Memorandum of Understanding

between

International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA), UAE

and

The Program Facilitation Unit (PFU) of the CGIAR Program for Central Asia and the Caucasus

hosted by

The International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)

at its

Regional Office for Central Asia and the Caucasus

Tashkent, Uzbekistan
Memorandum of Understanding

between

ICBA and PFU/ICARDA

Preamble

ICBA
The International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA) is an applied research and development (R & D) center, located in Dubai, UAE. ICBA’s objective is to develop and promote the use of sustainable agricultural systems that use saline water to grow forages, field crops, vegetables, fruits and trees. The Center aims at being the focal point for technology development and genetic resource exchange for geographical areas facing problems of salinity and depletion of scarce fresh water.

In fulfilling its above-mentioned objective, ICBA is interested in strengthening its research and development activities in the Central Asia and the Caucus Region. ICBA’s plans call for development and implementation of projects aimed at optimizing the use of saline irrigation water for increased agricultural productivity augmented by strengthening capacity building in the region. This will be implemented within the framework of the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research Consortium for Central Asia and Caucus as an Associate Member of the Consortium.

PFU/ICARDA
The Program Facilitation Unit (PFU) is a unit set up to facilitate the working of the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) Ecoregional Program for Central Asia and the Caucasus (CAC), which has been developed by a Consortium of nine participating CGIAR Centers (CIMMYT, CIPE, ICARDA, ICRISAT, IFPRI, ILRI, ICRRI, IRRI, and IWMI) and the national agricultural research stems (NARS) of eight countries in the CAC region (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia). The PFU is hosted by ICARDA’s Regional Program for Central Asia and the Caucasus, which has its Office in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. ICARDA is the lead Center for this Ecoregional Program as the CAC sub-region falls within the Central and West Asia and North Africa (CWANA) region, the mandate region of ICARDA. The PFU is therefore officially linked to ICARDA. As ICARDA has a legal agreement with the Government of Uzbekistan, providing a diplomatic status to ICARDA employees, the staff of other Consortium members hosted by ICARDA at its Tashkent Office are also accorded similar status.

The PFU facilitates different research programs implemented by the Consortium Members in the CAC countries, issues a quarterly CAC newsletter on activities in the region and functions as a depository for program documents and publications. It also provides need-based support to the eight regional NARS for on-farm research. Additionally, the PFU coordinates logistic arrangements for the Consortium member scientists. The PFU also organizes the annual CGIAR Steering Committee meetings and assists in organizing meetings of the centers participating in the Consortium.
Purpose

The purpose of this MOU is to set out an understanding of the parties and to define the area of cooperation and facilitation functions between the PFU/ICARDA and ICBA as a new Consortium Partner and define the mechanism for compensation towards services so provided by PFU/ICARDA.

Envisaged Support from PFU/ICARDA

ICBA proposes to increase its activities in the CAC region through preparation and implementation of projects in biosaline agriculture and capacity building programs. Visiting by ICBA’s scientists to the region and interaction with stakeholders is also envisaged.

The area of support that ICBA envisages would relate but not be limited to the following:

Programmatic Support

1. Providing and facilitating exchange of information from other CG Center projects in the region and represent ICBA, where needed.
2. Facilitating identification of partners and staff for ICBA’s projects
3. Facilitatory identification of projects in CAC related to biosaline agriculture, saline irrigation water, saline soils and marginal lands
4. Facilitatory participation of ICBA in relevant conferences, workshops, and seminars held in CAC.
5. Providing information to NARS and other stakeholders on ICBA activities through CAC News and other reports.

Operational/Logistic Support

1. Obtaining visas in the countries of the region for staff and visitors.
2. Providing help in booking of air tickets, renting transportation, procuring equipment, furnishing etc.
3. Providing facilities for meeting/conference, working space for visitors etc.
4. Providing the office space to ICBA staff (on a rent sharing basis) and looking after repairs, security etc. if ICBA decides to locate some staff with PFU.
5. Assisting in registration of ICBA local, regional and international staff with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and arranging needed interaction with the Diplomatic Service Department, as and when such need arises.
6. Arranging fire insurance, other office and staff related insurances, providing assistance with payments for utilities, and finding housing etc, as and when such need arises.
7. Depositing taxes on behalf of ICBA local staff, as and when such need arises.

ICBA’s Obligations

Regarding partnership in the CGIAR Consortium, ICBA will ensure that following obligations towards PFU are met fully:

1. Sharing the information about all on-going research activities in the CAC region and to work effectively as partner in the CGIAR Consortium for CAC.
2. Submitting periodical updates on ICBA activities in the region and providing input for CAC News and other PFU reports, including annual report for the Steering Committee meeting.
3. Sharing upon mutual agreement drivers, vehicles, rooms and other office facilities, as and when such need arises.
4. Attending technical meetings for improved collaboration and partnership.
5. Participating in the meetings/workshops/congresses of mutual interest.
6. Attending the annual Steering Committee meetings of the CGIAR Consortium for CAC at the level of senior ICBA management.

Payment for Membership, Staff and Operational Services

1. ICBA, as a Consortium member, will pay an annual membership fee of US$ 15,000 to PFU through a bank transfer in PFU/ICARDA Account in Tashkent.
2. ICBA would meet all salary and program-related expenses for its staff directly through a separate Bank Account in Tashkent, to be facilitated by PFU/ICARDA.
3. If ICBA places staff with PFU in Tashkent it would pay to PFU/ICARDA for the rent and office-related services (telephone, fax, e-mail, electricity etc.) on shared/actual basis.
4. ICBA would reimburse the costs of other services, including operational/logistic support, rendered by PFU/ICARDA on actual time or operation basis when such services are required and rendered by PFU.

Mechanism for Cooperation

ICBA's collaboration with PFU/ICARDA may be realized through direct correspondence between the Director General / Director Technical Programs and the Head, PFU as and when needed. For additional activities outside the scope of this MOU, a separate contract/agreement will have to be signed.

Amendments/Termination

This Memorandum of Understanding will enter into force upon signature of both parties. Amendments to this MOU may be effected by means of exchanging letters between the parties, with each party giving sympathetic consideration to the proposal for amendment by the other party.

This MOU may be terminated through a ninety-day written notice by either party.

Dr. Raj Paroda  
Head, Program Facilitation Unit  
CGIAR Program for CAC  
date: 02/02/05

Dr. Mohammad Al-Attar  
Director General, ICBA  
date: 02/01/05

Prof. Dr. Adel El-Beltagy  
Director General, ICARDA  
date: 02/02/05