



A Source of Peace – Transboundary Water Management in Central Asia

Alternative irrigation water supply for Garauti

Context

Garauti is a village close to the Vakhsh river in Khatlon Oblast (administrative district) in the very southwest of Tajikistan. A Soviet-era irrigation scheme supplies the village with water from the river, pumping it up over several different levels. Originally the scheme irrigated 12,380 hectares of arable land and almost the entire local population of about 24,000 people earned their living from agricultural production.



Large areas of land are deserted at Garauti because of the decline in agriculture

Since the breakup of the Soviet Union and the Tajik civil war in the early 1990s, most of the pumps and the hydro-technical infrastructure at Garauti fell into disrepair. The

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Project term:	Dec. 2009 – Dec. 2011
Budget:	40,000 Euro

amount of water now available for irrigation is decreasing and villages have become blighted by a

glut of socio-economic problems. It is becoming evermore difficult for the population to make a living from agriculture, especially as the sector had never been that highly productive anyway. The poor quality of drinking water in the area only adds to the problem and, as a consequence of this, many villagers have already migrated to other parts of the country.

Objective

The purpose of this project is to increase the capacity of the irrigation management authorities and help them establish efficient irrigation practices. To this end, alternative methods of water supply for the Garauti scheme will be considered.



A cascade of five pump stations supplied irrigation water to lands around Garauti

In so doing, the project will lay the foundations for an improved agriculture based on more efficient irrigation. By the end of the project, national and local stakeholders will agree the options to take forward to increase the efficiency of the Garauti irrigation scheme. Furthermore, the Ministry of

Amelioration and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan is committed to funding the implementation of several of these options.

Measures

To meet the project objective the following steps are being undertaken:

At first, a baseline and pre-feasibility study will identify alternative water supply options. Relevant stakeholders will then agree on a set of criteria and use these to assess the different options. 'Tajik Giprovodkhoz', the national water infrastructure design institute, is supporting this evaluation process.

A feasibility study and joint trials with the Ministry of Amelioration and Water Resources will be undertaken for each of the selected options. To raise the funds required for implementation, the findings of the feasibility study will then be presented to international financial institutions, including the KfW Entwicklungsbank (German federal

development bank) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

In parallel, the project will provide agricultural advisory services to local farmers to help them improve productivity. The advice will focus in particular on the benefits of crop diversification and better marketing.



An issue in Garauti is the quality and accessibility of drinking water

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