

- Development of national dietary guidelines to establish a coherent basis for public food security and nutrition policies and to promote good nutrition and prevent Non-Communicable Diseases;
- Revision of the legal framework to strengthen the agriculture land tenure rights equitably for women and men and to remove the state from the practice of crop allocation;
- Assistance to establishment of small-scale farmer organisations (cooperatives, producer groups, farmer associations), including producers groups in the area of geographical indications;
- Piloting of an agribusiness incubation scheme for rural women and youth in selected AKIS pilot areas;
- Drafting of a regulatory framework to ensure decent employment and protection for women and small producers;
- Design and implementation of a pilot support scheme to promote the development and diversification of small-scale farms and agri-businesses targeting young farmers, entrepreneurs, start-up and producer associations;
- Design and launch of a support scheme to encourage the establishment of women farmer association, cooperatives and other producer organisations;
- Development of a national programme to promote a culture of healthy food consumption, including an annual communication campaign to increase awareness of food nutrition and the health benefits of regional food products;
- Design and implementation of a capacity building programme for farm and agri-business advisory service providers in farm and agribusiness management.

The commitment of the EU's contribution to the Team Europe Initiative foreseen under this action plan will be complemented by other contributions from Team Europe partners. It is subject to the formal confirmation of each respective partners' meaningful contribution as early as possible. In the event that the TEIs and/or these contributions do not materialise the EU action may continue outside a TEI framework.

3.3 Mainstreaming

The action can be classified as a high-risk action since both of its outcomes (especially Outcome 2: Improved sustainable livelihood opportunities, decent jobs and access to markets for the most vulnerable) but also Outcome 1: Improved implementation framework of the agri-food development strategy enabling inclusive development of a climate smart agri-food sector, could be easily affected by natural hazards associated to climate change. To this end, it is suggested that all interventions supported through the action include at least a simple ex-ante Climate Risk Assessment to ensure that:

- They explicitly demonstrate awareness of climate risks and their potential level of negative impact, throughout the project's life-span.
- They will – with a high level of confidence – implement the relevant cost-effective adaptation measures (e.g. win-win options, no/low-regret option, or flexible development pathways that can be easily amended based on the changing climatic conditions) and/or wider strengthening resilience measures formulated in the relevant national/regional strategies on climate change, desertification and disaster risk reduction in Central Asia.

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls

As per OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G1. A gender responsive rights-based approach which will leave no one behind and do-no-harm is identified as a significant cross-cutting element for the planning and execution of the proposed Action. Given that the drivers of food insecurity and malnutrition include multi-dimensional poverty, inequality and discrimination, the proposed action builds on the commitment of the Commission to adopt both a human-rights based and gender transformative approach to development cooperation. Gender equality is therefore designated as a significant objective and will be explicit in the proposed action's emphasis on reducing livelihood disparities and improving food security and nutrition among the rural population of Uzbekistan. This is in line with the Government's own recent efforts to increase the economic and social inclusion of women, which were part of the transformative reform agenda. In early 2021, the authorities announced a package of measures designed to reduce poverty among women. They include plans to expand women's employment and entrepreneurship, access to social assistance and healthcare, professional retraining and higher education, housing, and pre-school services, among other policies. Gender-sensitive social protection schemes and the provision of high quality and affordable pre-schools remain fundamental to women's economic and social empowerment in Uzbekistan.

However, in the context of broader agri-food sector reform and government efforts to improve the quality of diets for food security and good nutrition, gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment has yet to be adequately prioritised and there is poor awareness among policy makers regarding the significance of this agenda. A key priority for this action is to ensure that gender transformative objectives are meaningfully operationalised within the