# KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

# AGRICULTURAL PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION UNIT

**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**for the Regional specialist**

**for the Climate Resilient Agricultural Value Chains Development Project (CRAVCD)**

1. **Project background information**

The Ministry of Water Resources, Agriculture and Processing Industry of the Kyrgyz Republic established the Agricultural Project Implementation Unit (APIU) to coordinate, manage and implement agricultural projects and any other future projects that receive financial support from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and other donors.

Approved by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Board of Directors on December 6, 2023, the Climate Resilient Agricultural Value Chains Development Project (Project) aims to improve household and national food security through resilient, climate-adapted value chains.

The Law of the Kyrgyz Republic “On Ratification of Agreements on Financing the CRAVCD between the Kyrgyz Republic and ADB, signed on December 13, 2023 in Bishkek dated June 27, 2024 No. 109 was issued.

State policy in agriculture is aimed at ensuring food security and stimulating the development of medium and large processing complexes, logistics centers for exporting products to foreign markets and comprehensive support for companies with the highest export potential, by providing access to long-term and cheap credit resources, and trade information. The strategic goal of reforms in the agricultural sector is to ensure food security, develop sustainable agriculture and create conditions for the development of clusters in the production and processing of agricultural products. These country development priorities are included in the National Development Program of the Kyrgyz Republic until 2026, approved by Decree of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic dated October 12, 2021 No. 435.

The CRAVCD VC, financed by the Asian Development Bank, focuses on poverty reduction by increasing rural productivity and creating income-generating activities.

The main result of the proposed project will be an increase in the supply of fresh and processed fruits and vegetables to domestic and international markets.

The CRAVCD VC will have two outcomes: (i) increased lending from participating financial institutions (banks) to support the development of horticultural value chains and (ii) strengthened horticultural value chains.

Executive agency is the Ministry of Water Resources, Agriculture and Processing Industry of the Kyrgyz Republic (MWRAPI KR).

Implementing agency is the Agricultural Projects Implementation Unit of the MWRAPI KR.

Open Joint Stock Company "Aiyl Bank" as a participating financial institution (bank) will finance agribusinesses at the national level.

The goal of the project is to increase the supply of fresh and processed fruits and vegetables to domestic and international markets, increase the export potential of the Kyrgyz Republic, as well as create income-generating jobs in the horticulture sector.

The project consists of two main components:

**Component 1:** Financing by Participating Financial Institutions (PFIs) of Eligible Sub-Projects by providing sub-loans to Eligible Sub-borrowers in accordance with this Loan and Grant Agreement and the Project Agreements,

**Component 2:**(i) Strengthening horticulture value chains through contract farming agreements between farmers and processors and/or exporters, promoting climate-smart agronomic and processing practices to reduce losses, training women owners and/or managers in management business and entrepreneurship, as well as the implementation of measures to promote cross-border trade in Kyrgyz agricultural products; and (ii) support for project implementation by the PIU, including through improved project management, monitoring and reporting, and strengthening the capacity of PFIs to develop and implement horticulture finance policies, procedures and loan products, provide staff training in horticulture subsector lending, conduct activities to reach clients to increase their awareness of PFIs' products and services, and strengthen the capacity of PFIs to develop an appropriate Environmental and Social Management System ESMS.

**2. Goals and objectives**

The project aims to develop activities that increase productivity and supply of fresh and processed horticultural products to domestic and international markets.

The project objective is to improve food security through sustainable horticulture value chains adapted to climate change.

1. **Scope of work and responsibilities**
2. Assist APIU staff in identifying value chain enterprises and private entrepreneurs in the region who may be interested in participating in the project;
3. (ii) Collect information on enterprises and private entrepreneurs in the selected fruit and vegetable value chains in the target project and regions, and record the data in a database to be created within the framework of the project; INTERNAL. This information is accessible to ADB Management and Staff. It may be shared outside ADB with appropriate permission. (iii)
4. Support value chain development specialists in the implementation of contractual supply/delivery schemes between farmers and farmer groups and collectors, aggregators and processors, etc.;
5. In consultation with the Agrobusiness Development Officer, monitor compliance with contractual supply agreements between the parties;
6. Support APIU Officers in organizing facilitation of the value chain (organizing and conducting annual planning seminars, regular meetings of value chain operators).
7. Support of PFI in identifying potential agribusiness borrowers (for project resources);
8. Act as a contact point between farmer/farmer beneficiary groups and value chain enterprises to access the expertise of the APIU;
9. Mobilize farmers growing selected crops in the project's target areas into informal production groups and link them with collectors and aggregators;
10. Support production and post-harvest officer in disseminating technical messages on cli mate-smart horticulture practices;
11. Support project officers in collecting data for the project information system;
12. Fulfil other tasks as directed by the Director of APIU and the CRAVCD Coordinator.
13. **Reporting and approval procedure**

The Regional specialist will report to the Project Coordinator and the APIU Director, who will evaluate the performance of the Specialist's duties.

1. **Qualification requirements**

The Regional specialist must have:

* The Regional specialist should have a university degree in social sciences, economics or related fields from a recognized institution.
* The s Regional specialist will have 5 years of experience in stakeholder facilitation, community mobilization, gender equality and small enterprise development, obtained either in the private sector, government programs or multilateral funded development programs.
* He/she should be able to demonstrate strong communication skills in facilitation meetings, combined with a basic understanding of the principles and advantages of informal farmer production groups in aggregating produce and supplying to value chain operators.
* The Regional specialist should be fluent in written and oral formats with national languages - Russian and Kyrgyz.

1. **Work period**

The work period of the position will initially be 12 months, with the possibility of extension by mutual agreement of the two parties, with a probationary period of two months.