Economic, Social and Legal Capacity Building for Sustaining Impacts

13 districts

800 direct beneficiaries

106 days of training

Study tours for 40 people

65 competition winners

2 research assessments

The **Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia (EFCA) - Tajikistan** is a non-profit Tajik organization, established in 2009. EFCA-Tajikistan's mission is to strengthen local communities and improve the civic and economic well-being of Tajik people.

Within the **Environmental Land Management and Rural Livelihoods (ELMARL) Project**, funded by the World Bank and implemented by the Committee for Environmental Protection of the Republic of Tajikistan, EFCA - Tajikistan has been tasked to ensure the sustainability of the supported sub-projects and activities by:

o **Building Capacity** of ELMARL beneficiaries to close existing knowledge gaps on Economic, Social and Legal issues to sustain sub-project impacts on rural livelihoods

o Launching a competition and providing **peer-to-peer learning** opportunities for beneficiaries and training participants

o Assessing the **Economic Impact** of the ELMARL project, particularly the productivity and income-generation changes for project beneficiaries

1 NO POVERTY

2 ZERO HUNGER

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

13 CLIMATE ACTION

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First, EFCA Tajikistan conducted a Rapid Assessment to determine the most significant knowledge gaps of ELMARL beneficiaries and ensure that the supported sub-projects are economically, legally and socially sustainable. Based on this assessment, training modules were developed and expert trainers from target districts trained to convey the modules to the ELMARL beneficiaries.

Based on findings of the Rapid Assessment, 52 two-day training sessions were conducted in all of the 13 districts for 800 members of Common Interest Groups, Water User Associations and Pasture User Unions that were set up and supported through the ELMARL project. Pre- and post-training testing, using the latest technology in online monitoring, revealed an increase in knowledge of participants by 40%.

EFCA Tajikistan ensured that the training methodology conveyed the interconnectivity of economic, legal and social issues for the ELMARL beneficiaries to successfully sustain the benefit of their sub-project. Thus, the beneficiaries learned to develop a Sustainability Plan for their sub-project to extend its benefits to their livelihood and economic well-being. 284 Sustainability Plans were submitted out of which an independent steering committee selected the 62 best ones.

Winners of the competition were given a cash prize or invitation to attend a study tour. The study tour allowed participants to get to know about energy efficiency and its economic benefits, visit a milk processing factory and learn about market access by visiting and learning from sellers of Dushanbe's main bazaar.

Additionally, EFCA Tajikistan has conducted a comprehensive Economic Impact Assessment of the ELMARL project. The aim of the assessment was to understand the economic and income-generation opportunities that arise from rural investments in climate resiliency initiatives such as those supported by ELMARL. The findings, together with important content taught during the trainings, were published in a book in support of climate-friendly rural entrepreneurship.

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