AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

THE NEWLY INDEPENDENT REPUBLICS OF CENTRAL ASIA

AND

THE INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH IN THE DRY AREAS (ICARDA)

The International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (hereinafter called ICARDA) is an autonomous non-profit agricultural research center. ICARDA is one of a network of international institutes sponsored and financed through the Consultative Group on Agricultural Research (hereinafter referred to as the CGIAR), which is sponsored by the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the United Nations Development Program, and the United Nations Environment Program.

In February 1995, the CGIAR produced the Lucerne Declaration and Action Program which, among other things, says:

"To meet future food needs, the CGIAR should consider ways of involving research institutes in Russia, Central Asia, and Eastern Europe to tap the under-utilized potential of these areas to contribute significantly to global food supplies."

ICARDA has been established to serve as an international center with a world responsibility for the improvement of barley, lentil and faba bean, and with a regional responsibility in cooperation with other appropriate international agricultural research centers for the improvement of bread and durum wheat in addition to Kabuli chickpea, pasture and forage legumes.

ICARDA conducts research into and develops, promotes and demonstrates improved systems of cropping, resource management, crop and livestock husbandry and rangeland management, and collaborates with and fosters cooperation and communication among other national, regional and international institutions in the adaptation, testing and demonstration of improved crops, cropping and livestock systems, and fosters and supports human resource development, research and other activities carried out in the furtherance of its objectives.

As part of ICARDA's general research operations, it is undertaking a number of cooperative programs in support of the research priorities of nations in the West Asia and North Africa (WANA) region and other countries in the world with similar ecologies, and to enable ICARDA scientists to carry out work of importance to its international function such as
the evaluation of climatic effects, disease surveillance and edaphic adaptation, in addition to other location-specific aspects (e.g. constraint analysis, resource management, and adoption and impact studies). This research is carried out in full partnership with national agricultural research systems.

Considering the similarity of agroecological conditions and production constraints in the Central Asian region, the Central Asian Republics (hereinafter referred to as the Republics) and ICARDA have agreed to collaborate.

The collaboration will include:

- Enhancement of germplasm of ICARDA mandate crops for improved adaptation to cold and drought.
- Management of rangelands.
- Crop-livestock (small ruminant) production systems.
- On-farm water use efficiency.
- Management of natural resources with emphasis on soil and water conservation.
- Human resource development.

The terms of agreement are set in the following articles.

ARTICLE I

In order to achieve a fruitful measure of cooperation, both the Central Asian Republics and ICARDA mutually agree, within the limitations of their resources and budgets to:

a. The exchange of scientists and technologies.

b. The exchange of germplasm and breeding materials in accordance with laws in force in each Republic.

c. The exchange of scientific literature, information and methodology.

d. The import and export of other items relevant to the cooperative research program.
ARTICLE II

Subject to personnel and budgetary limitations of ICARDA, ICARDA will provide:

a. Consultation from the ICARDA staff or other International Research Institutes to advise and assist the national research efforts in the Republics.

b. Visiting scientists.

c. Scholarships for training national scientists at different levels of studies and support for their participation in symposia, workshops and conferences which are related to topics of mutual interest.

d. Seed and materials in quantities necessary for experiments and large scale adaptive trials and demonstrations.

e. Research items, literature and supplies not available in the Republics.

ARTICLE III

The Republics will provide, subject to personnel and budgetary limitations:

a. Office and laboratory facilities and land for research activities, as may be mutually agreed upon.

b. Scientific and necessary supporting staff for the cooperative projects, as may be mutually agreed upon.

c. Assurance of procedures for expeditious clearance for entry into the Republics of trainees, scholars and visitors concerned with the program.

d. Authorization in accordance with the laws in force for unrestricted movement of such germplasm into and out of the Republics as may be needed for cooperative programs in any part of the world consistent with the obligatory quarantine inspection to avoid introduction or export of serious pests or diseases.

e. ICARDA personnel stationed in the Republics shall be accorded the status and privileges not less than those of UN personnel including:

i. exemption from payment of income tax for all internationally recruited members of ICARDA staff for income derived from ICARDA.
ii. Importation into the Republics, free of customs duties, prohibitions and restrictions and any other duties or taxes, on articles, office supplies and furniture, household effects, equipment, machines and motor vehicles, needed for the cooperative program.

f. Without being restricted by financial controls, regulations or moratoria of any kind, the Center may;

i. hold funds or currency of any kind and operate accounts in any currency;

ii. freely transfer its funds or currency from one country to another or within any country (and convert any currency held by it into any other currency); and

iii. be accorded the same privileges with respect to exchange facilities that are accorded to officials of comparable international organizations such as the UN.

It is understood that articles imported under such an exemption are not to be sold in the Republics without the approval of the respective Governments.

ARTICLE IV

It is understood and agreed upon that:

a. Benefits such as improved breeding material, machinery designs and techniques, accruing or arising from this cooperative effort may be used by either or both parties, with recognition of each party's contributions.

b. Research findings will be published in the public interest, if mutually agreed upon.

ARTICLE V

It is further agreed that:

a. The Republics and ICARDA may name any member of their staff to work out the practical details of cooperation between the cooperators and to ensure the proper and effective implementation of this Agreement.

b. This Memorandum of Agreement may be supplemented by additional and outside funding (a special project), through project proposals which will be developed jointly and which describe specific activities to be carried out under this cooperative program and which set forth the envisaged contribution of each party. It is further agreed that ICARDA through such projects may locate a scientist or scientists in the Republics as may be mutually agreed upon to support the effective implementation of the workplans.
ARTICLE VI

The parties of this Agreement may by mutual consent add, modify, amend, or delete any words, phrases, sentences or articles to this Agreement.

ARTICLE VII

This Agreement should be implemented from the date of its signature, it shall remain in force for a period of five years being renewed automatically for a similar period, unless either of the parties to it will have denounced it in writing six months before the date of its expiration.

Signed on behalf of

THE REPUBLICS OF CENTRAL ASIA

Prof Dr Gani Kaliev
President, Kazakhstan Academy of Agricultural sciences

Acad. S.N. Usmanov
President, Uzbekistan Academy of Agricultural Sciences

Acad. B.S. Sanginov
President, Tajikistan Academy of Agricultural Sciences

THE INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH IN THE DRY AREAS (ICARDA)

Prof Dr Adel El-Beltagy
Director General

DATE: 26 NOVEMBER 1995

Dr O. Redzepov
Main Secretary, Turkmenistan Academy of Agricultural Sciences

Dr. Zamin Akimaliev
President, Kyrgyzstan Academy of Agricultural Sciences