Summary of working group discussion on “Finalizing Logframe of Activities aligned with Intermediate Development Outcomes (IDOs)”

[Session 3]

**Working group 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IDO1. More resilient livelihoods for vulnerable households in marginal areas</th>
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| **Activities:**  
Evaluate the effect of conjunctive use of canal and drainage waters, different cropping patterns, and improved irrigation practices on control of salinity and waterlogging and delineate most efficient water management and agronomic practices  
Improving the productive use of marginal lands in mixed farming and pastoral systems  
Evaluate and adopt water saving irrigation technologies on salinity management and increasing crop yields  
Setting up a knowledge platform for improvement of land conservation and soil fertility in the degraded environment of Rasht and Kyzyl-Suu Valleys  
Increase livestock numbers, livestock productivity and livestock production to improve availability of animal proteins to the households and increased revenues and wellbeing of the pastoralists  
Modeling to understand soil erosion, landslides, mud-flows and floods in marginal croplands and to evaluate watershed management and crop production stability in view to establish an Early Warning System for risk reduction |

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<th>IDO4. More sustainable and equitable management of land and water resources in pastoral and agro-pastoral areas</th>
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| **Activities:**  
Establish Strategic Innovation Platform for out-scaling Dryland Systems CRP impacts  
Develop strategies for sustainable management of land and water, based on study and identification of social, technical and economic factors influencing success of multiple land use (crops, trees, pasturelands) for the benefit of all users  
Evaluating and integrating institutional and technological approaches to optimize water and land productivity  
Knowledge synthesis, generation, packaging and dissemination (knowledge platform) of sustainable land management practices in Central Asia  
Promote establishment of collaborative networking among research institutions, Government, NGOs, local communities for participatory planning in multi-purpose land use  
Bio-economic modeling of farming systems, technological options for natural resource management under different scenarios of the state of natural resource base, market conditions and policies for determining optimal use of resources, and assessing the economic, social and environmental consequences on target population  
Strengthen capacity in application of Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing on assessment and sustainable management of soil, water, agro-biodiversity resources |

**Working group participants:**

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<td>Kristina Toderich</td>
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<td>Hushmatov Norkul</td>
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<td>Yuldashev Tulkin</td>
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<td>Abdullakhanov Bahtiyor</td>
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### Working group 2

**IDO2. More stable and higher per capita income for intensifiable households**

**Activities:**
- Improve water use efficiency through innovative technologies in irrigation and farming in cereals, potato, vegetable, horticultural and fodder crops.
- Identify new improved varieties of cereals (wheat, barley, maize and rice), vegetables, legumes (chickpea, lentil, mungbean, soybean), oil-seed (sunflower, sesame, safflower) and fodder (alfalfa, esparsit) and other non-traditional crops to fit into the prevalent crop-livestock system on the basis of adaptive trials.

**IDO5. Impact through better functioning markets underpinning intensification of rural livelihoods**

**Activities:**
- Participatory Value Chain Analysis of different products (raw and processed) aimed at improving farmers’ access to markets and improving farmers’ income.
- Develop, evaluate and adopt post-harvest, storage and processing technologies.

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### Working group 3

**IDO3. Women and children in vulnerable households have year round access to greater quantity and diversity of food sources**

**Activities:**
- Identify and introduce stress tolerant, high-yielding and improved quality varieties of cereals, legumes, potato, vegetable, horticultural and fodder crops through on-farm adaptive trials.
Build capacity of men and women farmers and other stakeholders in cultivation and post-harvest practices for improved quality of commercial crops
Establish a seed system platform compatible with existing agro-ecological environments to supply farmers with high quality seed and planting materials so as to improve livelihoods, food security and incomes of smallholders
Strengthen mixed cropping systems through adaptive demonstration trials of wheat, barley, potato, legumes, vegetable, fruit and underutilized crops; seed multiplication of released varieties and out-scaling of best practices in different production systems
Increase year-round (greenhouse and open field) vegetable production and market supply that lead to improved diets of the local population

**IDO6. More integrated, effective and connected service delivery institutions underpinning system intensification**

**Activities:**
- Establish public private partnership to develop, advice on and support the dissemination of adapted technology and practices for all crops, agro-forestry and livestock
- Create better access of farmers to improved technologies and agricultural inputs to improve farmers' knowledge on agricultural crops (cereals, potato, vegetable, horticultural and fodder crops) adapted to stress-prone environments

**IDO7. Policy reform removing constraints and incentivising rural households to engage in more sustainable practices that intensify and improve resilience**

**Activities:**
- Evaluate the impacts of collective action, land tenure and property rights (policies) on livelihoods and ecosystem maintenance under all production systems

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This working group discussion focused on prioritization and logframe of IDO 1 and IDO 4. The regional workplan for IDO 1 contained 6 activities, while the plan for IDO 4 contained 7 activities. Fifteen people contributed to the discussion and the priority voting. This document summarizes the main discussion points.

Generic comments

Title: "More resilient livelihoods for vulnerable households in marginal areas" some confusion was expressed on the definition of "household" in the context of Central Asia, as well as the definition of "marginal areas". It could be interpreted in the widest sense, i.e. based on communities, mahalla, dekhan farmers, etc.

Recommendation: During the socio-economic baseline survey, it is of utmost importance to ensure that the collected data are linked to the corresponding "household" definition.

The definition of marginal lands was also evaluated. It was agreed to define it as degraded land in broad sense, with restricted access to resources (for more details, see presentation Dr. Kristina Toderich).

Prioritization

After ranking activity titles from 1-6, the following overall ranking resulted:

1. 1.1.1. Evaluate the effect of conjunctive use of canal and drainage waters, different cropping patterns, and improved irrigation practices on control of salinity and waterlogging in the lower Amudarya Basin, and delineate most efficient water management and agronomic practices.
   (6 x 1st, 5 x 2nd preference; overall average 1.50)
2. 1.2.1. Increase sustainability of marginal lands by using non-conventional lands and water for innovative small-scale irrigation technologies and introduction of crops and pasture diversity adapted to soil salinity, heat and drought.
   (3 x 1st, 4 x 2nd preference; overall average 2.15)
3. 1.2.2. Evaluate and adopt water saving irrigation technologies on salinity management and increasing crop yield.
   (3 x 1st, 3 x 2nd preference; overall average 2.25)
4. 1.1.2. Setting up a knowledge platform for improvement of land conservation and soil fertility in the degraded environment of Rasht and Kyzyl-Suu Valleys.
   (1 x 1st, 1 x 2nd preference; overall average 2.95)
5. 1.2.4. Improve livestock herds (small ruminants, cattle, yaks, horses) through artificial insemination, modern selective breeding and adapted feeding ratios with particular emphasis on winter feeding for wool, meat and milk production.
   (2 x 1st, 1 x 2nd preference; overall average 3.30)
6. 1.2.3. Modeling to understand soil erosion, landslides, mud-flows and floods in marginal croplands and to evaluate watershed management and crop production stability in view to establish an early warning system for risk reduction.
   (0 x 1st, 1 x 2nd preference; overall average 3.60)

It was noted that the selected priority activity for immediate action was Activity 1.2.1 (discussed in the afternoon sessions). Activity 1.1.1 in the group discussion was determined to be a logical first step in the process, mainly using existing knowledge and information to delineate efficient water management and agronomic practices. It should also be noted that funding for data gathering and synthesis is already funded under an IFAD project “CACILM Knowledge Management"
Logframe discussion

To work within the available time frame, the first two priority activities related to IDO 1 were discussed. The other 4 activities have blank cells in the logframe, which will be completed after the meeting.

On logframe activity 1.1.1, the following items were discussed:

- **Activity Title**: "Evaluate the effect of conjunctive use of canal and drainage waters, different cropping patterns, and improved irrigation practices on control of salinity and waterlogging in the lower Amudarya Basin, and delineate most efficient water management and agronomic practices".
- The location in the title (Amudarya Basin) was discussed, and it was explained that the lower basin of the Syrdarya Basin is also included in the Aral Sea Action Site.
- Use of saline drainage water as irrigation water in the lower Amudarya Basin was briefly discussed and identified as a non-suitable solution by the director of the Karakalpakstan branch of TIMI.
- The group discussion resulted in an agreement that the lower Syrdarya Basin (Kazakhstan) should be included in activity 1.1.1, with the new title "Evaluate the effect of conjunctive use of canal and drainage waters, different cropping patterns, and improved irrigation practices on control of salinity and waterlogging and delineate most efficient water management and agronomic practices".
- Comments were made that management of salinity issues in the lower basin are related to water management issues in the upper basin (Fergana). The relation between upper and lower catchment water management however will be covered by CRP 5 (Water, Land and Ecosystems) and not in this CRP1.1 activity. CRP 5 activities will be developed and discussed in 2014. Thus, the activity description was simplified as "Improved water management and agronomic practices to mitigate the effect of salinity and waterlogging on crop production".
- Outputs: "Improved resilience options (components, interactions and their management; explicit consideration of buffer functions, managing trade-offs between production and risk; nested scale risk mitigation, including incentives to adopt them)".
- It was decided in that the activities need to be further developed before the outputs can be discussed. This should be done in a smaller group under the leadership of an elected lead partner. The group should include centers and national partners.
- Specific verifiable deliverables: This is currently an empty cell in the spreadsheet logframe. The group decided that the same argument is valid as the output discussion, thus that the lead group on this activity should define the list of implementation actions, and link the verifiable deliverables to that.
- Some additional comments were made that to prove an impact of the research for development in this CRP, a baseline study is needed. One of the technical baselines can be developed using remote sensing/GIS. The University of Bonn (John Lamers) offered access to synthesized data produced in the Khorezm region, as well as support in applying the same techniques to areas in Karakalpakstan.
- Another reason for using GIS/RS is to develop similarity maps where activities developed for the Action Site can be scaled out. In this context, it was mentioned that verifiable deliverables should not exclude the descriptive research that will be done.
- A strong linkage with CACILIM was suggested to make use of its efforts in knowledge management.
- Activity Leader(s): The group did not go into the specifics. However, it was mentioned that the work would be conducted as a team of international and national partners, each with their own strengths. After redefining the question as "who should Bill Payne talk to about this specific activity", thus, who would be the activity coordinator, one suggestion was made that this should be ICARDA as the lead Center for the DS CRP.
- It was noted that not all the relevant national partners were present in this group, and that there are more people and institutes that can contribute.
• Partners: were discussed in the previous section and will be further defined through Dr Kurbanbaev for Uzbekistan, Dr Ombaev for Kazakhstan and Dr Saparmuradov for Turkmenistan. The partners mentioned included:
  - Turkmenistan - National Academy of Sciences
  - Uzbek Scientific Production Center of Agriculture
  - KazNII Rice Research Institute
  - KRASS (Khorezm Rural Advisory Support Service)
  - Kazagroinnovations, Kazakhstan

On logframe activity 1.2.1, the following items were discussed:

• Activity Title: "Increase sustainability of marginal lands by using non-conventional lands and water for innovative small-scale irrigation technologies and introduction of crops and pasture diversity adapted to soil salinity, heat and drought" -- comments were made about the limitation of the solutions to small-scale irrigation technologies, since marginal land management could include more than irrigation. A second comment was made about the limitation in the title to introduction of new crops, since this would require state intervention in the cotton and wheat programs. The "non-conventional lands" were also deemed to be restrictive. The activity title was renamed to "Improving the productive use of marginal lands in irrigated farming and pastoral systems"

• Activity description: "Environmental risk assessment for development of strategic innovation platform for sustainable marginal land/water management in agricultural irrigated zones and degraded pastures; establishment of partnership (public-private network) for sustainable marginal resources management and capacity building; promoting and adopting of biosaline agriculture technologies".

• The activity was divided into two pillars due to the difference of "system approaches" needed, and the different areas that would be included, namely agricultural irrigated salt affected soils and rangeland/pastoral lands, with an option to include abandoned salt affected land ("solonchak"). The first pillar includes pastoral and livestock systems, important in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. The second pillar includes irrigated farming systems. In the irrigated farming systems, water management (including shallow groundwater management and drainage water management) are included, while the pastoral/grazing systems focus more on the vegetation and livestock options.

• For both pillars, the first step is to synthesize existing knowledge, including existing activities, projects and knowledge of applied options.

• The synthesis of existing knowledge will be done within the activity pillars, as well as through cross-cutting methods like GIS, remote sensing etc. as discussed for activity 1.1.1 (specific verifiable deliverables).

• Thus, the new activity can be defined under the following components:
  1. Pastoral, grazing and livestock improvement on grazing lands and abandoned irrigated lands
  2. Irrigated land improvement through water, soil, crop and agronomic practices management

With the cross-cutting activity

3. Synthesis of existing data, conditions and success and failure stories

• Specific verifiable deliverables:
  1. Assessment of target sites, collection of baseline data on soil/water/vegetation and initial socio-economic identification;
  2. Selection of appropriate biosaline technologies package for Aral Sea region (crops diversification; agroforestry and pasturelands livestock feeding production system);
  3. Leaflets, booklets on biosaline technologies dedicated to local administration, farmers (men and women); one monograph on perennial fodder shrubs utilization.

• The two pillars will have both a set of deliverables for management of degraded lands. These include water management options, soil management options, crop management...
options, agronomic management options, and grazing/livestock management options. Since the specific deliverables will only be further defined after the existing data synthesis activity, this logframe item needs refinement during the implementation of the first activity.

- Deliverables in the short term could include soil degradation mapping in Khorezm and preliminary soil degradation mapping in Karakalpakstan, results of two activities on pastoral land management, preliminary results described on agro-pastoral nomadic systems in the Taktakopur region.

- Partners: Same national partners as under activity 1.1.1. Additional partners mentioned were:
  - Kazakhstan Soil SRI,
  - Kazakhstan Pasture and Animal Production Institute
  - WUA in Karakalpakstan
  - Branch of Tashkent Agricultural University
  - Turkmenistan Institute of Grain Production
  - Private Machine Tractor Parks
  - Scientific Agricultural Production Center (Experimental Forestry Station)
  - WUA in Khorezm
    - tail end group (Kukorpur)
    - head end group (Khalem)
  - Kazakhstan National Agricultural University, Almaty
  - Forage processing industry
  - International partners:
    - ICARDA; ICBA; IWMI; Uni Bonn/ZEF; AVRDC

**IDO4. More sustainable and equitable management of land and water resources in pastoral and agro-pastoral areas**
Facilitator: Richard Soppe

After ranking activity titles from 1-7, the following overall ranking resulted:

1. 4.2.1 Establishing innovation platform for integrated land conservation and watershed management leading to improved access to water, enhanced agricultural practices and pasture ecosystem services and management. (8 x 1st, 5 x 2nd preference; overall average 1.35)

2. Develop strategies for sustainable management of land and water based on study and identification of social, technical and economic factors influencing success of multiple land use (crops, trees, pasturelands) for the benefit of all users (5 x 1st, 4 x 2nd preference; overall average 1.85)

3. 4.2.7 Evaluate and integrate institutional and technological approaches to optimize water and land productivity (0 x 1st, 4 x 2nd preference; overall average 3.15)

4. 4.2.2 Knowledge synthesis, generation, packaging and dissemination (knowledge platform) of sustainable land management practices in Central Asia (1 x 1st, 1 x 2nd preference; overall average 3.15)

5. 4.2.3 Promote establishment of collaborative networking among research institutions, Government, NGO’s, local communities for participatory planning in multi-purpose land use (0 x 1st, 0 x 2nd preference; overall average 3.35)

6. 4.2.5 Bio-economic modeling of farming systems, technological options for natural resource management under different scenarios of the state of natural resource base, market conditions and policies for optimal use of resources, and assessing the economic, social and environmental consequences on target population (1 x 1st, 1 x 2nd preference; overall average 3.70)

7. 4.2.6 Strengthen capacity in application of GIS and remote sensing on assessment and sustainable management of soil, water, agro-biodiversity resources
The establishment of an innovation platform was selected as the first priority in the discussion. With respect to the log-frame, the question was raised why there is a restriction to the Rasht and Kyzył-Suu Valley and why not a larger area is considered.

It was mentioned that not all the national partners were present in this group, and that there are more people and institutes that can contribute to this activity. The meeting concluded that the log-frame for this activity would be discussed in more detail in the afternoon session.

IDO 2. More stable and higher per capita income for intensifiable households
Facilitator: Ravza Mavlyanova

2.2.1 Improve water use efficiency through innovative technologies in irrigation and farming in cereals, potato, vegetable, horticultural and fodder crops.

Suggested milestones:
- Quantify water losses in water delivery and irrigation (2013-2014)
- Selection of water saving technologies, including drip, sprinkler, deficit irrigation, mulching (2012-2018)
- Evaluate effect of water-saving technologies on improvement of farm income (2016-2020)

All Activities to be conducted in the Fergana Valley Action Site and the Rasht/ Kyzył-Suu Valley Action Site

2.3.1 Identify new improved varieties of cereals (wheat, barley, maize and rice), vegetables, legumes (chickpea, lentil, mungbean, soybean), oilseed (sunflower, sesame, safflower) and fodder (alfalfa, esparsit) and other non-traditional crops to fit into the prevalent crop-livestock system on the basis of adaptive trials

Highlighted words were suggested by the group to include more crops as well as ‘livestock’ and ‘systems’. However, there was no unanimous agreement on the inclusion of these additional crops.

Suggested milestones:
- Introduction of improved germplasm competitive trials and identification of best germplasm (2014-2016)
- On-farm trials to identify system synergies, SVTC testing (2015-2018)
- Release of new varieties (2017-2020)
- Enrichment of the range of agricultural crops

It was discussed and agreed that testing and release of new varieties is not part of the systems research undertaken by the Dryland Systems CRP. This CRP builds upon the breeding research results of commodity focused CRPs.

The Activity will be conducted in the Fergana Valley Action Site and the Rasht/ Kyzył-Suu Valley Action Site.

IDO 5 Better functioning markets underpinning intensification of rural livelihoods
Facilitator: Ravza Mavlyanova
5.2.1 Participatory Value Chain Analysis of different products (raw and processed) aimed at reducing barter trade and improving farmers’ access to markets and market chains.

There was much discussion on keeping or removing ‘reducing barter trade’ from the title – it was thought that the negatives of barter trade would be reduced by improving access to markets and that barter could still be an option at times.

New agreed title as follows: Participatory Value Chain Analysis of different products (raw and processed) aimed at improving farmers’ access to markets and improving farmers’ income.

Suggested milestones for 2013-2014:
- Identify and evaluate addition options to improve farmer’s income (for two sites)
- Targeted interviews, analysis of trends and production prices and demand
- Structure of markets and flow
- Analysis of market actors
- Analysis of value of the products and their distribution
- Consumer demand analysis and potential

Target crops/products

In Fergana Valley:
1. Cotton
2. Grains (wheat, rice, maize)
3. Vegetables, potato
4. Horticulture (fruit, grapes)
5. Livestock (incl. fish, poultry, dairy, others)

In Rasht Valley:
1. Potato
2. Horticulture
3. Feed crops
4. Livestock (incl. bee-keeping)

5.2.2. Evaluating and adopting post-harvest, storage and processing technologies

Agreed to add the word ‘develop’ to new title, i.e: “Develop, evaluate and adopt post-harvest, storage and processing technologies”.

Milestones:
- Identify options (knowledge, practices and technologies) for reducing post-harvest losses (2014-2018)
- Promote and monitor adoption of improved post-harvest technologies (2015-2018)

In Fergana Valley:
1. vegetables,
2. fruits,
3. dairy products

In Rasht Valley:
1. vegetables,
2. fruits,
3. dairy products
IDO3. Women and children in vulnerable households have year round access to greater quantity and diversity of food sources
Facilitator: Carlo Carli

The working group examined the activities included in IDOs 3, 6 and 7. The discussion focused on the terminology used to define these activities. Some overlaps were identified and consequently eliminated; some of the activities were also found too restrictive and not describing the production systems as a whole. In the below notes are some of the recommendations resulting from the discussion.

Ranking of activities was in terms of chronological sequence and not in terms of their importance because all the activities were considered equally important (see Tables below, indicating ranking by individual members of the working group).

In IDO 3, main changes concerned activity 3.2.3: In this case, following recent addition of activity 3.2.5 (Establishing a seed system platform compatible with existing agro-ecological environments to supply farmers with high quality seed and planting materials so as to improve livelihoods, food security and incomes of smallholders) to IDO 3 and its overlapping with activity 3.2.3, it was decided to suppress the part concerning “seed multiplication of released varieties and out-scaling of best practices in different production systems” in this latter activity. IDO 3 has clearly complementarities with IDO 5 and CRP 2 (Market), and it would be probably advisable to add another activity to better link IDO 3 to IDO 5.

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IDO6. More integrated, effective and connected service delivery institutions underpinning system intensification
Facilitator: Carlo Carli

In IDO 6, the titles of activities 6.2.1 and 6.3.1 have been changed to avoid overlap with activity 3.2.5 dealing with seed system platform. They clearly represent the plan to establish an extension system that according to our views should be self-financed to become effectively and really sustainable. The example given by Water Use Associations with membership fees used to pay the services of an Agronomist/Advisor should be considered. In the case of vulnerable farmers, other forms of associations could be taken into account and probably subsidized by local government authorities with the engagement by smallholders of putting all recommendations received into practice.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Activities</th>
<th>1</th>
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<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
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<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>11</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Ranking/ Priority</th>
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</tbody>
</table>
In IDO 7, the title of activity 7.2.1 was agreed to change because collective action on land tenure and property rights has not be limited to pastoralists livelihoods and rangeland ecosystems, but should rather be extended to all forms of agricultural production systems existing in the Aral Sea Basin.