

## Project for Development of Rural Business with Forest Products in the Kyrgyz Republic

### Overview

Forest coverage in the Kyrgyz Republic decreased due to insufficient forest management capacity of the government during the Soviet era.

To ensure efficient forest management, the Kyrgyz government has undertaken reforms and adopted the Joint Forest Management (JFM) scheme, in which forest users (JFM tenants) manage forests based on agreement with Forestry Enterprises (FEs) and village associations. To help the Kyrgyz government make adequate institutional arrangements for JFM promotion, Japan supported the “JFM support project”, in which pilot JFM projects were successfully implemented in 10 locations, resulting in the development of JFM guidelines.

The Kyrgyz government intends to further promote JFM and encourage more JFM tenants from local communities and private companies do business with forest products. The “project” therefore supports the implementation of business promotion plans by its target FEs and the development of a “nationwide forest products business action plan”. By demonstrating good practices of forest products business promotion to stakeholders nationwide, the project contributes to the development of forest products business of the country.



### Project Site

12 target FEs in three target provinces (Chui, Talas, and Issyk-Kul)



### Purpose

The Project Purpose is to establish systems to promote forest products business through JFM in three provinces, based on lessons from business promotion activities by its target FEs. The project is expected to develop a nationwide action plan to promote forest products business and share it with stakeholders.

### Activities/Outputs

With support by the project, the target FEs have been putting into practice the plans to promote forest products business in their territories.

#### Promotion of JFM:

In Chui, a FE conducted tenders for leasing forest lands in a manner developed with the project. Two private companies have become JFM tenants to develop fruit orchards.

#### Forest products production:

Hands-on training programs have been conducted for JFM tenants and FE staff in 10 FEs in terms of apple and apricot cultivation techniques. In addition, 7 FEs have started experiments of fruits seedling cultivation and learned new techniques through third-country training programs.

#### Forest products processing and marketing:

2 FEs are formulating business plans to attract private investors looking to process fruits business with raw materials produced by JFM tenants. In another FE a Community-Based Organisation has started fruits processing activities complying with technical standards of HACCP.