GERMAN SOCIETY FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION (GTZ) ACTIVITIES IN KARAKALPAKSTAN

Kamal Hamidov
Karakalpak State University
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Summary: This article conducts a short historical review of the first activities made by the German society for technical cooperation (GTZ) in the Aral Sea region of the Republic of Uzbekistan (Karakalpakstan) during the early years after getting the Independence. It indicates that in 1996, upon signing the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between Uzbekistan and the European Union, the German society for technical cooperation among the first international aid organizations responded to the call of Uzbekistan for the collaboration in the field of environmental issues and greatly contributed to improvement of living standards of people living in most remote communities of Karakalpakstan. In this article the author reviewed only a small number of the projects that were implemented in the Aral Sea region by GTZ within the period of till 2010, thus the article does not claim to fully reporting all the activities by this organization. However, this subject requires further researches, which will be subject for our next publications related to the international collaboration of Uzbekistan with donor organizations aimed at improving living standards in the Aral Sea region.
Keywords: German society for technical cooperation (GTZ), Central Asia, Aral Sea region, International collaborations, afforestation, natural resources, economic and environmental well-being, technical assistance.

Xulosa: Ushbu maqolada Germaniya texnik hamkorlik jamiyati (GTZ) tomonidan O‘zbekiston Respublikasining Orol dengizi mintaqasida mustaqillikka erishgan dastlabki yillarda amalga oshirilgan tadbirlarning qisqacha tarixiy sharhi keltirilgan. Unda aytilishicha, 1996 yilda O'zbekiston va Yevropa Ittifoqi o'rtasida hamkorlik va hamkorlik to'g'risidagi bitim imzolangandan so'ng, Germaniya texnik hamkorlik jamiyati birinchi xalqaro yordam tashkilotlari qatorida O'zbekistonning atrof-muhitni muhofaza qilish sohasida hamkorlik qilishga chaqirig'iga javob berdi va Qoraqalpog'iston Respublikasi uzoq aholi punktlarida yashovchi odamlarning turmush darajasini oshirishga katta hissa qo'shdi. Ushbu maqolada muallif 2010 yilgacha Orol dengizi mintaqasida GTZ tomonidan amalga oshirilgan loyihalarning faqat oz sonini ko‘rib chiqqan, shuning uchun maqola ushbu tashkilotning barcha faoliyatini to‘liq yoritishga da’vo qilmaydi. Biroq bu mavzu Orolbo‘yi mintaqasida turmush darajasini oshirishga qaratilgan O‘zbekistonning donor tashkilotlar bilan xalqaro hamkorligiga bag‘ishlangan keyingi nashrlarimiz mavzusi bo‘ladigan qo‘shimcha tadqiqotlarni talab etadi.
Kalit so‘zlar: Germaniya texnik hamkorlik jamiyati (GTZ), Markaziy Osiyo, Orol dengizi mintaqasi, xalqaro hamkorlik, o‘rmonzorlashtirish, tabiiy resurslar, iqtisodiy va ekologik farovonlik, texnik yordam.

Резюме: в данной статье представлен краткий исторический обзор мероприятий, проведенных Немецким обществом технического сотрудничества (GTZ) в регионе Аральского моря Республики Узбекистан в первые годы после обретения независимости. В нем указывается, что в 1996 году, после подписания Соглашения о партнерстве и сотрудничестве между Узбекистаном и Европейским союзом, Немецкое общество технического сотрудничества в числе

первых международных организаций по оказанию помощи откликнулось на призыв Узбекистана к сотрудничеству в области охраны окружающей среды и внесло значительный вклад в повышение уровня жизни людей, проживающих в отдаленных населенных пунктах Каракалпакстана. В данной статье автор рассмотрел лишь небольшое количество проектов, которые были реализованы GTZ в регионе Аральского моря в период до 2010 года, поэтому статья не претендует на полное освещение всей деятельности этой организации. Однако эта тема требует дальнейших исследований, которые станут темой наших следующих публикаций, посвященных международному сотрудничеству Узбекистана с донорскими организациями, направленному на повышение уровня жизни в регионе Приаралья.

Ключевые слова: Немецкое общество технического сотрудничества (GTZ), Центральная Азия, регион Аральского моря, международное сотрудничество, облесение, природные ресурсы, экономическое и экологическое благополучие, техническая помощь.

After getting the Independence, as one of the first steps of collaboration with the European countries, it can be indicated to the establishment of the bilateral cooperation of the Republic of Uzbekistan with Germany. In 1992, the Coordinating Bureau of the German Society for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) was established in Uzbekistan. As a globally active federal enterprise engaged in international cooperation for sustainable development, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH supports the German Federal Government in implementing its development assistance policy goals abroad. The company offers promising solutions for political, economic, environmental and social development in the world, as well as supports the processes of large-scale reforms and transformations. The main goal of this organization is to assist in the sustainable improvement of people's living conditions.

In Uzbekistan, this organization has set the task of promoting reforms in the fields of economics, education, ecology, law, healthcare and social life. On behalf of the Federal Government, represented by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and other German government agencies, GTZ implemented projects in Uzbekistan as part of the components of regional projects in Central Asia. The main directions of the GTZ in Uzbekistan were identified as holding seminars on growing fodder crops, vegetables in greenhouses and fish farming in artificial reservoirs, exporting melons and introducing international quality standards into production, as well as holding an event on the introduction of alternative energy sources.

One of the first projects of the GTZ in Karakalpakstan was the implementation of the project "Afforestation of the dried bottom of the Aral Sea and improvement of the private sector of agriculture in Uzbekistan", launched in 2001. The aim of the project was to gradually and continuously improve the environmental situation through large-scale afforestation activities on the dried-up bottom of the Aral Sea and to assist the local population through improving the environmental situation and using existing natural resources. For example, one of the practical goals was to reduce the level of erosion, especially toxic salts and dirt in the soil for further stable use in economic activities.

In 2001-2008, several more projects were implemented in Karakalpakstan by the GTZ, including "Assistance to improving economic and environmental well-being in the Aral Sea region", "Stabilization and use of the drained bottom of the Aral Sea", "Sustainable control of harmful locusts in Central Asia",

"Control of the Baluchistan melon fly". Specific targeted support and project implementation practices have become the basis of all GTZ activities. In all projects, work was carried out in certain areas selected for experiments by exploring certain opportunities and similar indicators (climatic, landscape, etc.).

Thus, the GTZ contributed to the implementation of the project "Promoting the improvement of economic and environmental well-being in the Aral Sea region", the main purpose of which was to create new sources of income for the rural population of Karakalpakstan. Cooperation was carried out primarily with farms (small and household farms), as well as with small and medium-sized businesses in the agricultural sector and fish farming. The specific goal was to improve the living conditions, especially of the rural population in specific areas of the region. In 2010, the project selected 4 biological laboratories and two greenhouses in the Chimbay, Ellikkala, Amudarya and Nukus districts of Karakalpakstan to improve and diversify the diversity of beneficial insects. First of all, it was supposed to familiarize the staff of the biological laboratories and greenhouse farms with German technologies in Germany.

Then experiments were started in the Chimbay and Amudarya distsricts, where optimization or improvement of the use of the useful insect "trichogram" has been implemented, experiments have been conducted in the cotton fields to combat the cotton shovel. The results were compared with conventional methods existing in the Republic of Uzbekistan and, depending on the effectiveness, they implemented in production. In the Nukus and Ellikkala districts, there have been conducted a project on diversification to use in greenhouses of a new type of useful insect "encarzia" against whitefly, which had not been used in Karakalpakstan until that time.

In 2009, the GTZ, having studied the situation in animal husbandry and feed production in Karakalpakstan, identified the need to grow alfalfa in farms in Beruniy, Chimbay, Kegeily Nukus districts. The Association of Farms of the Republic of Karakalpakstan acted as a partner of the GTZ for the implementation of the component "Urgent measures to support alfalfa production in the Republic of Karakalpakstan". In the fall of 2009, the implementation of the component began: alfalfa seeds were purchased for sowing next spring and transferred to farmers with a calculation of 90 kg per 5 hectares.

The direction and fields of activity of the GTZ were diverse. For example, in order to determine the situation and problems in improving the well-being of the population, in 2009, with the support of the Women's Committee, a survey was conducted among households. In April 2010, 45 women farmers from Karakalpakstan travelled on a study tour to Bukhara. It is planned to organize an intensive course for women in the garment industry in the city of Nukus and in pilot areas during the year.

In the field of fisheries in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, the GTZ planned to carry out activities based on the State Program for the Development of Fish Farming in the Republic of Karakalpakstan for 2010-2011, which is consistent with the research of German and Uzbek experts within the framework of the project for the development of "Community management of fisheries". The main priority in this case is the involvement of local self-government structures of citizens, the Association of Farms and Fish Farmers in active management and organization of project work. Special attention has been paid to these structures as key players in strengthening advisory services to the public, in particular to farms, on fish farming and ensuring the sustainability of the project.

In 2009, the GTZ launched a program to improve the economic and environmental well-being in the Aral Sea region, which aimed to support actions and activities in the estuaries of the Amu Darya and Syrdarya rivers focused on developing opportunities in the face of dwindling resources.

In general, the program used a multi-level approach, the implementation of which is carried out within the framework of the GTZ economic support program for Central Asian countries, as well as strategies of the Republic of Uzbekistan to improve welfare and territorial development. Thus, at the micro and central levels, technical assistance is provided to agricultural producers, small farmers, small and medium-sized enterprises in the agricultural sector, livestock industry, and fishing industry, as well as relevant processing industries and service providers. Activities at this level were also designed to meet the specific needs and needs of women.

Recommendations

- In the context of the environmental disaster in the Aral Sea region, it is necessary to expand collaboration between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the German government to increase the scale of the cooperation aimed at mitigating the negative consequences of the Aral Sea catastrophe.
- Along the technical collaboration with the European aid organizations, it would be important to draw more attention to the implementation of practical demonstration projects in order to replicate in different districts of Karakalpakstan to accelerate local development.
- Conduct research activities to identify new spheres of collaboration between Uzbekistan with focus to the Aral Sea region in order to raise the level of cooperation with the German partners.
- Develop new programs for capacity building among the youth in educational institutes to promote German culture, language and experience exchanges between two countries.

Conclusion

Collaboration between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the German aid organizations, including the GTZ has produced positive outcomes, especially in the environment related projects implemented in the Aral Sea region of Uzbekistan. Karakalpakstan which is considered as an epicenter of the Aral Sea disaster compared to other regions of Uzbekistan much suffered from the negative influences of the environment. The projects implemented by GTZ were timely assistance to the local residents of Karakalpakstan. The GTZ is among the very few international organizations which has proven its dedication to collaboration with Uzbekistan in the field of humanitarian assistance. In this article, due to small availability of the materials, we were able to review restricted number of the projects implemented in Karakalpakstan, though, this organization has realized much. From the research point of view, there is a need to conduct expansive review the GTZ projects in the Aral Sea region including its humanitarian, technical, investment aspects that contributed to the development and enhancement of living standards in Karakalpakstan.

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