

# Empowering Agricultural Development in Kyrgyzstan



An ITU E-Strategy project is bringing the benefits of the Internet to remote farming communities in Kyrgyzstan, deep in the heart of Asia.

A country of rugged mountains and proud traditions, the Central Asian State is now the site of a major e-Agricultural initiative designed to spur economic development through innovative use of ICTs.

With agriculture the country's most important economic sector and some 70 per cent of the population living in rural areas, ITU is working actively with the Kyrgyz Government and local villages to develop new ways of using the latest technologies to deliver vital information and new services to remote communities. Examples include:

- commodity prices on principal markets
- online brokerage and marketplace options
- new agricultural techniques
- improved crop varieties
- advanced pest-control methods
- weather
- seasonal planting schedules
- new cropping options



## Cooperative Approach

ITU's E-Strategy projects focus strongly on developing activities in partnership with the people they are designed to benefit.

In the selected pilot village of Madaniyat in the country's Tchuyski-Tokmok region, E-Strategy team leaders met with farmers and government representatives in the local village hall to define the following priorities and deliverables:

- An ICT infrastructure and e-Commerce network aimed at helping Madaniyat farmers get a better return on their produce by providing up-to-date price information and direct access to buyers
- An Internet-equipped Multipurpose Community Telecentre to promote affordable access to online information, particularly in the areas of health and education
- A new ICT-based data collection system to help the Ministry of Agriculture more effectively gather and analyse agricultural data, and to facilitate the dissemination of farming information to local communities

## Sustainability

All ITU E-Strategy projects are based on the concept of sustainability.

ITU's Telecommunication Development Bureau aims not only to empower economic development by funding initial set-up costs, but to empower communities by helping them take control of their own future through projects that eventually become self-funding.