

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

Project Ref No	19-015
Project Title	Equitable access to pasture use for beekeepers in Kyrgyz Republic
Country	Kyrgyz Republic
UK Organisation	Bees for Development
Collaborators	The Rural Development Fund and the Republican Association of Beekeepers, Kyrgyz Republic
Project Leader	Dr Nicola Bradbear
Report date	31 October 2012
Report No.	HYR 1
Project website	http://darwin.defra.gov.uk/featured-project/2012-04-19015/ http://www.beesfordevelopment.org/what-we-do/internationalprojects/kyrgyzstan

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project.

Output 1: Changed perceptions about the role of beekeepers and their land use.

Activity 1.1: The Rural Development Fund (RDF) Project Manager, Community Development Specialist and Social Mobiliser undertook participatory rural appraisal during inception meetings with beekeepers, herders and local government including the Pasture Users Union (PUU) at three villages in the project location of Chon-Kemin.

Activity 1.2: Community dialogues (images included at Appendix 1) identified constraints:

- a) Non-local (Russian) beekeepers do not interact with local community members.
- b) Beekeepers face bribery in the charges levied for access to pasture.
- c) Multiple agents hold customary or assumed rights to regulate pasture use; these include the local pasture users union, forestry department, and private owners. Each may charge beekeepers for access to the pasture.
- d) Beekeeping is not widely practiced especially by local young people.
- e) High pasture infrastructure is not well maintained in the post-Soviet era.

Output 2: Improved tenure regime for beekeepers.

Activity 2.1: Legal and institutional review: The law on beekeeping was reviewed together with the Pasture Law and proposed amendments to it currently tabled through the beekeepers' association (RAB). RDF and RAB have agreed an approach to joint working in the proposal of legislative amendments to the committee responsible for Pasture Law reform, on which they both sit.

Institutional review will be ongoing throughout the project. To date it reveals that legislation in force is not well known or implemented by responsible organisations at the local level.

Output 3: Socially agreed-upon arrangements for beekeepers' access to pasture

Activity 3.1: Beekeepers' map of forage areas and land tenure: initial mapping in Chon-Kemin took place with local and non-local beekeepers. Images at Appendix 2. Sketch maps were transferred to base maps for GPS use. Mapping reveals that local beekeepers do not migrate with their hives during the summer months. Meanwhile non-local beekeepers move from the valleys into the project area and remain there over the summer months.

Activity 3.2: Incorporate maps into the Pasture Use Plans: We propose the Social Tenure Domain Model (STDM: <http://www.fig.net/pub/figpub/pub52/figpub52.pdf>) as an appropriate system for capturing the overlapping and sometimes conflicting claims of multiple parties to the pasture used by beekeepers in Chon-Kemin. We are discussing the possibility to use this software as part of its trialling with STDM developers.

Output 4: Beekeepers associations advocate better

Activity 4.1: Training in advocacy for RAB members: Training needs identified include bees' pollination services to wild pastures and Kyrgyz agriculture; European Union market requirements for Kyrgyz honey and beeswax export, including consumers' and buyers' preferences and food

safety regulation. Development of training materials in these areas is underway.

Output 5: 60 young herders are equipped with the skills to start beekeeping and with continued support to generate income from small beekeeping businesses.

Activity 5.1: Apiculture apprenticeship scheme: Plans for the apiculture apprenticeship scheme are agreed between partners based on needs assessment at the project location, and Kyrgyz language training providers have been identified. We are currently sourcing funds to provide some tailored input on disease control appropriate for prevailing conditions. The Ministry of Agriculture is undertaking interesting research on the use of natural medicines which will be incorporated into this program - if their results are ready in time.

Activity 5.2: Seed grants program to start up/support beekeeping: Plans for the seed grants program are agreed between partners, including for the identification of grantees amongst community members.

Output 6: Awareness raised among all land user groups, local government and PUUs.

Activity 6.1: Production and distribution of information materials on pollination and sustainable beekeeping: Partners are working on the development of information materials specific to the Kyrgyz context. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation has created a tool for estimating the economic value of insect pollination to national agricultural output, and this tool is now being applied to Kyrgyz Republic. Some common misconceptions about honey bees have been identified through consultations, and materials to counter these are under development.

Activity 6.2: Public events celebrating bees: The first public event – the National Honey Fair - will take place in November 2012. RDF's Public Information and Awareness Specialist is preparing a brochure for this event, and a schedule of further public competitions, press releases and press conferences.

7: Project start up and administration Activities took place as planned

8: Monitoring and evaluation Activities took place as planned.

2. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

Output 3: The development of the Social Tenure Domain Model (STDM) was unexpected but would provide an excellent opportunity.

Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

Output 3: No discussion with LTS, this is not a material change.

A change proposal concerning activities under outputs 5 and 6 has been submitted to LTS. This has been agreed with partners based on logistical considerations and has no impact on the project's outputs, purpose or sub-goal.

Discussed with LTS: Yes, in Sep / 2012

Formal change request submitted: Yes, in Oct / 2012

Received confirmation of change acceptance: No

3. Do you expect to have any significant (eg more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year? No

Estimated carry forward request: £4,506.5

The change request detailed in part 2 covers this budget change. No further budget change is anticipated.

4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures? Due to maternity leave, Lizzie McLeod's post of Project Coordinator will be filled by Becky Cardy (rebeccacardy@beesfordevelopment.org; 01600 714848) over the next ten months.

If you were asked to provide a response to this year's annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document. N/a.