

«Local Market Development» Project

Branch of the HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation in the Kyrgyz Republic

Branch of the ICCO Foundation in the Kyrgyz Republic

1

LMD Project's news

The Branch of the Swiss Association of International Cooperation "Helvetas" did re-registration in February (officially on 24th of January, 2013) and now we are officially called the Branch of Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation Association in the Kyrgyz Republic. Re-registration occurred because Helvetas Swiss Association merged with another Swiss non-governmental organization called Intercooperation. Now our association is the largest non-governmental organization in Switzerland.

Since the beginning of 2013 there were changes made in the LMD Project's procedures of accepting and approving project proposals from the existing and new partners of the project. A committee was created which consists of 5 people and which is presented by two Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation representatives, two representatives from the branch of the ICCO Foundation and the LMD project manager, who is an employee of both Helvetas and ICCO.

Starting from 2013 all LMD project partners will have to go through regular audit checks. This requirement comes into force in relation to the year of 2013.

January officially became the last working month of Tattybubu Shamieva as a back stopper of the LMD Project. Tattybubu for a long period of time successfully worked for the LMD Project and now is engaged with commercial activity by becoming a cofounder of "Contracting Centre" Trade Company which started its work in August 2012.

Also the news of a month is that the LMD Project got its new project officer, Samat Toigonbaev. The permanent place of work of Samat is Helvetas Bishkek office.

2

The 20th food, drinks and raw materials for its processing international exhibition "Prodexpo-2013"

The exhibition was organized by "Expo-center" with assistance of the Ministry of Agriculture of the RF (Russian Federation) and the Moscow city government under the patronage of the Trade and Industry Chamber of the RF. During the whole working week from the 11th to 15th of February more than 2200 companies from 63 countries demonstrated their products, know-how and up-to-date technologies at all the pavilions of the Central Exhibition Complex on Krasnaya Presnya, the area of which is more than 47 thousand square meters. The exhibition was accompanied by various forums, conferences and contests on different topics. Our colleague from Khudjant office, Saida Masudova, visited the exhibition on behalf of the LMD Project.

She participated in the number of meetings with companies potentially interested in importing not only fresh, but also processed agricultural products from Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan.

3

Presentation of the questionnaire for the data base on farmers

PU "Agrolead" and "Agroinformasia" Ltd. conducted training for all the LMD project partners during which the new questionnaire for surveying farmers was presented on the 13th of March in Osh and 19th of March in Bishkek. Now there is no necessity to transfer data manually from the questionnaire into the database. By scanning information from the questionnaire it automatically goes into the database. Most of the questions in the questionnaire have ready answers that make the work easier while conducting a survey; it also provides trustworthiness when entering data into the questionnaire and later during information scanning from the questionnaire into the electronic database. Last comments and wishes from partners were taken into consideration during the presentation of the questionnaire based on which the questionnaire later on was edited and completed.

4

Interesting facts and events in the world of agriculture

In 1958 on initiative of Mao Zedong the campaign to fight agricultural pests was started. Sparrows were indicated as the main enemies. Because sparrows cannot stay in the air without rest more than 15 minutes Chinese were given instructions to periodically frighten the birds so that they couldn't land and fall deadly to the ground. According to statistics 2 billion of them got killed that year. Even though the yield next year was much better it was heavily eaten by caterpillar and locust the number of which previously had been regulated by sparrows. Ecological imbalance aggravated hunger caused by policy of Big Jump and natural disasters and as a result of which more than 20 million people died. Sparrows had to be brought back again from abroad.