

AIRCA

Association of
International Research
and Development
Centers for Agriculture

Resource mobilization tour in Europe, 9-17 July 2012



- **Purpose: to meet actual or potential partners and to mobilize additional resources for the Program**
- **CGIAR Consortium Office**
- **European Commission**
- **UNDP and FAO Regional Center for Europe and Central Asia in Bratislava and Budapest**
- **Official development cooperation agencies and Ministries of Agriculture in Austria, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Poland and Finland**
- **Presentation based on inputs from all Centers**



European support for agricultural research for development in CAC - rationale



- **Crossroads between Europe and Asia: high geopolitical significance as Europe's neighboring Region**
- **Implementation of EU Strategy for Central Asia**
- **Priority for development cooperation given to CAC by some of the new EU member states**



European Commission



- Different policy areas are relevant for EU multilateral development assistance, including:
 - Directorate-General for Research, hosting the European Forum on Agricultural Research for Development (EFARD)
 - Directorate-General for Development Cooperation
- CAC not highest priority Region, but important
- Linkages between EFARD and CACAARI
- Participation in 7th Framework Program for Research – annual calls for proposals
- Technical inputs to annual programming in DEVCO
- Importance of baseline data established through CRP1.1 for identification of gaps
- Network of contacts in the EC including regional desks

European Commission



- External Relations -- Office of EU Special Representative for Central Asia
- EU Strategy for Central Asia (2007) with three pillars
- Water and Environment pillar includes reference to agriculture, soil improvement, irrigation, water use efficiency...)
- Technical inputs to five-year programming (Strategy implementation) are welcome
- Contacts with EU Delegations in CAC countries



UNDP Regional Center



- Limited contacts and collaboration despite common goals and similar activities, e.g. conservation agriculture
- Land degradation, climate change, biodiversity and groundwater/ irrigation discussed as priority areas
- Exchange of information on training courses
- Agreed to meet and discuss collaboration with UNDP Uzbekistan in CRP1.1 Action Site “Aral Sea”



FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia



- Long-standing partnership with FAO in areas such as conservation agriculture, plant genetic resources, sustainable land and water management, and agricultural innovation systems
- Seminar hosted by ADG for Europe and Central Asia and attended by the officers responsible for the different areas
- Joint strong interest in training and capacity building
- Discussion focused on further strengthening collaboration (food and nutritional security, animal health and advisory services are priorities for FAO)
- Approaches to resource countries (EC, Russian Federation, Turkey, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan)

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Warsaw, Poland



- Well-attended seminar with representatives of different Ministries, Universities and research organizations
- Poland's research community has a tradition of research collaboration and comparative advantage in CAC
- Agreed to work together in influencing EU priorities for more investment in ARD in CAC



Ministry of Agriculture and Czech Development Agency, Prague



- CZDA created five years ago
- Georgia: supporting seed supplies to farmers, propagation, cold storage facilities (potato, vegetables), home gardens, school gardens
- Transfer of experience with overall socio-economic transformation from a centrally planned economy to market economy
- Tailor-made cooperation (no calls for proposals)
- Availability to work together in influencing EU



Austrian Development Agency, Vienna



- Bilateral projects in agriculture and forestry in the Caucasus (Armenia and Georgia)
- ADA's call for targeted funding of CGIAR Centers published annually at end of July
- Will include Armenia and Georgia in future
- Availability to work together in influencing EU priorities, "Donor Platform" for more investment in ARD in CAC



Finland



- Willing to help influence the EU for funding
- Small-scale farmers and women-headed households a priority
- Nutrition and human health key areas of interest
- INGOs call about to be released

Conclusions

- Seeds have been sown we hope successfully
- Strong possibility of lobbying the EU by central and eastern European states
- Opportunities for new increased special project funding seem favourable
- The time is right for a new team following up in 2013

