



## Sustainable Agriculture in Jar-Kishlok, Kyrgyzstan



**Financial support:** WECF, Mehr-Shavkat  
**Program:** empowerment, sustainable agriculture  
**Project management and design:** WECF  
**Project partners:** WECF, Mehr-Shavkat  
**Start of activities:** 2012

### Key Message

Gaining agricultural knowledge and financial support facilitated by the EWA project allows for a rural mother's new business to grow.

### Background

Minavarkhan Akhmedova, wife and mother of 4 children, lives in Jar-Kishlok village, Chek-Abad district. Her family owns a small piece of land, 0.4 acres, and has often faced financial hardship due to a lack of agricultural knowledge leading to unemployment. In 2012, Minavarkhan became a member of the Jar-Kishlok SHG group, her commitment, enthusiasm and contributions lead to her being elected as the group leader. Inspired by her peers vote of confidence in her she participated in all areas of training organized and provided by the project to enable herself to learn as much as possible in order to benefit her family, and her village. During such training she acquired knowledge of various agricultural activities and how to run a successful and sustainable business.

### Action

In 2014, Minavarkhan began to plan her proposed agricultural business venture, to begin producing early growing cucumbers in greenhouses on her land. She consulted with agriculture experts and took recommendations from the project coordinator, Minavarkhan Akhmedovf, with regards to how to create a business plan and other business activities. With a loan obtained from Mehr-Shavkat for a total of 26400KGS (approximately 350 Euros), repayable over a 7-month period at an interest rate of 24% per year, Minavarkhan began to nurture her business. The financial breakdown is available. Despite the small plot of land, Minavarkhan's sheer determination, hard work and family support enabled her to generate an



*Minavarkhan and project co-ordinators planning meeting*

overall profit of 212000KGS, after making a loan repayment Minavarkhan was left with 171600KGS of profit. Her 2014 crop amounted to 11,200 tons of fresh produce compared to 8000 in 2013. In comparison to previous years Minavarkhan's income has increased tremendously, she quotes that her income has increased by 40%, therefore she now has financial security and is able to repay her loan. This financial security also means that Minavarkhan's husband can return home to the village and his family after having to work in Russia as a labour migrant, they now work together.

In 2015, supported by her recent financial gains, she obtained a second loan in order to purchase a new piece of land to expand her agricultural business. On this land, 0.3 acres bought for 250000KGS, she intends on selling her produce. Furthermore, last year Minavarkhan established a contract with a wholesale buyer from Jalal-Abad oblast. This has turned into a fruitful working relationship creating more profits for Minavarkhan. This year she hopes to increase and expand wholesale relations.

#### For more information:

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