
- Improved productivity and acquired modern equipment
- More than 1,000 farmers certified according to the EU organic regulation and Naturland Standards

Improved produce quality

- Improved the quality of the produce, following also the installation of new equipment
- Enhanced focus on food safety
- Introduced HACCP principles

Increased production

- Produced 1,000 tons of products per year, as opposed to less than 500 tons five years ago
- Increased responsibility to customers throughout the production process
- Reduction in the level of defects in dried fruit production

Impact Example – Uzbekistan

- ✓ Expansion of (SME) business; increase in company's revenue as a result of UNECE agricultural quality standards
- ✓ Offered sustainable employment to 20 staff, mostly women
- ✓ New sales contracts with local supermarkets and export contracts to diversified destinations
- ✓ Eligibility for funding and loans from international donors and development banks
- ✓ Procurement of modern drying and packaging equipment which led to improved quality of produce and longer shelf life
- ✓ Planning to further expand production and export to more EU countries in 2020
- ✓ Expanded networking opportunities in the region through the Central Asia Working Group



Key takeaways

Summary:

- **Highly appreciated product trainings, which included case studies and concrete examples.**
- **Highlighted the participation in international standard setting (UNECE) resulting in adoption of the first central Asia –led standard (dried melon) as one of the key achievements to enhance the increased export of this product.**
- **Highly appreciated the opportunity to participate in the trainings and gain new experience**
- **Highlighted the active work of the Central Asian Working Group, the information sharing and production of guidance material and suggested to expand its geography**
- **Highly appreciated the work on producing guidance material (e.g. posters) on commercial product and food quality assessment**

Key takeaways:

Participants' needs:

- Highlighted the need to continue cooperation with UNECE and international projects with the goal to further promote UNECE standards
- Highlighted the need to conduct more workshops at the rural level, as only a few farmers can travel from remote areas to cities, and information is not always shared locally
- Explore the possibility of aid agencies to hold more workshops on experience sharing in the region

Further suggestions:

- More training on the practical application of knowledge gained, studying best practices from more advanced countries
- Business representatives in small countries should be better integrated in standard setting work to improve and protect SME's interests when collaborating with larger countries and corporations.
- Explore further cooperation to ensure improved quality of exported local products



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