

### Where to find us?

Organic Cotton Production and Trade Promotion Project

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### Project Update

The Organic Cotton Production and Trade Promotion Project (BCP) of Helvetas promotes the development of organic value chains in Kyrgyzstan with support of our main donors: Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation and ICCO. In the Biocotton project we do mainly accent on the cotton value chain development and value chains for rotational crops like beans and MAR (Medical Aromatic Plants) are on the way to be established. By 2012, turnovers of PF BS and ACSC BF were 11.250.000,00 and 26.131.737,00 respectively. Both organizations fulfilled their planned activities and reached cost coverage indicator for 2012 (BS – 85% and ACSC – 68%).

New 2013 year has brought to BCP new challenges and new staff. Chinara Babanova began her work as a Project Officer and Ainura Toigonbaeva as an Office Manager/Accountant Assistant. The BCP new staff have already visited and introduced with Head Office and other projects under Helvetas SI. More other, they could visited Agro Expo Fair held in Osh and got a full picture of BCP activities. We expect fruitful productive work and new ideas from our colleagues.

In March we honoured Mr. Georg Felber from Organic and Fairtrade Competence Center, whose main mission was to identify critical points and risks for GMO contamination, propose preventing measures and integrate measures into ICS system. Jointly with ACSC and BS team Mr. Felber will develop a guiding document (manual) for co-existence management of organic and GMO/conventional cotton. The GMO contamination issues are presently on the agenda in Kyrgyzstan, and the draft of the Law on prohibition of products containing GMO has been al-

### Do you know that..?



One of the most unwanted enemies of organic is GMO (genetically modified organism), whose genetic material has been altered using genetic engineering techniques. GMOs include micro-organisms such as bacteria and yeast, insects, plants, fish, and mammals. Organic principles consider that the use of GMOs de-emphasizes biodiversity and is an unnatural addition to the gene pool of cultivated crops, animals and micro-organisms living on farms.



The discussion on co-existence management of organic and GMO, March/2013

ready developed. We wish our colleagues and collaborators productive work and success.

For today, the Biocotton project has reached its consolidation phase, which focuses on strengthening capacities of partner organizations and creating a conducive environment for organic farming in Kyrgyzstan. We are looking forward for the days when organic farming becomes attractive to farmers as well as to state authori-



New staff at AgroExpo Fair, February/2013

Organic Farming

Organic farming is a new concept in Kyrgyzstan. The idea of organic agriculture rests on balancing economic profit and sustainable management of natural resources. It does not allow the use of mineral fertilizers, synthetic pesticides and genetically modified organisms. The benefits of organic agriculture are expected to be environmental, social and economic. As Biocotton plays a role of an advisory structure on this phase, local partners PB Bio Service and ACSC Bio Farmer do straight implement project tasks and work with farmers, strengthening own position in building value chains.

According to 2013 plan of BioFarmer 120 new farmer members from Suzak, Bazar-Korgon, Nooken regions will join the cooperative, those will be trained for organic farming by BioService under the mandate of ACSC BioFarmer. In addition, with the purpose of reducing production costs, 60% of ICS is done by Biofarmer and 40% was delegated to Bioservice. ( see Table 1. for production)

Today, BioService consults and trains about 1500 farmers ( 22% women) from three cooperatives, these are ACSC `Biofarmer`(Jalalabad), `Reina-Kench`(Issyk-Kul), `Alysh-Dan`(Batken), thus facilitating organic production initiatives. As a service provider for Organic and Fairtrade

production and certification, BioService renders consulting and training services in a professional way. Bioservice as

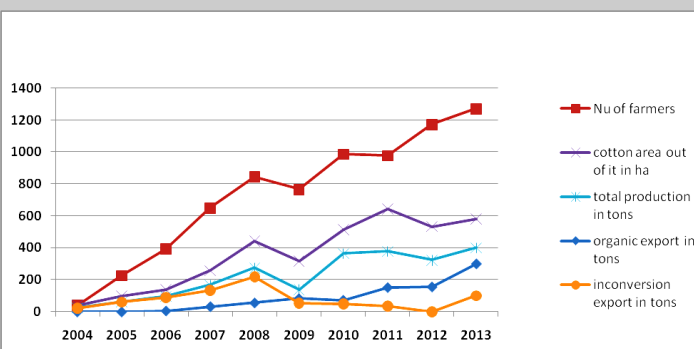


Table 1. Dynamics of organic cotton production from 2003-2012 and 2013 - projections

one of the main organic initiatives, day by day becomes more popular at the local market and among local stakeholders, since being providing consultancy activities related to FOD, the organic forum, the National Action Plan.

Thus, both organizations, with active support of BCP, aim to reach success and sustainability of organic production in Kyrgyzstan enabling rural people to improve their livelihoods preventing serious health and environmental problems.

Sector Development

On the consolidation phase a big attention is paid for promotion of organic movement in Kyrgyzstan on national level. For this purpose Federation on Organic Development, which will lobby and promote organic movement in Kyrgyzstan and Central Asia was created. FOD is the countrywide organic umbrella organization for all organic initiatives in Kyrgyzstan.

One of the steps due to sector development First National Organic Forum in Kyrgyzstan was held in the end of last year with the objective to discuss and give proposals for National strategy to 2025 and National Plan of Organic Agriculture. The Forum was accompanied with the Fair of AgroProducts, where BioFarmer and BioService as participants offered organic products on their stands. The products were in demand and people were really interested in

safe for life GMO-free organic.

By today the draft of the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic on prohibition of products containing GMO has been developed, and is in approval process presently. Only with involvement of the government, private sector and civil society we can speak about development of organic sector. For the sector development Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Economy are engaged, closely with the authorities the Biocotton project, Bio Service and FOD are working to create a conducive environment for sector.

To strengthen our organic value chains and get experience from well experienced western partners BCP Manager, BioService and BioFarmer Chief Directors and successful farmer leader representing Kyrgyz organic interests from our side visited Bio-Fach, the biggest world organic trade fair, where organic people meet. Our team strengthen partnership with existing buyers and established new relations with potential stakeholders.



First National Organic Forum Bishkek, December/2012



Visiting BioFach Nuremberg, February/2013