

Sub-program (Target Priority Area)	2. Strengthening Policy Making Capacity for Economic Development
Component (CP) (Development Issues)	2-2. Agriculture / Rural Development
Expected Research Areas	Agricultural Policy, Food Safety, Livestock Epidemics, Agricultural Machinery, Farmers' Organizations, Agricultural Economy, Local Government, Regional Development, Economic Development Projects in the Area
Accepting University	Hiroshima University (2) GS of Humanities and Social Sciences International Economic Development Program - Master of Philosophy - Master of International Cooperation Studies <u>If applicants do not fulfill a regular period of school education (16 years from primary school to university), the eligibility will be assessed.</u>
<u>Purpose of the Study:</u>	
<p>While more than 60% of the population in the Kyrgyz Republic lives in rural areas, with 29.3% of the labor population working in agriculture, the ratio of agriculture in the GDP is decreasing annually, down to approximately 13.2% in 2017. The development of the sector stagnated due to several problems such as (1) fragmentation of farming and the insufficient development of agricultural cooperatives to increase production (large number of smallholding farmers, with an average farm size of 2.7 ha per household emerged as the result of the dissolution of the Soviet-era's state farms (kolkhozy, sovkhozy); (2) reduced soil fertility, (3) insufficient farm machinery, (4) poor irrigation facilities, (5) poor animal health and lack of an effective veterinary system, and (6) lack of access to the necessary financial resources. There is no system for promoting farming techniques, and the lack of a price formation system or distribution system that could give incentives to producers are also reasons for the agricultural slump. Kyrgyzstan is now the member of Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) and the issues of improving the quality, export competitiveness of agricultural products, developing the capacity of regional agricultural producers became very important.</p> <p>In the DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM OF KYRGYZ REPUBLIC FOR the period 2018-2022 "UNITY, TRUST, CREATION" which was announced in April 2018, Agro industrial sector was noted as one of the development of strategic branches of economy. In this policy, the priority direction of the Government's policy will be the state support for production and processing of agricultural products, which create high value added and are labor-intensive. Target orients for the development of the industry will be growth in production volumes and its efficiency, improvement of the quality of agricultural products, provision of country's food security, building the capacity of the processing industry.</p> <p>The draft Program on Agricultural Sector Development for the period from 2017-2020 which is currently discussed in the Government, also highlights the importance of initiating and adopting of new technologies and development of innovative enterprises to improve export potential of agricultural sector as well as the development of opportunities for agricultural producers from rural areas by ensuring their access to knowledge. Moreover, in March 2017 the Concept of Regional Policy of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2018-2022 has been adopted. The Concept objective is to ensure the economic and social growth in the regions through implementation of development programs in each region. In agricultural sector the Concept suggests to focus on solving the problems related to rehabilitate irrigation system, development of agro industrial clusters, organize effective cooperatives system and improvement of infrastructure to facilitate the export to EEU.</p>	