

3.5 The Intervention Logic

The outcomes and outputs of the Action will support achieving the ultimate goal of contributing to the development of a sustainable market oriented and inclusive agri-food system that will increase farm income, expand livelihood opportunities and enhance food and nutrition security for smallholder farmers, women and the most vulnerable groups in Uzbekistan (2023-26). The action is divided into two outcomes to support 1) the implementation framework of the agri-food development strategy enabling inclusive development of a fair, healthy and climate smart agri-food system; and 2) sustainable livelihood opportunities, decent jobs and access to markets for the most vulnerable (smallholders, MSMEs, youth, women, disabled, migrants). The action is, consequently, designed to create a conducive and sustainable agri-food system while addressing downstream challenges of integrating small-scale farmers into modern value chains and ensuring livelihoods opportunities for women, youth and the most vulnerable. The continued EU technical assistance will be provided to develop capacities of the MoA and other public agencies while strengthening the policy and governance system. The latter outcome will be achieved by ensuring that local level capacity is available to organise smallholder farmers into cooperatives and develop their business and marketing skills to better access local and regional markets. This in turn will require facilitating links and partnerships with private sector stakeholders whilst protecting the interests of the target beneficiaries.

The induced outputs include actions aimed at improving the policy and regulatory framework to support competitive, inclusive and fair value chains, ensuring compliance with international and national standards for food safety, pesticide use and sanitary and phytosanitary regulatory measures. Attention will also be given to strengthening institutional capacities for the uptake of environmentally sustainable practices, ensuring equal access and rights to land use for women and men, interventions to address nutrition security and the promotion of entrepreneurship for smallholder farmers, women and youth. These activities will be supported by strengthened institutional capacities for PFM and strategic planning and management of the broad development programme portfolio.

The direct outputs of budgetary support will increase the technical and financial capacities of the MoA to enhance performance of government services. The action will directly support policy dialogue with the national authorities, private sector, civil society and development partners to better coordinate, integrate and align development cooperation. Attention will be placed on increasing public sector capacities for programme formulation, planning, policy analysis, research, statistics and public sector finance management systems. By targeting identified institutional, regulatory and organisational weaknesses in the existing sector governance structures, strategic planning and policy coordination between relevant Ministries and agencies will be strengthened, absorption capacities will be bolstered, and technical capacities established in the provision of core services and support systems. This will also assist in improving accountability in the use of public funds.

The changes in outcomes and impacts are expected from Government policies together with private sector and civil society initiatives as well as those of other development programmes. To achieve this intervention logic, there needs to be a continued commitment from the government to the gradual dismantling of the former centrally planned economic structures and systems and a move towards a more participatory and inclusive rural development free from state interference and direct control over individual farms and agribusinesses.