



CACnews



ICARDA launches new project on Climate Change in Central Asia and China

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CGIAR Collaborative Research Program for Sustainable Agricultural Development in Central Asia and the Caucasus



CGIAR Collaborative Research Program for Sustainable Agricultural Development in Central Asia and the Caucasus is being implemented in the region since 1998. The goal of the Program is to contribute to achieving the overall goal of food security, economic growth, environmental sustainability and poverty alleviation in the countries of Central Asia and the Caucasus. Its immediate objective is to assist the CAC countries in achieving sustainable increases in the productivity of crop and livestock systems through development, adoption and transfer of production technologies, natural resource management and conservation strategies, by strengthening agricultural research and fostering cooperation among the CAC countries and international agricultural research centers.

Welcome Message

Message from Dr. Bayan Alimgazinova



Bayan Alimgazinova,
President of JSC
"KazAgro-Innovation"

Dear Colleagues!

I express my gratitude to the editorial board of CAC NEWS for a chance provided to address wide auditorium of the journal readers, majority of whose represent international and national agricultural research institutes, whose activities focused to facilitate Central Asian and Caucasian countries in maintaining sustainable development of agriculture in this region of the world.

Kazakhstan's agro-industrial complex is a part of the country's strategic sector. Share of the agricultural production in GDP is 5,7% and 44,6 % of the country's labor force works in this branch. During the statehood formation years, large reforms on transformation of agricultural production to market based principles and liberalization of economic activities have been undertaken. Prioritized attention paid by the government and large investments have helped to uplift the country's agricultural branch to sustainable and stable developing sector of the national economy.

Considerable reformation has been undertaken in the field of agricultural science, which is indispensable part of not only the scientific system but the whole agro-industrial complex. For improving management of the agricultural scientific system, taking into account the importance of unified coordination and integration of scientific research institutes with the real sector of the economy to tackle the strategic tasks for development of the agricultural sector, the Government of Kazakhstan established joint stock company (JSC) "KazAgro-Innovatsiya" with 100% share of the state in the charter capital in 2007. Nowadays, 23 scientific research institutes are part of this company's structure, functioning in all regions of the country.

Among the main tasks entrusted by the government to JSC "KazAgro-Innovation" are integration with the world science community and provision of the scientific practices at the international standards. Therefore, development of international scientific-technical cooperation in agricultural research is one of main priorities and instruments in the activity of the company.

Development of collaboration with the Consultative Group of International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) Program on Central Asia and Caucasus is an important aspect of the international cooperation for conducting agricultural research and training of specialists. Main partners of the Program from Kazakhstan are Ministry of Agriculture of Kazakhstan and JSC "KazAgro-Innovation". Collaboration of the scientific research institutes with CGIAR opens wide opportunities for Kazakh scientists- agrarians for studying of the international scientific and laboratory practices and dissemination of advanced agro-technologies in the agricultural branch. This has been facilitated by concluding a number of agreements and memorandums of understanding between Kazakh scientific research institutes and CG Centers.

Nowadays, we can speak about tangible results of our joint activities with CGIAR. More than a dozen of improved technologies adopted for Kazakhstan have been developed within the CAC project on soil and water resources management. Conservation agriculture practices within the joint projects of ADB, FAO, ICARDA and CYMMIT has been adopted in large farmlands.

The Program has been successful in the breeding of local varieties which are highly productive, nutrient-rich and resistant to biotic and abiotic stresses in Kazakhstan. More than 350 varieties and hybrids of agricultural crops, including

varieties of wheat, barley, potato, vegetables and legumes, selected by Kazakh scientists in collaboration with CIMMYT, ICARDA, CIP and AVRDC, had been submitted to the State varietal testing commission for subsequent release and adoption.

The CGIAR system-wide program for CAC has made a good start during its first decade. A strong partnership for developing agricultural research has been built among CG Centers and the scientific research institutes of JSC “KazAgro-Innovation”. All this was possible thanks to the well organized work of the research projects and development of human resources with participation of all stakeholders. While achieving the objectives, new approaches were used and mutual understanding and interest for producing tangible results were found.

The collaboration of CG centers and Kazakh NARS has proven to be more successful within the international projects being implemented in Kazakhstan and has great perspectives.

I believe that cooperation between the Program and Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan and JSC “KazAgro-Innovation” has a strong basis to prosper, enables possibilities for Kazakh researchers in cooperation with foreign colleagues to address challenges arising due to climate change and food security in the country as well as in Central Asia.

Bayan Alimgazinoval,
President of JSC “KazAgro-Innovation”
Astana, Kazakhstan.

Important Events

The Inception Workshop of the Project on Climate Change and Drought Management in Central Asia and China

Central Asia and China will suffer from Global Warming more than average, and a new project is tackling mitigation and adaptation issues for the region. The Inception Workshop of the Project on Climate Change and Drought Management in Central Asia and China (RETA 6439) was held on 5-6 March 2009 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. The Inception Workshop was attended by 35 participants from China (1), Kazakhstan (5), Kyrgyzstan (4), Tajikistan (4), Turkmenistan (3), Uzbekistan (9), as well as by the representatives of ADB (1), CACILM (1), IFPRI (1) and ICARDA (6). Among other participants of the workshop, the ADB’s project manager, Ms. Suchin Teo, was also present.



Workshop Participants

In addition to an opening session, the workshop consisted of five sessions that focused on four major issues related to the project focus and implementation. These are: the nature of anticipated climate change in CA and PRC, current knowledge of adaptation to climate change in the region and knowledge gaps, climate change research experiences and work plan development. The sessions included intensive and constructive discussion by the participants. Following is a brief summary of the main highlights of these issues.

Two presentations, “Climate change scenarios and predictions in Central Asia” prepared and “Climate changes impact and China action”, described main trends of climate change in the region. Climate change research conducted at Uzhydromet shows that globally, increasing greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) are leading to global warming, sea level rise, and melting of arctic ice cover. Central Asia is also experiencing a rise in mean average temperatures, an increase in the number of days with hot temperatures, and decrease in the number of days with cold temperatures. Precipitation patterns are becoming more variable and uneven and regional mountain glaciers are receding by 0.2-1.0% annually. Based on the climate change modeling done at Uzhydromet, it is expected that the temperatures will rise in all the months of the year, thus increasing the crop vegetation period (different scenarios predict different degrees of temperature rise). The climate will become more arid, even when the expected increase in rainfall is taken into account. The precipitation patterns will become more variable and the number of extreme events will increase. These changes will have profound impacts on agriculture, economy, biodiversity, population health, and ecology.

Alisher Mirzabaev,
ICARDA-CAC

Research Highlights

Natural Resources Management

Study of dual purpose cereals are underway

Screening local varieties of winter wheat, triticale, and barley, and 15 improved Turkish winter wheat varieties for dual-purpose (cutting for fodder) in Uzbekistan is being conducted within ADB/ICARDA-CAC "Soil and land management research" project.

Winter wheat in Uzbekistan is in the stage of stem extension (booting, F5-F6 stage). Half of the experimental area at the Tashkent Agrarian University was cut in March. Maximum fresh biomass was obtained for triticale, followed by winter wheat and barley. From the 15 Turkish winter wheat varieties, the varieties BDMT06SK, Karma and Izgi yielded highest fresh biomass.

Plant Genetic Resources

Study of the local apricot varieties in Uzbekistan

In Study of Uzbekistan's territory being conducted within the Bioversity International/UNEP-GEF project GEF project "In situ/on farm conservation and use of agrobiodiversity in Central Asia" implemented by Bioversity International, a study in Uzbekistan showed existence of the rich diversity of the local varieties and forms of apricot. These varieties, are being protected and grown by local farmers and passed over from generations to generations. The local varieties are an indispensable part of sustainable horticulture in the country.

As a result of collection expeditions in 2006-2008,



Local farmers help in conservation of the local apricot varieties in Uzbekistan

more than 50 varieties and forms apricots were identified in private farms of Uzbekistan. Local varieties of apricot vary in period of maturity distinct by rich assortment of ripeness periods, market and taste characteristics, tolerance to biotic and abiotic factors of the environment and other factors showing a rich potential for adaptation to various sorts of stressors.etc.

Within the project activities, demonstration plots have therefore been established in all regions of Uzbekistan. Local varieties will be multiplied in the nurseries and disseminated to farmers and private gardeners.

This project facilitates the protection of local varieties and forms of fruits and their wild relatives in at their growing places and demonstrates the effective use of genetic resources of fruit trees in commercial production and breeding.

Muhabbat Turdieva, Bioversity International

Seed Production

Follow up on USAID-funded emergency wheat seed distribution in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan

Several years of low financing of the agricultural sector, neglect of signals of the early warning and unfavorable weather conditions induced occurrence of food crisis in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan in 2008. Governments made appeal to international organization for emergency humanitarian aid in order to cope with the problem.

Emergency seed supply operation was carried out by ICARDA, together with its development partners in Tajikistan – Save the Children, and Kyrgyzstan - International Center for Soil Fertility and Agricultural Development (IFDC). ICARDA facilitated purchase of adapted seed varieties from Krasnodar, their transport and hand-over to the development partners. In total, 172 tons planting seeds of adapted winter wheat varieties were provided to Tajikistan (Tanya variety) and 275 tons to Kyrgyzstan (Krasnodar 99 and Starshina varieties).

In April 2009, the area where the Tanya variety seeds sown was monitored. Even without fertilization (farmers are too poor to purchase mineral fertilizers) more than 90% of wheat was in the tillering stage on 1st April.

Unfortunately, heavy rains and winds have affected most of the areas in Tajikistan in this spring. The

rains washed away hundreds of hectares of agriculture lands with cotton, wheat seeds and other crops. But the supplied wheat variety (Tanya) has medium mid height in comparison with other varieties. Therefore, the weather did not affect the fields under “Tanya” variety. In spite of the unfavorable weather conditions, the interviewed beneficiaries said that they received very good wheat seeds and are expecting rich harvest this year which will help them to provide their family members with nutritious food, including tasty bread.

To prevent such food crises in the future, a long-term approach should be followed to develop more sustainable answers to the inherent problems of low wheat productivity on mainly irrigated, often salinity-ridden land, and of insufficient and inefficient wheat seed supply to farmers in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. Localized food security crisis calls for need of an early warning system in the region. Therefore, ICARDA will continue its work with is development and donor partners on developing and implementing activities aiming at strengthening the private seed production and supply systems, and the development of ecologically sustainable diversified and resource-conserving agriculture in the region.

Crop Diversification

Collaboration of Georgia with AVRDC - The World Vegetable Center

Georgia collaborates with AVRDC - The World Vegetable Center in the framework of the Regional Vegetable System Research & Development Network (CACVEG) established in 2006. A total of 29 accessions of five vegetable crop species were introduced from by AVRDC - The World Vegetable Center during 2007-2009, including: tomato (-5), eggplant (-5), sweet pepper (-10), cabbage (-5), and vegetable soybean (-4). The work is being conducted by scientists of the Georgian Research Institute of Crop Husbandry on and includes comprehensive evaluation, adoption and selection of promising lines of vegetable crops. Perspective lines of sweet pepper (0636-6018-2, 0437-7031 and 0537-7061) with high yield and a good quality of fruits, a line of eggplant line ((EG 220), and vegetable soybean lines (AGS 292 and Jasuko-15) were revealed as having good potential by results of study, and are now being they already included in the competitive variety trial. New study of new vegetable crops varieties are being continuously studied is continued in this institute also.

Nato Kakabadze,
National coordinator on
Vegetable System R&D of Georgia.

Livestock

Improvement of milk productivity in Kyrgyzstan through sheep breeding

In the transition period from planned to the market-based economy and with the appearance of new farm types such as medium and small scale private farms and household farms, livestock scientists have changed their former perception of priority of wool production. They are now searching for alternative products to increase the farmers' income from sheep production under the conditions of low market prices for wool, and also with the currently much smaller flock sizes.

One of the available options is a diversification of production through the introduction of sheep milk



Georgian scientists survey of the study results



Livestock market in Tokmok town at 60 km from Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

production on the basis of local races of coarse-wool fat-tailed sheep. These are of low productivity. Diversifying sheep milk production is the first attempt of Kyrgyz scientists and farmers for the creation of a community base for milk sheep breeding in Kyrgyzstan. Therefore this work was accepted by farmers as an innovative solution. To improve the milk yield of the local breed, Awassi ram - a dairy sheep breed, was imported from the Near East.

Research activities are being monitored by Drs. Asanbek Ajibekov (KyrgLivestock Research Institute), Joaquín Mueller (consultant, INTA, Argentina) and Khabibulo Khamdamov (ICARDA), during their field missions. In total 55 ewes from all 4 households were mated for obtaining 1/2 Awassi and local coarse wool crossbred lambs. For the same purpose 75 ewes were mated on Kenesh farm in autumn 2008. Milk obtained from crossbred ewes will be processed to brynza (a local cheese variety), ayran (a yoghurt drink) and fresh cheese, which are in high demand on local markets.

**Aziz Nurbekov, Nariman Nishanov and
Khabibullo Khamdamov,
ICARDA-CAC Livestock Project**

Socio-economic and policy research

ICT application in agriculture

A study, funded by FAO, on assessing the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) needs in the agricultural sector in Kyrgyzstan has been completed and the final report prepared. The study showed that in spite of rapid development of ICT infrastructure in the country access to relevant up-to-date agricultural information remain problematic, especially in the rural areas. The lack of publications, especially periodic magazines and professional scientific journals specialized in agriculture, constitutes a serious flaw. In addition, there is a need for more farmer-oriented publications in Kyrgyz language. In this regard, the survey also indicated to a significant potential of using mobile phones in terms of availability, access and ability to use by various actors in agricultural development in Kyrgyzstan. By using a combination of ICTs, primarily computers and internet, radio, television and mobile phones, information sharing and communication within the Kyrgyz research and extension system and with their clients can be improved.

The study identified the most critical gaps in agricultural information in Kyrgyzstan among its various stakeholders including research, extension, educational, civil and public organizations, and made recommendations on how to address them. One of the recommendations of the study was to launch a proj-



ICT Workshop participants

ect for a pilot level implementation of the study's recommendations.

Alisher Mirzabaev, ICARDA-CAC

Events

Workshop discusses the role of ICTs for agricultural development in CAC

Following the completion of the FAO funded study on assessing the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) needs in the agricultural sector in Kyrgyzstan, from 5 – 8 April 2009, a technical consultation on “Enabling the Agricultural Innovation System for Agricultural Development in Central Asia” was jointly organized by the “Training, Advisory and Innovation Centre” (TAIC) in Kyrgyzstan, together with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) in collaboration with Central Asia and the Caucasus Association of Agricultural Research Institutes (CACAARI) and the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) at Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan.

The goal of workshop was to share knowledge on using Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) to improve linkages between agricultural research institutes, advisory services, decision makers, farmers and business in the Central Asian and the Caucasus region; to build a common understanding of challenges for all actors in agricultural development to improve food security, income and livelihoods of agricultural producers. In this regard, ICARDA Regional Program for Central Asia and the Caucasus (CAC) presented the results of the study it conducted in Kyrgyzstan, with the financial support of FAO, on identification of priority ICT needs of agricultural sector stakeholders in the country. The participants of the workshop con-

curred with the identified priority needs and agreed with the suggested recommendations. Interventions ideas were developed and an action plan for follow-up activities was formulated to implement at regional level the use of modern ICTs for agricultural development in the Central Asian and Caucasus region.

Regional workshop on plant variety protection and implications

A regional workshop on plant variety protection and implications for seed industry development took place 2-5 March, 2009 in the Headquarter of ICARDA, Aleppo, Syria. The main objective of the workshop was to review technical, institutional and regulatory frameworks in plant variety protection. Representatives from Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan attended the workshop and made presentation about the status of variety development, testing, release and protection in respective countries.

**Zakir Khalikulov and Ram Sharma,
ICARDA-CAC**

National training courses on seed potato production and TPS technology, organized in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan

The International Potato Center, through its liaison office based in Tashkent, has conducted national training courses on seed potato production and TPS technology in the Institute of Vegetables, Melons and Potato, Tashkent, and in the Institute of Plant Physiology and Genetics, Dushanbe, during 17-18 March



Awarding certificates to the training participants

and 25-26 March, 2009, respectively. In total 50 participants attended the national training courses in Tashkent and Dushanbe.

Among the participants were representatives of agricultural academic and research institutes, International development agencies, donors, commercial sector and NGOs. The objectives of the trainings were improving the knowledge of participants on Seed Potato Production and TPS Technology and training in TPS Technology.

**C. Carli and F. Yuldashev, CIP-Liaison office,
CGIAR-CAC, Tashkent**

English training courses

Through ICARDA support, a training course for a group consisting of 10 members and doctorate students of the agronomy faculty of Georgia State Agriculture University started on March 18 of 2009. The goal of the course is to improve their English language skills to facilitate their participation in the international agricultural research programs.

David Bedoshvili, PFU/ICARDA-CAC/CIMMYT

Farmer field days

A Farmer Field Day was organized by SANIIRI, Uzbek Cotton Research Institute and ICARDA in Syrdarya and Jizakh provinces of Uzbekistan, on 7 March 2009. Resource conservation technologies such as laser leveling technology, raised-bed planting, use of different water sources for salt leaching, portable plastic chutes for effective irrigation, salinity measuring devices and residue management were demonstrated to local farmers, specialists, scientist, representatives of local administration and other interested participants making in total 30 persons.

Tulkun Yuldashev, ICARDA-CAC, SLMR Project

Strengthening ties with NARS

Strengthening ties in Tajikistan

Dr. Christopher Martius, Regional Coordinator, ICARDA-CAC, met Mr. Abdoulla Youldashev, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan, on 27 January, 2009 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

Mr. Youldashev was very appreciative of ICARDA's research activities in Tajikistan and expressed his interest for Tajikistan to extend the cooperation with



Hands on the close partnership

ICARDA and the CGIAR CAC program, especially in the field of livestock. He emphasized the importance of agriculture in the economy of Tajikistan and assured Dr. Martius about his full support to the activities of ICARDA and the other CG Centers in Tajikistan.

Dr. Martius briefed the Deputy Minister about ICARDA and other CG centers activities. Mr. Muzaffar Khuseinov, Head, International Department at the MFA of Tajikistan, and Dr. Zakir Khalikulov, Germplasm Scientist at ICARDA, also participated in the meeting.

On 4 February 2009, Dr. Christopher Martius, Head of PFU and Regional Coordinator of ICARDA in the CAC accompanied by Dr. Zakir Khalikulov, Germplasm Scientist, paid a visit to the Ambassador of Tajikistan in Uzbekistan His Excellency Mr. Bobokhon Mahmudov.

H.E. the Ambassador expressed his satisfaction on the activities that are being carried by ICARDA and the CGIAR Program, but suggested that the Program should emphasize its work about mountain agriculture, where the poor are predominantly living. He assured Dr. Martius his unwavering support to the Program.

Continuity of ICARDA and CGIAR-CAC work in Uzbekistan discussed

Dr. Sherali Nurmatov, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources and Head of the Uzbek Scientific Production Center for Agriculture (USPCA), Uzbekistan, received Dr. Christopher Martius, Regional Coordinator, ICARDA-CAC, on 28 January, 2009 in Tashkent. Mr. Mirjamshid Murtalibov, Head, International Cooperation Department, USPCA, Uzbekistan and Dr. Zakir Khalikulov, germplasm scientist at ICARDA, also participated. During the meeting, they



Discussing collaboration with NARS in Uzbekistan

discussed in a very friendly and open atmosphere the opportunities for strengthening the cooperation between ICARDA and Uzbekistan.

Dr. Martius briefed Dr. Nurmatov about the ongoing activities of ICARDA in Central Asia and the Caucasus countries, especially in Uzbekistan, and about the planned training activities for which His Excellency the Deputy Minister gave his consent, in particular to be co-convenor of the training on water management under climate changed planned for September 2009.

Dr. Nurmatov informed about achievements and constraints of agriculture of Uzbekistan. He was particularly appreciative of the on-going cooperation and expressed his wish to jointly explore the possibilities of extending useful farm technologies to larger areas, paying special attention to soil fertility, efficient water use, crop diversification, to development new drought-, salt- and pest-tolerant crop varieties, and strengthening livestock breeding efforts.

Strengthening ties in Georgia

Dr. Ch. Martius, Dr. Z. Khalikulov and Dr. D. Bedoshvili visited research institutions officials and major donors of the agricultural sector in Georgia and Armenia from Feb 8 through Feb 19, 2009 to present activities of the CGIAR Consortium in the CAC region and invite them to the planned 12th SCM, which will be held in September in Tbilisi, Georgia;

Dr. D. Bedoshvili, together with Dr. M. Ahmed carried out a visit to Azerbaijan within the framework the FAO project on socio-economic assessment of the effects of wheat diseases, with emphasis of wheat rusts on small wheat farmers. As result of the visit, a project implementation team was selected, the logistics were agreed and contribution

of the national partner was secured.

David Bedoshvili, PFU/ICARDA-CAC/CIMMYT

Announcements

New project has started in Pamir-Alai mountains

A new project on “Sustainable Land Management in the High Pamir and Pamir-Alai Mountains” (the so-called PALM Project) has started, which is an integrated trans-boundary initiative of many partners, co-funded by GEF and coordinated by United Nations University – Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) in Bonn, Germany. The initiative’s goal is to enhance the capacity dealing with conservation and sustainable development of fragile and transboundary mountain environments. The project will be implemented by consortium of international and national partners.

In the context of the PALM project, ICARDA will employ knowledge accumulated over the past ten years for capacity building of public and private sector providers of advisory support service to farmers. An emphasis will be put on improving the participatory planning. ICARDA’s knowledge on sustainable land management practices will be helpful to farmers, herders, and other users of forest and wildlife resource in the High Pamir and Pamir-Alai Mountains of Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan.

In the project, ICARDA, will provide three inputs: capacity building for sustainable land management (component 2, output 2.1), adaptive research (output 2.2), and impact evaluation for the whole project. All these activities will be carried out in close cooperation with the other project partners, to ensure maximum effectiveness. For example, the coupled ecological and socio-economic impact assessment requires the assessment of “baseline data” (the starting conditions against which the project effectiveness – does it lead to improvements or to further degradation and impoverishment? - will be measured), and this calls upon all partners to inform ICARDA on the indicators they would like to have assessed.

The adaptive research will cover (but is not limited to) the following topics related to the high-altitude environments of the PALM region: (1) identification and introduction of suitable crop varieties; (2) improved livestock production and range management practices, (3) in-situ and ex-situ conservation of the valuable, partially endemic, plant biodiversity ; (4) conservation agriculture practices and resource-conserving soil and water management technologies; (5) market value-chain analyses for mountain crops,

tree and livestock products; (6) assessments of the livelihoods of mountain communities; (7) renewable energy sources for mountain communities.

Ulugbek Akhmedov, ICARDA-CAC

Start of new project in Urgench

Dr. Khamzina, from the ZEF/UNESCO project in Urgench, developed a project on afforestation potential in the Lower Amudarya with which she successfully competed for the prestigious Bosch Foundation Junior Professorship in Germany. The program will start in summer 2009 and will offer opportunities for 5 Ph.D applicants in such field as forestry, economy, and modeling. The announcements for these PhD positions will be released after May 2009.

Several students of the ZEF/UNESCO project enjoyed grants from other academic sources in Germany such as the German Academic Exchange Organization (DAAD, 1 student) and IPSWAT (3 students). During the last week of April 2009, staff members of ZEF conducted a special training course in Urgench in the use of APSIM and CROPSYST models in modern science.

Beginning of May, the ZEF project is moving its office back to the premises of UNESCO Tashkent, after UNESCO has moved to its new office address.

John Lamers, ZEF-UNESCO Khorezm

Information dissemination

A short movie on “Conservation Agriculture Practices in Uzbekistan” was prepared by Dr Aziz Nurbekov under a FAO TCP project in Uzbekistan. The film was well received by Dr Fawzi Taher, crop production and protection specialist, FAO/SEC during his visit to Uzbekistan. Watch the movie under http://www.icarda.org/cac/video.asp?filename=conservation_flv

Aziz Nurbekov, ICARDA-CAC

Awards

We are pleased to inform our partners in the region that in September 2008 Dr Kristina Toderich has been awarded with a Ph.D Degree from the University of Agriculture and Technology of Tokyo, Japan.

Presenting the Certificate to Kristina Toderich during an impressive ceremony, Prof. Hidefumi Kabatake, President of the University, highlighted that this degree is the recognition of Dr Toderich’s research and academic achievement. In her thesis work “Genus Salsola of Central Asian Flora: its structure and evo-



Presenting the Ph.D award University of Agriculture and Technology of Tokyo

lutionary trends” she developed a new concept on the systematics and cellular mechanism of adaptation of higher plants to salt stress.

Kristina Toderich, ICBA-Tashkent

New staff



Dr. Kirsten Kienzler has joined ICARDA as consultant from January 2, 2009, to coordinate the SLMR Project from the ICARDA-CAC office in Tashkent. She is following up the work of Dr. Raj Gupta.

Kirsten Kienzler is about to receive her PhD degree in Agricultural Sciences from the Center for Development Research (ZEF) and the

University of Bonn, Germany. During three years of field research she has lived and worked in the rural northwest of Uzbekistan conducting nitrogen and labeled-nitrogen fertilizer experiments for various irrigated crops in close collaboration with local farmers and scientists. Her profound background in soil conservation and fertility management she obtained at the Adelaide University in South Australia and the University of Bayreuth in Germany.

Working at the ICARDA Tashkent office, Kirsten Kienzler is especially interested in simulating management changes on crops and soil dynamics, improving crop quality and nutrition, diversifying (post-Soviet) cropping systems, and managing crop-livestock interactions in rangelands and mountain areas.

In April **Dr. Stefanie Christmann** has joined ICARDA-CAC in Tashkent as an environmental governance

expert. She worked in the strategy departments of several German ministries, such as Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Federal Ministry of Education and Research and in the Office of the Federal President of Germany. She was the German delegate in the OECD

Working Party on Environmental Performance for several years. For about five years she worked for a German governmental development agency.

Due to IPCC, Stern-Report and 14 years of experience as chairwoman of a NGO (www.self-help-by-donkeys.org) working in Eritrea and the Himalayas she regards integrated climate change adaptation strategies as a highly desirable instrument of sustainable development specifically in the dry areas. Otherwise not only biodiversity, food security and the economy in general, but the poor and most vulnerable groups in remote areas (female headed households) will face serious setbacks. Dr. Christmann regards ICARDA as predestined by its broad experience on biodiversity and agriculture to stimulate and to contribute to such regional and national processes.



Future events

UNCCD-CST conference and consultation working group deliberations underway

A scientific conference, “Understanding Desertification and Land Degradation Trends” will take place at COP-9 in Buenos Aires, Argentina during 22-24 September 2009. Three working groups have held their initial meetings to brainstorm ideas and form the first draft outlines for their analytical white papers that provide the rationales for the recommendations on ways that countries might improve their monitoring and assessment of desertification and land degradation. A first draft of these white papers will be placed publicly on the internet in mid-May for review and comment by any scientist worldwide. For more details, please see <http://www.unccd.int/publicinfo/cstsciconf/menu.php> and <http://www.drylandscience.org>

Christopher Martius, ICARDA-CAC



Plastic chute irrigation in Djizak province of Uzbekistan

Recent Publications

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5. Khamdamov Kh.A. 2009. Perspectives of brucellosis specific prevention in Uzbekistan. “Herald of Agrarian Science”. The article accepted by editorial committee and will be published in #1, 2009.
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