

TECHNOLOGIES

At field level SEP promotes the following technologies:

- improved furrow irrigation;
- water measurement methods;
- devices for controlling water flow in channels and furrows;
- contour furrows and contour bunds in hilly areas;
- low-cost drip irrigation;
- small scale water harvesting
- techniques (terraces, demilunes, liman, bunds);
- conservation agriculture (zero tillage), intercropping, mulching.



SEP contributes to a better awareness of efficient and profitable water use among farmers. Farmers from the Village Kon (in Batken oblast) told after the training:

“ We never thought that irrigation could harm the crop. We thought that the more water we give, the better it is for the plants. In our village there is water in abundance, so we were irrigating our fields without limits. Only after the trainings we started to understand that poor yields may be caused by inappropriate irrigation practices. ”



On-Farm Water Management Project - Efficient Use of Water (SEP)

WHY SEP?

In Kyrgyzstan shortage of water and its inappropriate use at field level is a main obstacle for farmers to get higher yields and income from agricultural production. Over-irrigation in mountainous areas and lack of water in lower zones coexist paradoxically, since farmers lack knowledge of crop water needs and efficient irrigation methods. Helvetas therefore launched SEP project (SEP = “СЭП” – сууну эффективдуу пайдалануу, Kyrgyz for «Efficient Use of Water») aiming at improving efficient water use at field level by building capacities around improved irrigation management and rain water harvesting techniques. The project facilitates linkages and improved collaboration between farmers, Water User Associations and government structures and encourages the involved stakeholders to improve their services.

SEP PROJECT IN BRIEF

Pilot Phase:	2009
Phase I (current phase):	2010 – 2012
Project area:	Osh, Batken, Jalalabat oblasts in the South of Kyrgyzstan
Budget:	250 000 CHF per year
Donors:	Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
Beneficiaries:	Farmers Water Users' Associations Agricultural Service Providers
Implementing agency:	Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation
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OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

Farmers are at the end of the water supply system; they ultimately need sufficient and reliable water supply to their fields in order to apply improved irrigation techniques and to increase water and crop productivity. The project therefore supports Water User Associations in pilot areas to improve their governance structure and management capacities which leads to better service delivery for farmers, including a more reliable water supply. Farmers in the pilot areas are trained on advanced irrigation practices and enabled to take informed decisions about efficient water use. It is assumed that this will lead to higher and more stable yields, higher income and food security and a better adaptation capacity to socio-economic changes and climate change.

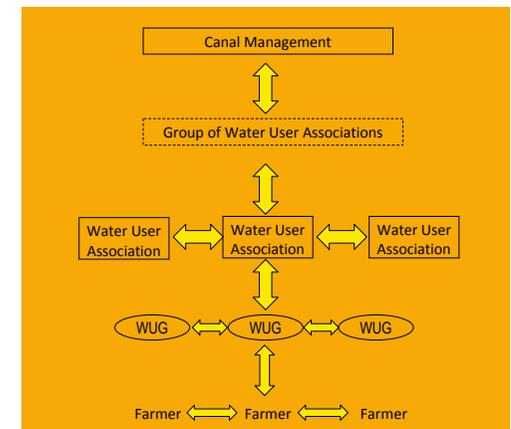
PROJECT PARTNERS

SEP is collaborating with local partners who are directly working with farmers. These partners are Water User Associations (WUAs), agricultural service providers, government institutions and private businesses in the agricultural and water sector. The project is adding value to existing activities of these actors by strengthening their capacities in terms of providing adapted and need based services to their clients. Experiences from the pilot-projects are capitalized and exchanged among partners, with national and international research institutes, government institutions, universities and other water-related projects. In this way know-how about modern irrigation management techniques is updated and widely shared among all concerned stakeholders.



INTERVENTION APPROACH

SEP facilitates improved communication and collaboration mechanisms between farmers and Water User Associations, between neighboring Water Associations and between WUA and government institutions. The project seeks to improve linkages between the different stakeholders at all levels in order to improve the service relationships between them. Water User Associations in pilot areas are supported in their organizational development and in their capacities to interact with farmers, neighboring WUAs and the government.



Graphic: Facilitate linkages between all actors in the irrigation water supply chain (WUG – Water Users' Group).