



The World Bank

Strengthening Resilience of the Agriculture Sector Project Additional Financing (P179851)

Project Information Document (PID)

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**BASIC INFORMATION****A. Basic Project Data**

Country Tajikistan	Project ID P179851	Project Name Tajikistan Strengthening Resilience of the Agriculture Sector Project Additional Financing	Parent Project ID (if any) P175952
Parent Project Name Strengthening Resilience of the Agriculture Sector Project	Region EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA	Estimated Appraisal Date 17-Nov-2022	Estimated Board Date 20-Dec-2022
Practice Area (Lead) Agriculture and Food	Financing Instrument Investment Project Financing	Borrower(s) Republic of Tajikistan	Implementing Agency Ministry of Agriculture

Proposed Development Objective(s) Parent

The development objective of the project is to strengthen the foundations for a more resilient agricultural sector in Tajikistan.

Proposed Development Objective(s) Additional Financing

To strengthen the foundations for a more resilient agricultural sector and support emergency interventions to address food and nutrition security in Tajikistan

Components

Strengthening seed, seedling and planting material systems
 Support investments in Agri-Logistical Centers (ALCs) for horticulture value chains
 Strengthen public capacity for crises prevention and management
 Project management and coordination

PROJECT FINANCING DATA (US\$, Millions)**SUMMARY**

Total Project Cost	50.00
Total Financing	50.00
of which IBRD/IDA	50.00
Financing Gap	0.00

**DETAILS****World Bank Group Financing**

International Development Association (IDA)	50.00
IDA Grant	50.00

Environmental and Social Risk Classification

Substantial

Other Decision (as needed)

B. Introduction and Context

1. Agriculture has been among the main drivers of Tajikistan's economic growth during the last 20 years. About 80 percent of Tajikistan's poor resided in rural areas in 2019 where agriculture, which accounted for 21 percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) during the same year, employed 61 percent of the labor force.¹ Tajikistan's agriculture grew at an average rate of 6.4 percent per year between 2010 and 2019, 8.8 percent in 2020, and 6.6 percent in 2021.² The growth in the agriculture sector has been driven by diversification, implementation of agricultural land reforms, and to some extent by increases in crop and livestock productivity. Since 2000, agriculture has been responsible for creating 52 percent of new jobs in the economy. Nevertheless, since 2010, agriculture created only 16 percent of new jobs, and since 2015 total employment in the sector has fallen by 2.5 percent.³ At the same time, Tajikistan's agriculture faces many constraints, including a challenging business environment, limited access to high quality inputs and export markets, unsustainably used and severely degraded pastures, and high vulnerability to climate impacts.

2. Food security has been a critical development challenge in Tajikistan for two decades and has recently received high-level attention from the Government of Tajikistan (government). The renewed focus has been prompted by the humanitarian crisis in neighboring Afghanistan, and the war in Ukraine and its implications such as sanctions against Russia, and the Russian and Kazakh grain export restrictions and logistics disruptions. Tajikistan is facing significant challenges linked also to high and volatile food and agricultural inputs prices, and lower incomes due to a fall in remittances with the preliminary estimates for 2022 suggesting a 40 percent decline in the value of remittances in Tajikistan.⁴ Higher food, fertilizer, and energy prices and the sharp decline in remittance incomes in the aftermath of the war in Ukraine pose significant risks to food security in Tajikistan, especially severe for vulnerable rural households,

¹ TAJSTAT, Food Security and Poverty no. 1 2020, 2020; TAJSTAT, Demographic Yearbook of the Republic of Tajikistan, 30 Years of State Independence, 2021; TAJSTAT, Labor market in the Republic of Tajikistan, 30 years of state independence, statistical yearbook, 2021; World Bank, World Development Indicators, 2022.

² Calculated from data in TAJSTAT, Agriculture in the Republic of Tajikistan, 2021.

³ Calculated from data in TAJSTAT, Labor market in the Republic of Tajikistan, 30 years of state independence, statistical yearbook, 2021.

⁴ World Bank (WB), ECA Economic Update, Spring 2022: War in the Region.



whose livelihoods are heavily dependent on remittance incomes, and who spend a large portion of their budget on food.

3. The government has prepared “An action plan for mitigation/prevention of the potential impacts and risks to the national economy” (also referred to as the Anti-Crisis Action Plan),⁵ which includes amongst others several measures focused on addressing food security, through for example: increasing domestic production and storage facilities of key products; ensuring the availability and price stability of staple food products; and allocating additional funds from all available financial sources to provide dehkan (smallholder) farmers and the population with key agricultural inputs (seeds and fertilizers). The Anti-Crisis Action Plan outlines also a timeframe for implementation of each measure and indicates the institutions responsible.

4. In the same context, the government’s Agriculture Sector Development Program (ASDP) 2023-2030, which is currently under preparation, sets out ambitious institutional and structural reforms in agriculture, which are aimed at promoting sustainable and climate smart agricultural production, increasing food security and improving agricultural export competitiveness. However, achieving these ambitious goals, requires strengthening the government’s ability to plan for and respond to food security crises, including through procuring and distributing key agricultural inputs to farmers on an emergency basis; investing in early warning and preparedness systems and market information systems; and building resilient food systems, promoting agricultural diversification, and ensuring better market linkages.

Sectoral and Institutional Context

1. **Sectoral context – food security, nutrition, and agriculture.** Food insecurity has been a lingering issue in Tajikistan. The country is prone to acute short-term and long-term food insecurity. The economic fallout from the war in Ukraine poses a severe risk to food security in Tajikistan, which has compounded the earlier adverse impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on livelihoods, jobs and incomes, and the effects emanating from the growing risk of insecurity in Afghanistan, making Tajikistan a hotspot of food insecurity in the Europe and Central Asia (ECA) region. As of August 2021, already only 34 percent (39 percent in urban and 31 percent in rural areas) of the World Food Programme (WFP) surveyed households were classified as food secure.⁶ Most food insecure households reside in the countryside (21 percent in rural areas vs 16 percent in urban areas) and the majority of those (27 percent) are female-headed households (vs 18 percent male-headed).⁷ By the end of 2022, the number of moderately food insecure and severely food insecure people in Tajikistan is expected to reach 2.9 million and 0.83 million (vs 2.0 million and 0.04 million in August 2021) respectively, which is 30 percent and 8.6 percent of country’s population (vs 20 percent and 0.4 percent in August 2021), respectively. Even before the crisis, however, seasonal food deprivation was a persistent trend in Tajikistan: the winter and spring months are associated with an increase in the share of the population with consumption below the ‘extreme’ poverty line. The acute short-term to long-term food security crisis comprises declines in expected agriculture harvest due to lack thereof or use of low-quality seeds, seedlings, and planting materials; reduced application of fertilizers; shifts in monthly rainfall patterns due to climate change; higher inflation

⁵ Government of Tajikistan Resolution #116, March 18, 2022.

⁶ World Food Programme (WFP), April 2022. Food Security Update and implications of Ukraine Conflict in Tajikistan. Available at <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000139165/download/>

⁷ WFP, April 2022, Food Security Update, and implications of Ukraine Conflict in Tajikistan. Available at <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000139165/download/>



for food items and key agricultural inputs and reduced purchasing power of the households; and restrictive trade policies in food exporting countries.

2. Despite significant progress made over the last decade, malnutrition among children and women remains a major challenge for the country. Malnutrition is a critical public health concern, particularly in remote and rural areas and this has been the case long before the above-mentioned crises⁸. Research conducted by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in 2016⁹ found that 6–24-month-old children commonly consume an extremely non-diverse basket of food in Tajikistan, concentrated in starchy staples and dairy. Insufficient meal frequency is also common, particularly for 6–8-month-old infants. A child born in Tajikistan today will be only 50 percent as productive when she grows up as she could be if she enjoyed complete education and full health.¹⁰ Tajikistan has also the highest rate of stunting in ECA with 18 percent of children under the age of 5 years being stunted and suffering from chronic nutritional deprivation and infectious diseases. In addition, more than 8 percent of children in Tajikistan are underweight and 6 percent are wasted (i.e., suffering under Global Acute Malnutrition, GAM). The country has high rates of anemia (42 percent) among women of reproductive age (WRA) which continues to negatively affect maternal and newborn outcomes.¹¹ Moreover, there is little awareness among women in Tajikistan, especially in remote areas, on the importance of prenatal micronutrient intake and the impact micronutrient deficiencies in the first two years of a child's life can have as they can cause irreversible damage to physical and cognitive development with devastating impacts not confined to the individual or household level. A 2016 cost-benefit analysis¹² calculated the losses to Tajikistan from death, disease, and lost productivity from malnutrition to potentially reach US\$878 million by 2026. Adequate nutrition is essential to grow, learn, earn, and lead, and improving nutrition outcomes is an investment into Tajikistan's future human capital and prosperity.

3. Apart from agriculture, another critical source of income that supports the lives and livelihoods of the Tajik population is remittances, received largely from migrant workers in Russia, with more than 80 percent of remittances used for food consumption and procurement of basic agricultural inputs.¹³ According to the Listening to Tajikistan (L2T) surveys, one third of all households, and 40 percent of the poor, receive remittance income to support their livelihoods. As a result of the slowdown of Russia's economy first due to COVID-19 pandemic and now due to Russian invasion of Ukraine and the associated sanctions (second consecutive income shock), a sharp decline in labor demand in Russia has already led to job losses of Tajik migrants thereby affecting incomes and ultimately lives and livelihoods of many Tajik households rendering them vulnerable to food and nutrition insecurity. Already in 2021, one-third of Tajik households experienced a decline in their incomes and shrinking purchasing power due to job losses and price spikes for food items, agricultural inputs and fuel.¹⁴ Possible further declines in remittances, and consequently

⁸ Statistical Agency under President of the Republic of Tajikistan, 2018. Tajikistan 2017 Demographic and Health Survey (DHS).

⁹ Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MOHSP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Bank, 2016. National Nutrition Survey in Tajikistan. Available at

<https://www.unicef.org/tajikistan/media/491/file/National%20Nutrition%20Survey%20in%20Tajikistan%202016%20.pdf>

¹⁰ WB, 2020. Human Capital Index (HCI) 2020 Update: Human Capital in the Time of COVID-19.

¹¹ ibid.

¹² Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), 2016. Report on Analysis of Economic Losses Due to Iron and Folic Acid Deficiencies in Tajikistan. Available at <https://www.gainhealth.org/sites/default/files/publications/documents/food-fortification-in-tajikistan-2016.pdf>

¹³ WFP, April 2022.

¹⁴ WFP, April 2022.



reductions in households' income and domestic consumption are expected to have outsized impacts on food and nutrition security since remittance income in Tajikistan is primarily used to supplement food consumption and purchase of basic agricultural inputs.¹⁵

4. The pandemic led to a slowdown of the economy in 2020 that has affected the poor the most. While considerable economic recovery was observed in 2021, it is now expected that the economy will contract in 2022 (-0.4 percent).¹⁶ In addition, food inflation has been posing a significant threat to food and nutrition security leading to the erosion of the real purchasing power of Tajik households. Food prices in Tajikistan rose faster than the general consumer price index (CPI) and CPI for non-food items in the last three consecutive years. Moreover, the cost of living in Tajikistan has been consistently increasing. The cumulative inflation reached about 40 percent over the last four years. According to the Agency of Statistics under President of the Republic of Tajikistan (TAJSTAT), prices climbed by 124 percent for petrol, 98 percent for vegetable oil, 67 percent for sugar and 22 percent for beef between July 2020–May 2022. However, the actual inflation rate is estimated to be higher than the officially reported numbers due to weak institutional capacity and high-level political interventions. For example, the WFP statistics¹⁷ for the last 1.5 years indicate that wheat flour prices increased by 48 percent compared with 23 percent reported by TAJSTAT. A comparison of three types of price developments (Global Price, CIF Price at Tajik Border, Consumer Price) at the commodity level (2022 vs 2021 and 2021 vs 2020) indicates that consumer prices for wheat, sugar, vegetable oils, meat and dairy products increased at a much faster pace and the increase has been significant, while global and CIF prices at Tajik border increased at a comparatively lower pace or even decreased for some products.

5. Despite a large agricultural sector (22 percent of Gross Domestic Product, GDP), 19 percent of export and 61 percent of employment), food and nutrition security at the national level in Tajikistan remains highly dependent on imports to cover the country's food and nutrition needs and avail agriculture inputs.¹⁸ Disruptions in agricultural input markets are a major source of vulnerability, i.e., price changes of agricultural inputs in global markets affect domestic producers and consumers due to an increase in the costs of agricultural inputs, particularly seeds and fertilizers thereby affecting food and nutrition security. According to TAJSTAT, imports of fertilizers contracted by three times in the first quarter of 2022 compared to the same period in 2021 due to the worsening payment capacity of farmers.¹⁹ A significantly large proportion of rural households in Tajikistan will not have access to quality seed and other necessary and required agricultural inputs, including fertilizers, to plant their main subsistence crops for the coming cropping season. Without external assistance this year, fields will either go unplanted or will be planted late, or planted with poor quality seeds and no fertilizer, leading possibly to food availability and access constraints. Overall, global price increases for food products and agricultural inputs have led to a price increase for both domestically produced and imported agricultural products, exacerbating food and nutrition insecurity and inflation.²⁰ According to the Bank's

¹⁵ At more than 80 percent in 2022, the share of remittance income spent on food is the highest of any other Central Asian countries. Source: WB, Listening to Central Asia surveys, April 2022.

¹⁶ World Bank (WB), Tajikistan Macro-Poverty Outlook, Spring 2022, June update.

¹⁷ WFP, May 2022, Impact of Price Rise on Vulnerable Population in Tajikistan, Special Update.

¹⁸ Tajikistan is a net importer of wheat, vegetable oils, sugar, and most tropical fruits, while other agricultural products (beef, mutton, poultry meat, eggs, potatoes, onion, carrot, other vegetables, gourd, legumes, etc.) are produced domestically in sufficient quantity. Some agricultural products exceed domestic demand and are being exported (e.g., onion, carrot, poultry meat and eggs). Domestically produced wheat and vegetable oils satisfy the domestic market needs by only 46 and 33 percent, respectively (MOA, 2022). Tajikistan is also a net importer of fuel, fertilizers, and seeds.

¹⁹ Customs Services, Government of Tajikistan, 2022.

²⁰ WB, April 2022 Commodity Markets Outlook.



Food Security Hub indicative vulnerability analysis, Tajikistan scores the highest in food exposure (4/4), is vulnerable in terms of socio-economic factors (3/4) and is mid-range in terms of macroeconomic and fiscal factors (2/4), producing an overall vulnerability of 3/4 as of May 8, 2022.²¹

6. **Institutional context.** The institutional context of food and nutrition security in Tajikistan is weak, fragmented and insufficiently coordinated due to inadequate institutional, legal, and regulatory frameworks and enforcement practices, as well as lack of clarity and overlaps in the roles and responsibilities of the various actors. On one hand, the Food Security Committee (FSC) is, despite its name, the authoritative body in the fields of food safety, and sanitary and phytosanitary measures, including such services as veterinary and medicine, phytosanitary and plant quarantine, plant protection, and seed regulation and breeding. The FCS is nevertheless expected to represent the country and in collaboration with the donor community on issues of food and nutrition security importance. However, this is a rarity as often the FSC failed to meet expectations. The MOA on the other hand is authorized to develop policies and regulatory acts for a unified state agricultural policy, as well as short-, medium-, and long-term development programs that contribute to food and nutrition security. However, a review of the Charters of MOA and FSC indicate that neither is responsible for ensuring food and nutrition security. These inconsistencies call for a review of the institutional and implementation arrangements governing food and nutrition security.

7. The regulatory framework of food and nutrition security is weak and outdated. The Food Security Law which was enacted in 2010 and revised in 2019 does not provide a clear structure for ensuring food and nutrition security. Moreover, the current version of the Law is centered on self-sufficiency rather than food and nutrition security hence outdated. The definition of food and nutrition security included in the law is not in line with the international understanding and the definition employed in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The current law does not enable an efficient response for early warning and swift action to address emerging food and nutrition security risks and prioritize increased resilience. Its revision is required especially with regard to the roles of the FSC and MOA to ensure coordination and harmonization of the efforts between stakeholders, including the private sector.

8. Tajikistan has been among the 15 countries that have regularly been selected for inclusion in the Global Report on Food Crises but is subsequently excluded because of recurrent data gaps or lack of sufficient evidence to produce estimates of food insecure people. The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) methodology was first piloted in Tajikistan in 2007. The Government (in particular through the Food Security Unit in the Ministry of Agriculture) played a leading role in piloting the IPC process, with proper inclusion of other national partners, in particular the UN and NGOs. However, the initiative was not pursued further hence short lived. With an aim to revitalize the process and deal with the data challenges, as well as to ascertain the exact magnitude of food insecurity in the country, FAO, UNICEF, and WFP jointly started to re-introduce the IPC methodology in the country.²² Currently, the first part of the IPC exercise i.e., household survey is underway to collect data on key food security indicators at the sub-regional level. This will be followed by the second part of the IPC process, which is regional IPC working group meetings with representation from all districts of Tajikistan followed by regional and national level workshops to validate and endorse the results. The intended outcome of IPC exercise is a strengthened food and nutrition security monitoring system to measure the impact of shocks, including the Ukraine conflict that provides strategically relevant

²¹ Gautam, Madhur, and Joshua Gill. Vulnerability Heat Map, May 8, 2022

²² FAO and WFP Joint Program on “Improved Food Security in Tajikistan.” 2022. Joint SDG Fund, Development Emergency Modality – Response to the Global Crisis on Food, Energy, Finance.



information to decision makers that focuses on short-term objectives to prevent, mitigate, or decrease food insecurity that threatens lives or livelihoods. The country needs to sustain the food and nutrition security monitoring exercise by financing the household survey periodically.

9. Food fortification initiatives have been under implementation in Tajikistan since the late 1990s and early 2000s, but food fortification became mandatory only in 2019 with the adoption of the food fortification legislation²³. This law prescribes that wheat flour (premium and first grades), milk (dairy products), edible salt, sugar, and other necessary primary products are to be fortified with micronutrients, vitamins, and minerals. In addition to the law, in 2021 the government adopted the Program for the prevention of micronutrient deficiency and related diseases among the population of the Republic of Tajikistan for 2022-2027. The purpose of this Program is to prevent micronutrient deficiencies and related diseases (goiter, night blindness, scurvy, anemia, neural tube defects, etc.), by strengthening the legal framework, enhancing coordination, and ensuring quality control of fortified foods. Given the high prevalence of iron and iodine deficiencies, the first primary food vehicles for fortification in Tajikistan include edible salt with potassium iodate/iodine and wheat flour (premium and first grades) with micronutrient and vitamins premix. The Iodization of salt has been undergoing for several years now, but the supply of potassium iodate has remained a challenge mainly because of lack of funds. The fortification of wheat flour has been challenged by failure to implement the food fortification legislation (due to COVID-19), including developing by-laws and other regulatory documents related to food fortification standards, M&E, lack of funds to procure premix, lack of availability of premix in the market, weak coordination among stakeholders, and lack of proper knowledge and understanding of the population about the importance of daily consumption of micronutrients and vitamins and fortified food products. Initiatives undertaken by USAID/ Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) GAIN, UNICEF, WPF, Food Fortification Initiative (FFI), EU's Food Fortification Advisory Service (2FAS) to support the Government of Tajikistan in food fortification efforts have all been challenged by factors that were mentioned earlier but more so by the lack of funds to procure premix.

10. In sum, the rapidly changing and volatile geopolitical situation of the region in particular and the world at large; higher food, fertilizer, and energy prices; and the decline in remittance incomes in the aftermath of the war in Ukraine are presently the main economic drivers of acute food and nutrition insecurity in Tajikistan, which is especially severe for vulnerable rural households, whose livelihoods heavily depend on agriculture and remittance incomes. These come on top of pre-existing chronic and seasonal food insecurity and alarming malnutrition rates in the country. As the coping capacity of vulnerable populations is exhausted, the effect of the current crisis on food and nutrition insecurity is likely to be more profound and long-lasting. Moreover, communities in conflict-affected areas such as at the Kyrgyz-Tajik border in the Ferghana Valley are at risk of conflict-driven food and nutrition insecurity. Thus, Tajikistan faces a very fragile food and nutrition security situation and needs an emergency response program, including ensuring farmers' access to key agricultural inputs during the second planting season, which starts in February 2023, to prevent a significant worsening of food security at the national level, and concerted efforts to improve nutrition outcomes. Moreover, investments are needed to enable public institutions to have early estimates of agricultural production and crop yields, determine potential food shortages, and anticipate crises and take early preparedness and response actions. Investments in improving the public institutions' information base and data analysis capacity will also contribute to enhancing the long-term resiliency of the agricultural sector.

²³ The Republic of Tajikistan Law as of July 19, 2019, № 1635 «on Provision of fortified food products to the population»



5.

C. Proposed Development Objective(s)

Original PDO

6. The development objective of the project is to strengthen the foundations for a more resilient agricultural sector in Tajikistan.

Current PDO

7. The development objective of the project is to strengthen the foundations for a more resilient agricultural sector and support emergency interventions to address food and nutrition security in Tajikistan.

Key Results

8. In addition to the key results of the SRASP i.e., PDO 1: Beneficiaries adopting improved livestock production technologies and practices that control GHG emissions and/or enhance resilience to climate change, among others (disaggregated by gender) (percentage), PDO 2: Increase in total value of livestock products sold (percentage) (disaggregated for sold by dehkans), PDO 3: Increased participation of targeted smallholder farmers (dehkans) in formal markets (percentage), and PDO 4: Increased productivity of targeted livestock commodities (disaggregated by value chain)²⁴ (percentage), the SRASP AF will have one additional objective i.e., PDO4: Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population (disaggregated by gender, using FIES²⁵).

D. Project Description

9. The proposed SRASP AF will co-finance project activities planned under the various sub-components of the SRASP as well as new project activities planned under a new sub-component. As such the SRASP AF will finance: i) review of the food security law, and institutional and implementation arrangements governing food and nutrition security, ii) the development of a food security crisis preparedness plan (FSCPP) within six months of project effectiveness,²⁶; iii) the procurement and distribution of emergency seeds, fertilizers and small-scale innovative farm machinery to vulnerable rural households, including women; iv) the establishment and operationalization of additional ALCs; v) strengthen public capacity for crises prevention and management by a) strengthening livestock early warning systems, and b) improving price information systems, including scaling up of digital technologies and information platforms; vi) the rolling out (complement existing efforts) of the IPC methodology; vii) the establishment of a “premix revolving fund” to support the government in procuring and distributing quality micronutrient premixes and potassium iodate for food fortification, and capacity building of the agency that will host the national premix revolving fund facility; viii) the procurement and distribution of micronutrient and vitamin supplements for pregnant and lactating women and young children (6-59 months), and ready-to-use therapeutic foods (RUTFs) for children with a risk of severe acute malnutrition (SAM), including

²⁴The livestock value chains considered are milk (cattle), and meat (cattle and small ruminants).

²⁵Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) is an experience-based measure (indicator) of household or individual food security. For more information, please see <https://www.fao.org/in-action/voices-of-the-hungry/fies/en/>

²⁶The preparation of a FSCPP is a requirement under the CRW financing.



media and communication campaign on the importance of healthy and diverse diets and of micronutrients intake; consequences of micronutrient deficiencies; good infant and young children feeding (IYCF) practices; and other critical nutrition messages; ix) the implementation of priority nutrition-sensitive agriculture interventions and capacity building e.g. trainings, study tours, exchange visits, conference participation of the MOA in nutrition sensitive agriculture programming; x) measures that help the government in addressing acute bottlenecks in food distribution and production systems; xi) the development of an M&E framework to provide timely and reliable information to support informed decision-making in managing food and nutrition security; and xii) capacity building e.g. training of vulnerable groups and women on seeds, seedlings and planting material production, and the use of small-scale innovative farm machinery. The proposed interventions are currently not financed by the government, and the proposed emergency response will be complementary to other stakeholders' efforts, including development partners.

10. The SRASP design, component and sub-component structure and objectives will remain largely unchanged with the exception of Component 3 where an additional sub-component is proposed on the planned nutrition activities. The proposed interventions to be financed through the SARASP AF are organized under the following components and subcomponents.

11. **Component 1: Strengthening seed, seedling, and planting material systems (US\$26.0 million).** The objectives and sub-component structure of the component will remain the same. The proposed SRASP AF will finance the following activities aimed at improving the enabling environment, and ensuring the availability of improved, locally adapted, market oriented, farmer-preferred, and climate resilient seeds, seedlings, and planting materials for priority crops, in sufficient quantity and quality:

12. Under *Sub-component 1.1: Enabling environment (US\$0.5 million)*, the proposed SRASP AF will increase the amount of funding allocated to this sub-component (co-financing), and the objective of the sub-component will be broadened to include food and nutrition security. The additional resources allocated to the sub-component will help the government to: (i) develop a FSCPP, (ii) review the existing Food Security Law No. 1591 (April 2019); and (iii) review the institutional and implementation arrangements for food and nutrition security.

13. The FSCPP is a national plan detailing the operational arrangements for: (i). continuously monitoring and identifying food and nutrition security (FNS) crises (ii). convening programmatic leads across government, humanitarian, and development partners to assess emerging crisis risks and scale up early action, (iii) convening senior officials to recognize an emerging crisis and bridge operational and funding gaps. It has three elements: *Element 1: Monitoring and Identifying FSN Crisis Risks-* helps to identify the country's main FNS crisis risks, and the process for monitoring and reporting these risks, the definition of "crisis", and whether arrangements are in place to share crisis risk information with programmatic leads to promote collective early action. *Element 2: Convening FNS Programmatic Leads* -defines the body or forum for convening FNS programmatic leads across Gov, hum, and dev partners, and its role in assessing emerging crisis risks and mobilize joined up and early responses. It also helps to ascertain if define timebound protocols are in place for escalating worsening risks and additional needs to senior officials. *Element 3: Convening Senior Officials-* helps to identify the dedicated body or forum for convening senior officials around emerging FNS crisis risks, and the procedures for senior officials to collectively recognize and raise the profile of an emerging crisis. It also helps to define the arrangements for senior officials to help bridge operational and funding needs. as a part of an M&E system for implementation of the Agriculture Sector Development Program (ASDP) 2022-2030.

14. The Food Security Law of Tajikistan, which was issued on December 21, 2010 (No 671) and amended April 4, 2019 (No. 1591) is outdated, not comprehensive and is not in line with the SDG definition. It also does not include the concept of nutrition. It is high time that it is updated hence the need for a thorough review which will help identify policy and



legislation gaps, especially with regard to the roles of the Food Security Committee (FSC) and MOA to ensure coordination and harmonization of the efforts between stakeholders, including the private sector. Moreover, it will support the incorporation of the notions of food and nutrition security in order to align the law with concepts utilized internationally and to enable an efficient response for early warning and swift action to address emerging food and nutrition security risks and prioritize increased resilience.

15. The institutional and implementation arrangements governing food and nutrition security are fragmented and suffer from lack of clarity of the roles and responsibilities of the various actors involved, weak coordination among the actors ultimately leading to the inability to address food and nutrition insecurity effectively and in a sustainable and meaningful way. Effective institutional and implementation arrangements will enable the country to engage in food and nutrition production on the basis of proper targeting and use and management of natural resources for the purpose of providing the population with food and nutrition, and the promoting the agriculture, food and nutrition industry. A thorough review of the situation will help identify gaps in the institutional and implementation arrangement, including addressing current fragmentation and insufficient coordination between the MOA and FSC and propose optimum institutional and implementation arrangements.

16. Under *Sub-component 1.3: Multiplication of seeds, seedlings, and planting materials (US\$25.5 million)*, the proposed SRASP AF will scale up the sub-component scope to include procurement and distribution of emergency seeds, fertilizers and small-scale innovative farm machinery to vulnerable rural households and women for homestead gardening, as a short-term food and nutrition crisis response as well as simplifying women's drudgery. The proposed SRASP AF will also support capacity building of beneficiaries of the emergency operations, including training on seeds, seedlings and planting materials production and the use of small-scale and innovative farm machinery of vulnerable rural household and women. The proposed SRASP AF design will also look into supporting potential additional measures that may address the acute bottlenecks in food and nutrition distribution and production systems, including targeting vulnerable rural households, returning migrants, and women.

17. **Component 2: Support investments in ALCs for horticulture value chains (US\$11.0 million).** The objectives and sub-component structure of the component will remain the same. The resources allocated under SRASP for the establishment of the three ALCs are not only limited but also fall far below what was originally requested by the government. The proposed SRASP AF will allow the component to scale up activities by supporting the establishment and operationalization of additional ALCs. The ALCs will help in improving the capacity of the government to provide food and nutrition access to its population by increasing its capacity to produce, store, process, and avail sufficient and quality food and nutrition. The ALCs will also help the government in building resilient food systems, promoting agricultural diversification hence food and nutrition security, ensuring better market linkages, and improving competitiveness of horticulture value chains and access to markets.

18. Under *Sub-component 2.1: Support the establishment and operation of ALCs (US\$11.0 million)*, the proposed SRASP AF will support (co-finance) the establishment and operationalization of two additional ALCs in geographical locations to be identified following the same procedure and operation and management modality as in the SRASP. The development (international contractor), design feature (small in size i.e., up to US\$5 million) and services the ALCs are anticipated to provide i.e., cooling, storage, packing, logistic facilities etc. will also be the same as the ALCs planned under the SRASP.

19. **Component 3: Strengthen public capacity for crises prevention and management (US\$12.5 million).** The objectives of the component and sub-components will remain the same. The proposed SRASP AF will allow the



component to include additional activities that will further strengthen the capacity of the public sector to prevent and manage crises, and a new sub-component that will help improve nutritional outcomes.

20. Under *Sub-component 3.1: Real-time monitoring of agricultural production, land use, and agrometeorology (US\$9.0 million)*, the SRASP AF will expand (co-finance) the scope of the sub-component which aims to enhance the early warning systems infrastructure, including, developing an early warning system for livestock, including to prepare for hydro-meteorological and temperature extreme events and animal diseases, including the procurement of additional mobile agrometeorological stations; and strengthen national participation in regional and global early warning systems for hydro-meteorological events, (US\$2.5 million); improving market and agriculture inputs price information systems, including the scaling up of digital technologies and information platforms (US\$2.5 million); complementing ongoing efforts led by FAO, UNICEF, and WFP to introduce the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) methodology in the country as an innovative multi-stakeholder initiative to improve analysis and decision-making on food security and nutrition (US\$2.5 million). supporting the government in implementation of the FSCPP through possible follow-up capacity building support based on the identified needs under the FSCPP (US\$2.0 million).

21. Addition of *Sub-component 3.4: Nutrition improvement (US\$3.0 million)*. The SRASP AF will provide financial resources to set-up a new sub-component that will aim to improve national nutritional outcomes and focuses on the immediate nutrition needs, specifically through: Procurement and distribution of micronutrients and vitamin supplements for pregnant and lactating women and children (6-59 months) and procurement and distribution of RUTFs for children at risk of severe acute malnutrition. The micronutrient and vitamin supplements and RUTFs for children will be distributed through the Clinical Research Institute for Pediatrics and Pediatric Surgery under the Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MOHSP) to the primary healthcare facilities. This activity will be accompanied by a media and communication campaign on the importance of healthy and diverse diets and of micronutrients intake; consequences of micronutrient deficiencies; good infant and young children feeding (IYCF) practices; and other critical nutrition messages (US\$1.25 million), Creation of a centralized supply for food fortification premixes by establishing a “premix revolving fund facility” for the premix (specifically, micronutrients and potassium iodate/iodine) and provision of “seed funds for premix” in collaboration with the Ministry of Industry and New Technologies (MINT), MOHSP, the National Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Coordination Council and other interested parties. Food fortification is expected to occur mainly in wheat flour and edible salt. The SRASP AF will also join other DPs, such as UNICEF, in supporting advocacy work for including the micronutrient premix and potassium iodate/iodine in the essential drugs list and/or for exempting procurement of premix and potassium iodate/iodine from customs fees and taxes (US\$1 million), and Implementation of priority nutrition-sensitive agriculture interventions specified under the Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Action Plan (MSNAP) (2021-2025) for which the MOA is responsible. The SRASP AF will support the human resource capacity development of the MOA to be able to mainstream nutrition considerations in policies and programs, including in the Republic of Tajikistan Food Security Program and render it capable to participate and report on the activities it is responsible for in global and national nutrition fora, including the National SUN Coordination Council Meetings, including reporting on dietary diversity under the Food Security Program. Additionally, the MOA will integrate into its agriculture extension and advisory services delivery of nutrition messages, such as the promotion of production and consumption of locally available folate-rich foods (such as dark leafy green vegetables, pulses, nuts and seeds, and citrus fruits). This also presupposes the development and dissemination of nutrition-sensitive agriculture training and information, education, and communication (IEC) materials that will enable the training of MOA staff at national, province and district levels, including “Training of Trainers” who can then lead demonstrations in the field on for example diversified homestead gardening, and small livestock production. Lastly, this activity will support knowledge generation and exchange on nutrition-agriculture programming and organization and participation of national and international nutrition platforms to showcase the results and progress on nutrition-sensitive activities implemented by the MOA (US\$ 0.75 million).

Higher Component 4: Project management and coordination (US\$0.5 million) This component is designed to improve the project management and coordination of the component.



Legal Operational Policies

Triggered?

Projects on International Waterways OP 7.50 Yes

Projects in Disputed Areas OP 7.60 No

Summary of Assessment of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

E. Implementation

Institutional and Implementation Arrangements

22. The implementation arrangements will remain as established under SRASP with the following adjustments: (i) Ministry of Health (MOH) and Food Security Committee representatives will be added to the Project Steering Committee (PSC) and the Project Technical Committee (PTC), and (ii) a nutrition specialist will be hired in the Project Implementation Unit (PIU). The primary implementing agency for the project will continue to be the MOA, and FAO will continue to support the implementation of the SRASP AF, as it possesses internationally acclaimed expertise in food security and nutrition improvement.

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