

Presentation title – First steps in mastery of organic produce production in Tajikistan.

Summary

PO “Saodat” within many years realizes food security programs in rural settlements of Northern Tajikistan, in particular for rural women and their families. During the many years of experience working in the rural areas of Northern Tajikistan, “Saodat” has identified the following compelling issues that obstruct the economic, political, social and cultural development of rural women and their families:

1. Negative effects of chemical use
2. Deteriorated farming equipment and irrigation systems
3. Position of women.

In previous projects “Saodat” was engaged mainly with provision of food security through distribution of seeds, fuel and chemical fertilizers (saltpeter) to women out of vulnerable families.

Long run intensive use of chemicals (like fertilizers, weed-killers and pesticides) in agriculture brings a multitude of negative effects for today. In the course time appeared the following problems:

- Reduce of yield productivity at places;
- Dependence from chemical industry;
- Disturbance of soil and bio-diversity and exhaustion of the soil, leading to poor soil quality and reduced agricultural produce;
- Farmers face health risks from heightened use of pesticides for productivity.
- Necessity of use the intensive technology;
- Necessity of technical equipping of farms;

Today economic difficulties unintentionally made prerequisites for transition to introduction of safe technologies and adopt practice of Biological Farming Association “Elkana”. Over 2 years (2007, 2008) PO “Saodat” staff were trained to methods of organic farming, and for the time being is eager to transform new gained methodologies to its target groups and spread the newly gained knowledge of the concept of bio-farming among representatives of women TG at 10 Dekhkan Farms (on the project Durandesh P-6265).

Soil fertility rehabilitation is the interest of the organization for perspective, through application of composts at places, preparation biological preparations 500 and use of biological methods of pest control. In the first stage, the organic farming model is developed in the demo plot; greenhouses are constructed under brunches of PO Saodat in 2 target regions. The given models give the opportunity of determining main parameters of organic production development for current and perspective planning of activity on the project of PO Saodat, allows revealing of more reasonable ways of resources usage and opportunity of increase the organic produce production volume.

The structure of sown area per each of 10 D/F as well as at 1 ha under organic farming is set taking into account the planning of sowing according the crop rotation, terms and norms of sowings on production of organic produce.

At the same time PO Sadat’s concern is the issue of limited access to water and highlights it as one of the main problems for decision. In particular is revealed, that in D/F where

- Unusability of irrigation system makes (28, 8%)
- lack of irrigation system– (24%)
- farness of water source – 23,3%
- inadequate water for irrigating in 12,5% of dehkan farms.

The proper and efficient use of water resources is one of the measures of organic farming introduction in target D/F of Ganchi and Spitamen, through use of series of water saving methods of farming:

- mulching;
- efficient water distribution system (EWDS);
- drip irrigation system(DIS).

Moreover, after conducting series of trainings on “Basis of drip irrigation” in D/F-s, they start to use available methods of irrigation though watering by “wick”, with use of plastic bottles and also preparatory arrangements are conducted on installation of more perfect methods of irrigation (EWDS,DIS).

In the frames of project is supposed:

- ✦ Aprobation of organic farming methods in the conditions of Tajikistan;
- ✦ Formation of standard of bio-produce and rendering extension/consultative services on organic farming;

This will promote to development of organic farming in Tajikistan, as well as improve the social-economic conditions of bio-farmers, allowing them to receive extra income through realization of organic produce.