



## PHOTO & CAPTION

### Uzbek Farmers Record U.S. Best Practices



Photo: AgLinks Project Uzbekistan

USAID's Community Connections program and AgLinks Project collaborated on a three-week training program on contemporary agrotechnology in fruit cultivation in California during summer 2010. The Uzbek "community" consisted of 10 people from Uzbekistan's Ferghana Valley, including farmers, public sector agricultural professionals, food safety professionals, agricultural research institute managers and researchers, plus private sector actors in fruit processing. The Ferghana Valley is known as the gem of Central Asian agriculture and is famous for its sweet and fragrant fruits and nuts, especially apricots, cherries, apples, peaches and walnuts. Trainees benefited from the insights and experience of the best fruit extension specialists and private sector experts from the biggest fruit and nut producing state in the United States.

The training program consisted of hands-on field visits in and around Davis and Fresno, California that were directly relevant to topics introduced during classroom sessions. Training content covered best techniques in fruit tree nursery management, production, postharvest handling, drying, irrigation systems and pest control. Technical translation, including questions and discussions were given in English and Uzbek.

Eight of the ten trainees used digital camcorders to record field site visits and orchard training sessions to share with others upon returning to Uzbekistan. Fazliddin Sultanov, agronomist, made DVDs of all his photos and video shorts to share with his neighbors and friends. These video materials have been used by AgLinks for training on fruit production. Marifat Nazarova, adapted the idea of private labeling from visiting Stephens Farmhouse in Yuba City, California and conducted a training program on small-scale fruit processing for 35 farmers in Namangan Province. One of the processors, Olmaxon Egamberdieva, developed her own private label and sells products in her local shop. Sales of the labeled products increased immediately and significantly compared to products without labels.

### Uzbek Agriculturalists Learn Fruit Drying, Processing and Packaging Techniques at the Lester Farms in Winters, California