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**UZBEKISTAN**

## SUCCESS STORY

### Uzbek farmer reaps benefits from USAID's forums

**USAID forums provide momentum for trade between Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan**



*Abdugaffo Akhmedov, Director of the Farm, admires his high-yield cherry trees.*

*"It is difficult for Uzbek farmers to find buyers in Kazakhstan. I am very grateful to USAID for organizing the meetings with Kazakh entrepreneurs. These forums have opened new opportunities to establish business linkages between the two countries."*

*Abdugaffo Akhmedov, Director of Abdurahmon-Abdugaffo-Davr farming enterprise.*

The Abdurahmon-Abdugaffo-Davr farm employs innovative agricultural production techniques to achieve greater efficiencies and increase crop yields. The farm grows apples, cherries, pomegranats, date-plums, and grapes.

Increased harvests are exciting, but many farmers lack buyers for their increased crops. As Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan are traditional trade partners, Abdugaffo Akhmedov, Director of the Davr farm, has been seeking a new market for his products in the neighboring country. For this reason, he participated in two forums focused on increasing trade between Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan that were co-hosted by USAID's Regional Economic Cooperation (REC) project, the Uzbekistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Center of Agrolnformation-Innovation of Uzbekistan and the Atameken National Economic Chamber of Kazakhstan. In April 2013, USAID's REC project brought together more than 12 Kazakh companies and 30 Uzbek companies, government officials, and other partners at a roundtable in Tashkent to discuss how to strengthen the production and export potential of Uzbek producers. In July 2013, 50 Kazakh and 30 Uzbek entrepreneurs participated in a similar event in Almaty where participants discussed ways to promote trade, manage sanitary measures, register businesses, and improve transport and logistics infrastructure development. The two forums provided a platform for networking opportunities and establishing business contacts between Kazakh and Uzbek entrepreneurs.

Through these networking opportunities, the Davr farm signed three contracts to supply horticultural products to Kazakhstan valued at \$1.4 million, significantly increasing the farm's sales and future potential investments.