



CAC Regional Priorities for Agricultural Research & Development

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CAC REGION

The Caucasus and Central Asia





- **Central Asia and Caucasus Association of Agricultural Research Institutions was established in 2000.**
- **It includes Scientific Research Institutions, Nodal points CAC RAIS (Regional Agricultural Information System), Consortium of Agricultural Universities, Consortium of Farmers, Consortium of NGOs.**



- **Members of the Association are 40 research and educational institutions, four associate CGIAR centers (ICARDA, AVRDC, CIMMYT, and IFPRI), farmer organizations and NGO members - about 30. Their number is growing rapidly.**



The countries of the Central Asia and the Caucasus posses huge resources:

11.4 million hectares of irrigated land,

23.3 million hectares of rain-fed,

256 million hectares of rangeland.

The most important crops are grown and significant amount of livestock products is produced.



The population in the region is about 75 million.

In 2050, rapid growth of the population and

reduction of arable land per capita are expected in

all countries of the Central Asia, except for

Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.



The main directions and objectives of agricultural research for development of agricultural sector are:

- **Food and nurture security;**
- **Improvement of livelihood;**
- **Environment;**



- **Strengthening the National Systems of Agricultural Research;**
- **Changes in Research, Education and Extension;**
- **Readiness to special challenges;**



Areas of agricultural research are classified based on the needs, priorities and cross-cutting issues that require to take actions as follows:

- Crops
- Livestock
- Land use
- Water management (irrigation infrastructure, management and salinity)
- Fishery



- Forestry
- Sales and Marketing of agricultural products
- Remote, hard-to-reach and ecologically poor areas
- Agro-biodiversity
- Trans-boundary diseases
- Climate change
- Desertification
- Mountain agriculture



According to the decision adopted at the Expert Meeting of the CAC on June 21-22, 2011 in Tashkent, the national priorities of our region are:



- 1. Preservation of the existing gene pool of crops and create new competitive varieties and hybrids, development of breeding and seed production and introduction to agriculture the alternative crops.**

- 2. Modernization of existing, and introduction of new resource saving technologies on production, processing and storage of agricultural products.**

- 3. Application of achievements of biotechnology in breeding and reproduction of agricultural plants and animals.**



- 4. Developing new highly effective and ecologically safe methods of control of harmful organisms of agricultural crops and wood plantings.**



- 5. Modernization and introduction of technologies of effective utilization of natural, in particular, soil and water resources, preservation and increase fertility of soils, improvement of melioration techniques, and also development and introduction modern technologies on designing, construction and operation of hydro-ameliorative structures and the systems, providing an effective utilization of water resources.**



- 6. Preservation of a gene pool of breeds of agricultural animals and birds, improvement breeding and productive signs, developing new technologies of feeding and housing.**



- 7. Developing and implementation of comprehensive measures, directed on preventive maintenance, diagnostics and treatment infectious of agricultural animals, and also ensuring safety of foodstuffs, testing and using of new vaccines and medicines.**



- 8. Mechanization of technological processes of agricultural production, designing of agricultural machinery, intended for various natural-zone conditions and production potentialities, and elaboration of comprehensive programs on technical service.**



9. Study the basic economic problems of food and nurture security, developing and introduction of progressive ways of managing in the conditions of small farms and large cooperatives.



Considering existing needs, arising from above priorities:

CACAARI is actively working on development a regional strategy for the transformation of agricultural research systems and innovation, which will be discussed soon at the Regional Brainstorm Meeting with the participation policy makers.



As fond of saying, Mikhail Gorbachev, "The process has started," and an expert group of representatives from eight of the CAC, with the assistance of the Technical Consultant is developing this strategy, which aims to serve as a kind of Road Map for our region.



Along with these issues directly related to the research topic, it seems to be important to discuss the issue and give voice to strengthen the capacity of the Regional Forum CACAAARI, National Agricultural Research Systems.



The participation of international research centers and institutes of CGIAR as associate members CACAAARI is very important.

This would ensure sustainable way forward and it would mean strong support for the main mission initiatives of CACAAARI as a platform for serious discussion and decisions on agricultural research, involving all stakeholders.



Thank you for your attention!

