

**CAC Regional Preliminary experts Meeting
on preparing Regional strategy of framework Road map
implementation for post-GCARD1 Action Plan**



June 21-22, 2011
Tashkent, Uzbekistan

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A. Report on experts meeting:

The transformation of national research and innovation system to improve agricultural productivity

1. Background

The Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) organized a Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development (GCARD), working through its constituent agencies and networks, which included the CGIAR, FAO and IFAD, the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP), the Regional Research Fora and representatives from civil society, the private sector and donor agencies at Montpellier, France in March 2010.

The GCARD-1 lays ground for change in the basic architecture of, and investment in, agricultural research for development. It also provides opportunity for all those concerned about the future of agriculture and its role in development to contribute towards building more coherent and effective research systems through collective effort that can be valued for their development impact.

It also provides the key mechanism for consultation and basis of the new strategy and results framework-setting process of the CGIAR (and its component “CRP – CGIAR research programmes”) and ensuring these reflect the needs and aspirations of partners in developing countries. Development of mutual accountability in such processes is essential to realizing the value of the international system in support of national development needs.

Over the period started before GCARD1 since 2009 and 2010- 2012, between GCARD1 and GCARD2 involves a rolling process of analysis, e-consultations and face-to-face discussions to develop and refine a new global system for agricultural research for development. A series of Global Conferences every two years will discuss and seek to continuously improve agricultural research resourcing, impacts, delivery and accountability to its intended beneficiaries, the poor of this world.

It is also proposed that following GCARD 1 Road map, national systems for agricultural research and innovation leverage the CGIAR’s Strategic Research Framework and CRP plans and GCARD2 processes should be coherent aligned and focused on establishing specific goals and developing the required regional/sub-regional and country inputs and capacities to deliver desired impacts in the thematic areas concerned. As an output from the GCARD1 revised Road map is consistently new program document for making clear picture of all needed activities in AR4D for the CAC region. At the start up the process to create widely obtained and deeply analyzed regional framework of GCARD1 Road map implementation in CAC region. There is necessity of the creating M&E mechanism for its accountability to end of the users and beneficiaries from Agriculture system. Although it needs to set up expertise of the current situation in all countries AR4D for better understanding and identification the AR4D process in the countries, harmonizing this with Road map.

2. Objectives and scope of the Meeting

CACAARI Preliminary experts Meeting aimed to develop Regional Strategy framework for GCARD-1 Road map implementing at considering a Post GCARD Action Plan Proposal by CACAARI for the Central Asia and the Caucasus Region (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) for increasing agricultural productivity through strengthening agricultural research, education and extension. That also required providing appropriate active participation of the NARS in the region collectively in implementation of CRP.

This Meeting was attended by representative from already appointed and selected Experts for widely describe current situation AR4D in country and the status of investment and financing of AR4D whole picture of all Agricultural sector development and status of AR4D in the eight countries of the Region: Experts discuss key issues for CAC Region emerging from GCARD 1, role of CACAARI and CGIAR in Post GCARD1 Actions as well as Regional and Inter-regional collaboration and partnership issues. This should feed into creation of Framework for sustainably improving agricultural productivity in Central Asia and the Caucasus.

Preparation of good national reports was a pre-requisite for developing a draft framework for transforming agricultural research and development (ARD) systems in the CAC region to improve agricultural productivity and production.

The Regional strategy "Transforming ARD systems to improve agricultural productivity" should be based on the analysis of reference material, government decisions, national programs and agenda, and the whole policy on transforming and financing ARD, national priorities, specificities and peculiarities of country approaches and policies in line with the implementation of the priorities and principles of the GCARD Roadmap.

3. Expected Outcomes

Expected outcomes from the proposed activities include the following:

- participation and ideas-sharing from various countries of the CAC Region on preparing outlines for Regional strategy framework of implementation GCARD-1 Road map;
- discussion of key issues for CAC Region emerging from GCARD1 in the context of the role of CACAARI;
- considering a Framework for sustainably improving agricultural productivity in Central Asia and the Caucasus in context of GCARD1 principles;
- leveraging the CGIAR programs in the region through collective NARS actions, inter-regional collaboration in specific contexts and globally through GFAR.

4. Contribution from CACAARI Secretariat

The activities to be performed by the CACAARI will be the following:

- to organize the experts Meeting;
- to collaborate with International and National Consultants in preparation a feasibility study on creation of Framework for sustainably improving agricultural productivity in CAC;

- to collect all relevant information during the Meeting and prepare its proceedings;
- to provide all necessary administrative, logistics and human support for the conducting of the Meeting.

5. National reports

It was important for each country to answer the “What and Why” aspects for transforming ARD together with the “How and When” aspects. Some aspects of “What and Why” for each of the eight countries in the region were discussed during the preparations and synthesis of the CAC Regional Report in 2009. Building the national experts team and collective consultations during the expert meeting held on 21-22 June, 2011 is an opportunity for the CAC region to revisit these issues and prepare good national reports covering these aspects, and also covering the “How and When” aspects and with which priority needs to be answered so as to help transform ARD in the CAC region.

Thus, the national reports were developed to identify national needs and possible actions to satisfy them. This contributed to identify the commonalities in the needs and actions of the countries in the region which would need to be addressed at a regional level. Also, needs and actions were identified where support from the global ARD community can be expected. Likewise, the areas where CAC region can contribute to global ARD implied to be identified.

During the experts meeting national experts gave an overview of the country covering the aspects of population, GDP and share of agriculture in it, information on educational level, livelihoods pattern, the development goal of the country; indicated the place and expected role of agriculture in achieving it and briefly discussed issues for meeting the national goal of sovereignty, economic independence, social equality and environmental protection.

In the part of national agricultural research and innovation system there were brief descriptions of the components of agricultural research system, agricultural education system, and extension and rural support services, as well as status of collaboration among research, education and extension, role of civil society organizations in agriculture development, and of private sector in agricultural research and development. National experts also stressed the priority needs of NARS with respect to infrastructure and facilities, capacity development (in research, education and extension) identifying areas for which capacity development is required.

Other aspects discussed during the meeting was concerned about:

- The national agricultural research and development system covering its multi-stakeholders (public, civil society and private) and their responsibilities, coordination mechanisms, partnerships, etc, with emphasizing the present situation of the Agricultural Innovation System (AIS).
- Investment in agricultural research for development (in different sub-sectors and ARS by country and the donor support and its mechanism of coordination and monitoring
- Policy issues for improving land tenure, access and property rights; strengthening infrastructure and marketing; improving livelihoods opportunities for income generation; and increasing role of women in agriculture and ARD
- Capacity building
- Collaboration and Partnerships (national, regional and international)

- Governance issues (inclusiveness or involvement of all the stakeholders of ARD including famers, gender, NGOs, private sector, etc.)
- Knowledge sharing among ARD stakeholders
- Monitoring and evaluation

6. Comments on the National Reports

The synthesized comments of the national reports are as follows:

General observations:

- reports have good amount of information on agriculture, crops and livestock production, AR system, but some essential information is lacking;
- in most cases, the outline provided has not been followed;
- it seems that the 2009 Report has not been read and consulted;
- the GCARD1 Road Map has not been thoroughly read;
- reports need to highlight the priority needs and possible actions;
- opportunity to revisit the priority issues in AR4D.

Collective actions:

- required in research and knowledge sharing to address theme-based outputs;
- eight thematic areas for collective action identified:
 1. agricultural systems for the poor and vulnerable;
 2. enabling agricultural incomes for the poor;
 3. optimizing productivity of global food security crops;
 4. agriculture, nutrition and health;
 5. water, soils and ecosystems;
 6. forests and trees;
 7. climate change and agriculture; and
 8. agricultural biodiversity;
- their implications in alignment of national program priorities and resources;
- national commitments required from different sectors.

Transformation of ARIS:

- transformation and strengthening of ARIS is essential;
- very significant increases in investment in NARIS required to fill the underinvestment gap;
- new investments need clear focus and integration into wider development agendas;
- for this, research must demonstrate its value and relevance to the real clients of research (farm households, consumers and the environmental concerns);
- very clear, urgent and critical need for greatly increased capacities of national actors;
- also required reforms in NARIS, technological innovations, stakeholder capacity, creating viable market opportunities, advocating, facilitating and sharing initiatives for collection actions

Actions and responsibilities:

- step by step increased investments by 2025: national, regional and international funding agencies;

- advocacy for importance of ARIS, mobilization of finance for investments and human and institutional development at the national, regional and international level: GFAR, CGIAR, CACAARI, NGOs, farmers' organizations, etc.;
- strengthening of regional fora (CACAARI) and their constituents; increased resources, expertise and credibility for leadership at the regional level.

Actions by NARIS:

- livelihoods analysis of producers: needs, constraints, take measures and approaches to alleviate them;
- assessment of their NARIS through an inclusive process: present status, needs, changes required;
- address their research, technical and information system capacity requirements;
- analyze the roles of public, private and civil organizations addressing the important issues of productivity stagnation of small producers, consumers and the environmental sustainability;
- undertake a review of food security policies and strategies;
- introduce a value-chain approach into research program development;
- assess the present technology delivery systems: make it farmer-centered; involving farmers in design and planning of innovation process and learning from their innovations;
- develop and apply partnership principles and mechanisms;
- promoting multi-country arrangements within sub-regions and regions and develop proactive networks;
- specific focus to needs of women farmers in production, post-harvest value addition and new technology adoption;
- promoting public-private partnerships;
- conduct case study of successful stories to learn from them.

General conclusion:

- Need to modify your reports according to the suggestions provided.
- Make the Report brief but focused

7. Further Action plan for development of the Regional Strategy document

At the plenary session national experts together with technical and international consultant discussed and adopted the further action plan for development the Regional framework document, which is as follows:

- Post-experts Meeting: Review and revision of the national reports in line with the suggestions made in the Experts Meeting.
- Submission of the revised National Reports to CACAARI Secretariat; translation into English.
- Finalization of the synthesis of the revised national reports.
- Review of the synthesis of the national reports prepared by Dr. Botir Dosov and the finalized national reports and develop the first draft of the Regional Strategy document.
- Submission it to the CACAARI Secretariat for translation into Russian and circulate to the national experts and the Steering Committee for their inputs.

- Receipt of inputs from National Experts and the Steering Committee members to CACAARI Secretariat.
- A final draft Regional strategy to be prepared after considering the inputs from the Steering Committee.
- Final Regional Strategy Document (Russian) to send to the Heads of NARS for Consultations at the national level.
- Comments from the Heads of NARS to CACAARI Secretariat.
- Final draft document is ready and presented at the Brainstorming Meeting.

MINUTES
Regional Experts' Meeting of the Central Asia and the Caucasus Association of Agricultural
Research Institutions (CACAARI)
Tashkent, Uzbekistan
June 21-22, 2011

1. Introductory remarks

Chair: Acad. Djzamin Akimaliev, Chairman of CACAARI

At the beginning of the Meeting, Acad. Djzamin Akimaliev (Chairman of CACAARI) greeted all participants of the Experts Meeting of CACAARI and expressed gratitude to organizers of the Meeting. He also stressed the importance of start up the process of develop Regional strategy in line with principles of GCARD Road Map for attract investments and increase financial support ARD in the region. Speaker also emphasized that all countries are reforming their NARS systems; unfortunately, it is not enough to increase financing of agrarian science. Figures and statistics indicate very low level. Therefore, we have to develop national and regional strategy to increase this contribution for ARD, as GCARD Road Map requires a tripling of current level up to 2025 for the long-term perspectives.

For example in Kyrgyzstan ARD system are badly equipped, and agricultural research investments are weak, as a percentage of agricultural GDP is about 0,01%; in Russia - about 1%; and in developed countries - 2,4% -3,5%.

Without science, there is no progress, without economy - no policy. Agriculture in Kyrgyzstan provides more than 40 % contribution to the country economy. Government should consider a necessity to increase financing of ARD. Donor's coordination is very important in attracting of more investments and funds for the development of agriculture in the countries.

Therefore, the involvement of high-level policy makers to this process is preliminary issue for all countries of CAC region. This approach will be changed in future with the following regional and national advocacy; by the strengthening of NARS capacities, interregional and international partnership; and collaboration in bridging the gaps in knowledge sharing, as required GCARD Road Map principles. Therefore, we need to develop our strategy to follow a global process of transforming ARD.

ICARDA-CGIAR PFU Statement

Dr. Zakir Khalikulov on behalf ICARDA-CAC remarked the importance of close collaboration with CGIAR centers and Regional office, which gives more advantages and opportunities to improve scientific research methodology, apply best practices and approaches and collaboratively solve the existing scientific problems in Agricultural sectors of the CAC countries.

In the CAC region, CGIAR centers (ICARDA, AVRDC, CYMMIT, CIP, ICRISAT, IWMI, IFPRI, Biodiversity international, ICBA, etc) are well known and have good linkages and collaborations with NARS partners within the region.

Regional experts' meeting have a good start for this year and ICADRA-Tashkent office, CGIAR PFU will support and work together to strengthen CACAARI activities.

2. Presentations

After the introduction of Agenda all participants started to discuss each country's presentations, Situation with ARD and Road Map: implications and opportunities (presentations are available on CACAARI web cite: www.cacaari.org)

3. Discussions and remarks:

Dr. Bayan Alimgazinova (Expert from Kazakhstan) started discussion on the current situation with the ARD in Kazakhstan and Road Map: implications and opportunities. She informed that Kazakhstan already made transformation of NARS to the KazAgroInnovation, created center for technologies' transfer. Dr. Bayan Alimgazinova said that there is a problem with the commercialization of agricultural sciences. There is need to adopt appropriate mechanisms on that. A midterm perspective is to increase percentage of agricultural GDP up to 1%. Agricultural Universities are under the Ministry of Education, but needed to be supervised by the Ministry of Agriculture. The main advantage of Kazakhstan's Research Institutions is a right to commercialize the science. As we know well, no country in CA has permission on this yet; this is taxes free and is supported by the Government. She informed about the opportunity for CACAARI to contact INTAC Collaborative Program EU program -7 for fund raising and Technical assistance for strengthening the NARS partners and stimulate system of evaluation of scientific research organizations' achievements.

Dr. Laziza Gafurova (Uzbekistan)

For better knowledge sharing and scientific research results' delivering, it is need to organize a CAC regional Scientific Journal based on the International standards and give the access for publishing.

Scientific articles, reports and information, not only by National authors, but by the International scientists who accomplish research in the region. For example, access to AGORA scientific library is costly and need to be supported by CACAARI. It is vital to provide National information systems with the yearly access to this kind of libraries and international information systems.

Acad. Guram Aleksidze (Georgia) pointed about financing of ARD, use of grants system and contributions from the state budget including attracting of foreign Investments.

Dr. Gayane Sarkisyan (Armenia) remarked that the role of the Ministry of Agriculture is a main coordinating activity and responsible for agriculture governmental body from Armenian practices. Close linking and coordinating activities with them is a benefit for NARS.

Dr. Asanbek Ajibekov (Kyrgyzstan). In Kyrgyzstan one of the main achievements is a development of Agricultural Consultancy System It was started with WB project, supporting Swiss Government. As you know good percentage of agricultural GDP (about 0,01%) comes from the Ministry of education. NARS system of Kyrgyzstan is a part of Agricultural Academy () which should be under the Ministry of Agriculture activity.

We learned from Turkey experience that scientific researchers and extension specialists should have proportion as 1:3, and extension is a priority factor. In Kyrgyzstan, we have no real Governmental support on this. Finance system has to stimulate science and extension.

Dr. Khasan Mamarasulov (Uzbekistan), Agricultural science depends on the amount of funds and needs to be supported by Government. In addition, it is very important to inform the National Governments about the GFAR's contribution to the ARD in the region and National Scientific Research Systems.

To sum up, **Dr. Surendra Beniwal** presented the comments and recommendations on updated National report (presentation on the CACAARI web site: www.cacaari.org).

Finalization of Report

National experts together with technical and international consultant discussed and adopted the further action plan for development the Regional framework document, which is as follows:

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In conclusion, Acad. Djzamin Akimaliev emphasized, that without involvement of NARS, farmers' organizations, NGO's and Ag. Universities in the process ARD we could not achieve this results in the region. This is a tremendous contribution to the Agricultural Science in each country. This is an advocacy activities should be widely persistent in our countries to deliver "sounds" of scientist to the Governments to attract more attention to Ag science and it's financing.

Of course, progress in science cannot be alone without the developing of creative personality in it. Therefore, capacity-building issues are very important, and without high qualified and well trained scientists and Ag. Specialists we cannot reach the progress, also the younger generation play a specific role in ARD, which had to be highlighted in the Regional strategy.

NARS leaders with the National experts will finalize the process of implementation the Regional strategy. The important in this process is a developing of M&E and implementation of the Regional strategy.

We have excellent experience in the past with adoption of Issyk-Kul Declaration (2009) - very valuable document. We had successful attempt on involvement, and working with policy makers and Governmental officials. This process has to be implemented on continuously basis.

After the Issyk-Kul Declaration, since 2009, the Regional meeting was held with the participation of the Ministers of Agriculture of CAC countries, First deputy Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan. We have a good experience and hope to move on that way to involve Government officials-policy makers to the process of implementing of the CGARD Road Map in the CAC region.

During those two days there were the fruitful discussions and share opinions and views. Participants appreciate the valuable contribution of Dr. Surendra Beniwal and made recommendations. His guiding helped to finalize the important first step for developing the regional strategy, with updating National reports and adopting it as own product for each country of NARS.

This step will answer to the question “How and When” , and define which priority is required for transforming of ARD in CAC region It is a continuation of the previous pre GCARD 1 step “What and why” for transforming ARD, which was well presented in GCARD.

All experts made good contributions and provided valuable information in their reports, which will be used as a basis for the development of the Regional strategy. Certainly, it is planning to be the programme with a covering food and nutrition security, poverty reduction elements, the programme of the concrete actions and measures to improve agricultural productivity in the CAC region.

At the end, a Chairman of CACAARI thanked all participants for their efficient work during the Meeting and wished a further development for CACAARI.

Program

Experts Meeting on Synthesis of the National reports on ARD for Central Asia and Caucasus

Hotel Le Grande Plaza ,Tashkent, Uzbekistan
21-22 June, 2011

21 June 2011– Tuesday

08:30 Registration of participants

Session I. Chair: Acad. Jamin Akimaliev

09:00-09:10	Opening speech Acad. J.A. Akimaliev	CACAARI Chairman
09:10-09:20	Statement of CGIAR\ICARDA	Dr. Zakir Khalikulov, Deputy Head of PFU
09:20-09:30	Presentation by participants	
09:30-10:00	Situation of ARD in Armenia and Road Map: Implications and opportunities	Dr. Gayane Sarkisyan
10:00-10:30	Situation of ARD in Georgia and Road Map: Implications and opportunities	Acad. Guram Aleksidze
10:30-11:00	Situation of ARD in Azerbaijan and Road Map: Implications and opportunities	Dr. Mohtasim Ahmedov
11:00-11:30	Group photo and Coffee break	

Session II. Chair: Acad. Guram Aleksidze

11:30-12:00	Situation of ARD in Kazakhstan and Road Map: Implications and opportunities	Dr. Bayan Alimgazinova
12:00-12:30	Situation of ARD in Kyrgyzstan and Road Map: Implications and opportunities	Dr. Asanbek Ajibekov
12:30-13:00	Situation of ARD in Tajikistan and Road Map: Implications and opportunities	Dr. Mavlon Pulodov
13:00-13:30	Situation of ARD in Turkmenistan and Road Map: Implications and opportunities	Dr. Ashir Saparmurodov
13:30-15:00	Lunch	

Session III. Chair: Dr. Bayan Alimgazinova

15:00-15:30	Situation of ARD in Uzbekistan and Road Map: Implications and opportunities	Dr. Khasan Mamarasulov
15:30-16:00	Role of A4RD in the CAC region and development of the regional strategy in line with GCARD 1Road Map principles	Dr. Surendra Beniwal
16:00-16:30	Coffee break	

Session IV. Chair: Dr. Gayane Sarkisyan

16:30-17:30	Discussion on the National Reports in line with the AR4D Road Map principles	Dr. Surendra Beniwal
17:30-18:00	Agricultural Innovation Systems project in Turkey and Central Asia	Dr. Surendra Beniwal
19:00	Dinner	

22 June, Wednesday

Session V. Chair: Dr. Ashir Saparmurodov

09:00-10:00	Presentation of AARINENA experience for preparing Road Map ARD Discussion	Dr. Alisher Tashmatov
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Session VI. Chair: Dr Mohtasim Ahmedov

10:00-11:00	Synthesis of the National reports and further work required by the National consultants of the eight countries Discussions	Dr. Botir Dosov
11:00-11:30	Coffee Break	
11:30-12:00	Discussion	
12:00-14:00	Lunch	

Session VII. Chair: Dr. Ashir Saparmuratov

14:00-15:00	Presentation of the methodology for the next Regional Brainstorming Meeting for the CAC policy makers in line with the Ar4D Road Map principles	Dr. Surendra Beniwal
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Plenary Session: Chair: Dr. Mohtasim Ahmedov

15:00-16:00	Comments by the National Consultants General Discussion	
16:00-17:00	Closing remarks	Acad. Jamin Akimaliev Dr. Surendra Beniwal

**List of participants
(June 21-22, 2011, Tashkent, Uzbekistan)**

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