



Project: Poverty Alleviation by Mitigation of Integrated high mountain Risk

May, June, July  
2013 (1)

“PAMIR”

## Information bulletin # 10

### Hilfswerk Austria International (HWA) in Tajikistan

The **third Regional Steering Committee (RSC)** meeting was held on the 17-18th of May in Dushanbe. The main aim of the meeting was to review all project activities from November 2012 to April 2013 and to give feedback and recommendation on improving the project implementation. In total, 23 people participated including all partners and RSC members from Afghanistan, Austria, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. During the meeting, the findings on high-mountain hazard and risk assessment, sustainable land use management study and Hazard and Social Vulnerability Risk assessments (HSVRA) were discussed in details. Furthermore, forthcoming regional conference, round tables and workshops were also screened and scheduled.



RSC meeting participants, Dushanbe, Tajikistan 2013

An excursion was organized to the Varzob forest management unit (Ieshoz) on 18th of May by the Committee for Environmental Protection of Tajikistan with aiming to introduce to the Tajik forestry/ nursery system. During the excursion the RSC meeting participants had a chance to see all forest/ fruit tree nurseries, which were implemented in cooperation with the forest management unit and the farmers.



During the excursion in Varzob forest management unit, Tajikistan 2013

**Dr. Gulnaz Jalilova**, an international project coordinator presented the project findings on “Poverty Alleviation by Mitigation of Integrated high mountain Risk- challenges and strengthes” at the conference on “Biodiversity in a changing world”, which was held between 22-26<sup>th</sup> of July in Montreal, Canada.

The **fourth PAMIR project monitoring mission** to Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Kyrgyzstan was organized from 10 to 24 June 2013 and hosted by the project international coordinator, Dr. Gulnaz Jalilova. The main goal of the trip was to screen the on-going project activities and implemented afforestation demo-plots by the project partners. The series of discussions were organized during the trip. In addition, various meetings were held involving local people/partners who are directly involved in establishing the demo-plots in all countires. In general, the project activities were evaluated as effective since the planned results were achieved.



Meeting with local stakeholders in Wakhan, Afghanistan 2013

**Mr. Keshava Prasad** from Nepal is conducting his three months traineeship at HWA in Dushanbe. He states about his impression:

*“I am really happy. I got an opportunity to see beautiful landscape and learn about socio-economy and forestry practices in Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Kyrgyzstan, especially in Pamir regions- ‘Roof of the World’. First, I was excited to visit the countries for the reason that this is my first international travel. Second, I observed an inspiring example from Afghan’s Wakhan district where people are planting forest tree species on sand, proving that ‘willingness is everything’. In fact, what I learned from this visit is that “management, willingness and labor matter in life”. Finally I extend Nepalese love to the people and HWA International, particularly PAMIR team for friendly behavior throughout my time in Dushanbe and remarkable field trip”.*



Field trip to Pamir

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### Natural Resources Management Unit of the Aga-Khan Foundation (NRM, AKF) in Afghanistan

For implementation of the project demo-plots, the NRM-AKF was selected as implementing partner because it had been engaged in similar kind of activities and has strong working relations with the target communities in the border districts. In this regard an agreement was signed between NRM-AKF, HWA and FOCUS Afghanistan in August 2012. Major planned activities of the project were successfully implemented and demonstrated in four districts in Badakhshan. The NRM/AKF develops forestry program with local communities and this new initiative was well received by all of them. Total of 11,200 forest trees, 5,000 indigenous fruit trees were planted in all four forestry demonstration sites in Wakhan, Zebook and Shughnan districts and 60 kg Alfalfa seeds (Wakhsh 300) were intercropped in all sites. The area of each site is approximately one hectare.



Tree plantation in Wakhan, Afghanistan, 2013

Field reports reveal that the survival of the plantation is over 80% and alfalfa seeds germinated and growing successfully. This was a joint initiative and partnership between AKF NRM department and community CDCs/Shuras where the role and responsibilities of each partner were clearly defined and agreed before interventions. The joint project contributed in procurement of planting materials, seeds of Alfalfa, fertilizers and necessary tools. The community contributions are included the labor, supply of local planting materials, fencing, irrigation and maintenance and sustainable management of the sites.



Tree plantation in Shughnan village, Afghanistan, 2013

Climatic condition of Badakhshan is quite conducive for deciduous fruit production. There are high demands of fruits in local, national and international markets. Despite intensive efforts over the years to promote horticulture in Badakhshan by various NGOs and development players the demand of farmers has not been met so far. Annually AKF alone plants over 300 orchards in Badakhshan and over 100s orchards are now in production stage. However, fruits especially apples are still imported to Badakhshan markets from other provinces of Afghanistan and China.

Four fruit nurseries were established in Chorbagh and Khavad Villages of Mai Mai district and two in Regi Boshva and Zigar villages of Nusai district under the framework of this joint project. Each nursery size is about 2000 square meters. The objective of these nurseries are to support farmers to have access to quality fruit plants and to build the capacity of local communities on fruit plants raising.



Fruit nurseries in Chorbagh and Zigar villages, Afghanistan, 2013

In all four fruit nurseries high quality and marketable fruit plants and rootstock were planted. The rootstock included 600 B9, 400 M9, 400 M111, 600 M25 sorts of apple rootstocks. Besides, these rootstocks 400 rootstock of Cherry were also planted. Moreover, considering the demand of the local farmer's walnuts, peach and apricot seeds were also sown in these nurseries. The nursery owners/service providers were selected in consultation with Shuras and they were provided with basic trainings and necessary tools. All the nurseries are well established and the survival of the plants remains over 95%.



Fruit nursery in Regi Boshva village, Afghanistan, 2013

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### Focus Humanitarian Assistance (FOCUS) in Afghanistan/Tajikistan

**FOCUS Afghanistan** completed the Hazard and Social Vulnerability Risk Assessments (HSVRA) in remaining seven villages of Darwaz district. The assessment in each village was conducted according to the plan. Since Afghanistan is located in areas hard-for-access and has security challenges, it was difficult at times for the team to access all the villages. The team used a vehicle to drive to some villages, but they also had to use donkeys and go by foot to some parts. The assessment was carried out together with community members. The PAMIR team is currently finalizing the HSVRA reports including mitigation proposals.



During the HSVRA survey, Afghanistan, 2013

**FOCUS Tajikistan** also completed the HSVRA assessment in remaining six villages of Ishkashim district. All HSVRA reports have been completed. “One day” workshops for 23 villages are planned to be conducted during the next three months. Furthermore, recent graduates/interns joined the team starting from February 2013. They have been involved in studying the HSVRA process through presentations, discussions and constant interaction with project geologist and GIS specialist. The internship lasted for four months and greatly contributed to the professional and carrier development of the interns. “It was a tremendous experience working with experienced geologists at FOCUS and learn fundamental skills and approach of conducting geological assessment in mountainous terrain” –highlighted Jasur and Farzona, the interns, at the end of the internship period. FOCUS Tajikistan also conducted monitoring visit to Chon Alai district of Kyrgyzstan. During the visit project final deliverables were discussed and target communities were visited.



During the HSVRA survey, Tajikistan, 2013

### Mountain Societies Development Support Program in Kyrgyzstan (MSDSP KG)

**The 14<sup>th</sup> meeting** of the National Technical Scientific Council (NTSC) was held in Bishkek on 12 July 2013. The representatives from the Ministries, Research Institutes, NGO and MSDSP KG were participated in the meeting as the members of the NTSC. During the meeting, Mr. Umaraliev Abdurasul, a project team leader presented the PAMIR project findings on the Hazard and Social Vulnerability Risk Assessment (HSVRA) in Alay and Chon-Alay districts. The NSTC members showed the great interest in on-going PAMIR project activities.



During the NTSC meeting, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan 2013

Furthermore, all members discussed a number of issues on implementation of a unified system of assessment of damage, loss and needs in order to mitigate the possible emergency situations, which are being developed at the level of the Ministry of Emergency Situations. At the end of the meeting, it was concluded to distribute the minutes of discussion of the meeting with incorporating the feedback, suggestion and recommendation of the NTSC members.

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