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## Press Release

### USAID Supports Fifth International Agricultural Exhibition in the South of Kyrgyzstan

The fifth International Agricultural exhibition of the Ferghana Valley “AgroExpo Silk Way” took place on February 26 – 28, 2009 at the Osh Kyrgyz Drama Theater named after Sultan Ibraimov. The exhibition was organized by the Association of Agrobusinessmen of Kyrgyzstan (AAK) “Jer Azygy” and supported by the Kyrgyz Agri-input Enterprise Development Project KAED/IFDC and funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The main purpose of the exhibition “AgroExpo Silk Way” is to integrate international agricultural sector and regional market dealers aimed at establishing trade relations throughout the Ferghana Valley (Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan). The theme of the AgroExpo 2009 exhibition is “Food Security in Kyrgyzstan.”

Companies from Asia and Europe, covering all areas of the agricultural industry – including companies-producers and suppliers of agro-input, agricultural equipment, machinery, and suppliers of equipment for food processing – participated in the exhibition.

“AgroExpo Silk Way – 2009” is a unique opportunity for the agricultural sector of Central Asia to build business relations and to communicate regarding a wide range of agro-input, agricultural equipment, seeds types, fertilizers, crop protecting agents, and other products necessary for agricultural producers. The exhibition included seminars on a variety of topics – with the participation of international companies and agricultural experts. Local and regional producers had the opportunity to buy different goods prior to the season and obtain essential information for successful business management.

The AAK “Jer Azygy” has five years’ experience in organizing and conducting international exhibitions with technical and financial assistance from USAID.

Some facts about the exhibition “AgroExpo Silk Way”:

1. Approximately 50 companies from 14 countries of the world participate in the exhibition each year.
2. Over 2000 people from Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan visit the exhibition each year.
3. Exhibition participants sign business contracts in excess of 10 million KGS every year.
4. More than 200 representatives of the agricultural sector attend trainings during the exhibition each year.

The AAK “Jer Azygy” is a non-profit organization established in 2002 with USAID assistance and currently integrates, represents, and coordinates the work of more than 140 producers, suppliers, and dealers of agro-inputs in the Kyrgyz Republic. The association successfully works in three directions: the protection of rights and interests, networking, and training.

Development of the agricultural sector is an area of focus for USAID funding. Since 1992, the American people through USAID have provided over \$400 million in programs that support Kyrgyzstan’s democratic institutions, healthcare, education, and economic growth.