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IN NAMANGAN

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FOOD PROCESSING
FARMER ENTERPRISE OFFICE
IN CHARTAK DISTRICT

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FOOD PROCESSING AND COOPERATIVES IN NAMANGAN REGION

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.

Agriculture is the backbone of the economy of Uzbekistan and work in agriculture, one of the main sources of income generation.

Thus, the ELS project has promoted farmers’ enterprises while at the same time financing rural and urban micro-credit schemes for improved access to credit.

In Namangan, as in the rest of the country, the interest in agro-processing is associated with its potential for generating demand amongst small farmers, increasing production through small scale food processing, and ensuring food price stability and availability.

The food processing sector in Chartak district has also the potential to foster rural economic growth, entrepreneurial opportunities and most important employment.

Due to lack of exposure to alternative forms of farmers’ organizations however, farmers have had difficulties to understand the tangible benefits deriving from farmers cooperatives.

The project has showed these to them by organizing roundtables and seminars on the in-and-outs of setting-up a business, accessing credit and preparing business proposals.

At a later stage, after evaluating the proposal quality of their business proposals and the interest shown by farmers, the ELS project has supported a proposal related to food processing and marketing.

With the help of the project a farmers’ group has registered as an enterprise and participated in trainings in business management and administration. The project has cost-shared with them food processing equipment.

For the past two years the enterprise has flourished and is making a profit. It has been providing services sought after by the local population and the wide farmer community. Their work has been highly appreciated by the local authorities.

“Ihlos Chortoq Javohiri” produces wheat flour and macaroni products and provides services for local population to process wheat and rice. Presently, the enterprise is planning to expand its activities and purchase equipment to process and produce sun oil to neighboring communities, as well as local farmers.

The two cooperatives are now planning to expand and set up district branches.