Investments in Agriculture in Northern Tajikistan: Considering the Dehqon Farm

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Outline

- Post-Soviet Agricultural Development in Tajikistan
- Description of the Zarafshan Valley
- Farm restructuring according to national land reforms in Tajikistan
- Implementation of land reform in the Zarafshan Valley
Agriculture in Post-Soviet Transformation

- Agriculture as central part of the Tajik economy
- Sub-regionally different implementation of agricultural reforms
- Differences e.g. in cotton and non-cotton areas, high land – low land
The Zarafshan Valley

Source: google maps
The Zarafshan Valley

- Mixed mountainous agriculture (crops, livestock, non-agricultural labour)
- Very limited arable land, ca. 80% of local households are smallholder with less than 0.5 ha arable land available
- Subsistence oriented, part-time farming
- Deadlock of agricultural production, little investments of smallholders in local agriculture
- Lack of labour force in peak seasons
National Land Reforms in Tajikistan

- Farm restructuring process as central part of land reform
- “On dehqon Farms”, 1992
- “On Reorganization of Agricultural Enterprises and Entities”, 1996
- “PROGRAMMEME for reforming the Agriculture Sector of the Republic of Tajikistan for 2012-2020”, 2012
## Implementing Land Reform in the Zarafshan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Villages</th>
<th>Inhabitants</th>
<th>Number of households</th>
<th>Number of individual or family dehqon farms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kūhistoni Mastchoh</td>
<td>Padask</td>
<td>520</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kūhistoni Mastchoh</td>
<td>Madrushkat</td>
<td>952</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kūhistoni Mastchoh</td>
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<td>124</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>Ayni</td>
<td>Soosun</td>
<td>2658</td>
<td>518</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Panjakent</td>
<td>Garibak</td>
<td>2939</td>
<td>721</td>
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<tr>
<td>Panjakent</td>
<td>Chinor</td>
<td>1896</td>
<td>347</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data from field research, end 2012
Farmer‘s Considering the *dehqon* Farm

Reluctance towards the *dehqon* farm

- Confusion, misinformation and no information at all
- Ambiguity about investment costs
- Taxes and fees
- Economic risks
- Social consequences and liabilities
Poor Interest in Farm Restructuring

- Reluctance to invest in the own farm enterprise
- Farm restructuring pays off little
- Collective *dehqon* farms still existed in almost all communities (end 2012) and continue to exist
Ongoing Reforms since 2014

Accelerated process in Sughd Province:

- Collective *dehqon* farms (DF) split into individual DF
- Number of DF from 15515 (in 2012) to 30835 (in 2014)
- Situation in the Zarafshan Valley in 2016: 1130 DF, range 0.15 - 5 ha
  Approx. 40 farms of them are still collective DF
- Number of full-time farming households has slightly increased
Conclusion

- Farm restructuring process is sub-regionally diverse and not yet finished
- Sub-regional modification of the conditions for farm restructuring facilitated the implementation of the land reform
- Potential first positive economic effects tangible
Thank you for your attention