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ULAANBAATAR 2026

KYRGYZ ASSOCIATION OF FOREST AND LAND USERS

A UNIFIED PACKAGE OF INITIATIVES AND INVESTMENT PROPOSALS

**PREPARED FOR ALL INTERESTED PARTIES,
PARTICIPANTS AND PARTNERS OF
COP17, 2026, MONGOLIA**

Address by the General Director of the Kyrgyz Association of Forest and Land Users (KAFLU), Burkhanov Aitkul Mustafayevich

Dear colleagues!

On behalf of the Kyrgyz Association of Forest and Land Users, allow me to express my sincere respect to the organizers, participants, and partners of the 17th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification.

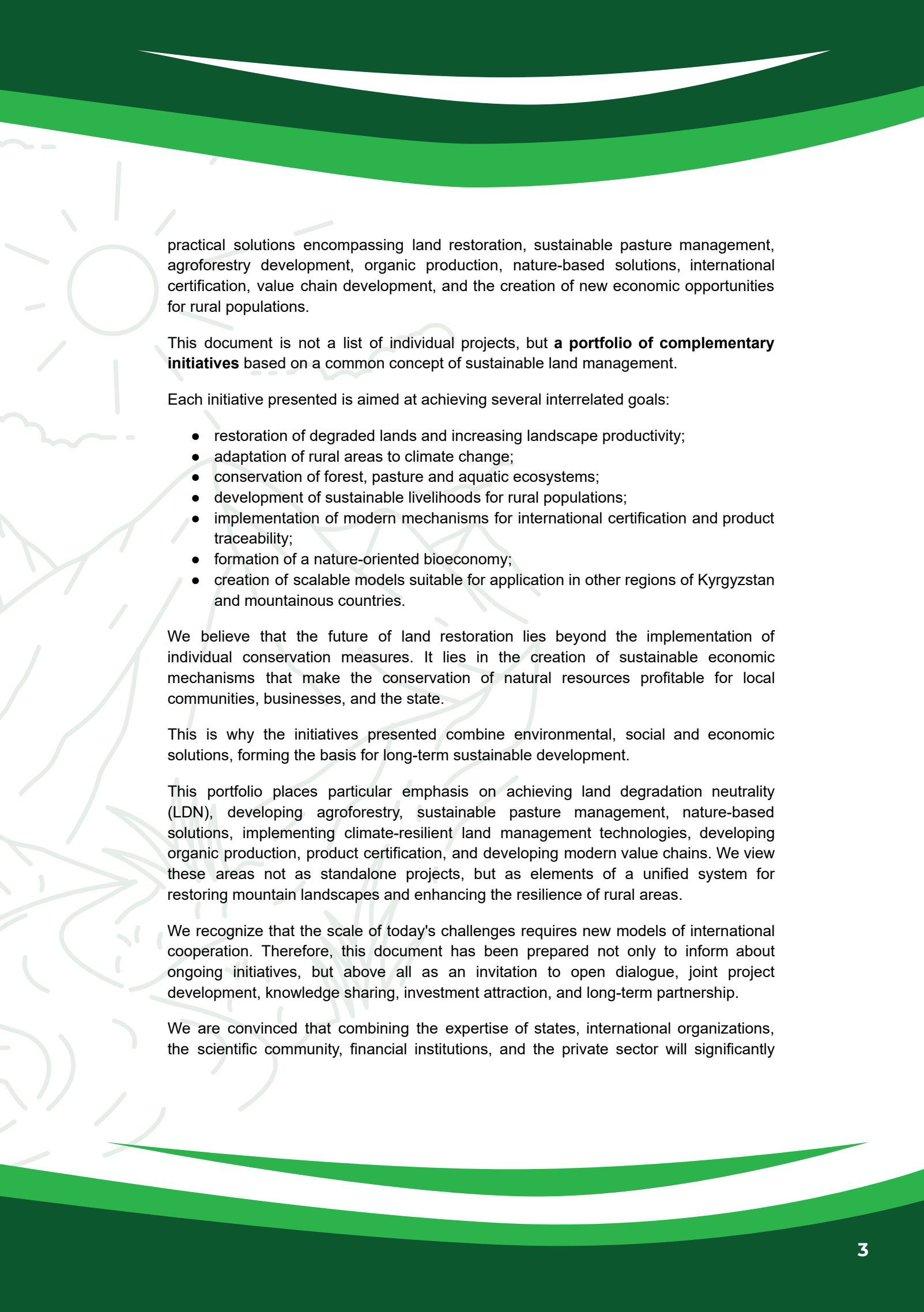
Holding COP 17 under the motto " **Restoring Land. Restoring "Restoring Lands – Restoring Hope "** reflects one of the most pressing challenges of our time. For the Kyrgyz Republic, a mountainous and agricultural country where people's well-being directly depends on the state of land, water, forest, and pasture resources, restoring degraded lands is not only an environmental priority but also a critical condition for sustainable socioeconomic development.



Today, land degradation, climate change, glacier shrinkage, declining pasture productivity, water scarcity, and biodiversity loss represent interconnected challenges that require comprehensive solutions. Addressing them is impossible with the efforts of a single institution or organization. It requires the combined efforts of public policy, scientific knowledge, entrepreneurial initiative, local community expertise, and international cooperation.

That is why the Kyrgyz Association of Forest and Land Users carries out its activities in close cooperation with **the Ministry of Water Resources, Agriculture and Processing Industry of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Forestry Service under the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Kyrgyz Republic**, as well as with other government agencies, scientific organizations, local governments and international partners. The Association views its activities as a contribution to the practical implementation of the national priorities of the Kyrgyz Republic in the field of sustainable management of natural resources, restoration of degraded lands and the development of sustainable mountain landscapes.

In recent years, working with government agencies, academic institutions, local communities, and international partners, we have developed a set of interconnected



practical solutions encompassing land restoration, sustainable pasture management, agroforestry development, organic production, nature-based solutions, international certification, value chain development, and the creation of new economic opportunities for rural populations.

This document is not a list of individual projects, but **a portfolio of complementary initiatives** based on a common concept of sustainable land management.

Each initiative presented is aimed at achieving several interrelated goals:

- restoration of degraded lands and increasing landscape productivity;
- adaptation of rural areas to climate change;
- conservation of forest, pasture and aquatic ecosystems;
- development of sustainable livelihoods for rural populations;
- implementation of modern mechanisms for international certification and product traceability;
- formation of a nature-oriented bioeconomy;
- creation of scalable models suitable for application in other regions of Kyrgyzstan and mountainous countries.

We believe that the future of land restoration lies beyond the implementation of individual conservation measures. It lies in the creation of sustainable economic mechanisms that make the conservation of natural resources profitable for local communities, businesses, and the state.

This is why the initiatives presented combine environmental, social and economic solutions, forming the basis for long-term sustainable development.

This portfolio places particular emphasis on achieving land degradation neutrality (LDN), developing agroforestry, sustainable pasture management, nature-based solutions, implementing climate-resilient land management technologies, developing organic production, product certification, and developing modern value chains. We view these areas not as standalone projects, but as elements of a unified system for restoring mountain landscapes and enhancing the resilience of rural areas.

We recognize that the scale of today's challenges requires new models of international cooperation. Therefore, this document has been prepared not only to inform about ongoing initiatives, but above all as an invitation to open dialogue, joint project development, knowledge sharing, investment attraction, and long-term partnership.

We are convinced that combining the expertise of states, international organizations, the scientific community, financial institutions, and the private sector will significantly



accelerate the achievement of the goals of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification and ensure the sustainable development of mountainous regions.

The Kyrgyz Association of Forest and Land Users is open to cooperation and is ready to participate, together with national and international partners, in the development and implementation of new initiatives aimed at restoring degraded lands, preserving natural capital, and improving the quality of life of the rural population.

I sincerely hope that the materials presented in this portfolio will form the basis for constructive dialogue, new joint projects, and long-term partnership.

Thank you for your attention and I wish the participants of COP 17 successful and fruitful work.

Sincerely,

Aitkul Burkhanov,
General Director of the Kyrgyz Association of Forest and Land Users

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Block 1: Achieving Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN)

A. Name of the initiative National program for the restoration of degraded agricultural and forest lands of the Kyrgyz Republic "LDN Kyrgyzstan 2030".

B. Relevance and Problem: Over 60% of Kyrgyzstan's agricultural lands and mountainous areas are subject to water and wind erosion, secondary salinization, desertification, and declining soil fertility. These negative effects are exacerbated by climate change—increasing droughts, irrigation water shortages, and uneven precipitation. This leads to a reduction in arable land, lower crop yields, and a deterioration in the living standards of rural communities dependent on agriculture.

B. Proposed solution: Implementation of a set of soil-protecting and resource-saving technologies (No - till/Till, bio reclamation, crop rotations with groundcover and leguminous crops) in combination with digital soil monitoring. The program includes restoration of drainage networks, landscape planning, and training of land users in climate - smart agriculture methods).

G. What has already been implemented

- Comprehensive mapping and GIS monitoring of key land degradation *hotspots* was carried out across the country.
- Resource-saving and soil-protective technologies were piloted on an area of more than 5,000 hectares in the Chui, Osh, and Jalal-Abad regions.
- More than 1,500 farmers, members of pasture committees and representatives of local aiyl okmotu were trained.

D. Main results

- Erosion processes in pilot areas were completely stopped, with a fixed reduction in humus leaching by 25%.
- An increase in the yield of grain and forage crops by 18–22% was noted, while the costs of fuel and lubricants and soil cultivation were simultaneously reduced.
- An institutional database and methodological basis for recording LDN indicators at the national level have been created.

E. Scaling Potential: Scaling up conservation agriculture and soil restoration practices to 150,000 hectares of irrigated and rainfed lands in all seven regions of the Kyrgyz Republic. Institutionalization of seven regional LDN knowledge and consultation centers based on existing farmer associations and cooperatives.

The LDN / GEF / FAO Project is scheduled to launch in September 2026 in Kyrgyzstan.

G. Necessary investments

- **Total volume: \$12,500,000 USD** (for 5 years).
- **Funding allocation:** Purchase of specialized direct seeding drills and equipment, biopreparations and seed material, GIS equipment for laboratory soil monitoring, grants for farmer cooperatives.

3. Possible international partners: Global Environment Facility (GEF), Green Climate Fund (GCF), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), UNCCD Secretariat (UNCCD).

I. Expected social, economic and environmental impact

- **Social:** Increasing income and food security for over 45,000 rural families; reducing forced labor migration from rural areas.
- **Economic:** Prevention of economic losses from soil degradation amounting to \$8 million USD annually; increase in gross agricultural yield by 20%.
- **Ecological:** Long-term deposition and sequestration of carbon in the soil; prevention of desertification of arid zones; restoration of soil microflora and biodiversity.

K. Illustrations (photos, maps, diagrams, infographics)

1. *Map:* National vector of land degradation in Kyrgyzstan and LDN 2030 target zones.
2. *Infographics:* Comparative analysis of the No - till /bio melioration system and traditional plowing (moisture retention, humus preservation, costs).
3. *Photo block:* Before and after photos of soil conservation measures in pilot fields.

L. Contact person

Burkhanov Aitkul Mustafaevich, General Director of the Kyrgyz Association of Forest and Land Users (KAFLU)

Email : kyrgyzaflu@gmail.com | Tel: +996 (999)551406| Website: www.kaflu.kg

a.burkhanov58@gmail.com



Block 2: Development of Agroforestry

A. Name of the initiative: Development of agroforestry in the Kyrgyz Republic for 2026–2050

B. Relevance and problem: Climate change, land degradation, water scarcity, and increasing natural hazards are reducing the sustainability of agriculture and forestry in the Kyrgyz Republic and negatively impacting food security and rural incomes. Furthermore, the potential of low-productivity and degraded lands is underutilized. Developing agroforestry is a viable solution that can simultaneously increase land productivity, restore ecosystems, reduce climate risks, and create additional sources of income for the rural population.

B. Proposed solution: The creation and scaling of agroforestry systems on degraded and low-productivity lands, based on a combination of tree, fruit, agricultural, and forage crops. The solution includes land restoration, the implementation of climate-resilient technologies, the creation of protective forest plantations, the development of nurseries and agroforestry farms, and support for farmers through training, financing, and the development of value chains.

G. What has already been implemented?

- A draft Concept for the Development of Agroforestry in the Kyrgyz Republic for 2026–2050 has been developed; the document is at the approval stage with the ministries and departments of the Kyrgyz Republic;
- Individual elements of agroforestry are being implemented: reforestation, restoration of degraded lands and pastures, creation of green spaces, introduction of climate-resilient practices, development of farms and cooperatives, processing and value chains;
- With the support of government programs and international partners, initiatives are being implemented with the participation of farmers, forest users, and local communities, creating the basis for the further dissemination of agroforestry at the national level.

D. Scaling potential:

With degraded, low-productivity, and unused lands, pastures, and areas susceptible to natural hazards, the Kyrgyz Republic has significant potential for scaling up agroforestry. The diversity of natural and climatic conditions allows for the implementation of various agroforestry methods, including forest pastures, shelterbelts, and home gardens. Accumulated practical experience, government support, and international funding create the conditions for expanding the agroforestry area to 300,000 hectares by 2050.

E. Necessary investments:

47,083.08 million soms (538.39 million US dollars) for 23 years

G. Potential international partners: international donor and financial organizations, funds, development programs and other interested partners.

3. Main expected results:

Social:

- creation of more than 200 thousand green jobs,
- increasing the income of the rural population,
- reducing the poverty rate in rural areas to less than 7%;
- developing entrepreneurship and increasing the potential of more than 20 thousand farmers and specialists.

Economic:

- expansion of the agroforestry area to 300 thousand hectares by 2050;
- increasing land productivity, developing clusters, processing and value chains, increasing exports of agroforestry products to more than 25%;

Ecological:

- restoration of more than 60% of degraded lands and soils;
- increase in forest cover of the country from 6.4% to more than 14%;
- conservation of biodiversity and water resources, reduction of erosion and climate risks, increase of carbon sequestration.

I. Illustrations (photos, maps, diagrams, infographics)

L. Contact person

Burkhanov Aitkul Mustafaeovich, General Director of the Kyrgyz Association of Forest and Land Users (KAFLU)

Email : kyrgyzaflu@gmail.com | Tel: +996 (999)551406| Website: www.kaflu.kg

a.burkhanov58@gmail.com



Block 3: National Program "Walnut Belt of Kyrgyzstan 2050"

A. Initiative Title

National Long-Term Program for the Restoration and Sustainable Management of Walnut-Fruit Forests and Landscapes "Walnut Belt of Kyrgyzstan 2050."

B. Relevance and Problem

Uniqueness and Threats: The walnut-fruit forests of Kyrgyzstan (for example Arslanbob, Yassy, etc.) represent the world's largest natural walnut forest and a valuable genetic reservoir of biodiversity.

Landscape Degradation: Intensive grazing, uncontrolled harvesting, aging forest stands, lack of natural regeneration, and anthropogenic pressure lead to soil degradation, erosion, and biodiversity loss.

Climate Risks: Climate change is leading to shifts in growing seasons, increased droughts, frosts, and the spread of pests. **Socioeconomic Factor:** High dependence of local populations on forest resources, coupled with low processing efficiency and value added chains (VACs), leads to reduced incomes for rural households.

C. Proposed Solution

Integrated Landscape Planning: Implementation of joint forest management (JFM) systems and landscape planning with the participation of forestry enterprises, local *aiyl okmotu* (village administrations), and land users.

Agroforestry and Reforestation: Establishment of new nurseries, plantation cultivation of high-yielding varieties of walnut, wild pistachio, almond, apple, and arable crops.

Protection and Fencing: Introduce seasonal grazing regulations within forest areas, fencing of areas to ensure natural forest regeneration.

Certification and VACs: Implementation of voluntary certification (FSC/Organic/Fair Trade), development of infrastructure for collection, primary processing, drying, grading, and packaging of products in the nut and fruit belt. **Alternative income sources:** Development of ecotourism, beekeeping, medicinal herb collection, and small-scale processing enterprises to reduce the burden on forests.

D. What has already been implemented

Mechanisms for joint forest management and leasing of state forest fund plots have been tested.

Pilot measures for reforestation, fencing of natural regeneration areas, and harvesting of planting material have been conducted.

Cooperatives and forest user groups have been formed and trained in sustainable harvesting, organic standards, and certification.

Elements of agroforestry and forest resource processing have been introduced through regional farmer associations.

E. Key results

Environmental: Erosion processes in pilot forest and adjacent pasture plots have been halted; the growth of young walnut and related species has been ensured.

Economic: The quality of harvested raw materials (walnuts, pistachios, wild plants) has been improved; primary distribution channels for certified and organic products have been established. Socio-institutional: Strengthened capacity of local community members and forestry staff, reduced conflicts over land and forest use.

F. Scalability Potential

Expansion of the area of sustainably managed walnut-fruit ecosystems and agroforestry plantations in the Jalal-Abad, Osh, and Batken regions.

Integration of the program into the National Concept for the Development of Agroforestry until 2050 and regional climate change adaptation programs.

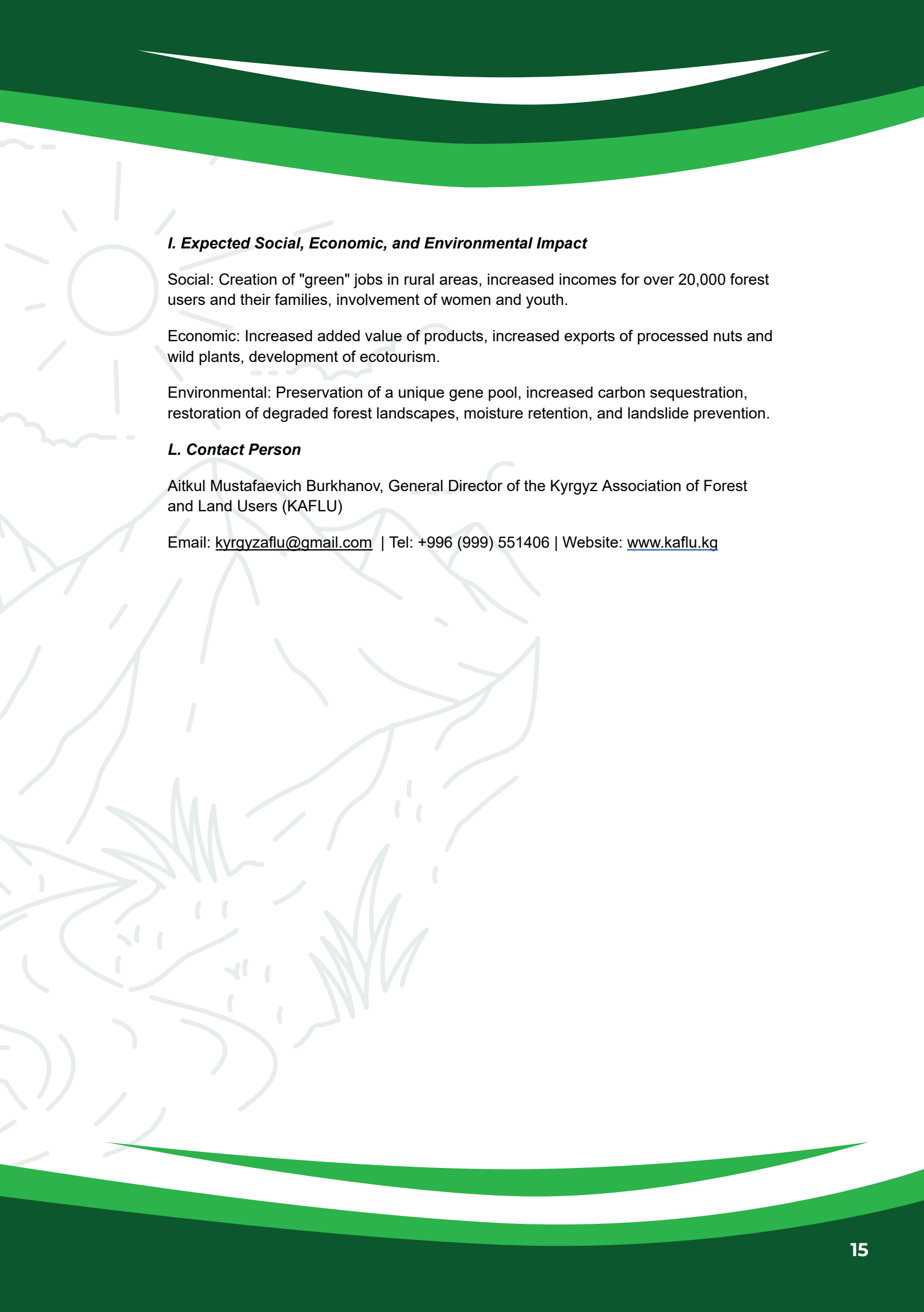
G. Necessary Investments

Approximate Required Budget: Long-term program with funding stages (grants for reforestation and infrastructure, concessional loans for processing).

H. Potential International and National Partners

International: Global Environment Facility (GEF), Green Climate Fund (GCF), FAO, UNCCD, GIZ, IFAD.

National: Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology, and Technical Supervision of the Kyrgyz Republic; Forest Service under the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Kyrgyz Republic; Ministry of Water Resources, Agriculture, and Processing Industry of the Kyrgyz Republic; Kyrgyz Association of Forest and Land Users (KAFLU); forestry enterprises, local governments, and forest users.



I. Expected Social, Economic, and Environmental Impact

Social: Creation of "green" jobs in rural areas, increased incomes for over 20,000 forest users and their families, involvement of women and youth.

Economic: Increased added value of products, increased exports of processed nuts and wild plants, development of ecotourism.

Environmental: Preservation of a unique gene pool, increased carbon sequestration, restoration of degraded forest landscapes, moisture retention, and landslide prevention.

L. Contact Person

Aitkul Mustafaevich Burkhanov, General Director of the Kyrgyz Association of Forest and Land Users (KAFLU)

Email: kyrgyzaflu@gmail.com | Tel: +996 (999) 551406 | Website: www.kaflu.kg



Block 4. Sustainable Pasture Management

A. Initiative Title

Sustainable management and restoration of pastures in the Kyrgyz Republic, including pastures of the state forest fund.

B. Relevance and Problem

Pastures are a vital natural and economic resource in the Kyrgyz Republic, providing livestock feed, employment, and income for the rural population, and performing important functions in preserving soil, water, and biodiversity.

Rangelands of the state forest fund are of particular importance, as they require simultaneous sustainable livestock grazing and the conservation of forest and other natural ecosystems.

The main problems include overgrazing, uneven pasture use, vegetation degradation, soil erosion, lack of watering points and other infrastructure, and the impact of climate change.

A separate issue concerns disputes between pasture users and representatives of the state forest fund regarding access to pastures, timing and intensity of grazing, use of water sources, and infrastructure. A lack of joint planning and interaction between pasture users, local governments, local councils, and forestry enterprises can lead to conflicts and the irrational use of state forest fund pastures.

B. Proposed Solution

- Develop and implement joint livestock grazing plans on state forest fund pastures with the participation of pasture users, local governments, local councils, and representatives of forestry enterprises;
- Organize pasture rotation and regulated grazing, taking into account the permissible load;
- Coordinate grazing times, routes, and procedures;
- Establish conflict prevention and resolution mechanisms;
- Joint monitoring of the condition of state forest fund pastures;
- Restoration of degraded pastures by reseeded forage grasses and implementing erosion control measures;
- Improve infrastructure: watering holes, roads, bridges, corrals, and resting areas for animals;
- Development of forest-pasture systems and nature-oriented solutions;
- Implementation of the "Electronic Shepherd" system;
- Capacity building for pasture users, farmers, forestry workers, and local communities.

G. What has already been implemented-

- Training for pasture users, farmers, youth, and local community representatives was conducted;
- Nature-oriented solutions and agroforestry elements were implemented;
- A joint livestock grazing plan was developed and tested on the territory of a pilot forestry enterprise with the participation of pasture users, local government bodies, the local council, and the forestry enterprise;
- The pilot demonstrated the effectiveness of joint planning, contributed to a reduction in conflicts, and led to more rational use of pastures;
- Joint work to improve the infrastructure of pastures in the state forest fund was established;
- An organic fertilizer based on sheep wool was tested on pilot pasture plots in Naryn Oblast;
- Partnerships formed with government agencies, international organizations, scientific institutions, and local communities

D. Key Expected Results

- Development and implementation of joint livestock grazing plans on state forest fund pastures;
- Reduction of conflicts between pasture users and forestry representatives;
- More rational distribution of grazing loads;
- Restoration of degraded pastures on state forest fund pastures;
- Improvement of pasture infrastructure;
- Implementation of digital monitoring and the "Electronic Shepherd" system;
- Improved interaction between pasture users, local authorities, and forestry enterprises;
- Increased resilience of pasture and forest ecosystems to climate change.

E. Potential for Scaling

The proven model of joint grazing planning on the territory of the pilot forestry enterprise can be extended to other state forest fund pastures. The model involves pasture users, local governments, local councils, and forestry enterprises in grazing planning, monitoring, conflict prevention, and infrastructure improvement.

Scaling is possible from individual forestry enterprises and demonstration sites to district and regional programs, and eventually to a national program for pasture restoration and sustainable management.

3. Potential Partners

International: international donor organizations, international financial institutions, UN organizations, scientific and research organizations, organizations working in the fields of land restoration, forest restoration, pasture restoration, and climate change.

National: government agencies, forestry enterprises, local governments, local councils, pasture users, farming and rural communities, scientific and educational institutions, civil society organizations.

I. Expected Impact

Social:

- Reducing conflicts between pasture users and representatives of the state forest fund;
- Increasing the participation of local communities in resource management;
- Strengthening the capacity of pasture users and forestry workers;
- Improving animal welfare conditions;
- Expanding the participation of youth and women.

Economic:

- Increasing the productivity of pastures and livestock;
- Improving the forage base;
- Reducing the cost of supplementary feed;
- Increasing the income of rural households;
- More efficient use of remote pastures of the state forest fund.

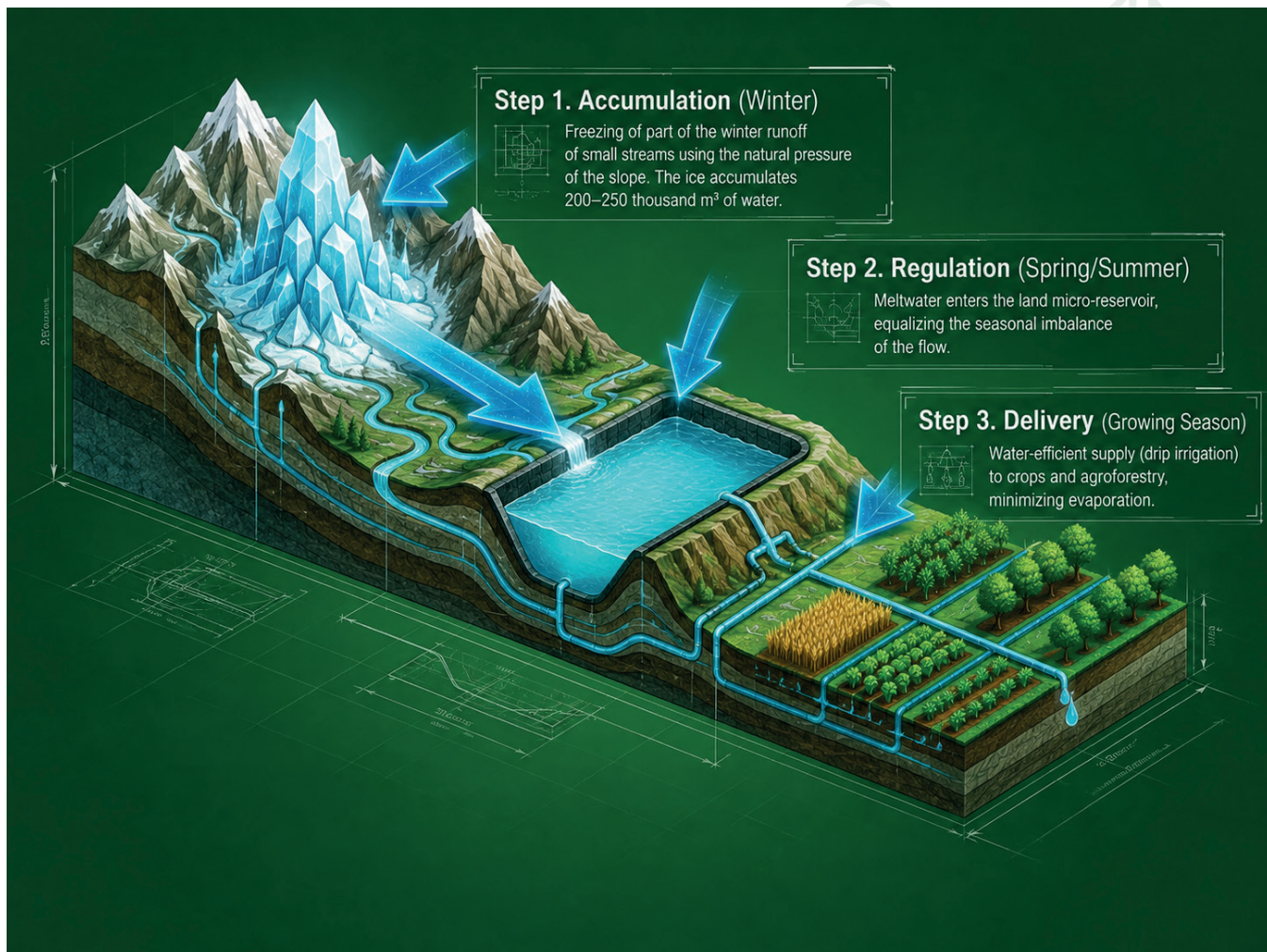
Environmental and climate:

- Restoration of degraded pastures of the state forest fund;
- Reduction of land erosion and degradation;
- Conservation of biodiversity and forest ecosystems;
- Improvement of soil and water resources;
- Increasing pasture resilience to drought and climate change;
- Increasing carbon storage potential;
- Creation of sustainable landscapes that combine livestock farming, pasture management, and conservation of natural resources.

L. Contact person

Burkhanov Aitkul Mustafaevich, General Director of the Kyrgyz Association of Forest and Land Users (KAFLU)

Email : kyrgyzaflu@gmail.com | Tel: +996 (999)551406 | Website: www.kaflu.kg
a.burkhanov58@gmail.com



Block 5. The "Artificial Glacier - Reservoir - Farmer" system

A. Name of the initiative:

Scaling up a climate-resilient "Artificial Glacier - Reservoir - Farmer" system using water-saving technologies in the Kyrgyz Republic.

B. Relevance and problem:

Climate change, glacier shrinkage, and changing seasonality of runoff pose risks to agriculture and food security. Artificial glaciers allow the accumulation of unused winter runoff from small rivers, streams, and springs and its use in spring and early summer, the period of greatest need for irrigation water.

B. Proposed solution:

It is proposed to scale the integrated system:

Mountain water source - artificial glacier - meltwater storage - small reservoir - pipeline - drip irrigation - farm.

During winter, a portion of the runoff from mountain rivers, streams, and springs is diverted via a gravity pipeline to form an artificial glacier. In spring and summer, the meltwater flows into a smaller reservoir located below, from where it is piped directly to agricultural land. Drip irrigation improves the efficiency of stored water use.

G. What has already been implemented?

- Artificial glaciers have been created as part of various initiatives;
- A special Guidance Document has been developed for the creation of artificial glaciers and a new "Artificial Glacier – Reservoir – Farmer" system with a drip irrigation system.
- The Association of Forest and Land Users of Kyrgyzstan has finalized the Guidance Document and tested the provisions of this document;
- The pilot experiment confirmed the technical feasibility of seasonally accumulating significant volumes of water: according to the calculation model, with a flow rate of 20-25 l/s and a frost period of about 120 days, it is possible to form an artificial glacier with a volume of 200-250 thousand m³, which, when using drip irrigation, makes it possible to provide water to up to 300 hectares of agricultural land;
- The basis for further scaling of the system has been formed with a focus on increasing the provision of irrigation water to farmers to at least 90%, primarily in areas with seasonal water shortages.

D. Scaling potential:

The initiative has significant potential for scalability in Kyrgyzstan's mountainous and foothill regions, which experience seasonal water shortages. The technology is primarily based on the use of natural elevation changes and can be implemented with the participation of local communities. The initial potential covers approximately 300 villages, and the long-term technical potential is estimated at up to 1,000 locations, provided suitable water sources, terrain, and agricultural land are available.

E. Necessary investments:

\$330,000 for 24 months in one pilot site

This initiative requires scaling up across the Republic—approximately \$2,400,000 across all seven regions.

G. Potential international partners:

International donor and financial organizations, funds, development programs and other interested partners.

3. Main expected results:

Social:

- improving water security for rural communities;
- strengthening the capacity of local water users;
- reducing the likelihood of conflicts over limited water resources.

Economic:

- ensuring timely irrigation and reducing water losses;
- increasing the sustainability of crop yields and farmer incomes;
- the possibility of developing and more efficiently using agricultural land.

Ecological:

- rational use of part of the winter runoff;
- adaptation of agriculture to climate change;
- reducing the burden on limited water resources during critical periods;
- Improving water efficiency and sustainability of mountain agroecosystems.

K. Illustrations (photos, maps, diagrams, infographics)

L. Contact person

Burkhanov Aitkul Mustafaevich, General Director of the Kyrgyz Association of Forest and Land Users (KAFLU)

Email : kyrgyzaflu@gmail.com | Tel: +996 (999)551406| Website: www.kaflu.kg

a.burkhanov58@gmail.com



Block 6. Production of organic fertilizer from wool and other products

A. Name of the initiative

Production of organic fertilizers from sheep wool and restoration of pastures (Nature-based solutions / Nature - based Solutions (NbS) for sustainable restoration of pastures in the At-Bashy district of the Naryn region of the Kyrgyz Republic).

- **Leading organization:** Kyrgyz Association of Forest and Land Users
- **Initiator company:** KANATO LLC (KANATO LLC).
- Fiona Flintan, Senior Scientist Rangelands and Pastoralism, ILRI (International Livestock Research Institute) hosted at the Alliance of Bioversity and CIAT, Rome

B. Relevance and problem

- **Degradation of mountain pastures:** The At-Bashy district contains over 1.1 million hectares of pastures. Uncontrolled grazing and climate change are leading to the depletion of pasture ecosystems.
- **Inefficient wool use and pollution:** Local sheep breeds produce coarse and semi-coarse wool. A significant portion of the wool is unsold after shearing and is discarded directly on pastures or burned, leading to environmental pollution and the loss of valuable organic raw materials.
- **Deficiency of organic matter and moisture in the soil:** The region's agricultural sector requires environmentally friendly, slow-release fertilizers and components that retain moisture in arid climates.

B. Proposed solution

- Closed - loop circular waste-free model model): Purchasing coarse sheep wool from local farmers and processing it into granulated organic fertilizers with a slow release effect, applying fertilizers to the soil and to degraded pasture areas.
- Sustainable pasture management: Implementation of rotational and seasonal grazing, development of pasture and watering infrastructure.
- Financial and environmental mechanism: 3.5% of gross fertilizer sales will be allocated to a special reserve fund for the ongoing restoration of the landscape. A 15–20% price premium for wool will be provided to farmers who adhere to proven sustainable grazing practices.

G. What has already been implemented

- **Practical experience since 2017:** KANATO LLC processes wool (felt production), and since 2021 has been developing the production of organic fertilizers from wool and seedling cups.
- **Laboratory and field studies:** Analysis was conducted, and the fertilizer's properties were proven (reducing irrigation requirements by 20–25%, slow-release nutrients). Field trials were successfully completed in the Chui and Issyk-Kul regions.
- **Permitting documentation:** The necessary state permits for production and sales have been obtained.
- **Experimental plots:** Three experimental pasture plots were selected in the At-Bashy district to test fertilizers on degraded lands under real conditions with the support of the UNECE and the KAFLU.
- **Preliminary demand:** Initial interest has been confirmed from berry and fruit associations, as well as greenhouse farms (130–180 tons per year).

D. Main results

Geographic and landscape coverage:

- The original landscape is 18,500 hectares (in Kazybek a/a out of 1.1 million hectares of At-Bashi).
- The direct zone of active restoration is **3,500 hectares of degraded pastures**.

Social coverage: ~1,711 pastoral households (~10,527 people), 253 agricultural farms.

Production volumes (at 100% capacity of phase 1):

- Purchase of raw wool: **180 tons/year**.
- Production of granulated fertilizer: **~160 tons/year**.

Economy of the 1st phase:

- Projected revenue: **~\$400,000 per year**.
- Operating profit (EBITDA): **~\$181,000 per year**.
- Break-even point: **~60 tons/year** (less than 40% of capacity).
- Production cost: ~\$0.68/kg; average selling price: ~\$2.50/kg.
- Employment: creation of 15-20 permanent jobs (with an emphasis on women's entrepreneurship).

E. Scaling potential

- **Phase 2 (Production Expansion):** Establishment of a central processing plant owned by KANATO LLC in At-Bashy and a decentralized network of wool collection points throughout the district. Increase pelleting capacity to **1,000 tons per year** (estimated cost of Phase 2: \$1.8–2.2 million).

- **Diversification of the product line:** Production of felt products, insulation materials, geotextiles, pots/cups for seedlings, traditional carpets.
- **Regional export:** Entry into the markets of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan as volumes and distribution are built.

G. Necessary investments

Total amount: \$1,150,000

- In-kind contribution / Own funds: **\$120,000**
- External funding: **\$1,030,000**

Financing stages:

1. **Catalytic Grant (70-80%):** Covers costs of land restoration, MRV, training, and community infrastructure.
2. **Preferential loan (\$200K – \$600K) :** Investment in expansion of processing plant capacity.
3. **Long-term loans:** Financing working capital, distribution and regional expansion

Z. Potential international partners

- **UNECE: The project is initiated and developed within the framework of the** UNECE initiatives on Nature - based Solutions.
- **International financial institutions and funds:** IFAD, GEF, FAO, GIZ, GAFSP and others.
- **Technological partners:** German companies manufacturing equipment for granulating organic materials.
- **Climate and Environment Funds:** Donors Supporting Land Degradation Neutrality Programs (LDN) UNCCD), adaptation to climate change and development of mountain pasture areas.

I. Expected social, economic and environmental impact

- Ecological effect:

- Restoration of **3,500 hectares** of degraded pastures and recycling of **180+ tons** of raw wool per year.
- Increase in biomass/vegetation cover in target areas by **15–20%**.
- Increased organic carbon and soil water-holding capacity (reduction in water consumption for irrigation by **20–25%**).
- Elimination of harmful emissions from burning and uncontrolled discharge of wool.

Economic effect:

- Additional source of income for **1,711 pastoral households** through the sale of wool at a price premium of 15-20%.
- Creating a profitable business with annual revenue of ~\$400,000.
- A permanent donation of 3.5% of gross sales to the environmental restoration fund.

Social effect:

- Creation of **15-20 permanent jobs**.
- Support for female entrepreneurship (the company is headed by a young female entrepreneur).
- Training over **500 farmers** and pasture committee members in modern sustainable land management practices.

K. Illustrations (photos, maps, diagrams, infographics)

L. Contact person

Burkhanov Aitkul Mustafaevich, General Director of the Kyrgyz Association of Forest and Land Users (KAFLU)

Email : kyrgyzaflu@gmail.com | Tel: +996 (999)551406| Website: www.kaflu.kg

a.burkhanov58@gmail.com



Block 7: Certification of pastures and animal products

A. Name of the initiative:

Establishment and scaling of a voluntary certification system for sustainably managed pastures and animal products in the Kyrgyz Republic.

B. Relevance and problem:

Livestock farming is the backbone of the economy in many mountainous regions of Kyrgyzstan. However, pasture degradation, declining grass productivity, soil erosion, and soil compaction limit the sector's sustainability. Furthermore, there is no unified, practical system to confirm the sustainable management of a specific pasture area and link environmental outcomes to the livestock products produced there.

B. Proposed solution:

Develop and implement a voluntary pasture certification system based on measurable environmental and management criteria, nature-based solutions (NbS), monitoring and local community participation.

The next step is to create a traceability mechanism for animal products—meat, milk, wool, and other products—from certified pastures to the market, which will allow for the development of products with confirmed sustainable origins and increased added value.

G. What has already been implemented?

In the At-Bashy district of the Naryn region, a project model for a pilot voluntary certification of pastures was developed within the framework of the UNECE project "Benefits of nature-based solutions in the Kyrgyz Republic."

An approach has already been developed that includes defining criteria and indicators for sustainable management, basic assessment of pastures, development of improvement plans, implementation of NbS, training of pasture users, monitoring, conducting a training audit and assigning a pilot status of a sustainably managed pasture.

The model includes controlled grazing, restoration of vegetation cover and the use of granulated sheep wool as an organic material for soil improvement.

D. Main results:

- development and testing of the first practical model of voluntary certification of pastures;
- formation of criteria and indicators for sustainable pasture use;
- implementation of nature-oriented solutions in pilot areas;
- creation of a field monitoring and evaluation system;

- strengthening the role of pasture user associations;
- preparation of methodological materials and recommendations for further scaling;
- Formation of a basis for the development of a national approach to certification of sustainably managed pastures.

E. Potential for scaling: The pilot model is being developed in such a way that, after testing in the At-Bashy district, it can be adapted to other pasture areas in the Naryn region and Kyrgyzstan as a whole.

In the future, the model can be expanded from certification of the territory to the creation of a chain:

Certified pasture - sustainable livestock farming - traceability -
certified products - processing - market.

This will combine pasture restoration with economic incentives for farmers.

KAFLU's three-level approach represents a **value-chain certification model** designed to **transition traditional Kyrgyz pastoralism** into high-value export markets while conserving land and preserving cultural heritage.

Level 1: Certification of Pastures

This baseline level focuses on sustainable rangeland management, trace-back integrity, and land stewardship.

- Land Health & Degradation Control: Standardized assessments to prevent overgrazing, soil erosion, and biodiversity loss. Pasture Users verify seasonal rotational grazing and capacity limits.
- Origin & Traceability: Establishes geographic coordinates and boundary logs for animals, ensuring they graze on verified, non-contaminated natural mountain pastures (*jailoo*).
- Chemical & Contaminant Compliance: Certifies that pastures are free from illegal pesticides, heavy metals, or industrial runoff, serving as the organic/clean foundation for downstream livestock products.

Level 2: Certification of Dairy Products

Level 2 builds on certified pasture access by introducing food safety, quality assurance, and processing compliance for dairy production.

- Veterinary Health & Traceability: Requires animals to be registered in the national identification system (VIS) with verified health records, vaccinations, and disease-free status (e.g., clearance for brucellosis and foot-and-mouth disease).
- HACCP & SanPiN Standards: Milk collection centers and processing plants must meet Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) rules and national sanitary-hygiene standards (*SanPiN*).
- Quality & Purity Grading: Verification of raw milk quality (fat content, protein levels, bacterial count, absence of antibiotics) for artisanal cheeses, *kymyz* (fermented mare's milk), *kurut* (dried whey balls), and pasteurized liquid milk.

Level 3: Cultural Heritage & Wool Products

The highest tier integrates sustainable land use, raw material processing, and geographical/cultural preservation for high-value textile exports.

- **Sourcing & Craft Integrity:** Ensures wool (merino, coarse, or camel) is harvested exclusively from herds grazing on Level 1 certified pastures.
- **Geographical Indication (GI) & Heritage Marks:** Authenticates traditional Kyrgyz processing methods—such as hand-felting *shyrdak* (appliqué carpets), *ala-kiyiz*, and *kalpak* hats — protecting native artisanal skills from mass-produced imitations.
- **Eco - Certification for International Markets:** Validates cruelty-free shearing, non-toxic eco-dyes, and sustainable supply chain practices required by premium textile buyers in the EU, Asia, and North America.

G. Necessary investments:

Investments are needed in the development and testing of certification standards and criteria, basic environmental surveys, digital and field monitoring, restoration of degraded pastures, training of pasture users, audits, and the creation of a product traceability system.

The second stage will require funds for developing requirements for animal products, laboratory research, implementing identification and traceability systems, preparing producers and processors for certification, and marketing and promoting certified products.

Z. Potential international partners:

Potential partners include UNECE, whose project is already developing a pilot model, as well as FAO, IFAD and other international organizations and climate funds working in the areas of sustainable pasture management, livestock farming, ecosystem restoration, biodiversity and rural development.

I. Expected social, economic and environmental impact:

- **Social impact:** increasing the capacity of pasture users, strengthening local associations, creating incentives for sustainable management of shared natural resources and increasing the resilience of rural households.
- **Economic impact:** improved quality and competitiveness of livestock products, creation of products with confirmed sustainable origin, access to new markets and the possibility of obtaining higher added value.
- **Ecological effect:** reduction of pasture degradation, restoration of vegetation and soils, regulation of grazing pressure, conservation of biodiversity and increased resilience of mountain ecosystems to climate change.

K. Illustrations (photos, maps, diagrams, infographics)

L. Contact person: Burkhanov Aitkul Mustafaeovich, General Director of the Kyrgyz Association of Forest and Land Users (KAFLU)

Email : kyrgyzaflu@gmail.com | Tel: +996 (999)551406| Website: www.kaflu.kg

a.burkhanov58@gmail.com



Block 8: Organic Production

A. Name of the initiative

Development and scaling of organic production and international organic certification of agricultural and non-timber forest products in the Kyrgyz Republic.

B. Relevance and problem

The Kyrgyz Republic has high potential for the development of organic production due to the relatively low use of chemical fertilizers and plant protection products, rich biodiversity, the presence of natural forest ecosystems, and traditional agricultural methods.

However, the sector's development is limited by the insufficient number of certified producers, the high cost of international organic certification, a shortage of qualified specialists, the absence of modern internal control systems (ICS), and an underdeveloped infrastructure for storing, processing, and promoting organic products.

The development of organic production of non-timber forest products is particularly relevant, as Kyrgyzstan has significant natural resources of wild walnuts, pistachios, medicinal plants, rose hips, wild berries, and other forest products in demand on the global market.

B. Proposed solution

It is proposed to create a sustainable national system for the development of organic production, which would include:

- preparing farmers, cooperatives and enterprises for international organic certification;
- implementation of internal control systems (ICS);
- conducting internal inspections and supporting international audits;
- development of infrastructure for storage, cooling and processing of organic products;
- development of export marketing and promotion of Kyrgyz organic products in international markets;
- expanding the number of certified producers of agricultural and non-timber forest products.

G. What has already been implemented

The Association of Forest and Land Users of Kyrgyzstan (AFLUK), with the support of the project “**Diversification and Marketing of Climate-Resilient Organic Agricultural and Forest Products (DMSOP)**”, funded by **IFAD** and **GAFFP**, has already implemented practical measures to develop international organic certification.

In 2025, preparations for international organic certification were carried out for the first time for two Kyrgyz enterprises:

- **Cooperative "Ishker KG "**, uniting forest users of the Jalal-Abad region and engaged in the procurement, processing and export of non-timber forest products;
- **Sole proprietor Zheenbaev**, specializing in the procurement and processing of wild non-timber forest products.

Internal Control Systems were developed, all necessary documentation was prepared, internal inspections were conducted, and support for international organic audit was organized.

Following an independent international audit, both organizations successfully received **International organic certificates from the European Union (EU) Organic** for a wide range of non-timber forest products, including walnuts, pistachios, rose hips, barberries, medicinal plants and other wild products.

In 2026, the work continued. Following an open competitive selection process, three more farming organizations were selected to prepare for international certification and are now receiving comprehensive technical support to achieve international organic certification.

In parallel, measures are being implemented to develop export infrastructure, including the creation of modern mini-logistics centers for the storage, cooling, and pre-sale preparation of organic products.

D. Main results

- For the first time, two Kyrgyz organizations working with non-timber forest products were prepared and successfully certified according to the international EU standard;
- Internal control systems (ICS) have been implemented;
- specialists in international organic certification have been trained;

- Practical approaches to preparing manufacturers for international audits have been developed;
- a model for supporting farming organizations in undergoing international certification has been created;
- preparation of new farming organizations to obtain international organic certificates continues;
- a modern infrastructure for storage and logistics of organic products is being developed;
- Opportunities for exporting Kyrgyz organic products are expanding.

E. Scaling potential

The developed model has already proven its effectiveness and can be extended to all regions of the Kyrgyz Republic.

The following have special potential:

- organic crop production;
- organic animal farming;
- organic processing;
- organic non-timber forest products;
- development of organic cooperatives.

In the future, a single value chain could be formed:

Organic production → international certification → storage and processing → export → international markets.

G. Necessary investments

Investments are required in:

- preparing producers for international organic certification;
- implementation of internal control systems (ICS);
- conducting international inspections and audits;
- training of farmers and specialists;
- construction of modern storage and processing facilities;
- development of laboratory facilities;
- digital traceability systems;
- promotion of Kyrgyz organic products in international markets;
- participation in international exhibitions, forums and trade missions.

H. Potential international partners

Potential international partners include:

- IFAD;
- GAFSP;
- FAO;
- IFOAM – Organics International;
- FiBL;
- GIZ;
- UNECE;
- European Union;
- international organic certification bodies;
- other international organizations supporting sustainable agriculture and the development of organic production.

I. Expected social, economic and environmental impact

Social effect

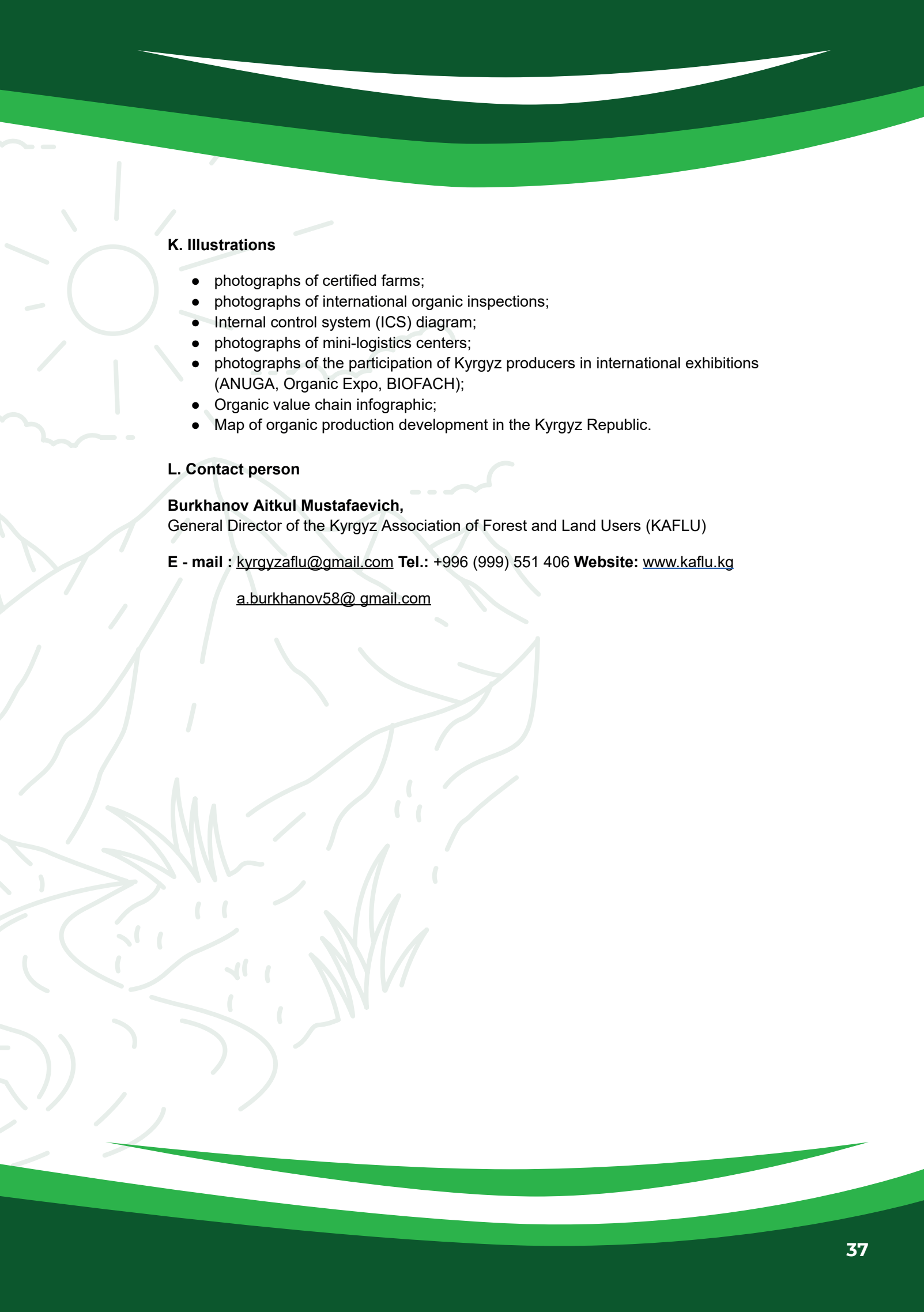
- improving the qualifications of farmers and forest users;
- development of rural cooperatives;
- creation of new jobs;
- improving the standard of living of the rural population.

Economic effect

- increasing the number of certified manufacturers;
- expansion of exports of Kyrgyz organic products;
- increasing the income of farmers and forest users;
- growth of added value of products;
- increasing the investment attractiveness of the organic sector.

Ecological effect

- biodiversity conservation;
- sustainable use of forestry and agricultural resources;
- reduction in the use of synthetic fertilizers and chemical plant protection products;
- preservation of soil fertility;
- increasing the resilience of agroecosystems to climate change.



K. Illustrations

- photographs of certified farms;
- photographs of international organic inspections;
- Internal control system (ICS) diagram;
- photographs of mini-logistics centers;
- photographs of the participation of Kyrgyz producers in international exhibitions (ANUGA, Organic Expo, BIOFACH);
- Organic value chain infographic;
- Map of organic production development in the Kyrgyz Republic.

L. Contact person

Burkhanov Aitkul Mustafaevich,

General Director of the Kyrgyz Association of Forest and Land Users (KAFLU)

E - mail : kyrgyzaflu@gmail.com **Tel.:** +996 (999) 551 406 **Website:** www.kaflu.kg

a.burkhanov58@gmail.com



Block 9. Development of value-added chains (VAC)

A. Name of the initiative

Developing sustainable value chains for agricultural and non-timber forest products in the Kyrgyz Republic – from producers and forest users to processing, certification, and the international market.

B. Relevance and problem

The Kyrgyz Republic has significant potential for the production of agricultural and non-timber forest products, including walnuts, pistachios, wild berries, rose hips, medicinal plants, honey, fruits, vegetables and other products.

At the same time, a significant portion of production is traditionally sold as raw materials or minimally processed products. The bulk of the added value is often generated outside the production regions or the country.

Key constraints include poor producer organization, weak cooperation, a lack of modern storage and processing facilities, limited access to certification and financing, insufficient implementation of traceability systems, uneven product quality, and limited direct access to international buyers.

This problem is especially pressing for forest users and farmers in mountainous and remote areas, where natural resources are available in significant quantities, but opportunities for their processing and sale with high added value remain limited.

B. Proposed solution

It is proposed to form integrated value chains linking producers, forest users, cooperatives, processing enterprises, logistics centers, certification organizations and sales markets.

The basic approach involves developing a sequential chain:

Sustainable production and procurement → producer association → primary processing → certification and traceability → secondary processing → storage and logistics → packaging and branding → marketing → export.

Particular attention is paid to increasing the share of high-value-added products: peeled and sorted nuts and pistachios, vegetable oils, nut flour, dried and frozen products, prepared foods and other processed products.



At the same time, it is necessary to ensure the sustainability of the resource base, the quality and safety of products, compliance with international market requirements, and the fair participation of primary producers in the distribution of economic benefits.

G. What has already been implemented

For several years, the Association of Forest and Land Users of Kyrgyzstan has been implementing a set of interrelated activities to develop value chains for agricultural and non-timber forest products.

Working with producers and forest users

KAFLU unites farmers' organizations, cooperatives, enterprises and thousands of farmers and forest users in various regions of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Work is underway to organize producers, develop cooperation, improve methods of procurement and primary processing of products, enhance quality, form commodity lots, and establish direct links between producers, processors, and buyers.

Development of non-timber forest product chains

In collaboration with FAO, the Forest Service, and other partners, work was carried out to analyze non-timber forest products, existing value chains, and problems of procurement, processing, and marketing.

Particular attention is paid to walnuts, pistachios, medicinal plants, rose hips, wild berries and other products of forest ecosystems.

As part of the international conference on nut-fruit forests, a separate thematic session was devoted to **the economics of nut-fruit forests and value chains**, including issues of international certification, cluster approach, export, financing and business development of NTFPs.

International certification

An important element in the development of the Central Distribution Network is the transition from the sale of anonymous raw materials to certified products with confirmed origin.

The preparation and international organic certification of the **Ishker KG Cooperative** and **the Zheenbaeva individual entrepreneur**, working with wild-growing non-timber forest products, was carried out.

As a result, a practical model was created:

forest user → internal control system (ICS) → harvesting → processing → traceability → certified organic products → export.

Work to expand the number of certified manufacturers continues.

Modern storage and processing infrastructure

One of the key elements of the development of the Central Logistics Center was the creation of two pilot mini-logistics centers:

The Jeti-Oguz district of the Issyk-Kul region is a center focused primarily on berries, fruits, and vegetables and is equipped with modern refrigeration chambers and a blast freezing system.

The Nookan district of the Jalal-Abad region is a center focused on non-timber forest and agricultural products of the region.

The capacity of each facility is up to **200 tons**, and the combined capacity of the two centers is up to **400 tons of one-time storage of products**.

The creation of this infrastructure allows for increased shelf life, reduced post-harvest losses, and the ability to sell products not only immediately after harvest, but also at a more favorable time for producers.

Processing of products

The development of primary and secondary processing is supported.

The farming organizations and enterprises with which KAFLU works produce not only raw materials but also products with higher added value, including:

- peeled and sorted nut kernels and pistachios;
- nut and apricot oil;
- nut flour;
- dried fruits;
- fruit snacks;
- processed berry products;
- honey and honey-based products;
- frozen products;
- products from medicinal plants.

Access to financing

To support producers and business development, a microfinance mechanism was created through the **Asyl Zher Tokoy microfinance institution**.

Financial support allows farmers and other participants in the value chain to invest in production, planting material, farm development, and other areas necessary to increase production volumes and quality.

Marketing and entering international markets

KAFLU provides support to enterprises in participating in international exhibitions and business missions.

Kyrgyz producers presented their products at international venues, including **ANUGA, Organic Expo** and other exhibitions where direct B2B negotiations with potential importers were held.

The practical results of this work were export agreements and deliveries of Kyrgyz products to foreign markets.

Current work on further development of the CDS

The ARIS /World Bank project is conducting a comprehensive analysis of non-timber forest product chains in pilot areas.

The work includes an analysis of resource potential, production processes, existing markets, traceability systems, certification and sustainability of procurement.

of a Non-Timber Forest Products Development Programme is envisaged, including an analysis of potential and priorities, a description of value chains, measures for sustainable use of resources, proposals for institutional and regulatory support and an implementation plan with monitoring indicators.

Methods for accounting, monitoring and traceability of NWFPs using internal control systems (ICS) are also being developed.

D. Main results

As a result of the work of the KAFLU and partner projects, individual elements of a complete value chain have been formed:

- a wide network of farmers, forest users and farmer organizations has been created;
- cooperation between producers is developing;
- modern approaches to primary and secondary processing are being introduced;
- international organic certificates for non-timber forest products have been obtained;
- internal control and traceability systems are being implemented;
- modern facilities for cooling, shock freezing and storage of products have been created;
- access of producers to financial support is ensured;
- participation of manufacturers in international exhibitions is organized;
- direct connections are established with foreign buyers;
- Kyrgyz products are exported;
- analysis and preparation of sustainable forest resource certification systems is being carried out;
- Mechanisms for increasing added value directly in production regions are being formed.

Thus, a model is gradually being created in which the economic value of products is formed within the Kyrgyz Republic, and not only after their export as raw materials.

E. Scaling potential

The developed approach has high potential for scaling to other regions and types of products.

Each territory can develop its own specialization.

Jalal-Abad region: walnuts, pistachios, rose hips, medicinal plants and other NWFPs.

Issyk-Kul region: berries, fruits, medicinal plants and organic products.

Batken region: apricot and its processed products.

Talas region: beans and other agricultural products.

Naryn region: livestock products, wool, medicinal plants and pasture value chains.

In the future, it is possible to create regional production and logistics clusters that unite producers, processors, certification, storage, financing, and export.

G. Necessary investments



For further development of the Central Distribution Network, investments are needed in:

- creation and modernization of processing plants;
- refrigeration and storage facilities;
- equipment for drying, sorting, calibration, cleaning and packaging;
- deep processing lines;
- food quality and safety laboratories;
- traceability and digital accounting systems;
- international certification;
- development of organic production;
- creation of export packaging and brands;
- marketing research;
- international exhibitions and B2B missions;
- working capital for seasonal purchases of products from farmers and forest users;
- development of transport and logistics infrastructure.

Z. Potential international partners

Potential partners for the development of value chains are:

- IFAD;
- GAFSP;
- FAO;
- World Bank;
- UNECE;
- GIZ;
- European Union;
- UNDP;
- international financial institutions;
- international certification organizations;
- international retail chains and importing companies;
- climate and environmental funds.

Another important area is coordination with the Ministry of Water Resources, Agriculture and Processing Industry of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Forestry Service, local governments, trade and industrial structures, and the private sector.

I. Expected social, economic and environmental impact

Social impact: increased incomes of farming and forestry households; job creation in rural areas; development of cooperatives; expansion of economic opportunities for women and youth; increased professional potential of producers.

Economic impact: increased share of products processed domestically; reduced post-harvest losses; improved quality and cost of products; increased export revenues; formation of sustainable relationships with international buyers; development of small and medium-sized businesses; increased added value remaining in production regions.

Environmental impact: creation of economic incentives for the sustainable use of natural resources; implementation of principles of sustainable procurement of NWFPs; development of organic production; implementation of traceability of product origin; reduction of pressure on forest ecosystems and conservation of biodiversity.

K. Illustrations

For this section it is recommended to use:

- diagram of the complete value chain: **manufacturer** → **processing** → **certification** → **logistics** → **export** ;
- map of the main regions producing NDF;
- photographs of forest users and farmers;
- photographs of walnut and pistachio processing;
- photographs of mini-logistics centers in the Zheti-Oguz and Nookan districts;
- photographs of organically certified products;
- photographs from international exhibitions;
- infographics by product types;
- examples of deep processing products;
- photographs of cooperatives and partner enterprises.

L. Contact person

Burkhanov Aitkul Mustafaevich,
General Director
of the Kyrgyz Association of Forest and Land Users (KAFLU)

E - mail : kyrgyzaflu@gmail.com **Tel.:** +996 (999) 551 406 **Website:** www.kaflu.kg

a.burkhanov58@gmail.com



Block 10: Nature-based solutions

A. Name of the initiative:

"The Benefits of Nature-Based Solutions in the Kyrgyz Republic." The initiative aims to implement and scale up nature-based solutions (NBS) for climate-resilient management of land, pasture, and water resources in the Kyrgyz Republic.

B. Relevance and problem:

Climate change is exacerbating water shortages, land and pasture degradation, soil erosion, and reduced agricultural productivity. Mountainous and foothill areas, where the well-being of rural populations directly depends on land and water resources, are particularly vulnerable. Practical solutions are needed that simultaneously promote climate change adaptation, ecosystem restoration, increased land productivity, and the resilience of rural communities.

B. Proposed solution:

Creation and scaling of NbS demonstration models in three interrelated directions:

1. Water resources management system "Artificial glacier - Reservoir - Farmer", water-saving irrigation;
2. Agroforestry and restoration of coastal ecosystems: tree, shrub and fruit plantations, protective and coastal corridors;
3. Pasture restoration - controlled grazing, organic fertilizer from sheep wool and voluntary certification of sustainably managed pastures.
4. Creation and scaling of NbS demonstration models in three interrelated areas with the integration of international IUCN standards and national KMS standards (Kyrgyz State Standards):

G. What has already been implemented?

The Association, in collaboration with the UNECE, launched the project and conducted a feasibility study. Three demonstration sites in three regions of the Kyrgyz Republic were selected:

Chui region, Issyk-Ata district, Syn-Tash village - "Artificial glacier - Reservoir - Farmer" system, water-saving irrigation, agroforestry and coastal protection corridors.

Batken region, Leilek district, Sumbulinsky rural municipality - adaptation to water shortage, artificial glacier, agrohydro corridors and ecosystem restoration.

Naryn region, At-Bashyn district, Kazybek A.A. - restoration of degraded pastures, regulated grazing, testing of organic fertilizer from sheep wool.

D. Main results

- a feasibility study was carried out;
- 3 demonstration sites have been identified;
- 3 local NbS models have been developed;
- memoranda have been concluded with local authorities;
- Coordination councils with the participation of local communities have been created;
- plans for practical implementation have been prepared;
- a basic assessment of the state of land, water resources and the readiness of participants has begun;
- a project communication plan has been developed;
- a basis for monitoring, training and further dissemination of results has been formed.

E. Scaling potential

Three demonstration sites represent different natural and climatic zones of Kyrgyzstan: foothills, arid southern regions, and highlands. After evaluating the results, successful practices can be disseminated through the Association's network of members, local governments, farming and pastoral communities, and integrated into land use, water management, and climate change adaptation programs.

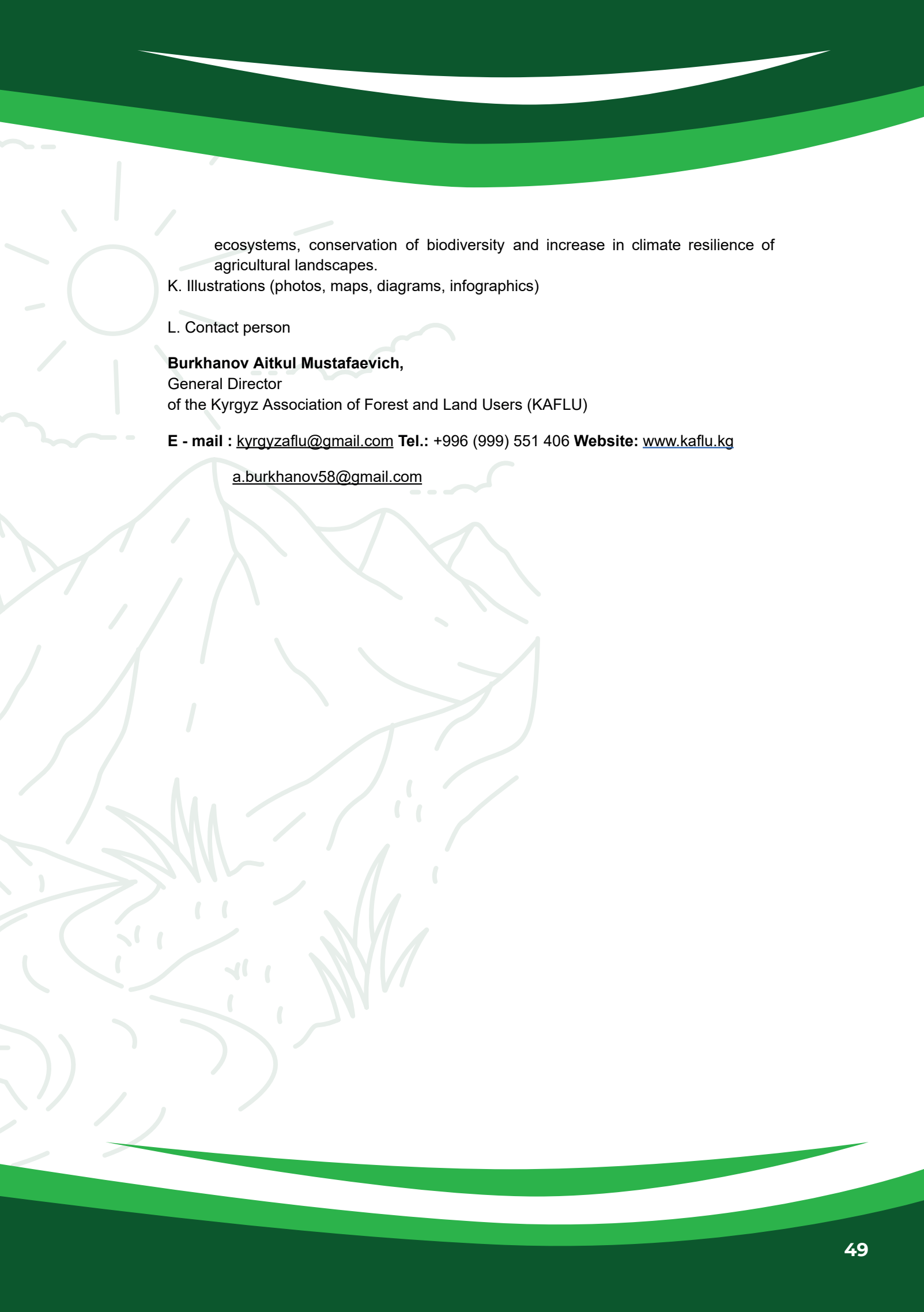
G. Necessary investments

Z. Potential international partners:

The core international partner of the initiative is UNECE. For further scaling, FAO, IFAD, IUCN, GEF, GCF, Adaptation may be involved. Fund, UNDP, World Bank, ADB, as well as international organizations and climate funds working in the field of climate change adaptation, biodiversity, ecosystem restoration, water security and sustainable development of mountain regions.

I. Expected social, economic and environmental impact:

- Social impact: increasing the resilience of rural communities to climate change, strengthening the capacity of farmers and pasture users, and engaging local people, women, and youth in sustainable natural resource management.
- Economic impact: increased productivity of agricultural land and pastures, more efficient use of water, reduced loss of natural resources and creation of additional sources of income.
- Ecological effect: restoration of degraded lands and pastures, reduction of water and wind erosion, increase in soil moisture-holding capacity, restoration of



ecosystems, conservation of biodiversity and increase in climate resilience of agricultural landscapes.

K. Illustrations (photos, maps, diagrams, infographics)

L. Contact person

Burkhanov Aitkul Mustafaevich,
General Director
of the Kyrgyz Association of Forest and Land Users (KAFLU)

E - mail : kyrgyzaflu@gmail.com **Tel.:** +996 (999) 551 406 **Website:** www.kaflu.kg

a.burkhanov58@gmail.com



Block 11. Development of rural enterprises and green bioeconomy (GBE)

A. Name of the initiative:

Development of rural enterprises and green bioeconomy based on sustainable use of natural resources of the Kyrgyz Republic

B. Relevance and problem:

- Kyrgyzstan's rural areas possess significant potential for the production of organic agricultural and forest products, the processing of non-timber forest resources, medicinal plants, berries, nuts, honey, and other environmentally friendly products. However, a significant portion of these raw materials are sold without extensive processing or high added value.
- The development of rural enterprises is limited by a lack of accessible financing, modern technologies and equipment, storage and processing infrastructure, and knowledge in business planning, marketing, certification, and product promotion. Difficulties persist in small producers entering domestic and international markets.
- At the same time, climate change and the degradation of natural resources require a transition to economic models that combine increased rural incomes with sustainable use of land, forests, and pasture resources.

B. Proposed solution:

- support for small and medium-sized rural enterprises, cooperatives and farms;
- development of production and processing of organic agricultural and non-timber forest products;
- implementation of resource-saving, low-waste and environmentally friendly technologies;
- development of processing of local biological raw materials and waste into products with added value;
- creation and modernization of logistics centers, refrigeration and processing facilities;
- implementation of international organic and forest certification;
- development of clusters and production and distribution chains;
- Providing affordable financing to rural entrepreneurs;
- training in business planning, marketing, financial literacy, export and quality management;
- facilitating the entry of local products into national and international markets.

G. What has already been implemented?

- Business development and export promotion centers have been established and are being developed, through which producers receive advisory support on business, marketing, processing, and market entry issues.
- The Asyl-Zher-Tokoy MCA provides a concessional financing mechanism for Association members and project beneficiaries aimed at developing organic agriculture and the forestry sector, expanding production, processing, and marketing of products. As part of the DMSOP project, funded by IFAD and GAFSP, the Asyl-Zher-Tokoy MCA was established. It provides concessional loans to rural entrepreneurs, farmers, women, and youth for the development of organic agriculture, the forestry sector, processing, and marketing of products. Loans are provided for up to 500,000 soms for up to 18 months at a rate of 3% per annum with a grace period of up to 6 months. In 2025, 22 loans were issued for \$118,466.74, and in 2026, 43 loans for \$243,873.39. A total of 65 rural enterprises were financed in the amount of \$362,340.13.
- Infrastructure for storing and processing agricultural products has been created, including logistics and refrigeration facilities, as well as blast freezing technology.
- Work is underway to develop clusters of non-timber forest and agricultural products, organic certification of producers, develop export potential, and create sustainable value chains.
- New areas of green bioeconomy have been launched, including the processing of low-grade sheep wool into organic fertilizer and the exploration of opportunities to produce other environmentally friendly products from local organic raw materials.

D. Main results:

- Mechanisms have been established to support rural producers, ranging from training and consulting support to financing, processing, storage, certification, and product promotion.
- Conditions have been created to reduce post-harvest losses, improve product quality, and extend shelf life. Rural entrepreneurs gain access to preferential financing and consulting services.
- Organic production is developing and value chains for agricultural and non-timber forest products are being formed.
- 65 rural entrepreneurs were provided access to preferential financing for the development of production, processing, and sale of agricultural and forestry products.

E. Scaling potential

- The initiative has the potential to be expanded to all regions of the Kyrgyz Republic, taking into account their natural, climatic and industrial specialization.
- Various areas of green rural entrepreneurship can develop in the regions: the production and processing of nuts, berries, fruits, medicinal plants, honey, organic agricultural products, non-timber forest products, wool, and other local organic raw materials.
- Scaling involves the creation of regional production and processing centers, expansion of logistics infrastructure, development of clusters, producer cooperation, certification, and access to financing.

H. Potential international partners:

International donor organizations

I. Expected social, economic and environmental impact

- Social impact: creation of new jobs and self-employment opportunities in rural areas; increased incomes of rural families; expansion of economic opportunities for women and youth; improvement of entrepreneurial skills of the population; reduction of labor migration by creating sources of income directly in rural areas.
- Economic impact: development of small and medium-sized rural enterprises; increase in domestic processing; creation of products with higher added value; reduction in losses of agricultural raw materials; increased competitiveness of local producers; development of exports of organic and environmentally certified products; attraction of private investment in rural areas.
- Environmental impact: rational use of natural and biological resources; waste reduction through its reuse in production; development of organic production; implementation of resource-saving technologies; reduction of the burden on land, forest and pasture resources; development of economic interest of the local population in the conservation and sustainable use of natural ecosystems.

K. Illustrations (photos, maps, diagrams, infographics)

L. Contact person

Burkhanov Aitkul Mustafayevich,

General Director

of the Kyrgyz Association of Forest and Land Users (KAFLU)

E - mail : kyrgyzaflu@gmail.com **Tel.:** +996 (999) 551 406 **Website:** www.kaflu.kg

a.burkhanov58@gmail.com



Block 12: Association's Model of support for low-income/vulnerable families in Kyrgyzstan

A. Name of the initiative

An initiative to improve food security, nutrition, and microentrepreneurship among low-income rural families in Kyrgyzstan.

B. Relevance and problem

Low-income rural families, as well as households headed by women, youth, and caregivers, are hit hardest by economic shocks and climate change. In climate-sensitive areas, this leads to high levels of food insecurity, nutrient-poor diets, increased disease rates, complete dependence on market prices for food, and a lack of resources for a head start.

B. Proposed solution

The Association's comprehensive model of targeted in-kind support (provision of starter kits: seedlings, mini-greenhouses, small agricultural equipment, small and large livestock) for the development of home gardening and home processing with an emphasis on organic and healthy nutrition. The model combines social inclusion with mandatory training (hygiene, food safety, agricultural technology), regular counseling, field assessments of the potential of low-income families, long-term monitoring, and participation in various activities supported by the Association.

G. What has already been implemented

- The Selection Procedure and Guidelines for the Issuance of Non-Cash Grants for Low-Income Families were developed jointly with local governments and social workers in Kyrgyzstan.
- Strict target quotas for participants have been approved: **50%** - women/female heads of households; **30%** - youth (under 35); **20%** - extremely poor families.
- Inter-institutional cooperation has been established with local governments and social workers in pilot regions to create initial lists of low-income families.
- A complex of 4 types of starter kits has been formed:
 1. **Agroforestry:** seedlings of fruit trees and crops.
 2. **Mini greenhouses:** for growing vegetables and seedlings.
 3. **Animal husbandry:** cattle, poultry, bee colonies.
 4. **Processing:** mini-equipment for drying, canning, juice and jam production.

- A 5-stage transparent selection system has been implemented: *Information, Questionnaire, Commission Review, Field Assessment, Final Selection and Distribution*.

D. Main results

- A mechanism for verifying low-income families in genuine need has been developed through a comprehensive criteria analysis and visits to household plots.
- A methodological training program on food hygiene, careful storage, and climate-resistant household management has been created.
- The transition of low-income families from passive consumption to their own production of nutritious food products has been ensured.

E. Scaling potential

Scaling the model to all pilot rural districts of Kyrgyzstan, reaching over a thousand low-income families. Establishing a network of local micro-points for processing and marketing organic products through the Business Development and Export Promotion Centers of the KAFLU Association (Bishkek and Manas cities).

G. Necessary investments / Support format

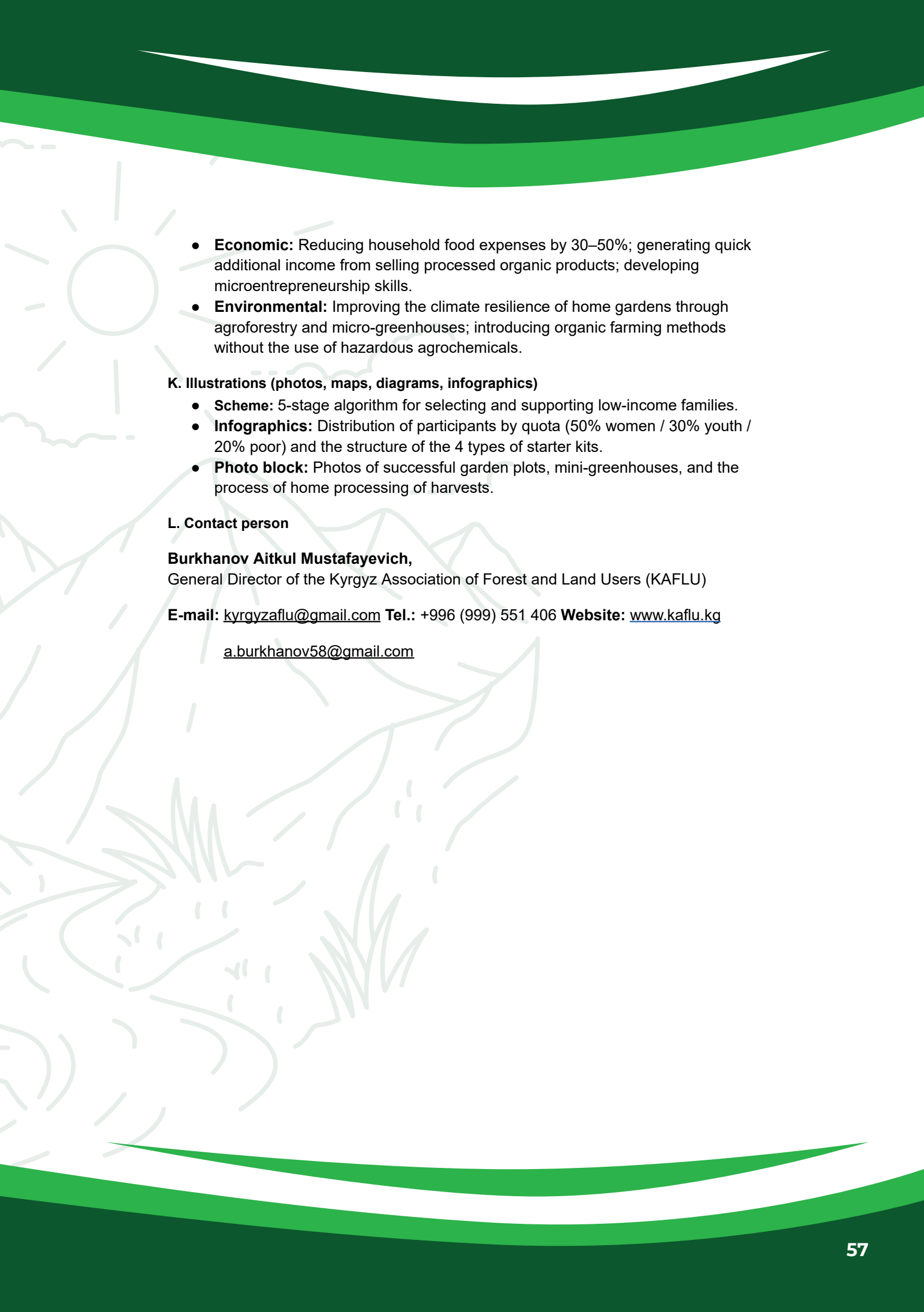
- **Format:** In-kind grants (in-kind starter kits), training programs, consulting and expert support.
- Approximate amount per 1000 families = 131 million soms or about \$15 million US dollars.
- **Funding allocation:** Purchase of high-quality seed and planting material, mini-greenhouses, farm animals/birds/bee colonies, compact equipment for home processing (dryers, juicers, autoclaves), as well as conducting field monitoring trips.

Z. Potential international partners

Global Facility for Food Security and Agriculture (GAFSP), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), World Food Programme (WFP), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), World Bank (WB).

I. Expected social, economic and environmental impact

- **Social:** Improving the nutrition and health of families; empowering women and youth; reducing food insecurity among low-income families and the extremely poor.

- 
- **Economic:** Reducing household food expenses by 30–50%; generating quick additional income from selling processed organic products; developing microentrepreneurship skills.
 - **Environmental:** Improving the climate resilience of home gardens through agroforestry and micro-greenhouses; introducing organic farming methods without the use of hazardous agrochemicals.

K. Illustrations (photos, maps, diagrams, infographics)

- **Scheme:** 5-stage algorithm for selecting and supporting low-income families.
- **Infographics:** Distribution of participants by quota (50% women / 30% youth / 20% poor) and the structure of the 4 types of starter kits.
- **Photo block:** Photos of successful garden plots, mini-greenhouses, and the process of home processing of harvests.

L. Contact person

Burkhanov Aitkul Mustafayevich,

General Director of the Kyrgyz Association of Forest and Land Users (KAFLU)

E-mail: kyrgyzaflu@gmail.com **Tel.:** +996 (999) 551 406 **Website:** www.kaflu.kg

a.burkhanov58@gmail.com



Block 13: Detailed Information on Certification of Pastures and Pasture-Origin Products

National Pasture Standard and Certification System of Kyrgyzstan

"Kyrgyz Pasture Certification Initiative: Nature-based Certification for Sustainable Pastures, Climate Resilience, and Green Value Chains in Kyrgyzstan"

Official Statement: A multi-tiered pasture certification system based on nature-based solutions (NbS) is being implemented in the Kyrgyz Republic. It combines basic certification of ecosystem-based pasture management with voluntary modules for livestock products, wool, and traditional crafts.

1. Rationale and Key Idea

Pastures are the foundation of food security, livestock farming, biodiversity conservation, and traditional livelihoods in Kyrgyzstan. In the context of land degradation and climate change, certification serves not as an administrative barrier, but as an economic incentive for ecosystem restoration, climate adaptation, and access to premium markets. Strategic Approach

From Ecosystem to Market: First, sustainable pasture management (NbS Core), then product certification, and finally, market premiums.

Group and Modular Model: Instead of "heavy" standards for each individual herder, a phased group certification is being implemented through pasture committees, cooperatives, and clusters.

2. Goal and Main Objectives

Goal: To create a national multi-level voluntary certification system for pastures and pasture-based products based on the principles of Nature-based Solutions (IUCN NbS), ensuring land restoration, increased income for pastoralists, and the development of green value chains.

Objectives:

- Develop a National Pasture Certification Standard (NbS Core).
- Create a National Operator and train a pool of local auditors.

- Implement a modular product certification system (Grass-fed, Organic, Bio-cultural).
- Launch a national brand, "Pasture Products of Kyrgyzstan" (or "Pastoral Heritage of Kyrgyzstan").
- Deploy a lightweight digital traceability system (QR codes, digital pasture passports).
- Develop a regulatory framework for scaling the model and piloting it in the regions.

3. System Architecture and Levels (3 Levels)

[Level I: NbS Core] —► [Level II: Products] —► [Level III: Bioculture]

Pasture Management

Meat, milk, Grass-fed

Wool, felt, crafts

Level I. Basic - Ecosystem (NbS Core)

Object: Pasture areas, management systems (pasture user associations, aiyl okmotu, cooperatives).

Requirements: Management plan, seasonal rotation, degradation prevention, community participation, basic grass stand monitoring.

Result: "NbS-managed pasture" status. Provides access to climate finance, government, and donor programs.

Compliance: Covers 8 of the 8 IUCN NbS criteria, directly supports NDC (AFOLU).

Level II. Product - Livestock

Objective: Meat, milk, raw materials.

Modules (optional):

Grass-fed / Pasture-raised: Confirmation of exclusively pasture-raised livestock production without intensive forage.

Organic (simplified): Gradual group transition with local adaptation.

Animal Welfare: Basic standards of humane treatment of livestock.

Result: Access to premium price niches and export markets.

Level III. Biocultural - Heritage and Crafts

Objective: Wool, felt, handicrafts, traditional knowledge (women's and youth cooperatives).

Schemes: Organic / Responsible Wool, Bio-cultural Heritage Product, Ethical Pastoral Product.

Result: Maximum synergy between culture, ecosystem conservation, and income with minimal barriers to entry.

Group certification: Applications are submitted centrally through Pasture users and Associations, reducing costs for each individual farm.

Learning audit: The assessment is stimulating and corrective, not punitive.

National operator: Established as a specialized association or center under the Ministry of Water Resources, Agriculture and Processing Industry with the methodological support of FAO, IFAD, IUCN, and UNCCD.

Digital unit: Implementation of simplified traceability through QR codes with product origin history and a map of certified pastures.

L. Contact person

Burkhanov Aitkul Mustafayevich,

General Director of the Kyrgyz Association of Forest and Land Users (KAFLU)

E-mail: kyrgyzaflu@gmail.com **Tel.:** +996 (999) 551 406 **Website:** www.kaflu.kg

a.burkhanov58@gmail.com



Block 14: Investment Note “Development of Agroforestry in the Kyrgyz Republic: A Pathway to Food Security and Carbon Neutrality”

1. Investment Opportunity

The Kyrgyz Republic invites international partners to support the development of a national agroforestry system as an instrument for simultaneously:

- restoring degraded and low-productivity lands;
- enhancing climate resilience;
- strengthening food security;
- developing rural entrepreneurship;
- creating green jobs;
- developing processing and value chains;
- transitioning to a low-carbon development model.

Kyrgyzstan has significant potential for introducing agroforestry systems on degraded, sloping, low-productivity, and other priority lands.

The project proposes a shift from stand-alone planting activities to an integrated model: land + trees + agricultural crops + livestock + water + processing + markets.

The first investment phase envisages the development of agroforestry systems of 40,000 ha by 2030, followed by scaling up to 300,000 ha by 2050.

2. Key Challenges

Rural areas of the Kyrgyz Republic face a range of interconnected challenges:

- land and soil degradation;
- erosion of sloping lands;
- water scarcity and increasing drought;
- declining productivity of agricultural lands;
- degradation of forest and pasture ecosystems;
- insufficient availability of high-quality planting material;
- limited access to finance for farmers;
- underdeveloped processing, storage, and logistics;
- low value added of products;
- limited employment opportunities for women and youth.

Agroforestry provides an integrated approach to addressing these challenges by combining productive and environmental functions within the same landscape.

3. Proposed Solution

The project comprises seven interconnected investment areas.

1. Agroforestry Systems

Land inventory and GIS mapping, agroecological zoning, development of standard models, and introduction of fruit, nut-bearing, silvopastoral, and other agroforestry systems.

Target by 2030: 40,000 ha.

2. Water Conservation and Nature-based Solutions (NbS)

Introduction of drip irrigation, water harvesting and moisture conservation technologies, Nature-based Solutions, erosion-control measures, and climate-resilient practices.

Target: 30,000 ha under water-saving technologies.

3. Nurseries and Planting Material

Development of a network of nurseries and introduction of quality standards and certification for planting material.

Target: 7 nurseries and up to 12 million seedlings.

4. Shelterbelts and Riverbank Protection Systems

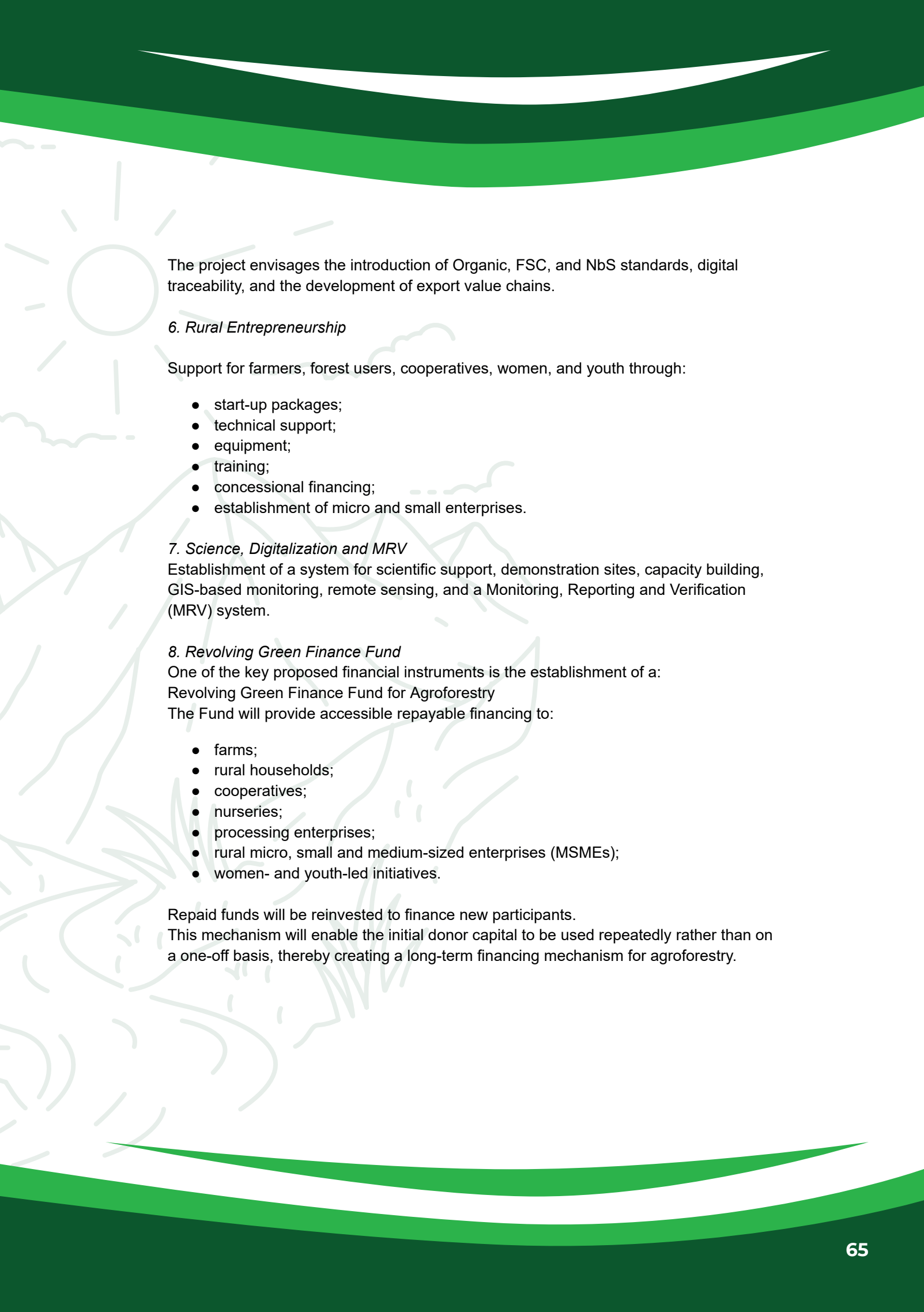
Establishment of up to 1,000 ha of shelterbelts and riverbank protection buffer zones under the proposed investment project.

5. Clusters and Value Chains

Establishment of agroforestry clusters, cooperatives, processing facilities, and logistics infrastructure.

Priority products include:

- nuts;
- fruits and berries;
- medicinal plants;
- honey;
- non-timber forest products;
- livestock products;
- other products from agroforestry systems.



The project envisages the introduction of Organic, FSC, and NbS standards, digital traceability, and the development of export value chains.

6. Rural Entrepreneurship

Support for farmers, forest users, cooperatives, women, and youth through:

- start-up packages;
- technical support;
- equipment;
- training;
- concessional financing;
- establishment of micro and small enterprises.

7. Science, Digitalization and MRV

Establishment of a system for scientific support, demonstration sites, capacity building, GIS-based monitoring, remote sensing, and a Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system.

8. Revolving Green Finance Fund

One of the key proposed financial instruments is the establishment of a: Revolving Green Finance Fund for Agroforestry

The Fund will provide accessible repayable financing to:

- farms;
- rural households;
- cooperatives;
- nurseries;
- processing enterprises;
- rural micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs);
- women- and youth-led initiatives.

Repaid funds will be reinvested to finance new participants.

This mechanism will enable the initial donor capital to be used repeatedly rather than on a one-off basis, thereby creating a long-term financing mechanism for agroforestry.

9. Key Results by 2030

Indicator	Target
Agroforestry systems	40,000 ha
Water-saving technologies	30,000 ha
Shelterbelts and riverbank protection buffer zones	1,000 ha
Nurseries	7
Planting material	up to 12 million seedlings
Demonstration sites	60
Agroforestry clusters	12
Cooperatives and associations	40
Logistics and processing facilities	8
Rural households	10,000
Green jobs	10,000
Increase in participants' incomes	at least 20%
Farmers and specialists trained	5,000 people

The total financing requirement for the 2026–2030 Action Plan amounts to: KGS 47,083.08 million

The financing requirements are structured as follows:

- government sources — KGS 3,847.80 million;
- international donors and partners — KGS 20,567.04 million;
- private sector and other sources — KGS 22,668.24 million.

The project is proposed to be implemented through a blended finance approach: grants + government co-financing + concessional financing + revolving fund + private investment + climate finance.

10. Partnership Opportunities for International Partners

The Kyrgyz Association of Forest and Land Users (KAFLU) invites international funds, development banks, cooperation agencies, and private investors to participate in the implementation of the first phase of the project.

The following dedicated investment windows are proposed:

- restoration of degraded lands;
- agroforestry systems;
- water conservation and NbS;
- nurseries;
- shelterbelts and riverbank protection systems;
- Revolving Green Finance Fund;
- rural entrepreneurship;
- processing and logistics;
- Organic/FSC/NbS certification;
- digitalization and MRV;
- climate finance.

An international partner may finance either an integrated project component or a dedicated investment window with its own budget, results, and indicators.

11. Why This Project Matters

The project combines environmental and economic outcomes within a single investment mechanism:

land restoration → water → productivity → income → jobs → processing → markets → climate resilience.

The core principle of the project is:

Land restoration should become an investment, not merely an expenditure.

Agroforestry makes it possible to simultaneously restore degraded lands, strengthen food security, generate income and employment, and lay the foundation for low-carbon development.

2026–2030 — 40,000 ha

By 2050 — 300,000 ha

Total financing requirement for the first phase — KGS 47,083.08 million

Initiator: Kyrgyz Association of Forest and Land Users (KAFLU) Kyrgyz Republic | UNCCD COP17

12. Contact person

Burkhanov Aitkul Mustafayevich,

General Director of the Kyrgyz Association of Forest and Land Users (KAFLU)

E-mail: kyrgyzaflu@gmail.com **Tel.:** +996 (999) 551 406 **Website:** www.kaflu.kg

a.burkhanov58@gmail.com

Block 15: Information about Kyrgyz Association of Forest and Land Users



Brief information about the Kyrgyz Association of Forest and Land Users of Kyrgyzstan (KAFLU)

General information about the organization

- **Full name:** Kyrgyz Association of Forest and Land Users of Kyrgyzstan (KAFLU)
- **Date of foundation:** May 13, 2010.
- **Organization Type:** National Non-Governmental Organization (NGO).
- **Working languages:** Kyrgyz, Russian, English.
- **Geographical coverage:** All 7 regions of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Contact information

- **Address:** Kyrgyz Republic, 720016, Bishkek, st. Baytik Baatyra, 36.
- **Phone/Fax:** +996 (312) 55-14-06.
- **E-mail:** kyrgyzaflu@gmail.com
- **Website:** kaflu.kg
- **Burkhanov Aitkul Mustafayevich,**
General Director of the Kyrgyz Association of Forest and Land Users (KAFLU)
- **E-mail:** a.burkhanov58@gmail.com

Vision, Mission, Purpose

- **Vision:** The Kyrgyz Republic and Central Asia are a showcase region for vibrant societies, developed economies, and healthy environments.
- **Mission:** To professionally advance the interests of the Association's members in the sustainable management of ecosystems and natural resources, ensuring equitable access to them, their conservation and combating poverty.
- **Objective:** To create conditions for sustainable nature management and development of entrepreneurship in the forestry and agricultural sectors in the context of climate change.

- **Key objectives:** Promoting the development of the "green economy", supporting the organic movement, voluntary certification (FSC, EU Organic), conducting research, providing legal and advisory assistance, and protecting the rights and interests of the Association's members.

Scale and resources

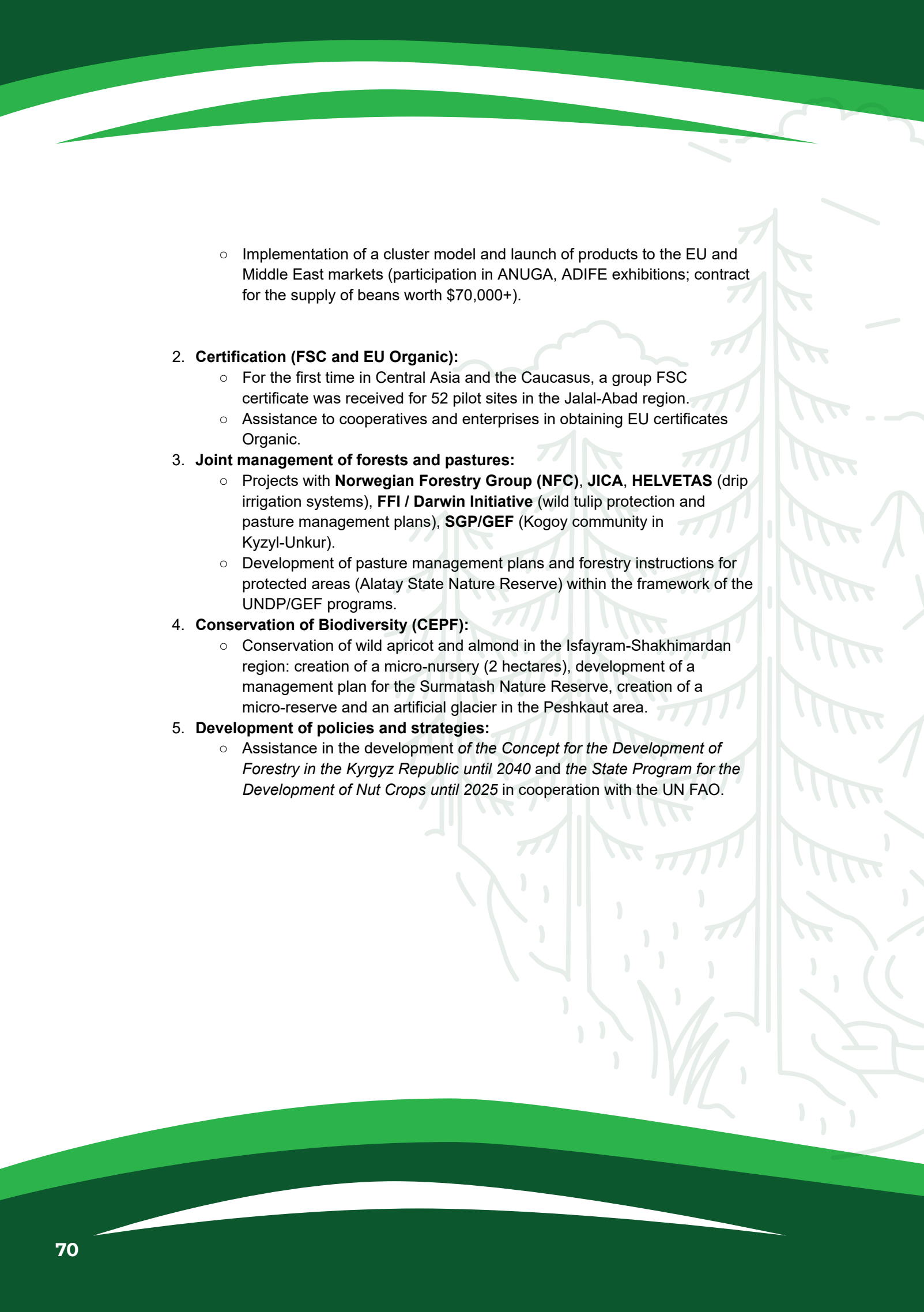
- **Membership:** Includes **176 legal entities**, uniting more than **8,935** farmers, forest users and tenants throughout the country.
- **Material and technical base:** Land and demonstration plots, buildings, machinery and equipment.
- **Own infrastructure:**
 - Registered newspaper "Asyl Zher press".
 - Registered trademarks "*Silk Road Taste*" and "*Silk Road Herbs*".
 - Educational license of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic.
 - Financial institution: **Microcredit agency "Asyl Zher-Tokoy"** (working capital - \$600,000).
 - Business and export development centers in Bishkek and Manas cities.

Membership in international networks and partnerships

- **National institutions:** Ministry of Water Resources, Agriculture and Processing Industry of the Kyrgyz Republic, Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Control of the Kyrgyz Republic, Forestry Service under the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Kyrgyz Republic, Department of Cadastre, National Academy of Sciences of the Kyrgyz Republic, K.I. Skryabin National Agrarian University, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Kyrgyz Republic.
- **International networks and coalitions:** International Land Coalition (ILC) / NLC Kyrgyzstan, Mountain Partnership of Central Asia (FAO), GEF/NGO network, ICCA Consortium, GACSA.
- **Foreign partners:** Turkish Chamber of Forest Engineers, Wild Plants Association (Russia), JASIL (Mongolia), BASAN and Hopesoil (South Korea), etc.

Key projects and achievements

1. **Diversification and Marketing of Organic Products (DMSOP/GAFSP, IFAD):**
 - Launch of the Asyl Zher-Tokoy microcredit facility for affordable lending to farmers.
 - Provision of in-kind grants (greenhouses, equipment, livestock, seedlings) to over 100 vulnerable households with a special focus on women and young farmers.

- 
- Implementation of a cluster model and launch of products to the EU and Middle East markets (participation in ANUGA, ADIFE exhibitions; contract for the supply of beans worth \$70,000+).
2. **Certification (FSC and EU Organic):**
- For the first time in Central Asia and the Caucasus, a group FSC certificate was received for 52 pilot sites in the Jalal-Abad region.
 - Assistance to cooperatives and enterprises in obtaining EU certificates Organic.
3. **Joint management of forests and pastures:**
- Projects with **Norwegian Forestry Group (NFC)**, **JICA**, **HELVETAS** (drip irrigation systems), **FFI / Darwin Initiative** (wild tulip protection and pasture management plans), **SGP/GEF** (Kogoy community in Kyzyl-Unkur).
 - Development of pasture management plans and forestry instructions for protected areas (Alatay State Nature Reserve) within the framework of the UNDP/GEF programs.
4. **Conservation of Biodiversity (CEPF):**
- Conservation of wild apricot and almond in the Isfayram-Shakhimardan region: creation of a micro-nursery (2 hectares), development of a management plan for the Surmatash Nature Reserve, creation of a micro-reserve and an artificial glacier in the Peshkaut area.
5. **Development of policies and strategies:**
- Assistance in the development of *the Concept for the Development of Forestry in the Kyrgyz Republic until 2040* and *the State Program for the Development of Nut Crops until 2025* in cooperation with the UN FAO.

Block 16: Information about Microcredit Agency “Asyl Jer Tokoi”



Microcredit agency "Asyl Zher-Tokoy"

Sustainable Financing for Family Farmers in Kyrgyzstan

The **Asyl Zher-Tokoi** microcredit agency was created by the Kyrgyz Association of Forest and Land Users (KAFLU) to provide affordable financing to family farmers, rural entrepreneurs, women, youth, and vulnerable rural households.

The Agency was registered by the National Bank of the Kyrgyz Republic in October 2025 and is **an independent legal entity** capable of continuing operations after the project's completion. The initial loan capital was formed within the framework of the **DMSOP project**, financed by GAFSP through the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

Key performance indicators for August 2026

- The total planned loan portfolio for 2025–2027 is **USD 600,000**.
- **65 preferential loans** were issued: 22 loans in 2025 and 43 in 2026.
- The total amount of funding issued is approximately **\$362,340**.
- The maximum amount of one loan is **500,000 soms**.
- Interest rate is **3% per annum**.
- Financing period: up to **18 months**.
- Grace period: up to **6 months**.
- The returned funds are used to issue new loans.

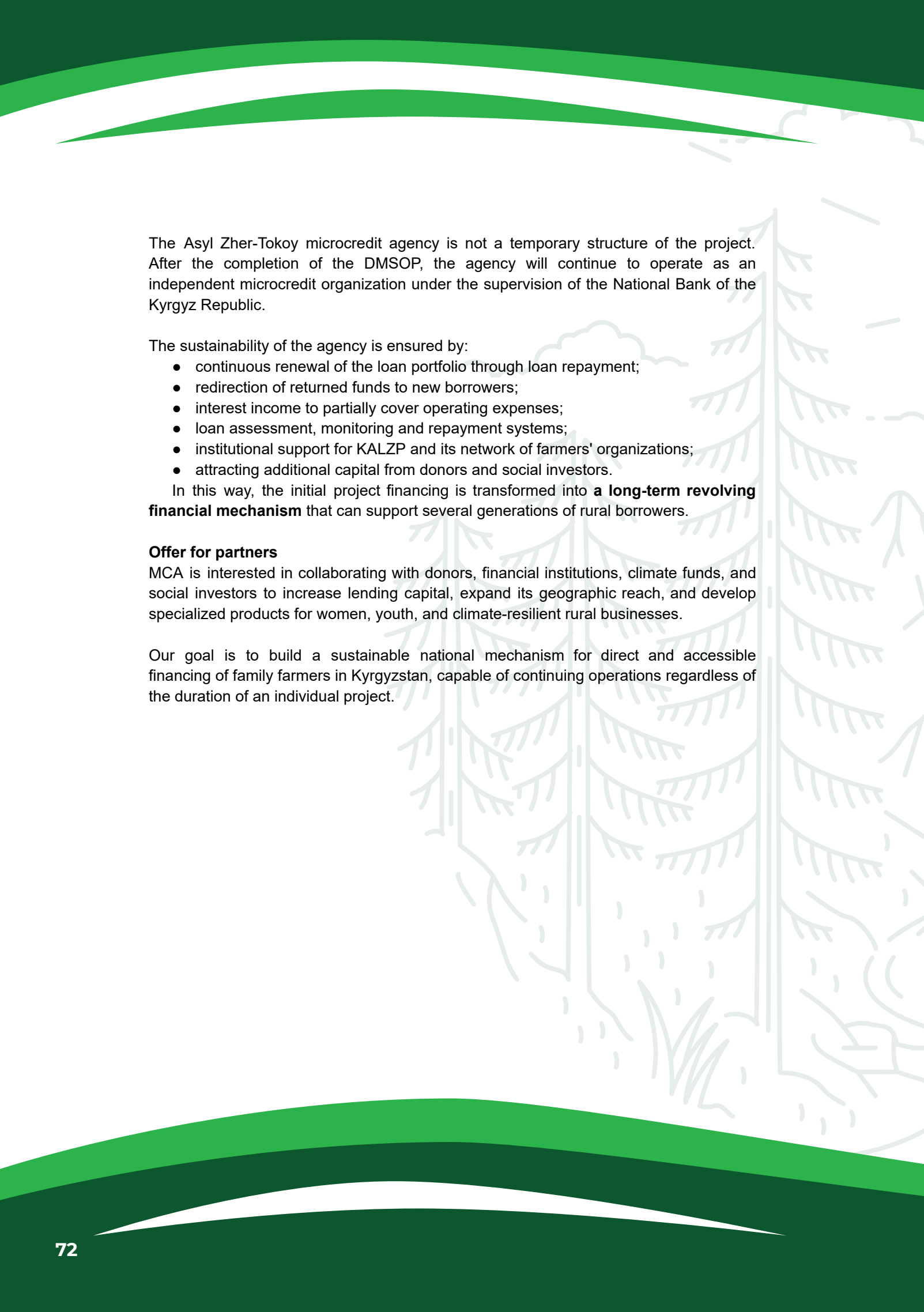
Our borrowers

The typical borrower is a family farmer or small rural entrepreneur engaged in forestry, crop production, livestock farming, horticulture, beekeeping, product processing, or the sustainable use of forest and land resources.

Farmers have practical experience and viable business ideas, but are often unable to obtain commercial financing due to high interest rates, insufficient collateral, and the seasonal nature of income.

Loans are used to purchase seeds, livestock, beehives, equipment and irrigation systems, as well as to develop processing, packaging and storage of products.

Sustainability after project completion



The Asyl Zher-Tokoy microcredit agency is not a temporary structure of the project. After the completion of the DMSOP, the agency will continue to operate as an independent microcredit organization under the supervision of the National Bank of the Kyrgyz Republic.

The sustainability of the agency is ensured by:

- continuous renewal of the loan portfolio through loan repayment;
- redirection of returned funds to new borrowers;
- interest income to partially cover operating expenses;
- loan assessment, monitoring and repayment systems;
- institutional support for KALZP and its network of farmers' organizations;
- attracting additional capital from donors and social investors.

In this way, the initial project financing is transformed into **a long-term revolving financial mechanism** that can support several generations of rural borrowers.

Offer for partners

MCA is interested in collaborating with donors, financial institutions, climate funds, and social investors to increase lending capital, expand its geographic reach, and develop specialized products for women, youth, and climate-resilient rural businesses.

Our goal is to build a sustainable national mechanism for direct and accessible financing of family farmers in Kyrgyzstan, capable of continuing operations regardless of the duration of an individual project.

