Tsesna Astyk Group of Companies is a leading Kazakhstani company in the cereal processing sector, produceing high quality food products from Kazakhstani grain. USAID’s Regional Economic Cooperation Project (REC) has been working with Tsesna Astyk since 2012.

With USAID assistance in meeting international production standards, the company obtained International Organization for Standardization (ISO) certification.

USAID recommended that the US Department of Defense include Tsesna Astyk on its list of food supplier vendors. After a thorough audit by one of DOD’s prime vendors, Tsesna Astyk was provided with a list of recommended updgrades in to its production needed to become a food supplier for the US DOD.

USAID supported Tsesna Astyk in obtaining all necessary ISO certifications and become certiffied by the DOD’s Public Health Command. Based on the audit results, in October 2013 the company was included in the directory of approved food suppliers for the US Armed Forces.

Due to the withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan, Tsesna Astyk did not begin supplying the DOD in Afghanistan. However, its ISO certification and inclusion in the list of US DOD-approved food suppliers have added significantly to the company’s credibility.

With this new found credibility, in December 2014, the company won the UN World Food Program’s bid to supply more than 200 tons of flour valued at approximately $150,000. Similarly, the company signed a half million dollar deal to become a large scale supplier with Caspian International Restaurants Company which is a Kazakhstani subsidiary of the US restaurant chain KFC.