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TURKMENISTAN

FIRST PERSON

Cucumber Production on the Rise

Lifelong greenhouse farmer increases his income from cucumbers with the help of USAID



Photo: Zulya Achilova

Mr. Beshim Tanniyev proudly displays one of his cucumbers alongside his wife Mrs. Maysa Tanniyeva

“I always wished for strong yields in my greenhouse. With the help of USAID, my wish came true. I tell my neighbors to follow the project’s suggestions about greenhouse construction, seed varieties, and better management. I know it will result in increasing their income as well.”

—Beshim Tanniyev

Beshim Tanniyev has been working in his family’s greenhouse since 1978. For over 20 years, his family planted local varieties of cucumbers that were not resistant to most plant diseases found in Turkmenistan. He wondered if he would ever be able to increase his income and provide better opportunities for his family.

In 2008, Mr. Tanniyev became acquainted with USAID through Mr. Murad Nobatov, the USAID Agriculture Technology Program’s current Agribusiness Specialist. By attending the USAID seminars he learned to better manage his greenhouses and was introduced to a more disease-resistant cucumber variety. In one season, he was able to harvest 3.2 tons of cucumbers from his larger 360 m² greenhouse, receiving income totaling 4,000 Turkmen manat (\$1,406.96) for his produce. It was his best year ever.

In February 2011, the USAID Agriculture Technology Program supported him in reinvesting his earnings to construct a new demonstration greenhouse on a cost-share basis. With a ceiling reaching up to 4.6m, the height of his new greenhouse has doubled and is better suited for growing taller vegetables. This past season, Mr. Tanniyev harvested 7.5 tons of cucumbers. He estimates his income from this one cucumber season will be about 11,200 TM (\$3,939.50). Over three years, production in the new greenhouse went up 234% and his income has increased by 280%.

Because of his success and his commitment to other farmers in his region, Mr. Tanniyev has stepped up to be the USAID Agriculture Technology program trainer for his region. His personal farming experience and support for USAID objectives make him an ideal advocate for better agriculture practices in Turkmenistan. His demonstration greenhouse is providing hope and ideas to farmers throughout the Mary region.