

**Information for participants
of 16th CGIAR Program Steering Committee Meeting for Central Asia and the Caucasus**

27 – 29 August 2014, Fergana, Uzbekistan

**Arrival of participants to Tashkent is expected on 25 August, or 26 August morning
Transfer to Fergana by air or by car on 26 August**

Dear Participants,

Welcome to Uzbekistan! Please find below some practical information about the Meeting.

Transportation of the participants from/to airport/hotel will be provided according to the flight itineraries received.

The participants are expected to arrive in **Tashkent on Monday 25 August, or 26 August morning. The organizers will arrange air ticketing Tashkent Fergana Tashkent as below scheduled:**

Route	Date	Departure	Arrival
Tashkent- Fergana HY 1413	26/08/2014	13:10	14:05
Fergana- Tashkent HY 1416	29/08/2014	19:45	20:40

- When entering the country, you are required to fill in two copies of customs declaration, one of which one should be kept until departure from the country.
- Upon arrival at Tashkent International Airport, those visitors coming from countries without Uzbekistan Embassies and who do not have visas will need to obtain them before Passport Control. You will need to provide to Visa Officer **the print out of the visa authorization** sent to you and obtain your landing visa. Please have about US\$ 100 ready **in cash with you**. Generally, no photographs are required for visa, however we would advise you to bring 2 passport size photos with you, in case they are needed.
- After Customs you will see a person carrying an "ICARDA/CGIAR" sign. Or you can pass to the diplomatic parking which is on the left from the exit. The car with green license plate will have "ICARDA/CGIAR" sign on the windshield. The driver will take you to **"Miran International Hotel" in Tashkent, or to domestic flights airport if the arrival time is no later than 12:00 am on August 26.**
- For the participants who arrived on August 25, the transportation will be provided from "Miran International Hotel" to the domestic flights airport on 26 August 26, leaving the Hotel at 11:45.

Weather information

At end of August average temperatures in Uzbekistan usually range between a maximum of +35°C in the daytime and a minimum of +15°C at night. Current weather conditions in the area can be found at: <http://www.gismeteo.com/catalog/uzbekistan/>.

Venue and hotel Information

In Fergana City, the participants will stay at "AZIA Fergana Hotel". On 27 August, the bus will take all participants from "AZIA Fergana Hotel" to the field visit. Departure from the hotel will be at 09:00. The Meeting itself will be held at the conference hall of "AZIA Fergana Hotel" on 28-29 August 2014.

Security, contact numbers

- Tashkent and Fergana are very safe cities, but you are advised to take the usual precautions when going out. You must carry your ID document (passport) at all times.
- In case of need please contact our office staff:
PFU-CGIAR/ICARDA office tel. numbers in Tashkent: (998 71) 2372130/2372169/2372104
Mr. Muzaffar Aliev (Administrative Officer, PFU-CGIAR/ICARDA)
Tel. mobile: (998 90) 168 21 60
Mr. Farhod Hamraev (Assistant Administrative Officer)
Tel. mobile: (998 90) 972 97 20

Miscellaneous

■ **Currency**

Uzbekistan currency is called "Sum." Sum notes are available in 5,000 1,000, 500, 200 and 100 denominations.

One US Dollar is equivalent to around Uzbek Sums 2,345 as of 14August 2014.

All major currencies are accepted and can be changed at the airport, major hotels, banks, and exchange office around the city. Major credit cards are accepted by hotels in Tashkent, but "AZIA Fergana Hotel" does not accept payment by cards.

■ **Language**

The official language in Uzbekistan is Uzbek, but Russian is also spoken by almost all citizens.

■ **Food**

Meat is the main food in Uzbekistan. Vegetarian dishes are available at the hotel but almost difficult to find in other smaller eating places.

When you leave

■ Make sure you have hotel registration slip is in your passport before you check out from the hotel. When leaving, also ensure you have the second copy of the customs declaration you filled out upon arrival ready for submission.

■ **Important:** The amount of money reflected in the customs declaration when leaving should not exceed the amount reflected while entering the country.

Wishing you a pleasant stay!