

**Central Asia and the Caucasus Association of Agricultural Research
Institutions (CACAARI)**



**Meeting of the Consortium of Agrarian Universities
in Central Asia and the Caucasus and
Workshop on Regional Agricultural Information System
(CAC.RAIS)**

MINUTES

**July 12-14, 2010
Tashkent, Uzbekistan**

Meeting of the Consortium of Agrarian Universities in Central Asia and the Caucasus

Tashkent, Uzbekistan

July 12-13, 2010

Venue: Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Melioration

A Introduction

1. Number of Meetings of Agrarian Universities of Central Asia and Caucasus Consortium were organized by Central Asia and South Caucasus Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (CACAARI) with the support of the International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA), Project Facilitation Unit of the Consultative Group of International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) for CAC. The Meetings were held in Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Melioration, Tashkent, Uzbekistan. To involve the agrarian Universities in the regional process of agricultural research for development the Foundation Meeting of the Consortium of Agrarian Universities was held on July 12-13, 2010. In addition, the CACAARI Workshop on acceleration of development of CAC –RAIS system took place on July 13-14, 2010.
2. The mission of Foundation Meeting of the Consortium of Agrarian Universities was to make an own contribution in agricultural research and innovation through collaboration and partnership for development of agricultural sector in the CAC region.
3. The mission of CAC-RAIS was to enhance the National Systems of agricultural information so they will be able to make a significant contribution in the agricultural development in member-countries and in the whole region itself through the exchange of information and knowledge.
4. The members of CAARI, representatives of international organizations, Agrarian Universities, Scientific and Technical Centers, libraries, representatives of Agricultural Universities of CAC region (Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) and from several foreign Universities and international organizations. The list of the Participants is attached in [Annex I](#).

B Agenda

5. The agenda of Meetings provided for: i) an opening session and introduction of the objectives; ii) presentations on the following topics: “Status of Universities role for ARD”, “Status of ICM for ARD” in the CAC and other countries, and “ Assessment for ICM in CAC region”; iv) group and plenary discussions on the given topics; v) discussion of the forthcoming events (actions) for the better integration of Consortium of Universities in GCARD with the CAC National Research Systems and for the improving of ICM in GCARD through CAC-RAIS and National Research Systems. The detailed program is attached in [Annex II](#).

C Summary

6. Group discussions organized during the Meeting allowed to identify the role of Universities in education process, research and also, in the extension and innovation systems. The Charter of Consortium of CAC Agrarian Universities was proposed for approval.

7. Analysis of the information and communication management by the countries of the region. In addition, analysis of ICM role in education and training, extension and innovation systems and research was done through group discussions.
8. During the workshop, participants were given information on the initiative of The Coherence in Information for Agricultural Research for Development (CIARD RING) (Route map to Information Nodes and Gateways) which maps the existing information services related to agricultural research for development. The CIARD RING is a registry of information sources and services in agriculture: and enables information providers to register their services in various categories and so facilitate the discovery of sources of agriculture-related information across the world.
9. The informational reports on Universities participation in CIARD in each country of CAC region were presented, interaction between these universities on the national and regional levels and the challenges and the role of Universities in the CAC region after the GCARD -2010 were discussed during the Meeting.

D July 12, 2010: Session I. Chair: Dr. A. Salohitdinov

10. **Welcome speech.** Technical part of the Meeting was started with the welcome speech of the organizers. Pro-rector of Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Melioration, Uzbekistan, **Prof. A. Salohitdinov** said welcome words and expressed appreciation to the participants and organizers on behalf of Institute. He mentioned that agriculture is vital area in the region because of dry conditions and expressed the hope that upcoming Meeting will allow participants to discuss important issues which are important for the whole CAC region.
11. After his speech, Prof. A. Salohitdinov passed a speech to **Dr. Z. Khalikulov**, Acting Head of PFU - CGIAR for CAC region. He welcomed participants and presented short review about the history of CGIAR, role of 11 International Centers of this Consortium and also about the joint activity for the last 12 years. Dr. Z. Khalikulov highlighted the role of ICARDA in CACAARI activity and the importance of uniting of all countries for solving of future issues. He wished the success to all participants.
12. Dr. Z. Khalikulov passed the welcome speech to Dr. A. Maru, Senior specialist of the Global Forum for agricultural research (GFAR). Dr. Maru thanked the management of Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Melioration for hospitality on behalf of CACAARI and ICARDA. He explained the main functions of CAARI which include: attracting investments in agricultural research; enhancement of platform of Agricultural research for development; support of collaboration in the CAC region; promotion of Global Forum in the CAC region. Dr. Maru informed about the meeting recently held in Montpellier, France where donors stressed the necessity of consolidation of institutional organizations in seven regions into one common scale. Dr. Maru pointed out the goals of the current Meetings stated that during 3-day meetings there will be discussions on Agrarian universities' Consortium as well as their role in education process and other important issues. He then highlighted the importance of reorganization of ARD information systems into Education information systems for agricultural research. Dr. Maru noted that contribution of each participant is hard to overestimate; he thanked all participants for attending the Meetings and appreciated good organization of the Meetings.
13. Chairman passed speech to Mr. Jalikulov of Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan. He greeted all participants and noticed that such kind of Meeting is organized for the first time; he then expressed hope that it would play catalyst role for education

systems cooperation and creation of common study programs throughout whole country. Mr. Jalikulov wished success and informed that his Ministry will provide necessary support.

14. Each participant provided self-introduction.

15. The Chairman of the session introduced **Dr. A. Pulatov**, Head of “EcoGIS” Center of Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Melioration, Uzbekistan. Dr. Pulatov welcomed participants and thanked the organizers of the Meeting. He reported about the CACAARI activities and its mission. He said that the purpose of the Universities’ Consortium is to support of constant links with the global and regional organizations for development, International agencies of ARD including farmers associations and with the Universities and scientific and research institutes (SRI). In his presentation Dr. Pulatov provided a list of agrarian Universities of the CAC region countries. Dr. Pulatov introduced the main goals of the Meeting and the topics for group discussion. Also he mentioned main 7 issues to discuss during the Meeting and provided a list of Universities of Consortium.

16. **Prof. D. Petrosyan**, Vice-rector, State Agrarian University, Armenia presented the report on the role of Universities in ARD in Armenia. In his report he mentioned the range of SRI of Armenia, mentioned the main research directions and research laboratories. He highlighted four main components to support the education level and training the high qualified specialists: providing the professional knowledge and skills, research skills, management and communicative skills, academic and scientific methods.

17. The next presenter of the status of Universities role for ARD in Azerbaijan was **Prof. I. Jafarov**, Vice-rector of the state Agrarian University of Azerbaijan. He informed about the history of the University and the mission of current faculties. In his report Prof. I. Jafarov provided statistical data about the number of students on the master, bachelor, doctoral and extramural programs including the number of International students studying at the Azerbaijan Agrarian University. He provided more details about the each direction of University and about prospective faculties. There were data on the financial support of University and about the strategic goals for 2010- 2015.

18. **Dr. O. Shatberashvili**, Director of Georgian Federation of information and documentation presented the report about the role of Universities for ARD in Georgia. In his presentation he provided the information about the main directions of education in training and teaching, informed about the status of experimental stations, implementation of ITC and distance learning and gave the information about the Georgia State University of subtropic farming. During his presentation he provided the information about the number of students in each directions and also about the existing SRIs in Georgia.

19. The next opportunity to present information about the status of Universities for ARD in Kazakhstan was provided to **Dr. T. Espolov**, Rector of the National Agrarian University of Kazakhstan. In his presentation Dr. Espolov mentioned about the history of University and about existing SRIs in Kazakhstan. Also, he provided detailed information about the directions of education system and the development of the collaboration between the Universities and Institutions of the Republic. The important thing in his presentation was the fact that 60 leading Universities of Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Azerbaijan have signed the Memorandum of Universities of the Republic of Kazakhstan (Tarazian Declaration), which laid the foundation for the developing of Central Asian zone of Higher education. Also he discussed other International Programs of education and collaboration in the frame of the education system. The issue of academic mobility was also mentioned and discussed during his presentation.

20. After the presentations participants asked their questions and made suggestions according to the presented topics.

E July 12, 2010: Session II. Chairman: Dr. A.Maru

21. Chairman **Dr. A. Maru** greeted participants of the second session of the first day of the Meetings. He provided brief review on the previous session and noted good international cooperation of the universities regarding previously shared information.

22. Speech for the report was given to **Prof. T.Kubatbekov**, Rector of Kyrgyz Agrarian University named after by K.I.Skryabin. He informed participants about the role of universities in ARD in Kyrgyzstan. As previous panelists, Prof. Kubatbekov briefed about faculties, departments within universities, colleges, lyceums and research institutions. He shared data on number of students, staff as well as system of issuing of double Diploma in cooperation with Peoples' Friendship University of Russia. Prof. Kubatbekov informed that cooperation between ICARDA and National University of Kyrgyzstan started in 1996; from 1998 two projects have been implemented with involvement of scientists and PhD students of the University. He noted that in 2002 ICARDA Centre was created under University where students were involved in research which led to cooperation with Michigan State University. Unfortunately, due to closure of that Center many research works were stopped. Prof. Kubatbekov addressed to the Office of ICARDA-CAC Management to assist in renewing linkages with the Center as well as re-establishing the Center under the University.

23. Status of universities' role in ARD in Uzbekistan was provided in the report by **Dr. A.Salohitdinov**, Vice-rector of Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Melioration. He informed about agrarian universities in the country as well as main directions of study in there. Dr. A.Salohitdinov shared data on research capacity of the universities, state grant financing system; he also informed about the history of Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Melioration, its organizational structure, faculties and departments and cooperation with international organizations. He stated that program on farmers' training and research projects are actively being implemented.

24. Next speaker on the same topic was **Dr. L.Gafurova**, Vice-rector of Tashkent State Agrarian University. Apart from the general information on the activities and main study programs of the University, she also introduced general situation in education system of Uzbekistan. She then proposed actions regarding agrarian universities' activities under the newly established Consortium: she invited to attend agricultural innovations fair, to create network of information systems for farmers as well as agricultural technoparks network. She stressed the importance of technologies transfer between the countries and close cooperation between scientists on decision-makers' level. In addition, Dr. Gafurova pointed out the necessity of creation of community of young scientists and publishing of scientific works at inter-government level.

25. After all presentations, emerged issues were discussed among all participants. Dr. Maru introduced new issues for discussion on accountability of agrarian universities, increase in investments in agribusiness as well as necessity of restructuring in agrarian universities.

F July 12, 2010: Session III. Chairman: Prof. T.Kubatbekov

26. Prof. T.Kubatbekov introduced **Ms. E.Wietsma**, International Project Manager of Wageningen University, who presented a report on the role of universities in ARD by example of the Netherlands. She informed about role of agrarian universities in the Netherlands, main learning directions, study conditions and share of international students. In addition, Ms. Wietsma's report contained many examples of reformation of study process to meet agrarian sector's requirements and farm's conditions in the country.

27. Presentation on the role of universities in ARD by example of Samarkand Institute of Agriculture was given by **Dr. N.Khalilov**, Vice-rector of Samarkand Institute of Agriculture, Uzbekistan. Dr. Khalilov shared information on the history of the institute, scientific personnel potential, information resource center, system and directions of capacity building as well as international cooperation with other countries' universities. Data on financial support of research over last three years were also provided.

28. Report on the role of universities in ARD by example of Gulistan State University of Uzbekistan was presented by **Prof. H.Kushiev**, Vice-rector of Gulistan State University. Prof. Kushiev informed participants about study directions, learning and scientific basis of the university, existing biolaboratories and genebanks, ICT status in the university and distant linkages with institutions of Syrdarya province and other regions, universities and scientific centers of the country as well as cooperation of the university with international CG centers and ICARDA.

29. **Dr. S.Beniwal**, Leading Consultant of CACAARI, shared brief review on the role of universities in ARD in developing countries. He highlighted the issues which are relevant for the whole CAC region including cooperation at national level, main focus on farmers' demand for effective scientific research. Dr. Beniwal paid special attention to necessity of creation of common information and education systems for farmers, agricultural communications. He gave conclusion remarks regarding new role of agrarian universities in agricultural development of the countries in the region.

30. **Dr. A.Maru** reported about universities' role in capacity building for ARD in CAC Region after GCARD-2010: GFAR's perspective. Dr. Maru stated the changing role of agrarian universities in agricultural development. He informed about necessity of capacity development in ARD, education and extension systems. Dr. Maru pointed out existing problems/challenges for agrarian universities as well as role of regional fora and cooperation between agrarian universities of the Consortium.

31. After presentations, participants discussed key issues related to the reports.

G July 12, 2010: Session IV. Chairman: Prof. T.Kubatbekov

32. **Dr. A.Pulatov** presented report on International MS and PhD programs for CAC. In his report, Dr. Pulatov shared information about reforms in education system in Uzbekistan, signed multilateral agreement of EcoGIS cooperation between Ministry of agriculture and water resources, State Committee of environment protection, Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Melioration and Wageningen University. He stressed the importance of capacity building, creation of effective distant learning and joint education programs in the CAC Region. Statistical data on Masters and PhD programs in the CAC Region were also included in the presentation.

33. TEMPUS Project for CAC Universities was introduced by **Ms. E.Wietsma**. She explained the main goals of the TEMPUS Program regarding modernization of education system and capacity building in member countries. Program partners and financial tools of cooperation were also discussed. Ms. Wietsma presented information on joint programs aiming at creation of study programs, development of university management system as well as social activities. Data on number of CAC universities involved in the cooperation.

H July 13, 2010: Discussion of the Draft Charter of the Consortium of Agrarian Universities and its preliminary Approval

34. **Dr. Z.Khalikulov** chaired the discussion on the Charter of Consortium of Agrarian Universities. Despite some disagreement in participants' opinions regarding terms "farmer", "agricultural research for development (or ARD)", main part of the Draft Charter remained unchanged. It was mentioned in the meeting that while including amendments in the Charter it is needed to consider international donors since compliance of the Charter with international requirements is one of the key factors in financing.

35. During discussions on the Charter participants agreed to add terms "education and extension" to the text after "ARD" throughout Articles of the Charter.

36. Besides, regarding Article IV it was decided that due to limited budget of universities to set membership fee in the amount of USD 100.

37. After discussion on the Charter it was agreed to adopt current version of the Charter and circulate this Charter in Russian and English among all agrarian universities' rectors of the CAC Region as soon as possible so that they can approve it.

38. All amendments to the Charter are presented below:

Article III, paragraph 4: It was added "education and extension" as well as "to maintain sustainable development".

Article III, paragraph 5: It was added "education and extension" as well as a term "bilateral" was replaced with "multilateral". In addition, in last paragraph a term "training" was deleted.

Article IV, paragraph 6: It was added "education and extension" as well as a term "local languages" was replaced with "national languages".

Article V, paragraph 7: It was added "education and extension" as well as a term "littoral countries" was replaced with "other countries".

Article VI, paragraph 9: It was added "education and extension".

Article VIII, paragraph 16: It was added "education and extension".

39. Preliminary approved Charter is presented in **Annex III**.

I July 13, 2010: Session IV. Chairman: Dr. Z.Khalikulov

40. After discussion on the Charter of the Consortium, **Dr. Ajit Maru** organized group discussion during which participants were given opportunity to define challenges/issues of the universities in three areas: 1) research; 2) extension and innovations; 3) education and training (Proposals are given in **Annex IV**).

41. Among proposed challenges in research the proposal of **Mr. Kushiev** got the biggest number of votes: Equipping and modernization of science laboratories (4 votes). Dr. Laziza Gavurova added on this issue that equipment problem can be solved by two means: 1) government support; 2) international program grants (TEMPUS, etc). Dr. Maru pointed out that the largest part of investments should come from the government side rather than international donor.

42. In extension and innovations area the proposal by **Mr. Yakub Guliev** received 4 votes: Absence of modern extension services to support small farmers. In this regard, creation of information and consulting centers can help as it was suggested by **Dr. Gafurova**. In these centers it would be possible to organize trainings on seasonal topics. In addition, “question-answer” system through e-mail as well as creation of fast response group will enable discussion on different topics. **Dr. Maru** suggested using example of India in this issue.

43. In the area of education, the proposal of **Dr. Ewa Wietsma** got the majority of voices (9 votes): Creation and development of regional excellence centers to teach Masters and PhD students. Existence of such centers would help in solving transnational problems in agriculture. Upon suggestion by **Dr. Khalikulov**, Consortium of universities may identify the best universities in the region in order to recommend them for studying. As it was added by **Dr. Pulatov**, study in the centers should be held in English. Consortium can also assist in students exchange and update of database. Proposal of **Dr. Surendra Beniwal** obtained the second largest number of votes: Improvement of curriculum to attract promising students (5 votes). As many participants agreed, change in curriculum is needed to enable further employment of the alumni. In this sense, Consortium of Universities can support in attraction of attention of the governments to this issue.

44. Upon proposal by **Dr. Ajit Maru**, all participants agreed to appoint Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Melioration (TIIM) as a temporary Secretariat for CAC Agrarian Universities Consortium. In addition, **Dr. Alim Pulatov**, Head of EcoGIS Center in TIIM, was asked to be a temporary Executive Secretary of the Consortium. He assured the audience to contribute to the strengthening of the Agrarian Universities Consortium.

45. At the end of the meeting, **Dr. Ajit Maru** paid attention to the African experience in mega-programs. CACAARI can use this positive example in agricultural development in the region in general and in Universities' Consortium in particular.

46. In conclusion, participants thanked everybody and the organizers for fruitful work and expressed the hope for further effective collaboration.

Workshop on Regional Agricultural Information System (CAC.RAIS)

Tashkent, Uzbekistan

July 13-14, 2010

J July 13, 2010: Session I. Chairman: Dr. A.Pulatov

47. The session was started by presentation of **Dr. O. Shatberashvili** on the topic of “Goals of CAC.RAIS Workshop in the light of regional and global consultations 2009-2010”. Presented goals included: assessment of Information and Communication Management (ICM) system in ARD in the countries of the region; discussion on institutional, national and regional participation in CIARD and AgroWeb Network; identification of ICM needs and their role in ARD in the CAC Region after GCARD-2010 process. Dr. Shatberashvili informed about results in the CAC region in developments of agricultural information systems of the region’s countries, information needs in rural areas, National Agricultural Information System (NAIS) and its users as well as Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and consulting services in the region.

48. Brief report on CAC.RAIS was presented by **Mr. Sh. Kosimov**, IT Specialist of ICARDA-CAC Office. In his presentation, Mr. Kosimov shared information on what CAC.RAIS is, what has been done so far and that new website was created which includes updated database as well as e-consultations on more than 200 topics. Mr. Kosimov presented also expected actions of CAC.RAIS regarding database update and consolidation of efforts by all partners and other initiatives.

49. Presentation on status of ICM for ARD in Armenia was given by **Mr. Manukyan**, Director of Information Center of State Agrarian University. Mr. Manukyan provided review on agricultural system in Armenia (political and economical changes), land reforms and existing infrastructures. He informed about current information sources for farmers, structures of extension services in Armenia as well as ICM status in agricultural development and measures required for this development including role of telecommunications in this process.

50. **Mr. Ya. Guliev**, Head of International Affairs of Agrarian Science Center under Ministry of Agriculture, presented report on national agricultural information systems in Azerbaijan. He shared information on agricultural sector, priorities of crop cultivation, productivity of agricultural production; he also pointed out existing challenges/barriers for sustainable development of agriculture. Mr. Guliev introduced existing communication providers and their role in agricultural development as well as their accessibility level for rural population (service costs).

51. **Mr. N. Gamzaev**, Director of Information and Communication Technologies Center of State Agrarian University, reported about ICM for ARD in Azerbaijan. He presented information in detail on status of agriculture and its development, national communication system; he also demonstrated the structure of distance learning and electronic resources of the University’s library.

52. Next, **Dr. O. Shatberashvili** provided presentation on ICM status in Georgia where he pointed out main organizations working under Georgian research institutions, information sources for agrifood sector and information needs in agricultural production. In addition, useful information on FAO e-library was shared; he also informed about existing changes in agricultural publications’ flow and agricultural information exchange, data on regional publications and reports in AGRIS/CARIS (1995-2010) as well as ICM use.

K July 13, 2010: Session II: Chairman: Dr. O. Shatberashvili

53. Representative from Kazakhstan, **Mr. E. Suleymenov**, President of National Center for Scientific and Technical Information, shared information on information-analytical content of agricultural development in Kazakhstan. Presented report included information on agrarian sector of the country, scientific research in agricultural and industrial complex, financing of research in agriculture, distribution of funds. Mr. E.Suleymenov informed about situation regarding staff potential in agricultural and industrial complex, scientific organizations in research and development, publishing activities of Kazakh scientists and specialists in agricultural science (citation index, rating of most cited authors in agrarian sciences) as well as actual and urgent ARD databases. Besides, there was brief information on National Center for Scientific and Technical Information and its activities as well as collaboration with foreign organizations on specific areas.

54. Next panelist was a participant from Tajikistan, **Mr. A. Khodzhakhonov**, Research fellow of Institute of Economics under Academy of Sciences. He provided presentation on status of agriculture and ICM in Tajikistan. In the brief review of communication system in agriculture, Mr. Khodzhakhonov informed in detail about existing level of access to equipment and information management in the country. He shared information on scientific and technical database and research data as well as agricultural markets and existing mass-media. Mr. Khodzhakhonov stressed high urgency of improvement of communication system of research works at international level.

55. **Dr. A. Pulatov** made report on ICM role for ARD in Uzbekistan. He briefly informed about current country's state in the area of natural resources and agricultural policy. Dr. Pulatov shared detailed information on existing situation regarding telecommunication technologies in the country and their role in agricultural development. He suggested own proposals with respect to possible actions and policies for communication development in rural areas and their implementation. During his presentation, several issues on extension services among farmers and use of ICT in agricultural development were discussed. In addition, current problems and needs in ICM were pointed out.

56. After seven presentations, participants were given opportunity to discuss emerged issues; as conclusion remarks **Dr. A. Maru** highlighted main issues as most urgent and actual:

- improvement of access to technological information systems in which, in his opinion, countries of the region are late for 10 years from global development trends;
- lack of adequate information systems regarding real needs of agricultural sector and farmers, and
- problems of correspondence and unification of information systems between universities in the Region (at national and regional levels).

L July 14, 2010: Session III. Chairman: Dr. L. Gafurova

57. At the beginning of final day of CAC.RAIS workshop, **Dr. Ajit Maru** introduced to the participants the joint project of FAO and Turkey in collaboration with GFAR, CACAARI, ICARDA and TAIC which aims at Capacity development for analysis and strengthening of agricultural innovation systems (AIS) in Central Asia and Turkey. Therefore, sub-regional Workshop with participation of many stakeholders was held in the period of 5-8 April, 2009 in Issyk-Kul, which resulted in formulation of project document for donor's support. Having budget in the amount of USD 150 000, the Project expects the following outcomes:

- Increased capacities at national and sub-regional level to analyze existing AIS, identify gaps and recommend interventions to strengthen AIS, especially for information management and knowledge sharing;

Совещания Консорциума сельскохозяйственных Университетов Центральной Азии и Южного Кавказа

- Five in-depth country studies on AIS including case studies on successful use of ICTs including details on extension providers;
- Inter-country comparison;
- 15 trained national resource persons;
- Sub-regional project document for strengthening existing and/or establishing new AIS;
- Network of resource persons on AIS established in the sub-region.

As for present time, project document has been signed by governments of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkey (Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan are pending). Identification of project consultants and approving national consultants by governments are being held at the moment. In addition, preparing pre-assessment workshops dates/venues and assessments in each participating countries are on the way.

In his report, Dr. Maru also stressed the role of CACAARI/ICARDA in the Project which includes the following directions:

- CACAARI/ICARDA representatives in national and sub-regional project workshops;
- CACAARI/ICARDA Support to National Project Coordinators nominated by the MoAs;
- CACAARI offering an interactive platform for AIS network members, supported by the project;
- Information on network members on CACAARI website;
- Synthesis report on CACAARI website, as well as all referred documents dealing with research and extension in the region that are in the public domain;
- Sub-regional project proposal at the end of the project to address the gaps identified by the project jointly prepared by agricultural innovation stakeholders in the region with support of CACAARI, ICARDA and FAO.

Upon the answer regarding the possibility to join this Project by other countries, it was mentioned that initially it was planned that five countries in Central Asia plus Turkey would participate; Turkmenistan, however, has not showed its interest in the Project so far. At present, Azerbaijan is very much interested in the Project but Turkey declines supporting of Azerbaijan due to already sufficient financing through other projects.

As it was suggested by Dr. Maru, other countries willing to join the Project can send application on behalf of Head of NARS to CACAARI, FAO with copy to Dr. Ajit Maru. There is also possibility to find alternative sources of financing or partial financing as observers.

58. Next, **Dr. Ajit Maru** made report on “Information and Communications Management for Agricultural Research for Development: A GFAR Perspective”, where he pointed out that one GFAR’s key thrusts is to facilitate and further enable the sharing and exchange of information and knowledge among all ARD stakeholders. GFAR uses the framework where development is held gradually as follows: learning in communities through continuous conversation together with new information lead to creation of knowledge, which, in turn, increases social capital. This capital leads eventually to development through innovations.

While using this framework, development of appropriate information and learning systems will require answering several questions which were discussed in details during the report. Among them: what new capacities are needed by communities and how to provide them, etc. As an example, Dr. Maru mentioned that more than 90% of total investments should cover web-content.

To sum up, Dr. Maru pointed out factors required for developing information and knowledge systems to support agricultural innovation: information needs of all involved in value addition chains, Information flows, Technology, and organizational and Institutional Frameworks.

59. **Dr. Oleg Shatberashvili** informed participants about The Coherence in Information for Agricultural Research for Development (CIARD RING) initiative which is a registry of information sources and services in agriculture: and enables information providers to register their services in various categories and so facilitate the discovery of sources of agriculture-related information across the world.

Thus, goals of CIARD RING consist of wide access to the research outcomes implemented through public funds, easy and cheap access to global flow of agricultural information including “hard-to-access” and “grey” literature.

According to CIARD Manifesto, organizations producing and storing information (research and information centers) agree to use accepted internationally rules for description, indexation and storing of information. Despite the fact that CIARD is still under development and the services are not being provided, based on the ideology and scheme this system will be effective if there are nodal points appointed in the countries. In addition, it is needed to provide training at all levels.

60. In addition to the report of Dr. Shatberashvili, Dr. Ajit Maru noted that so far more than 100 depositaries have joined to the CIARD RING because many organizations realized the importance of registration of own services in this system. Russian version is also available.

61. **Dr. Maru** expressed dissatisfaction with poor representation of ARD stakeholders in the CAC Region in general and in this Workshop in particular. Some countries did not even attend these meetings which shows their indifference to the agenda. Therefore, GFAR has to reconsider financing of the projects by countries.

62. During discussion of the reports participants stressed the role which Consortia of farmer organizations, NGOs and agrarian universities should play in information exchange between stakeholders in agriculture so that outcomes of scientific works, production and services would reach eventually the farmers.

63. After coffee-break, **Prof. Ibragim Jafarov**, Vice-rector of Agrarian University of Azerbaijan, awarded **Dr. Ajit Maru** with medal of honor in commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the University noting his contribution in ARD in the CAC Region in general and in Azerbaijan in particular. In turn, Dr. Maru thanked for such high appreciation of his activities and invited all interesting parties to attend next CIARD RING workshop to be held sometime in October-November of this year.

64. **Dr. Shatberashvili** and **Dr. Maru** explained in detail the role of needs assessment in ICM in the CAC Region. GFAR should know regional needs to get support from international donor community at national, regional and global levels. Dr. Shatberashvili added that interaction of all stakeholders plays very important role. Therefore, group discussion was organized during which participants were given opportunity to identify challenges/issues of ICM in three areas: 1) research; 2) extension and innovations; 3) education and training (Proposals are given in [Annex V](#)).

65. Among proposed challenges/issues in research proposal by **Mr. Yakub Guliev** received majority of votes: Improvement of support for creation and management of data bases (6 votes). Participants noted that in this process the role of investments is hard to overestimate. As it was suggested by Dr. Maru, role of regional and global organizations such as CACAARI, GFAR, GCARD and CIARD must be as follows: advocacy through case-studies of countries of the Region, inclusion of ICM needs in research projects as well as capacity building. It was decided in the workshop that case-study of Azerbaijan as well as other willing countries will be presented in the next CAC.RAIS Workshop. Dr. Maru will provide outline for the case study which will be circulated by CACAARI Secretariat among all countries of the CAC Region.

The second biggest number of votes went to **Mr. Nagif Gamzaev**: Absence of coordination in communication management at regional level (5 votes). As it was suggested by Dr. Pulatov, it is needed to gather information producers first and then to maintain their coordination. In this direction, government must play vital role.

66. **Dr. Alim Pulatov** got the biggest number of votes in education area (5 votes): Content of distance learning. As Dr. Ajit Maru added, it is required to include ICM course in the curriculum at Bachelor, Master and PhD programs.

67. Among extension and innovations challenges, the proposal of **Mr. Nagif Gamzaev** received 6 votes: Study of preferable methods of information collection. To do this, interviews, surveys, questionnaires as well as research at the level of Master's dissertation would be very helpful. Dr. Ajit Maru assured that GFAR and FAO can support these activities given that all countries in the Region are interested in this initiative.

68. At the end of discussion all participants agreed to accept the proposal by Dr. Shatberashvili regarding the outcomes of CAC.RAIS Workshop (**Annex VI**).

69. In addition, participants agreed to update the ARD databases as soon as possible and to provide information on country's nodal point by August 15, 2010.

70. In conclusion, participants thanked everybody and the organizers for fruitful work and expressed the hope for further effective collaboration.

Приложение I

Список участников мероприятий АСНИОЦАК, 12-14 июля 2010 г., г.Ташкент, Узбекистан

List of Participants in CACAARI Meetings, July 12-14, 2010, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

№	Имя (Name)	Страна (Country)	Должность (Position)	Организация (Organization)	Адрес и контактные данные (Contact details)
1	Д-р Даниел Петросович Петросян (Dr. Daniel Petrosyan)	Армения (Armenia)	Проректор (Vice-rector)	Государственный Аграрный университет (State Agrarian University)	0009, Ереван, ул. Теряна, 74, Тел: + 374 10 581 597, Факс: (374 10) 52 23 61, Email: daniel_petrosyan@yahoo.com, info@armagrar-uni.am, rectoraaa@usda.am
2	Арман Шагенович Манукян (Arman Manukyan)	Армения (Armenia)	Директор (Director)	Информационный центр Государственного Аграрного университета (Scientific Library of State Agrarian University)	0009 Ереван, ул. Теряна, 74, Тел. + 374 315680, Email: arman.manukyan@gmail.com, hovik_s@yahoo.com
3	Проф. Ибрагим Хусен оглы Джафаров (Prof. Ibragim Jafarov)	Азербайджан (Azerbaijan)	Проректор (Vice-rector)	Государственный Аграрный университет (State Agrarian University)	AZ2000, Гянджа, проспект Ататюрка, 262, Тел: +994 22 560353, +994 50 3675437, Факс: (+994 22) 560353 (+99422) 56 24 08; Email: icafarov@adau.edu.az, kta@azeronline.com, info@adau.edu.az, ird-office@adau.edu.az, j.maharramov@adau.edu.az
4	Д-р Нагиф Алиашраф оглы Гамзаев (Dr. Nagif Gamzaev)	Азербайджан (Azerbaijan)	Директор (Director)	Центр информации и коммуникационных технологий Государственного Аграрного университета (Information and Communication Technologies Center of State Agrarian University)	AZ2000, Гянджа, проспект Ататюрка, 262, Тел: (+99422) 565733, (+99455) 3702324, Факс: (+994 22) 560353 (+99422) 56 24 08; Email: hamzanagif@adau.edu.az, hamza@nagif.info, info@adau.edu.az

Совещания Консорциума сельскохозяйственных Университетов Центральной Азии и Южного Кавказа

5	Якуб Гулиев (Yakub Guliyev)	Азербайджан (Azerbaijan)	Начальник управления международных отношений (Head of Foreign Affairs)	Сельскохозяйственный научный центр, Министерство сельского хозяйства (Agrarian Science Center, Ministry of Agriculture)	370016 Баку, ул. Гаджибекова, 40, Здание Правительства, Тел: +99412 508130/931037, Сот: +994506114768, Факс: +99412 930884, Email yguliyev@agroagency.gov.az, gyagub@office.az
6	Д-р Олег Шатберашвили (Dr. Oleg Shatberashvili)	Грузия (Georgia)	Директор (Director)	Грузинская Федерация информации и документации (Georgian Federation of Information and Documentation)	0179 Тбилиси, ул. Костава, 47, Тел: +99532335122, Факс: +99532987618, Дом: +99532775282, Моб: +99577400487, Email: oleg.shatberashvili@yahoo.com, gfid@caucasus.net
7	Д-р Тлектес Исабаевич Есполов (Dr. Tlektes Espolov)	Казахстан (Kazakhstan)	Ректор (Rector)	Национальный Аграрный университет (National Agrarian University)	050010 Алматы, проспект Абая, 8, Тел: 8-107-727-262-19-48, 2641995, Факс: 2642409, Email: rector@kaznau.kz, info@kaznau.kz, kaznau.inter@yahoo.com, kaznau.inter@kaznau.kz
8	Керимкуль Джафаркулова (Kerimkul Jafarkulova)	Казахстан (Kazakhstan)	Советник (Advisor)	Национальный Аграрный Университет (National Agrarian University)	050010 Алматы, проспект Абая, 8, Тел: 262-17-70, 264-05-92, Email: madinamusaeva@yahoo.com
9	Ербол Зинаудинович Сулейменов (Erbol Suleymenov)	Казахстан (Kazakhstan)	Президент (President)	Национальный Центр Научно-технической Информации (National Center for Scientific and Technical Information)	050026 Алматы, ул. Богенбай батыра 221, Тел: 3780509, Факс: 3780547, Email: dir@inti.kz, info@inti.kz, laila_a@inti.kz, nauka@inti.kz
10	Жумарт Карабаев (Zhumart Karabayev)	Казахстан (Kazakhstan)	Начальник отдела системного анализа и прогнозирования (Head of System Analysis and Forecasting Division)	Национальный Центр Научно-технической Информации (National Center for Scientific and Technical Information)	050026 Алматы, ул. Богенбай батыра 221, Тел: 3780509, Факс: 3780547, Email: dir@inti.kz, info@inti.kz, laila_a@inti.kz, omoncsti@mail.ru
11	Асанбай	Казахстан	Директор	Национальный Центр Научно-	050026 Алматы, ул. Богенбай батыра 221,

Совещания Консорциума сельскохозяйственных Университетов Центральной Азии и Южного Кавказа

	Кудайбергенович Джумабеков (Asanbay Jumabekov)	(Kazakhstan)	департамента аналитики и прогнозирования (Director of Analysis and Forecasting Department)	технической Информации (National Center for Scientific and Technical Information)	Тел: 3780509, Факс: 3780547, Email: dir@inti.kz, info@inti.kz, laila_a@inti.kz, omoncsti@mail.ru
12	Ильяс Кудайбергенович Сонгул (Piyas Songgul)	Казахстан (Kazakhstan)	Директор департамента международного сотрудничества и связи с общественностью (Director of International Cooperation and Public Relations Department)	Национальный Центр Научно- технической Информации (National Center for Scientific and Technical Information)	050026 Алматы, ул. Богенбай батыра 221, Тел: 3780512, Факс: 3780547, Email: dir@inti.kz, info@inti.kz, laila_a@inti.kz, omoncsti@mail.ru, songgul@inti.kz
13	Данас Сагингалиевич Урмурзин (Danas Urmurzin)	Казахстан (Kazakhstan)	Главный юрист (Chief Lawyer)	Национальный Центр Научно- технической Информации (National Center for Scientific and Technical Information)	050026 Алматы, ул. Богенбай батыра 221, Тел: 3780509, Факс: 3780547, Email: danas@inti.kz
14	Проф. Турсумбай Сатымбаевич Кубатбеков (Prof. Tursumbay Kubatbekov)	Кыргызстан (Kyrgyzstan)	Ректор (Rector)	Аграрный университет имени К.И.Скрябина (Agrarian University named after by K.I.Skryabin)	720005 Бишкек, ул. Мередова, 68, Email: kaa@imfiko.bishkek.su, kau.icc@gmail.com, Тел: 8-10-996-312-545010, 545210
15	Гульмира Калыковна Тыналиева (Gulmira Tynalieva)	Кыргызстан (Kyrgyzstan)	Директор (Director)	Библиотека Аграрного университета имени К.И.Скрябина (Library of Agrarian University named after by K.I.Skryabin)	720005 Бишкек, ул. Мередова, 68, Тел: 8- 10-996-312-540538, 996-772-627541, Email: tynalieva18@mail.ru

Совещания Консорциума сельскохозяйственных Университетов Центральной Азии и Южного Кавказа

16	Аброр Ходжахонов (Abror Khodzhakhonov)	Таджикистан (Tajikistan)	Научный сотрудник (Research Fellow)	Институт экономики Академии наук (Institute of Economics, Academy of Sciences)	Тел: 8-10-992-934600350, 919174783, Email: abrorkhon@mail.ru
18	Д-р Лазиза Акрамовна Гафурова (Dr. Laziza Gafurova)	Узбекистан (Uzbekistan)	Проректор (Vice-rector)	Ташкентский Государственный Аграрный университет (Tashkent State Agrarian University)	100140 Ташкент, ул. Университетская, 3, Тел: 998712 2604800, 2605059, 3100688, Факс: 998712 637501, 2603860, E-mail: glazizakhon@yandex.ru
19	Гульбахор Каримовна Гаюпова (Gulbahor Gayupova)	Узбекистан (Uzbekistan)	Директор (Director)	Ресурсный центр Государственного Аграрного университета (Resource Center of Tashkent State Agrarian University)	100140 Ташкент, ул. Университетская, 3, Тел: 99871 2605043, Факс: 99871 2604800, Моб: 4451618, E-mail: tuag_info@edu.uz, Tsau@uzpak.uz, tuag.info@edu.uz
20	Дильшод Мамадияров (Dilshod Mamadiyarov)	Узбекистан (Uzbekistan)	Начальник научной части (Head of Science sector)	Ташкентский Государственный Аграрный университет (Tashkent State Agrarian University)	100140 Ташкент, ул. Университетская, 3, Тел: 998712 2604800, 2605059, 3100688, Факс: 998712 637501, 2603860, E-mail: tuag_info@edu.uz, Tsau@uzpak.uz
21	Бахтиер Жумаев (Bahtiyor Jumaev)	Узбекистан (Uzbekistan)	Начальник центра инноваций и интеграции (Head of Innovations and Integration Center)	Ташкентский Государственный Аграрный университет (Tashkent State Agrarian University)	100140 Ташкент, ул. Университетская, 3, Тел: 998712 2604800, 2605059, 3100688, Факс: 998712 637501, 2603860, E-mail: tuag_info@edu.uz, Tsau@uzpak.uz
22	Проф. Толибжон Солиевич Худойбердиев (Prof. Tolibjon Hudoyberdiev)	Узбекистан (Uzbekistan)	Ректор (Rector)	Ташкентский институт Ирригации и Мелиорации (Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Melioration)	100000 Ташкент, ул.Кары-Ниязова, 39, Тел: 998 71 237 09 58, Email: tiag_info@edu.uz

Совещания Консорциума сельскохозяйственных Университетов Центральной Азии и Южного Кавказа

23	Проф. Абдухаким Салохитдинов (Prof. Abdukhakim Salohitdinov)	Узбекистан (Uzbekistan)	Проректор (Vice-rector)	Ташкентский институт Ирригации и Мелиорации (Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Melioration)	100140 Ташкент, ул. Университетская, 3, Тел: 998712 2604800, 2690886, Факс: 998712 637501, 2603860, E-mail: tuag_info@edu.uz, Tsau@uzpak.uz
24	Д-р Алим Пулатов (Dr. Alim Pulatov)	Узбекистан (Uzbekistan)	Руководитель ЭкоГИС Центра (Head of EcoGIS Center)	Ташкентский институт Ирригации и Мелиорации (Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Melioration)	100000 Ташкент, ул.Кори-Ниёзий, 39, Тел: 998 71 237 09 58, Моб: +99890 1856090, Факс: 99871 2330919, Email: alimpulatov@mail.ru
25	Вера Садовникова (Vera Sadovnikiova)	Узбекистан (Uzbekistan)	Директор (Director)	Библиотека Ташкентского института Ирригации и Мелиорации (Library of Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Melioration)	100000 Ташкент, ул.Кары-Ниязова, 39, Тел: 998 71 237 1945, Факс: 2330919, Моб: +99890 9555954, Email: timi_lib@yahoo.com
26	Проф. Нуриддин Халилов (Prof. Nuriddin Khalilov)	Узбекистан (Uzbekistan)	Проректор (Vice-rector)	Самаркандский институт сельского хозяйства (Samarkand Institute of Agriculture)	703003 Самарканд, ул. Мирзо Улугбек, 77, Тел: +998662 343320, 2333420, Факс: (+998 3662) 340786, Email: samsi@uzpak.uz, saai_info@edu.uz, saai_info@mail.ru
27	Хабиб Кушиев (Habib Kushiev)	Узбекистан (Uzbekistan)	Проректор (Vice-rector)	Гулистанский Государственный университет (Gulistan State University)	120100 Гулистан, 4-микрорайон, Тел: 3672-254042/ 250275, 2250275, 2254572, Моб: +998672 776589, Факс: 3672-254042, 2253925, Email: guldu@guldu.uz, gdu@intal.uz, hkushiev@rambler.ru
28	Акбар Танибердиев (Akbar Taniberdiev)	Узбекистан (Uzbekistan)	Руководитель компьютерного центра (Head of Computer Center)	Гулистанский Государственный университет (Gulistan State University)	120100 Гулистан, 4-микрорайон, Тел: 3672-254042/ 250275, 2250275, 2254572, Моб: +998672 776589, Факс: 3672-254042, 2253925, Email: guldu@guldu.uz, gdu@intal.uz
29	Ева Витсма (Ewa Wietsma)	Нидерланды (Netherdlands)	Менеджер по международным проектам	Университет Вагенинген (Wageningen University)	Email: ewa.wietsma@wur.nl

Совещания Консорциума сельскохозяйственных Университетов Центральной Азии и Южного Кавказа

			(International Project Manager)		
30	Д-р Ажит Мару (Dr. Ajit Maru)		Старший сотрудник (Senior Knowledge Officer)	Глобальный форум по сельскохозяйственным исследованиям (GFAR)	GFAR Secretariat: c/o FAO (NRR), Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, Rome 00153, Italy, Tel. +39.06.5705.3413, Fax +39.06.5705.3898, Email: Ajit.Maru@fao.org
31	Д-р Сурендра Бенивал (Dr. Surendra Beniwal)		Старший консультант (Leading Consultant)	АСННОЦАК (CACAARI)	Email: beniwal_sps@hotmail.com
32	Д-р Закир Ибрагимович Халикулов (Dr. Zakir Khalikulov)	Узбекистан (Uzbekistan)	И.О. Главы Отдела по Реализации Программы КГМСХИ (Acting Head of PFU, CGIAR and Regional Coordinator)	Офис ИКАРДА-ЦАК (ICARDA-CAC)	100000 Ташкент, А/Я 4564, Тел: +99871 23721-30/69/04, Факс: +99871 1207125, Email: Z.Khalikulov@cgiar.org
33	Д-р Рам Шарма (Dr. Ram Sharma)	Узбекистан (Uzbekistan)	Специалист по зерновым и бобовым (Cereal/Legume Breeder)	Офис ИКАРДА-ЦАК (ICARDA-CAC)	100000 Ташкент, А/Я 4564, Тел: +99871 23721-30/69/04, Факс: +99871 1207125, Email: r.c.sharma@cgiar.org
34	Равза Мавлянова (Ravza Mavlyanova)	Узбекистан (Uzbekistan)	Региональный координатор (Regional Coordinator)	(AVRDC)	100000 Ташкент, А/Я 4564, Тел: +99871 23721-30/69/04, Факс: +99871 1207125, Email: r.mavlyanova@cgiar.org
35	Д-р Барно Ташпулатова (Dr. Barno Tashpulatova)	Узбекистан (Uzbekistan)	Специалист ИЗР (IPM Specialist)	Офис ИКАРДА-ЦАК (ICARDA-CAC)	100000 Ташкент, А/Я 4564, Тел: +99871 23721-30/69/04, Факс: +99871 1207125, Email: b.tashpulatova@cgiar.org
36	Тулкун Юлдашев	Узбекистан	Специалист по ирригации	Офис ИКАРДА-ЦАК	100000 Ташкент, А/Я 4564, Тел: +99871 23721-30/69/04, Факс: +99871 1207125,

Совещания Консорциума сельскохозяйственных Университетов Центральной Азии и Южного Кавказа

	(Tukun Yuldashev)	(Uzbekistan)	(Irrigation Specialist)	(ICARDA-CAC)	Email: t.yuldashev@cgiar.org
37	Анжелика Рик (Anzelika Rieck)	Узбекистан (Uzbekistan)	Менеджер обмена знаниями и мониторинга результативности (Manager of Knowledge Exchange and Results Monitoring)	GTZ, Tashkent	Tel: 1400489, 1400490, 1832331, Email: anzelika.rieck@gtz.de
38	Алишер Ташматов (Alisher Tashmatov)	Узбекистан (Uzbekistan)	Менеджер программы (Program Manager)	UNDP, Tashkent	29, Istikbol Street, Tashkent 100008, Uzbekistan, Tel/Fax: +99871 239 44 36, Mob: +998 97 485 93 57, Email: alisher.tashmatov@undpaffiliates.org
39	Шерзод Косимов (Sherzod Kosimov)	Узбекистан (Uzbekistan)	Специалист ИТ (IT Specialist)	Офис ИКАРДА-ЦАК (ICARDA-CAC)	100000 Ташкент, А/Я 4564, Тел: +99871 23721-30/69/04, Факс: +99871 1207125, Email: Q.Sherzod@cgiar.org
40	Шаходат Бобокулова (Shakhodat Bobokulova)	Узбекистан (Uzbekistan)	Администратор по проектам (Project Administration Officer)	Офис ИКАРДА-ЦАК (ICARDA-CAC)	100000 Ташкент, А/Я 4564, Тел: +99871 23721-30/69/04, Факс: +99871 1207125, Email: s.bobokulova@cgiar.org
41	Алишер Эргашев (Alisher Ergashev)	Узбекистан (Uzbekistan)	Ассистент Исполнительного Секретаря (Assistant Executive Secretary)	АСННОЦАК (CACAARI)	100000 Ташкент, А/Я 4564, Тел: +99871 23721-30/69/04, Факс: +99871 1207125, Email: A.Ergashev@cgiar.org

Annex II

Program of the Meetings

Central Asia and the South Caucasus Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (CACAARI)

Programme

Meeting of the Consortium of Agrarian Universities in the CAC Region (CAC-CAU)

12-13 July 2010

Tashkent, Uzbekistan

12 July 2010 – Monday

8:30 Registration CACAARI/PFU Staff

Session I. Chair: Dr. Abdukhakim Salohitdinov

9:00 Welcome speech Dr. Abdukhakim Salohitdinov,

Dr. Ajit Maru,
Dr. Zakir Khalikulov

9:10 Introduction of Participants Participants

9:20 Objectives of the University Consortium Initiations Workshop Dr. Alim Pulatov

(Take stock of Universities in ARD Status of Countries in the Region; Discuss University participation and collaboration at national and regional level in ARD; Post GCARD 2010 Needs Assessment for Universities role in ARD in CAC Region)

9:30 Status of Universities role for ARD in Armenia Prof. Daniel Petrosyan

9:50 Status of Universities role for ARD in Azerbaijan Prof. Ibrahim Jafarov

Совещания Консорциума сельскохозяйственных Университетов Центральной Азии и
Южного Кавказа

10:10	Status of Universities role for ARD in Georgia	Dr. Olegi Shatberashvili
10:30	Status of Universities role for ARD in Kazakhstan	Dr. Tlektes Espolov
11:00	Group Photo and Tea break	
Session II. Chair: Dr. Ajit Maru		
11:40	Status of Universities role for ARD in Kyrgyzstan	Prof. Tursumbay Kubatbekov
12:00	Status of Universities role for ARD in Uzbekistan	Dr. Abdukhakim Salohitdinov
12:30	Universities in ARD: Tashkent State Agrarian University	Dr. Laziza Gafurova
13:00	Lunch	
Session III. Chair: Prof. Tursumbay Kubatbekov		
14:30	Universities in ARD: case study of Netherlands	Ms. Ewa Wietsma
14:50	Universities in ARD: Samarkand Institute of Agriculture	Dr. Nuriddin Khalilov
15:00	Universities in ARD: Gulistan State University	Prof. Habib Kushiev
15:10	Universities role in ARD of economically developing countries – A brief global overview	Dr. Surendra Beniwal
15:20	Universities' role in capacity building for ARD in the CAC Region after GCARD 2010: A GFAR Perspective	Dr. Ajit Maru
15:30	Tea	
16:00	International MS and PhD programs for CAC	Dr. Alim Pulatov

Совещания Консорциума сельскохозяйственных Университетов Центральной Азии и
Южного Кавказа

16:20	TEMPUS project proposal for CAC country universities	Ms. Ewa Wietsma
19:00	Dinner	
13 July 2010 – Tuesday		
9:00	Discussion on University Consortium Charter and its Approval	Dr. Zakir Khalikulov
10:30	Tea	
Session IV. Chair: Dr. Zakir Khalikulov		
10:40	Parallel Group Discussion:	
	Group I: Emerging Role for CAC Universities in Education and Training (Including Distance Education/Open Learning)	Dr. Alim Pulatov
	Group II: Emerging Role for CAC Universities in Research	Dr. Surendra Beniwal
	Group III: Emerging Role for CAC Universities in Extension and Innovation Systems	Dr. Ajit Maru
	Plenary Presentations by 3 Groups followed by Discussions	
11:40	Discussion on Future Actions for Improving Universities Consortium Integration in ARD with CAC National Research Systems	
12:15	Meeting Conclusion	Dr. Abdukhakim Salohitdinov
12:30	Lunch	

**Central Asia and the South Caucasus Association of Agricultural Research Institutions
(CACAARI)**

Programme

Workshop on Regional Agricultural Information System (CAC.RAIS)

13-14 July 2010

Tashkent, Uzbekistan

13 July 2010 – Tuesday

Session I. Chair: Dr. Alim Pulatov

14:00	Objectives of the CAC.RAIS Workshop (Take stock of ICM in ARD Status of Countries in the Region; Discuss Institute, national and regional participation in CIARD and AgroWeb Network; Post GCARD 2010 Needs Assessment for ICM in ARD in CAC Region)	Dr. Olegi Shatberashvili
14:20	Report on CAC.RAIS	Mr. Sherzod Kosimov
14:40	Status of ICM for ARD in Armenia	Mr. Arman Manukyan
15:00	Status of ICM for ARD in Azerbaijan	Dr. Nagif Gamzaev, Mr. Yakub Guliev
15:20	Status of ICM for ARD in Georgia	Dr. Olegi Shatberashvili
15:40	Tea	

Session II. Chair: Dr. Oleg Shatberashvili

16:00	Status of ICM for ARD in Kazakhstan	Mr. Erbol Suleymenov
16:20	Status of ICM for ARD in Tajikistan	Mr. Abror Khodzhakhonov
16:40	Status of ICM for ARD in Uzbekistan	Dr. Alim Pulatov
19:00	Dinner	

14 July 2010 - Wednesday

Session III. Chair: Dr. Laziza Gafurova

9:00	Advancing ICM for ARD in the CAC Region after GCARD 2010: GFAR Perspective	Dr. Ajit Maru
9:40	CIARD and CIARD RING: Why it matters to the CAC Region? CIARD Manifesto CIARD Pathways CIARD.RING	Dr. Olegi Shatberashvili
10:00	Tea	
10:30	Discussions on CIARD	
11:00	Needs Assessment for ICM in CAC Region: Description of Workshop Process	Dr. Olegi Shatberashvili, Dr. Ajit Maru
11:30	Parallel Group Discussion: Group I: ICM for Scientific and Technical Information Management including Research and Research Management Information	Dr. Olegi Shatberashvili

Совещания Консорциума сельскохозяйственных Университетов Центральной Азии и
Южного Кавказа

	Group II: ICM for Education and Learning (Including Distance Education/Open Learning)	Dr. Surendra Beniwal
	Group III: ICM for Extension and Innovation systems	Dr. Ajit Maru
13:00	Lunch	
14:00	Group Discussions (Continued)	
15:30	Tea	
	Session IV. Chair: Mr. Yakub Guliev	
16:00	Plenary Presentations by three Groups followed by Discussions	
16:40	Discussion on Future Actions for Improving ICM in ARD by CAC.RAIS and National Systems	Dr. Olegi Shatberashvili
17:30	Workshop Conclusion	Dr. Abdukhakim Salohitdinov

Annex III

Preliminary Approved Charter

**Charter of
Consortium of Agrarian Universities for Agricultural Research for Development in Central Asia and
the Caucasus (CAU-CAC)**

PREAMBLE

1. The Agrarian Universities associated with agricultural research and innovation for development (ARD) in Central Asia and the Caucasus (CAC) Region:

- Aware of the problems and challenges facing the development of agriculture in the Region,
- Conscious of the responsibilities, which they must assume if they are to contribute to the process of agricultural, social and economic development in the Region,
- Convinced that the role and impact of the respective Agrarian Universities in the region can be enhanced through effective collaboration and consultation among themselves and with other actors in agricultural development especially those involved in agricultural research and innovation for development

have decided to establish a regional consortium of Agrarian Universities in the pursuit of their common objectives to contribute through collaboration and partnership to agricultural research and innovation and, in turn, contribute to agricultural development in the CAC Region.

ARTICLE I

NAME

2. The name of this consortium is " Consortium of Agrarian Universities for Agricultural Research for Development in Central Asia and the Caucasus" (CAU-CAC), hereinafter referred to as the Consortium.

ARTICLE II

SEAT

3. The Consortium has its seat and Secretariat in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

ARTICLE III

OBJECTIVES

4. The overall objective of the Consortium is to foster ARD, education and extension in Central Asia and the Caucasus Region for the benefit of the farmers and other ARD stakeholders to maintain sustainable development.

5. More specifically, the objectives of the Consortium are to:

- provide a platform for dialogue on critical issues related to ARD, education and extension through collaborative action and partnerships at the national and regional through CACAARI (Central Asia and the Caucasus Association of Agricultural Research Institutions)

- advocate and foster actions for increased efforts for ARD, education and extension in Central Asia and the Caucasus Region in partnership with CACAARI;
- encourage the establishment of appropriate capacities in agricultural development in accordance with identified national, regional or multilateral priorities through and with support from CACAARI;
- assist in strengthening of organizational and management capability of Agrarian Universities for ARD, education and extension; and
- strengthen cross-linkages between national, regional and international agricultural development organizations, including civil society organizations, universities, farmers' organizations, women's organizations, professional societies, private sector organizations in agriculture, etc. through involvement in jointly-planned education and extension programmes for agricultural development.

ARTICLE IV

FUNCTIONS

6. In pursuance of the above objectives, the Consortium may undertake the following activities:

- to initiate interventions at the national, regional and global levels in partnership with other ARD stakeholders and through CACAARI (ARD agenda, advocacy, facilitation, partnership with other groups, etc.);
- to actively participate in determining the direction, content and conduct of ARD, education and extension at the national and regional;
- to generate, document and disseminate information, knowledge and skills relevant to ARD, education and extension;
- to share knowledge, experiences, expertise, and replicate successful practices and lessons learned in engaging with ARD, education and extension;
- to document the entire partnership process in ARD so as to share with farmers in their national languages;
- to convene Steering Committee to discuss the Consortium's administrative, general and specific programmes, policies, strategies and priorities;
- to organize working groups, meetings and seminars to discuss agricultural research and development priorities, specific problems or sponsor technical studies, training courses, workshops and research programs/projects in the CAC Region;
- to maintain and enhance links with agencies, institutions, or organizations and other entities undertaking similar activities within and outside the CAC region including CACAARI and GFAR.

ARTICLE V

MEMBERSHIP

7. Membership of the Consortium is open to Agrarian Universities dealing with ARD, education and extension in the CAC Region (Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan) and other countries.

8. Any member organization desiring to withdraw from the Consortium shall notify the Executive Secretary in writing, and such withdrawal shall take effect three months from the date of receipt of the notice by the Executive Secretary.

ARTICLE VI

SOURCES OF FUNDS

9. Sources of funds consist of:

- Membership fees,
- Fees, if any, collected from participants of any technical meeting/seminar for training on ARD, education and extension organized by the Consortium,
- Proceeds from the sale of publications and items issued by the Consortium, and
- Grants and donations from governments, national, regional or international organizations and development banks, and others.

ARTICLE VII

THE STEERING COMMITTEE

10. There is a Steering Committee of the Consortium, which consists of eight members representing each of the eight countries in the CAC Region.

i). The Chairperson of the Steering Committee is elected by a majority vote from the Steering Committee for a period of 2 years and limited to only one term. In the spirit of regional and stakeholder collaboration the Chairperson should be rotated between the Agrarian Universities of all the eight countries.

ii). The Executive Secretary of CAC-CAU is ex-officio member and Secretary to the Steering Committee responsible for all minutes and records pertaining to the Steering Committee and its meetings, recommendations and actions. He/she is elected for a single term of two years.

11. The terms of members of the Steering Committee are a maximum of single term of two years. The Agrarian Universities from each country through a country level caucus choose their nominee to the Steering Committee.

12. All the eight members of the Steering Committee have only one vote each. All the Agrarian Universities of a country represented in the Charter as in Article 11, have only one vote at all the meetings of the Steering Committee.

13. The Steering Committee may invite observers to its proceedings.

14. The Steering Committee meets at least once every year and is convened by the Chairperson.

15. All decisions by the Steering Committee are taken by a simple majority vote, except for those decisions relating to amendments to the Constitution provision for which is provided in Article XIV Section 29, and those related to the dissolution of the Consortium where at least six votes out of eight are required for carrying the motion. In the case of equality of votes, the Chairperson has a casting vote.

ARTICLE VIII

DUTIES OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

16. In fulfillment of its objectives, the Steering Committee determines the policy of the Consortium, approves the Annual Programme of Work and Budget, the 2-year Business Plan and the 5-year CAC-CAU Strategy for improving ARD, education and extension in the Region formulated through appropriate consultations and puts up by the Executive Committee, reviews progress, and exercises other powers conferred upon it by the Charter.

ARTICLE IX

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

17. There is an Executive Committee of the Consortium composed of four members, namely, a Chairperson, one Executive Secretary and two elected member. The Chairperson, Executive Secretary and the two members of the Executive Committee are elected by the Steering Committee from among the eight member Agrarian Universities for a period of two years and are not eligible for immediate re-election to the same office after two terms. Members of the Executive Committee cease to be members of the Executive Committee if they are not members of the Steering Committee. Each member of the Executive Committee has one vote in the Executive Committee.

18. The Executive Secretary is responsible for all minutes and records pertaining to the Executive Committee and its meetings, recommendations and actions. In case the post of the Executive Secretary falls vacant another member of the Executive Committee is deputed to act as Executive Secretary to the Association upon approval of the Chairperson of CAC-CAU Steering Committee.

19. If the office of the Chairperson becomes vacant for any reason, the Executive Secretary shall fill the position of the Chairperson and another member from the executive committee shall fill the position of the Executive Secretary till such time the Steering Committee appoints another Chairperson and member to the Executive Committee. A position of member of the Executive Committee which falls vacant shall be filled by the unsuccessful candidate who had the highest number of votes in the election of the Executive Committee at the preceding Steering Committee meeting but will be appropriately ratified by the Steering Committee. Persons who become members of the Executive Committee under this provision will remain in office until the next Session of the Steering Committee meeting.

ARTICLE X

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

20. The Secretariat of the Consortium is headed by an Executive Secretary who is elected by the Steering Committee. He/she reports to Chairperson of the Steering Committee.

ARTICLE XI

DUTIES OF OFFICERS

21. The Chairperson presides at all meetings of the Steering Committee and the Executive Committee.

22. The Executive Secretary performs all duties of the Chairperson in the absence of the latter, and such other duties as may be assigned to him/her by the Chairperson.

23. Executive Secretary is responsible for the affairs of the Consortium and execution of all activities approved by the Steering Committee, including preparation of programme of work and budget, monitoring of progress, and arrangements for meetings of the Steering Committee and Executive Committee. He/she receives fees, subscriptions and any other financial contributions to the Charter, accounts for all money received and makes payments in accordance with policies established by the Steering Committee and the Executive Committee. He/she annually submits audited accounts to the Steering Committee at its Annual Meetings.

ARTICLE XII

RULES AND REGULATIONS

24. The General Rules of Procedure and Financial Regulations are prepared by the Executive Committee and approved by the Steering Committee of the Consortium. Amendments to the Rules and Regulations may be adopted by a simple majority vote at any session of the Steering Committee.

25. The Executive Secretary is responsible for utilization of the approved budget of the Consortium and shall maintain full accounts, records and documents. Duly audited accounts should be presented at the Steering Committee for approval.

ARTICLE XIII

QUORUM

26. The quorum at all meetings is more than 50% of the membership.

ARTICLE XIV

AMENDMENT OF THE CHARTER

27. Amendment of the Charter is considered only at a meeting of the Steering Committee.

28. The Consortium may amend this Charter by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast (six out of eight) of total number of votes of the Steering Committee.

29. No proposal for the amendment of the Charter is included in the agenda of any meeting of the Steering Committee unless notice thereof has been dispatched by the Executive Secretary to members at least 30 days before the opening of the meeting. This clause may be waived by a majority vote by the Steering Committee under extraordinary situations that are recorded by the Steering Committee.

ARTICLE XV

DISSOLUTION

30. The Consortium can only be dissolved by a resolution approved at a Steering Committee meeting. The procedure to be followed for the dissolution of the Consortium is the same as detailed in Article VII Section 15 and Article XIV Sections 29.

Совещания Консорциума сельскохозяйственных Университетов Центральной Азии и Южного Кавказа

Annex IV

Challenges/Issues of Universities in three areas:

Research	Extension and Innovations	Education and Training
1. Relevance of research (J.Karabaev);	1. Lack of extension services (V.Sadovnikova);	1. Poor linkages between teaching process and extension (Ya.Guliev);
2. Level of involvement in research topics by all students (A.Tashmatov);	2. Lack of motivation for extension (A.Salohitdinov, 2 votes);	2. Shortage of practical studies (case-studies) (N.Gamzaev);
3. Equipping and modernization of science laboratories (H.Kushiev, 4 votes);	3. Absence of quality dialog between research institutes and processing (production) organizations (A.Rieck, 1 vote);	3. Lack of skilled staff (I.Jafarov, 1 vote);
4. Creation of laboratories on biotechnology and genetic engineering (N.Khalilov, 1 vote);	4. Modern ICT (E.Wietsma);	4. Improvement of curriculum to attract promising students (S.Beniwal, 5 votes);
5. Teaching of students capable to work at international level (Z.Khalikulov);	5. Absence of modern extension services to support small farmers (Ya.Guliev, 4 votes);	5. Improvement of qualification of university teachers (R.Sharma, 3 votes);
6. Creation of rust-resistant wheat varieties in collaboration with research institutes (A.Khodzhakhonov);	6. Lack of single extension portal (N.Gamzaev, 2 votes);	6. Difficulties in employment (D.Petrosyan, 2 votes);
7. Study on possibilities of goods production based on small farms and development of technological solutions (O.Shatberashvili, 1 vote);	7. Lack of trust from farmers' side (I.Jafarov);	7. Use of ICT and IT courses (A.Manukyan, 1 vote);
8. Creation and strengthening of study scientific potential in research (G.Tynalieva, 1 vote);	8. Work on technology transfer (S.Beniwal, 1 vote);	8. Training of extension specialists (G.Tynalieva);
9. Corresponding potential for access to global knowledge (A.Manukyan);	9. Improvement of political measures for extension systems' development (R.Sharma);	9. Improvement of financial state of teachers (A.Khodzhakhonov, 2 votes);
10. Non-attractiveness of science (D.Petrosyan, 2 votes);	10. Creation and strengthening of extension infrastructure in universities (A.Tashmatov, 2 votes);	10. Government support for education (Z.Khalikulov);
11. Training of high-skilled specialists by strengthening of professional staff (R.Sharma, 1 vote);	11. Training of farmers on extension issues (H.Kushiev, 2 votes);	11. Cooperation between universities (N.Khalilov);
12. Coordination between national and universities' research (S.Beniwal, 3	12. Lack of information about new scientific works (N.Khalilov, 2 votes);	12. Capacity building and students' exchange (H.Kushiev, 1 vote);
	13. Creation of low-cost extension technologies for low-income farmers (Z.Khalikulov, 2 votes);	13. Creation of new schools and strengthening of existing ones involving extension programs (A.Tashmatov, 1 vote);
	14. Lack of government support	14. Combination of theory and practice (R.Mavlyanova);
		15. Language skills (V.Sadovnikova);

Совещания Консорциума сельскохозяйственных Университетов Центральной Азии и Южного Кавказа

<p>votes);</p> <p>13. Financial support (N.Gamzaev, 3 votes);</p> <p>14. Consideration of farmers' needs in research (Ya.Guliev, 1 vote);</p> <p>15. Water-saving technologies (E.Wietsma);</p> <p>16. Lack of government support (3 votes);</p> <p>17. Absence of constant links and exchange at research level (A.Rieck);</p> <p>18. Soil-saving technologies (A.Salohitdinov).</p>	<p>(A.Khodzhakhonov, 2 votes);</p> <p>15. Lack of high-skilled extension specialists (G.Tynaliyeva);</p> <p>16. Tools on monitoring and assessment of extension effectiveness (A.Manukyan, 2 votes);</p> <p>17. Lack of modern promotion and marketing methods (D.Petrosyan, 1 vote);</p> <p>18. Creation of demonstration plots for extension (A.Pulatov).</p>	<p>16. Mismatch of national education systems to the international standards (A.Rieck);</p> <p>17. Creation and development of regional excellence centers to teach Masters and PhD students (E.Wietsma, 9 votes);</p> <p>18. Joint programs;</p> <p>19. Deficit of appropriate scientific literature (2 votes);</p> <p>20. Non-attractiveness of work in agriculture.</p>
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Annex V

Challenges/issues of ICM in three areas:

Research	Extension and Innovations	Education and Training
<p>1. Wide access to external information sources (O.Shatberashvili, 4 votes);</p> <p>2. Lack of modern equipment (hard- and software) (A.Khodzhakhonov, 3 votes);</p> <p>3. Methodological assistance for scientists in publishing, improvement of scientists' "visibility" (B.Tashpulatova, 2 votes);</p> <p>4. Management of research data for farmers (A.Pulatov, 3 votes);</p> <p>5. Absence of coordination in communication management at regional level (N.Gamzaev, 5 votes);</p> <p>6. Lack of centralized information management system at national and regional levels (I.Jafarov, 2 votes);</p> <p>7. Management of research relevant (important) for the region (S.Beniwal, 1 vote);</p> <p>8. Linkage of national institutes with electronic libraries, access to e-journals, science publications (R.Sharma, 1 vote);</p> <p>9. Improvement of access to national data (T.Yuldashev);</p> <p>10. Improvement of support for creation and management of data bases (Ya.Guliev, 6</p>	<p>1. Management of market-related information (A.Maru, 1 vote);</p> <p>2. Use of mass-media for farmers' consultations (O.Shatberashvili, 2 votes);</p> <p>3. "Virtual schools" for farmers (S.Beniwal, 2 votes);</p> <p>4. Linkage of research outcomes with mass-media (R.Sharma);</p> <p>5. Study of preferable methods of information collection (N.Gamzaev, 6 votes);</p> <p>6. Improvement of linkage between farmers and scientists;</p> <p>7. Creation of "farm schools";</p> <p>8. Use of video-materials (A.Pulatov, 1 vote);</p> <p>9. Identification of advanced farmers for extension of research outcomes (A.Pulatov, 1 vote);</p> <p>10. Water-se data (T.Yuldashev);</p> <p>11. Low level of computerization in rural area and poor linkage between research and farmers (I.Jafarov, 5 votes).</p>	<p>1. Government support for creation and development of distance learning system for all stakeholders (A.Khodzhakhonov, 4 votes);</p> <p>2. Visual learning methods (B.Tashpulatova);</p> <p>3. Content of distance learning (A.Pulatov, 5 votes);</p> <p>4. Lack of ICM specialists, language barrier (I.Jafarov, 4 votes);</p> <p>5. Trainings on distance learning (T.Yuldashev);</p> <p>6. Creation of network of national research and educational organizations (Ya.Guliev, 3 votes);</p> <p>7. Creation of methodological guidelines (Ya.Guliev);</p> <p>8. Compulsory inclusion of ICM course in curriculum (A.Maru, 3 votes).</p>

Совещания Консорциума сельскохозяйственных Университетов Центральной Азии и Южного Кавказа

<p>votes);</p> <p>11. Wide access to regional information for agricultural producers (Sh.Kosimov);</p> <p>12. Identification of real problems for research and their prioritization (A.Maru);</p> <p>13. Control on data quality (R.Sharma, 2 votes).</p>		
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Annex VI

Resolution

Participants of CAC.RAIS Workshop held in the period of July 13-14, 2010 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, have agreed on the following:

1. Participants will act as National nodal points of CAC.RAIS in providing information on National agricultural information systems available to them for creation of centralized CACAARI databases and will confirm this by a letter;
2. If necessary, the participants will address the superior bodies for confirmation of their official functions as the National nodal points of CAC.RAIS;
3. Participants kindly request GFAR and CACAARI management to render them necessary methodical assistance aimed at adoption of modern tools used in agricultural information services (CIARD, Agris/Caris, AgroWeb, FAO libraries, software, standards, protocols, etc.) through regional seminars and training, as well as sending staff of the National nodal points to the appropriate courses and providing methodical materials;
4. Participants consider expedient widening an access of the National nodal points to external open as well as payable information resources (including through joining existing and creation of new information consortia). Participants ask GFAR and CACAARI to render necessary support on this;
5. Participants will strengthen links with information users (researchers, producers, consultants, farmer organizations and agricultural NGOs), as well as look for new ways of delivering research outcomes to them considering delivering information for farmers as the most important task;
6. Participants kindly request GFAR and CACAARI management to address the National and regional FAO offices, as well as donors working in the Region aiming at informing them of CAC.RAIS plans and suggesting cooperation in the RAIS strengthening;
7. Participants will organize the collecting of the National agricultural information products aiming at their use for informing agricultural producers and promotion (growth of visibility) in international information systems;
8. Participants from the South Caucasus accepted with gratitude a proposal to participate in the project "Capacity building in study of agricultural innovation systems in Central Asia" conducted in cooperation with Turkey. They will provide appropriate letters requesting their inclusion;
9. A number of participants (Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan) agreed to study their own experience in the agricultural information sphere and submit reports (case studies) which may be successfully used for argumentation of Governmental support to CAC.RAIS. In this regard, Dr. Ajit Maru (GFAR) suggested to develop a study outline and to render the needed expertise which was accepted with gratitude.