



SNAPSHOT “Instant Game Changer”

Farmers apply new techniques they learned in America



Photo: Elena Abdramanova

New budding techniques are saving this farmer a whole year of production.

“I just learned about new budding techniques that produce saplings in one year instead of two. It was right at the time of the year to do it. So I called my family to immediately bud the trees in order not to miss the season and waste one year. I am sure results are not long to come!”

- Tojiddin Toshpulatov
Uzbek Farmer

The USAID Agricultural Linkages Plus Project (AgLinks Plus) initiated a visitor exchange program in collaboration with the International House at Davis (University of California). Under the Uzbek Horticulture Exchange Program, 38 public and private sector project leaders have participated in four seasonal trips to California. Each exchange, timed to coincide with the Uzbek and California cropping seasons, focused on a specific theme: pruning and trellising fruit trees and grapes, best nursery practices, best cold storage practices, and grape and raisin production best practices.

Horticultural Exchange Programs are a natural extension of the network of demonstration plots AgLinks Plus has supported across all project crops and activities. Participants experienced world-class facilities, technologies, and techniques by visiting best practice operations and field and production locations. More importantly, participants are not just looking and seeing, they are *adapting* what they see to their own circumstances in Uzbekistan.

Tojiddin Toshpulatov operates a small private nursery with his family in Namangan Province. Mr. Toshpulatov participated in the exchange focused on best nursery practices that visited many of the largest private nurseries in California. At one of these facilities, Mr. Toshpulatov observed a field budding technique that would allow him to produce saplings for his customers in one year instead of two, a technique he was not using at his nursery in Uzbekistan. Because these tours are timed to coincide with seasonal activities, Mr. Toshpulatov called his family back in Uzbekistan. He instructed his son to begin immediately budding their saplings, describing the process over the phone, to eliminate a full year of product development and market the output more quickly.

The USAID AgLinks Plus project is achieving excellent adaption rates by supporting best practice demonstrations—the look, see, do approach—and helping disseminate state-of-the-art information to its stakeholders. Horticultural Exchange Program tours are an important project activity that helps fuel the adaption of critical technology.

Telling Our Story

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