



An International Center
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Success Story

Entrepreneurial Spirit Bears Fruits for Kyrgyz Agribusinessman

The experience of Kyrgyz entrepreneur Hamidullo Hashimovich Dehkanbaev can be translated into the overall success of the 2-year pilot program IFDC is conducting in Kyrgyzstan. Dehkanbaev, a member of the IFDC-supported Association of agribusinessmen of Kyrgyzstan (AAK), purchased a motorized back-pack sprayer for crop protection products (CPPs) through the trade association. The technology was introduced at a safety demonstration for CPPs, which are included in the new technologies that IFDC is introducing to local farmers. The purchase of the apparatus was quite a big investment for Dehkanbaev, who could only hope for a quick return. If successful, his willingness to take a calculated risk could set a positive example for many other agricultural businessmen in the country, which was formerly part of the Soviet Union. The IFDC project, which is promoting an entrepreneurial spirit, is being funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

Dehkanbaev started using the machine to apply CPPs on his rice fields at the Somi-Karimov Seed Farm in Uzgen. Rice, a staple food in the area, is very difficult to treat with CPPs because rice paddies are submerged in water during the growth process. However, his investment proved to be a success. He not only successfully treated his rice field by using the machine. One month after purchasing the sprayer, he had a waiting list of clients who wanted him to treat their fields. He quickly discovered that he would be able to completely pay for the apparatus within 2 months. This impressed other entrepreneurs, who are following his example and are thereby investing in Kyrgyzstan's agricultural future.

“This is just one example of how IFDC's 2-year pilot project is making an impacting on the country,” says Chan Sieben, Chief of Party, IFDC/Kyrgyzstan. “The main goal of the project is to increase agricultural productivity through encouraging and supporting agricultural private sector enterprises.”

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) selected IFDC to implement changes like these in the Ferghana Valley. The project is breathing new life into the country's agricultural sector through the introduction of appropriate technologies, investing in marketing efforts and input supplies, and providing strong support for the young trade association. IFDC assists association members in obtaining credits, marketing their products, managing their businesses, and expanding their enterprises. The project is modeled after a similar and enormously successful project conducted by IFDC in Albania.

Many success stories similar to Dehkanbaev's can be found in Kyrgyzstan. These developments and the creation of the AAK, with an ever-increasing membership, provide a sound basis for the second year of the project and for further development initiatives. The challenge during the second phase of the project will be to increase even further local support for the AAK and to help change the delivery system for agricultural input products. This would result in improved productivity and profitability for Kyrgyzstan's agriculture. For farmers, agricultural businessmen like Dehkanbaev, and the general public, the results will be a reduction in rural poverty and an increase in the region's social stability. IFDC is striving to help Kyrgyzstan realize these goals.

