



**EDUCATION AND CULTURE**

**PARTNERS**

- Agency for Vocational Education Training under Ministry of Labour
- Training providers in Naryn, Chui, Issyk-Kul and Talas oblasts
- Public organizations “Local training governance bodies” (KOJO) in Issyk-Kul, Chui and Talas oblasts
- German Technical Cooperation (GTZ)
- Micro credit company “Companion”
- International Labor Organization (ILO)
- Manas Kyrgyz – Turkish University
- Kyrgyz Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- CIEA workshops: international workshop and network on knowledge distribution in the sphere of agricultural vocational and higher education
- Swiss Agricultural College, Zollikofen
- Swiss Hotels’ Association

**Project duration:** Pilot phase: 2001 – 2002  
I phase: 2003 – 2005  
II phase: 2006 – 2008  
III phase: 2009 - 2012

**Project financing:** ~ 500000 USD per year

**Donors:** Helvetas Switzerland;  
LED (Liechtenstein Development Service);

**Beneficiaries:** Students of agricultural vocational schools;  
Students of informal training centres;  
Rural citizens and unemployed people working in the tourism sector;  
Teachers and administrations of vocational schools;  
Local vocational training funds



**The Skills Training in Rural AREas (STAR) project**

**Contribution to local initiatives development**



**STAR**  
214 Komsomolskaya str.,  
Balykchy  
Tel.: +996 (3944) 3 06 17, 3 06 03  
Fax: +996 (3944) 3 06 03  
e-mail : star@helvetas.kg

**Helvetas**  
43/1 Grajdanskaya str., Bishkek  
Tel.: +996 (312) 36 06 72, 36 62 70  
Fax: +996 (312) 36 06 73  
e-mail: program@helvetas.kg



**CENTRAL ASIA**





# The Skills Training in Rural AREas (STAR) project



The Skills Training in Rural AREas (STAR) project orients its activities on rural development in general and helps create an effective and sustainable vocational education system that will allow graduates of agricultural vocational schools and informal training centres to get knowledge, skills and attitudes to enable them to successfully run businesses in their villages and make it possible for them to find jobs.

## PROJECT GOALS

- Contribute to introducing sustainable training mechanisms by using the principle of local stakeholders and local communities organising their own training
- Contribute to introducing and developing the multiple financing principle for training skills in the field of agricultural development
- Contribute to professional skills development in the hotel and restaurant sector by cooperating with and supporting employers in strengthening the rights of owners and joint financing
- Lobby for the introduction of reforms in the vocational education and training system



## STAR PROJECT REALIZATION

The project is setting up and introducing a new training system by providing opportunities for rural citizens to get appropriate and practical skills that could be adapted to local partners – providers of training services. The curriculum, training principles and training approach is built on the actual local situation of Kyrgyz farmers and developed by involving all concerned stakeholders: trainees, their parents, teachers, local and national authorities, training providers and also representatives of the private sector.

## T-STAR COMPONENT

Professional hotel and restaurant business training in rural areas helps to establish and introduce sustainable training mechanisms with the objective of providing short-term courses for hotel staff and local unemployed people looking for seasonal jobs in the Issyk-Kul area.

Short-term courses for participants are organized with partner organizations and initially the courses proposed by Swiss hotels will be adapted and changed to meet the local conditions in Kyrgyzstan.

## A-STAR COMPONENT

The agricultural vocational education in rural areas component is currently working with training partners in the Naryn, Issyk-Kul, Chui and Talas oblasts, covering more than 1000 students and 500 graduates of two different three-year and sixteen-month courses. Vocational schools support this work using their own resources and equipment.

The project is also trying to become self-sustainable by introducing the idea of co-financing through the local agency of the public organizations KOJO that are trying to raise money to cover the costs of the 16-month farmer – entrepreneur course. Beside this the participants of the courses get micro credits to help them set up their own businesses and in parallel, to improve their skills during summer practical work on farms.

## Principles, methods and approach

### to project realization

- Participatory development of new innovations (vocational education system, apprenticeship, joint curricula development with all concerned stakeholders, module development independently and in accordance with market requirements)
- Developing and publishing new training materials based on jointly developed curricula with all concerned stakeholders
- Training and coaching of teachers in subject matter and training methodology
- Management training and support for partners providing management training services
- Mobilising local communities and getting them more actively involved in managing the whole training process
- Helping set up Public Associations and providing support to local vocational training Public Funds