



Ministry of Agriculture of the
Republic of Uzbekistan

PROJECT DOCUMENT
Uzbekistan

Project Title: Supporting an inclusive transition to a "green" economy in the Agri-food sector and development of a "climate-smart" Uzbek Agriculture Knowledge and Innovation System (UAKIS)

Project Number: 00129151

Implementing Partner: The Ministry of Agriculture

Start Date: 30 September 2021 **End Date:** 30 September 2025

PAC Meeting date: 29 October 2021

Brief Description

The overall objective of the Action is to contribute to an inclusive transition to a "green" economy in the Uzbekistan food and agriculture sector and to the implementation of a "climate-smart" Uzbek Agriculture Knowledge and Innovation System. The specific objectives include:

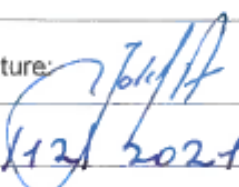
- (i) In line with broader NDC, NAP, and SDG commitments of the Government of Uzbekistan, to support a phased and knowledge-based development and operationalization of policies, and regulatory framework enabling the promotion of "green" investments across the agri-food value chains.
- (ii) To establish a range of 'Agri-food Innovation Support and Brokering Services' (integrated into UAKIS) that will play a crucial role in galvanizing local knowledge and capacities, mobilizing public and private funding, and scaling-up of climate-smart investments to respond to the current and future needs of farmers and agri-businesses, and to support the climate-resilience of rural livelihoods.

Practical realization of innovative projects at 'farm level', targeting primarily smallholder and family farmers, farmer cooperatives, and micro-agri-business, which will allow piloting and demonstrating ways of achieving mitigation, adaptation and where applicable, post COVID-19 "green" transformational recovery pathways.

Contributing Outcome (UNDAF/CPD, RPD or GPD):
CPD 2021-2025 Output 4.1: Innovative and sustainable climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives designed and implemented.
UNSDCF 2021-2025 Outcome 5: By 2025, the most at risk regions and communities of Uzbekistan are more resilient to climate change and disasters, and benefit from increasingly sustainable and gender-sensitive efficient management of natural resources and infrastructure, robust climate action, inclusive environmental governance and protection.
Indicative Output(s) with gender marker²: **GEN2**

Total resources required:	EUR 4,150,000	
Total resources allocated:	EUR 4,150,000	
	Donor EU:	EUR 4,150,000
	Government/ Ministry of Agriculture:	In-kind contributions (project office premises)
Unfunded:	N/A	

Agreed by (signatures):

Government/ The Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan	The Delegation of the European Union to Uzbekistan	United Nations Development Programme in Uzbekistan
Jamshid Khodjaev Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan	Charlotte Adriaen Ambassador of the European Union to Uzbekistan	Matilda Dimovska UNDP Resident Representative in Uzbekistan
Signature: 	Signature: 	Signature: 
Date: 01/12/2021	Date: 1/12/2021	Date: 01.12.2021

¹ Note: Adjust signatures as needed

² The Gender Marker measures how much a project invests in gender equality and women's empowerment. Select one for each output: GEN3 (Gender equality as a principal objective); GEN2 (Gender equality as a significant objective); GEN1 (Limited contribution to gender equality); GEN0 (No contribution to gender quality)

I. DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE (1/4 PAGE – 2 PAGES RECOMMENDED)

UZBEKISTAN AGRI-FOOD SYSTEMS AND CLIMATE CHANGE CONTEXT

Uzbekistan is an arid country with 70% of its land consisting of arid and semi-arid areas. The World Resources Institute places Uzbekistan among the 25 most water-stressed nations in the world.¹ Water scarcity is further exacerbated by climate change. Over the past 10 years, the volume of water resources in Uzbekistan, has decreased by 12 percent, while only during one year, in 2020 is 15 percent lower compared to 2019.² Land degradation, soil salinization, reduced water quality, wind and water erosion, and a decrease in the productivity of arable land are major environmental concerns. Pastures constitute almost half of the total land resources in Uzbekistan, while over 70% of the total pasture area is degraded mostly in Jizzakh, Samarkand, Navoyi and Bukhara provinces and the Republic of Karakalpakstan. Over 10,000 hectares of grazing lands with valuable forage are destroyed annually due to overgrazing. The total pasture area decreased by 11,6% during 1990-2012. Between 1995 and 2019 pasture productivity in Karakalpakstan decreased by about 25%. The poorest population of Uzbekistan lives in the most arid parts of the country, is dependent on subsistence agriculture, and is facing increased vulnerability to changes in climate conditions and natural resources availability³.

Almost half of the population in Uzbekistan lives and works in rural areas and although the share of agriculture as a % of GDP has been declining steadily, it plays an important role in the socio-economic life of the country. The agricultural sector comprises 28% of GDP⁴ (2019) and employs circa 33.2%⁵ of the working population. Moreover, up to 49% of the population's income is supplemented by agricultural activities. However, intensive farming practices have degraded much of the available arable land and depleted the water resources. Irrigation currently consumes over 90% of total water withdrawals. Despite agricultural reforms to improve irrigation efficiency, Uzbekistan faces significant challenges with desertification and water scarcity – all of which are exacerbated by climate stressors.

Since 1998, the Government has implemented land reforms aimed at a widespread introduction of markets and the development of private ownership. Extensive work was carried out to optimize the area of private farming enterprises, to improve land reclamation, and to create early-maturing and high-yielding varieties, as well as to release cotton varieties on the basis of soil and climatic conditions and the water supply level of each area. Expected reductions in the availability of water supply in the main rivers is expected to impact significantly the availability of water for irrigation. Even though the Uzbek government has taken steps to reduce the areas given over to the cultivation of water intensive crops such as cotton, as well as improving irrigation efficiencies and introduce Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), the reduction in water supply and increases in population mean that agriculture will remain the sector most exposed to climate risks.

The observed changes in climate and expected modelled climate changes include increases in temperatures and increases in precipitation intensity as a driver of natural disasters. These changes in climate lead to the following changes in associated natural hazards:

- Increases in the area, frequency and intensity of rainfall-induced landslides, Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs), flash floods, mudflows, particularly during the late winter/ spring period
- Increased intensity and frequency of meteorological drought, particularly over western regions during summer
- Reduced water availability in the Amu Darya, Zarafshan and Syrdarya rivers
- Increased damages and risks to both dryland and irrigated agriculture.

¹ <https://www.wri.org/blog/2019/08/17-countries-home-one-quarter-world-population-face-extremely-high-water-stress>

² <https://president.uz/en/lists/view/3839>

³ State Committee for Statistics and Uzhydromet related to Karakalpakstan

⁴ <https://stat.uz/uploads/doklad/2019/yanvar-sentyabr/ru/1.pdf>

⁵ https://www.theglobaleconomy.com/Uzbekistan/Employment_in_agriculture/

Overall, arid conditions are expected to increase. The increasing intensity and frequency of meteorological drought and raising temperatures will cause heat and water stress to livestock, people and agricultural systems. For irrigated agriculture dependent on the reduced flow of rivers originating in the eastern mountain ranges, there will be reduced yields and decreases in planted areas. Increased temperatures will both increase evapotranspiration and affect non-irrigated foothill regions engaged in dryland farming, especially where crops are grown close to critical temperature thresholds, leading to economic losses. The rise in temperature and an earlier start to the grazing season is expected to decrease the formation of autumn forage reserves by 20%-44%, which in combination with an increase in the number of hot days will negatively affect grazing conditions⁶. Both cotton and wheat (which collectively cover 68% of irrigated land) are sensitive to heat and drought stress. Yields for almost all crops are expected to decrease by 10-25% by 2050 and livestock productivity is projected to decrease, with concerning ramifications for livelihoods and food production, particularly among the rural poor.

Water resource management is a key development challenge in Uzbekistan, where demand will continue to rise and climate change impacts are likely to reduce water supplies. Almost 90% of the country's water resources originate from mountain catchments located in neighbouring countries⁷. Surface water use by the agriculture sector constitutes 93% of overall water use, even though only 10% of the total land area is cultivated⁸. A major problem reducing agricultural productivity is inappropriate irrigation (both insufficient and over-irrigation inadequately informed by climate information) which increases salinisation, water-logging and erodes the fertility of arable land.

Uzbekistan has taken steps to include climate change considerations across national policy. One of the steps towards this was the approval of the Strategy for the transition of Uzbekistan to the green economy for the period 2019-2030 which includes climate change considerations. However, to date, a comprehensive framework for climate change adaptation is still lacking. Climate change is addressed, to some extent, in various policy documents, such as the Water Saving and Rational Water Use in Irrigated Land Tenure Strategy, the Uzbekistan Agri-food Development Strategy, National Strategy for Adaptation of Public Health Care System to Climate Change, strategies for adaptation of forestry to climate change, including the Forest Code, National Forest Programme, etc. However, they have not been developed within an overarching climate change policy framework, and still have a sectoral emphasis and are integrated with sector-specific economic development strategies.

At the policy level, though the Law on Pastures has been adopted in 2019, there are still gaps related to the implementation of integrated management of rangelands. Also, there is a lack of a harmonized agro-environmental and climate resilient strategies and financing mechanisms to mainstream integrated pasture management. Pasture planning, monitoring and management is therefore not practiced as the corresponding secondary legislation is not yet operationalized. In order to ensure sustainable livestock development, there is a need to address gaps in the legislation and expand the legal framework related to small-farm and pasture cooperatives, land tenure and access to pasturelands.

Women's contribution to agricultural production, food security and productivity in Uzbekistan is influenced by gender gaps. Women's lower agricultural productivity is mainly due to their time poverty. In rural areas especially, women's multiple roles – as providers of care for their families, as farmers, casual labourers and entrepreneurs – make demands on their time. Women also have unequal access to assets and productive resources such as land, livestock, improved seed varieties, water, fertilizer, seasonal labour, extension services and credit. Women face constraints in technology, with fewer tools than men, less access to modern farming equipment and transport, and less knowledge and skills. All this results in poor productivity and significant post-harvest losses, and limited access to markets and participation in value chains. Women's time constraints

⁶ Climate risk profile of Uzbekistan (2015). United Nations Development Programme, Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

⁷ World Bank Central Asia Climate Change Report 2009.

⁸ CaciM- UNPD-GEF project document: "Achieving ecosystem stability on degraded land in Karakalpakstan and the Kyzylkum Desert"

and unequal access to resources also have costs in family and individual wellbeing in household consumption and cash income, perpetuating the cycle of poverty and food insecurity. Climate change disproportionately affects women in agriculture since they are most of small and subsistence farmers. It is therefore urgent for Uzbekistan's agriculture and climate-smart green transition strategy to pay attention to gender dimensions through this project.

Uzbekistan's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement, submitted in 2017, outlines the country's planning process to strengthen climate change adaptation and mitigation actions. It includes identification of policy measures, implementation of climate actions, development of scientific research and education as priorities. The NDC mitigation objective is to decrease emissions of greenhouse gases per unit of GDP by 10% by 2030 from the level of 2010 from all key economic sectors including industry, energy, agriculture, transport, water, etc. UNDP supports the Government of Uzbekistan in revisiting and increasing the ambition of its NDC in the light of the targets set by the government by 2025. This would include the focus on drip irrigation and other water-saving technologies to be introduced on at least 30% of irrigated lands; as well as the elimination of oil and gas industry related losses and increasing the share of renewable energy sources in the national energy mix, up to 20%.

An important step towards including climate change considerations across national policy areas was the adoption of the Strategy for the transition of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the "green" economy for 2019-2030. However, to date, a comprehensive framework for the operationalization of this strategy is still lacking. Climate change has been addressed, to some extent, in the Uzbekistan Agri-food Development Strategy 2020-2030, which has a credible record of implementation, with the EU as a key supporter.

The challenge: Investment in agri-food research can deliver new knowledge and promote innovation. There is already a substantial amount of knowledge available in Uzbekistan to answer many of the challenges faced by farmers and agri-food businesses. However, currently this knowledge tends to be fragmented and insufficiently applied in practice. There is a breakdown between the needs and concerns of farmers and agri-businesses and the responsiveness of the agriculture research community. Moreover, there are no effective mechanisms in place to effectively link, transfer or exchange this experience and knowledge. Similarly, agriculture education and training remain disconnected from private sector needs and priorities. The sector as a whole has considerable, and under-used, innovation capacity but the slow uptake of new knowledge and innovative solutions in farming, in particular by small and medium-sized farms, continues to undermine sector competitiveness and sustainable development. Moreover, Uzbekistan as a whole still faces major challenges with desertification, water scarcity, and further depletion of the Aral Sea that continue to be exacerbated by climate stressors such as increasing temperatures, more frequent and extreme droughts, lower precipitation levels during parts of the year, and changes in weather patterns that are causing shifts in the growing season. Despite the on-going multi-billion investments in the transformation of the Agri-food sector through concessional loans, the smallholder and family farmers, as well as micro and small agri-businesses, are largely excluded from the beneficiary groups. The "green" criteria for those substantial investments also need to be developed. The evidenced-based development of policy and a regulatory framework enabling climate-smart investments also needs to be assisted in a phased way, linked to the demand.

II. STRATEGY (1/2 PAGE - 3 PAGES RECOMMENDED)

THE UZBEKISTAN AGRICULTURE STRATEGY AND UAKIS

Uzbekistan Strategy for the Development of Agriculture for 2020-2030 (the Agriculture Strategy) adopted in October 2019, provides a comprehensive framework to guide the development of the Uzbek Agriculture sector. The Strategy builds on a critical analysis of past policy approaches and on an extensive review of the main constraints and opportunities in the key targeted areas (agricultural land, water resources, forestry, agri-environment) and articulates a clear vision for the future development of agriculture in Uzbekistan. The main objective of the Agriculture Strategy is to develop a competitive, market and export-oriented agri-food sector that will increase farm incomes, create new jobs, enhance food security, and ensure the sustainable use of natural resources.

The Agriculture Strategy consists of nine strategic priorities which include ensuring food security, promoting private investments through a robust agri-business climate and enhanced public services, building up world class value chains and a network of agricultural knowledge and advisory services, ensuring sustainable use of natural resources. These priorities are closely aligned with the Uzbekistan Government commitment to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with emphasis on SDGs 2, 5, 6, 13 and 15.

Implementation of the Agriculture Strategy is designed to accelerate the adoption of modern technologies, moving the country to the forefront of agri-food industry efficiency and innovation and establishing Uzbekistan as the leading exporter of high-value agri-food products in Central Asia.

Priority 7 of the Agriculture Strategy is focused on the development of a modern, integrated, and flexible support system for the development of agriculture research, education, training, information, and advisory services. The UAKIS Strategy and Roadmap is designed to directly contribute to the fulfillment of this strategic objective and address the multiple challenges that are currently constraining progress.

UAKIS has been designed to address the challenges of the existing Uzbek structures and systems undertaking agricultural research, providing agriculture education and training services and the provision of advice and knowledge services to farmers and agri-business. The main challenges include:

- Centrally planned and centrally managed agriculture production systems and services are **poorly equipped** to meet the vastly different and constantly changing needs of a market-based, private sector driven agri-food system.
- **Extensive number and range** of public institutions and people employed in the delivery of agriculture research, education, and training, covering all regions of the country.
- **No clear or coordinated strategic objectives**, goals, performance targets, funding mechanisms or support framework to link or guide institutions in the transition of their services to meet the needs of a market-based system at central, regional and/ or local level.
- Fragmented and **uncoordinated legal framework**, characterized by a significant number of decrees and resolutions, prescribing the management and resourcing of agriculture research, education, and training with no effective mechanisms for their implementation.
- **Fragmented institutional management** and operational structures with limited human and financial resources and capacities and with insufficient 'service' or 'client' orientation.
- **No clear linkage or partnerships** between the design and delivery (supply) of agriculture research, education and training services and the emerging needs and priorities of private farmers and agri-businesses (client demand).

- Extremely **low level of public investment in agriculture research** (currently 0.2% of the total agricultural budget), with little or no evidence of mechanisms for the practical transfer, uptake, or implementation of publicly funded agriculture research at all levels.
- **Outdated higher and secondary educational framework** (curricula, teaching material), focused predominantly on the provision of theoretical courses, teaching methods and practices, with limited provision of practical teaching and training, or linkages with farming or agri-food business skills needs.
- Predominance of **top down, non-diversified, fragmented agriculture vocation training system**, with limited linkages to farmers day-to-days problems, real needs and/or challenges.
- **No current public or private system for the provision of advice, information and/or knowledge** development services to support and guide farmers and agri-businesses, with attention to the specific needs of women in farming and agri-business.
- **Low participation of research and knowledge generating community in planning and provision of advice** to assist in coordinating agricultural activities, policies, strategies and legislation.
- **Absence of formalized practitioners and policy networks** that support policy design and implementation, stimulate exchange of knowledge, experience and the development of new tools, products and information to support innovation and development in agriculture and rural development.
- The weaknesses of the existing structures and systems continue to be reflected in the limited uptake of new technologies, low agriculture productivity and product quality levels, skills shortages and gaps, qualification mismatches and overall lack of competitiveness of the sector, despite a significant number of donor, technical assistance and IFI resources to support the development of agriculture and rural knowledge and innovation systems and services at central regional and local level. Moreover, there is a lack of trust amongst farmers and between farmers, agri-food processors, and traders, resulting in low levels of farmer and/ or value-chain cooperation and collaboration. Other challenges relate to the low level of adoption of environmental, food safety and animal welfare standards in the sector, limiting opportunities for the country to access higher value export markets for their products. The failure to comply with trading standards is predominantly due to limited access to appropriate knowledge, advice, information, and financial resources required to introduce innovative solutions, upgrade facilities and technologies that are essential for food certification schemes.
- The rural areas can become premiere hubs of innovations. It is key, for improved Food and Nutrition, to support revitalizing rural areas with a focus on five building blocks: creating farm and non-farm rural employment opportunities; advancing gender equality; addressing environmental challenges; improving access to energy; and investing in good governance.

The Government of Uzbekistan is currently in the process of adopting a new Uzbek Agriculture Knowledge and Innovation System (UAKIS) Strategy and Roadmap which aims to provide effective solutions to overcome these challenges, by establishing a supportive and flexible system and range of services to promote quicker innovation and better valorization of existing and new knowledge and the development of more effective climate adaptation and mitigation strategies and actions. By developing effective linkages between agricultural research, education and training, and advisory services, and promoting their alliance with the private sector, active and meaningful participation of agricultural producers and agri-food businesses will be fostered in the delivery of all UAKIS services. A range of financial and technical assistance support is being mobilized to facilitate the implementation of this strategy, focused primarily upon knowledge development and accelerating learning in the first stages of development. To complement this approach, more direct support for the development and promotion of innovation is needed.

The intention of the proposed project is to establish a range of **Agri-food Innovation Support and Brokering Services** that will play a crucial role in galvanizing local knowledge and capacities and getting many worthwhile practical projects off the ground, accelerating the process by which ideas can be turned into innovations and used by farmers and agri-businesses to respond to the growing threats caused by climate change, boost rural livelihoods and promote sustainable resource use and protection. The strong focus on inclusion will be followed in developing innovative public-private collaboration models to support small producers. The project will support a systemic change, which will facilitate larger “green” investments in the agri-food sector and which will ensure inclusive access to related support services and financing:

Scale Up	Impact the enabling environment with the operationalization of the UAKIS legal framework
Scale Out	Impact greater numbers of beneficiaries with Government and international co-financing
Scale Deep	Impact cultural needs with regional hubs and supportive local ecosystems for scaling

UAKIS will form the legal framework and be supported and guided by national policies on AKIS and advisory services that frame strong inter-linkages, interactions and activities between various research, innovation, production and policy stakeholders and actors across the entire agri-food system of Uzbekistan. The Government of Uzbekistan will contribute co-financing in the form of buildings and plots of land for the initial phase of implementation in the Tashkent and Ferghana Valley regions. This will be supported by international financing, including World Bank Group loans for additional capital and infrastructure expenditure and EU recovery grants and technical assistance grants for personnel and other operational expenditure.

The rationale for the proposed programme approach to operationalize UAKIS emerges from extensive UNDP in-country experience and the recognition that the complexity of environmental, social and economic problems faced in the agricultural regions of Uzbekistan at the nexus of agriculture, food security, sustainable land use and climate change, cannot be addressed using a traditional, fragmented and linear, planning and implementation approach. The proposed action will be aligned with the Systems Innovation Approach that is now at the heart of the Government of Uzbekistan initiative to transform the Aral Sea Region into an Ecological Innovations and Technologies Zone, supported by UNDP and partners, and is aligned with the UAKIS Development Strategy and Roadmap.

TRANSFORMATIVE ACTION

An increasingly complex array of challenges (including being COVID19 ready into the indefinite future) threaten global progress towards obligations under the Paris Agreement and the achievement of the SDGs. It is widely recognized that now is the time for ambitious transformative approaches, as demonstrated by the European Green Deal.

Building on the One Planet Summit commitments, this program of action and investment will support the Government of Uzbekistan to foster transformative innovation in food and agriculture sector through climate-relevant practices and support the farming communities of Uzbekistan in transforming agri-food systems and value chains to better anticipate future climate shocks, improve food security and nutrition, and enhance quality-of-life.

In alignment with the European Green Deal, in particular the Farm-to-Fork Strategy, the proposed action will also promote the transition to low-emission agri-food systems by focusing, amongst others, on the following topics:

- creating incentives for improved water and energy efficiency
- increasing the share of renewables across value-chains

- enhancing agricultural waste management
- strengthening regulatory frameworks and the enabling environment for biomass production, and
- enhancing carbon sinks through sustainable pasture management

The agriculture sector is disproportionately sensitive to rapid and extreme climate change. The sector plays a significant role in the generation of livelihoods and health outcomes for the majority of the population. This means that for this initiative to be effective, joined-up action is required; with multi-actor partnerships and an integrated approach to financing, mobilizing science, research and citizen participation. This climate-risk informed action supports the implementation and increased ambition of the Uzbekistan Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the Paris Agreement, and the National Adaptation Plan (NAP).

The central design challenge is to build the capacity of actors at all levels to mutually learn from all parts of the value chains of the agri-food system in an on-going process of generating options for innovation and investment. The central objective is, therefore, to create an experiential learning system and enhance the flow of information and the building of linkages across the entire agri-food system value chain. This is an integrated, cross-sectoral and trans-disciplinary approach – engaging with both local and international academic and research institutions to build scientific evidence to support decision-making. The project will build on existing networks and platforms to share learnings, insights and emerging practices to accelerate innovation and investment through the establishment of advisory services and support networks and facilitating the gradual digital transition.

Theory of Change (TOC) of the project is based on the understanding that the pathway to sustainability and resilience requires systemic changes that will countries transition towards: (i) reshaping long-term vision for resilient and socially inclusive development in selected regions; (ii) ability at national and local levels to establish and maintain strong and sustainable institutional and knowledge based networks for risk-informed, people-centred and long lasting development of agro-food production; (iii) scaling up data-driven and gender-responsive smart policies and solutions to address climate change impact, namely adaption and disaster resilience towards more green and effective agriculture.

The overall project strategy aims to raise awareness and to improve evidence-based knowledge of climate-related resilience risks and effective responses, thus empowering shareholders, including communities to become more resilient and providing a secure foundation for cooperative action to respond to the threats and risks posed by climate change due to inability of current system to respond properly. Greening and climate-related concerns will be mainstreamed into decision-making at all levels, facilitating climate-resilient development from the community level up to the regional and national level.

The key barriers to resilience in Uzbekistan are as follows:

- (i) Centrally planned and centrally managed agriculture production systems and services are poorly equipped to meet the vastly different and constantly changing needs of a market-based, private sector driven agri-food system
- (ii) Lack of integration between the producers and research communities, that leads to poor climate change and resilience agendas in the national and sectoral planning and policies: insufficient understanding and mainstreaming of climate-fragility risks, adaptation strategies and plans, and insufficient integration of human development objectives/measures in national adaptation planning;
- (iii) Fragmented and uncoordinated legal framework, characterized by a significant number of decrees and resolutions, prescribing the management and resourcing of agriculture research, education, and training with no effective mechanisms for their implementation.

- (iv) Extremely low level of public investment in agriculture research (currently 0.2% of the total agricultural budget), with little or no evidence of mechanisms for the practical transfer, uptake, or implementation of publicly funded agriculture research at all levels.
- (v) Outdated higher and secondary educational framework (curricula, teaching material), focused predominantly on the provision of theoretical courses, teaching methods and practices, with limited provision of practical teaching and training, or linkages with farming or agri-food business skills needs.
- (vi) Predominance of top down, non-diversified, fragmented agriculture vocation training system, with limited linkages to farmers day-to-days problems, real needs and/or challenges.
- (vii) No current public or private system for the provision of advice, information and/or knowledge development services to support and guide farmers and agri-businesses, with attention to the specific needs of women in farming and agri-business.
- (viii) Low participation of research and knowledge generating community in planning and provision of advice to assist in coordinating agricultural activities, policies, strategies and legislation.

The project Theory of Change builds upon interrelated strategic outputs that address barriers identified above. The evidence-based decision making will support consensus-building and empower governments to take coordinated action, facilitated by regional dialogue.

The achievement of the Intervention's outcome is subject to the assumptions that: the partner governments, non-governmental organisations and academia facilitate and support the implementation of the project by providing access to relevant information and in-kind contribution in the form of technical and human resources; a strong and sustainable network of institutional partners is established and maintained for the Intervention's implementation, led by partner governments; alignment with needs identified by the government translate into full support by the authorities in the implementation phase; decision-making by recipient authorities is overall timely and coherent; assessments, mapping and capacity gaps are considered and addressed by the countries; there exists an efficient policy / strategy dialogue and consideration of recommendations for CC resilience mainstreaming; ownership scheme for the platform exists / agreed between the countries; there is a growing demand for awareness materials and platform; and the governments invest and consider the lessons learned for replication.

If the cooperation and capacity of the local and regional stakeholders in pilot regions are improved, then, in the long term, it will heavily contribute the stability and development of AKIS in whole Uzbekistan. Practical pilot activities tailored to the local context will help stakeholders to be fully engaged through active participatory process and ensure that "no one is left behind", including by creating space for the most vulnerable groups to engage with the capacity building process.

The project is designed to reinforce national capacities and efforts and the existing work of development organizations and partners in the country, thus extensive networking and partnership will be crucial to overcoming barriers related to insufficient knowledge and information on knowledge and innovation, integrated policy planning methodologies and tools, including the integration of human development objectives/measures in national planning, capacities, and on-the-ground experience towards green and smart agriculture. There is a number of important policy documents at the national level that will constitute a policy baseline for the proposed project's policy work, for instance, Agricultural Strategy 2030, Presidential decrees #4975 and 6159 by which Concept for Knowledge and Innovation System were approved. Through its activities, the project will contribute and complement the activities in the national priority area "Sustainable, climate-responsible and resilient development" as fixed in the CPD 2021-2025 of the Republic of Uzbekistan; improvement of national and sub-national governments capacities to adopt and implement gender-responsive climate adaptation strategies and measures will contribute to the enhancement of institutional systems to apply innovative practices in line with UNDAF priority outcome.

The project will also liaise with international initiatives to ensure complementarity and synergy. Cooperation with the EU-funded and other projects to draw on and exchange knowledge of analytical tools, methodologies, and lessons, in particular the newly developed toolkit on

addressing climate fragility risks. Synergies will be built with the new UNDP project “Towards Green Recovery in Uzbekistan” in the course of selection of climate change adaptation measures, as well as the elaboration of capacity building and knowledge sharing programme. More details on partnerships are presented in Section three.

III. RESULTS AND PARTNERSHIPS (1.5 - 5 PAGES RECOMMENDED)

OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTION

The *overall objective* of the Action is to contribute to an inclusive transition to a “green” economy in the Agri-food sector and to the implementation of a “climate-smart” Uzbek Agriculture Knowledge and Innovation System.

The *Specific Objectives* are:

1. In line with broader NDC, NAP, and SDG commitments of the Government of Uzbekistan, to support a phased and **knowledge-based development and operationalization of policies, and regulatory framework enabling the promotion of “green” investments** across the agri-food value chains.
2. To **establish a range of ‘Agri-food Innovation Support and Brokering Services’** (integrated into UAKIS) that will play a crucial role in galvanizing local knowledge and capacities, mobilizing public and private funding, and scaling-up of climate-smart investments to respond to the current and future needs of farmers and agri-businesses, and to support the climate-resilience of rural livelihoods and improve the employment and incomes of women in farming and agri-business.
3. Practical **realization of innovative projects at ‘farm level’**, targeting primarily smallholder and family farmers, farmer cooperatives, and micro-agri-business, which will allow **piloting and demonstrating ways** of achieving mitigation, adaptation and where applicable, post COVID-19 “green” **transformational recovery pathways**.

The overall objective of this action supports the specific UAKIS objectives and the broader transformation of Uzbekistan’s food and agriculture sector towards climate resilient and low-carbon development by accelerating innovation and scaling up climate action across agri-food value chains through the operationalization of the UAKIS. This objective will be pursued by realizing a dynamic portfolio of climate-relevant investments and by creating a scale-linking, integrated learning system to generate transformational options for investment across the complex nexus of agriculture, food security, land use and climate change challenges. The project will work with local, national and international actors including public and private sector and research and innovation labs in order to achieve tangible improvements in the quality-of-life and to increase resilience across agricultural regions of Uzbekistan. The project will pursue an inclusive, participatory and gender-transformative approach to stakeholder engagement at the local and national levels.

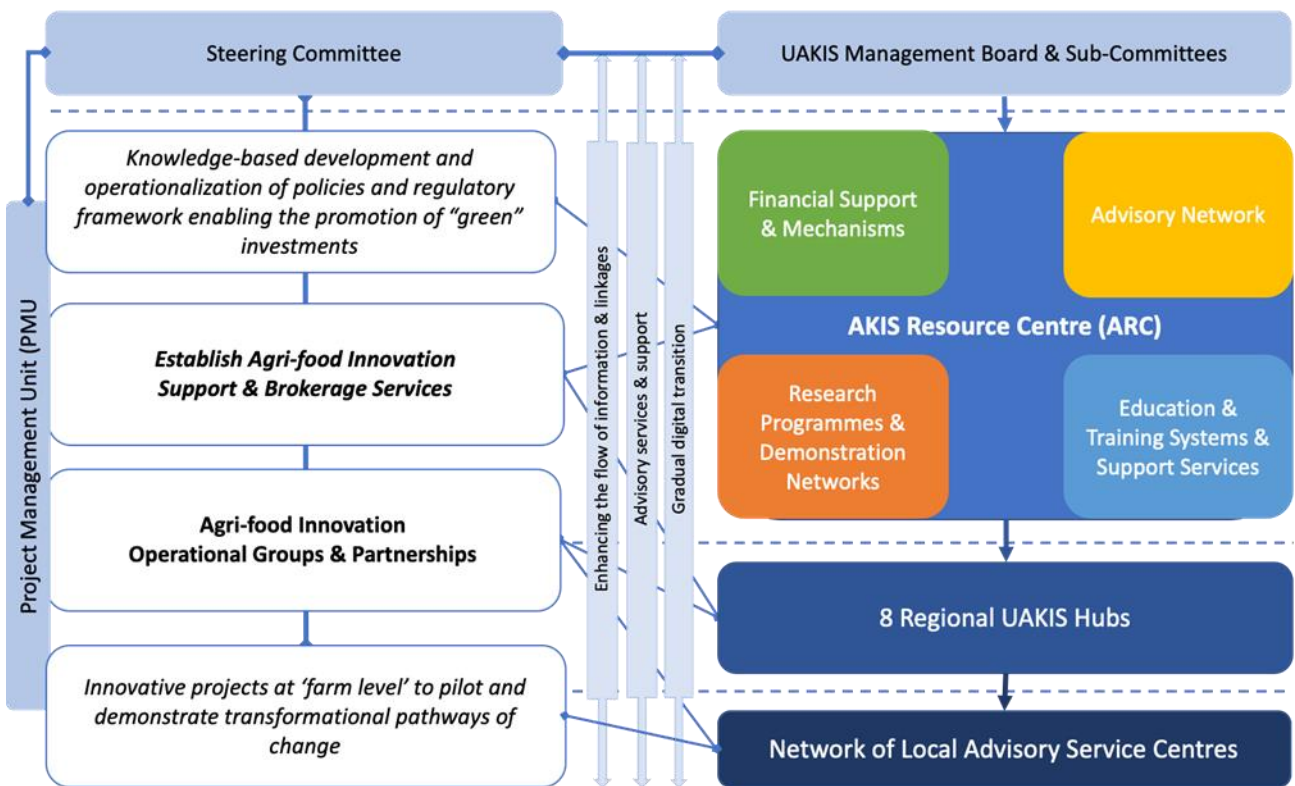
Output 1: Establish Agri-food Innovation Support and Brokerage Services

The project will establish Agri-food Innovation Support and Brokerage services as a core component of the new AKIS support infrastructure. The aim will be to build sustainable technical support structures and support services to help develop initiatives that connect key Uzbek actors with an interest in, and ideas on, finding innovative solutions to shared agri-food problems. The brokering service function will be key to getting innovative projects started in Uzbekistan. Services will be developed to support the identification and preparation of thematic groups or networks to bring key stakeholders together, focusing on specific national, regional and /or local challenges, encouraging knowledgeable stakeholders and interested parties to develop work on topics that may have innovation potential. The project will assist groups in finding partners that have the necessary competencies (practical or scientific), acting as a go-between, discovering innovative ideas and connecting partners, providing and helping in finding public, private and donor funding sources, preparing and realizing project proposals.

Under this output, the project will also provide support to identify and develop solutions to identified policy constraints which may limit the introduction of new and innovative solutions. This will include provision of technical support for a policy dialogue, the development of plans at national and regional level for the alignment of agricultural policies and programmes to respond to climate change, developing the capabilities of key agricultural institutions, and making needed investments in infrastructure, support services, and on-farm improvements. This will involve a combination of quantitative analysis, and consultation with key stakeholders, particularly farmers and local agricultural experts. Specific policy actions will be identified on a project-by-project basis that may include support for policy development to address issues such as: protection of intellectual property rights (for new seeds and plant varieties); regulation and access to energy markets (for renewable energy sources); equal access to land, property and other economic assets, establishment of public-private partnerships.

Institutional, technological, economic and financial, and policy and legal innovations are all critical foundations to ensure effective implementation and operationalization of laws and other decrees aligned with the objectives of this programme of action and investment. This Output will focus on enhancing policy, legislative, regulatory and institutional frameworks for sustainable pasture management and for climate resilient and low-carbon food and agriculture value-chains. It will improve market and financial incentives for producers to shift to more climate resilient and sustainable production practices and work closely with the four core elements of the UAKIS Resource Centre.

Operationalisation Support Structure



The project will support the specific objectives of the UAKIS Development Strategy and Roadmap by strengthening the policy, monitoring and planning framework at national and sub-national levels to support innovative sustainable and climate resilient pasture management practices and agri-food value chains. This will contribute to improved collection of statistical data and information required for the assessment of progress in achieving the Uzbekistan NDC, NAP and achieving the SDGs.

Policy and regulatory innovation will support and facilitate the development of the necessary enabling conditions for systemic change, including innovative mechanisms and instruments, research and training for:

- Improving energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy in food and agriculture sectors.
- Enhancing the efficiency of water management systems of the Amudarya river basin.
- Efforts and resources to fully utilize the Law of Pastures in particular for pasture use management issues.
- Identifying and promoting innovative financing options and partnerships for practical, scalable portfolios of interventions; and,
- Approaching risk from a systemic risk perspective to help reveal the interactions between hazards, exposure and, importantly, vulnerabilities in agricultural regions across human, ecological and economic systems.
- Addressing gender dimensions of decisions related to energy efficiency, renewable energy, water management and hazard mitigation.

Institutional innovation will support the activation of UAKIS mechanisms for the effective engagement with all key partners and stakeholders to operationalize transformational change and make practical, tangible impacts at regional and ‘farm level’ possible. This may include developing innovative public-private collaboration models to support small producers, enhancing interagency and intersectoral dialogue and coordination, enhancing access to and use of climate and other relevant information by institutional stakeholders, mainstreaming climate risk management and climate action objectives in the national agriculture support systems.

Economic and financial innovations will focus on creating the necessary market and price mechanisms (e.g. water pricing mechanisms, carbon pricing mechanisms) needed to spur technological innovations and empower agricultural communities to action. These activities will focus on addressing systemic and structural mitigation and adaptation challenges in relation to the creation and implementation of projects and funding in Uzbekistan.

By putting emphasis on transferring knowledge, competences and practices based on national policies and priorities the final aim is to contribute to capacity-development and strengthening systemic capabilities of farmers, local authorities, NGOs, academia, investors and others to learn. The systems innovation approach, already in use across the EU, favors using a combination of solutions by working on multiple drivers of change simultaneously in a dynamic portfolio of options. This enables rapid learning about obstacles and barriers to innovation, potential multipliers, effective leverage points, integration effects to improve investment outcomes, and to build informed communities and create transformational pathways.

The project methodology for implementation and operationalisation of UAKIS is designed as a bottom-up framework, placing farmers and agri-businesses and their needs and requirements at its heart. The project will support the network of linkages between all relevant actors that can contribute to the provision of relevant support services to these AKIS clients. The implementation framework is designed at central, regional and local/district level to help to build and strengthen these links in the network over time to overcome the multiple challenges articulated previously about the current Uzbek structures and systems.

Output 1 includes the following activities:

Activity 1.1. Support and facilitate improvements in the policy and regulatory framework for effective implementation of the Agri-food Innovation Support and Brokerage Services and for scaled-up climate action in the agri-food sector

The project will support further regulatory strengthening of the UAKIS network and will facilitate to address existing policy and regulatory barriers to scaled-up climate action and “green” transition in the food and agriculture sector. The project will provide technical support for policy dialogues and for the development of plans at national and regional level for the alignment of agricultural policies and programmes to respond to climate change.

Specific assistance for policy actions will be identified on a project by project basis that may include support for policy development to address issues such as: protection of intellectual property rights (for new seeds and plant varieties); regulation and access to energy markets (for renewable energy sources); establishment of public-private partnerships; promoting regulatory and financial incentives for climate-smart agriculture practices and technologies; preparation of amendments to the law on pastures.

Activity 1.2. Building institutional capacity and partnerships among UAKIS stakeholders to effectively deliver Agri-food Innovation Support and Brokerage Services

The action will establish and empower a system of advisory extension services to deliver science-based information and advice to farmers on climate risk management, adaptation and low carbon technologies, access to markets, export readiness, trade regimes and trade financing. The project will establish extension service centers in each pilot region and train and equip extension services and facilities (public and private) to provide useful and usable advice and support on climate risk management, including drought management planning and adaptation technologies.

In doing so the project will support innovative ICT tools and platforms for knowledge transfer and extension advice. Web-based, low-cost and openly accessible extension advice platform will be developed and made available for the farmers. Capacity of existing national centralized online networks (e.g., agriculture.uz) to disseminate information and knowledge and their access to international resources on “green” economy and climate-smart agriculture will be enhanced.

Innovation labs will be supported to promote climate smart agriculture. The project will develop capacity of independent service providers, including young entrepreneurs, to support producers and SME processors across the supply chains. It will connect providers of climate information (e.g. Uzhydromet), research organizations, innovators, extension system and farmers to ensure a continuous flow of learning, knowledge transfer and experimenting. It will engage women in learning, innovation and decision-making through consultative processes. Training sessions will ensure a minimum of 30 percent women’s participation and target women for specific types of support.

The project will strengthen the material and technical base and human capacities of research institutes, local agricultural colleges and universities that provide consulting services, applied research and innovative projects in the field of agriculture. It will develop new and improve existing educational and methodological materials in such areas as adaptation to climate change in agriculture, bioenergy production and use of other renewable energy sources in agriculture, addressing degradation of agricultural land, including pastures, rational use of water resources, production and market infrastructure, compliance with the required standards of value chains etc. Capacity building and training will be provided to specialists of research institutes and Universities, including expanding opportunities for international cooperation with leading agricultural universities and academia.

Activity 1.3. Participatory planning and identification of project portfolios

The project will utilize a combination of quantitative analysis and consultation with key stakeholders, particularly farmers and local agricultural experts, to set up a cyclical system of identification and updating of portfolios of projects to be supported through the Agri-food Innovation Support and Brokerage Services. In doing so, the project will identify new and innovative research projects as well as successful practices among local farmers and the population that have economic and environmental effectiveness, followed by the exchange of

information and knowledge on the basis of the creation and coordination of field agricultural and livestock schools. To facilitate identification of viable ideas and support engagement of local private actors and farming communities, model business plans will be developed.

Particularly, this will be achieved by facilitating the extensive participatory dialogue with the project beneficiaries through community consultation processes that helps in identifying priority issues within communities and connecting the response programmes to communities' most pressing needs, focusing on improving the economic, food and environment security of the target populations, that would enhance income generation and local capacities.

Activity 1.4. Establishing a continuous feedback, learning and knowledge management system under UAKIS

The Action will build capacity of the UAKIS network to collect, codify, analyze and utilize lessons in order to establish a continuous learning curve as part of system innovation approach. In doing so, an evidence-based monitoring and evaluation system will be established to feed into decision-making and investment planning process in agriculture sector. The monitoring programme will be developed and tested at the level of regional administrations including implementation of a mechanism for reporting to local administrations on the set of indicators provided by the project on changes in the use of natural resources in agriculture through the integration of science, research, education and knowledge transfer.

Through this Output the project will contribute to the achievement of the **GCCA+ and DeSIRA** indicators as outlined in the Logframe.

Output 2: Agri-food Innovation Operational Groups and Partnerships

The project approach and work methods will be guided by the EU EIP-AGRI Innovation Partnership framework for the establishment of 'Operational Groups', aiming to bring together a range of partners with a common interest in a specific, practical innovation projects. Through brokering and facilitation, the aim will be to establish groups of diverse combinations of practical and scientific experts and stakeholders (e.g., farmers, scientists, agri-business and others) to work together on concrete, practical solutions to a problem or innovative opportunity. The project will draw upon the extensive and rich experience and network of relevant 'Operational Groups and Partnerships' that exist in the EU and elsewhere.

Facilitation activities will also seek to establish active links with existing groups, where relevant and useful. The Uzbek Operational Groups will be action and result-oriented, whereby all partners involved will have an active role in carrying out a specific innovative project. The Operational Groups will be awarded with grants to implement their projects and provided with access to technical assistance to realize their initiatives. Grants will be awarded through transparent selection criteria agreed with the Ministry of Agriculture in line with UNDP's rules and procedures, with a strong focus on inclusion of small producers. To address the current climate change adaptation and mitigation deficits, and climate risk management in the country, indicatively the following priority areas will be targeted:

- Renewable energy (solar and bioenergy)
- Energy efficiency and application of renewable energies in agri-food value chains
- Digital technology for climate-smart agri-food chains
- Pest resistant and/or heat stress-tolerant seed and crop varieties
- Climate-smart agriculture initiatives to limit greenhouse emissions (crop and livestock focused)
- Integrated land-water resource management
- Reduction of post-harvest losses
- Circular economy / waste management in agriculture and agri-food industry

- Conservation agriculture

The Output 2 will support through the establishment of the Operational Groups the overall focus on learning and innovation while delivering tangible measurable results in reduced GHG emissions, enhanced climate resilience, reduced losses, enhanced agricultural productivity and farm incomes. The project will partner with the financing sector to transform the financing of innovation, including enhancing the capacity of the local and international financial sectors to provide funding into agricultural communities, to support systems innovation and learning and increase the provision of intelligence and evidence to development policies and investment decisions. Practical realization of projects at 'farm level' will allow piloting, experimenting and testing ways of achieving mitigation, adaptation and sustainable development transformational pathways.

The Output 2 will work to operationalise the primary function of the UAKIS central management and support structures which is to provide networking and facilitation services to help the regional and local structures to provide more effective services to the identified UAKIS clients and realise 'farm level' projects as pilots and demonstrations of transformational pathways of change. UAKIS is not intended to be a key service provider itself. The entire AKIS framework is designed to devolve responsibility to the lowest level of responsibility possible, to ensure that services are primarily designed by local farms, businesses and communities in line with their specific local needs and requirements and able to be delivered by both public and private sector actors. This will include focus on work carried out to introduce digitalization in agriculture, which is essential for the modernization of specialized research institutes, the introduction of applied research and advanced developments for the further development of the agricultural sector at all levels. The project will empower youth, women and women-led farms and food enterprises to become agents of change towards climate resilient and sustainable value chains, thus youth- and women-led small and medium enterprises will be among priority beneficiaries and partners of this component, which will also promote women's employment in the renewable energy sector.

The programme will benefit:

- Livestock professional family farms, private farms and businesses, cooperatives of services and machinery (agricultural production, livestock feeding production, processing), existing agribusiness investors as aggregators, small and medium agro-providers and processors active in the livestock sector;
- Rural communities through income generation and national community by quality improvement in the provision of animal products.
- Financial and non-financial intermediaries and guarantee and other financial instrument providers active in the agriculture sector; and,
- Global community with alignment to a less carbon intensive trajectory of livestock production.

Activity 2.1. Establishing the Agri-food Innovation Operational Groups and soliciting innovative proposals on climate-smart agriculture and transition to "green" agri-food value chains

The project will develop a plan and framework conditions for the formation of Agri-food Innovation Operational Groups (AIOGs) and partnerships for consultations and coordinated action with the Ministry of agriculture, Ministry of Innovations, and the Council of farmers, dehkan farms and owners of homestead lands of Uzbekistan. The project will facilitate various types of associations of small private and dehkan farms, household farms and micro and small agri-enterprises across agri-food value chains (e.g. on the basis of household cooperatives, associations of pasture users, groups of water users, etc.). This will include facilitation of local groups within field agricultural schools (FFS) under the coordination of local centers for the dissemination of knowledge to improve the effectiveness of learning from the UAKIS through the exchange of experience and results among farmers.

Further, through the UAKIS networks the project will facilitate liaison of the farmers' groups with agricultural university and research groups and innovation labs to catalyze new partnerships and piloting of innovative technologies and solutions. Youth engagement will be an important element of this activity. The activity may include organization of hackathons, impact challenges/contests to solicit innovative ideas, as well as conferences and study tours across Uzbekistan regions and abroad. Awards for young innovators who develop technologies that address the needs of smallholder farmers and take into consideration the gender dimensions of rural agriculture, value chains, food security and nutrition. AIOGs will promote climate action across agri-food value chains, including actors engaged in the supply of inputs, the production process, logistics and marketing.

The project will ensure women's participation to enhance their capacity to engage in climate-resilient and climate-smart value chains. It will set minimum targets for women small farmers' participation in specific innovation partnerships and projects. At least 20% pilot projects to address innovations in farming will address women's specific needs, e.g, empowering them with time and labour-saving technologies and equipment that reduce the drudgery of their work and increase productivity across their labour profile.

The project will promote the engagement of young women in the existing EIP-Agri thematic group on innovation to attract young people to the agriculture sector/ farming.

Activity 2.2. Delivery of training, capacity building and technical advice to the members and partners of the Agri-food Innovation Operational Groups

The project will cooperate with the local agricultural colleges, extension centres and other service providers to implement a series of capacity building and training interventions targeting farmers and pastoralists in target regions. Through these training and education activities, the project will promote climate resilient agriculture practices, water efficient and drought risk management technologies, and sustainable land-use practices. Also, quality and food safety will be promoted to ensure proper preparation of food products based on the most important standards in this sector as developed by the International Standard Organization (ISO). Demonstration plots might be established (e.g. for horticulture, intensive gardening, greenhouse, hotbeds, laser leveling, null tillage, intensive orchards, pistachio cultivation, drip irrigation, nonchemical pest control methods, biogas heating, etc.). On-farm field trainings in the form of "Field Days" will be implemented to involve farmers and local population groups to trainings in an informal setting within their own environment. This will empower farmers and household landowners to exchange their own technical expertise and experience on major aspects of local issues and farming systems.

Activity 2.3. Delivering targeted financial support and investments for innovative projects with climate change mitigation and adaptation benefits

The project will establish partnerships with the financial institutions (microcredit organizations and banking sector) to deliver effective financial support and incentives for scaled-up climate action among farming communities. As part of this activity the project will design transparent and inclusive application guidelines and selection criteria to allocate financial support. The project will provide targeted financial support and investments (grants) to livestock farmers and livestock related service sector (veterinary, marketing, etc.) in order to incentivize transition to more effective pasture use and rehabilitation aimed at increased productivity, improved environmental sustainability, restoration of pasture ecosystems in the context of global climate change.

This work will result, above all, in enhanced carbon sinks and carbon sequestration. Investment support to crop farmers will promote innovative sustainable agriculture practices at farm and household levels (e.g. conservation agriculture for the irrigated and rain-fed agriculture, precision-agriculture, sustainable agriculture waste management), thereby increasing the productive use of land and water resources and increasing the food security of rural population (farmers, households, etc.) most vulnerable to climate change. The project will also facilitate development of

the agri-processing at community level through support to local small business enterprises involved in agri-processing and sustainable climate resilient value chain production (production, processing, storage, cooling, packaging, etc.). This work will target incentivizing innovation and scaling-up of low-carbon value chains by supporting energy efficient storage and processing, increased utilization of renewable energy sources by agri-food value-chains, promotion of biomass. Thus, the project will contribute to diversification and enhanced productivity of agriculture, sustainable management of natural resources, and creating favorable eco-systems for climate resilient agri-businesses and value chains, with potential for exporting.

Activity 2.4. Innovation networking and exchange program to promote uptake in other regions/areas

All Operational Groups supported through the project will be obliged, as a pre-condition of the support they receive, to share and report all the results they achieved to stimulate innovation within the UAKIS network (and other relevant networks both domestically and internationally). The project will develop practical communication and promotional support services, knowledge networks and other mechanisms facilitated through the UAKIS infrastructure to ensure roll out to other relevant regions/ areas.

Priority target clients for advisory extension services (i.e. recipients of advice, training, knowledge etc.) are anticipated to include the following groups, with attention to the inclusion of women in all relevant groups:

- (i) *Small and medium scale farmers (Dehkan & Private Farms):* This includes family farms and small-scale farms whose incomes are predominantly from farming.
- (ii) *Small & medium scale rural entrepreneurs:* This includes individual rural entrepreneurs, family businesses and companies, primarily aimed at business with less than 200 staff.
- (iii) *New agriculture and rural business start-ups:* This includes young farmers and young rural entrepreneurs between the ages of 18 up to 40 years of age.
- (iv) *Medium and large-scale farms & agri-businesses:* This includes other medium and larger-scale farms and agri-businesses that will be secondary target clients of AKIS services.
- (v) *Vulnerable population groups (which will include remotely located communities that have challenges in accessing to water and fertile land, unskilled and underemployed youth),* whose knowledge in agricultural production will enhance their income and status.
- (vi) *Women who are engaged in agricultural production* and want to increase productivity and the competitiveness of the value chain.

Through this Output the project will contribute to the achievement of the **DeSIRA and INTPA indicators** as outlined in the Logframe.

Resources Required to Achieve the Expected Results

Key inputs: People

The *Project Management Unit* (PMU) will be hosted by UNDP Uzbekistan and will be led by a Technical Lead Adviser (International) and full time National Project Coordinator supported by technical and administrative staff. Project Management unit will comprise of a full time (100%):

- Technical Lead Adviser (International)
- National Project Coordinator
- Task Manager on UAKIS Capacity Building
- Administrative Finance Assistant (AFA)
- Procurement Assistant
- 3 Specialists on Agricultural Innovation Support (1 per region x 3regions)
- 3 Field Assistants
- Training and Communication Specialist
- 4 Drivers (3 part time for regions and 1 full time for the project office in Tashkent)

UNDP staff time:

UNDP Country Office staff including the following will carry out tasks that are directly attributable to the implementation of the project, by providing strategic guidance, coordination with partners and quality assurance. Therefore, the staff fees will be charged through project costs for the time spent directly attributable to the implementation of the Action:

- Cluster Leader (7%): responsible for providing overall guidance for the project implementation especially in terms of positioning the project in the national development context and supporting the project's engagement with policy/decision makers
- Programme Associate (15%): responsible for the project oversight and quality assurance.
- Operations staff (procurement, finance, HR associates, admin & logistic assistant, finance clerk) (10% each): provides effective operational support to ensure the smooth implementation of the project. More specifically:
 - One Finance Associate and One Finance clerk – will process payments, disbursements and other financial transactions.
 - Procurement Associate – will support the procurement of goods, works and services, local and international consultants.
 - Human Resource Associate – will support the identification and recruitment of the Action personnel, performance management, organization of training activities.
 - Admin & Logistics Assistant – will provide administrative services, support in organization of workshops, trainings, travels.

Purchases (products and services):

Item	Cost, in USD
International expertise (Lead Technical Advisor)	271,000
International visits, incl study tours	164,000
Local travels and conference	218,000
Furniture and equipment (incl. specialized)	1,486,000
Study, research	237,000
Capacity building program	196,000
Outreach and communication	51,000

Partnerships

The project's main focus will be the support in establishing UAKIS, thus, in the process, necessary cooperation will be set up with the following Uzbekistan, Central Asian and European research institutions. The main aim of this partnership will be to link those works of those partners with the emerging UAKIS management structure and systems.

National research institutions and academia:

1. National centre for knowledge and innovation in agriculture under the Ministry of agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan, with main responsibilities in:

- ✓ implementation of the strategy of the system of knowledge and innovation in agriculture (AKIS);
- ✓ ensuring integration of production, research and educational institutions.

- ✓ assistance and coordination of activities of agricultural service centers and extension centers in agriculture of the Republic.
- ✓ introduction of new scientific, innovative achievements and digital technologies in this sphere.
- ✓ attracting specialists with modern knowledge to the newly established centers of agricultural service in the regions and districts, as well as periodic professional development and retraining of these specialists.
- ✓ assistance in implementing international quality standards in regional centers of agricultural service.

2. Research and production center for agriculture and food security under the Ministry of agriculture.

3. Research Institute of agricultural economics and food sector at the Research and production center of agriculture and food security. The Institute implements targeted fundamental, scientific, practical and innovative projects on topical issues of agriculture.

4. Academy of Science: Institute of Genetics and Experimental Biology and Plant Breeding. The Institute studies physiological and biochemical characteristics of plants and testing of developed methods for diagnosing plant resistance to drought and salinity.

6. Tashkent state agrarian University and its branch in Surkhandarya region.

7. Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanization Engineers and its branches in pilot regions.

7. Andijan Institute of agriculture and agrotechnology, Ferghana valley

8. Research institute of karakul sheep breeding and deserts ecology

9. Certification and testing Center for agricultural machinery and technologies

10. Institute of water problems, necessary directions: Methodology of integrated use of water resources, water resources of deserts, water-saving methods and technologies of irrigation, hydrology and hydraulic engineering of irrigated lands

11. Seed Development Center under the MoA

13. Research institute of horticulture, viticulture and wine-marking named after Makhmud Mirzaev

14. Research institute of animal husbandry, poultry and fish culture

European and international research partners:

The project will facilitate cooperation and collaboration between the national researches and EU research and innovation groups, including but not limited to:

- Wageningen University (KTI Group)
- University of Hohenheim
- CIRAD-UMR Innovation
- Operational Group of innovations to enhance environmental and economic sustainability of wheat production in Spain under the European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural productivity and Sustainability (EIP-AGRI)
- Operational Group on a tool for integrated business management within agriculture with several industries under the European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural productivity and Sustainability (EIP-AGRI)
- EIT Climate-KIC
- Operational group «Farming for biodiversity» under EIP-Agri9
- Operational group under EIP-Agri “RED Young Farmers: Profitable, Efficient and Diversified”¹⁰

⁹ <https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/find-connect/projects/farming-biodiversity>

¹⁰ <https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/find-connect/projects/agricultores-j%C3%B3venes-en-red-rentables-eficientes-y>

- Operational group under EIP-Agri “Production of vehicle gas with ash filter technology at farm level”¹¹
- Operational group under EIP-Agri “Agroecological management of weeds from rained arable crops in the Comunidad de Madrid”¹²

The project will also establish formal knowledge and practice exchange with the TAP (Tropical Agricultural Platform) hosted by FAO to accelerate learning about challenges during operationalisation of UAKIS. TAP addresses AKIS issues with relevant lessons through the experience in developing and implementing the Capacity Development for Agricultural Innovation System (CDAIS).

Risks and Assumptions

Overall, there are two main assumptions underpinning the success of the project:

- (a) Political willingness in the country to cooperate on transition to “green economy” and climate action, including timely adoption of the UAKIS regulatory and institutional management framework, and
- (b) Long-term commitment of the Government of Uzbekistan, non-governmental organizations and academia to facilitate and support the implementation of the UAKIS strategy and the EU Action by providing access to relevant information and contributions in the form of technical and human resources. As demonstrated during the project design consultations, the national stakeholders are interested and committed to take part and contribute to the intervention.

There are two external risks that are beyond the control of the Action, but may impact the achievement of the Action objectives, namely *force majeure*, and a non-conducive political context. Other risks that can impact the achievement of results and the implementation of activities: insufficient experience in system innovation and participatory whole-of-government approaches, insufficient human and institutional capacities to apply and scale-up the system innovation approach across the food and agriculture sector, failure of the national beneficiaries to fully meet their commitment for regulatory, institutional and financial sustainability of UAKIS network.

In order to mitigate the risks, the project intends to support the on-going regulatory and institutional reform towards “green economy” transition in agricultural sector initiated by the Government of Uzbekistan and to accompany the project implementation with tailored capacity building and awareness activities. To maintain the existing strong national ownership, the Action will demonstrate the concrete benefits that may accrue from a more integrated participatory approach to system innovation, “green economy” transition and scaled-up climate action across food and agriculture sector to government officials, academia, private sector and farming communities. The Action will counter and manage lack of experience in participatory approaches by referring to lessons learned and by linking to existing interagency and participatory planning processes.

Risks	Risk level (H/M/L)	Mitigating measures
Physical risks and force majeure. This includes national or man-made disasters, political disturbances, conflicts.	L	Contingency Plans and the extended climate resilience systems to minimize the impact of those risks on the operations.
Unintended, direct or indirect negative harms of human safety during the implementation of on-the-ground projects	L	The action will respect, protect and fulfil human safety standards. UNDP Social and Environmental Safeguards Policy will be applied to planning, implementation and oversight over the project implementation across all components.

¹¹ <https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/find-connect/projects/g%C3%A5rdsbaserad-produktion-av-fordonsgas-med>

¹² <https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/find-connect/projects/manejo-agroecol%C3%B3gico-de-las-malas-hierbas-de-los>

		“Do not harm principle” will be applied during the implementation of the project, assessing and managing the possible intended/unintended, direct/indirect risk that could occur.
Lack of experience in the system innovation and participatory whole-of-government approaches.	M	The project will work closely and engage with national and local authorities as well as with local partners and stakeholders in an open dialogue that will help enhance awareness, set priorities, agree on results linked to performance, and measure progress. The project includes activities to strengthen enabling environment and capacities for system innovation and climate action across the food and agriculture sector stakeholders.
Project complexity and a broad scope related to the extended network of institutional partners, the geographical, social and economic diversity, and innovative nature of the project may affect the project implementation with respect to the adequacy of allocated resources, work plans and stakeholder engagement.	M	Development and implementation of the Action is based upon strong national ownership, a consensus regarding priorities, expected results and shared responsibilities, pro-active participation of all partners in the planning and implementation. The project will transfer successful innovative technologies, practices and advice, including from the EU, to facilitate transition to “green economy” in the Uzbekistan agri-food sector.
Risks related to the failure of the national beneficiaries to meet their commitments for regulatory, institutional and financial sustainability of UAKIS network.	M	The project is based on the extensive consultations with the Government of Uzbekistan on their long-term development priorities and commitments towards transition to “green economy” and scaling up innovation. Positive changes in the legal, regulatory and institutional framework conducive for the promotion of innovation and “green economy” strategy in agri-food sector have been demonstrated.
Failure to engage local private sector in the Agri-food Innovation Operational Groups and Partnerships	L	The project will be carrying out stakeholder consultations and participatory planning throughout the development and implementation of the Agri-food Innovation Support and Brokerage Services (Output 1) to make sure that the correct stakeholder engagement strategies are implemented and that adequate incentives are provided to the local private sector to engage. Through the implementation of Output 2, the project will demonstrate tangible benefits of participation to private sector and farming communities.
Assumptions		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Political willingness in the country to cooperate on transition to “green economy” and climate action, including timely adoption of the UAKIS regulatory framework ● Long-term commitment of the Government of Uzbekistan, non-governmental organizations and academia to facilitate and support the implementation of the UAKIS strategy and the EU Action by providing access to relevant information and contributions in the form of technical and human resources. ● A strong and sustainable network of institutional partners is established and maintained for the project implementation led by beneficiary governments. ● Clear lines and means of communication and dissemination of information are established ● Alignment with needs identified by the government translate into full support by the 		

authorities, private sector and beneficiary farming communities in the implementation phase.

- Decision-making by recipient authorities is overall timely and coherent.
- Policy priorities do not suffer sudden and radical changes.
- Resources for implementation, including Government resources for the management and development of the UAKIS network are sufficient and available timely.

Stakeholder Engagement

The project will provide opportunities to the stakeholders across all levels of Uzbekistan food and agriculture sector to learn, share experience and engage in supporting an inclusive transition to a “green” economy within “climate-smart” Uzbek Agriculture Knowledge and Innovation System at national and regional levels. The relevant project materials will be produced in English, Russian and, where relevant, in local languages. The main stakeholders in the national, local levels, including selected pilots will be engaged in the supporting the implementation of the UAKIS strategy and the EU Action by providing access to relevant information and contributions in the form of technical and human resources.

The Action builds upon the past and ongoing work of the EU Programme on agro-food sector with focus on climate-related risks in Uzbekistan and will benefit from the existing platforms and mechanisms established in the region of CA.

The following institutional stakeholders will be involved in all programme activities and become the main partners in implementation of the programme (the list of institutional stakeholders in each beneficiary country is presented in Annex 1):

- National research institutions to ensuring close integration of science and production in the field of agriculture;
- Competent authorities within national governments responsible for development and implementing national policies related to the close integration of education and science on a systematic basis and agricultural production, training, advanced training and professional development of personnel, taking into account the current and future needs of agricultural industries in highly qualified relevant specialists;
- Technical departments of other relevant ministries (i.e. environment, energy, natural resources, economy, industry, agriculture, finance) and other government agencies (i.e. water management agencies, toxic and radioactive waste management agencies);
- National agencies and institutions responsible for generation and delivery of climate risk information, analysis and early warning, such as national hydro-meteorological services and research entities.
- Other stakeholders such as regional and local governments, civil society organisations (i.e. NGOs, academia) and the private sector will be involved in and benefit from certain specific activities.

The Action will explore opportunities to engage with other international partners (WB, ABR, USAID, CAREC, IWMI, ICARDA, UNECE, UN Environment, FAO, UNESCO, etc.) in the region to match the expertise and maximise the expected benefits for the region. Thematic and operational linkages with other regional partners should be explored. To achieve this, the Action will encourage the involvement of above-mentioned government and non-government stakeholders and the public at large (through information campaigns and other outreach activities) in the assessment implications of climate change and resilience. The Action will also provide opportunities for knowledge exchange at all levels of government (national and local) and civil society to forge partnerships and share concrete experience of addressing challenges related to transition of current agriculture to the green smart agro-food industry.

Knowledge

Results from the project will be disseminated through a number of existing information sharing networks and forums. In addition:

- The project will participate, as relevant and appropriate, in UNDP and EU sponsored networks, organized for senior personnel working on projects that share common characteristics.
- The project will identify and participate, as relevant and appropriate, in policy-based and/or any other networks, which may be of benefit to project implementation though lessons learned.
- The project will identify, analyze, and share lessons learned that might be beneficial in the design and implementation of similar future projects. Identifying and analyzing lessons learned is an on-going process and the need to communicate such lessons as one of the project's central contributions is a requirement to be delivered not less frequently than once every 12 months.
- The project will prepare the final Lessons Learned report during the last year of its implementation. All lessons learned will be used as input to consultative workshops and meetings with project stakeholders and disseminated to other donors and relevant agencies.

Sustainability and Scaling Up

Sustainability and scalability of the intervention will be secured through the combination of policy and regulatory framework development, knowledge flows and linkages between actors and learning through doing on projects and deep demonstrations of change.

POLICY AND INSTITUTIONAL SUSTAINABILITY

The Government of Uzbekistan jointly with international organizations has developed a draft Strategy for the development of an Uzbek Agriculture Knowledge and Innovation System representing a transformative plan to improve the ways in which agricultural knowledge and information are generated, exchanged and utilized in Uzbekistan, catalyzing the creation and dissemination of practical ideas that will transform agriculture and rural livelihoods throughout the country. The Action will contribute to implementation of the Strategy. The Action has been supported by the Government of Uzbekistan represented by the Ministry of Agriculture, responsible for the implementation of the strategy. It is important that for realization of the strategy both the Government and donor partners have secured funding and the proposed Action will be an integral part of this complex integrated initiative.

This Action will ensure that the current and future needs and capacities of all stakeholders are taken into account, whilst ensuring the future sustainability of service provision in line with institutional, financial, technical and environmental capacities and considerations. This will require the design of innovative and sustainable capacity building and financing models that, over time, will be gradually be adjusted, in line with the ability of target clients to pay for such services and/or public funding to be secured to support the future development of those services.

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY AND COMPLEMENTARITY

Financial sustainability of the investments into UAKIS will be also secured through complementarity and synergies with other EU and international investment and technical assistance programmes. Rural Development, including support to the agricultural sector, is a key priority of the work of the EU in Uzbekistan and is the only focal sector of the Multi-annual Indicative Program (MIP) 2014-2020, which focuses on improving the living standards of the population, notably in rural areas. The EU has already supported the modernization and diversification of the agricultural sector through several projects, including joint projects with the World Bank and GIZ. The new EU budget support programme for the Agricultural sector will play an important role in supporting the agriculture reform process during this coming four-year period; when sector-level and 13wider economic reforms are being launched.

¹³ https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/uzbekistan-c-2020-302-annex-agriculture_en_0.pdf

UNDP has been supporting Uzbekistan in accessing climate finance from vertical funds and bi-lateral donors to support climate action and to enable a gender-sensitive and participatory coordination processes for climate change mitigation and adaptation and implementation of NDC. These complementary UNDP initiatives include:

- the National Adaptation Planning project financed by the Green Climate Fund;
- UNDP/Adaptation Fund project addressing climate resilience of rural livelihoods in the drought-prone Aral Sea Basin through enhanced climate information, participatory adaptation planning and action;
- UNDP “Aid for Trade” initiative implemented in Fergana Valley of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to support sustainable agricultural livelihoods; and,
- UNDP’s SDG Integration work and support to systems innovation, in particular in Karakalpakstan and the wider Aral Sea region.

The UNDP/ GCF NAP project supports the Government of Uzbekistan advancing the adaptation planning process for priority climate-sensitive sectors and regions in Uzbekistan. The project supports a coordination mechanism for multi-sectoral adaptation planning and implementation; an enhanced evidence base for adaptation planning; and the adaptation financing and investment strategy for Uzbekistan. A close coordination and synergies will be established between the proposed EU initiative and the research and integrated planning components of the NAP process.

Complementarity will be ensured with the relevant regional and sub-regional initiatives in Central Asia, for instance:

- A new project entitled Green Central Asia, funded by the Federal Foreign Office in Germany, addressing climate and environment-related risks through enhanced research and policy dialogue.
- A new EU Action on climate change and resilience in Central Asia under development with UNDP.
- The GCF/World Bank “Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Program for the Aral Sea Basin” implemented in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.
- The WMO/ World Bank regional project “Upgrading of Hydrometeorological Services of Central Asian countries (Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan)”.
- “Integrated natural resources management in drought-prone and salt-affected agricultural production landscapes in Central Asia and Turkey (‘CACILM2’)”¹⁴ managed by FAO.

IV. PROJECT MANAGEMENT (1/2 PAGES - 2 PAGES RECOMMENDED)

Cost Efficiency and Effectiveness

In order to be cost-effective and work with high effectiveness the project management will rely on evidence-based approach in order to deliver maximum results with available resources. By using the theory of change analysis, different options to achieve the maximum results with available resources have been explored. The cost effectiveness will be pursued by sharing resources, knowledge and leveraging activities and partnerships with other ongoing country offices’ projects, as well as through synergised efforts with the projects and agencies working in the same direction in the target area (reference to the Section III, Partnerships). The project by its nature enhances cooperation between various actors for supporting realization of the Concept of priority

¹⁴ <http://www.fao.org/in-action/cacilm-2/ru/>

development of the system of knowledge and innovation in agriculture in 2021-2025, the successful implementation of which will heavily support the success of the Agricultural Development Strategy.

Addressing impediments towards knowledge and innovation and promoting integration of science and production requires engagement by a broad range of stakeholders, including national policy makers, local authorities, farmer communities and private enterprise. The multi-pronged approach adopted by the project (institutional, technology, community), represents the most sustainable approach to addressing the complex issues involved. The planned capacity needs assessments and transformation measures are more cost-effective than the business-as-usual scenario characterized with the decreasing crop yields, quality and losses. The proposal relies on the existing institutional frameworks and platforms for implementation and scaling up; the project also builds upon lessons learned from the earlier EU funded and other interventions and on successful earlier pilots with the prove of concept demonstrated in the region which also represents a cost-effective approach.

Project Management

Project Management Unit – Project Office(s)

The ***Project Management Unit*** (PMU) will be hosted by UNDP Uzbekistan and will be led by a Technical Lead Adviser (International) and full time National Project Coordinator supported by technical and administrative staff.

The UNDP Country Office will be responsible for:

- (i) selection, contracting and supervision of a team of national consultants who will be implementing specific project activities in the country.
- (ii) identification and engagement of key stakeholders in the country and arranging regular consultations with them.
- (iii) keeping track of the financial status of the activities and allocations at all times, to control expenses, to handle outstanding commitments, to make payments and to monitor the performance of contractors.
- (iv) organizing and supporting national project implementation and stakeholder consultation workshops and events.
- (v) ensuring regular communication and coordination with the national government counterparts and EU Delegations; and,
- (vi) overall project management and reporting.

The PMU will receive technical and administrative support from the UNDP Uzbekistan Programme and Operations teams and will include staff carrying out various forms of tasks including technical assistance, administration and management that are directly attributable to the implementation of the Action. The latter will be charged for the time spent directly attributable to the implementation of the Action. All details on the project office costs (human resources and other costs) are provided in the Indicative Budget for the Action. Quality Assurance role will be carried out by the UNDP Country Office in Uzbekistan.

Project staffing (estimated staff involvement which may change according to the project needs):

Project Management Unit:

Project Management unit will comprise of a full time (100%):

- Technical Lead Advisor (International)
- National Project Coordinator
- Task Manager on UAKIS Capacity Building
- Administrative Finance Assistant (AFA)
- Procurement Assistant

- 3 Specialists on Agricultural Innovation Support (1 per region x 3 regions)
 - 3 Field Assistants
 - Training and Communication Specialist
 - 4 Drivers (3 part time for regions and 1 full time for the project office in Tashkent)
- **Summary Terms of Reference and description of duties of the Project Management Unit members are described herewith.**

Technical Lead Advisor (International) will be responsible for the following:

- Lead the project technically to ensure transformation of Uzbekistan's food and agriculture sector towards climate resilient and low-carbon development
- Transfer of EU knowledge and technologies on climate resilient agriculture
- Bring up European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability (EIP) expertise in different countries
- Secure strong liaison with EU expertise on establishing and operationalization of Operational groups around various challenges
- Technically implementation of the Action in Uzbekistan in line with its objective and performance indicators, developing the ToRs for relevant experts
- Establish a close coordination and synergies between the Action and the research and integrated planning components of the NAP process in Uzbekistan
- Facilitate enhanced coordination and new partnerships with various EU partners with relevant government and non-government institutions
- Contribute to annual progress and final reports of the Action, technical papers, publications, implementation of the Communication strategy, and provide other required support

National Project Coordinator is responsible for the following:

- Plan the activities of the project and monitor progress against the initial quality criteria; review and appraise detailed project plans, including the multi-year work plan and ATLAS reports covering activity definition, updated risk log and the monitoring schedule plan
- Mobilize goods and services for project activities, including drafting TORs and work specifications
- Manage the realization of project outputs through activities
- Address project issues as raised by the Project Steering Committee
- Perform the financial reporting and control
- Monitor events as determined in the Monitoring Plan and in the Communication & Visibility Plan, and update the plan as required
- Prepare the Project Quarterly Progress Updates and the Annual Progress Report
- Share relevant information on the project achievement with all interested parties
- Ensure that all project deliverables have been produced satisfactorily
- Provide direction and guidance to project team/consultants
- Identify and obtain any support and advice required for the management, planning and control of the project
- Identify follow-up actions and submit them for consideration to the Steering Committee

Project's Administrative Finance Assistant will be responsible for the following:

- provide daily support for timely execution of the Annual Work Plan (AWP),
- manage administrative and financial aspects of the project implementation,
- provide logistical support in case of travel and event planning.

Procurement Assistant will be responsible for the following:

- provide support to project implementation by performing a variety of standard administrative/logistics and procurement processes,
- assist with organizing and preparing procurement cases in line with UNDP rules

Task Manager on UAKIS capacity building will be responsible for:

- Operationalization of the UAKIS in line with the UAKIS Strategy and Roadmap as a Priority 7 of the Agriculture Strategy
- Addressing the existing challenges and the development of a modern, integrated, and flexible support system for the development of agriculture research, education, training, information, and advisory services
- Establishing evidence-based monitoring and evaluation system to feed into decision-making and investment planning process in agriculture sector
- Promoting the integration of Agri-food Innovation Support and Brokerage services to the new AKIS support infrastructure as its core component
- The process of establishing extension service centers in pilot regions, training and equipping extension services and facilities (public and private) to provide useful and usable advice and support on climate risk management, including drought management planning and adaptation technologies
- Ensuring the on a day-to-day basis the sound and timely implementation of all technical tasks related to operationalization of the UAKIS
- Support and facilitation of improvements in the policy and regulatory framework
- Building institutional capacity and partnerships among stakeholders
- Delivery of training, capacity building and technical advice to the members and partners of the agri-food innovation operational groups, and targeted financial support and investments for innovative projects with climate change mitigation and adaptation benefits

Specialists on Agricultural Innovation Support will be responsible for:

- Implementation of the Action in pilot regions, communities
- Overseeing on a day-to-day basis the sound and timely implementation of innovative projects at 'farm level' in the regions
- Engagement to the Action of a local private sector, agricultural producers and agri-food businesses in selected pilot sites
- Facilitation of the process of formation of Operational Groups by animating bottom-up initiatives, helping to refine innovative ideas, and providing support for finding partners, etc
- Preparing solid project proposals by Operational Groups as an innovative solution or opportunity

Field Assistants will be responsible for:

- Ensuring the district/province level counterparts are kept up to date about the Action
- Support the processes of formation of Operational Groups and project proposals formulation by providing required information and other inputs
- Coordination between the technical staff and local counterparts
- Rendering thematic, logistical and organizational support to facilitate the implementation of field activities
- Collecting, registering and maintaining information about activities implemented at district/province level

International short-team technical consultants will support the PMU in various thematic areas of the Action and will support promotion of best practices in the area of agriculture from EU countries, acceleration of innovation and scaling up climate action across agri-food value chains, and reduction of the pressure on biodiversity and ecosystem functioning.

Training and Communications Specialist will be responsible for:

- implementation of the proposed Communications Strategy for the action while ensuring a close collaboration between key parties involved, including the Ministry of Agriculture, the EU and UNDP,
- ensuring the donor's visibility and effective implementation of training/outreach events in line with relevant standards and KPIs

Drivers will be responsible for:

- providing transport services to the PMU members in timely and secure manner,
- the transportation of authorized personnel, including international experts, and delivery and collection of mail, documents and other items,
- the day-to-day maintenance of the assigned vehicle

UNDP Country Office staff including the following will carry out tasks that are directly attributable to the implementation of the Action, by providing strategic guidance, coordination with partners and quality assurance. Therefore, the staff fees will be charged through project costs for the time spent directly attributable to the implementation of the Action:

- Cluster Leader (7%): responsible for providing overall guidance for the project implementation especially in terms of positioning the project in the national development context and supporting the project's engagement with policy/decision makers
- Programme Associate (15%): responsible for the project oversight and quality assurance.
- Operations staff (procurement, finance, HR associates, admin & logistic assistant, finance clerk) (10% each): provides effective operational support to ensure the smooth implementation of the project. More specifically:
 - One Finance Associate and One Finance clerk – will process payments, disbursements and other financial transactions.
 - Procurement Associate – will support the procurement of goods, works and services, local and international consultants.
 - Human Resource Associate – will support the identification and recruitment of the Action personnel, performance management, organization of training activities.
 - Admin & Logistics Assistant – will provide administrative services, support in organization of workshops, trainings, travels.

The maximum salary rates are budgeted due to: (i) possible annual increase in salary rates and (ii) selection of best candidate(s). Part-time basis, 10% of GS-6/7 level rate including all related costs for 48 months. Part time basis, 7% of NOC salary level for Cluster Leader, and part time basis 15% of GS-7 salary level for Programme Associate include all related costs for 48 months.

Additional project offices costs

Project offices costs directly attributable to the implementation of the Action include travel local/international and transportation costs, costs for procurement of vehicles, office furniture, IT equipment, vehicle operation costs, office utilities and internet charges, stationeries, cost of the office premises renovation if required. The project will procure 4 locally produced vehicles for its offices in Tashkent and 3 pilot regions.

The project offices (in Tashkent and in pilot regions) will be based accordingly within the MoA and co-located in AKIS regional offices to (i) save resources; (ii) build partnerships; (iii) promote sustainability (though capacity building). Office operational costs directly attributable to the implementation of the Action will also be necessary for the functioning of the project offices, including:

- Travel and subsistence costs for staff and other persons directly assigned to the operations of the project office.
- Rental costs of the project offices, equipment and assets composing the project office.
- Costs of maintenance and repair contracts specifically awarded for the operations of the project offices.
- Costs of consumables and supplies specifically purchased for the operations of the project offices.

- Costs of IT and telecommunication services specifically purchased for the operations of the project offices.
- Costs of energy and water specifically supplied for the operations of the project offices.
- Costs of facility management contracts including security fees and insurance costs specifically awarded for the operations of the project offices.

Project evaluation costs have been given as a lumpsum based on the previously incurred costs of the same type on similar projects. Audits will be conducted in accordance with UNDP's audit policy to manage financial risk. The incurred costs shall relate only to the project specific action. All details on the project office costs (human resources and other project office costs) are provided in the "Budget for the Action".

V. RESULTS FRAMEWORK¹⁵

Intended Outcome as stated in the UNDAF/Country [or Global/Regional] Programme Results and Resource Framework:												
Outcome indicators as stated in the Country Programme [or Global/Regional] Results and Resources Framework, including baseline and targets:												
Applicable Output(s) from the UNDP Strategic Plan:												
Project title and Atlas Project Number:												
EXPECTED OUTPUTS	OUTPUT INDICATORS ¹⁶	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE		TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)						DATA COLLECTION METHODS & RISKS	
			Value	Year	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year ...	FINAL		
Output 1 <i>Establish Agri-food Innovation Support and Brokerage Services</i>	<i>1.1 Assessment of policy and regulatory barriers to scaled-up climate action and “green” transition.</i>	<i>Monitoring data and progress reports on the implementation of the Agri-food Strategy of the Ministry of Agriculture</i>	UAKIS Strategy is adopted (Concept); Operationalizati on plan for CC mitigation and adaptation in the Agri-food sector not available	2021	N/a	TBD	TBD	TBD			<i>Supported policy dialogues and development of plans and regulatory framework at national and regional level for the alignment of agricultural policies and programmes to respond to climate change.</i>	<i>Document review</i>
	1.2 Number of knowledge products elaborated per priority area, their status and availability (O2.1, O2.2)	<i>Action/Project reports, government reports</i>	0		0	3	7	10			At least 20	<i>Document review</i>

¹⁵ UNDP publishes its project information (indicators, baselines, targets and results) to meet the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) standards. Make sure that indicators are S.M.A.R.T. (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Time-bound), provide accurate baselines and targets underpinned by reliable evidence and data, and avoid acronyms so that external audience clearly understand the results of the project.

¹⁶ It is recommended that projects use output indicators from the Strategic Plan IRRF, as relevant, in addition to project-specific results indicators. Indicators should be disaggregated by sex or for other targeted groups where relevant.

	1.3 Number of policy makers informed by the Action about the new knowledge products (O2.3)	<i>Action/Project reports</i>	0		0	50	50	50		At least 120	Document review, local surveys
	1.4 Number of professional staff and researchers trained (O3.1)	<i>Action/Project reports</i>	0		0	25	45	40		At least 100	Project report
	1.5 Number of professional organizations strengthened with research and training interventions (O3.2)	<i>Results of the trainings</i>	0		0	0	3	7		At least 10	Project report
	1.6 Number of EU research organizations mobilized by the action (O4.1)	<i>Action/Project reports</i>	0		0	3	1	0		At least 3	Project report
	1.7 Number of subject specific, evidence-based policy briefs prepared and supported to policy address constraints to the uptake of new innovations.	<i>Cooperation agreement, project/Action reports</i>	0		0	0	2	3		At least 5	Document review
Output 2 Agri-food Innovation Operational Groups and Partnerships	2.1 Number of new Agri-food Innovation Groups and Partnerships (operational groups) established with the project support	<i>Government reports/report from partners/national registration data/mass media</i>	0		0	2	5	5		At least 12	Project report Risk: The failure of the national beneficiaries to meet their commitments for regulatory, institutional and financial sustainability of UAKIS network.
	2.2 Number of food and agriculture value chains supported by the project on climate resilience and emission reduction	<i>Information from CCI and khokimiyats./ Action/project reports</i>	0		0	1	8	11		At least 20	

	2.3 Agricultural and pastoral ecosystems where climate relevant management practices have been introduced with EU support, ha (SO1.3, EU RF 2.04)	<i>Local khokimiyat/ Action/project reports</i>	0							<i>At least 200</i>	
	2.4. Number of small-scale farmers adopting sustainable and resilient agriculture practices thanks to this action, disaggregated by sex (SO1.1, EU RF 2.03)	<i>Council of Farmers reports/ Action/project reports</i>	0		0	2	15	23		<i>At least 40</i>	<i>Project report</i>
	2.5 Number of smallholder farmers reached by the R&D initiatives, disaggregated by sex and country (O1.1)	<i>National reports/Council of Farmers Reports/ Action/project reports</i>	0		0	3	14	23		<i>At least 400</i>	<i>Project report</i>

VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

In accordance with UNDP's programming policies and procedures, the project will be monitored through the following monitoring and evaluation plans:
[Note: monitoring and evaluation plans should be adapted to project context, as needed]

Monitoring Plan

Monitoring Activity	Purpose	Frequency	Expected Action	Partners (if joint)	Cost (if any)
Track results progress	Progress data against the results indicators in the RRF will be collected and analysed to assess the progress of the project in achieving the agreed outputs.	Quarterly, or in the frequency required for each indicator.	Slower than expected progress will be addressed by project management.	UNDP CO	
Monitor and Manage Risk	Identify specific risks that may threaten achievement of intended results. Identify and monitor risk management actions using a risk log. This includes monitoring measures and plans that may have been required as per UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards. Audits will be conducted in accordance with UNDP's audit policy to manage financial risk.	Quarterly	Risks are identified by project management and actions are taken to manage risk. The risk log is actively maintained to keep track of identified risks and actions taken.	UNDP CO, Project Board	
Learn	Knowledge, good practices and lessons will be captured regularly, as well as actively sourced from other projects and partners and integrated back into the project.	At least annually	Relevant lessons are captured by the project team and used to inform management decisions.	UNDP CO	
Annual Project Quality Assurance	The quality of the project will be assessed against UNDP's quality standards to identify project strengths and weaknesses and to inform management decision making to improve the project.	Annually	Areas of strength and weakness will be reviewed by project management and used to inform decisions to improve project performance.	UNDP CO	
Review and Make Course Corrections	Internal review of data and evidence from all monitoring actions to inform decision making.	At least annually	Performance data, risks, lessons and quality will be discussed by the project board and used to make course corrections.	UNDP CO, Project Board	
Project Report	A progress report will be presented to the Project Board and key stakeholders, consisting of progress data showing the results achieved against pre-defined annual targets at the output level, the annual project quality rating summary,	Annually, and at the end of the project (final report)		UNDP CO, MoA, Project Board	

	an updated risk long with mitigation measures, and any evaluation or review reports prepared over the period.				
Project Review (Project Board)	The project's governance mechanism (i.e., project board) will hold regular project reviews to assess the performance of the project and review the Multi-Year Work Plan to ensure realistic budgeting over the life of the project. In the project's final year, the Project Board shall hold an end-of project review to capture lessons learned and discuss opportunities for scaling up and to socialize project results and lessons learned with relevant audiences.	Specify frequency (i.e., at least annually)	Any quality concerns or slower than expected progress should be discussed by the project board and management actions agreed to address the issues identified.	Project Board	

Evaluation Plan¹⁷

Evaluation Title	Partners (if joint)	Related Strategic Plan Output	UNDAF/CPD Outcome	Planned Completion Date	Key Evaluation Stakeholders	Cost and Source of Funding
e.g., Mid-Term Evaluation				30/11/2022		23,602 USD Project Budget
Final Evaluation				30/01/2025		23,602 USD Project Budget

¹⁷ Optional, if needed

VII. MULTI-YEAR WORK PLAN ¹⁸¹⁹

All anticipated programmatic and operational costs to support the project, including development effectiveness and implementation support arrangements, need to be identified, estimated and fully costed in the project budget under the relevant output(s). This includes activities that directly support the project, such as communication, human resources, procurement, finance, audit, policy advisory, quality assurance, reporting, management, etc. All services which are directly related to the project need to be disclosed transparently in the project document.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS/ATLAS ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	Budget line	Budget Description	Planned Budget by Year				
				Total	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4
Activity 1 Establish Agri-food Innovation Support and Brokerage Services	001981	71200	International Consultant	136,617.26	35,245.07	49,038.65	37,124.11	15,209.43
	001981	71600	Travel (DSA for staff)	124,723.68	21,177.60	36,475.32	36,475.32	30,595.44
	001981	71600	Travel (international travel/local transportation)	66,279.24	13,471.95	17,602.43	17,602.43	17,602.43
	001981	72100	Contractual Services Companies (PCs for pilot Extension Centers)	47,747.59	31,831.73	15,915.86	-	-
	001981	72100	Contractual Services Companies (furniture for pilot Extension Centers)	47,747.59	31,831.73	15,915.86	-	-
	001981	72100	Contractual Services Companies (software, information systems, mobile apps)	14,161.45	9,440.97	4,720.48	-	-
	001981	72100	Contractual Services Companies (Equipment/inventory to promote and build the climate resilience of the local population)	141,145.11	35,286.28	35,286.28	35,286.28	35,286.28
	001981	74200	Audio Visual & Print Prod Costs (PR Products)	38,916.20	6,486.03	12,972.07	12,972.07	6,486.03
	001981	75700	Trainings, workshops and seminars (Studies, research, analysis related to the implementation of the action)	42,433.29	8,486.66	12,729.99	12,729.99	8,486.66
	001981	71300	Contractual Services - individual (Surveys)	18,305.94	-	12,203.96	6,101.98	-
	001981	71300	Contractual Services - individual (Assessment of gender-mainstreaming opportunities)	18,881.93	4,720.48	4,720.48	9,440.97	-
	001981	71300	Contractual Services - individual (written translation)	12,061.28	3,015.32	3,015.32	3,015.32	3,015.32
	001981	71300	Contractual Services - individual (interpreters)	7,779.52	1,944.88	1,944.88	1,944.88	1,944.88

¹⁸ Cost definitions and classifications for programme and development effectiveness costs to be charged to the project are defined in the Executive Board decision DP/2010/32

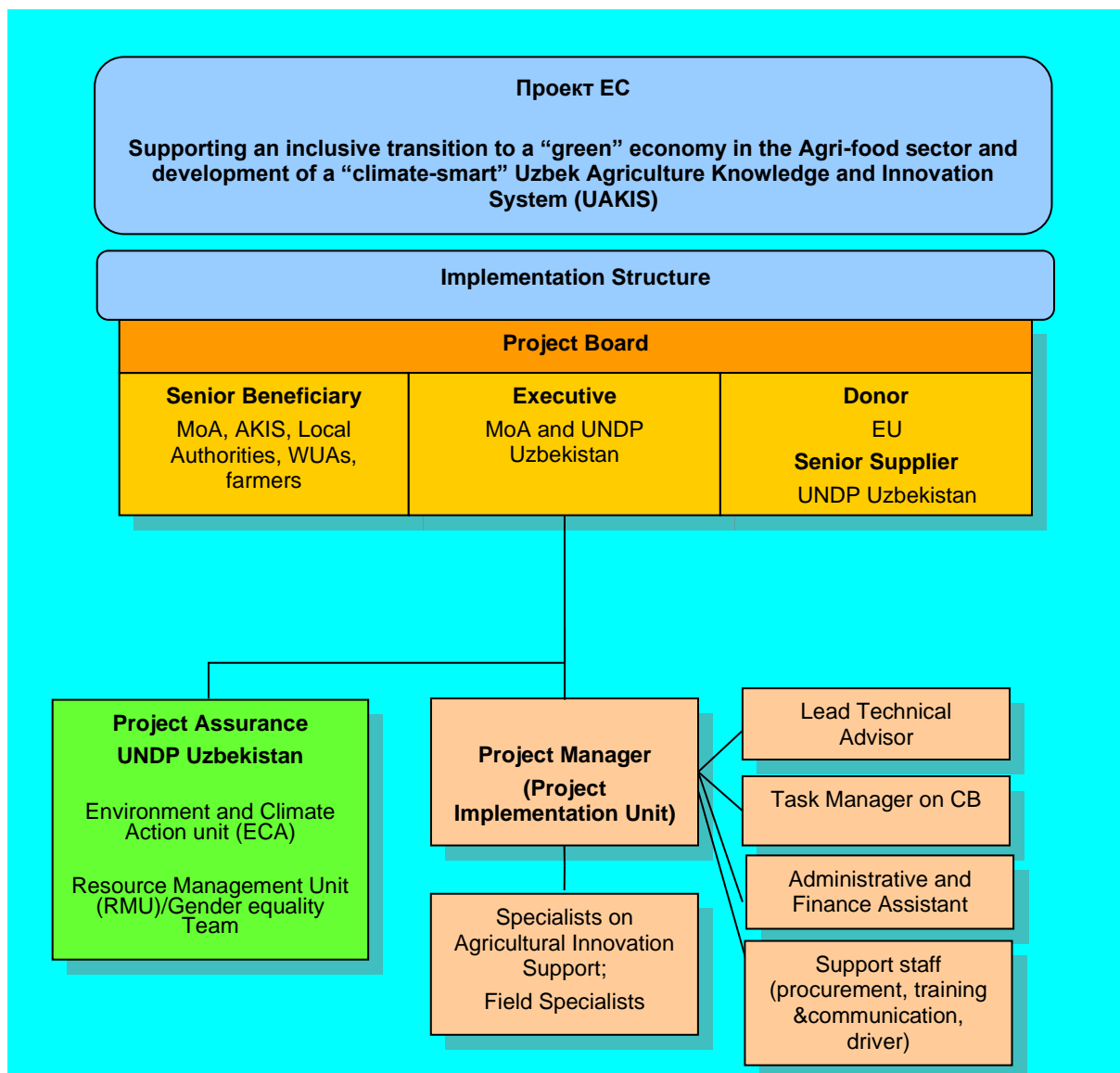
¹⁹ Changes to a project budget affecting the scope (outputs), completion date, or total estimated project costs require a formal budget revision that must be signed by the project board. In other cases, the UNDP programme manager alone may sign the revision provided the other signatories have no objection. This procedure may be applied for example when the purpose of the revision is only to re-phase activities among years.

	001981	71300	Contractual Services - individual (Braille editor and translation)	2412.26	603.06	603.06	603.06	603.06
	001981	75700	Trainings, workshops and seminars	83,189.66	21,239.91	26,549.89	26,549.89	8,849.96
	001981	72100	Contractual Services Companies (Distance learning modules (license fee & subscription))	14,752.45	-	2,950.49	5,900.98	5,900.98
	001981	75700	Trainings, workshops and seminars	25,630.22	6,834.72	6,834.72	6,834.72	5,126.04
	001981	75700	Trainings, workshops and seminars (ISO trainings)	14,161.95	3,540.49	3,540.49	3,540.49	3,540.49
			Total EU 1 Activity	856,946.62	235,156.87	263,020.24	216,122.49	142,647.02
Activity 2 Agri-food Innovation Operational Groups and Partnerships	001981	72100	Contractual Services Companies (equipment/inventory to promote efficient agriculture practices)	923,645.57	230,911.39	230,911.39	230,911.39	230,911.39
	001981	71200	International Consultant	136,617.26	35,245.07	49,038.65	37,124.11	15,209.43
	001981	71600	Travel (DSA for staff)	124,723.68	21,177.60	36,475.32	36,475.32	30,595.44
	001981	71600	Travel (international travel/local transportation)	66,279.24	13,471.95	17,602.43	17,602.43	17,602.43
	001981	72100	Contractual Services Companies (PCs for pilot Extension Centers)	47,747.59	31,831.73	15,915.86	-	-
	001981	72100	Contractual Services Companies (furniture for pilot Extension Centers)	47,747.59	31,831.73	15,915.86	-	-
	001981	72100	Contractual Services Companies (software, information systems, mobile apps)	14,161.45	9,440.97	4,720.48	-	-
	001981	72100	Contractual Services Companies (Equipment/inventory to promote and build the climate resilience of the local population)	141,145.11	35,286.28	35,286.28	35,286.28	35,286.28
	001981	74200	Audio Visual & Print Prod Costs (PR Products)	38,916.20	6,486.03	12,972.07	12,972.07	6,486.03
	001981	75700	Trainings, workshops and seminars (Studies, research, analysis related to the implementation of the action)	42,433.29	8,486.66	12,729.99	12,729.99	8,486.66
	001981	71300	Contractual Services - individual (Surveys)	18,305.94	-	12,203.96	6,101.98	-
	001981	71300	Contractual Services - individual (Assessment of gender-mainstreaming opportunities)	18,881.93	4,720.48	4,720.48	9,440.97	-
	001981	71300	Contractual Services - individual (written translation)	12,061.28	3,015.32	3,015.32	3,015.32	3,015.32
	001981	71300	Contractual Services - individual (interpreters)	7,779.52	1,944.88	1,944.88	1,944.88	1,944.88
	001981	71300	Contractual Services - individual (Braille editor and translation)	2,412.26	603.06	603.06	603.06	603.06

	001981	75700	75700 Trainings, workshops and seminars	83,189.66	21239.91	26549.89	26549.89	8849.96
	001981	72100	72100 Contractual Services Companies (Distance learning modules (license fee & subscription))	14,752.45	0.00	2950.49	5900.98	5900.98
	001981	75700	75700 Trainings, workshops and seminars	25,630.22	6834.72	6834.72	6834.72	5126.04
	001981	75700	75700 Trainings, workshops and seminars (ISO trainings)	14,161.95	3540.49	3540.49	3540.49	3540.49
			Total EU 2 Activity	1,780,592.19	466,068.26	493,931.63	447,033.88	373,558.41
Activity 3 Project Management	001981	71400	Contractual Services- Individual (Project staff salaries)	1,548,220.16	391,861.46	391,861.46	391,861.46	372,635.78
	001981	61300	CO staff salary costs	133,432.96	33,358.24	33,358.24	33,358.24	33,358.24
	001981	72100	Contractual Services Companies (project vehicles purchasing)	53,105.81	53,105.81	-	-	-
	001981	72100	72100 (vehicle costs)	16,716.93	3,980.22	3,980.22	3,980.22	4,776.27
	001981	72311	Fuel, petroleum and other oils (Office vehicle)	61,063.24	15,265.81	15,265.81	15,265.81	15,265.81
	001981	73100	Rental & Maintenance-Premises (Utilities) - office rent for inception period	2,831.39	2,831.39	-	-	-
	001981	72100	Contractual Services Companies (PCs for project staff)	12,745.76	12,745.76	-	-	-
	001981	72100	Contractual Services Companies (furniture for Project offices)	6,491.30	6,491.30	-	-	-
	001981	72500	Supplies	26,671.51	6,667.88	6,667.88	6,667.88	6,667.88
	001981	74500	Miscellaneous (bank charges, newspaper adv, courier services)	16,162.11	4,040.53	4,040.53	4,040.53	4,040.53
	001981	71200	71200 International Consultants - Mid-Term Evaluation	23,602.00	-	23,602.00	-	-
	001981	71200	71200 International Consultants - Final Evaluation	23,602.00	-	-	-	23,602.00
	001981	74500	74500 Miscellaneous (bank charges, news paper adv, courier services)	6,798.54	1,699.64	1,699.64	1,699.64	1,699.64
	001981	75700	75700 Trainings, workshops and seminars (inception workshop)	8,040.85	8,040.85	-	-	-
			Total EU 3 Activity	1,939,484.56	540,088.88	480,475.77	456,873.77	462,046.14
			Subtotal direct costs	4,577,023.36	1,241,314.01	1,237,427.64	1,120,030.15	978,251.57

75100	EU GMS (at 7%)	320,391.64	86,891.98	86,619.93	78,402.11	68,477.61
	TOTAL	4,897,415.00	1,328,205.99	1,324,047.58	1,198,432.26	1,046,729.18

VIII. GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS



IMPLEMENTATION AND MANAGEMENT

The project will be embedded in the central and regional Uzbek AKIS support structures and provide technical leadership and facilitation services on agri-food innovation, through this organizational framework, combining the support approach tailored to regions, specific value chains and concrete collaborative innovative actions at the farm/agri-business level.

This project will be implemented in indirect management with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). UNDP will follow an integrated, cross-sectoral and trans-disciplinary approach – engaging with both local and international academic and research institutions to build scientific evidence to support policy development and “green” financing decisions.

UNDP:

- has the necessary experience in climate change adaptation with a proven track record of successful delivery of on-the-ground technical assistance in Uzbekistan as well as across Central Asia;
- benefits from a strong national presence through its Country Office in Tashkent and local project offices across the country.

- enjoys access to different levels and departments of the government including excellent contacts at the decision-making level, and carries critical knowledge about the country's needs and potential.
- has a track record of successful projects in the areas targeted by this action (improving climate resilience of agriculture and farming communities, fostering innovation in climate-smart agriculture, support to NDCs, national adaptation planning).

A close coordination and synergies will be established between this proposed EU initiative and the research and integrated planning components of the NAP process as UNDP is the key partner of Uzbekistan in this area. UNDP has been supporting Uzbekistan in accessing climate finance to support climate action and to enable a gender-sensitive and participatory coordination processes for climate change mitigation and adaptation and implementation of NDC. These complementary UNDP initiatives include (i) the National Adaptation Planning project financed by the Green Climate Fund (ii) UNDP/Adaptation Fund project addressing climate resilience of rural livelihoods in the drought-prone Aral Sea Basin through enhanced climate information, participatory adaptation planning and action; (iii) UNDP "Aid for Trade" initiative implemented in Fergana Valley of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to support sustainable agricultural livelihoods. The UNDP/ GCF NAP project supports the Government of Uzbekistan advancing the adaptation planning process for priority climate-sensitive sectors and regions in Uzbekistan. The project supports a coordination mechanism for multi-sectoral adaptation planning and implementation; an enhanced evidence base for adaptation planning; and the adaptation financing and investment strategy for Uzbekistan.

External Governance of the Project will be ensured through the **Steering Committee** comprised of representatives from European Commission, EU Delegation in Uzbekistan, UNDP, Government of Uzbekistan including the main national partner, the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), UAKIS Management, regional and local authorities and khokimiyats, relevant associations and potential international donor partners of the project.

The Steering Committee will be co-chaired by the main national partner, the Ministry of Agriculture of Uzbekistan, and UNDP. The latter will also take responsibility for communicating information and data that supports decision-making process.

The Steering Committee will:

- Provide overall leadership, guidance and direction in the successful delivery of outputs and their contribution to outcomes under the regional project, ensuring that the project remains within any specified constraints.
- Discuss project progress, bottlenecks, potential to meet projects results, need for project adjustments (i.e., changes in the project document).
- Discuss the need for major deviation from agreed annual plans.
- Meet at least once a year (either in person or virtually) to review project implementation, management risks, and other relevant issues.
- Review annual progress reports.
- Discuss proposed working plan for the next year.
- Address project issues and make recommendations on follow-up actions.
- Provide guidance on new project risks and agree on possible countermeasures and management actions to address specific risk.
- Provide guidance for required adjustments based on monitoring reports.
- Facilitate and ensure enhanced coordination and new partnerships for the Project, between the beneficiary countries and EU partners, across the beneficiary countries and among relevant government institutions.

The Ministry of Agriculture will be the **National** Implementing **Partner** for the project and will be the main technical counterpart of the project. UNDP will be fully responsible for all aspects of project management and implementation, including the monitoring and evaluation of project interventions, achievement of project outcomes, reporting and effective use of the project

resources. The other key institutional stakeholders include the Ministry of Innovative Development, the Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction, the Ministry of Mahalla and Family Support, the State Committee on Land Resources, Geodesy, Cartography and State Cadaster, the State Forestry Committee, the Council of Farmers, the State Committee on Veterinary and Livestock Development, and regional/districts khokimiyats.

IX. LEGAL CONTEXT

*[NOTE: Please choose **one** of the following options, as applicable. Delete all other options from the document]*

This project document shall be the instrument referred to as such in Article 1 of the SBAA between the Government of Uzbekistan and UNDP, signed on June 10, 1993.

Consistent with the Article III of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement, the responsibility for the safety and security of the executing agency and its personnel and property, and of UNDP's property in the executing agency's custody, rests with the executing agency.

The executing agency shall:

- a) put in place an appropriate security plan and maintain the security plan, taking into account the security situation in the country where the project is being carried;
- b) assume all risks and liabilities related to the executing agency's security, and the full implementation of the security plan.

UNDP reserves the right to verify whether such a plan is in place, and to suggest modifications to the plan when necessary. Failure to maintain and implement an appropriate security plan as required hereunder shall be deemed a breach of this agreement.

The executing agency agrees to undertake all reasonable efforts to ensure that none of the UNDP funds received pursuant to the Project Document are used to provide support to individuals or entities associated with terrorism and that the recipients of any amounts provided by UNDP hereunder do not appear on the list maintained by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999). The list can be accessed via

<http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/committees/1267/1267ListEng.htm>. This provision must be included in all sub-contracts or sub-agreements entered into under this Project Document.

X. RISK MANAGEMENT

*[NOTE: Please choose **one** of the following options that corresponds to the implementation modality of the Project. Delete all other options.]*

The responsibility for the safety and security of the Implementing Partner and its personnel and property, and of UNDP's property in the Implementing Partner's custody, rests with the Implementing Partner. The Implementing Partner shall: (a) put in place an appropriate security plan and maintain the security plan, taking into account the security situation in the country where the project is being carried; (b) assume all risks and liabilities related to the Implementing Partner's security, and the full implementation of the security plan. UNDP reserves the right to verify whether such a plan is in place, and to suggest modifications to the plan when necessary. Failure to maintain and implement an appropriate security plan as required hereunder shall be deemed a breach of this agreement.

The Implementing Partner agrees to undertake all reasonable efforts to ensure that none of the UNDP funds received pursuant to the Project Document are used to provide support to individuals or entities associated with terrorism and that the recipients of any amounts provided by UNDP hereunder do not appear on the list maintained by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999).

The list can be accessed via http://www.un.org/sc/committees/1267/aq_sanctions_list.shtml. This provision must be included in all sub-contracts or sub-agreements entered into under this Project Document.

Consistent with UNDP's Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures, social and environmental sustainability will be enhanced through application of the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards (<http://www.undp.org/ses>) and related Accountability Mechanism (<http://www.undp.org/secu-srm>).

The Implementing Partner shall: (a) conduct project and programme-related activities in a manner consistent with the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards, (b) implement any management or mitigation plan prepared for the project or programme to comply with such standards, and (c) engage in a constructive and timely manner to address any concerns and complaints raised through the Accountability Mechanism. UNDP will seek to ensure that communities and other project stakeholders are informed of and have access to the Accountability Mechanism.

All signatories to the Project Document shall cooperate in good faith with any exercise to evaluate any programme or project-related commitments or compliance with the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards. This includes providing access to project sites, relevant personnel, information, and documentation.

Planning and Reporting

A Project Inception Workshop will be held within the initial few months of project start-up and is crucial to building ownership for the project results and to plan the first year's annual work-plan. The Inception report will be a key reference document and will be prepared and shared with participants to formalize various agreements and plans decided during the meeting (will be shared with the EU Delegation within 6 months of the start of the Programme). The Inception Report will include a detailed description of the Component 2 environment, including any significant changes since signature of contract.

The Inception Workshop will address a number of key issues, including:

- Assist all partners to fully understand and take ownership of the project. Detail the roles, support services and complimentary responsibilities of project stakeholders. Discuss the roles, functions and responsibilities within the project's decision making structures, including reporting and communication lines, and conflict resolution mechanisms.
- Prepare an overall work plan and a detailed annual work plan for the first year of the project implementation
- Based on the project results framework and the EU Results Framework, refine the logical framework, review and agree on indicators, baselines, targets and their means of verification, and re-check assumptions and risks
- Provide a detailed overview of reporting, M&E requirements. The M&E work plan and budget should be agreed and scheduled
- Discuss financial reporting procedures and obligations, and arrangements for audit (if required)
- Plan and schedule Project Board meetings. Roles and responsibilities of all project organization structures should be clarified and meetings planned

Communications and Visibility

In order to accord proper acknowledgement to EU and UNDP for providing funding, an EU and UNDP logos will appear on all relevant project publications, including, among others, project hardware purchased with EU and UNDP funding. Any citation on publications regarding this project will also accord proper acknowledgment to EU and UNDP.

UNDP will develop a Communication and Visibility Plan for Component 2, in accordance with the requirements of Joint visibility guidelines for EC-UN actions in the field²⁰.

The Visibility and Communication Plan will be submitted to the EU Delegation as part of the Inception Report.

²⁰ <http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/node/45481>

XI. ANNEXES

Annex 1. Project Quality Assurance Report (in the separate file)

ANNEX 2: SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING

Project Information

Project Information	
1. Project Title	UNDP Uzbekistan ECA Cluster, “Supporting an inclusive transition to a “green” economy in the Agri-food sector and development of a “climate-smart” Uzbek Agriculture Knowledge and Innovation System” (UAKIS) Project
2. Project Number (Atlas project ID)	00129151
3. Location (Global/Region/Country)	Republic of Uzbekistan
4. Project stage (Design or Implementation)	Design/PAC stage
5. Date	

Part A. Integrating Programming Principles to Strengthen Social and Environmental Sustainability

QUESTION 1: How Does the Project Integrate the Programming Principles in Order to Strengthen Social and Environmental Sustainability?

Briefly describe in the space below how the project mainstreams the human rights-based approach

The project has the rights-based approach in its centre. It will greatly contribute towards equity and inclusiveness by directly tackling environmental sustainability and climate resilience, which has a greater impact on poorer segments of the societies, bearing in mind the fact that low-income and vulnerable segments of the population live in a rural area. Their social well-being largely depends on the level of agricultural development. The project will promote participatory good governance, facilitate medium- and long-term environmental planning and whole-of-government approaches on issues such as adaptation of agricultural production to climate change and resilience to promote transition to a green food production that will result in a better environment for rural population. The project will also confer positive impacts on human development through reduced risks of conflicts over natural resources such as land and water, in particular in such high-density regions as Fergana valley and Kashkadarya through better service provision under AKIS development. Throughout its implementation the project will follow the principles of the human-rights based approach accepting the universality and inalienability; interdependence and inter-relatedness of human rights; non-discrimination and equality. The Project will ensure that none of its interventions violates any of the universal human rights and demonstrates respect and tolerance to diversity. Inclusive participation is the core value of the Project and through its approach, implementation methodology and tools the Project will support wide participation and inclusion of the most vulnerable groups into value creation. In particular, all “downstream”

activities will be accompanied with information and awareness work, and improving climate adaptation capacities of the local communities, with explicit attention to the resilience of women, children and groups of people living in climate change vulnerable situations, to empower them as agents of environmental protection. All the project activities will be implemented keeping the national laws and with zero tolerance for any violations by the beneficiaries or the project staff. The project will also ensure social inclusion by facilitating equal access to resources, services, infrastructures and capacity development measures. UNDP's grievance mechanism to provide access to remedies for individuals aggrieved as a result of project activities will be applied.

Briefly describe in the space below how the project is likely to improve gender equality and women's empowerment

The project will make a positive contribution to mainstreaming gender into climate and human development policies and local climate adaptation action through supporting the development of extension services in three pilot regions, namely Tashkent, Kashkadarya and Fergana. The project will embed nationally appropriate gender consideration in the country. The project will therefore more efficiently safeguard female farmers, local communities and their assets from natural disasters and discrimination, if any, with particular involvement of women as well as other vulnerable groups (marginalized, elderly, disabled). Gender considerations will be considered and mainstreamed through all the activities of the project, particularly through the participatory climate-related risk/change assessment and planning. Lessons and tools for gender mainstreaming in national and local climate adaptation planning will be utilized by the project. Gender disaggregated indicators will be proposed for the national policy instruments/plans and project reporting. The participation of women and vulnerable groups will be encouraged throughout the project cycle to support their empowerment. The gender responsive approach will consider the structural barriers impacting women's, men's and vulnerable groups' abilities to fully benefit from climate-resilient risk management in agro-food production and will integrate activities to promote gender equality and social inclusion. Further, the gender responsive approach will ensure that women and vulnerable groups participate in, benefit from, and make decisions about the work of the project. This approach will not only help to promote gender equality, social inclusion, and enhanced community resilience, but will also help to ensure sustainability and uptake of project outcomes.

Briefly describe in the space below how the project mainstreams sustainability and resilience

Given the specific nature of climate risks to agro-food production, climate action is seen as an entry point for strengthened linkage between science, knowledge and practice. The project interventions will follow three following main development pathways:

(i) Knowledge Management and Capacity Building - involves developing an enhanced knowledge base on climate-fragility risks to allow risk-informed decision-making in planning and implementing agricultural practices. This will focus on creating and strengthening mechanisms of analysis, assessment and anticipation of climate risks within extension services that are being created within UAKIS. Participatory vulnerability assessments will be used to identify climate-related risks and hotspots and develop appropriate and effective responses. This will be coupled with capacity-building and training of key stakeholders at national and local levels, including to manage complex sectoral interlinkages between climate change and climate-risk related human development. (ii) Policy Dialogue - builds on the knowledge base developed through the first pathway. It focuses on integrating climate risks into decision-making

processes and development strategies at the national and regional level. Climate risks will be mainstreamed into key policy documents on knowledge and innovation towards integration of science and production that requires engagement by a broad range of stakeholders, including national policy makers, local authorities, farmer communities and private enterprises.

Environmental sustainability will be considered throughout the project. Natural resources, such as land and water, as well as ecosystems are a key capital of this project. The economic value of natural resources is growing with increased agricultural production, which at the same time implies potential risks and further depletion of natural resources if not sustainably managed. It will therefore be ensured that all stakeholders understand and appreciate the economic value of the environment and of ecosystems, that activities equally take environmental sustainability and social inclusion into account. Environmental and climate change aspects will be addressed at the policy level, as they shall be tackled in the framework of the joint learning events as well as mainstreamed in policy and regulatory frameworks, to the extent possible.

Briefly describe in the space below how the project strengthens accountability to stakeholders

UNDP and the project team will promote accountability to the project stakeholders and beneficiaries by: (i) enabling active local community engagement and participation in decision-making, particularly those at risk of being left behind; (ii) ensuring transparency of programming interventions through provision of timely, accessible and functional information regarding supported activities, including on potential environmental and social risks and impacts and management measures; (iii) ensuring stakeholders can communicate their concerns and have access to complaints redress processes and mechanisms; and (iv) ensuring effective monitoring—and where appropriate, participatory monitoring with stakeholders—and reporting on implementation of social and environmental risk management measures. More specifically, the approach to be employed by the project for involvement and participation of stakeholders during the implementation is premised on the principle of “do not harm”. The UNDP will ensure that the projects is disclosed to help affected communities and other stakeholders understand the opportunities, risks and impacts of the proposed activities. Project will ensure that the information on the project's purpose, nature and scale, and duration, and its risks and potential impacts, is made available in a timely manner, in an accessible place, and in a form and language understandable to affected persons and other stakeholders in all three countries, including the general public, so they can provide meaningful input into programme and/or project implementation. The main stakeholders in the selected pilot regions will be engaged in the development of road maps to mitigate climate risk and climate change vulnerability. Climate-resilience building and adaptation strategies and plans will be considered during development of key strategic documents. In the meantime, practical risk reduction activities in pilot regions will be tailored to the local context will help stakeholders to be fully engaged through active participatory process and ensure that “no one is left behind”, including by creating space for the most vulnerable groups to engage with the resilience-building process.

Stakeholders who may be adversely affected by a UNDP project will have an opportunity to express their concern through various entry points. One of the entry points is the Stakeholder Response Mechanism (SRM) that ensures individuals, peoples, and communities affected by projects have access to appropriate grievance resolution procedures for hearing and jointly addressing complaints and disputes related to the social and/or environmental impacts of UNDP-supported projects. The mandate and functions

of a project-level grievance redress mechanism could be executed by the Project Steering Committee or through a formal UNDP's grievance redress procedures for addressing stakeholder concerns.

Part B. Identifying and Managing Social and Environmental Risks

QUESTION 2: What are the Potential Social and Environmental Risks? <i>Note: Complete SESP Attachment 1 before responding to Question 2.</i>	QUESTION 3: What is the level of significance of the potential social and environmental risks? <i>Note: Respond to Questions 4 and 5 below before proceeding to Question 5</i>			QUESTION 6: Describe the assessment and management measures for each risk rated Moderate, Substantial or High
Risk Description <i>(broken down by event, cause, impact)</i>	Impact and Likelihood (1-5)	Significance (Low, Moderate, Substantial, High)	Comments (optional)	Description of assessment and management measures for risks rated as Moderate, Substantial or High
Risk 1: Limited capacities of Governments to meet their obligations in the project (P.1)	I = 4 L = 2	Moderate		In order to mitigate the risks, the project intends to keep the various action elements (assessment, public outreach, strategy development and training) very concrete, to outline what can be realistically achieved by the authorities in the present context, and to accompany the project implementation with tailored capacity building and awareness activities. To secure national ownership, the Action will demonstrate the concrete benefits that may accrue from a more integrated participatory approach to climate change adaptation strategies and action plans to government officials

<p>Risk 2: Temporary disruption of terrestrial wildlife, impacts on habitats during the implementation of pilot activities in the regions (1.1, 1.2)</p>	<p>I = 3 L = 2</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>No significant effect on local population of wildlife species and their habitats is anticipated. However, pilot activities may be planned in areas located within areas designated as protected, or eco-corridors, posing risk of impacts to natural features subject to protection.</p>	<p>Location of the pilot projects will be selected in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, and in subject to consultations with local communities. Activities will be planned to address potential impact not only to natural habitat and wildlife, but also to ecosystem services. Legally designated protected areas will be excluded from any structural project interventions during participatory assessment and planning. Demonstration activities will be small scale and will be subject of further assessment and Environment and Social Management Framework to be elaborated at the inception stage of the project. Grievance redress mechanism will be established.</p>
<p>Risk 3: Temporary and small-scale impacts on soil and soil pollution during the implementation of pilot interventions (e.g. small-scale earth works) (1.7, 8.1, 8.2)</p>	<p>I = 3 L = 2</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>There is a potential for minor localized effect on soil (loss of soil and erosion, release of waste/pollutants) due to pilots, if activities will include small scale construction works and transportation of construction materials, for instance construction of water wells/channels or land leveling measures.</p>	<p>All physical type of works will be screened for potential soils related impact and where potential risk is identified, a site-specific management plan will be prepared. Potential adaptation measures will be subject to further targeted assessment and Environment and Social Management Framework to be elaborated at the inception stage of the project. Project activities monitored by government entities will adhere to government safety standards and protocols.</p>
<p>Risk 4: Physical risks and force majeure (natural hazards) (2.1, 2.2)</p>	<p>I – 4 L - 2</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Fergana valley is vulnerable to natural disasters, namely earthquakes and associated landslide and mudslide risks, which may bring to direct or indirect negative harms on infrastructure and human</p>	<p>The project is designed to address climate driven risk of disasters by increasing local adaptive capacities and enhancing climate and disaster information. Contingency Plans at each country level and the extended regional climate resilience systems will be</p>

			safety.	considered to minimize the impact of those risks on the operations
Risk 5: Risk of exclusion of vulnerable and marginalized groups/community members from decision making and from accessing benefits generated by the project (P.13)	I - 4 L- 2	Moderate	There is a potential risk that vulnerable and marginalized groups may be excluded from the project activities and may have limited access to the project benefits. In the context of the project, vulnerable groups may include elderly, households with majority children, with disabled members, ethnic minority, etc.	During the assessment and planning stages local stakeholder assessments will be carried out by the national project teams to identify vulnerable and marginalized groups among the targeted communities and to secure equal access and sharing of benefits. The project activities include participatory risk and vulnerability assessments and participatory community-based planning of local adaptation measures. Each pilot activity will be further screened at the site-specific level to determine if there is a risk associated with marginalized and vulnerable groups and if so, a site-specific stakeholder engagement plan will be prepared and implemented. Grievance redress mechanism will be established to track grievances and complaints.
QUESTION 4: What is the overall project risk categorization?				
			Low Risk	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Moderate Risk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
				A number of “downstream” sub-projects on implementing agro adaptation and risk reduction measures, yet to be identified during the implementation phase. They will be subject to further social and environmental assessment and management/measure plans. Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) will be developed during the project inception phase with a list of exclusion criteria to rule out

			potentially risky activities. Potential risks of limited access to benefits of these measures by vulnerable groups and disturbance to critical habitats and/or sensitive environmental areas may negatively affect environmental and social vulnerability. Therefore, the project will establish a robust Grievance Redress Mechanism. It will provide an avenue for any complaints in case of any conflict or discrimination as well as a mechanism for resolution of such conflicts.	
	Substantial Risk	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	High Risk	<input type="checkbox"/>		
QUESTION 5: Based on the identified risks and risk categorization, what requirements of the SES are triggered? (check all that apply)				
Question only required for Moderate, Substantial and High-Risk projects				
	<u>Is assessment required? (check if "yes")</u>	X		Stat us? (complete, planned)
	<i>if yes, indicate overall type and status</i>		X Targeted assessment(s)	Plan ned
			<input type="checkbox"/> ESIA (Environmental and Social Impact Assessment)	
			<input type="checkbox"/> SESA (Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment)	
	Are management plans required? (check if "yes")	X		

	<i>If yes, indicate overall type</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Targeted management plans (e.g. Gender Action Plan, Emergency Response Plan, Waste Management Plan, others)	
		<input type="checkbox"/>	ESMP (Environmental and Social Management Plan which may include range of targeted plans)	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ESMF (Environmental and Social Management Framework)	Planned (at the inception phase)
	Based on identified <u>risks</u>, which Principles/Project-level Standards triggered?		Comments (not required)	
	Overarching Principle: Leave No One Behind			
	Human Rights	X		
	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment	X		
	Accountability	X		
	1. Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management	X		
	2. Climate Change and Disaster Risks	X		
	3. Community Health, Safety and Security	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	4. Cultural Heritage	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	5. Displacement and Resettlement	<input type="checkbox"/>		

	6. Indigenous Peoples	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	7. Labour and Working Conditions	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	8. Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Final Sign Off

Final Screening at the design-stage is not complete until the following signatures are included

Signature	Date	Description
QA Assessor		UNDP staff member responsible for the project, typically a UNDP Programme Officer. Final signature confirms they have “checked” to ensure that the SESP is adequately conducted.
QA Approver		UNDP senior manager, typically the UNDP Deputy Country Director (DCD), Country Director (CD), Deputy Resident Representative (DRR), or Resident Representative (RR). The QA Approver cannot also be the QA Assessor. Final signature confirms they have “cleared” the SESP prior to submittal to the PAC.
PAC Chair		UNDP chair of the PAC. In some cases PAC Chair may also be the QA Approver. Final signature confirms that the SESP was considered as part of the project appraisal and considered in recommendations of the PAC.

SESP Attachment 1. Social and Environmental Risk Screening Checklist

Checklist Potential Social and Environmental Risks	
INSTRUCTIONS: The risk screening checklist will assist in answering Questions 2-6 of the Screening Template. Answers to the checklist questions help to (1) identify potential risks, (2) determine the overall risk categorization of the project, and (3) determine required level of assessment and management measures. Refer to the SES toolkit for further guidance on addressing screening questions.	
Overarching Principle: Leave No One Behind	Answer (Yes/No)
Human Rights	
P.1 Have local communities or individuals raised human rights concerns regarding the project (e.g. during the stakeholder engagement process, grievance processes, public statements)?	No
P.2 Is there a risk that duty-bearers (e.g. government agencies) do not have the capacity to meet their obligations in the project?	Yes
P.3 Is there a risk that rights-holders (e.g. project-affected persons) do not have the capacity to claim their rights?	No
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>	
P.4 adverse impacts on enjoyment of the human rights (civil, political, economic, social or cultural) of the affected population and particularly of marginalized groups?	No
P.5 inequitable or discriminatory impacts on affected populations, particularly people living in poverty or marginalized or excluded individuals or groups, including persons with disabilities? ²¹	No
P.6 restrictions in availability, quality of and/or access to resources or basic services, in particular to marginalized individuals or groups, including persons with disabilities?	No
P.7 exacerbation of conflicts among and/or the risk of violence to project-affected communities and individuals?	No
Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment	
P.8 Have women's groups/leaders raised gender equality concerns regarding the project, (e.g. during the stakeholder engagement process, grievance processes, public statements)?	No
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>	
P.9 adverse impacts on gender equality and/or the situation of women and girls?	No
P.10 reproducing discriminations against women based on gender, especially regarding participation in design and implementation or access to opportunities and benefits?	No
P.11 limitations on women's ability to use, develop and protect natural resources, taking into account different roles and positions of women and men in accessing environmental goods and services? <i>For example, activities that could lead to natural resources degradation or</i>	No

²¹ Prohibited grounds of discrimination include race, ethnicity, sex, age, language, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, political or other opinion, national or social or geographical origin, property, birth or other status including as an indigenous person or as a member of a minority. References to "women and men" or similar is understood to include women and men, boys and girls, and other groups discriminated against based on their gender identities, such as transgender and transsexual people.

<i>depletion in communities who depend on these resources for their livelihoods and well being</i>	
P.12 exacerbation of risks of gender-based violence? <i>For example, through the influx of workers to a community, changes in community and household power dynamics, increased exposure to unsafe public places and/or transport, etc.</i>	No
Sustainability and Resilience: Screening questions regarding risks associated with sustainability and resilience are encompassed by the Standard-specific questions below	
Accountability	
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>	
P.13 exclusion of any potentially affected stakeholders, in particular marginalized groups and excluded individuals (including persons with disabilities), from fully participating in decisions that may affect them?	Yes
P.14 grievances or objections from potentially affected stakeholders?	No
P.15 risks of retaliation or reprisals against stakeholders who express concerns or grievances, or who seek to participate in or to obtain information on the project?	No
Project-Level Standards	
Standard 1: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management	
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>	
1.1 adverse impacts to habitats (e.g. modified, natural, and critical habitats) and/or ecosystems and ecosystem services? <i>For example, through habitat loss, conversion or degradation, fragmentation, hydrological changes</i>	Yes
1.2 activities within or adjacent to critical habitats and/or environmentally sensitive areas, including (but not limited to) legally protected areas (e.g. nature reserve, national park), areas proposed for protection, or recognized as such by authoritative sources and/or indigenous peoples or local communities?	Yes
1.3 changes to the use of lands and resources that may have adverse impacts on habitats, ecosystems, and/or livelihoods? (Note: if restrictions and/or limitations of access to lands would apply, refer to Standard 5)	No
1.4 risks to endangered species (e.g. reduction, encroachment on habitat)?	No
1.5 exacerbation of illegal wildlife trade?	No
1.6 introduction of invasive alien species?	No
1.7 adverse impacts on soils?	Yes
1.8 harvesting of natural forests, plantation development, or reforestation?	No
1.9 significant agricultural production?	No
1.10 animal husbandry or harvesting of fish populations or other aquatic species?	No
1.11 significant extraction, diversion or containment of surface or ground water? <i>For example, construction of dams, reservoirs, river basin developments, groundwater extraction</i>	No

1.12 handling or utilization of genetically modified organisms/living modified organisms? ²²	No
1.13 utilization of genetic resources? (e.g. collection and/or harvesting, commercial development) ²³	No
1.14 adverse transboundary or global environmental concerns?	No
Standard 2: Climate Change and Disaster Risks	
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>	
2.1 areas subject to hazards such as earthquakes, floods, landslides, severe winds, storm surges, tsunami or volcanic eruptions?	Yes
2.2 outputs and outcomes sensitive or vulnerable to potential impacts of climate change or disasters? <i>For example, through increased precipitation, drought, temperature, salinity, extreme events, earthquakes</i>	Yes
2.3 increases in vulnerability to climate change impacts or disaster risks now or in the future (also known as maladaptive or negative coping practices)? <i>For example, changes to land use planning may encourage further development of floodplains, potentially increasing the population's vulnerability to climate change, specifically flooding</i>	No
2.4 increases of greenhouse gas emissions, black carbon emissions or other drivers of climate change?	No
Standard 3: Community Health, Safety and Security	
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>	
3.1 construction and/or infrastructure development (e.g. roads, buildings, dams)? (Note: the GEF does not finance projects that would involve the construction or rehabilitation of large or complex dams)	No
3.2 air pollution, noise, vibration, traffic, injuries, physical hazards, poor surface water quality due to runoff, erosion, sanitation?	No
3.3 harm or losses due to failure of structural elements of the project (e.g. collapse of buildings or infrastructure)?	No
3.4 risks of water-borne or other vector-borne diseases (e.g. temporary breeding habitats), communicable and noncommunicable diseases, nutritional disorders, mental health?	No
3.5 transport, storage, and use and/or disposal of hazardous or dangerous materials (e.g. explosives, fuel and other chemicals during construction and operation)?	No
3.6 adverse impacts on ecosystems and ecosystem services relevant to communities' health (e.g. food, surface water purification, natural buffers from flooding)?	No
3.7 influx of project workers to project areas?	No
3.8 engagement of security personnel to protect facilities and property or to support project activities?	No
Standard 4: Cultural Heritage	
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>	

²² See the [Convention on Biological Diversity](#) and its [Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety](#).

²³ See the [Convention on Biological Diversity](#) and its [Nagoya Protocol](#) on access and benefit sharing from use of genetic resources.

4.1	activities adjacent to or within a Cultural Heritage site?	No
4.2	significant excavations, demolitions, movement of earth, flooding or other environmental changes?	No
4.3	adverse impacts to sites, structures, or objects with historical, cultural, artistic, traditional or religious values or intangible forms of culture (e.g. knowledge, innovations, practices)? (Note: projects intended to protect and conserve Cultural Heritage may also have inadvertent adverse impacts)	No
4.4	alterations to landscapes and natural features with cultural significance?	No
4.5	utilization of tangible and/or intangible forms (e.g. practices, traditional knowledge) of Cultural Heritage for commercial or other purposes?	No
Standard 5: Displacement and Resettlement		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
5.1	temporary or permanent and full or partial physical displacement (including people without legally recognizable claims to land)?	No
5.2	economic displacement (e.g. loss of assets or access to resources due to land acquisition or access restrictions – even in the absence of physical relocation)?	No
5.3	risk of forced evictions? ²⁴	No
5.4	impacts on or changes to land tenure arrangements and/or community based property rights/customary rights to land, territories and/or resources?	No
Standard 6: Indigenous Peoples		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
6.1	areas where indigenous peoples are present (including project area of influence)?	No
6.2	activities located on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	No
6.3	impacts (positive or negative) to the human rights, lands, natural resources, territories, and traditional livelihoods of indigenous peoples (regardless of whether indigenous peoples possess the legal titles to such areas, whether the project is located within or outside of the lands and territories inhabited by the affected peoples, or whether the indigenous peoples are recognized as indigenous peoples by the country in question)? <i>If the answer to screening question 6.3 is “yes”, then the potential risk impacts are considered significant and the project would be categorized as either Substantial Risk or High Risk</i>	No
6.4	the absence of culturally appropriate consultations carried out with the objective of achieving FPIC on matters that may affect the rights and interests, lands, resources, territories and traditional livelihoods of the indigenous peoples concerned?	No
6.5	the utilization and/or commercial development of natural resources on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	No
6.6	forced eviction or the whole or partial physical or economic displacement of indigenous peoples, including through access restrictions to lands, territories, and resources? <i>Consider, and where appropriate ensure, consistency with the answers under</i>	No

²⁴ Forced eviction is defined here as the permanent or temporary removal against their will of individuals, families or communities from the homes and/or land which they occupy, without the provision of, and access to, appropriate forms of legal or other protection. Forced evictions constitute gross violations of a range of internationally recognized human rights.

<i>Standard 5 above</i>		
6.7	adverse impacts on the development priorities of indigenous peoples as defined by them?	No
6.8	risks to the physical and cultural survival of indigenous peoples?	No
6.9	impacts on the Cultural Heritage of indigenous peoples, including through the commercialization or use of their traditional knowledge and practices? <i>Consider, and where appropriate ensure, consistency with the answers under Standard 4 above.</i>	No
Standard 7: Labour and Working Conditions		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to: (note: applies to project and contractor workers)</i>		
7.1	working conditions that do not meet national labour laws and international commitments?	No
7.2	working conditions that may deny freedom of association and collective bargaining?	No
7.3	use of child labour?	No
7.4	use of forced labour?	No
7.5	discriminatory working conditions and/or lack of equal opportunity?	No
7.6	occupational health and safety risks due to physical, chemical, biological and psychosocial hazards (including violence and harassment) throughout the project life-cycle?	No
Standard 8: Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
8.1	the release of pollutants to the environment due to routine or non-routine circumstances with the potential for adverse local, regional, and/or transboundary impacts?	Yes
8.2	the generation of waste (both hazardous and non-hazardous)?	Yes
8.3	the manufacture, trade, release, and/or use of hazardous materials and/or chemicals?	No
8.4	the use of chemicals or materials subject to international bans or phase-outs? <i>For example, DDT, PCBs and other chemicals listed in international conventions such as the Montreal Protocol, Minamata Convention, Basel Convention, Rotterdam Convention, Stockholm Convention</i>	No
8.5	the application of pesticides that may have a negative effect on the environment or human health?	No
8.6	significant consumption of raw materials, energy, and/or water?	No

Annex 3. Risk Analysis

Project Title:				Project Number:	
#	Description	Risk category	Impact & Likelihood = Risk level	Risk Treatment/Management Measures	Risk Owner
1.	Physical risks and force majeure. This includes national or man-made disasters, political disturbances, conflicts.	Safety and Security	<p>Volatile governance landscape and possible ministerial reorganisation will cause instability and reorientation of policy priorities, as well as disrupt the administrative setup and staff fluctuation needed for the project implementation</p> <p>P=4 I= 4</p>	Contingency Plans at the country level and the extended climate resilience systems to minimize the impact of those risks on the operations.	UNDP CO Management, National Project Coordinator, Project Board
2.	Unintended, direct or indirect negative harms of human safety	Safety and Security	<p>Difficulties/security restrictions for operating in certain sub-regions impose risk to data gathering and stakeholder engagement</p> <p>P=3 I=5</p>	The action will respect, protect and fulfil human safety standards. "Do not harm principle" will be applied during the implementation of the project, assessing the possible intended/unintended, direct/indirect risk that could occur. If they are negative, the project will search to mitigate/compensate, etc.	UN DSS National Project Coordinator, Project Board
3.	Political changes at the national level or decisions of central and local authorities that can hinder the implementation of the Action	Political	<p>Political changes and decisions may negatively impact objective of the project.</p> <p>P=1 I=4</p>	This risk is addressed through close coordination with national authorities to help deliver the necessary information to the governmental officials in the related departments. Regular political dialogue will be used to help preventing and minimizing this risk.	UNDP CO Management, National Project Coordinator, Project Board

4.	Lack of experience in participatory whole-of-government approaches to planning and risk management in the context of green economy transition. Uncertainty and lack of awareness on the linkages between climate-related insecurities among the policy makers and technical level officials in the governments	Operational	Limited capacities and understanding at national level may bring to misunderstanding on the linkages between climate-related insecurities and overall development in the country P=4 I=4	The project will work closely and engage with national and local authorities as well as with local partners and stakeholders in an open dialogue that will help enhance awareness, set priorities, agree on results linked to performance, and measure progress. As much as possible the existing participatory planning mechanisms will be utilized, such as national adaptation planning and national climate change committees, national working groups, etc.	UNDP CO Management, National Project Coordinator, Project Board
5.	Sensitivity of the subject and reluctance of the national and local officials to disclose climate risk-related information	Organisational	Limited information and possibilities for open evidence-based dialogues will hinder the project implementation P=2 I=4	Involvement of influential stakeholders able to facilitate the achievement of compromise. Towards this end, the Action will demonstrate to those officials the concrete benefits of an adequate disclosure of climate-related risks at the national and community levels.	UNDP CO Management, National Project Coordinator, Project Board
6.	lack of political will to fully implement the Agricultural Development Strategy in terms of introducing market relations, including liberalizing the inputs supply system	Political	Failure to implement certain provisions of the Strategy will negate the project's efforts to ensure the sustainability of project results towards AKIS P=4 I=4	This risk is addressed through close coordination with national authorities, to help deliver the necessary information to decision makers about the importance of the state's fulfillment of its obligations, since the donor provided its financial resources to support their implementation	UNDP CO Management, EUD, National Project Coordinator, Project Board
7.	Project complexity and a broad scope related to the extended network of institutional partners, the geographical, social, political and economic diversity, and sensitivity	Other	Such a complexity and broad scope may affect the project implementation with respect to the adequacy of allocated resources, work plans and stakeholder engagement. P=2 I=3	Development and implementation of the Action is based upon strong national ownership, a consensus regarding priorities, expected results and shared responsibilities, pro-active participation of all partners in the planning and implementation.	UNDP CO Management, National Project Coordinator, Project Board
8.	Officials are not willing/available to participate in training and capacity building activities or their participation is not consistent.	Organisational	Not clear and properly maintained network of institutional partners will hamper sustainability of project interventions at national and regional levels P=2 I=4	Training and capacity building component will be concrete and relevant based on the training needs assessment and an iterative monitoring and evaluation of the knowledge acquired and its application. Training will be organised in small classes, will make use of national centres and trained trainers, and avoid periods when authorities are particularly busy.	UNDP CO Management, National Project Coordinator, Project Board

9.	The effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and declaration of martial law affect the implementation of activities	Safety and Security	Travel restrictions for local and international experts, difficulties for operation in communities and specifically organisations of stakeholder consultations at regional level P=4 I=5	Close monitoring of the development and alignment with the government's response to the effects of Covid-19	UN DSS, UNDP CO Management, National Project Coordinator, Project Board
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Annex 4. Communication and visibility plan

In line with article 8 of the General Conditions of the EU-UNDP Contribution Agreement and with the Joint visibility guidelines for EC - UN actions on the field (https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/joint-visibility-guidelines-ec-un-actions-field_en), this Communication and Visibility Plan (Annex 6) will be implemented during the implementation of the Action.

In consultation with the European Commission, and with the objective of underlining the EU policies and financial support, appropriate measures will be taken to acknowledge the EU role in the implementation of the Action in line with the aforesaid documents.

Objective

The overall communication objective of the Communication and Visibility Plan is to provide appropriate visibility to the project and accurately communicate the project's objectives and progress to a diverse range of groups within participating countries (with due attention to geographical, gender, age, and linguistic representation of audiences), including the project's support from the European Union's Delegations.

The project's communication and visibility activities will focus on concrete results, related to the following four key development outcomes:

Output 1: Enhanced knowledge base and capacities to identify and assess climate-driven resilience risks in trans-border areas (Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan);

Output 2: Technical assistance on the introduction of climate fragility risks into national policies, climate change adaptation and development strategies and plans in Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Republic of Uzbekistan provided

Output 3: Opportunities to promote regional cooperation and awareness on climate and fragility risks created; and

Output 4: Enhanced climate-related early warning and prevention measures demonstrated at pilot transboundary site/s.

Target groups

In the participating countries, the key target groups for the visibility plan are:

- a) Governments: relevant ministries and local governments in the targeted countries and localities;
- b) The local populations
- c) Key stakeholders: teachers, healthcare workers, children (schools), emergency specialists, academia etc
- d) Civil society organizations (CSOs)
- e) Diplomatic community in partner countries
- f) Media – international, national and local (where relevant)

Specific ways through which UNDP will ensure the visibility of the project:

A practical and user-friendly communication and visibility plan will be developed at the beginning of the project implementation period;

- The communication and visibility plan will mainstream all public outreach activities within the framework of the project action, including press releases, conferences, public events, website development; photo archive and picture selection, audio-visual production and information campaigns on the Action;
- Local and regional media will be effectively used throughout the Action. UNDP will also enhance visibility of the Action activities at national / regional level through its respective constituencies, and communication and media relations;



- UNDP will report on any milestones and achievements relating to the communication and visibility plan in the Action's progress reports;
- UNDP will publish electronically at national, regional and global levels relevant materials related to the activities to the Action.
- Based on Article 8 of the General Conditions and the Joint visibility guidelines for EC-UN Actions in the Field, all appropriate measures will be taken to publicize the fact that an action has received funding from the European Union.

The EU logo and acknowledgement will be displayed in all hard-copy promotional materials which will be translated in all the languages of all respective countries involved in the project; on the invitation and the agenda of public presentations announcing project kick-off and project end, local level experience exchange roundtables and regional best practice sharing working meetings. The EU representatives from the EU Delegations will be invited to all respective national events as well as to the regional meetings of project stakeholders.

Additionally, all relevant project information and results will be disseminated through the proposed media and PR communication. Furthermore, UNDP will ensure that project tasks and actions are regularly published and updated on its regional web site <http://www.eurasia.undp.org> and UNDP websites of respective UNDP Country Offices participating in the project through regular activity and media reports. Press Conferences and press releases will be organized and prepared for several actions and tasks as planned within the project.

Visual identity, use of logos and disclaimers

All communication, information and press-statements will be in line with the Article 8 of the General Conditions and the [Joint Visibility Guidelines for EC-UN actions in the field](#). Templates will be developed for all communications materials, such as press release and media advisory.

Logo/Visual identity	Explanation and disclaimers
 <p>EUROPEAN UNION</p>	<p>The EU flag will be prominently displayed on all materials, events and products produced within the Project. In addition, all materials, publications, press-information, banners, etc. produced within the Project will duly contain the following disclaimer: "The UAKIS Project is funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)."</p>
	<p>In addition, the logo of the UNDP will also be displayed on all materials, events and products produced within the Action.</p>
<p>Logos of institutions members of the Project Board</p>	<p>Importantly, logos of relevant government institutions members of the Project Steering Committee will be displayed on all materials, events and products within the Project, so as to underline their engagement and ensure visibility for all partners.</p>

Annex 5. Gender Action Plan

Objective	Action	Indicator	Targets	Responsible	Timeline
Overall Coordination and GAP implementation					
Inclusion of GAP activities into annual planning and budgeting of project activities to achieve increased gender sensitiveness	<p>Recruit national Gender and Social expert (IC contract based)</p> <p>Include gender-related section into each training with consideration of various project target audiences</p>	<p>Gender and social expert recruited</p> <p>Number of trainings with gender sessions conducted; and number of participants attended (at least 30% of women) where possible.</p>	<p>At least 2 gender training modules developed, delivered in various trainings</p>	Project Manager, project team, Task Manager and national Gender and Social Expert, PR/Outreach contractor	2023
Ensuring inclusion of relevant gender mainstreaming and sensitivity into the project PR/outreach and communication activities	<p>Ensure that ToR for the PR/outreach contractor require the company to take gender into account during the planning and implementation of its outreach strategies</p> <p>Liaise with local women's organizations in different stages of the project</p> <p>Collect gender, age and locality disaggregated data at all stages of project</p> <p>Knowledge products and any printed materials are in gender sensitive and gender responsive language.</p> <p>Training panels are gender sensitive.</p>	<p>Gender mainstreaming and sensitivity requirements are presenter in TOR for PR/outreach contractor</p> <p>Number of women's movement and activists in regions provided inputs and/or represented in project training</p> <p>Number of gender sensitive indicators used at data collection process</p> <p>Number of gender sensitive knowledge products</p>	<p>PR/outreach activities implemented by the contractor are gender sensitive and mainstreamed</p> <p>At least 20 women's movement members and activists in regions provided inputs and/or represented in project training</p> <p>At least 2 gender targeted knowledge products are produced, published online and links distributed among beneficiaries</p> <p>At least 40/60 gender balance is ensured</p>	Project Manager, Task Manager and national Gender and Social Expert, PR/Outreach contractor	2023

	Trainings are conducted in a way to ensure women's voices are heard.	Number of women and men in training panels			
Output 1: Establish Agri-food Innovation Support and Brokerage Services					
Activity 1.1. Support and facilitate improvements in the policy and regulatory framework for effective implementation of the Agri-food Innovation Support and Brokerage Services and for scaled-up climate action in the agri-food sector	<p>Collect gender, age and locality disaggregated data</p> <p>Conduct gender analysis and consider implication of project activities to different genders and propose revision if necessary</p> <p>To demonstrate economic and social benefits of women in agricultural sector.</p> <p>Policy briefs are developed considered gendered implications</p>	<p>Gender, age and locality disaggregated data is available</p> <p>Number of gender sensitive knowledge products</p> <p>Number of women trained</p> <p>Number of women's led organisations, movements and activists involved strengthened with research and training interventions</p> <p>Number of gender sensitive policy briefs</p>	<p>Gender, age and locality disaggregated data is created and maintained</p> <p>At least 2 gender targeted knowledge products are developed, published online and links distributed among beneficiaries</p> <p>Gender analysis conducted annually</p> <p>At least 2 gender sensitive policy briefs of developed</p>	Project Manager, project team, Task Manager and national Gender and Social Expert, PR/Outreach contractor	2024
Activity 1.2. Building institutional capacity and partnerships among UAKIS stakeholders to effectively deliver Agri-food Innovation Support and Brokerage Services	<p>Ensuring at least 30% participation of women in capacity building activities, where possible</p> <p>Role models and success stories of women in agriculture</p> <p>Procurement aims at supporting women led businesses and following UNDP guidelines on gender sensitive</p>	<p>Number of women trained</p> <p>Number of role models and success stories</p> <p>Number of women-led businesses supported in procurement</p>	<p>At least 300 women capacitated with the best practices, knowledge products and lessons learned during the project implementation</p> <p>At least 10 role models and success stories are collected</p>	Project Manager, project team, Task Manager and national Gender and Social Expert, PR/Outreach contractor	2024

	procurement Education and methodological materials include knowledge products in gender mainstreaming in agriculture		At least 20 women-led businesses are supported in procurement		
Activity 1.3. Participatory planning and identification of project portfolios	Support women experts and women led businesses Role models and success stories of women in agriculture Consider brief gender review and implications in developing project portfolios	Number of women experts and businesswomen supported Number of project portfolios with gender review	At least 50 women experts and businesswomen involved in project activities	Project Manager, project team, national Gender and Social Expert, PR/Outreach contractor	2023

Output 2: Agri-food Innovation Operational Groups and Partnerships

Activity 2.1. Establishing the Agri-food Innovation Operational Groups and soliciting innovative proposals on climate-smart agriculture and transition to “green” agri-food value chains	Women led groups are included in Innovation Groups and partnership Ensure all women farmers actively participating in capacity building activities	Number of women led groups in Innovation groups Number of capacitated women farmers	At least 20 at least 200 women-stakeholders familiarized with gender-related	Project Manager, project team, national Gender and Social Expert, PR/Outreach contractor	2024
Activity 2.2. Delivery of training, capacity building and technical advice to the members and partners of the Agri-food Innovation	Ensure at least 30% participation of women in training activities where possible Ensuring active participation of women while involving local population groups.	Number of trained women	At least 300? stakeholders familiarized with gender-related assessments, best practices, knowledge products and lessons learned during the project implementation	Project Manager, project team, national Gender and Social Expert, PR/Outreach contractor	2024

Operational Groups	Ensure gender perspective in the consultations and exchange of technical experiences.	Number of women involved in local groups discussions Number of consultations and exchange of technical experience with gender perspective	At least 50 At least 20		
Activity 2.3. Delivering targeted financial support and investments for innovative projects with climate change mitigation and adaptation benefits	Selection criteria for financial support will include additional points for organisations employing women/women-led businesses/targeted support for women-businesses? Support for scaled-up climate action among farming communities includes criteria for actions to include gender perspective and analyse the impact of the actions to different groups of population	Number of gender targeted criteria developed Number of women led businesses, or business employing women supported. Number of gender analysis performed	At least 1 At least 10 At least at 50% of climate actions	Project Manager, project team, national Gender and Social Expert, PR/Outreach contractor	2022-23
Activity 2.4. Innovation networking and exchange program to promote uptake in other regions/areas	Women in all relevant groups, aiming at 30% (subject to change based gender analysis results at the initial stage) Women in agriculture network is created and supported: 1 seminar with engaged support form UNDP	Number of women involved in the relevant groups Network of women created UNDP employs IC performing the tasks of: Moderator Lawyer Financial	TBC At least 500 consultations are provided to the individual requests from the network of women in agriculture	Project Manager, project team, national Gender and Social Expert, PR/Outreach contractor	2022-2024

	on moderation, involvement of expertise of different	Advisor Business Consultant			
Monitoring and Evaluation/Project Management					
Ensuring set up of a proper gender sensitivity monitoring and reporting	Include gender sensitivity indicators into monitoring and reporting by the project team	Gender sensitivity indicators are included into the project monitoring and reporting (Yes/No)	All project monitoring and reporting (BTORs, annual targets, UNDAF planning and reporting) has gender indicators and targets	Project Manager, all Task Managers	Annually

Annex 6. Project Board Terms of Reference and TORs of key management positions

The Project Board will be responsible for making management decisions for the project, in particular when guidance is required by the Project Manager (PM). It will play a critical role in project monitoring and evaluations by assuring the quality of these processes and associated products, and by using evaluations for improving performance, accountability and learning. The Project Board will ensure that required resources are committed. It will also arbitrate on any conflicts within the project and negotiate solutions to any problems with external bodies. In case a consensus cannot be reached, final decision shall rest with UNDP.

Project reviews by PB are made at designated decision points during the running of a project (at least once a year), or as necessary when raised by the PM. In addition, it will approve the appointment and responsibilities of the PM and any delegation of its Project Assurance responsibilities. Based on the approved Annual Work Plan, the Project Board can also consider and approve the annual plan and approve any essential deviations from the original plans. In order to ensure UNDP's ultimate accountability, Project Board decisions should be made in accordance to standards that shall ensure best value to money, fairness, integrity, transparency and effective international competition. Potential members of the Project Board will be reviewed and recommended for approval during the Project Appraisal Committee (PAC) meeting. The Project Board will contain three distinct roles:

Executive Role: This function will represent the project "owners" and will chair the group. It is expected that the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources will appoint a senior official to this role who will ensure full government support of the project and serve as the National Project Coordinator (NPC).

Donor and Senior Supplier Role: This role requires the representation of interests of the parties concerned which provide funding for specific cost sharing projects and/or technical expertise to the project. The Senior Supplier and Donor's primary function within the Board will be to provide guidance regarding the technical feasibility of the project. This role will rest with UNDP Uzbekistan represented by the UNDP RR/DRR or designated official, and the EU Delegation in Uzbekistan, represented by the Head of Cooperation Section.

Senior Beneficiary Role: This role requires representing the interests of those who will ultimately benefit from the project. The Senior Beneficiary's primary function within the Board will be to ensure the realization of project results from the perspective of project beneficiaries. The principal project beneficiary is the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources, but other project beneficiaries (see section on Project Partners) will be duly involved and consulted during the strategic decision-making and monitoring process during the augmented Project Board meetings.

Project Assurance: The Project Assurance role supports the Project Board Executive by carrying out objective and independent project oversight and monitoring functions. The Project Assurance role will rest with UNDP Uzbekistan (Environmental and Energy Unit, supported when needed by the Resource Management Unit).

The Ministry of Agriculture will provide office premises for the project team as well as telephone communication lines, and the required expertise and services of their corresponding staff. During the inception period, all the necessary arrangement will be made to ensure that the staff dedicated to the project will be able to settle as soon as possible within the structure agreed with the Ministry. Local transport to visit demo sites by international consultants to conduct periodic monitoring, support of their relevant subdivisions and staff, and ensuring required access to relevant units will also be covered. This is considered as in-kind contribution to the project implementation to be provided by the Government of Uzbekistan. Other national project partners will contribute to the project by making their personnel/staff and expertise available as and when needed, as well as by

participating in relevant expert, seminars, workshops or management meetings and/or providing meeting/teaching/storage venues/locales as and when needed.

The office and technical equipment procured within the project will be handed over to the corresponding national organizations as grant-based technical assistance at agreement of the national Implementing Partner and the EU Delegation in Uzbekistan. Beneficiaries should grant access to all equipment procured through the project at any point during project implementation for monitoring purposes.

Terms of References

1. National Project Coordinator

The National Project Coordinator (the “Coordinator”) will be responsible for the overall management of the project activities, ensuring a proper workplan and budget is in place and implemented within set timelines, with an effective national team and strong partnerships.

The Coordinator is responsible for day-to-day management, administration and decision-making for the project, oversees planning process for the project and ensures its implementation in accordance with the signed project document, and mobilizes goods and services to activities, including drafting TORs and work specifications, manages requests for the provision of financial resources by UNDP, using advance of funds, direct payments, or reimbursement.

He/or She is accountable for ensuring that the project produces the results specified in the project document to the required standard of quality and within the specified constraints of time and cost, review and appraise of detailed project plans, including the multi-year work plan and ATLAS reports covering activity definition. The Coordinator manages the realization of project outputs through activities, ensures that project contributes to the promotion of gender equality by reaching, involving and benefiting both women and men in its activities (gender mainstreaming), provides guidance to project team working closely with the Technical Lead Advisor. The Coordinator will work closely with the Technical Lead Advisor in identifying partnership strategies with regard to providers of specialized expertise and possible co-financiers, resource mobilization for project components, and implementing possible synergies with donors funded projects. The Coordinator liaises with EU, donors, project partners, suppliers and beneficiaries when needed, prepares timely reports of project progress in line with UNDP and donor requirements.

The Coordinator will supervise the project team members, facilitate, guide and monitor the work of the national and international short-term experts, oversee the work of the Administrative Finance Assistant to ensure administrative requirements are managed and executed in a timely and appropriate manner and within UNDP and donor rules and regulations.

The Coordinator plans the activities jointly with the Technical Lead Advisor and monitors the progress of implementation of components against the initial quality criteria, analyses problems that hamper their implementation and takes appropriate measures to ensure timely delivery of required inputs and achievement of project-wide results. The Coordinator monitors and reports to UNDP and the donor on all financial and procurement matters of the project, including proper utilization of funds and delivery, budget revisions, availability of funds, reconciliation of accounts, establishment of internal control mechanisms. Acts as a focal point to liaise with auditors and ensures follow-up actions. Ensures the accuracy and reliability of financial information and reporting. The Coordinator’s functions on monitoring and management of the project risks include submission of new risks to the Steering Committee for consideration and decision on possible actions if required, updating the status of these risks by maintaining the Project Risks Log, managing issues and requests for change by maintaining an Issues Log.

The Coordinator’s scope of work includes monitoring and facilitation of advocacy and mass media outreach activities, newspapers coverage, PR campaigns in line with Communication and Visibility Plan of the project, organization of “field days”, workshops, and other events to introduce project outputs to all stakeholders involved, rendering support to related UNDP thematic activities such as publications, sharing of knowledge and group discussions.

At the project closing stage the Coordinator ensures proper operational, financial and programmatic closure of the project, prepares Final Project Review Reports jointly with the Technical Lead Advisor to be submitted to the Steering Committee, donor, identify follow-up actions and submit them for consideration to the Steering Committee, manages the transfer of project deliverables, documents, files, equipment and materials to national beneficiaries, prepares final CDR for signature by UNDP and the Implementing Partner.

2. Task Manager

The Task Manager will be responsible for the overall management of the project activities related to capacity building of national counterparts, involving in the AKIS development activities. He or She will ensure a.

He/or She is accountable for ensuring that proper program, workplan and budget is in place for the capacity building activities and implemented within set timelines, with an effective national team and strong partnerships. Under the Coordinator's supervision and in consultation with Technical Lead Advisor, Task Manager leads the realization of project capacity building program through activities, ensures contributes to the promotion of gender equality in the agricultural sector. The Task Manager's scope of work includes monitoring of efficiency of capacity building measures and preparing of detailed reports on outcomes of training.

Specific tasks of the Task Manager as follows:

- Operationalization of the UAKIS in line with the UAKIS Strategy and Roadmap as a Priority 7 of the Agriculture Strategy
- Addressing the existing challenges and the development of a modern, integrated, and flexible support system for the development of agriculture research, education, training, information, and advisory services
- Establishing evidence-based monitoring and evaluation system to feed into decision-making and investment planning process in agriculture sector
- Promoting the integration of Agri-food Innovation Support and Brokerage services to the new AKIS support infrastructure as its core component
- The process of establishing extension service centers in pilot regions, training and equipping extension services and facilities (public and private) to provide useful and usable advice and support on climate risk management, including drought management planning and adaptation technologies
- Ensuring the on a day-to-day basis the sound and timely implementation of all technical tasks related to operationalization of the UAKIS
- Support and facilitation of improvements in the policy and regulatory framework
- Building institutional capacity and partnerships among stakeholders
- Delivery of training, capacity building and technical advice to the members and partners of the agri-food innovation operational groups, and targeted financial support and investments for innovative projects with climate change mitigation and adaptation benefits
 - Perform other duties as needed within the scope of works.

4. Administrative/Finance Assistant (AFA)

Duties:

Under the guidance of National Project Coordinator, the Administrative/Finance Assistant provides support to project implementation performing a variety of standard administrative processes ensuring high quality and accuracy of work. The Administrative/Finance Assistant promotes a client, quality and results-oriented approach.

The Administrative/Finance Assistant works in close collaboration with the Environment and Energy Unit, UNDP Operations, projects staff and other UN agencies staff to exchange information and ensure consistent service delivery complying with UNDP rules and donor's requirements.

- Bear responsibilities for logistics, procurement, finance and recruitment for the project, in accordance with corporate UNDP rules and regulations as well as donor's requirements.
- Prepare all financial and administrative documents related to the project implementation.
- Develop quarterly and annual budget plans for recruitment of personnel; maintain financial records and monitoring systems to record and reconcile expenditures, balances, payments and other data for day-to-day transaction and reports;
- Advise and assist Project staff, experts and consultants on all respects of allowances, salary advances, travel claims and other financial and administrative matters, and calculate and authorize payments due for claims and services;
- Provide organizational and administrative support in implementation of project activities including organization of roundtables, workshops, trainings, working meetings and other events;
- Prepare detailed cost estimates and participate in budget analysis and projections as required to handle all financial operations of the project office, make cash payments and reconcile all accounts in required time frame;
- Maintain, update and transmit inventory records of non-expendable equipment in accordance with UNDP rules;
- Perform cash custodian's duties being primarily responsible for project's cash disbursements and maintain project's petty cash book and payrolls related to the regional offices;
- Ensure leave monitoring of project staff, check the accuracy and proper completion of monthly leave reports;
- Analyze the potential problems concerning administrative-financial issues and take respective measures to provide adequate project's resources on time for implementation of the project activities;
- Encourage awareness of and promotion of gender equality among project staff and partners;
- Ensure full compliance of administrative and financial processes and financial records with UNDP rules, regulations, policies and strategies;
- Define the cost-effective measures for optimal use of resources of the project;
- Perform other duties related to personnel, administrative and financial issues of project as required

5. Procurement Assistant

Duties:

Under the guidance of National Project Coordinator, the Administrative/Logistics and Procurement Assistant provides support to project implementation performing a variety of standard administrative/logistics and procurement processes ensuring high quality and accuracy of work. The Administrative/Logistics and Procurement Assistant promotes a client, quality and results-oriented approach.

The Administrative/Logistics and Procurement Assistant works in close collaboration with the Environment and Energy Unit, UNDP Operations, projects staff and other UN agencies staff to exchange information and ensure consistent service delivery complying with UNDP rules and donor's requirements.

Administrative/Logistics and Procurement Assistant performs the following duties and responsibilities:

- Assist in administrative and logistical arrangements for the project events (meetings, workshops and conferences) renting of premises, arrangement of accommodation, transportation, and provide of all related documents in time and properly, etc.;

- Assist the Procurement Unit in organizing competitive selection of a venue and services for the conferences, workshops and trainings according to the UNDP established procurement procedures;
- Assist the Administrative/Finance Assistant (AFA) with organizing and preparing procurement cases in line with UNDP rules;
- Assist in travel arrangements including liaison between travel agency for a route selection, finalization and purchase of tickets, visa arrangements for participants and experts according to the established procedures;
- Assist Project staff, experts and consultants on all respects of allowances, travel claims and other financial and administrative matters;
- Assist in maintenance of proper filing system for respective documentation;
- Coordinate and follow-up logistics and procurement issues with all respective units in operations;
- Perform other admin/logistic and procurement duties as required by the Project Management.

6. Driver

Duties:

Under the direct supervision of the Project Manager, the Driver will:

- Drive project vehicle for the transportation of authorized personnel, including international experts, and delivery and collection of mail, documents and other items;
- Meet official personnel at the airport and make errands for the project as required;
- Be responsible for the day-to-day maintenance of the assigned vehicle, check oil, water, battery, brakes, tires, etc.;
- Perform minor repairs and/or arrange for repairs as needed;
- Log official trips, daily mileage, gas consumption, oil changes, greasing, etc. and report to Project Manager on a monthly basis;
- Ensure that the vehicle is kept clean;
- Ensure that the steps required by rules and regulations are taken in case of involvement in accident;
- Perform other duties related to the scope of work of the Driver as required.