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GEFF TAJIKISTAN
NEWSLETTER

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WELCOME TO THE 9th ISSUE OF THE GEFF TAJIKISTAN NEWSLETTER

As 2021 comes to an end, we would like first to thank our [GEFF Tajikistan](#) stakeholders and partners for your unwavering support throughout the second year of the Covid-19 pandemic. It has given us strong motivation to continue our activities amidst mobility restrictions and social distancing measures. In this issue, we will do a review of GEFF Tajikistan's key highlights for 2021.

In particular, the key highlights include:

- In 2021, the GEFF Tajikistan credit line was re-activated with Bank Eskhata, IMON INTERNATIONAL and Bank Arvand joining the program as Partner Financial Institutions (PFIs) with full country coverage. In particular, Bank Arvand has enabled GEFF Tajikistan to expand its geographical coverage to the GornoBadakhshan Autonomous Region (GBAO) region. This provided potential sub-borrowers with the necessary finance to invest in innovative green technologies. We focused on capacity building efforts of loan officers and managers at the PFIs, training more than 1200 participants.
- The [GEFF Tajikistan Radio Interview Series](#) launched in partnership with Radio Vatan since 2020 has become a po-

pular program for the rural communities. Radio Vatan had officially recognized the contributions of GEFF Tajikistan in reaching out to the rural communities and building awareness of green technologies.

- The market awareness of the [Green Technology Selector \(GTS\)](#) in Tajikistan has been enhanced, with more than 1,864 products and 169 registered local vendors added to the platform.

2021 was not an easy year but through collaborative efforts with our partners, we have managed well, mitigated risks and reached our targets. Once again, we express gratitude for our partners unwavering support and all efforts through these incredibly challenging year towards delivering strategic value to Tajik private sector beneficiaries.

In 2022, we look forward to your continued support to GEFF Tajikistan. We will continue to work closely with PFIs in making GEFF financing accessible and also build awareness in innovative green technologies through sharing updated case studies, press releases and articles. Stay healthy and stay tuned!

KAIRAT SHALABAY
GEFF TAJIKISTAN PROJECT MANAGER

GEFF TAJIKISTAN ACHIEVEMENTS:



THE EBRD AND GCF AT COP26

The 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference, more commonly referred to as COP26, was the 26th United Nations Climate Change conference, held in Glasgow, United Kingdom, from 31 October to 13 November 2021. The participating 197 countries agreed on a new deal known as the Glasgow Climate Pact, to strengthen international cooperation in addressing climate change. COP26 has resulted in various international commitments and highlighted the growing urgency of addressing climate change. The GCP serves as reminder that commitments alone are insufficient to limit climate change. Over 140 countries pledged to reach net-zero emissions. New pledges for financial help for climate change mitigation and adaptation were announced.

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development took part in the COP26 climate conference and has announced its intention to double the mobilisation of private sector climate financing by 2025. The plan to achieve this target was set out in an Action Plan on Mobilising Private Capital for Climate Finance, unveiled at COP26. With this plan the EBRD will support the transition to a low carbon economy in its countries of operations.

Green Economy Financing Facilities (GEFFs) represent one of the key action areas undertaken by the EBRD to mobilise

climate finance, in partnership with more than 170 partner financial institutions in 28 countries. According to the Action Plan, the GEFF model combines dedicated financing linked to clearly defined climate mitigation and adaptation activities, technical advisory support and, in some cases, donor-funded concessional finance. From 2022 to 2025, the EBRD GEFF model is expected to mobilise more than €1 billion of climate finance.



On the Science and Innovation Day at COP26, Green Climate Fund announced its latest working paper: How the Green Climate Fund's approach can deliver new climate solutions for developing countries. The Working Paper identifies the main barriers to climate innovation in developing countries. Many of these barriers are related to the policy and regu-

latory environment as well as to technical and macro-economic constraints. The paper then describes the Green Climate Fund's four-pronged approach to overcome these barriers and to accelerate and scale up climate innovation in developing countries.

GCF'S APPROACH IS BASED ON:



helping to nurture a supportive regulatory environment and public support in developing countries



deploying GCF resources to accelerate innovation



de-risking investment to deploy new climate solutions at commercial scale



strengthening domestic financial institutions to support the widespread adoption of commercially proven new climate solutions.

GCF provides innovative solutions to the climate crisis in more than 100 countries, working with partners in the public and private sectors in efforts to mitigate the effects of

the changing climate, and to help vulnerable people adapt to changes to the environment.

EBRD GREEN DAY

The EBRD Green Day 2021 was held in Dushanbe on 23 December 2021 with the participation of 70 representatives of international and financial organisations involved in the development of the energy sector and green technologies. Invited green technology experts shared ideas on how to become more energy-independent and modern as well as technologies and various solutions for businesses which help to save money and natural resources in Tajikistan.

During the event, participants discussed the selection and implementation of innovative technologies, problems and

prospects for the implementation of green solutions in various business sectors.

The GEF Tajikistan team presented ongoing program activities and achievements. The presentation emphasized the promotion of green technologies through local financial partners, available financial products, investment opportunities and examples of high performing technologies, eligible for financing under the EBRD GEF Program. The event served as a platform for exchanging of experiences and lessons learnt.



MR. FARUKH KASIMOV,
GEFF TAJIKISTAN DEPUTY
PROJECT MANAGER

SCHIEVER SUPPLIERS' EVENT

On November 2021, the Suppliers event was organized by Schiever Tajikistan, a subsidiary of the French company Schiever, which owns Auchan franchise in Dushanbe and holds one of the biggest supermarkets in the capital. The event brought together more than 50 participants, including official guests, members of organization's suppliers and local retailers.

The GEF Tajikistan team took part in the event and shared information on the project objectives and activities held in the direction of climate change issues, particularly related to agricultural sector, including success stories of GEF Tajikistan supported sub-projects. In addition, they shared information about financing opportunities for energy, water and resource efficiency technologies. The forum provided networking and partnership opportunities for attendees and gave them chance to meet and discuss innovative solutions

to stimulate agricultural production processing, packaging, distribution and promotion, which is very important for successful trade and exports.

"Such events are very important in setting the foundations for a new stage in the development of agri-food value chains and it is going to improve the country's food security. We were able to identify some emerging themes and trends in retail and draw some important conclusions from the discussions." Supplier of vegetables from Vahdat region.

Auchan hypermarket is a popular store offering a large range of quality products at affordable prices. Hypermarket chain Auchan which operated by Schiever opened in 2016 a branch in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, with financing support from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), thereby becoming a minority shareholder in Schiever Tajikistan.



GEFF TAJIKISTAN AT
THE SUPPLIERS' EVENT



MS. SOFIYA SHAMIROVA,
SENIOR GRANTS OFFICER
AT EBRD

MODERN COLD STORAGEES AS AN ENERGY-SAVING TECHNOLOGY

Throughout the country, Tajik farmers often face problems related to the storing of harvested fruits and vegetables. If vegetables and fruits need to be stored for a short period of time, then using a cool warehouse or basement would be enough. But for long-term storage of six months or more, refrigeration units will be required. And in the case of energy efficiency, the best solution lies in leveraging new technologies and modern equipment that guarantee the product is secure.

Cold storage - a storage space, equipped with cooling equipment (chillers), to store fruits and vegetables, as well as other related products that prolong shelf life. About one third of fresh fruits and vegetables lose their quality conditions quickly, therefore cold storage facilities are crucial to minimize post-harvest losses. The losses occur at every step in the post-harvest cycle. Cold storage is a key component that needs to be integrated in a supply chain.

Cold storage construction requires expertise in the intricacies of these very specialized facilities. To help reduce energy consumption and improve facility efficiency, cold storage freezers must be properly designed and built, and they must integrate the most energy-efficient systems available. There are several options available in the local market out of which top-quality storages are made of sandwich panels with automated control of temperature, moisture and air/gas composition. There are also cheaper solutions, such as the insulation of walls with polyurethane foam and the installation of chillers. A cold storage constructed with sand-

wich panels with the thickness of 5-7-10 or 15 centimetres can be constructed on an open space. The polyurethane foam can also be applied on the walls of an existing building or a cellar.



EXAMPLES OF A
COLD STORAGE
SOURCE:
STOCKAREA.IO

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF COLD STORAGE FOR STORING FRUITS AND VEGETABLES?

THERE ARE MANY ADVANTAGES OF COLD STORAGE WHEN USED FOR STORING FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES. SOME OF THEM ARE DISCUSSED FURTHER:

1 LOWERS DETERIORATION RATE.

One of the key benefits of using a cold storage is that the low temperature helps in lowering the rate of chemical changes and growth of microorganism enzymes in foods. In simple words, the rate of food spoiling is lowered down to a great extent.

2 TEMPERATURE CONTROLS.

There are different areas in the refrigerator that are being operated at different temperatures. In older cold storages, the upper shelves used to be controlled at slightly colder temperature as compared to lower shelves. In modern refrigerators, the temperatures are relatively uniform thoroughly. One can check out the booklet or guides that come with the refrigerators to know more about temperature controls.

3 LOWERS THE RISK OF FOOD POISONING.

The risk of food poisoning is lowered as storing it in a cool place prevents chemical changes, like change in enzymes or mould that can be transferred from uncooked foods to cooked foods.

4 ENABLES TO STORE FOODS FOR LONGER TIME PERIOD.

Cold storage offers a great advantage to store goods for really long time. It enables you to store goods that you want to keep in your fridge for a longer time. The goods will retain their mass and quality, and the losses will be very insignificant - up to 0.5% of stored products per month. As for the benefits, selling fruits and vegetables in the winter season is more profitable. Apart from this, farmers investing in a cold storage could also rent out excess storage space to neighbouring farmers which will be an additional source of income.

SOME FIGURES ON FINANCED COLD STORES WITHIN THE PROJECT IN TAJIKISTAN:



40 SUB-BORROWERS
received concessional loan
and grant support



851,773 USD
dollars total
investment amount



3090.1 GJ/YEAR
annual primary
energy savings



72.80 TONNES/YEAR
GHG emissions
avoided

In partnership with the [European Union](#), GEF Tajikistan offers investment incentives for farmers and businesses across agricultural value chains, investing in modern and efficient equipment and technologies including greenhouses

and drip irrigation, intensive orchards, cold storages, terracing, orchard on the slopes that all lead to energy, resource or water efficiency, as well as brings the positive environmental effect.

GEFF TAJIKISTAN SUCCESS STORIES

GEFF Tajikistan supports businesses and homeowners, wishing to invest in green technologies, which can strengthen their resilience to climate change. The examples of case studies below are a demonstration of green investment projects achieved with GEFF support, both financial and technical:



Investment size:
US\$ 1,769



Financial results:
Payback in 2 years



Water savings:
7,768 m3/year



Grant support:
20%

INVESTMENT INTO PLASTIC PIPES HELPS A FEMALE ENTREPRENEUR IMPROVE WATER CONSERVATION AND PRODUCTIVITY

Ms. Shokirova Khosiyat works with her family and hires neighbours for seasonal work on 5 hectares of land. About 70% of workers are women who help with work related to sowing, growing and harvesting agricultural crops. Due to poor irrigation systems local farmers are not able to fully use the land potential, so Ms. Shokirova decided to invest in polyethylene pipes to eliminate the water shortage.

For this purpose, she has received a US\$ 1,769 loan from one of European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) partner banks for the purchase and installation of

125 mm diameter polyethylene pipes on 5 hectares of farm land.

«I have learned about the benefits of this technology from the Bank's marketing campaign and the GEFF grant support motivated me to invest in a PVC pipeline. Some of my neighbours are also interested in similar investment. The only problem is related to natural disasters, which can impede sustainable agricultural development.», said Ms. Shokirova Khosiyat.



Investment size:
US\$ 27,409



Financial results:
Payback in 1,5 years



Energy savings:
18,549 kWh/year



Grant support:
30%

HEAD OF THE DEHKAN FARM INVESTS IN A COLD STORAGE SYSTEM TO DIVERSIFY HIS BUSINESS AND INCREASE INCOME

Mr. Asoev Bahrovar from Shohon village of Hisor, has a working cold storage with the capacity of 30 tonnes. Having found this activity beneficial and useful, he decided to construct a second cold storage for another 100 tonnes capacity, to diversify his business and increase his income.

Mr. Asoev approached one of the EBRD's partner banks for a GEFF loan of USD 27,409 and invested in a bi-cameral cold storage with a total capacity of 100 tonnes. Cold storage is constructed within his home compound. The loan obtained under GEFF project is aimed to purchase 2 chillers and insulation materials. By investing in high performing equip-

ment, Mr. Asoev will be able to store his products in a more energy efficient way and reduce his energy consumption by 185.5 kWh / ton a year, which will lead to a total reduction of 18,549 kWh /year compared to business as usual. The project leads to the positive environmental impact by reducing CO2 emissions.

"I want to thank GEFF team for this opportunity, with the expansion of the storages I will be able to store more fruits and vegetables, provide storing services for local farmers and entrepreneurs.", said Mr. Asoev.