

Minutes of CACAARI General Assembly Meeting

Tashkent, Uzbekistan

5 April, 2006

The General Assembly Meeting of CACAARI was held in Tashkent on 5 April, 2006 afternoon, which was divided in two Session. The closed session was held from 4.00 – 5.00 PM, which was attended by the following persons:

1. Dr. Asad Musayev	Azerbaijan
2. Dr. Samvel Avetisyan	Armenia
3. Dr. Guram Alexidze	Georgia
4. Dr. Asanbek Ajibekov	Kyrgyzstan
5. Dr. Tolib Nabiev	Tajikistan
6. Dr. Abdushukur Khanazarov	Uzbekistan
7. Dr. Raj Paroda	PFU-CGIAR/ICARDA-CAC
8. Dr. Zakir Khalikulov	PFU-CGIAR/ICARDA-CAC
9. Ms. Gulusa Vildanova	CACAARI Secretariat

Closed Session

In the closed session, Heads of NARS of CAC, Chairman and Executive Secretaries of CACAARI, Head of PFU-CGIAR, CACAARI Secretariat participated, as stated above.

Dr. Abdushukur Khanazarov, Chairman of CACAARI, welcomed the participants and briefed about CACAARI activities undertaken during 2005 and the beginning of 2006.

Dr. Paroda, Head of PFU-CGIAR, in his introductory remarks clarified that he is not representing any member country and all decision are to be taken by CACAARI members only. He acknowledged the importance of CACAARI for the region and shared the experience and activities of APAARI, being the Executive Secretary.

Considerable discussion took place regarding role and composition of Executive Committee of CACAARI. It was unanimous decision that there is no need to have two Executive Secretaries and also the Executive Director. Instead, like APAARI and AARINENA, we should change the Constitution and hence forth have only one Chairman and one Executive Secretary. These positions are also rotated as a policy between Central Asia and the Caucasus every two years.

Having agreed on above, it was decided to hold the election for the years 2006-2007 (next biennium). Since last time Chairman was from Central Asia, this time it should be from the Caucasus. Accordingly, following Executive Committee were elected unanimously:

Chairman:	Dr. Samvel Avetisyan
Executive Secretary:	Dr. Abdushukur Khanazarov

The members were also pleased to learn that GFAR and ICARDA have agreed to extend need based support to the Secretariat.

With this, closed session was concluded and both the newly elected persons were congratulated.

Open Session

The participants of the open session were welcomed by Dr. Avetisyan, the new elected Chairman of CACAARI. He thanked Prof. Khanazarov and PFU for their role in the past to provide needed support to CACAARI.

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| 1. Dr. Asad Musayev | Azerbaijan |
| 2. Dr. Samvel Avetisyan | Armenia |
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| 4. Dr. Asanbek Ajibekov | Kyrgyzstan |
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| 8. Dr. Zakir Khalikulov | PFU-CGIAR/ICARDA-CAC |
| 9. Ms. Gulusa Vildanova | CACAARI Secretariat |
| 10. Dr. Turekhan Karlikhanov | Kazakhstan |
| 12. Dr. Ulan Suyndukov | Kyrgyzstan |
| 13. Dr. Bakhrom Aliev | Azerbaijan |
| 14. Dr. Guliko Margenasvili | Georgia |



The first presentation was given by Prof. Khanazarov, who reported about the recent GFAR Steering Committee meeting and AGM'05, held during December, 2006 Morocco. He also informed that GFAR has agreed to provide support to CACAARI during 2006 for the priority setting exercise and the establishment of ARIS in CAC region.

A brief report on IFPRI-CACAARI workshop on “Reorienting Research Management and Agricultural Innovation Systems in Central Asia and the Caucasus”, and ICARDA-CACAARI Round Table Discussion on ICARDA Strategic Plan for Dry Areas in SWANA region held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan on February 10-12, 2006 was presented by Dr. Zakir Khalikulov.

Dr. Guram Aleksidze informed about proposed regional workshop on “Research Need Assessment for Agricultural Research for Development (ARD) in Central Asia and the Caucasus” to be held during July, 2006, in Tbilisi, Georgia.

Brief information about expected support for strengthening of CACAARI activities was given by Ms. Gulusa Vildanova.

Dr. Raj Paroda also informed the participants that PFU and ICARDA will continue providing support to CACAARI. He conveyed that Prof. Dr. Adel El-Beltagy, Director General, ICARDA has agreed to support CACAARI with annual contribution of \$US 3000.

At the end of the meeting, issues on future activities, place and venue of the next General Assembly Meeting and other businesses were discussed. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Executive Committee could be organized with CGIAR Program for CAC Steering Committee meeting. If required, Executive Committee could also meet in Tbilisi, when the Need Assessment Meeting will be held in July, 2006.

Meeting was closed by the Chairman and the Executive Secretary proposed vote of thanks.