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USAID/Azerbaijan Competitiveness and Trade (ACT) Project

**Donors Cooperation and Public-Private
Partnerships**

Melani Schultz

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ACT Project Snapshot

Funding

\$21.997 million from the Azerbaijan Government (GOAJ) and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)

Period of Performance

October 1, 2010 – June 11, 2013

Purpose

Improve the legal and regulatory environment for businesses, create a more open and transparent trade environment, and strengthen value chains in Azerbaijan (especially in agriculture)

Approach to Competitiveness

Firms are more productively producing and selling to markets—more goods and services demanded by markets at lower prices. Support for internal and external factors: firm/farm production technology; quality standards; domestic and international market access; business enabling environment—laws, regulations, administration, etc.



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USAID Current Activities

Community Based Support to Producers of Dairy Products (UMID) Project Snapshot

Funding	\$500,000 (USAID), BP
Period of Performance	3 Years October 1, 2009 – September 30, 2012
Purpose	Expand the scale of milk and dairy products sold by small dairy husbandries and small and mid-scale farmers, create regional collection centers and link target group with milk processing entities
Geographic Coverage	Western and Central Azerbaijan
Partners	Bilasuvaragro LLC, Scientific Research Cattle Breeding Institute, Azerbaijan University of Technologies, Azerbaijan Scientific-Research Agromechanics Institute, Samadoghlu-Ataturk company, and local communities, Oklahoma State U.



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Other Current ACT Activities

- Not necessarily traditional PPP activities
- Public-Private Dialog Development working with partner CSOs including Amcham to:
 - Build capacity to develop message and communicate constructively
 - Draft legislation and provide comments to GOAJ
 - Develop policy papers to highlight sector issues especially official and unofficial administrative barriers
 - Develop trade facilitation and other studies to evaluate specific sector costs affecting trade and push for reduction



Azerbaijan Daily Price Index

Funding	ACT Project, Local Partner responsible for data collection and analysis—will license data, Local Phone Company responsible for hosting, dissemination and storage of data
Period of Performance	Life of the ACT project
Purpose	Provide daily price information on identified products especially agriculture through SMS, web and phone to reduce information asymmetry between buyers and sellers (especially farmers).
Geographic Coverage	Nationwide
Partners	There may be other partners involved including input dealers, banks, etc. for advertising and other types of services once the system is designed and the business model is developed



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Other Planned ACT Activities

- Work with and build capacity of WTO Coalition to support WTO Accession process
- Development of Business Council in cooperation with IFC, WB and private sector companies
- Sector Association Development to advocate for the industry—public private dialogue
- Cost-Benefit Analysis Training of professors public universities
- Development of standards with GOAJ and private sector



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Potential Future ACTPPP Activities

- Value Chain competitiveness improvement (hazelnuts, fish, milk, apple, pomegranate, and chicken) include potential investments with support of project grants in:
 - Fish processing facility
 - Fish storage facility
 - Improvements in cold storage facilities
 - Other processing—introduction of new technologies (possibly plant equipment) in other value chains
 - Upgrading of plant and equipment to improve standards
- Outreach materials in cooperation with private sector, NGOs, other donors, financial institutions



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THANK YOU

Contact Info:

Melani Schultz

melani.schultz@actproject.net

+994-12-5964635

+994-50-252-9236