

6th GFRAS Annual Meeting
Global Good Practices in Rural Advisory Services
14 - 17 September 2015, Issyk Kul, Kyrgyzstan

FIELD DAY PROGRAM
Potato value chain (full day)

Women's economic advance (full day)

Potato is a key crop in Issyk Kul and the province is by far the largest potato producer in the country. Potatoes are important as a food crop and as well as cash crop. Part of the potatoes are exported to Kazakhstan and Russia. However, average yields are low (16-17 t per ha) because most farmers use local low quality seed potatoes. We will visit various actors and explore their linkages along the whole value chain. These include farmer groups getting advisory support by Agro Lead, one of the specialised non-governmental RAS providers, in improving potato production, farmers multiplying and selling seed potatoes of improved varieties, and a cooperative engaging in potato marketing. We will talk about the different advisory service support efforts in the potato value chain, the difficulties of changing farmers' attitudes to production, the challenges of marketing the potatoes at a satisfactory price due to unstable linkages to export markets and can discuss with Agrolead their experiences with combining RAS provision, marketing of potatoes and provision of inputs to farmers.

The main destination of this field trip is Shaty village in Tiup rayon. The village is situated beyond the Eastern end of lake Issyk Kul at a distance of 125 km from the meeting venue. Travelling time is around 1.5 h each way.

Facilitator: Gulnaz Kaseeva, Director Agrolead

Other key persons: Azamat Kaseev, adviser Agrolead

Program:

Time	Activity, discussion topics	Responsible
8.00 - 10.00	Departure from hotels to village Shaty (Tiup rayon)	Facilitator
10.00 - 10.30	Introduction to Agro Lead Importance of potato in Issyk Kul. Area under potatoes. Problems of farmers regarding seed potatoes. Marketing channels for potatoes. Storage.	Agrolead
10.30 - 11.15	Introduction of informal seed fund „Shaty” Story of potato farmers, production, marketing, advisory services etc.	Potato growers
11.15 – 12.00	Successes and problems experienced by Agro Lead in the	Agrolead

	potato value chain	
12.00 - 13.00	Lunch (at farm)	
13.00 - 15.00	Visit potato fields. Discuss harvesting, storage, marketing. Talk with group of farmers, who buy seed potatoes from local producers.	Facilitator, farmers, participants
15.00 - 15.30	Discussions, ideas and recommendations by participants	Facilitator, participants
15.30 - 18.00	Departure to Hotel (including visit to the shore of Issyk Kul lake)	Facilitator