



# USAID | UZBEKISTAN

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## USAID EXPANDS ASSISTANCE TO AGRICULTURE

**TASHKENT** — The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has launched the next phase of its support to Uzbekistan's agriculture sector: the four-year, \$12 million "Agricultural Linkages Plus" (AgLinks Plus) project. This project follows on and expands the activities of its predecessor—the "AgLinks" Project. USAID's AgLinks Plus will continue to work closely with the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources (MAWR) under the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

In recent years, the world market for food products has witnessed steady growth in demand for many types of fruits and vegetables (F&V). Uzbekistan has significant production and export potential in F&V production and processing. The Government of Uzbekistan has adopted a number of reforms targeting increased development of the F&V sector through enhanced competitiveness.

USAID's AgLinks Plus will undertake a holistic "value-chain" approach in promoting F&V and will expand coverage to 26 districts in 6 provinces (including to Andijan, Bukhara, and Tashkent). Previous activities based in Samarkand, Namangan and Ferghana provinces supported production, processing and marketing of stone fruits, pome fruits and grapes and will continue under the extended project. Under USAID's AgLinks Plus, subtropical and nut tree crops will be added. Target crops will include: almond, apricot, cherry, peach, apple, pear, persimmon, plum, pomegranate, quince, table grapes and walnut.

Planned activities include establishing a "Farmer Forum" to exchange fruit production, handling and processing techniques between Uzbek and U.S. farmers, and an Online Agricultural Information System to disseminate best practices. New and improved plant material and agronomic practices will be promoted through on-farm demonstration plots. Additional efforts will improve farm level pest and disease control and the management of small and medium sized cold stores. Other efforts will support the strengthening of agricultural education, research and extension systems.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is proud to celebrate its 50th Anniversary in 2011. USAID was created in 1961 by American President John F. Kennedy and is funded by the American people. Since 1993, USAID has supported local efforts to improve economic growth, governance and health in Uzbekistan. For more information about USAID programs, please visit our website at <http://centralasia.usaid.gov> or <http://uzbekistan.usembassy.gov/usaid.html>.

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