Appraisal Environmental and Social Review Summary

Appraisal Stage

(ESRS Appraisal Stage)

Date Prepared/Updated: 12/19/2019 | Report No: ESRSA00382
BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Project ID</th>
<th>Parent Project ID (if any)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Uzbekistan</td>
<td>EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA</td>
<td>P158372</td>
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Project Name: Agriculture Modernization Project

Practice Area (Lead): Agriculture and Food

Financing Instrument: Investment Project Financing

Estimated Appraisal Date: 12/20/2019

Estimated Board Date: 3/26/2020

Borrower(s): Republic of Uzbekistan

Implementing Agency(ies): Agroindustry and Food Security Agency (UZAIFSA), Ministry of Agriculture

Proposed Development Objective(s):
The proposed project development objective is to enhance productivity-supporting agricultural services and promote market-led high-value horticulture value chains.

Financing (in USD Million):

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<th>Amount</th>
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B. Is the project being prepared in a Situation of Urgent Need of Assistance or Capacity Constraints, as per Bank IPF Policy, para. 12?

No

C. Summary Description of Proposed Project [including overview of Country, Sectoral & Institutional Contexts and Relationship to CPF]
The proposed project will have four components: (i) Enhancing Productivity-Supporting Agricultural Services; (ii) Supporting Investments in High-Value Horticulture Value Chains; (iii) Facilitating Trade and Marketing; and (iv) Supporting Project Management.

Component 1: Enhancing Productivity-Supporting Agricultural Services. The objective of this component is to enhance the knowledge and human capital – to underpin the productive transformation of agriculture - by both funding directly public agricultural R&D and creating conditions to attract more private investment into agricultural R&D, in
The World Bank  
Agriculture Modernization Project (P158372)

order to more effectively serve the farmers. The component will focus on: (i) agricultural research and development; (ii) seed/seedling production; (iii) natural resource management; and (iv) farmer adoption support. The project will support practical mechanisms that bring research, extension, and private sector together in order to better align research and innovation priorities with local constraints faced by farmers and agribusinesses in order to develop a more productive, climate-resilient, diversified and market-led agricultural sector.

Component 2: Supporting Investments in High-Value Horticulture Value Chains. The objectives of this component are to support investments in high-value horticulture value chains, facilitate farmers’ participation in investment opportunities created by economic liberalization and agricultural diversification, and enable productive partnerships/clusters between farm groups and agribusinesses. These objectives will be achieved through a mix of technical support provided under sub-component 1.4 and two credit windows that would offer long-term financing tailored to the needs of farmers and agribusinesses.

Component 3: Facilitating Trade and Marketing. The objective of this component is to improve access of Uzbekistan’s horticulture products on both internal and external markets through improvements in: (i) agro-logistics; (ii) plant protection and phytosanitary measures; and (iii) market information collection and dissemination.

Component 4: Supporting Project Management. This component will support project management, coordination, monitoring and evaluation, and implementation of environmental and social measures under the World Bank Environmental and Social Framework.

D. Environmental and Social Overview

D.1. Project location(s) and salient characteristics relevant to the ES assessment [geographic, environmental, social]  
The project activities will be implemented country wide. The Republic of Uzbekistan has a territory of 458,000 square km and lies between the Syr Darya and Amu Darya Rivers. Most of the country is occupied by vast plains, and the rest by mountains with heavily dissected relief. The mountain region is in the eastern and south-eastern parts and links with the Tien Shan and the Altay Range mountains with hilly foothills and foothill slopes. Diversity of soil forming rocks, ecological regimes, vegetation, extreme continental climate, and vastness of the territory contribute to great diversity and complexity of soil cover in the republic. On most plains with continental climate, a desert type of soil prevails, while on contemporary river plains with their favorable soil moisture, there are as a rule hydromorphic soils - meadow-desert, meadow-swamp, swamp and solonchak soils. Uzbekistan’s geographical position contributes to the dryness and continentality of its climate. The country has dry hot summers, cool and wet autumns, and cold winters with thaws. Agro-ecologically, Uzbekistan is divided into eight regions: Ustyurt, Low Amudarya and Kyzylkum regions in the plains, the other five regions, Middle Syrdarya, Ferghana, Zarafshan, Kashkadarya and Surkhandarya, are in foothills and mountains. Uzbekistan is the most densely populated country in Central Asia: the average population density is 67.9 people per km². Among the regions of Uzbekistan, the most densely populated regions are Andijan and Ferghana. Nearly a third of all economically active population of Uzbekistan is engaged in agriculture (27.7 percent). More than 10 percent of the economically active population are employed in sectors such as industry, trade, public services, as well as science and education. The most popular sectors of employment for women are health care and social security sector (71 percent of the women in labor force) as well as the spheres of education, culture and science. Women are also actively involved in agriculture but often on part-time or seasonal basis or in cultivation of household plots.
Agriculture plays an important role in Uzbekistan’s economy - in 2018 it accounted for 32 percent of Uzbekistan’s GDP and over 27 percent of employment in the country. Agricultural development is, therefore, crucial for ensuring rural livelihoods, jobs, and food security. All agricultural land in Uzbekistan is owned by the state, and distributed to households and producers on a long-term lease basis - most commonly a renewable 49-year lease; or a lifetime lease in the case of small ‘dehkan’ farms. Lease conditions include provisions such as effective use of land, and production of certain crops and volumes set by the state. Dehkan farms and household plots are the main producers of horticulture products. In 2018, there were 4,700,000 dehkan farms, which produced 88 percent of total volume of potatoes, 74 percent of vegetables, 61 percent of melons, 63 percent of fruits and berries, and 55 percent of grapes. Most dehkan farms are between 0.1 and 0.5 ha large, which, on the one hand, makes them flexible and efficient in using resources, but on the other, makes it difficult to include them into modern horticulture value chains. Additionally, there are approximately 80,000 larger farms of about 100 ha, who mainly produce cotton and wheat, and allocate up to 20 percent of their arable land to horticulture crops. In the past few years, a limited number of larger farming enterprises (of over 100ha) have also benefitted from land reallocation policies from cotton and wheat into horticulture. Further development of the export-oriented horticulture, which will be the focus of this Project, would require addressing productivity and quality constraints for small and medium farms, organizational and cooperation issues to help smaller farmers access export value chains, a transparent system of land allocation and tenure security, as well as building capacity of local aggregators (retail chains, processors, and producers) to build the value chain with small farmers. In the medium run the land tenure security rules in Uzbekistan should be aligned with the 2012 UN Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security, which address: (i) equitable access to and control over land for smallholders; (ii) equitable and non-discriminatory policy and practices of allocation of land tenure rights on state owned land; and (iii) government support to dehkan farmers.

Forced and child labor have been associated with the agriculture (namely cotton) sector in Uzbekistan as well as with community development programs. Assessments of labor rights and working conditions in the horticulture sector find that forced labor is not a significant risk and that in the majority of cases horticulture farms offer decent working conditions. In some instances, however, national regulations on child labor are not always met by employers mostly due to lack of knowledge of the legislation. There is also high share of informal employment in the sector, particularly of women, which can create preconditions for inadequate labor terms and conditions, and affect their access to basic benefits such as maternity, medical care, and sick leave.

D. 2. Borrower’s Institutional Capacity
The project implementing agency will be the Uzbekistan Agroindustry and Food Security Agency (UZAIFSA), which is part of the Ministry of Agriculture. The UZAIFSA, formerly known as the Rural Restructuring Agency (RRA), is well experienced with implementing all donor-financed projects on agriculture and water resource management and has a good record of working hand-in-hand with the line ministries to deliver specific programs. In the current project portfolio UZAIFSA’s performance tends to be satisfactory on managing credit lines; however, the agency has less experience with programs related to delivery of public services and inclusion of small dehkan farms, the latter being important components of the proposed project. The track record on implementing safeguards issues under the World Bank financed projects (Horticulture Development, Livestock Development, and Climate Adaptation for Aral Sea Basin projects) is overall positive and proves that UZAIFSA has good institutional and human in-house capacity for ensuring social and environmental safeguards. UZAIFSA employs three environmental and social safeguards specialists in Tashkent who have the necessary experience and knowledge on WB and national environmental and social
assessment frameworks. Furthermore, UZAIFSA has recruited part-time safeguards specialists based in Tashkent, Ferghana, Kashkadarya, Karakalpakstan, and Bukhara regions with the main tasks to oversee the implementation of safeguards documents within agricultural projects. With a growing portfolio of projects and potentially new geographic scope of the present project, UZAIFSA will need to increase the number of its environmental and social staff working on full-time basis. To comply with requirements of the ESF UZAIFSA also needs to strengthen its capacity on risk management related to labor and working conditions. UZAIFSA has limited experience and knowledge on addressing requirements related to new ESSs, in particular on labor and working conditions and labor safety issues, community health and safety, and biodiversity conservation. It is recommended that UZAIFSA recruits at minimum one full-time labor, health and safety specialist to oversee adherence to the Labor Management Procedure (LMP). In addition, UZAIFSA's environmental staff will benefit from further training on how to adequately prevent and mitigate risks related to the introduction of new seed varieties, which may impact biodiversity and ecosystem services. The project will support necessary capacity building activities in these areas.

II. SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL (ES) RISKS AND IMPACTS

A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)  Substantial

Environmental Risk Rating  Moderate

The proposed project activities might generate a series of adverse environmental risks and impacts associated with the construction and/or rehabilitation works, such as construction / rehabilitation of research institutes, food safety-related public institutions’ buildings and laboratories, seed plants and their irrigation infrastructure (if any), along with investments in infrastructure for agro-logistics centers, extension centers and their demonstration plots, including pest management on these plots. Furthermore, the project credit support for horticulture value chains and export, that includes two credit windows that would offer long-term financing tailored to the needs of farmers and agribusinesses, to be implemented through the Participating Financial Institutions (PFIs), is expected to finance various subprojects (replanting of old and establishment of new orchards; construction of greenhouses; facilities for fruit storage and handling; fruit processing; etc.) and will also generate some environmental risks and impacts. They may include: increased environmental pollution with waste, noise, dust, emissions and discharges; impacts on biodiversity; health hazards and labor safety issues. Additionally, in case of introducing new seed varieties, risks and impacts related to biodiversity and ecosystem services may arise. Most of specified risks and impacts are expected to be typical for small and medium scale construction and rehabilitation works, agriculture production and processing, temporary by nature and confined to the project sites, and can be easily mitigated by applying good international practices and relevant mitigation measures.

Social Risk Rating  Substantial

The project will invest in public services and infrastructure that contribute to increasing export competitiveness of the horticulture sector. The largest infrastructure investments are expected to be the construction of two agro-logistics centers (tentatively in Bukhara and Khorezm regions). Smaller investments may include construction and rehabilitation of research institute facilities and extension centers (horticulture center, laboratories, genetics banks), as well as small and medium infrastructure on their premises (greenhouses, irrigation for demonstration plots, etc.). The project will also provide two credit windows that would offer long-term financing tailored to the needs of farmers and agribusinesses, who will make similar investments on land plots allocated to them by the state (greenhouses, irrigation systems, processing facilities, etc.). The location of specific investments will be determined during
implementation stage. As such, risks related to the physical footprint of the project are predictable and manageable via measures included in the project’s Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF). No significant risks related to labor influx, gender based violence (GBV) or community health and safety are expected under the project, as most project workers will be recruited locally. The GBV risk is assessed as moderate mostly due to the status of national GBV legislation, gender norms, and the rural location of most project activities. Nevertheless, there are a number of social risks in the broader context of the agriculture sector, due to which - as well as due to the capacity-building needs of the implementing agency - social risk is assessed as Substantial. These relate to the transparency and equity of land allocation and land tenure security, information constraints and overall ability of smaller farmers to partake in benefits of the project, risks of reduced access to land and productive assets due to land reallocation, and the capacity of state institutions and financing institutions to monitor labor and working conditions across rural enterprises. E&S procedures to be put in place under the project have to take into account these contextual risks, manage and monitor them as they relate to project-supported activities, and provide adequate attention to capacity-building activities of the involved implementing institutions. Significant reputational risks are also present given prior history of forced evictions, forced and child labor in the country. These need to be mitigated with sufficient awareness, capacity-building, and monitoring systems during project implementation.

B. Environment and Social Standards (ESSs) that Apply to the Activities Being Considered

B.1. General Assessment

ESS1 Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

Overview of the relevance of the Standard for the Project:

ESS1 is Relevant. The Project has four components: (i) Enhancing productivity-supporting agricultural services (support to research institutes, seed and seedling production, natural resource management, advisory services for farmers and capacity building to cooperatives); (ii) Supporting investments in horticulture value chains (credit lines for farm cooperatives and for agri-business enterprises entering into partnership with farmers and coops); (iii) Facilitating trade and marketing (construction of agro-logistics centers; strengthening plant protection and phytosanitary capacity; and support with development of a market information system); and (iv) Project management. Civil works are expected to occur in the first three components: larger-scale civil work will be undertaken for the construction of agro-logistics centers, while other interventions will be limited to small and medium-scale construction or rehabilitation activities, such as construction of green-houses and related power, gas, irrigation infrastructure, storage, etc. Under the second component, the project will also support: (i) access to credit for members of farm cooperatives for investments in infrastructure, machinery and equipment, and other assets to promote their collective actions (intensive orchards and greenhouses, horticulture processing and storage facilities, and adoption of climate-smart water-saving technologies for intensive orchards and greenhouses), as well as (ii) credit line to agribusinesses entering into formal contract agreements with farmers and farm cooperatives. Overall, the project will provide a series of positive social and environmental impacts. It will support technical assistance and capacity building for improving quality of seeds, good agricultural practices, phytosanitary services, among others, all of which would reduce environmental and health risks in agricultural production in the country, while at the same time creating new economic opportunities. The project may also generate some adverse environmental impacts associated with the construction and/or rehabilitation of public buildings and laboratories, seed farms and factories, and upgrading of irrigation infrastructure. Other environmental impacts may be associated with investments under subcomponent 1.2 on Seeds and Seedlings Production in infrastructure for extension.
activities, as well as within agricultural demonstrational activities under the subcomponent 1.4 on Farmer Adoption Support which entails support to agriculture extension and advisory services. These activities will require pest management. All these activities might cause a series of direct environmental and health risks such as: increased environmental pollution with waste, noise, dust, emissions and discharges, as well as health hazards and labor safety issues due to civil works. Most of these risks and impacts are expected to be typical for small scale construction and rehabilitation works, temporary by nature and confined to project sites. They can be mitigated by applying good construction practices and following the provisions of the Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs). Additionally, the potential introduction of new seed varieties may have risks and impacts related to biodiversity and ecosystem services. As site-specific activities cannot be identified prior to Project Appraisal, UZAIFSA has prepared the ESMF, which specifies the rules and procedures for the activities and subprojects’ Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and for preparing adequate ESMPs for individual sub-projects. The ESMF will guide the ESIA process and will cover the following: (i) rules and procedures for environmental and social screening of project activities and subprojects to be supported under the project; (ii) guidance for conducting subprojects ESIA and/or preparing ESMPs including monitoring plans; (iii) mitigation measures for possible impacts of proposed subprojects; (iv) safety measures while handling treated seeds and applying pesticides and a template for the Pest Management Plan (PMP); (v) requirements for preventing risks and impacts related to biodiversity and ecosystem services by introducing new seed varieties (as per FAO guidelines: http://www.fao.org/agriculture/crops/thematic-sitemap/theme/biodiversity/en/); (vi) curricular for environment-related TA activities under Components 1 and 2, in particular in the area of sustainable water and land use and Integrated Pest Management; etc. Activities of credit beneficiaries might indirectly, during the implementation and operational phases, generate some environmental and social impacts related to air and water pollution, waste generation, labor and health risks, etc. Taking this into account, the ESMF specifies the criteria for a preliminary screening of these activities and for identifying those which might require an ESIA and/or preparation of ESMP. The ESMF also specifies the requirement for participating financial institutions to develop ESMS in line with ESS9. To prevent health risks and impacts of use agricultural chemicals the ESMF specifies that in accordance with the WB EHS Guidelines the Implementing Agency will: (a) identify, during subprojects and activities’ screening these risks and impacts; (ii) specify and implement necessary mitigation measures stipulated in the ESMPs; (c) provide individual protective equipment; (d) ensure initial and periodical training of involved workers; and (e) prepare and implemented, when needed, a special Pest Management Plan (PMP) as per ESMF provisions. The project social risks and impacts are primarily related to land or asset-related impacts associated with allocation of land for project activities; community disturbance during civil works especially for the agro-logistics centers, risks related to labor and working conditions; and the possibility that some farmers are excluded from full participation in project benefits either due to lack of information, land allocation decisions and conditions, availability of collateral to access finance, among other reasons. Significant reputational risks are also present given prior history of forced evictions, forced and child labor in the country. These need to be mitigated with sufficient awareness, capacity-building, and monitoring systems during project implementation. Labor influx is likely to be low as most workers are expected to be contracted locally. GBV risk is assessed as Moderate and actions appropriate to this risk level will be mainstreamed in all subprojects via actions specified in ESMF. Land and asset screening procedures and mitigation actions, including requirement to prepare site-specific Resettlement Action Plans (RAPs) where applicable are described in the RPF, which has been prepared by UZAIFSA for the purposes of this project. The project will introduce activities in order to level the playing field for farmers to partake in project benefits, for example, by setting conditions for receiving credit to encourage applications by small and medium farmers and farmer cooperatives, and providing training and support to such farmers via public extension services. In addition, UZAIFSA has developed and
will implement a Stakeholder Engagement Plan, which outlines the activities, budget and responsibilities (local and project-level) for continuous information-sharing, engagement and processing of feedback from project-affected and other interested parties including rural population in the target regions. Primary social research to inform the ESMF and SEP was conducted between September 26 and October 15, 2019 in three regions (Andijan, Bukhara, and Khorezm) and included focus group discussions and interviews at the Hokimiyat and Mahalla levels with a cross section of respondents including managers and employees of agri-business operations, brokers, small and medium farmers and greenhouse owners, mahalla leaders, low-income and vulnerable households. It is essential to ensure that the stakeholder engagement mechanisms are implemented in an inclusive manner so that all potential beneficiaries are being reached by the project. UZAIFSA has also prepared Labor Management Procedures for the project and will monitor compliance of all sub-projects with the LMP throughout the course of implementation.

To identify E&S risks and impacts the team analyzed a series of documents:
- The ESMF and POMs for on-going (i) Horticulture Development AF; (ii) Livestock Development; (iii) Ferghana Valley Rural Enterprise Project; (iv) Climate Adaptation for Aral Sea Basin projects; and (v) Ferghana Valley Water Resources Management Project Environmental Assessment and Management Plan; as well as the BTOs for specified projects for the last two fiscal years;
- GoU Strategy for Agricultural Development in Uzbekistan (2019);
- World Bank (2018) 'Policy Note on Supporting Agriculture Value Chain',
- World Bank (2019) 'Farm Restructuring in Uzbekistan: How Did it Go and What Is Next?';
- Uzbekistan Labor Code (2015);
- Samples ESMS policy of commercial banks in Uzbekistan;
- Credit Line Agreement between Central Bank, Ministry of Finance, and UZAIFSA, and Subsidiary Loan Agreement between UZAIFSA and a participating financial institution for the Ferghana Valley Enterprise Development Project.

During preparation missions in May and September 2019 the team also conducted filed visits to horticulture farms and enterprises in Tashkent, Bukhara, and Samarkand regions. Primary social research was conducted in Andijan, Bukhara and Khorezm provinces between September 26-October 28, 2019.

ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

ESS10 is Relevant. Project-affected parties include farmers (e.g., commercial farm, dekhan farm, and household plot owners) on whose farms activities may be implemented or who may be affected by land reallocation, and the general public in communities in which project activities will take place, which includes men and women employed in agriculture or agri-business enterprises. Farmer’s organizations and cooperatives should and local commercial banks can also be considered as project-affected parties as their activities may directly influenced by the project. Other interested parties include local authorities (khokimiyats, mahalla committees, local farmer council representatives), agri-business sector representatives, and central level authorities, including but not limited to: the Ministry of Innovations, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Council of Farmers, owners of Dehkan farms and Household Plots; the State Plant Quarantine Inspection, and the State Veterinary Committee; agriculture research institutes, as well as civil society actors. Disadvantaged and vulnerable groups under the project are likely to include: women, especially women engaged in seasonal agricultural work, female-headed households and women farmers who by virtue of
limiting social norms and social networks may find it harder to obtain information about the benefits of the project; poor households; households involving persons with disability or ethnic/language minority groups; as well as landless households. The mapping of these actors is presented in the project Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP). UZAIFSA has prepared the SEP, which outlines the activities and timeframe for engaging with different stakeholder groups throughout the life of the project, define roles and responsibilities, human resources and budget needed for implementing SEP activities. Key objectives of the SEP are to maintain a constructive relationship with stakeholders, ensure that stakeholder views can be taken into account in project design and implementation, specifically in the management of environmental and social performance, provide means for inclusive engagement with all project-affected parties, and ensure that appropriate project information is disclosed to stakeholders in a timely, understandable, accessible, and appropriate manner and format. To achieve these objectives, the SEP will be prepared with inputs from stakeholders and reflect methods of engagement that they would consider most effective. SEP activities envision measures to ensure that disadvantaged and vulnerable groups have equal opportunity to obtain information and benefit from project activities, as well as have channels for grievance and redress if negatively affected. Such activities include tailored awareness and information campaigns including targeting women and mahalla-level meetings which community members of all backgrounds can join, distributing information materials through multiple channels such as media, social media, and mahalla leaders, emphasizing the rules and principles of equity and non-discrimination for example in relation to employment opportunities in all training and consultation activities. The project will establish a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) which will accept, review, and seek to resolve any project related concerns or feedback, and be easily accessible to project-affected parties and local communities, among other stakeholders. UZAIFSA will be responsible for managing and maintaining data on the functioning of the GRM.

B.2. Specific Risks and Impacts

A brief description of the potential environmental and social risks and impacts relevant to the Project.

ESS2 Labor and Working Conditions

ESS2 is Relevant. The project will include direct workers (employees of UZAIFSA) as well as contracted workers (employees of civil rights contractors). Community workers are not going to be involved in this project. Currently UZAIFSA employs 139 employees (of whom 15 percent women). Of these approximately 25 staff will be directly involved in the project. As a Government entity, UZAIFSA is fully bound by national labor legislation. It also has an HR department and an internal labor regulation, which is consistent with ESS2 on most aspects. Some aspects, such as development of internal grievance mechanism, would require further elaboration as stipulated in the Project Labor Management Procedures.

Contracted workers will comprise the employees of all civil works contractors to be engaged under the project. At the moment, it is not possible to estimate the full number of such workers, but it is estimated that approximately 450 contractor employees will be involved in the project. The largest number of contracted workers will be engaged in the construction of two agro-logistics centers (200+ for each site); smaller civil works such as rehabilitation of buildings or construction of green houses may require 10-50 workers at each site. Worker's camps are likely to be established for the agro-logistics centers. The majority of workers will be recruited locally and from other regions of Uzbekistan. All contractors will be required to comply with LMP. For small-scale construction and rehabilitation works relevant provisions will be made in site-specific ESMPs. In the case of large construction works, contractors will be required to prepare and adhere to Contractors LMP. This requirement will be included in bidding documents and
contracts, and supervised via supervision consultants and UZAIFSA staff. As the project workers who will be involved in subcomponent 1.2 on Seeds and Seedlings Production as well as those who will participate in agricultural demonstrational activities under subcomponent 1.4 on Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services, might be subject to serious health risks associated with the use of agricultural chemicals in the case of their inappropriate management, the ESMF specifies that the implementing agency will undertake the following actions: (a) will identify, during subprojects and activities’ screening these risks and impacts; (ii) specify and implement necessary mitigation measures stipulated in the ESMPs; (c) provide individual protective equipment; (d) ensure initial and periodical training of involved workers; and (e) prepare and implemented, when needed, a special Pest Management Plan as per ESMF provisions.

UZAIFSA will contract at least one qualified labor, health, and safety specialist dedicated to monitoring the implementation of LMP. Sub-project beneficiaries of credit line will assume responsibility to comply with environmental and social procedures, including on LMP, via signed application documents and sub-loan agreement with the respective participating financial institution (PFI). They will report on a quarterly basis to the PFI. UZAIFSA project staff will be provided with access to beneficiaries’ facilities to provide periodic monitoring of activities and compliance.

Primary suppliers will be considered those who provide materials to project activities on an ongoing basis that are essential to the core functions of the project. These may include suppliers of construction materials, machinery, and various inputs necessary for the building or operation of agro-logistics centers, extension service centers, research facilities, etc. Such inputs are likely to be sourced both locally and internationally. The abovementioned facilities will require a signed confirmation from suppliers that no forced and child labor has been used in the production of the supplied goods. The project will not support any activities related to cotton sector which has in the past been associated with organized forced and child labor.

The Uzbekistan labor code is consistent with ESS2 on a number of aspects such as provisions on equal opportunity and non-discrimination, rights of workers to organize, setting of standards for minimum wage and age of employment, having right to know the terms and conditions of one’s employment via written contract, definition of working hours and overtime. The minimum age of employment is 16, however persons between 14 and 16 years old may also be employed with reduced working hours, for employment that is not considered heavy or hazardous, and with parental permission. Trade unions are present in many sectors [including agriculture] and play an important role in labor relations. National legislation does not require establishment of grievance redress mechanism for employees, outside the court system. This gap will be filled by provisions outlined in the LMP. Enforcement of labor legislation has been strengthened in recent years, particularly with regard to forced and child labor. There is weaker evidence on the quality of labor enforcement on other aspects of the labor code. Project monitoring will include regular site visits to sub-project sites and inclusion of labor and working conditions section in all progress monitoring reports.

Uzbekistan has been working towards abolishing past practices of child and forced labor associated with the cotton sector, and has achieved significant progress. In March 2019, Uzbekistan was removed from the list of countries where child labor was systematically used in agricultural production. However, the problem with the use of forced labor still remains. The third-party monitoring of the 2018 cotton harvest season by the International Labor Organization has shown that cases of forced labor were associated with approximately 7 percent of the labor force who participated in the cotton harvesting. Forced labor cases have also been associated with Uzbekistan’s Obod Qishloq state program (Prosperous Village) related to labor used in carrying out community infrastructure works. Efforts continue to be made within the country to completely eliminate forced labor, including significant increase of fines ranging from 10 to 30 times the minimum wage for using such practices, and up to 100 times the minimum wage for repeated offence, according to the amended Articles 49 and 51 of Administrative Code.
ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

ESS3 is Relevant. The ESMF includes sections on Pollution Prevention and Management, with a focus on those issues which might arise while conducting civil works for facilities construction and rehabilitation activities. Assessment of associated with civil works risks and impacts and proposed mitigation measures related to relevant requirements of ESS3, including raw materials, water use, air pollution, hazardous materials, and hazardous waste are clearly specified in the ESMF and requested to be included ESMPs as relevant. The project does not have high water demand as it is not going to support any large investments in irrigation sector - it might support only small scale rehabilitation of existing irrigation schemes of the research institutes and thus no detailed water balance to be prepared will be needed. Additionally in the case of inadequate usage of pesticides in agriculture production and, the project might cause not only environmental pollution but also harmful effects on the farmers health. Considering this, the project Subcomponent 1.2 and 1.4 will provide recommendations on ensuring safety while implementing Pest Management Activities in specified sectors and for that, these issues will be integrated into the ESMF along with all other TA works relevant to these issues that will be supported under the project. Furthermore, the ESMF includes a template for a Pest Management Plan (PMP) to be used by farmers and/or agricultural research institutions and under the credit line component, in the cases when the project will support these activities (also referenced under ESS4).

ESS4 Community Health and Safety

ESS4 is Relevant. In order to address risks and impacts that might affect Community Health and Safety the ESMF includes an assessment of work related health risks; works and road safety; excessive noise and dust levels, site safety awareness and access restrictions; and labor influx, and GBV. All these issues will be screened and included in site specific ESMPs to be prepared once the investments are identified. The ESMF requires that fencing should be installed around all construction sites and areas where there is a risk to community health and safety. Furthermore, the ESMF requires that site specific ESMPs specify the necessary measures for ensuring efficient waste management, compliance with good labor management practices, disclosing information and maintaining effective communication with local communities throughout the duration of works. The ESMF also highlights the need for training in this regard for UZAIFSA staff, local authorities, PFIs, and project beneficiaries (farmers, enterprises, or cooperatives). The ESMF also includes a template for a PMP to be used by farmers and/or agricultural research institutions, in the cases when the project will support these activities. Overall, as the project is focused mostly on strengthening public institutions and most civil works will relate to constructing or upgrading the premises of public entities or will be done within the lands already used by project beneficiaries (farmers, cooperatives), it is not expected that the project will generate significant community and health safety risks. GBV risk of the project is assessed as moderate. In this regard, UZAIFSA will prepare a GBV action plan, include the relevant provisions in relevant bidding documents and ESMPs for site-specific works, and monitor them throughout implementation. Specifically, a Code of Conduct will be adopted by UZAIFSA and all contracted employees, awareness-raising and training sessions will be delivered to UZAIFSA staff, contractors and their workforce, and local communities, and a GBV-sensitive grievance mechanisms will be maintained. It is expected that the project will not require deployment of security forces; however, at Appraisal stage it is not possible to predict whether security personnel will be used by contractors. Therefore, relevant measures have been included in the project ESCP. If security personnel are being employed in the context of the project, UZAIFSA - in collaboration with the respective contractor - will conduct due diligence to ensure that contracted security is (i) not implicated in past abuses; (ii) is adequately trained in the use of force (and where
applicable, firearms), and in appropriate conduct toward workers and communities; and (iii) is required to act within
the applicable law and prohibited from using force except in preventive or defensive manner. In the event of
allegations of unlawful or abusive acts of security personnel, UZAIFSA will take action (or urge appropriate parties to
take action) to prevent recurrence and, where necessary, report unlawful and abusive acts to the relevant
authorities.

ESS5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement
ESS5 is Relevant. All sub-project activities will be screened for impacts related to land acquisition, restrictions on land
use, and involuntary resettlement. UZAIFSA has prepared a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) to guide activities
in this regard. As a first measure, the project will attempt to avoid to the extent possible adverse impacts on private
or privately-used land and property, and will clearly document all efforts made to avoid land restriction and
resettlement impacts. Where such impacts are unavoidable, they will be minimized to the extent possible, and the
project will follow the procedures laid out in the RPF to ensure that adequate compensation and rehabilitation
measures have been provided to the project affected people. The RPF defines the procedures for: (i) acquiring land
(after all technical alternatives have been exhausted), (ii) dealing with any residual impacts from land acquisition (i.e.
identifying, establishing the valuation of, and compensating people that suffer economic losses or loss of private
property, (iii) monitoring and verification that policies and procedures are followed, and (iv) grievance redress
mechanisms. Where resettlement-related impacts have been identified, subproject-specific RAPs will be prepared by
UZAIFSA in accordance with the RPF. Credit beneficiaries will be required to submit evidence that any lands intended
for use in the course of farm or business activities belongs or has been legally allocated to them. This will be verified
via site visits of environmental and social staff of the corresponding PFI and monitored by UZAIFSA social specialists.

ESS6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources
ESS6 is Relevant. Overall, most of the activities envisaged by the project are small in scale (except of two agro-
logistical centers which will be not located on environmentally sensitive areas based on a preliminary screening to be
done by the implementing agency) and expected to be carried out within the settlements - in the case of
rehabilitation of agricultural research laboratories, or within the existing agricultural fields - in the case of
demonstrational agricultural activities or while implementing subprojects under the credit line component and no
impacts on natural habitats are expected. At the same time, as Subcomponent 1.2 aims to increase the supply, in
sufficient quantity and acceptable quality, of seeds, seedlings, and other planting materials, it can pose some risks
and impacts related to biodiversity by introducing new varieties. To minimize these risks, the project ESMF provides
the requirements for addressing these risks, as per Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
guidelines: http://www.fao.org/agriculture/crops/thematic-sitemap/theme/biodiversity/en/). As specified in the
ESMF document, FAO has developed Environmental and Social Management Guidelines (2015) with 9 Environmental
and Social Standards (ESSs) which set out specific requirements relating to different social and environmental issues.
The FAO ESS 3 defines Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA) as the entire diversity of the plants
used, or with the potentials to be used, in agriculture to produce food, fodder, and fiber. The standard also
recognizes that the application of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (Montreal, January 29, 2000) to the CBD
results in safeguards that ensure that the handling, transport and use of living modified organisms (LMOs) resulting
from modern biotechnology do not have adverse effects on biological diversity and/or pose risks to human health.
Respectively, the parties shall ensure that the receipt of any living modified organisms, their processing,
transportation, use, transfer and release, is carried out in such a way that risks to biological diversity are not allowed or reduced, considering risks to human health. As Uzbekistan has acceded to the Cartagena Protocol (on October 14, 2019) the provisions of this document, along with the FAO requirements on handling hybrid seeds should be applied. Furthermore, within the project no Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) seeds will be allowed.

ESS7 Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities

ESS7 is Not Relevant to the project. The Republic of Uzbekistan does not have such groups of people/communities and thus this ESS is not relevant.

ESS8 Cultural Heritage

ESS8 is assessed as Not Relevant to the project. As a precautionary measure, chance find procedures are included in the ESMF and will be part of mitigation measures to be provided in site-specific ESMPs.

ESS9 Financial Intermediaries

ESS9 is Relevant. Component 2 of the project will provide credit line financing to farmers, farm cooperatives, and agri-business enterprises via commercial banks (a.k.a. Participating Financial Institutions, PFIs). As such, the project follows the example of prior and ongoing World Bank-supported projects, such as the Horticulture Development Project, Livestock Development Project, and the Ferghana Enterprise Modernization Project, which also provide sub-lending to farmers via private financial institutions. In addition, present project requirement will be to apply World Bank’s relevant ESSs to managing any type of resettlement as well as to managing substantial risks for environment, community health and safety, labor and working conditions and biodiversity.

Under the ongoing projects the subsidiary agreement is signed between PFIs, UZAIFSA, and Uzbekistan’s Central Bank outlining a set of commitments - including environmental and social - of PFIs under the project. Further, a sub-loan agreement is signed between PFIs and beneficiaries. The credit application process includes a number of verification mechanisms, signed by the beneficiary, where environmental and social provisions are also included. A number of PFIs have adopted internal Environmental and Social Management Systems (ESMS), e.g., under EBRD-funded projects in the country.

Under the Uzbekistan AMP project, the existing mechanisms of credit lending will be used and further strengthened to: (i) incorporate explicit requirement for PFIs to develop and adopt satisfactory ESMS, to designate high management focal point as well as sufficient and competent technical staff to monitor compliance with ESMS, conduct screening, monitoring, and reporting; (ii) explicit requirements for progress reports to include environmental and social information; and (iii) extensive capacity-building to PFIs with regard to the requirements of ESS9 - also included in the ESMF, RPF, and Project Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP). The Credit Line Guidelines to be developed prior to Project Disbursement and guide implementation of the credit lines, will include explicit reference to the project ESF instruments, including ESMF, RPF, SEP and LMP and the obligations of PFIs and credit recipients to comply with these instruments. UZAIFSA and PFIs’ environmental and social staff will conduct regular monitoring to ensure that credit beneficiaries adhere to all ESSs relevant to the project. This includes initial screening of activities (identifying and managing any type of resettlement, environmental management, community health and safety, labor and working conditions, and biodiversity), preparation of environmental and social management plans in line with the project’s ESMF, and their supervision, monitoring and reporting. Monitoring of adherence to these
procedures will be conducted by the PFIs and UZAIFSA. PFIs will submit quarterly reports to UZAIFSA, including on environmental and social aspects. UZAIFSA will submit bi-annual reports to the World bank, including the same. Access to on-site monitoring will be provided to PFIs and to UZAIFSA at any time during project implementation - this will be stated explicitly in agreements with all credit line beneficiaries.
Due diligence conducted as part of project preparation indicates that although a number of PFIs in Uzbekistan have adopted internal Environmental and Social Management Systems (ESMS), e.g., under EBRD funded projects in the country. However, their capacity and staff is not yet sufficient to conduct close monitoring of all credit line beneficiary activities. In this context, the project ESMF, RPF, LMP, and grievance redress mechanism will be followed for screening and management of all project activities (including those of credit line beneficiaries), in addition to PFIs’ adopting their own institutional ESMS satisfactory to the World Bank. The Project will engage in awareness raising and capacity-building for PFIs and local governments, as well as for UZAIFSA, in order to strengthen their capability to assess and manage environmental and social risks independently in the long term.

C. Legal Operational Policies that Apply

OP 7.50 Projects on International Waterways
Yes
ECA RVP approved exemption from the riparian’ notification on November 19, 2019.

OP 7.60 Projects in Disputed Areas
No

III. BORROWER’S ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN (ESCP)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DELIVERABLES against MEASURES AND ACTIONs IDENTIFIED</th>
<th>TIMELINE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ESS 1 Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts</td>
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</table>
| REGULAR REPORTING
Prepare and submit to the IBRD/IDA regular monitoring reports on the environmental and social performance of the Project, including but not limited to the implementation of the ESCP. - Six-monthly throughout Project implementation | |
| INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS
Promptly notify IBRD/IDA of any incident or accident related to the Project which has, or is likely to have, a significant adverse effect on the environment, the affected communities, the public or project workers. - Notify the Bank within 48 hours after learning of the incident or accident | |
| CONTRACTORS MONTHLY REPORTS
All Contractors will be required to provide reports on ESMPs, Labor/OHS and GRM implementation to UZAIFSA. Credit beneficiaries will provide reports on ESMPs’ implementation and on LMP/OHS issues to the respective PFI. PFIs will share reports with UZAIFSA - Monthly reports by Contractors to UZAIFSA; Quarterly reports by PFIs to UZAIFSA; Biannual reports by UZAIFSA to WB. | |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE</strong></td>
<td>Recruit qualified specialists: Environmental Specialist; Social Specialist; Labor, Health and Safety Specialist; and Community Liaison Officer in Tashkent. Recruit regional environmental and social specialist (one per region). - Central PIU specialists - Prior to Project Disbursement; Regional safeguard specialists – Prior to commencement of activities in the respective region; Retain specialists – throughout project implementation.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT</strong></td>
<td>Finalize the project ESMF which specifies rules and procedures for preparing the activities’ and subprojects’ Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) and for guiding the ESIA process, including its disclosure and public consultation (s). The final draft ESMF should be reviewed and accepted by the WB team before disclosure - Prior to Project Appraisal</td>
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<td><strong>MANAGEMENT TOOLS AND INSTRUMENTS</strong></td>
<td>Screen any proposed subproject in accordance with the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) prepared for the Project, and, thereafter, draft, disclose, discuss with stakeholders, finalize through incorporation of relevant feedback, adopt, and implement the subproject-specific ESMPs. - Throughout Project implementation</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MANAGEMENT OF CONTRACTORS</strong></td>
<td>Ensure that ESMP and Labor Management Procedures are included into the ESMS specifications of the procurement documents with all contractors, including those that will be signed under the credit line for all subprojects by the subproject beneficiaries and selected constructors. - Prior to the launch of bidding process</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PERMITS, CONSENTS AND AUTHORIZATIONS</strong></td>
<td>Obtain or assist in obtaining, as appropriate, the permits, consents and authorizations that are applicable to the Project from relevant national authorities. - Throughout Project implementation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>As part of project launch activities, conduct ESF training in Tashkent and targeted project regions for the following audiences: • UZAIFSA staff • Local authorities • Community members • Farmers/farming enterprises and/or organizations • PFIs UZAIFSA to conduct training for Project workers on occupational health and safety including on emergency prevention and preparedness and response arrangements to emergency situations, community health and safety including SEA/SH. - within a month after contractor’s workforce is mobilized.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ESS 10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure</strong></td>
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</table>
### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION
Update, adopt, and implement Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP). - Throughout Project implementation

### PROJECT GRIEVANCE MECHANISM
Prepare, adopt, maintain and operate a grievance mechanism, as described in the SEP. - Prior to Project Effectiveness Operate – throughout Project implementation

### ESS 2 Labor and Working Conditions

#### LABOR MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES
Complete, to the satisfaction of the Bank, the Labor Management Procedure including the UZAIFSA workers’ grievance redress mechanism and operate it. - Complete by Project Effectiveness; Operate throughout Project life

Submit for Bank’s approval civil works contractor(s)’ Labor Management Procedure (C-LMP) and cause Contractor(s) to adhere to C-LMP. - Submit within two months from contract signing; Enforce throughout Project implementation

Conduct awareness raising for local authorities, and regular monitoring, to ensure that no unpaid, forced, or child labor is used on any activity related to Project implementation. - Throughout Project implementation

### GRIEVANCE MECHANISM FOR PROJECT WORKERS
Develop and maintain a grievance redress mechanism (GRM) for Direct Workers, as part of LMP. - Develop prior to Project Effectiveness; Maintain throughout Project implementation

Ensure contractor(s) develop their GRM for their employees as per C-LMP - Submission - within two months from contract signing and enforcement – throughout Project implementation

### OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY (OHS) MEASURES
Implement OHS measures as per applicable national law, internal regulations of UZAIFSA, ESS2, and World Bank Group’s Environmental Health and Safety Guidelines - Throughout Project life

Ensure Contractor(s) implement OHS measures as detailed in C-LMP. Project supervision activities regarding OHS will be done in accordance with the detailed Checklist, included in the ESMF. - Throughout Project implementation

### PROJECT WORKERS TRAINING
Require Contractor to deliver training of Contracted Workers to raise awareness about their contractual rights and obligations. - At minimum once during the duration of contract, and prior to start of works
# ESS 3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

Assess impacts from waste generation, emission and discharge, expected from project-supported activities and include relevant mitigation measures into the subproject-specific ESMPs. - During preparation and implementation of site specific ESMPs.

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# ESS 4 Community Health and Safety

**TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY.**
Include into bidding documents for civil works requirement for bidders to submit their Management Strategies and Implementation Plans (MSIP) for addressing ESHS risks and cause Contractor(s) to act by these documents.

Cause Contractor(s) to develop to the satisfaction of Supervision Engineer (where one is contracted) and UZAIFSA, and adhere to the method statement for traffic management. - Prior to commencement of works.

**COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY**
Ensure that Contractor(s) of major infrastructure sub-projects (e.g., construction of agro-logistics centers) develop and implement Community Health and Safety Plan - Develop plan - 2 months after contract signing;

Ensure the Contractor(s) raises awareness of employees on risks related to and measures for mitigation of impacts on local communities. - Throughout Project implementation.

**GBV AND SEA RISKS**
Include in site-specific ESMPs actions to prevent and mitigate risks of sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment (SEA/SH) in line with ESMF. - Prior to commencement of works; Enforcement throughout Project implementation.

**SECURITY PERSONNEL**
Develop and implement measures and actions to assess and manage risks to human security in Project-affected communities and to Project workers that could arise from the use of security personnel.

**TRAINING FOR THE COMMUNITY**
For sub-projects involving substantial infrastructure (e.g. construction of agro-logistics centers) hold awareness-raising sessions in each Project-affected community. - Prior to commencement of works.

**PEST MANAGEMENT**
Screen subprojects for the need of purchase/handling of pesticides and if relevant, develop sub-project specific Pest Management Plans (PMP) following guidance and using template included in the ESMF. Ensure implementation of PMP.
For subprojects requiring application of pesticides, identify Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques relevant for these subprojects, raise awareness if IPM and promote its use in parallel with chemical means of pest control.

ESS 5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement

RESETTLEMENT PLANS
Prepare, adopt, and implement resettlement plans (RAPs) in accordance with ESS 5 and consistent with the requirements of the RPF. Ensure that RAPs are approved by WB and fully implemented before start of activities.

GRIEVANCE MECHANISM
Ensure that any grievances related to land acquisition, land use restrictions, impacts on private assets and livelihoods, or resettlement are included and processed via the project GRM. - Throughout Project implementation

ESS 6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

Conduct a preliminary screening and assess each of proposed for financing activity/subproject in terms of its risks and impacts on biodiversity and ensure that activities located within critical natural habitats are excluded from project financing.

Ensure that handling, transport and use of new seed varieties do not impact adversely biological diversity and/or pose risks to human health as per FAO and Cartagena Protocol requirements on handling hybrid seeds; and no GMO seeds are allowed.

ESS 7 Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities

ESS 8 Cultural Heritage

CHANCE FINDS
Implement the chance finds procedure described in the ESMF and included in all site specific ESMPs involving subprojects with earthmoving activities. - Throughout Project implementation

PHYSICAL CULTURAL RESOURCES
Screen and ensure all activities/subprojects with such impacts and/or located within important such sites will be excluded from the project financing. - During subproject screening process

ESS 9 Financial Intermediaries

ESMS
Prepare, adopt, and maintain an environmental and social management system (ESMS) within the PFIs, including an overall E&S Policy. - Before credit line become effective. Once established, the ESMS is maintained and operated throughout Project
Apply World Bank’s relevant ESSs to managing any type of resettlement as well as to managing substantial risks for environment, community health and safety, labor and working conditions and biodiversity.

**FI ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**
Establish and maintain organizational capacity and competency for implementing the ESMS within each PFI with clearly defined roles and responsibilities, including appointing loan officers for screening and monitoring.

**SENIOR MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATIVE:**
Designate within PFIs a senior management representative to have overall accountability for environmental and social performance of credit line and of FI subprojects to be financed.

Ensure that Project Credit Line Guidelines state the responsibilities of PFIs to comply with the requirements of ESS9 and Project ESMF, RPF, LMP, and SEP including all relevant actions specified in this Commitment Plan - Prior to project Disbursement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>B.3. Reliance on Borrower’s policy, legal and institutional framework, relevant to the Project risks and impacts</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Is this project being prepared for use of Borrower Framework?</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Areas where “Use of Borrower Framework” is being considered:</strong></td>
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**IV. CONTACT POINTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>World Bank</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Contact:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Title:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Telephone No:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Email:</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Borrower/Client/Recipient**

| **Borrower:** | Republic of Uzbekistan |

**Implementing Agency(ies)**

| **Implementing Agency:** | Agroindustry and Food Security Agency (UZAIFSA), Ministry of Agriculture |

**V. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT**
VI. APPROVAL

Task Team Leader(s): Sergiy Zorya

Practice Manager (ENR/Social) Kevin A Tomlinson Cleared on 16-Dec-2019 at 21:38:0 EST