



2016 Aarhus Centers Annual Meeting

Role of Aarhus Centers in Promotion of Principles of Green Economy

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Geographical location of Rasht district

- Rasht district is located about 200km north-east of Dushanbe and is considered as a mountainous region; 99,7% of its territory are mountains and 5,5 – 6% covered by forests.
- is an agrarian district. Main source of income of population comes from horticulture, farming and husbandry. Rasht mountain and valleys are used as a pastureland for the farmers from other region of Tajikistan.
- doesn't have big factories, plants and other industrial facilities, therefore low risk of contamination by hazardous waste.
- has rich hydropotential: 3 main rivers Surkhob, Sangi Kar, Sorbog, glaciers, small lakes, springs that are main source of potable water in the district.
- Region in general is rich in natural resources such as coal, marble, medicinal plants, favorable conditions for agriculture.



The region is in need of initiatives fostering environmentally sustainable use and management of natural resources, development of ecotourism, sustainable water resources management, waste management, restoration of forests, which is essential for promotion of green economy.

Main Challenges

- ***Utilization of domestic waste; increase of quantity of plastic waste, lack of technologies and facilities for recycling of domestic waste.***
- ***Lack of access to “green” credits.***
- ***Increase of construction sites as a result of intensive growth of population and expansion of town.***
- ***Unsustainable use of natural resources, deforestation, poor management of pasturelands.***
- ***Unsustainable use of land resources, extensive use of pesticides, risk of losing national traditions of sustainable farming.***
- ***Lack of public awareness on environmental laws, information.***

Project results

Within the framework of the project in 2016 Garm Aarhus Center conducted the following activities in partnership with Rasht District Environmental Protection Department:

1. Access to environmental information

- *Developed and distributed information materials on the ways of utilization of domestic waste, composting, benefits of organic agriculture.*
- *Published 3 articles in local newspaper (Oinai Rasht) on public participation in decision-making processes related to environmental matters, domestic waste management and environmental monitoring.*

2. Trainings and actions

- *Conducted the training sessions with women groups in 2 targeted jamoats on domestic waste management and recycling.*
- *Conducted training sessions and actions with Green Patrol members.*

Work with women groups

- Enhancing the role of women in environmental protection through capacity building training sessions and use of traditional knowledge and practices on recycling of domestic waste and application of organic agricultural techniques

- Practical training sessions on composting



Work with women groups

- *Practical training sessions on national handicraft “Qarama” from fabrics and old clothes*



- *Practical training session in demonstration plot and distribution of medical herbs seeds*



Green Patrols

- Conducted two-days training session with Green Patrol members on “Green Patrols and their role in protection of environment” and “Role of youth in preservation of biodiversity”



Green Patrols

- Conducted an environmental campaign to clean and improve the territory of Rasht district with involvement of Green Patrols and local community members on 5 June 2016 devoted to the International Environmental Protection Day.



Green Patrols

- Conducted tree planting action in the demonstration plot with active involvement of Green Patrols and local community members. This activity will contribute to reduction of the risk of land erosion, restoration of biodiversity and disasters risk reduction.
- Demonstration of other techniques for prevention of soil erosion is planned for the next year.



Ecological Monitoring

Conducted regular environmental monitoring visits along the Rasht part of Dushanbe-Osh highway . Had meetings and interviews with small entrepreneurs and local population residing along the highway and Surkhob river.

- *Road Building and Exploitation Enterprise*
- *4 roadside cafeterias*
- *6 grocery shops*
- *Vegetable market*
- *Carwash*
- *5 construction companies*
- *4 pharmacies*
- *Auto terminal*
- *Slaughterhouse*

Checked waste dump sites, certificates, contracts with Housing and Communal Department for waste collection and utilization of hazardous waste.

Conducted awareness raising sessions with employees of above-mentioned enterprises on waste treatment, and explained the main requirements for business activities and law of the Republic of Tajikistan on waste management.



Recommendations

- Strengthen the capacity of Aarhus Centers for implementation of the projects focused on promotion of principles of green economy and conservation of biodiversity. Need long-term projects and partner exchange visits between the Aarhus Centers and other counterparts.
- Public awareness raising on the main principles of green economy and namely energy-saving and organic agriculture through training sessions, festivals and campaigns.
- Pilot projects to establish green schools with demonstration of environmentally friendly technologies (clean energy, insulation, drip irrigation system, composting, mulching, solar greenhouses with applied organic farming techniques etc).
- Restoration of forests, support Dehkan Farms and smallholders with construction of solar greenhouses, drip irrigation system, mulching, composting and capacity-building training sessions for shifting to organic agriculture.
- Support in development of market for organic products and services.
- Support in development of ecotourism.
- Cooperation with banks and microcredit institutions to make “green” credits available and affordable.
- Closer cooperation with energy and environment specialists while implementing the projects on promotion of renewable energy resources.
- Implementation of regional projects with Osh Aarhus Center.

Thank you

