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BIOLOGICAL PEST CONTROL LABORATORIES

ENHANCEMENT OF LIVING STANDARDS PROJECT IN NAMANGAN REGION
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LOCAL FARMERS OF CHARTAK AND MINGBULAK DISTRICTS

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A BUG FOR A CLEANER, GREENER AND BRIGHTER FUTURE

The Enhancement of Living Standards (ELS), a joint effort of the European Union and UNDP, has been working since 2005 in 4 regions of Uzbekistan.

One of the project objectives is to promote community based initiatives for income generation and equitable local economic development.

Over the past years, farming in Uzbekistan and in other parts of the world has become increasingly reliant on pesticides, fertilizers, and hormones. While this may contribute to often spectacular rises in yield, it wreaks havoc on human health and the natural environment.

Although pesticides were extensively used in Uzbekistan between the 1950s and 70s, today their use has declined. This is mainly because there is ample proof and a widespread recognition of the damage that pesticides can cause to land, water and our lives. Also, pesticides are not subsidized any longer and their high cost puts many buyers off.

When properly used, the right bugs and insects can reduce pesticide use, help save money and protect the environment at the same time. The insects’ low production costs and effectiveness are decisive factors in their marketability.

Many small farmers have very limited means and are obviously interested in cheaper alternatives to traditional chemical pest control.

The ELS project has helped small agricultural farmers in Karakalpakstan, in the north west of the country and Namangan region in the east, to open biological pest control laboratories.

After forming and registering farmers’ cooperatives and undergoing training in business planning, management, administration and accounting, cooperatives have contributed together with the ELS project to the cost of nationally produced equipment.

Monitoring and training by the UNDP has helped the cooperative to thrive and function independently.

With UNDP support the plan is now to expand the business in other districts, both in Karakalpakstan and Namangan.

The insects used in Namangan are: Trichogramma which feeds on the eggs of cotton insects, Habrobracon, effective against cotton worms and Green Lacewing for various agricultural pests.

Visit the 2 laboratories set up in Namangan with the support of the EU and UNDP between 2005 and 2006!