

## **CACAARI GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING**

General Assembly Meeting of Association of Agricultural Research Institutions of Central Asia and the Caucasus (CACAARI) was organized on 9 March, 2007 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. The Meeting, held during the Expert Consultation on Research Need Assessment, was attended by the NARS heads and leading scientists from all eight CAC countries as well as representatives of collaborating international organizations and regional fora, such as CG Centers, FAO, GFAR, APAARI and AARINENA.

The Meeting was chaired by Acad. Jamin Akimaliev, CACAARI Focal Point DG, SRI of Crop Husbandry of Kyrgyzstan, who thanked participants for supporting this regional forum, which is highly important for the region where strong partnership is vital to address the emerging challenges of agricultural research for development. Dr Ajit Maru, GFAR, in his presentation, shared some valuable experience of the regional and international cooperation. He was followed by Dr Zakir Khalikulov, CGIAR-PFU, who made a detailed presentation on the activities undertaken in 2006, and Mr Umidjon Rakhmonberdiev, web-manager, CACAARI, who highlighted some important changes with regard to CACAARI website, including its new address: [www.cacaari.org](http://www.cacaari.org) as well as the new user-friendly design that allows uploading user-created content. Dr Khalikulov also presented the draft workplan and budget for 2007-2009.

During the discussion session, several important issues, such as the need for strengthened regional cooperation, transparency, further development of the Regional Agricultural Information System (RAIS), and active involvement of young scientists in agricultural research for development (ARD) were highlighted. It was decided that these issues will be addressed in the work plan for 2007-2009, which will be finalized and distributed among all the stakeholders."