# KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

# AGRICULTURAL PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION UNIT

**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**Production and Post-Harvest Processing 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. Review of the current state of production and primary processing facilities for selected crops in the target areas of the project;
3. In consultation with agribusiness value chain operators, develop technical standards for on farm management practices related to priority horticultural crops in the target area;
4. Identify potential climate risks and environmental issues for the production of individual crops in target regions; INTERNAL. This information is accessible to ADB Management and Staff. It may be shared outside ADB with appropriate permission.
5. Identify the main technical and technological constraints faced by value chain operators when implementing post-harvest and primary processing facilities;
6. Conduct awareness-raising trainings for supply chain operators and farmer groups on the possibilities of reducing fruit and vegetable waste and supplying higher quality products to the market to extend the shelf life of perishable products;
7. Support value chain enterprises applying for PFI loans to identify modern process equip ment and quantify the potential impact of installing post-harvest handling and cold storage equipment/equipment;
8. Disseminate information among farmer groups and pickers on possible measures to adapt to climate change in horticulture in the regions;
9. Support the creation of voluntary production associations to link with value chain enterprises (organization and holding of an annual planning seminar, regular meetings with value chain operators);
10. Promote the introduction of water-saving technologies on farms, the dissemination and ap plication of other methods of protection against climate change among target farmers - fruit and vegetable growers;
11. Assist the Value Chain Officer in identifying potential value chain enterprises interested in applying for loans through the PFI to expand their capacity and improve post-harvest handling systems;
12. Collect information on the movement of fruit and vegetable products in target value chains, distinguishing the destination from the project target areas, and submit such data to the project monitoring and evaluation system;
13. Develop best practices for product harvest in target project locations in an attempt to reduce losses and extend the shelf life of perishable horticultural produce;
14. Collect information on the range of post-harvest handling equipment that exists in the project areas for the identified priority crops and record facilities and their capacities in a data base to be developed by the project;
15. Establish a mechanism to monitor the level of horticultural losses for incorporation in the project monitoring system;
16. Assess the impact of project activities on indirect beneficiaries of the project (farmers);
17. Perform other tasks as directed by the Director of APIU and the CRAVCD Coordinator.
18. **Reporting and approval procedure**

Production and Post-Harvest ProcessingSpecialist will report to the Project Coordinator and the APIU Director, who will evaluate the performance of the Specialist's duties.

1. **Qualification requirements**

Production and Post-Harvest ProcessingSpecialist must have:

* A university degree in agricultural sciences or a related field from a recognized institution (e.g. Kyrgyz National Agrarian University).
* The specialist should have 10 years of experience in agricultural production and/or post-harvest handling, obtained either in private enterprises, or in government programs (research institutions), or in multilateral funded development programs.
* The specialist should demonstrate the ability to adapt technical knowledge to horticulture development issues that cover the various crops grown in the Kyrgyz Republic.
* He/she should be able to demonstrate detailed knowledge of a range of horticulture production systems and understand the motivation of small-scale horticulture producers for system change.
* The specialist should be able to demonstrate strong analytical skills in understanding crop water requirements, in environments where climatic conditions are highly variable, and in relation to on-farm production management systems related to the shelf life of perishable horticultural produce.
* She/he should have a comprehensive appreciation of the need for the removal of field heat from horticultural crops after harvest to extend shelf life as well as understanding the storage requirements of crops produced in target regions.
* Report writing and communication with other APIU officers will be done in Russian and Kyrgyz, fluency in which is expected.
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.