



## CASE STUDY

# KOSOVO: AGRO ACTIVITY

## CLIMATE RISK MANAGEMENT CASE STUDY

### Executive Summary

The USAID Agricultural Growth and Rural Opportunities (AGRO) [Activity](#) (March 2015–February 2021) strengthened the competitiveness of Kosovo’s agriculture sector, while increasing farmer incomes and creating new job opportunities. The AGRO team recognized that climate risks such as water shortages and more frequent and intense storms posed a threat to local agricultural production and value chains. To help manage climate risks to agriculture—and to USAID’s investments in the sector—the AGRO team implemented a suite of Climate Risk Management (CRM) actions, including expanding use of technologies to decrease agricultural water use per unit area and protect crops from the impacts of extreme weather events.

AGRO exemplifies USAID’s approach to CRM by fully integrating the approach into a holistic, climate-resilient development program. In addition to producing tangible benefits, AGRO’s CRM work helped sustain USAID’s investments in Kosovo’s rapidly developing agricultural sector, while building partners’ capacity to manage current and projected climate impacts on agricultural production and grow their operations sustainably. These CRM actions contributed to AGRO’s success in improving crop yields, conserving water resources, reducing crop losses, creating new agricultural jobs, and strengthening the resilience of its partners—despite an increasingly variable and more extreme climate.

### Introduction

This case study describes, quantifies, and monetizes the value of several of AGRO’s CRM actions. Some CRM actions deliver benefits that are difficult to quantify or monetize; for

### KEY BENEFITS OF AGRO CRM

- ✓ Increased yields of important fruit and vegetable crops by 50-300 percent, with increased values ranging from approximately \$1,300–\$61,000 per hectare
- ✓ Reduced irrigation water demand by up to approximately 4,000 cubic meters per hectare
- ✓ Observed avoided crop losses of up to 80% due to early warning systems and crop protection measures
- ✓ Demonstrated approximately \$15,000 per hectare potential avoided losses from frost damage
- ✓ Provided up to 100 seasonal jobs annually for women in one rural area, with total income of approximately \$864,000 throughout the activity

example, strengthening farmers' capacity to manage climate risk in their operations. Other CRM benefits may not yet be apparent because the timeframes associated with climate variability and change are much longer than the period of active USAID support. This case study focuses on the benefits that can be quantified based on information gathered during the activity.

AGRO helped modernize agribusinesses, streamline agricultural value chains, expand access to international markets, strengthen capacity among strategic partners, and manage the environmental impacts of agricultural production. The AGRO team recognized that climate risks threatened the ability to achieve the activity's primary goals. Droughts limited access to water for irrigation, and late-spring frosts and more frequent and intense heavy rains and hail damaged crops.

AGRO began before implementation of USAID's 2016 CRM policy, and the team did not conduct a formal climate risk assessment. Climate risks have always been inherent to agriculture, and the team recognized that climate stressors exacerbated the impact of non-climate stressors that affect agricultural development. AGRO's actions and successes demonstrate the direct link between climate resilience and a strong agricultural sector.

AGRO implemented the following CRM actions, described in more detail below:

- Installed and activated drip irrigation systems on approximately 2,000 hectares (ha) of raspberry plants and 60 ha of blueberry plants;
- Implemented fertigation practices on approximately 400 ha of greenhouses and approximately 1,000 ha of vegetable fields;
- Installed an anti-frost system on eight demonstration ha of orchards;
- Installed heating systems and improved ventilation for more than 250 ha of greenhouses;
- Installed 19 climate monitoring stations across production zones in six municipalities;
- Enrolled 800 farmers in an early warning system text message service that provides information on several key fruit and vegetable crops; and
- Advised the Government of Kosovo on expanding and increasing the effectiveness of its agricultural insurance program.

These interventions produced important benefits for AGRO and its partners, including yield increases ranging from 50-300 percent for key fruit and vegetable crops, reduced water demand of up to approximately 4,000 cubic meters per hectare for certain crops, avoided crop losses from extreme temperatures and precipitation events, additional jobs and income for women farm workers, and enhanced capacity of strategic partners.

## Kosovo's Agriculture Sector and Climate Change Impacts

Approximately 60 percent of Kosovo's population lives in rural areas and depends on income from agriculture. Persistent challenges in Kosovo's agriculture sector include aging and

inefficient equipment, low yields, inefficiencies in value chains, low levels of farmer education, and limited access to international markets.<sup>1,2</sup>

Despite these challenges, there is substantial domestic and international demand for Kosovo's fruit and vegetable crops. The country produces many high-value crops, including blueberries, raspberries, cherries, plums, apples, pears, asparagus, cucumbers, and peppers. The growth of fruit production over the past 10 years has fueled job creation and income generation.<sup>3</sup> The value of Kosovo's fruit production has increased steadily over the last decade. In 2018, fruits contributed approximately 66.5 million Euros (more than 17 percent) to the country's 388 million Euro agriculture sector.<sup>4</sup>

However, increasing variability in temperatures and precipitation and growing water scarcity threaten Kosovo's crop yields, competitiveness, and value chain profitability. Gaps in hydrometeorological data between 1989 and 2000 limit the information base for analysis of trends. Climate projections for the country are generally based on regional data for the Western Balkans.<sup>5</sup> However, more recent trends of increasing climate variability within the country have become apparent. Average temperatures in Kosovo have generally risen since the 1960s, with the most warming occurring in the summer, and heat waves have become more frequent.<sup>6</sup> Temperature variability has increased, with higher highs and lower lows that affect crop yields. Above-normal temperatures in early spring promote early crop flowering that can reduce pollination and may be followed by frosts and freezes that damage crops, particularly fruit.

Total annual precipitation in the region has generally decreased, and this trend is expected to continue. Extreme rainfall events and hailstorms are also expected to increase in frequency. More variable summer rainfall has resulted in longer drought periods, greater flood intensity, reduced soil water infiltration, and extensive crop damage from hail. Winter snows and rains that historically recharged groundwater have become less reliable, and farmers have experienced increasing water shortages. With further climate change, four of Kosovo's five water basins may become water stressed by 2050.<sup>7</sup> This situation, combined with rising consumption, inefficient irrigation systems, and inadequate wastewater treatment, is increasing uncertainty about the future availability of water for irrigation.

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<sup>1</sup> European Commission, 2014. Kosovo, Agriculture and Rural Development Support Programme V. Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA II), 2014-2020. Available: [https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/pdf/kosovo/ipa/2015/17\\_ipa\\_2014\\_agriculture\\_and\\_rd\\_20141027.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/pdf/kosovo/ipa/2015/17_ipa_2014_agriculture_and_rd_20141027.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Republic of Kosovo, 2017. Agriculture and Rural Development Program 2017. Available: <https://www.mbpzhr-ks.net/repository/docs/webPROGRAMleng.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> International Finance Corporation, 2018. Agriculture Finance In Kosovo: Creating an Agri-Finance Market. Available: <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/31288/134583-WP-PUBLIC-12-2-2019-18-17-35-AgricultureFinanceinKosovo.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

<sup>4</sup> Kosovo Agency of Statistics, 2018. Agriculture and Environment Statistics, Economic Accounts for Agriculture 2018. Available: <https://ask.rks-gov.net/media/5188/economic-accounts-for-agriculture-2018.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> World Bank, 2021. Kosovo Climate data. Available: <https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/country/kosovo/climate-data-historical>

<sup>6</sup> USAID, 2017. Kosovo Climate Change Risk Profile. Available: [https://www.climatelinks.org/sites/default/files/asset/document/2017\\_USAID\\_Climate%20Change%20Risk%20Profile%20-%20Kosovo.pdf](https://www.climatelinks.org/sites/default/files/asset/document/2017_USAID_Climate%20Change%20Risk%20Profile%20-%20Kosovo.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> USAID, 2017. Kosovo Climate Change Risk Profile. Available: [https://www.climatelinks.org/sites/default/files/asset/document/2017\\_USAID\\_Climate%20Change%20Risk%20Profile%20-%20Kosovo.pdf](https://www.climatelinks.org/sites/default/files/asset/document/2017_USAID_Climate%20Change%20Risk%20Profile%20-%20Kosovo.pdf)

## Climate Risk Management in Action

AGRO improved the efficiency of agricultural production and food processing by increasing linkages to domestic and export markets, and building agricultural system management capacity of its strategic partners. Over the course of the activity, AGRO generated more than \$165 million in domestic and export sales, implemented new technologies on 4,800 hectares of crops, created 5,440 new jobs, and engaged 7,308 farmers in practices that enhanced agricultural productivity and boosted farmer incomes.<sup>8</sup>

The AGRO team recognized that climate stressors—especially extreme temperatures and increasing variability and intensity of precipitation—would affect the ability to achieve the project's established goals and the country's broader development goals. In addition to addressing fundamental development challenges to agricultural competitiveness, the AGRO team integrated consideration of climate variability and climate change into its activities. For example, AGRO aimed to help farmers increase crop yields and protect against crop losses even as they experienced extreme temperatures and extreme precipitation.

Mark Wood, former AGRO Chief of Party and current Senior Advisor to the team, explained that the team incorporated CRM actions into its work out of necessity. “We weren’t reacting to the theory of climate change, but to the facts,” he explained. “Everything we did was because it was necessary.”

To manage climate risks to agricultural development, the team integrated CRM actions into multiple aspects of its design and implementation. AGRO’s CRM approach focused on improving water use efficiency in agricultural operations, reducing impacts of extreme temperatures, and building farmer capacity through increased access to agrometeorological information. CRM actions included:<sup>9</sup>

- **Increasing farmers’ adoption of modern drip irrigation practices.** Drip irrigation increases water use efficiency by delivering water directly to the active root zone of crops, reducing irrigation water consumption during droughts. It also gives farmers more control over the timing, rate, and total amount of water delivered to crops. By reducing evaporation and runoff, drip irrigation uses water at 85 percent efficiency, compared to 75 percent for sprinklers and 60 percent or less for flood irrigation. More efficient water use can reduce groundwater pumping and improve crops yields by reducing water stress and plant diseases associated with flooded fields. AGRO supported farmers both to transition from less efficient systems to drip irrigation systems and to start up new operations using the efficient drip systems.
- **Improving the efficiency of fertilizer application systems in greenhouses and fields.** Drip irrigation systems also enabled farmers to efficiently deliver water-soluble fertilizers and soil amendments to crops (*fertigation*). Applying fertilizers in the crop root zone reduces waste that results from applying fertilizer on the soil surface, where it can be lost in runoff. This can reduce the amount of fertilizer needed, decreasing farmer costs, pollution of surface and groundwater, and nitrous oxide emissions that contribute to global warming.

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<sup>8</sup> USAID AGRO Activity. Personal communication with AGRO Activity staff.

<sup>9</sup> USAID, 2019. AGRO, Mitigating the risk associated with increasing climate variability.

- **Introducing new crop varieties.** AGRO provided technical assistance to researchers to test new crop varieties of berries, gherkins, and other vegetable crops at multiple production sites and assess their ability to withstand current and projected climate conditions and variability. After production of new crop varieties was successfully demonstrated under specific experimental climate conditions, AGRO helped private sector suppliers introduce them more widely, giving farmers more access to climate-resilient varieties and helping to diversify production. With AGRO's support, adoption of new varieties was particularly strong among vegetable farmers.
- **Developing an anti-frost system.** In Kosovo, apples and pears are especially vulnerable to frosts during spring flowering. AGRO awarded a grant to a commercial fruit producer to develop and test an anti-frost system for eight hectares of apple trees. The system used mist irrigation to spray a thin layer of ice over the trees to protect the flowers and fruits from exposure to air temperatures below freezing.
- **Adapting greenhouse production methods.** Consistent crop quality is critical for greenhouse crops produced for highly competitive export markets. These crops must be able to withstand large temperature variations. AGRO helped farmers identify and implement strategies for managing the impacts of extreme temperatures on greenhouse crops. AGRO provided technical assistance to help farmers improve greenhouse buildings and install insulation, heating, and ventilation systems to mitigate high and low ambient temperatures.

A protective layer of ice fully coats blossoming trees and prevents their temperature from dropping below freezing. Source: Spinazzè Group 2021.



- **Developing an early warning system to improve climate risk response.** AGRO provided technical support to a telecom company to install a network of climate monitoring stations in agricultural areas. The stations collect temperature, wind speed, and humidity data that are analyzed centrally. Farmers can sign up for text messages that provide information about potential frost, drought, and precipitation events and crop pest and disease outbreaks. This information enables farmers to take action to protect crops before an extreme event; for example, by deploying hail nets, activating anti-frost systems, or altering the amount of water delivered through irrigation systems.
- **Strengthening Kosovo's agricultural insurance program.** AGRO provided guidance to the Government of Kosovo to increase the effectiveness of an existing weather-indexed insurance program for farmers. The program relies on a temperature threshold to determine whether crops experience frost damage in a certain production area, but the system does not have the capacity to detect local weather conditions and thresholds that would trigger insurance payments. Weather-indexed insurance programs work most effectively when the weather station network is extensive and can detect highly localized differences in temperature and precipitation. Otherwise, sparse networks may not detect weather conditions in areas between individual stations. AGRO helped build the capacity of the insurance system by providing additional weather stations (described above) and by advising the Government on good practices for developing effective insurance schemes.

## CRM Outcomes and Benefits

AGRO's CRM actions have produced multiple successful outcomes, as Table 1 summarizes.

**Table 1. AGRO's CRM Actions and Outcomes**

Climate Risks	CRM Actions	CRM Outcomes
Water scarcity and shortages of irrigation water	Introduction of more efficient irrigation systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduction in water and energy use in agricultural production</li> <li>• Increased yields of important crops such as raspberries and blueberries</li> </ul>
Flooding and fertilizer runoff	Introduction of new fertigation systems in greenhouses and vegetable fields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in yields of key fruit and vegetable crops</li> </ul>
Crop stress from extreme and variable temperature and precipitation	Increased adoption of more climate-resilient crop varieties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in yields of important fruit and vegetable crops</li> </ul>
Unseasonable late-spring frosts	Deployment of anti-frost technologies in orchards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protection of apple and pear crops from early frosts and extreme cold</li> </ul>
More frequent and intense hailstorms	Distribution of hail nets for field crops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protection of field crops from hail, heavy rains, and extreme heat</li> </ul>
Crop stress from extreme and variable temperature and precipitation	Retrofits and improvements to greenhouses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protection and increased yields for greenhouse crops</li> <li>• Reduction in energy use in greenhouses</li> </ul>

Climate Risks	CRM Actions	CRM Outcomes
More frequent and intense extreme weather events	Expansion and enhancement of early warning system and monitoring network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better availability of agrometeorological information and forecasts</li> <li>• Increased participation of farmers in early warning system</li> </ul>
Crop stress from extreme and variable temperature and precipitation and consequent reduced shelf life between harvest and processing	Growing medicinal aromatic plants with micro-growers using on-site solar insulation dryer system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eliminated need for fossil fuel to power dryers</li> <li>• Allowed micro-growers to dry products onsite before aggregator collects them, which increases value of products</li> </ul>

## Improved Yields

One of AGRO's key activities was the installation of drip irrigation and fertigation systems for over 3,800 ha of cropland. This CRM action alone has produced considerable yield benefits for several key crops and their producers. Table 2 shows the yield improvements and the combined value of the yield improvements associated with drip irrigation and fertigation systems compared to traditional flood irrigation systems.

**Table 2. Yield increases from AGRO drip irrigation and fertigation systems versus flood irrigation**

Crop	Average yield with flood irrigation	Average yield with drip irrigation and fertigation (MT/Ha)	% enhancement from drip irrigation and fertigation	Farmgate prices/ (USD/kg)	Gross value of improved yield (USD/ha)
Blueberry	4	16	300%	5.08	\$60,984
Raspberry	4	15	280%	1.57	\$17,618
Gherkins	12	30	150%	0.42	\$7,623
Peppers	20	50	150%	0.24	\$7,260
Industrial Strawberry	9	20	125%	0.97	\$10,890
Apples	25	50	100%	0.30	\$7,563
Sour Cherry	4	6	50%	0.67	\$1,331

Source: Mark Wood, AGRO Senior Advisor, personal communication, 2021.

Greenhouse technology improvements also boosted yields by optimizing temperatures for growth and a longer production season. For example, installation of fleece insulation extended the growing season for lettuce by 25 percent.

## Reduced Demand for Water for Key Crops

Recent winter droughts in Kosovo have reduced groundwater recharge rates, decreasing water availability in the summer. In addition, hotter, drier summers boost water consumption for agriculture and other uses. Laura Gjakova, AGRO Environmental Specialist, noted that, "Farmers see wells depleting every year." Table 3 lists the water savings achieved through AGRO's implementation of drip irrigation systems.



Drip irrigation on a blueberry crop in Kosovo. Source: Agrilinks.org

**Table 3. Water conservation from replacing flood irrigation with drip irrigation**

Type of Crop	Annual Water Savings Per Hectare (m <sup>3</sup> y)	Land Area	Total Annual Water Savings (m <sup>3</sup> )
Tree and shrub crops	4,051	2,000 ha raspberries; 60 ha blueberries	8.3 million
Annual field crops	4,181	1,000 ha	4.2 million
Greenhouse crops	3,132	400 ha	1.3 million

### Jobs and Income for Women

AGRO partner Boost Berries, a privately owned operation, expanded its blueberry production from 4 ha to 15 ha due in part to the efficient drip irrigation and fertigation systems. With the larger planted area and higher yields, the company hired more local women for seasonal harvesting work. These women workers have earned approximately \$864,000 in base wages over the course of Boost Berries' partnership with AGRO, excluding the extra pay many women earn for exceeding their harvest quotas.

Boost Berries prefers to hire women for harvesting berries by hand. The farm now employs 80-100 women during the three-month harvest period. Many of the new workers had never been employed outside the home before. The harvesters receive monthly base pay and a bonus of \$0.46 for each kilogram of blueberries she harvests above the base. Some women earn up to \$811 per month—twice the average monthly salary in Kosovo's private sector.<sup>10</sup>

Boost Berries owner Besnik Lila and Quality Manager Valentina Lajqi—who was hired through an AGRO grant and maintains a full-time position—both expect the number of women workers will double again as Boost Berries expands to produce processed blueberry products. Lajqi also noted that the new seasonal employment opportunities have helped change the mentality of other household members who see women contributing financially to the household.

<sup>10</sup> USAID 2018. Kosovo Blueberries Fill Markets in the Netherlands. Available: <https://www.usaid.gov/results-data/success-stories/kosovo-blueberries-filling-markets-netherlands>

## Crop Loss Reductions

Leutrim Isufi of Agrium Fruits noted that a late-spring frost or a severe hailstorm or flood can destroy an entire crop, making it difficult for farmers to buy inputs for the next cropping season or upgrade their operations. A severe weather event can have a lasting impact on a farm's financial stability, reinforcing a cycle of vulnerability to climate and non-climate stressors.

AGRO helped farmers reduce major crop losses from severe climate events by 1) promoting hail nets—large nets that farmers hang above crops to protect them from hail and heavy rain; 2) strengthening early warning systems and partnering with a telecom service to deliver agrometeorological information; and 3) encouraging farmers to use anti-frost systems and covers to protect crops from late spring frosts. AGRO provided financial support that allowed IPKO Telecommunications to install 19 weather stations across six municipalities to increase the amount and quality of information to support farmer decision-making. AGRO worked through its partners to promote and increase participation in the early-warning system, which now enrolls 800 farmers and provides information about several key crops. Installing efficient drip irrigation systems reduced overall water use and installing temporary water storage infrastructure allowed farmers to create a reserve of irrigation water during the summer. Both practices increase the likelihood that irrigation water will be available even during drought.

AGRO also developed and demonstrated an anti-frost system on eight ha of apple orchards to protect a young crop from late-spring frosts. In this demonstration orchard, AGRO prevented approximately \$15,000 per hectare of frost damage to the apple crop during a single frost event, by avoiding crop losses of approximately 50 metric tons per hectare.



Valentina Lajqi, Boost Berries Quality Manager, described the cultural shift occurring in rural communities as women take jobs outside the home as farm workers.

"It has helped change the mentality of the households because they see women doing well and contributing [financially] to the household," said Ms. Lajqi.

Source: Boost Berries (2021)

Armend Skeja, a fruit producer who built a storage facility for apples with financial support from AGRO, said climate risks are becoming more frequent. Proper apple storage facilities are even more critical under climate change because climate-related impacts such as pest outbreaks, rot, or desiccation can affect fruit quality and reduce shelf life. From 2017-2020, Skeja's 400 ha of orchards experienced significant losses because of frost or hail, ranging from 70-100 percent damage to his sour cherry and apple crops. Skeja reported that, over these four years, his orchard lost nearly \$490,000 due to frost or hail. The hail nets he received from AGRO protected four of his fields from hail damage, while the unprotected fields experienced up to 80 percent damage. Skeja's new storage facilities have helped protect his harvests from climate events and extend their shelf life.

Armend Skeja, a fruit producer who partnered with AGRO, estimates CRM practices could **reduce crop losses by 90 percent** if implemented across an entire farm. The hail nets he received from **AGRO protected four of his fields from hail damage**, while unprotected fields experienced up to 80 percent damage.

"I wouldn't have storage facilities without AGRO at all, because it was too expensive," Mr. Skeja said. He estimated that CRM practices could reduce these losses by 90 percent if implemented across his entire farm.

## Strong, Resilient Strategic Partners

One of AGRO's most important achievements was strengthening capacity, innovation, and resilience among its strategic partners, including 7,308 farmers. These partners are now in a better position to sustainably grow and manage their operations, while responding to climate variability and climate impacts on the agricultural value chain.

Mr. Skeja believes that sharing experiences and best practices and facilitating farmer networking opportunities were AGRO's most important benefits. Support from AGRO enabled some partners to travel to conferences and other events outside the country. "Exchanging with other producers saves money—if you make the right investment the first time instead of doing something wrong," Mr. Skeja said.

Initially some farmers were hesitant to change their systems and adopt unfamiliar practices, but after AGRO demonstrated the success of new technologies and sustainable practices, the AGRO team observed a change in farmers' mindsets that contributed to the success of their operations. "Some of [AGRO's] biggest successes are in the knowledge of farmers," said Fatmir Selimi, AGRO Chief of Party.

Mr. Isufi of Agrium Fruits described how an AGRO grant helped him "find new partners, find new technologies, and buy new technologies" to strengthen the ability to compete in international markets. The reliable presence of the AGRO team helped Agrium Fruits evolve from a small distributor of agricultural inputs to a financially stable agribusiness with a strong presence in the European fruit market. AGRO helped Agrium Fruits select sites less prone to spring frosts and close enough to processing facilities to maintain peak quality. "AGRO is a very good strategic partner," Mr. Isufi said. "[AGRO] is...always in the field. They do not just stay in the office."

## Summary

CRM can deliver tangible benefits and monetary value to beneficiaries, while helping USAID protect its investments from climate impacts. AGRO ended in February 2021, but strong, resilient partners are applying the knowledge they gained through work with AGRO to maintain CRM actions and continue to grow their operations sustainably.

Some of AGRO's partners plan to build on the achievements under this activity. Agrium Fruits plans to expand drip irrigation and other efforts to reduce climate risks. The company also plans to diversify into other areas of the value chain, such as processing and selling end products, to create a safety net when climate impacts affect production. Mr. Isufi emphasized the importance of continued support for farmers who are adopting sustainable practices. He encouraged farmers to work toward meeting the high standards needed to compete in international markets.

Boost Berries will expand operations to include finished products such as blueberry teas, dried berries, jams, and other products that are popular in export markets. The company also plans to introduce these products on the domestic market. CRM actions delivered yield improvements and profits that have allowed the company to explore these new opportunities and markets.

These partners agreed one of AGRO's most important benefits cannot be quantified or monetized: the knowledge and networks they built through partnerships with AGRO, which help them make more informed decisions about their operations and especially about CRM.

AGRO staff observed this growth in capacity over the course of the activity. "When you start being taught by farmers the things they know, and they express them with confidence, then you know you've succeeded," said Mark Wood. "You know that they will continue learning."

### For more information about AGRO

- [Kosovo | U.S. Agency for International Development](#)
- USAID Mission Economic Growth Officer Besa Ilazi, [bilazi@usaid.gov](mailto:bilazi@usaid.gov)
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### For more information about CRM

- Climate Change Program Specialist, USAID DDI/EEI, Geoffrey Blate, [gblate@usaid.gov](mailto:gblate@usaid.gov)

The [Climate Integration Support Facility \(CISF\)](#) blanket purchase agreement supports USAID to conduct climate risk management across all USAID programming. [Climate risk management](#) is the process of assessing, addressing, and adaptively managing climate risks that may impact the ability of USAID programs to achieve development objectives. This worldwide support mechanism can assist USAID missions, bureaus, and offices with climate risk management by providing analysis, facilitation, training, evaluation, learning opportunities, and related services. The agreement may also support focused adaptation, clean energy, and sustainable landscapes programming with such services.

### Case study authors

**Lorine Giangola, David Cooley, Kait Siegel, Abt Associates** developed this case study and "The Benefits of Climate Risk Management", an accompanying blog series on Climatelinks.