



Training Woman on Household Farms



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FAST Program Objectives

- “Farmer Advisory Services in Tajikistan” (FAST) helps improve agricultural production, family nutrition and livelihoods,
- Training household and small commercial farmers to use new production technologies for cultivating crops,
- The FAST Program operates in 11 districts of Khatlon province of the Republic of Tajikistan,
- The target audiences are women on household farms and small scale Dehkan (commercial) farmers.



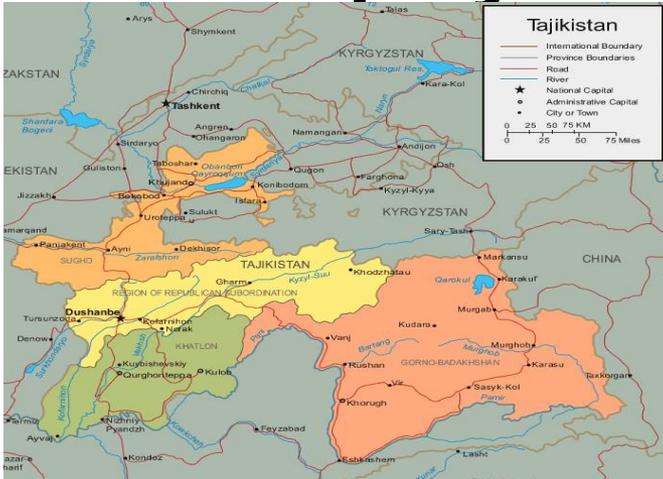
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Women play a significant role in agriculture:



- The total population of Tajikistan is 8.2 million.
- Rural population is 73% of the total.
- The share of the population employed in agriculture is 75%.
- Most agricultural production comes from household and small scale Dehkan farmers, with women providing most of the labor.
- 15% of the working-age men leave Tajikistan to seek employment abroad.





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Household and small scale farmers need:



- Ready access to markets
- Improved inputs (quality seeds and fertilizers) and more land
- Assured irrigation water
- Improved skills and knowledge in order to increase production.



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The four step approach of FAST:

- 1. Participatory Rural Assessment:** *identifying the types of farming practices in households.*
- 2. Learning group:** *to make contact with many more households who have had no previous contact with extension training activities.*
- 3. Learning plots:** *Providing advisory services on the application of the latest technologies to the selected crops.*
- 4. Evaluation at the end of the season:** *the results of the use of the new production technologies and information.*



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Uses Participatory methods (1)



- Strong Jamoat extension teams; Facilitator, JEC, APS;
- Motivated, good quality, high % female staff;
- Staff cross-learning, during Friday training meetings.
- Provide Learning groups with teaching materials.
- Provide Learning groups with SMS texts and latest production technologies.



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Uses Participatory methods (2)



- To reach women farmers with common interests,
- Support Household Farmer Learning Groups,
- Combination of PRA and following crop calendar,
- Lead Farmer concept with group learning plots,
- Topics close to women farmer interest and needs.



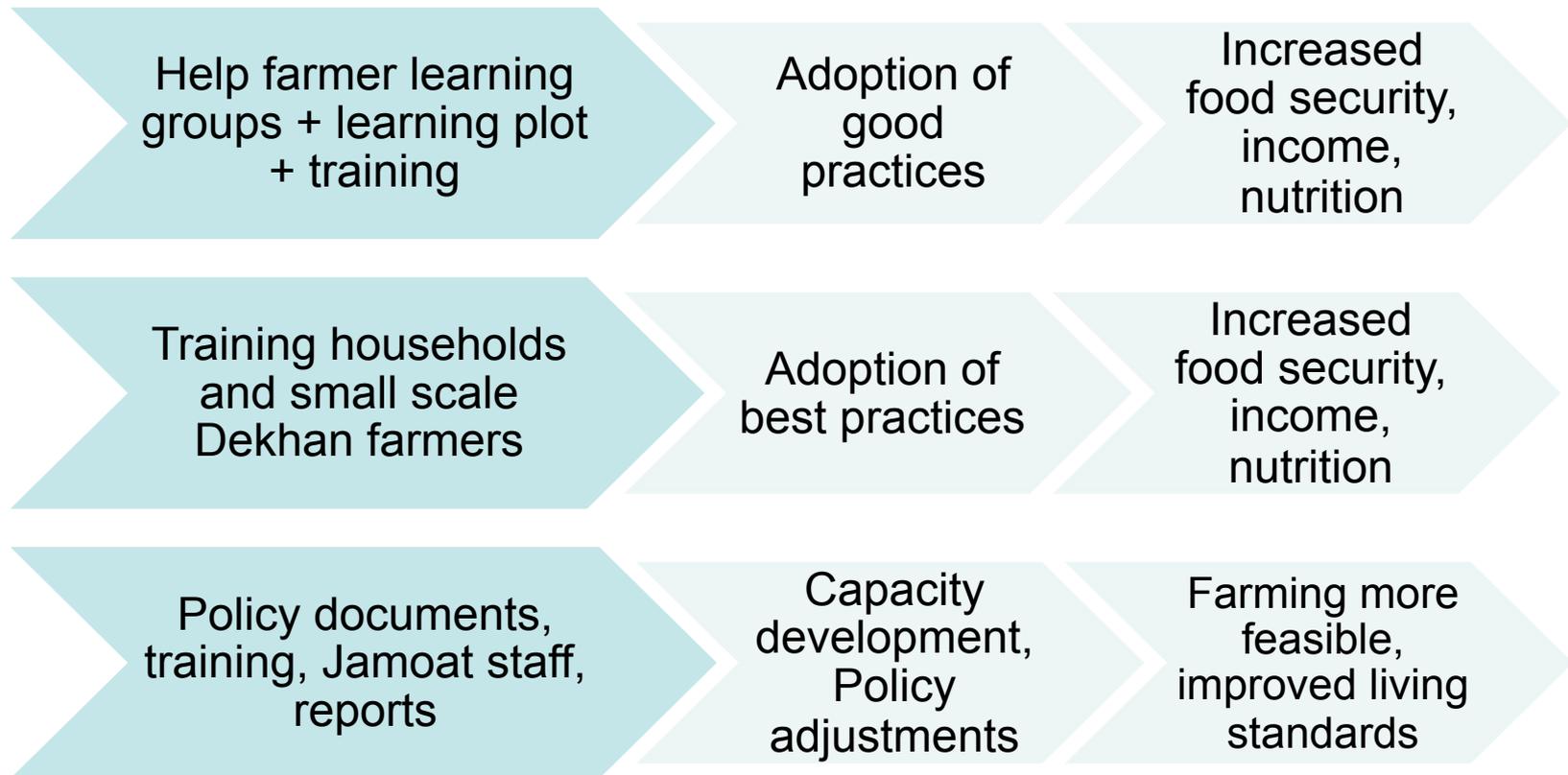
Uses Participatory methods (3)



- Field-based and practical training.
- Farmer cross-visits between mahallas and regional learning groups.
- Focus on cost-savings and yield increasing technologies;
- Collaboration with F2F, CIP and AVRDC;
- To have strong government linkages (Oblast, Jamoat, Mahalla).



Clear signs of outputs resulting in impacts





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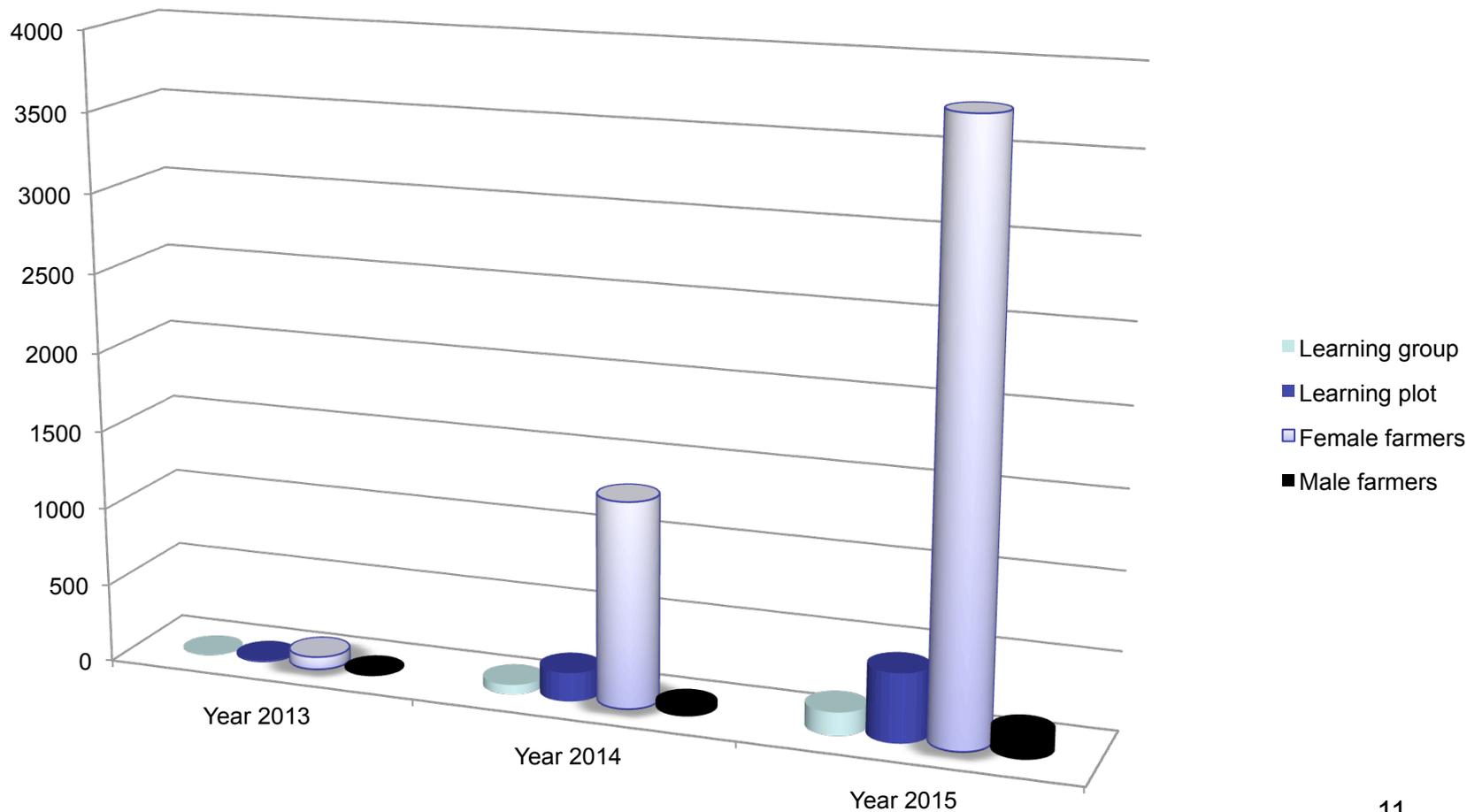
Results and achievements of FAST program:

Our Women Learning Groups have mastered new agricultural technologies on growing many more nutritious crops:

- Selection of high quality seeds,
- Pest control - use of remedies for controlling pests and diseases of agricultural crops,
- Improved storage and reduced crop-loss practices,
- Access to printed training materials,
- Increased access to markets,
- Easier access to knowledge and production skills to operate their farms more productively.



Information about working groups of FAST





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Farmer Success Stories – members of FAST Women’s Groups (Khatlon Province)



Through FAST, during May-October 2014, 21 women farmers in ‘Buston Sulaimonov’ village in Tajikistan’s high desert in Khatlon province, about 45 miles north of the Afghan border, learned new production techniques, soil improvements including composting, better seed selection, integrated pest management, food preservation and group capacity building skills. The first harvest from the three small FAST project-learning plots in the village (0.06 hectares) produced 3,900 kilos of cabbage and resulted in a net income of 11,700 Tajik Somoni (\$2,340). The women and their families were able to eat more nutritious food, buy supplies for their farms, and purchase needed household goods such as school clothes.



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Farmer Success Stories – members of FAST Women’s Groups (Khatlon Province)



Ms. Saidrahmonova is one of the women in a FAST-supported group of 30 women household farmers who managed her onion-based learning plot on 0.01 hectares (0.02 acres) in their household vegetable gardens. In September 2014, USAID/FAST provided “Mayskiy” onion seed to the learning plot farmers and demonstrated how to productively manage onions. In May, Saidrahmonova harvested 550 kilograms from 0.01 hectare. They believe this achievement was only made possible through using the best practices of onion production, including seed selection, soil preparation with compost, proper planting, weed management, as well as night irrigation and other preventive pest and disease control measures.



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Thank you for your attention !

