 **PRESS-RELEASE**

**Import substitution and cluster development in fruit and vegetable industry for promoting economic growth: from theory to practice**

**30 November 2018, Dushanbe** – On the 4th and 5th of December 2018, a scientific-practical Conference will be held on “Import substitution and cluster development in fruit and vegetable industry for promoting economic growth: from theory to practice". The Conference takes place in Dushanbe Serena Hotel.

The scope of the Conference is focused on improving the implementation of the existing import substitution program and creating a favorable environment for efficient interaction between advanced scientific approaches and practical skills in the development of the fruit and vegetable sector in Tajikistan.

The conference will offer a platform for exchange of knowledge and experience among enterprises, academic institutions, universities, the state and financial institutions, international organizations and business association in the form of scientific presentations, reviews of existing practices and a dialog on the cluster interaction.

It is expected that a business network of future cooperation in agricultural development will be set up during the Conference.

The Conference is organized by **National Association of Small and Medium Business** together with **Hilfswerk International** in the framework of the project “*Advanced Support Programme to Central Asian Business Intermediary Organizations – Specialized and Integrated Services for Export-Oriented Food Processing SMEs - CANDY - IV*", funded by the program of the **European Union** "Central Asia - Invest IV".

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| eu_logoA project implemented    Address: Loik Sherali 3, Dushanbe, Tajikistan Tel: (+992) 372 24 49 08  [info@namsb.tj](mailto:info@namsb.tj); [aslanov@hilfswerk.tj](mailto:aslanov@hilfswerk.tj) [www.hilfswerk.tj](http://www.hilfswerk.tj/); | This project is funded  by the European Union  Delegation of the European Union  To the Republic of Tajikistan  74 Adhamov Street  734013 Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan  Tel: (+992 37) 221 74 07, 227 10 24  [Delegation-Tajikistan-Pic@eeas.europa.eu](mailto:Delegation-Tajikistan-Pic@eeas.europa.eu)  [web-clip-wide-3](http://eeas.europa.eu/DELEGATIONS/TAJIKISTAN/INDEX_EN.HTM) [twitter icon](https://twitter.com/EUinTajikistan) [fb_icon_325x325](https://www.facebook.com/EUinTajikistan) | The European Union is made up of 28 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 60 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders. To this end the EU is active in Tajikistan since 1992 and provides approximately EUR 35 million annually in development assistance. |

International non-governmental organization **Hilfswerk International** implements in equal partnership with regional organizations in the Central Asia its fourth project as part of the “Central Asia – Invest” program of the European Union.

This series of projects, which have been implemented for the last eight years by a joint team of nine regional and international organizations, aims at Central Asia’s

integration into the global economy by developing the fruit and vegetable processing sector, as well as increasing the competitiveness and export capacity of SMEs.