

**6<sup>th</sup> GFRAS Annual Meeting**  
***Global Good Practices in Rural Advisory Services***  
**14 - 17 September 2015, Issyk Kul, Kyrgyzstan**

**FIELD DAY PROGRAM**

**Cultivation / marketing of black currant and other berries (half-day)**

Berry production for the market is a rather uncommon business in Issyk Kul, although berries are traditionally widely grown in home gardens. The project Karagat+ supports farmers in a range of villages to cultivate black currant and other berries as a cash crop. We will visit berry farmers, discuss the marketing options, and meet with the staff of the local non-governmental RAS provider AVEP. AVEP combines the provision of technical with business advice, as well as investment and marketing support. With support by the project also the Nursery Association of Issyk Kul was established, to ensure access of many farmers to high productivity berry production. The participants will be able to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of complex service packages in promoting innovation and the challenge of disseminating such innovations to a wider range of farmers if their introduction, as in this case, is supported by heavy external financing.

We will visit berry farmers in the village of Tamchy, which is around 30 km from Sary Oi. Travelling time is around 30 min.

**Facilitator:** Syrgabek Joybolotov, Manager of Jalalabad Rural Advisory Services

**Other key persons:** Daniyar Jasoolov, project manager AVEP, representative of Issyk Kul nursery association

**Program:**

Time	Activity, discussion topics	Responsible
13.00 - 13.30	Departure from hotel to village Tamchy	Facilitator
13.30 - 14.30	Lunch in yurt at farmer's home	
14.30 – 15.00	Drive to blackcurrant field Introduction to AVEP and its project Karagat+ Presentation of Issyk Kul nursery association	Daniyar Jasoolov
15.00 - 15.30	Farmer tells about the group, why berry growing, varieties, how are berries marketed, processing. From where do they get their know-how. Benefits obtained.	Farmer group leader
15.30 - 16.15	Meeting with a group of berry farmers, discussion about berry growing and marketing, advisory services etc.	Farmers
16.15 - 16.45	Discussions, ideas and recommendations by participants	Daniyar Jasoolov, participants
16.45 – 18.00	Departure from Tamchy to Hotel (including visit to shore of Issyk Kul lake)	Facilitator

