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RESIDENTS OF TWO VILLAGES IN THE BARTANG VALLEY WILL RECEIVE LOANS FOR ADAPTATION MEASURES

Residents of the villages of Siponj and Darjomj in the Bartang valley of the Rushan district, GBAO Republic of Tajikistan were given the opportunity to take out loans for the development of their small businesses and implementation of measures to adapt to climate change.

The issue of lending for adaptation measures was discussed with local residents during an information seminar held in mid-August in Siponj village. The event was conducted by specialists of the Microloan Organization "Madina va Hamkoron" with the support of the Public Foundation "CAMP Tabiat" within the framework of the project "Ecosystem –based Adaptation to Climate Change in High Mountainous Regions of Central Asia" (EbA).

Siponj and Darjomj villages are pilot areas of the EbA project. The residents of these villages will be provided with loans with relatively low interest rates for the following purposes:

1. Development of sustainable tourism: creation and improvement of guest houses; production and trade of ecological souvenirs; development of agritourism.
2. Creation of infrastructure: construction of dams; construction of irrigation canals and water pipelines; strengthening of riverbanks, drainage of wetlands.
3. Construction of greenhouses for growing vegetables; development of a value chain for greenhouse products; support for greenhouse products processing business.
4. Energy efficiency: insulation of houses; purchase and installation of energy efficient windows, doors and stoves; purchase and installation of renewable energy sources (e.g. solar panels), solar water heaters; production and trade of energy efficient products; provision of energy efficient technology installation services

These climate change adaptation measures have been identified earlier in the EbA project. According to Director of CAMP Tabiat Umed Bulbulshoyev, lending with relatively low interest rates will allow residents of villages vulnerable to climate change to start and develop their own small businesses, which will contribute to the improvement of living conditions and increase the adaptation capacity of villagers to climate change.

During the seminar, participants also learned about the principles of financial literacy and financial independence and studied the system of lending.

The EbA project is implemented by the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan on behalf of the German government. In Tajikistan GIZ partner in project implementation is CAMP Tabiat.

