

Tajikistan

Livestock and Pasture Development Project II

Supervision Report

Main report and appendices

Mission Dates: 15-31 October 2017

Document Date: 12/01/2018

Project No. 2000000977

Near East, North Africa and Europe Division
Programme Management Department

Abbreviations and Acronyms

A. Project Overview

Region:	Near East, North Africa and Europe Division	Project at Risk Status:	Not at risk
Country:	Tajikistan	Environmental and Social Category:	B
Project Name:	Livestock and Pasture Development Project II	Climate Risk Classification:	2
Project Id:	2000000977	Executing Institution:	Ministry of Agriculture
Project Type:	Livestock	Implementing Institutions:	not available yet
CPM:	Abdelhamid Abdouli		
Project Director:	not available yet		
Project Area:	not available yet		

Approval Date	12/12/2015	Last audit receipt	not available yet
Signing Date	03/02/2016	Date of Last SIS Mission	15/10/2017
Entry into Force Date	18/01/2016	Number of SIS Missions	1
Available for Disbursement Date	23/11/2016	Number of extensions	0
First Disbursement Date	28/11/2016	Effectiveness lag	1 month
MTR Date	not available yet		
Completion Date	31/03/2021		
Financial Closure	30/09/2021		

Project total financing

IFAD Financing breakdown	Debt Sustainability Framework	\$8,700,000
	ASAP Trust Fund	\$5,000,000
	IFAD	\$8,700,000
Domestic Financing breakdown	Beneficiaries	\$1,348,000
	National Government	\$446,000
Co-financing breakdown		
Project total financing		\$24,194,000

Current Mission

Mission Dates: 15-31 October 2017

Days in the field: 5

Mission composition: Mr. Abdelhamid Abdouli, Senior Programme Management Specialist, Acting, CPM for Tajikistan; Ms. Anara Jumabayeva, Senior Economist, Mission Leader; Ms. Yoshiko Ishihara, Rural Sociologist; Mr. Brien Norton, Pasture Management Specialist; Mr. David Radcliffe, Portfolio Review Specialist; Mr. Nicolas Tremblay, Environmental and Climate Change Specialist; Mr. Mairambek Tairov, Institutional Development Specialist; Mr. Zholdosbek Dadybaev, Livestock and Veterinary Specialist; Mr. Mikael Kauttu, Programme Officer; Mr. Moez Makhoul, Financial Management Specialist; Mr. Anvar Mamkulov, Procurement Specialist. The mission was accompanied by Ms. Zainab Kenjaeva, IFAD Country Presence in Tajikistan

Field sites visited: Five groups separately visited Ten districts of project area: Baljovan, Khovaling, Muminobod, Sh. Shohin (former Shurobod) and Temurmalik (LPDPI), and Dangara, Farkhor, Hamadoni, Kulob and Vose (LPDPII)

B. Overall Assessment

Key SIS Indicator #1	Ø	Rating	Key SIS Indicator #2	Ø	Rating
Likelihood of Achieving the Development Objective		4	Assessment of the Overall Implementation Performance		4

Effectiveness and Developmental Focus	5	Project Management	4
Effectiveness	5	Quality of Project Management	5
Targeting and Outreach	5	Knowledge Management	4
Gender equality & women's participation	4	Value for Money	5
Agricultural Productivity	5	Coherence between AWPB and Implementation	4
Nutrition		Performance of M&E System	4
Adaptation to Climate Change	4	Requirements of Social, Environmental and Climate Assessment Procedures (SECAP)	4

Sustainability and Scaling-up	5	Financial Management and Execution	5
Institutions and Policy Engagement	5	Acceptable Disbursement Rate	3
Partnership-building	4	Quality of Financial Management	5
Human and Social Capital and Empowerment	5	Quality and Timeliness of Audit	5
Quality of Beneficiary Participation	5	Counterparts Funds	5
Responsiveness of Service Providers	4	Compliance with Loan Covenants	5
Environment and Natural Resource Management	5	Procurement	5
Exit Strategy	4		
Potential for Scaling-up	5		

C. Mission Objectives and Key Conclusions

Background and Main Objective of the Mission

An IFAD mission visited Tajikistan from 15 to 31 October 2017 to undertake supervision of and provide support to the Livestock and Pasture Development Project, second phase (LPDP II) (IFAD Loan No. 2000001439/DSF Grant No. 2000001438/ASAP Grant 2000001437). This was a first supervision mission in addition to start-up and implementation support activities carried out since effectiveness. The objective of the mission was to assess continued project relevance, effectiveness in achieving the objectives, effectiveness of the project's targeting and gender mainstreaming strategy, efficiency in project implementation, impact on food security and incomes of the rural poor to reduce rural poverty in the Khatlon region. In addition, the mission: (i) provided implementation support to improve project performance; and (ii) provided guidance for the resolution of outstanding implementation issues and obtained agreement on further steps. This mission was carried out in parallel with the supervision of the first phase of LPDP (LPDP I) (IFAD Grant No. G-I-DFS-8083-TJ). The mission had meetings and discussions with Mr. Sadi Karimzoda, the Director of the Project Management Unit (PMU) and his staff; Mr. Ahliddin Nuriddinzoda, the Head of Department on Foreign Investments/Projects of the Ministry of Finance (MOF) and his staff; Mr. Safarali Nazarov, the Head of the State Enterprise "Pasture Meliorative Trust" under the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA); Mr. Sherali Vazirov, the Head of the State Veterinary Inspection under the MOA; Mr. Mahmadvazir Kashkuloev, the Chairman of the Association of Veterinarians of Tajikistan; Ms. Zebo Bobokhonova, the Vice-Rector for International Relations and Mr. Mahmader Usmonov, the Vice-Rector for Scientific Work of the Tajik Agrarian University (TAU). The mission visited all ten districts of the LPDP I and LPDP II, namely Baljovan, Khovaling, Muminobod, Sh. Shohin (former Shurobod) and Temurmali (LPDP I), and Dangara, Farkhor, Hamadoni, Kulob and Vose (LPDP II) and held discussions with the local administrations, regional staff of LPDP and 33 Pasture User Unions (PUUs) and their groups (project beneficiaries). Altogether, the mission spent five days in the field. The field visits were undertaken by the mission in five groups as to cover as many beneficiary groups as possible. The visited PUUs were largely different from the ones included during the supervision of the last year. In addition, discussions were held with the representatives of donor organisations currently acting in Tajikistan, including the DFID, USAID, UNDP, EU, WB Project and the FAO Office in Tajikistan. Please refer to Annex 5 for the Mission schedule and persons met including the mapping of visited communities. A wrap-up meeting took place in Dushanbe on 30 October 2017.

Key Mission Agreements and Conclusions

The project is successfully implementing its activities with satisfactory assessment of all aspects. The project follows the same approaches and modalities as the LPDP I, and the mission is confident that the project would be generating the same magnitude of outcomes as with the LPDP I thus boosting food security of rural poor women and men and increasing their climate resilience. The mission recommends to keep the same pace and to undertake the following activities to ensure project's successful implementation: (i) Follow-up with Hukumat authorities on granting land-use certificates, or scheduling a pathway to certificates, in all PUUs that don't have them; (ii) Regular provision of documentary evidences from PUUs on fulfilment of their obligations, specifically: 1) Land certificate/lease; 2) Protocol confirming application of rotational grazing; 3) implementation of Animal Health Plan; 4) collection of pasture use fee; 5) collection of beneficiary contribution; and 6) regular PUU meetings.; and (iii) Recruit short-term local expertise in landscape restoration, micro watershed management and/or erosion control to support the PMU and PUUs to identify cost-effective and technically-sound environmental protection interventions.

D. Overview and Project Progress

Sub-Component 1.1: Development of Community Organizations

Since the project launched its activities at village level in February 2017, a substantial progress has been made by legally establishing 180 PUUs. It is lower than the target of 200 PUUs set by the design due to the fact that within those 180 PUUs there are 37 382 households against the planned 38 000 households, and adding a village would require a higher allocation for community subprojects than it has been foreseen by the budget as there is already a shortage of funds due to depreciation of the SDR against the USD.

Community organizations in the form of a PUU in each participating village legally manage about 59 958 ha of pastureland and have so far met all the requirements set by the project. Community Facilitators (CF) handle project implementation for PUUs under PMU direction through the District Officers. 174 Community Livestock and Pasture Management Plans (CLPMP) have been prepared, including maps and covering animal health and climate change adaptation aspects; all of these CLPMPs have been approved by the PMU.

Pasture land use rights. Land tenure issues that hindered PUU operations in LPDP-I were quickly addressed in LPDP-II. Of a target of 180 land use agreements, 136 agreements were settled and 33 pasture use certificates obtained. However, 11 PUUs are still lacking certificates or satisfactory use agreements for their communally used pasturelands. An additional entity supporting PUUs was created within the terms of the law On Pasture, namely, a regulating Committee for Pasture Use established under the local governments of the Project's targeted Districts by representatives of local authorities, jamoats and PUUs. It is not yet clear how the actions of this Committee will affect pastures users.

Sub-Component 1.2: Advancement of Policy and Legal Framework and Strengthening National Institutions

As a direct result of project mentoring, the satisfactory governance of PUUs increased in 2017, bringing the cumulative level of good PUU governance to 80% of all PUUs.

Pasture Meliorative Trust (PMT): In September 2017, a decree of the Minister for Agriculture approved a Charter for the MLT (a state institution). The project was a key player in drafting the Charter and working for its approval. It sets out the responsibilities and potential actions for a de facto "pasture department" within the MOA. The Trust aims to achieve sustainable pasture use in the context of increased pasture yield and livestock production, thereby raising the standard of living of rural population. It covers in more detail than the Law On Pasture specific approaches to pasture use, development, monitoring and training. The Trust is committed to supporting local PUUs as well as dekhans farms. The LPDP-II can set a precedent for implementing the provisions of the Charter to achieve climate-resilient sustainable pasture management through regulation, training, development and monitoring.

Pasture Management Education at Tajik Agrarian University: In a major innovation by second phase of the project, LPDP-II supports education at Tajik Agrarian University in pasture management at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. The development of a curriculum in Sustainable Pasture Management addresses a critical need in Tajikistan for technically trained people to implement the provisions of the Law On Pasture and specifications in the Charter of the PMT. Apart from technical training that improves pasture management in the entire country, a cadre of pasture management specialists is necessary to ensure that the benefits of pasture management interventions introduced by the LPDP continue beyond the life of the IFAD-funded project.

In addition to purely academic support, the LPDP-II is financing the renovation of a classroom, an office for teachers, and a Pasture Forage Analysis laboratory. The project is also providing furniture and laboratory equipment to the refurbished facilities. An upgrade of another laboratory for GIS and climate analysis and forecasting will be attempted in 2018. This development at TAU builds on support provided by the KLSP to equip an Agrochemical Soil Analysis laboratory, including a relatively new (2015) spectrophotometer, which is currently serving the needs of undergraduate instruction, postgraduate research projects and the government. The Soils Department recently received requests to analyze soils from cotton fields in order to customize fertilizer applications.

Component 2: Productivity Enhancement and Improved Animal Health (Satisfactory, 5)

Sub-Component 2.1: Productivity Enhancement

Fodder promotion and production. Winter fodder remains a major limitation to livestock production in Khatlon Region, a situation exacerbated when the winter season extends longer than usual. The two principal avenues for boosting winter feed are: (i) planting more fodder crops such as alfalfa and improved management of fodder crops, or introducing fodder species into pastures, and (ii) harvesting more grass from hayfields. Both activities offer opportunities for entrepreneurial initiatives.

Under this activity 2 255 beneficiary households were provided with 46 tons of fodder seeds and 160 tons of mineral fertilizers, and as a result almost 465 hectares are now under fodder cultivation. The first yield is expected next year.

Sheep breeding trials. Since the effectiveness, the project supplied 22 CIGs with 330 Hissar rams to be mated with 8 332 local ewes, involving a total of 1 419 HHs. The results are expected next year.

Sub-Component 2.2: Improved Animal Health

Up to date, the following activities have been implemented by the project, namely: (I) the national consultant on veterinary has been recruited; (ii) the list of participating vets has been compiled and agreed for the distribution of the veterinary packages; (iii) the composition of the veterinary packages has been compiled according the vets' needs; (IV) the main topics of the trainings have been identified; (V) the IFAD's no objection has been obtained for the construction of a district veterinary laboratory due to the government's request.

Component 3. Pasture Development and Diversification for Vulnerability Reduction (Satisfactory, 5)

Sub-Component 3.1. Community Resilience Pasture Management and Investments

CLPMP development: By October 2017, 174 CLPMPs (out of 180 possible) had been developed by the PUUs and approved by the PMU. A new set of guidelines was issued in the PIM for compiling a CLPMP. Key differences from the LPDPI guidelines are omitting calculations of carrying capacity and pasture load, a greater emphasis on planning pasture rotation, measurement of live weights of village livestock, increasing winter fodder production and other measures to regenerate overgrazed pastures. The changes reflect a revised section in the PIM on Technical Considerations for Sustainable Pasture Management. The most degraded pastures should be rested from grazing for at least a year. Accelerated erosion, which is a feature of climate change impacts, can be managed by adopting a grazing management plan that promotes higher ground cover by vegetation and litter. More vegetative cover will increase infiltration of rainwater and reduce overland water run-off carrying soil particles.

Pasture rotation: There is room for improvement in the pasture rotation plans of CLPMPs. A survey of rotation plans for Vose district revealed that rotations generally involved only 4-5 units, each unit grazed for 1 week with a rest period of only 3-4 weeks. In one case of 3 grazing units the rest interval between grazing periods was only 2 weeks. When such rotations are applied to spring-summer pastures, each unit of the pasture is grazed 4 to 5 times per year, up to 9 times. This rate of repetitive pasture use does not allow sufficient plant recovery between grazing periods and will not achieve the expected benefits of a rotation in terms of pasture and livestock production. Ideally, each portion (grazing unit) of the pasture should be grazed only once per year, which implies a grazing plan comprising 15-20 units for a combined spring-summer season. Although the PIM recommends that pastures should be protected from spring grazing until 1 April, in most cases the PUU plan showed spring grazing beginning on 1 March. Fodder resources to feed livestock during winter may be a limitation on PUU ability to delay spring grazing. However, subprojects should enable PUUs to increase fodder production. Furthermore, the current rotation plans include rotational use of crop residues in autumn, which is not necessary on cultivated fields at that time of year.

In view of the LPDPII goal to enhance pasture and livestock productivity in a climate-resilient approach, and the important role that pasture rotation plays in achieving this goal, the PMU and pasture specialists should consider revising the LPDPII rotation plans. Some additional training for District Officers and CFs may be required.

Demonstration plots. The project will provide fencing material to establish 1-ha demonstration plots on PUU pastures. Demonstration plots give both the PUU and PMU an indication of the potential forage production obtained with a properly managed pasture rotation. In addition, a demonstration plot maintained for several years will show changes in pasture vegetation when grazing pressure is reduced and rest periods allow for recovery from grazing periods. A carefully designed pasture rotation can be used to optimize sustainable forage production and favour increase in the most palatable and nutritious species.

Landscape improvements: Grazing management to achieve greater ground cover by vegetation and litter will reduce erosion on hill-slopes. Gully erosion should also be reduced in a pasture rotation. However, sometimes gully erosion remains persistent. Gully degradation can be effectively addressed by a combination of grazing management and specific gully rehabilitation techniques. Similarly, afforestation interventions (shade trees and windbreaks in pastures) would have long-lasting benefits to livestock production and ecological diversity that would weaken the adverse impacts of climate change. As a starting point, shade trees could be planted in demonstration plots. These plots should remain fenced until the trees have grown beyond the risk of damage from goats and cattle, and then the demonstration plot can be moved to a new location, freeing the trees for their shading role. A technical note on recommendations for landscape improvements was provided to the PMU by the mission.

Subproject investments: Of 174 CLPMPs, 110 subprojects have been prepared for first-priority investment, of which 73 approved by the PMU. Most of these are for agricultural machinery, of which 33 have been delivered. Seven PUUs in Farkhor and Hamadoni districts identified water-point development as their first priority, an indication of the severity of water-shortage problems in those two districts.

Sub-component 3.2: Income Diversification

A total of 24 Women's Income Generation Groups (WIGGs) had been recently established in four Project districts with 240 members in total, already surpassing the PMU target of 22 groups (220 women). A half of the groups selected rose hip cultivation and processing, while the rest chose milk collection and marketing. Same as LPDPI, the project will provide an initial package to each group, which for rosehip group would include drying and packaging machines and, for cow groups, improved breed of cows and first-year concentrates. The mission visited several such groups, and with members of two in Dangara had detailed discussions. The discussions confirmed that members were selected among the poor households as identified in wealth ranking, and had a good understanding of the support they will receive from the project as well as responsibilities under the project.

The mission recommends the PMU to prepare a detailed plan on the support and monitoring of the milk collection WIGGs, include it in the PIM and sensitise CFs accordingly. The plan should elaborate the contents of technical trainings on: (i) animal husbandry and health (feeding, health, hygiene, etc.); (ii) business development and marketing (including promotion of winter milk); and (iii) operation of milk collection centres (including equipment handling, hygiene, quality control, etc.). The PMU should contact and coordinate with the relevant experts in each area to finalise the training contents, and identify suitable trainers. The technical training on animal husbandry and health must be provided before the delivery of cows, and could coincide with the planned checks of each recipient's readiness, particularly on conditions of the shed. A simple visual material on good cow keeping and milking practices should be prepared as the reference for the members. The Milk Collection WIGG Support Plan should also present the areas of the project support in establishing firm linkages with the milk WIGGs and buyers (dairy companies) for the latter's regular purchase of milk, and provide specific actions of support that the PMU should take. In this regard, the mission also recommends the PMU to continue and deepen dialogues with the companies to fine-tune the project support to their business models and quality requirements.

E. Project implementation

a. Development Effectiveness

Effectiveness and Developmental Focus

Effectiveness

Rating: 5

Previous rating: 4

Justification of rating

The Project has in the season 2017 mobilized 174 i.e. almost all of the PUUs. Comparing with LPDP-I, the project is on track to achieve its main objective in a timely fashion. The project design maintains its validity.

Log-Frame Analysis & Main Issues of Effectiveness

Please refer to chapter on overall progress for issues and constraints related to project implementation.

The implementation in general is on track. The project updates the logframe on an annual not ad hoc basis. This year being the first year of implementation, the logical framework will thus be updated with actual results by end of the year. The project components relate to each other logically as per design. However, actions remain to be undertaken as outlined below to improve effectiveness. The LPDP 2 PMU will be implementing the contemplated School Feeding Support Programme under Russian Federation Supplementary financing for which the design mission was ongoing at the time of the supervision.

Development Focus

Targeting and Outreach

Rating: 5

Previous rating: 4

Justification of rating

The development focus foreseen in design holds, without that the events in the field mandate shift in focus.

Main issues

Pursuant to previous, no main issues.

Gender equality & women's participation

Rating: 4

Justification of rating

It is expected that strong focus on gender under LPDPI will continue during the implementation of LPDP II. Social mobilization addressed gender aspects of the project, and Sub-component 3.2 is understood to benefit women. The project logframe includes the same gender-focused indicators as the LPDPI, and the project M&E tracks the progress. Almost 30% of the board members of the newly created 180 PUUs are women (449 out of 1 502), and three PUUs are headed by a woman. Of the total participants of CLPMP development trainings, 24% were women. The PMU has drafted a gender strategy and plan to finalize it shortly. An assessment of the capacity of PMU staff to implement a gender sensitive approach in all project interventions will be undertaken shortly, and gender studies will be conducted during the project as part of the project M&E to assess impact on gender relations and women's empowerment.

Main issues

The gender strategy needs to be finalised.

Agricultural Productivity

Rating: 5

Previous rating: 4

Justification of rating

The development objective of the project is to increase the nutritional status and incomes of 38 000 poor households by enhancing livestock productivity and climate resilience in a sustainable manner. The project achieves this mainly by mobilizing the PUUs for improved pasture management (achieve sustainable pasture use in the context of increased pasture yield and livestock production, thereby raising the standard of living of rural population), and introducing fodder crops growing (bringing 465 ha into fodder production by engaging a total of 2 255 households).

Adaptation to Climate Change

Rating: 4

Justification of rating

The central pillar of the project – improved pasture management – and it should make a significant contribution to addressing issues of land degradation in the project area, reduction of soil erosion, improvement of biodiversity, and strengthening resilience to drought (based on the experience from the LPDPI). The project is also considering introduction of additional climate change mitigation measures through capacity building and delivery of new technologies (e.g. GPS, remote sensing, etc.), as well as climate change resistant crops.

However, the project should put more efforts in promoting investments and innovative approaches to secure and enhance in the long-term the flow of environmental services from the land base.

Main issues

There is room for improvement in the pasture rotation plans of CLPMPs. A survey of rotation plans for Vose district revealed that rotations generally involved only 4-5 units, each unit grazed for 1 week with a rest period of only 3-4 weeks. In one case of 3 grazing units the rest interval between grazing periods was only 2 weeks. When such rotations are applied to spring-summer pastures, each unit of the pasture is grazed 4 to 5 times per year, up to 9 times. This rate of repetitive pasture use does not allow sufficient plant recovery between grazing periods and will not achieve the expected benefits of a rotation in terms of pasture and livestock production. Ideally, each portion (grazing unit) of the pasture should be grazed only once per year, which implies a grazing plan comprising 15-20 units for a combined spring-summer season. Although the PIM recommends that pastures should be protected from spring grazing until 1 April, in most cases the PUU plan showed spring grazing beginning on 1 March. Fodder resources to feed livestock during winter may be a limitation on PUU ability to delay spring grazing. However, subprojects should enable PUUs to increase fodder production. Furthermore, the current rotation plans include rotational use of crop residues in autumn, which is not necessary on cultivated fields at that time of year. In view of the LPDPII goal to enhance pasture and livestock productivity in a climate-resilient approach, and the important role that pasture rotation plays in achieving this goal, the PMU and pasture specialists should consider revising the LPDPII rotation plans. Some additional training for District Officers and CFs may be required.

b. Sustainability and Scaling up

Institutions and Policy Engagement	Rating: 5	Previous rating: 4
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Justification of rating

In September 2017, a decree of the Minister for Agriculture approved a Charter for the MLT (a state institution). The project was a key player in drafting the Charter and working for its approval. It sets out the responsibilities and potential actions for a de facto "pasture department" within the MOA. The Trust aims to achieve sustainable pasture use in the context of increased pasture yield and livestock production, thereby raising the standard of living of rural population. It covers in more detail than the Law On Pasture specific approaches to pasture use, development, monitoring and training. The Trust is committed to supporting local PUUs as well as dekhani farms. The LPDPII can set a precedent for implementing the provisions of the Charter to achieve climate-resilient sustainable pasture management through regulation, training, development and monitoring. A rating of five is justified.

Main issues

No main issues at this stage of the project.

Partnership-building	Rating: 4
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Justification of rating

partnership with service providers such as private vets is proceeding well on the basis of

Human and Social Capital and Empowerment	Rating: 5	Previous rating: 4
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Justification of rating

The project replicates the LPDPI's successful model of institutionalizing participatory pasture management through the creation of democratically governed and participatory operated PUUs, thus is expected to expand the number of empowered pasture user communities. The project will continue the same effort as undertaken by LPDPI on access to pasture lands by enabling PUUs to obtain land certificates, which will provide long-term tenure security, and result in socio-economic empowerment of smallholder pasture users. Income generation activities under Sub-component 3.2 are specifically designed to address women's economic empowerment, and the WIGG members are expected to receive capacity building supports and continuous mentoring by the project.

Main issues

No issue at this stage.

Quality of Beneficiary Participation	Rating: 5	Previous rating: 4
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Justification of rating

he project maintains the same attention as the previous one on the quality of community mobilization and informed participation of the beneficiaries. The PIM is comprehensive and provides detailed actions to be taken and criteria to be followed in order to ensure the informed participation of Project target groups. Field discussions and observations, as well as information from the PMU suggest that community mobilization processes were undertaken successfully with strong participation of community members, both men and women, covering both financial and in-kind contribution to rehabilitation and maintenance of infrastructure.

Responsiveness of Service Providers**Rating: 4****Justification of rating**

Selected service providers (two NGOs) had a good track record in the LPDPI and understand the project approach and principles on inclusion and participation, especially those of the poor and women. The other services have been generally of good quality, and delivered on time and within the budget.

Main issues

Vet service providers (private vets) need further training for higher cost efficiency of services

Environment and Natural Resource Management**Rating: 5****Previous rating: 4****Justification of rating**

The project is expected to generate positive impact thanks to improvement in pasture rehabilitation/maintenance, grassland productivity, livestock productivity and the overall policy and institutional arrangements responsible for NRM in Tajikistan particularly of pastures. In order to ensure that there is no negative impact from the livestock development activities of the project, environment monitoring indicators are made a key part of the reporting system in the M&E system and to be monitored on a regular basis.

Main issues

No main issues

Exit Strategy**Rating: 4****Justification of rating**

Strong foundation for sustainability and smooth exit strategy

Main issues

Discussion of sustainability within the project is strong. The project PIM outlines main aspects of sustainability and exit strategy, which are based on financial profitability and effectiveness of the PUUs, project activities, as well as upstream and downstream policy, regulatory and institutional arrangements that would continue to work after the project end. The project focuses on 'developing sustainable livelihood arrangements for smallholder farmers, investing in capacity development of the private sector and emphasizing the importance of an effective policy and regulatory framework for pasture resources in Tajikistan. Delivery thus far is of high quality and timely.

Potential for Scaling-up**Rating: 5****Previous rating: 4****Justification of rating**

Based on the experience of the LPDPI, the project has significant potential for scaling up and the PMU is already putting together a scaling-up strategy for the future. It requires mobilization of resources, coordination with other stakeholders and development partners, including national public organizations (specifically the Pasture Meliorative Trust), private agencies, existing donors. PUUs are being trained and encouraged to mobilize resources from outside of the project, which is extremely important for possible scaling up their operations at the community level.

Main issues

No main issues at this stage

c. Project Management**Quality of Project Management****Rating: 5****Justification of rating**

All envisaged by the design elements are in place, The PMU Director takes responsibilities including but not limited to project management, financial management, accounting, etc. The planning, budgeting and reporting process follows the established system of implementing IFAD projects in the country, including the preparation of Annual Work Plan and Budgets (AWPBs). In accordance with conditions of the Financing Agreement, the Project Steering Committee (PSC) meets on a regular basis (together for the LPDPI). The Deputy Minister of Agriculture (on livestock) has been elected as chairman of the PSC. The PSC includes representatives of the Ministry of Finance, the State Committee on Investments and State Property Management, the Tajik Agricultural Sciences Academy, the State Committee for Women and Family Affairs and the representatives of communities and the private sector. Overall, the Community

Facilitators, national and international consultants and other project partners have performed in a satisfactory manner.

Main issues

No major issues at this stage

Knowledge Management

Rating: 4

Justification of rating

too early but project adopting same KM of LPDP-I

Main issues

No issue

Value for Money

Rating: 5

Justification of rating

Project implementation progress on track.

Main issues

No major issues

Coherence between AWPB and Implementation

Rating: 4

Justification of rating

The PMU submitted the AWPB for the fiscal year 2017 on 31 October 2016, for IFAD no objection. Then, during 2017 the PMU submitted revised procurement plan for IFAD no objection, but it didn't change the AWPB accordingly and did not ask for IFAD no objection for the revised AWPB. So the potential disbursements of the FY 2017 exceed the allocated amount.

AWPB Inputs and Outputs Review and Implementation Progress

Commitments. The total amount of commitments (signed contracts) as of September 30, 2017 is USD 5.434 million, financed by IFAD loan (USD 1.528 million), IFAD grant (USD 1.263 million), ASAP grant (USD 1.503), Government (USD 0.773 million) and beneficiaries (USD 0.367 million). The commitments represent 22% of the total project cost.

Actual expenditures. The total amount of actual expenditures as of September 30, 2017 is low. It is USD 0.615 million, financed by IFAD grant (USD 0.493 million), ASAP grant (USD 0.121) and Government (USD 0.001 million). It represents 2.5% of the total funds allocated for the project and 11% of the total commitments.

Actual expenditures on AWPB 2017. The total amount of the actual expenditures, including the beneficiaries' contributions, against 2017 AWPB as of September 30, 2017 is equal to USD 0.459 million which represents 16% of the total planned amount (USD 2.846 million). However, the commitments are USD 4.845 million and represent 170% of the AWPB 2017. The mission recommends submitting a revised AWPB for the FY 2017 to IFAD for no objection.

Performance of M&E System

Rating: 4

Justification of rating

The project maintains a detailed output geo-referenced dashboard that outlines the infrastructure and machinery and equipment benefiting each village. On the outcome level, the project is has developed a comprehensive M&E plan that sets out an outline for M&E as well as detailed instructions to stakeholders. To monitor key outcomes, the project is finalising protocols for periodical data collection of key survey data for management use. The PMU should select an electronic data collection platform for data collection, and launch data collection for the first surveys for livestock weight in early November. In view of the fact that such platform will comprise most outcome level data in an organised, accessible and transparent fashion, there is no need to develop a dedicated Access based MIS for LPDP II.

M&E System Review

As noted above, the project maintains a detailed output geo-referenced dashboard that outlines the infrastructure and machinery and equipment benefiting each village. On the outcome level, the project is has developed a comprehensive M&E plan that sets out an outline for M&E as well as detailed instructions to stakeholders. To monitor key outcomes, the project is finalising protocols for periodical data collection of key survey data for management use. The PMU should select an electronic data collection platform for data collection, and launch data collection for the first surveys for livestock weight in early November. In view of the fact that such platform will comprise most outcome level data in an organised, accessible and transparent fashion, there is no need to develop a dedicated Access based MIS for LPDP II.

On the baseline, the project is expecting the outcome of the IFAD led impact evaluation (IIE) to be used in the PCR process for the LPDPI. However, the IIE has met with delay due to lacking permission to conduct interviews in the field. The mission recommends that the PMU wait for clarity in whether the IIE can go ahead until March. If at that point there is doubt that IIE will be finalised in time for baseline, the PMU should proceed and select a company for baseline survey. As an exception to the aforementioned, data on livestock weight for LPDPII baseline needs to be collected in November 2017. The mission recommends that the PMU consider the following options for conducting the survey: i) use the electronic platform outcome survey for this purpose; ii) hire a company on the basis of SSS.

Requirements of Social, Environmental and Climate Assessment Procedures (SECAP)

Rating: 4

Justification of rating

Too early at this stage but project is benefitting from environmental consideration within LPDP-I

d. Financial Management & Execution

Disbursement by financier

Type	Name	Current Amount	Disbursed Amount	Actual Rate
Domestic Financing breakdown	Beneficiaries	\$1,348,000		
	National Government	\$446,000		

Acceptable Disbursement Rate

Rating: 3

Previous rating: 2

Justification of rating

Disbursement (Moderately Unsatisfactory, 3). As of 30 September 2017, the total disbursements on the loan and grants are SDR 0.944 million (USD 1.280 million), and represent 5.9% of total loan and grants allocated for the project. The payments by donor are as follows: IFAD grant: SDR 0.502 million (8.09%); IFAD loan: SDR 0.221 million (3.57%) and ASAP grant SDR 0.221 million (6.14%).

Main issues

The disbursement will pick up with the implementation of subprojects through grant cost-sharing financing between project and PUUs

Fiduciary Aspects

Quality of Financial Management

Rating: 5

Justification of rating

A Financial Management (FM) assessment was conducted to review the adequacy of the arrangements in place for the project. The assessment also included an SOE review. The Government will be responsible for the financial management of the project and for coordinating all financial reports, through the PMU. The FM-unit of the PMU is responsible for budgeting, accounting, maintaining internal controls, preparation of withdrawal applications, and execution of payments, financial reporting and ensuring compliance with external audit requirements. Based on the FM supervision, the FM rating of the overall project is Satisfactory (5).

Main issues

AWPB needs to be revised; and cross financing should be avoided. Also the reports of the AC and the AFCFC need to be shared with the PMU and IFAD.

Quality and Timeliness of Audit

Rating: 5

Previous rating: 4

Justification of rating

Audit (Satisfactory, 5). As the first advance of the project was received from IFAD only on November 28, 2016 and a few transactions were carried out, IFAD accepts that audit of the fiscal year 2016 could be waived for this year and combined with the fiscal year 2017. Approval of the audit TORs for the LPDPII was a condition for the second withdrawal and it was fulfilled at that time.

Main issues

See above

Counterparts Funds

Rating: 5

Justification of rating

Contributions from the government are provided in taxes and duties exemption. The commitments as of 30 September 2017 are USD 0.773 million, compare to USD 0.447 million corresponding to the counterpart contribution for the entire project.

Main issues

Na issues

Compliance with Loan Covenants

Rating: 5

Justification of rating

The project has complied with the loan covenants. The details with regards to the status of implementation and compliance with Project Financing Agreement covenants are presented in Supervision Report.

Main issues

No issue at this stage

Procurement

Procurement

Rating: 5

Justification of rating

Procurement is satisfactory. Overall performance indicates timeliness and alignment with IFAD procurement rules. See below procurement review for more details on justification for the rating.

Procurement Review

Overall, the performance of procurement is considered Satisfactory (5).

Background. Procurement activities are implemented by the PMU Procurement Unit, which prepares annual procurement plans and submits it to IFAD's approval as an integral part of AWPBs. Since October 2016 and until October 2017, the PMU concluded a total 45 contracts totalling to USD 4 841 789, including 16 contracts for procurement of goods amounting to USD 4 044 241, 3 contracts for procurement of civil works with a total sum of USD 42 828 and 26 contracts for consulting services for a total sum of USD 754 720. It is expected that all the remaining contracts will be signed prior to the end of this year.

There is an adequate procurement potential. The Procurement Unit comprises of the Senior Procurement Officer and the Procurement Consultant, who have sufficient proficiency and knowledge in procurement procedures of the WB and IFAD, as well as Assistant Procurement Officer. It is recommended to continue improving the knowledge in various training courses, including ITC ILO (Turin) in order to strengthen the procurement capacity.

General Procurement Notification (GPN) was published on the UNDB website on 08 June 2017. The used Procurement Plan meets the requirements. It is noted that ID numbers of some packages in PP have differences with the procurements held; several lots of one package are stated as a separate procurements; The difference of some purchases with LTR (thresholds and IFAD review procedures). The Project Procurement Manual (PPM) is used in the project activity taking into account all recommendations. In order to improve efficiency and assist in the project activities, it has considered the possibility of making amendments to the Letter to the Recipient (procurement thresholds, inclusion of the additional methods (LIB, SSS, DC), preliminary review terms) in accordance with PPM.

The file system and document registration system are organized satisfactory; the main documents are available and classified accordingly on the shelves, except for the report of acceptance of goods and works on some procurement. The database of eligible companies is available. The recommendations were provided on improving the documentation system and active use of database to save time in procurement.

The mission reviewed in detail the procedure for the conduct of tender process and related documents for the major part of the bids held. The findings for all reviewed purchases are of the same nature. No violations were found. As for goods and works, in particular it is noted that the used practice of drawing up short lists of suppliers of goods prepared on the basis of advertisements of expression of interests could be excluded due to lack of necessity. Application of the IFAD's prior review procedures, instead post review as specified in PP. Procurement of miscellaneous goods is in a package without dividing by lots. There are differences between the tender documentation and advertisement issue date(s). With reference to the consulting services it is noted that there are no some necessary items in the TORs formats as required by IFAD (Client's input, Institutional arrangement). The measures necessary to address the issues have been discussed with the procurement staff.

F. Relevance

Relevance	Rating: 5
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Justification of rating

Project activities are demand driven fully responding to the priotities of teh pasturelands users and PUUs

Main issues

No main issue at this stage

G. Lessons Learned

Importatnce of capacity building of all palyeers

(v) Without an intensive hand-holding support to improve the group members' capacity to address regulatory requirements on product safety standards and quality, as well as to establish a sustainable partnership with buyers, WIGGs' processing of dairy products for the market, as a business, poses a major challenge. On the other hand, the Project support for refrigerators enabled women to actively engage in milk collection and sales at local markets, which brought continuous cash income flows to the members and also benefited other women in the village who had previously lacked an easily accessible outlet to sell surplus milk.

Participatory pasturelands management

The approach of giving PUUs freedom to identify priorities for investment brings a disproportionately large portion of that investment to be in the form of machinery and infrastructure. In order for the sub-projects' investments to be more balanced between the "hard" (machinery, infrastructure) and the "soft" (agro-forestry, water harvesting, erosion control, etc.), active promotion of the latter is needed.

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(ii) The involvement of private veterinarians in service delivery at village level through contractual arrangements is effective and should be disseminated as a model for other types of services whereby the stakeholders' responsibilities and rights are clearly defined. However, attention needs to be paid to involving the village society, particularly its representative body (PUU), for the monitoring of the activities.

Importance of cross breeding for improvement of quality and quality

(iv) Successful experience in improving the breed of sheep flock by using pure breed Gissar rams can be replicated for goat flocks, using pedigreed billy-goats.

Importance of Vegterinary services

(iii) While the Project-built clinics equipped with instruments and medicine provided obvious benefits to the villagers, a flexible arrangement in which each village independently decides a suitable form of support may be preferable in order to optimise the investment according to the specific contexts. In addition to building a clinic, other forms of veterinary services include payment for the veterinarian's transportation cost for his/her visits, and establishment of a common fund to purchase vaccines.

Livestock and Pasture Development Project II

Logical Framework

Results Hierarchy	Indicators							Means of verification			Assumptions
	Name	Baseline	Mid-Term	End Target	Annual Result	Cumulative Result	Cumulative Result %	Source	Frequency	Responsibility	
Outreach	1.b Estimated corresponding total number of households members										
	Household members										
	1.a Corresponding number of households reached										
	Non-women-headed households			38000							
	Women-headed households										
	1 Persons receiving services promoted or supported by the project										
	Indigenous people										
	Males			122094							
	Not Young										
	Non-Indigenous people										
	Young										
	Females			117306							

Goal Project Goal: Contribute to the reduction of poverty in Khatlonr region (50% of people in Khatlon are estimated as being below the poverty line)	reduction in the prevalence of chronic malnutrition (stunting)									A sound use of climate change vulnerability assessment informs and drives adaptation work; risk mitigation management plans are implemented by targeted communities; elite capture of a disproportionate amount of the gains from increased production and local level conversion of animal, milk and meat surpluses sold on the market and the processors (R). A political stability and conducive macro economic framework; Commitment and cooperation among all concerned institutional partners; influence of overall economic development concealing project achievements (R);
	Height for age (boys)	40		3						
	Weight for age (boys)	40		3						
	Weight for age (girls)	40		3						
	Height for age (girls)	40		3						
	variation/increase in household assets income for 18 000 household in the project area									
	increase in household assets income			15						

Objective Development Objective: Increase the nutritional status, incomes and resilience of poor households by enhancing livestock productivity in a sustainable manner	average HH income increase from livestock									A sound use of climate change vulnerability assessment informs and drives adaptation work; Risk mitigation management plans are implemented by targeted communities; Elite capture of a disproportionate amount of the gains from increased production and local level conversion of animal, milk and meat surpluses sold on the market and the processors (R). A sound use of climate change vulnerability assesement informs and drives adpatation work; Risk mitigation management plans are implemented by targeted communities; Elite capture of a disproportionate amount of the gains from increased production and local level conversion of animal, milk and meat surpluses sold on the market and the processors (R).
	Income increase in TJS									
	number of targeted HH reporting in creased income from livestock									
	Targeted households									
	number poor smallholder households whose climate resilience has been increased						Baseline, Mid Term and Impact Survey, Financial Records of project Enterprise groups, qualitative studies			
	Households			38000						

Outcome Outcome 1: Targeted public sector and community organisations (disaggregated by type, i.e. PUUs, Vos, MoA, Pasture Department, TAU, Jamoats) are more effective and efficient at pro-poor pasture management	% of PPUs declaring satisfactory levels of governance									Favourable government policies and cross-sectoral cooperation between state, region and district authorities; Interest and motivation among community members, Lack of capacity in government agencies and communities to effectively participate in project activities and transmit information and know how.	
	PPUs			75							
	number of targeted institutions reporting an increase in technical capacity						"Project M&E records, progress reports, specific public records, policy documents, laws, strategies "				
	Number of institutions										
	Number of public institutions assisted/receiving training										
	Public Institutions										
Output Output 1.1 PUU are enabled to develop and implement climate risk-mitigation community pasture plans incorporating needs and priorities of poor and women 180 of land use rights agreements obtained by PUUs that reduce disputes regarding access to pastures by 50%;	3.1.1 Groups supported to sustainably manage natural resources and climate-related risks							Quarterly			
	Groups supported			180							
	Females										
	Males										
	Women in leadership position										
	Total size of groups										
	% of the PPUs Board with at least 30% women representation										
	PPUs Boards			22.5							
	2.1.3 Rural producers' organizations supported										
	Young										
	Not Young										
	Total size of POs										
	Males										

	Women in leadership position												
	Females												
	Rural POs supported			52									
	Indigenous people												
	Non-Indigenous people												
	2.1.4 Supported rural producers that are members of a rural producers' organization												
	Non-Indigenous people												
	Women in leadership position												
	Young												
	Females												
	Indigenous people												
	Males												
	Not Young												
	Number of land use rights agreements obtained by PUUs												
	Land Titles												
Output Output 1.3 Increase in pasture fees collected by the end of the project	% variation in pasture fees amount												
	Variation (increase)			20									
Output Output 1.2 PUUs acquired planning and technical skills to implement sustainable pasture management and livestock production;	% of PPUs members benefitting of training/study tours (women 30%)												
	% of PPU members			75									
	Number of trainings												

	Number of trainings held										
Output Output 1.4 Public institutions involved in pasture management are strengthened (PUUs, VOs, MoA, Pasture Department, TAU, Jamoats)	Number of public institutions assisted/receiving training										
	Public Institutions										
Output Output 1.5 Improved Pasture Law and related legislation proposed/passed;	Improved Pasture Law and related legislation passed										
	Pasture Law approved										
Output Output 1.6 Sustainable Pasture Management curriculum is taught in Tajik Agrarian University.	Number of curriculum taught in Tajik Agrarian University										
	Sustainable Pasture mgt curriculum taught										
Outcome Outcome 2: Healthier livestock with lower levels of mortality and increased supplementary feed available to community livestock	Number of livestock households reporting reduction in animal mortality							"Baseline, mid-term, completion surveys, project M&E records, progress reports "			
	Livestock Households										
	15% increase in average milk yields							"Baseline, mid-term, completion surveys, project M&E records, progress reports "			
	Milk Ltrs	3.2									
	10% increase in average weight of cattle, sheep goats										
	Cattle	0.091		0.1							
	10% increase in average weight of cattel, sheep, goats sold in local markets										
	Sheep	0.047		0.051							
	10% increase in average weight of cattle, sheep, goats sold in local markets										
	Goats	0.045		0.049							

Output Output 2.1 Capacity for sustainable and efficient livestock production built.	number of beneficiary HH trained in improved livestock husbandry practices						CF/TA Reports Progress Reports Veterinarians logbooks Annual Reports Case studies			Communities willing to participate in the project activities; Govt support is favourable	
	Households			5000							
	1.1.3 Rural producers accessing production inputs and/or technological packages						CF/TA Reports Progress Reports Veterinarians logbooks Annual Reports Case studies CF/TA Reports Progress Reports Veterinarians logbooks Annual Reports Case studies				
	Females			1470							
	Males			1530							
	1.2.2 Households reporting adoption of new/improved inputs, technologies or practices						CF/TA Reports Progress Reports Veterinarians logbooks Annual Reports Case studies				
	Households			3000							
	Number of business plans prepared and which received financing										
	Business Plans										

Output Output 2.2 Private vets provide animal health and production services on a sustainable basis	Number of veterinarians trained and equipped						CF/TA Reports Progress Reports Veterinarians logbooks Annual Reports Case studies			Communities willing to participate in the project activities; Govt support is favourable.	
	Females			30							
	Males			30							
Outcome Outcome 3: Household resilience increase through sustainable use of pastures and income diversification	% income increase of beneficiaries households from alternative income activities (ASAP)						"Baseline, mid-term, completion surveys, Project M&E records, progress reports "				
	Income increase			20							
	ha of accessible pasture managed in a more climate resilient manner						"Baseline, mid-term, completion surveys, Project M&E records, progress reports "				
	Hectares of land			95000							
Output Output 3.1: Resilient and sustainable investments prioritized in CLPMPs completed and functioning.	number of PPUs implementing CLMP plans						"Baseline, mid-term, completion surveys, Project M&E records, progress reports "			Communities willing to participate in the project activities; Govt support is favourable	
	Number of plans implemented			180							
	Number of subprojects approved/financed? of PPUs (by priorities, first, second and set)										
	Number of sub-projects			180							
	Number of approved CLMP in the Project areas (includingLPDPI's PUUs) effectively integrating climate risk mitigation and adaptation measures (ASAP)										
	# of approved CLPMP			180							

	Number of HH with access to infrastructure that is climate resilient & environ sound									
	Households			18000						
	3.1.4 Land brought under climate-resilient practices									
	Hectares of land			7560						
Output Output 3.2 Alternative income generating activities supported to enhance risk coping mechanisms	2.1.3 Rural producers' organizations supported									Communities willing to participate in the project activities; Govt support is favourable
	Young									
	Not Young									
	Total size of POs									
	Males									
	Women in leadership position									
	Females									
	Rural POs supported			100						
	Indigenous people									
	Non-Indigenous people									
	Number of grants disbursed to new enterprises established									
	Number of grants			100						