

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



**The 2nd Meeting of the Consortium of Non-government
organizations (CNGO) and
The 2nd Meeting of the Consortium of Farmer Organizations
(CFO)**

MINUTES

**June 10, 2010
Ashgabat, Turkmenistan**

MINUTES

of the 2nd Meeting of the Consortium of Non-government organizations (CNGO) and the 2nd Meeting of Consortium of Farmer Organizations (CFO)

Ashgabat, Turkmenistan

June 10, 2010

1. Introductory Remarks

Interim Chairs: Dr. Olegi Shatberashvili (NGO, Georgia) and Mr. Azizbek Sharipov (Farmer organization, Tajikistan)

At the beginning of the Meeting, Acad. Hukmatullo Akhmadov (Chairman of CACAARI) presented a welcome speech where he stressed the importance of CACAARI's further development.

Dr. Ajit Maru mentioned in his remarks that the scenario of Agricultural Research for Development (ARD) is changing and the role of NGO and Farmer Organizations Consortia is very important. Therefore it is needed to focus on the views of FOs and NGOs, what activities they wish to have and what exactly is necessary to further strengthen those Consortia. This meeting was also of great importance as there are different stakeholders (Farmer Organizations, NGOs, Universities, GFRAS) are present.

Dr. Zakir Khalikulov added that based on successful example of Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI), CACAARI needs to follow APAARI's principles regarding membership fee collection.

Dr. Olegi Shatberashvili, a representative of CNGO, welcomed participants and thanked host country, GFAR and CACAARI Secretariat. Then he pointed out that the role of CACAARI is not to be accounted by the funds it holds but by the potential it has in the region. Therefore, both renewal of historical background for the region as well as involvement of different stakeholders seem to be of great use. It is needed to maintain the proper information and communication system so that the quality of ARD would be efficient.

Mr. Azizbek Sharipov greeted participants on behalf of Farmer organizations. He also acknowledged CACAARI Secretariat for good organization of the Meetings. Next, Mr. Sharipov mentioned that even though agricultural sector is the key component in the region, its efficiency is still very low due to systematic problems such as inefficient use of research community for farmers' needs, limited access of farmers to the knowledge, funds and technologies etc.

2. Approval of Agenda

After approval of Agenda for the meeting presented by Acad. Akhmadov (Appendix 1), all participants briefly introduced themselves (Appendix 2).

3. Revision of Farmer and NGO Consortium Charters

Then, all participants were involved in the discussions on approval of NGO and Farmer Organizations Consortia Charters revising each article one-by-one of Russian text.

There are general comments and amendments done by discussants while reviewing the Charter of CFO:

- Text should be presented in Present tense rather than Future tense;

- Article II: in Section 3 to delete “, unless decided otherwise by the Steering Committee of the Consortium”
- Article III: in the last paragraph of Section 5 text should be as follows “national, regional and international”
- Article IV: in Section 6 text should be as follows “undertake the following activities:”
- Article VII: in Section 10 to delete “The Executive Secretary of the Consortium shall be the Election Officer responsible for the election of the Chairperson.”;
- In Section 12 text should be as follows “имеют по одному голосу.”
- Article XIII: in Section 26 text should be as follows: “shall be more than 50%”
- Article XIV: in Section 28 text should be as follows: “of the votes cast (six out of eight) of total number of votes of the Steering Committee.”

Regarding the Charter of CNGO, it was decided to apply all amendments done for the Charter of CFO plus to replace “Deputy Chairperson” with “Executive Secretary” throughout the whole text. Revised texts of both Charters please find in Appendix 3 and 4.

After all amendments and comments both Charters were approved by participants of the Meeting.

4. Presentation on GCARD Participation and Follow up

After coffee-break and group photo, Acad. Akhmadov presented his report on the process of Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development (GCARD) and its follow up in the CAC Region. In his report, Acad. Akhmadov briefly introduced GCARD process. He provided information on the CAC Regional Review, Electronic discussions, face-to-face meetings as well as CAC Regional Report. Next, outcomes of GCARD 2010 Conference in Montpellier, France were pointed out such as Change in ARD Systems through restructuring/reengineering, greater collaboration and partnership and increased investment, Greater inclusion of all ARD stakeholders, Holistic, integrated, environmentally and economically sustainable farming and production systems research, Collaboration and partnerships in sharing data, information, knowledge, skills, technology among all countries and blocs, and Increased, Improved, targeted investment by countries and donors/philanthropic organizations. In this regard, global issues (Food and Nutritional Insecurity, Agricultural Livelihoods and reduced poverty, Contribution to national economic development, Sovereignty and Independence, Reduction in food cost inflation, Climate Change, Trans-boundary and epidemic Disease, Shortage of Water for Agriculture, Desertification, Fair trade, Managing Biodiversity, and Cross-Cutting issues) as well as regional issues were presented. Acad. Akhmadov briefly introduced eight mega-programs of CGIAR with special focus on CAC Region. At the end of presentation, Acad. Akhmadov provided proposed actions by CACAARI which included: Advocacy for Increased Investment in agricultural development including agricultural research, education, extension and innovation system, Advocating Enhanced Crop Productivity and Crop Diversification including Livestock, Fisheries, Horticulture and Forestry, Participation through GFAR in Linking Farmers to Markets, and Strengthening of CACAARI Regional Forum.

During Question and Answer Session, Dr. Olegi Shatberashvili noticed that based on previous conferences and meetings related to ICT, the focus for the CAC Region should be wider than in the current Report. Acad. Akhmadov, in turn, said that all comments and suggestions are welcome to be included.

Dr. Leri Gigineishvili raised a question about professional centers for farmers since universities can not provide suitable education to the farmers and it is hard to obtain university education for the farmers.

Mr. Vugar Babayev stressed the importance of administrative and technical issues on the management of CACAARI with special attention to organizational structure and financial stability.

Dr. Alim Pulatov also underlined the role of universities in CACAARI’s activities. In this respect, Dr. Ajit Maru said that one of the biggest issues of GCARD 2010 Process is to bring together various stakeholders (not

only researches). Within CACAARI, other stakeholders apart from NGOs and Farmer Organizations are also of great importance to set the linkages and partnership. Then, he specified that Forestry, Fishery and Livestock need special focus in the Region.

Problems of ARD include lack of investments and food access. Therefore, by September 2010 it is necessary to define an Action Plan to be later included in three CGIAR Mage-programs (agriculture for the poor, climate change, rice).

Replying to the question by Dr. Alim Pulatov regarding funds available from Mega-programs and ways to spend them, Dr. Ajit Maru said that since Mega-programs focus on issues mandated by CGIAR to its Institutes, they cover only part of ARD. Other funding is needed to cover other issues which are not included in those Programs.

Then participants started discussing poverty problem in the CAC Region. Thus, Acad. Djamin Akimaliev mentioned that since rural people involved in agriculture are mainly poor, unemployment problem both in rural and urban areas seems to be a big issue as it connects with social instability. Therefore, food security should be maintained.

Dr. Leri Giginishvili added that social entrepreneurship could be one of the solutions to fight rural poverty as it creates new jobs for the rural population. Farmers Organizations Consortium can contribute in this direction by providing special programs involving the poor people. Mr. Azizbek Sharipov also pointed out that due to severe competition from importers' side, local farmers can not survive without support from the Government and other institutions (eg. CACAARI). To sum up, Dr. Ajit Maru requested all stakeholders of CACAARI to understand and give opinion on why CACAARI is missing many global trends.

5. Presentations by Farmer Organizations and NGOs

After lunch, the floor was given to Dr. Olegi Shatberashvili who briefly shared information on Georgian Federation for Information and Documentation and its activities. He stressed the importance of NGOs in ARD which play mediator role between researchers and rural population through extension services. It is also good feedback mechanism which is independent from administrative regulations. Then, role of NGOs in environment protection and information exchange was underlined.

Regarding information systems, Dr. Shatberashvili noticed that regional mechanism of information access is only possible after it is properly established in all countries of the Region. Given that database on ARD information is poor, CAC.RAIS project by CACAARI is seen as very useful to facilitate database update and information sharing.

Upon the question by Acad. Akimaliev regarding mobile phone services, Dr. Shatberashvili said that though mobile phone network is widely spread, there is no information source to provide the information which is relevant and useful for the farmers.

Dr. Ajit Maru then requested all countries to provide information on what has been done so far in ICM and how we can improve ICM. GFAR will give its support to such activities.

Dr. Akmal Akramhanov presented a report on activities of Khorezm Rural Advisory and Support Services which is working on Economic and Ecological Restructuring of Land- and Water Use in the Region Khorezm (Uzbekistan) Project. That Project is an interdisciplinary research and education project with the following scope: Resource Use Technologies, Social and Economic Constraints and Agricultural and Environmental Policies. Currently, the 3rd Phase (out of total four) is on the way which includes Technology integration, model development and concept validation: Policies, institutions, and technologies. Then, issues related to the use of laser level were discussed by Acad. Akimaliev, Dr. Alim Pulatov and Acad. Akhmadov.

Mr. Vugar Babayev presented information on Ganja Agribusiness Association (GABA). Being established in 2000, GABA includes 3 000 farmers with organic agriculture as the main direction of activities. It also is a leader of NGO coalition in Azerbaijan and “manager” of international grant support. Since its establishment, GABA was involved in law-making for organic agriculture. With GABA’s support a Department of organic agriculture was created in Agrarian University in Ganja. GABA also supports its members by providing microcredit loans (USD 1 000 – 10 000). Joint work with colleagues from Georgia and Armenia include trainings, workshops, publications, ecological programs (desertification, soil salinity, forest rehabilitation etc). GABA also educates farmers on how to produce crop seeds to fight salinity. After his presentation, Mr. Babayev answered to the questions from audience.

During his presentation, Dr. Leri Gigineishvili shared activities of “House of Farmers”. For instance, due to poor soil conditions in Georgia (40% of agricultural plots are suffering from erosion), production of farmers is not competitive. Therefore, “House of Farmers” initiated few projects which aim at providing better conditions to the farmers. For example, bio-humus production using Californian worms (1 000 tones per month) enables employment opportunities, food security (quality and quantity), migration of population, export potential creation as well as possibility to use in different sectors (wine-growing, plant growing etc). Another project is supported by World Bank and works on creation of extension system in Georgia (system of land cadastre). A Project on accelerated rabbit breeding includes building of mini-farm (6 m²) which makes it possible to produce up to 100 rabbits per year being an ecologically clean farm. It also requires five times smaller amount of feed compare to standard farms. Creation of mini-greenhouses (32 m², 2.5 m height) is another alternative for farmers to produce vegetables and fruits with minimal costs. Then, Dr. Gigineishvili reported activities of “House of Farmers”. For instance, 1st Conference of farming entities and affiliated organizations was organized with support of CACAARI where there were many reports, experience and opinion sharing among stakeholders. They also initiated draft Law on Farmers which identifies status of farmer. At the end of presentation, Dr. Gigineishvili stressed the importance of social entrepreneurship among farmers as it is a good way to fight poverty.

During Q&A Session, Dr. Gigineishvili answered the questions from audience such as bio-humus advantages, mini-greenhouse construction, definition of social entrepreneurship etc.

Last presentation was made by Mr. Azizbek Sharipov of Tajik National Association of Dekhkan Farms who shared information about activities of his organization. In particular, the Association provides micro-credits to small farmers (USD 500 – 1 000). Agro-innovation service makes it possible for farmers to know the commodities’ prices etc. Association also cooperates with agrarian universities, Academy of Agricultural Sciences, international organizations. As one way to overcome poverty and low efficiency among farmers it is suggested by the Association to create national educational centers where ordinary farmer can obtain knowledge on farm management, new technologies of plant growing, creation of mini-hydroplants etc.

On the question by Mr. Shayibek Karasartov regarding new technologies of vegetables growing, Mr. Sharipov replied that they use Dutch technology which is very effective and suitable for Tajik land conditions. Then Mr. Sharipov explained to Mr. Levon Minosyan the financial sources of Association which consist of membership fees and income of members, though collectability of fees is still very low.

6. Strengthening Farmer and NGO Consortia

After all presentations, Acad. Akhmadov called the audience for sharing his/her ideas for further strengthening of CFO and CNGO activities. Mr. Karasartov suggested for CNGO Secretariat to be more active in its activities. Then he proposed to include CAC Region in “Agriculture for the Poor” Mega-program. After all, according to him, all ideas and comments should circulate through Mr. Alisher Ergashev, newly appointed Assistant Executive Secretary of CACAARI.

Dr. Bahtiyor Komilov, in turn, proposed to examine all mega-programs in details with the assistance of scientists and other stakeholders.

Dr. Ajit Maru identified specific needs of CFO and CNGO which include operational aspects (membership, Steering Committee, Chair, Executive Secretary) and database of all NGOs and FOs involved in ARD in each country and in the CAC Region. For instance, appointment of Steering Committee, Chair needs to be done by the middle of July 2010. As Acad. Akhmadov requested, each country has to nominate one representative to Consortia for a Chair. The list of candidates should meet criteria of legitimacy and relevance, as Dr. Maru added. Regarding database, Dr. Maru proposed support from GFAR through CAC.RAIS Project (USD 500-600 for each country).

Mr. Vugar Babayev noticed that considering increasing volume of tasks and responsibilities due to creation of new Consortia, it would be difficult for Mr. Alisher Ergashev to cope with all of them. Dr. Ajit Maru assured the audience by few examples of GFAR and GFRAS that even with small staff number it is possible to perform all tasks for existing people in CACAARI Secretariat. For specific needs, professional consultants will be hired with support of CACAARI and other contributing organizations.

At the end of the Meeting, Dr. Ajit Maru informed the audience that each Consortium will have a space in the website of CACAARI. There are also documents on GCARD 2010 Process ready to download in the website. Soon there will be ready GCARD 2010 Synthesis Report in five languages (including Russian) and its CD will be available upon request.

7. Concluding remarks

To close the Meeting, Acad. Akhmadov thanked all participants for active discussions and asked to provide additional comments and suggestions to CACAARI Secretariat through Mr. Alisher Ergashev.

**The 2nd Meeting of the Consortium of Non-government organizations (CNGO) and
The 2nd Meeting of the Consortium of Farmer Organizations (CFO) of the
Central Asia and the Caucasus Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (CACAARI)**

Ashgabat, Turkmenistan

June 10, 2010

AGENDA

9:00 – 10:00

Opening of the Meeting

Welcome by Interim Chairs of NGO and Farmer Organizations Consortia

Tabling of Draft Agenda for the Meeting for Approval

Tabling of Minutes of the Last Meeting and its approval including approval of

1. NGO Consortium and Charter
2. Farmer Organizations Consortium and Charter

10:00 – 10:30 Tea

10:30 – 11:15

Report on GCARD by Dr. Akhmadov and Discussions on the report

11:15 – 13:00

Discussions on Actions by Farmer Organizations and NGO around GCARD follow up

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 15:30

15:30 – 16: 00 Tea

Showcasing Farmer Organization and NGO Activities in CAC Region: 15 minutes per case

Oleg Shatberashvili, President of Georgian Federation for Information and Documentation (Georgia)

- Strengthening Information and Communication Management for Agricultural Research for Development (ICM4ARD Activities) in Central Asia and the Caucasus (CAC) Region

Akmal Akramhanov, Senior research fellow of Khorezm Rural Advisory and Support Services (Uzbekistan)

- Field planning using laser level for water-saving;
- Soil- and resource-saving husbandry for sustainable development;
- Afforestation of degraded land.

Vugar Babayev, Project Manager of Ganja Agribusiness Association (Azerbaijan)

- Creation of mini-stations for processing agricultural production using new technologies;
- Use of new methods of design, marking and packing of agricultural products;
- Training of farmers and processors on standards required for export as well as on documentation and export logistics;
- Organic agriculture as a method of sustainable development of farming;
- Increasing of soil fertility by growing new feeding crops;
- Combat with desertisation, salinification and erosion of soil;
- Instruments of marketing and creation of marketing farmer associations for joint market operations.

Leri Gigenishvili, Director of “House of Farmers” (Georgia)

- Technology of production and use of biohumus;
- Creation of small greenhouse farms and accelerative rabbit breeding;
- Proposals on addition of farming enterprises’ functions towards social entrepreneurship.

Azizbek Sharipov, Chairman of National Association of Dekhkan Farms (Tajikistan)

- Organization of modern biotechnology of food production, health and human development;
- Creation of microloan center on agricultural microfinancing (mainly, microcrediting of small and the poorest farmers);
- Establishment of agricultural cooperatives;
- Establishment of trade cooperatives;
- Creation of pilot trade shops in main cities to sell farmers’ products;
- Organization of mini-plants to process and to pack horticultural products;
- Creation of model farms to grow vegetables on open ground and protected ground with the use of scientific innovative methods;
- Establishment of model garden nursery farms.

16:30 – 17:30

Discussion on Strengthening further Farmer and NGO Consortia in CAC Region

Any other Matter with permission of Chair

18:00 – 21:00 Dinner

**Список участников Совещаний АСНИОЦАК (List of Participants of CACAARI Meetings)
10-11 июня 2010 года, г.Ашгабат, Туркменистан (June 10-11, 2010, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan)**

Национальные системы сельскохозяйственных исследований (NARS)						
1	Миносян Левон (Dr. Minosyan Levon)	Армения (Armenia)	Начальник управления (Head of Department)	Управление науки, образования и консультативной помощи, Министерство сельского хозяйства (Department of Science, Education and Consultancy, Ministry of Agriculture)	Government Building 3, Republic Square, Yerevan, 375010, Armenia	Tel: 37410 297434, 374-10 52 93 33, 52 52 32, Email: gitutyun1@rambler.ru
2	Мусаев Асад (Acad. Musaev Asad)	Азербайджан (Azerbaijan)	Генеральный директор (Director General)	Аграрный научный центр Министерства сельского хозяйства (National Agrarian Science Centre, Ministry of Agriculture)	40, Gadjibekov Street, Government House, Baku370016, Azerbaijan	Tel: +99412 4974931, 4931037, Fax: +99412 4974931, 4935164, Email: YGuliyev@agroagency.gov.az
3	Чалаганидзе Шота Иванович (Acad. Chalaganidze Shota)	Грузия (Georgia)	Президент (President)	Академия сельскохозяйственных наук (Academy of Agricultural Sciences)	13 km, Agmashenebeli avenue, Tbilisi, 0131, Georgia	Tel.: +99532 595694, Fax: +99532 522997, Email: shota_chalaganidze@yahoo.com, guram_aleksidze@yahoo.com
4	Кертешева Айгуль Талгатовна (Kertesheva Aigul)	Казахстан (Kazakhstan)	Менеджер (Manager)	АО «КазАгроИнновация» (JSC KazAgroInnovation)	26, Akjol Street, Astana 010000, Kazakhstan	Tel: + 7172 487776, +(8 3272) 98 3608, Fax: + 7172 27 1641, Email: kertesheva.a@agroinnovations.kz, center-farming@mail.kz
5	Акималиев Джамин Акималиевич (Acad. Akymaliev Djamin)	Кыргызстан (Kyrgyzstan)	Генеральный директор (Director General)	Научно-исследовательский институт земледелия (Research Institute of Crop Husbandry)	73/1, Timur Frunze Street, Bishkek, 720027, Kyrgyzstan	Tel: +996 312 647154, Fax: +996 312 647907, +996 312 540545, Mob: +996517 229103, Email: krif@mail.kg
6	Ахмадов Хукматулло Махмудович (Acad. Akhmadov Hukmatullo)	Таджикистан (Tajikistan)	Президент (President)	Академия сельскохозяйственных наук (Academy of Agricultural Sciences)	44, Rudaki avenue, Dushanbe 734025, Tajikistan	Tel: +992 372 217004, Fax: +992372 215794/510037, Email: ahmadov@yandex.ru, taskhn@tojikiston.com, agroacad@tajik.net
7	Камилов Бахтиер (Dr. Kamilov Bahtiyor)	Узбекистан (Uzbekistan)	Начальник управления (Head of Department)	Научно-производственный центр сельского хозяйства (Uzbek Scientific Production Center for Agriculture)	1, Usman Yusupov Street, Tashkent 100128, Uzbekistan	Tel.: +998712415805, Fax: +998712415805, Email: uzspca@albatros.uz, uzspca@tkt.uz

Неправительственные организации (NGOs)						
8	Бабаев Вугар (Babaev Vugar)	Азербайджан (Azerbaijan)	Менеджер программы (Program Manager)	Гянджинская ассоциация агробизнеса (Ganja Agribusiness Association)	19, Javadkhan street, Ganja city, Az2000, Azerbaijan	Tel.: (+994) (22) 56-9400, 56-01-78, Fax: (+994) (22) 56-94-00, Home: 99422557838, Mob: 994552717101, 994503112187, Email: A.babayev@gaba.az, office@gaba.az
9	Олег Шатберашвили (Oleg Shatberashvili)	Грузия (Georgia)	Директор (Director)	Грузинская Федерация информации и документации (Georgian Federation for Information and Documentation)	47, Kasrova Street, Tbilisi 0179, Georgia	Tel: +99532335122, Fax: +99532987618, Home: +99532775282, Mob: +99577400487, Email: oleg.shatberashvili@yahoo.com, gfid@caucasus.net
10	Карасартов Шайыбек (Karasartov Shaibek)	Кыргызстан (Kyrgyzstan)	Директор (Director)	Центр сельскохозяйственного обучения и консультации (Training, Advisory and Innovation Center)	43/1, Grajdanskaya Street, Bishkek 720022, Kyrgyzstan	Tel: (+996 312) 365567; Fax: (+996 312) 36-55-67, Home: 410539, Mob: 0777986607, Email: director@taic.kg
11	Акрамханов Акмаль (Akramhanov Akmal)	Узбекистан (Uzbekistan)	Старший научный сотрудник (Senior Research Fellow)	Хорезмский центр агроконсультаций и поддержки (Khorezm Rural Advisory and Support Services)	14, Khamid Alimdjan Street, Urgench, Uzbekistan	Tel: +998 93 1818318, Email: akmal@zef.uzpak.uz, api001@yahoo.com
12	Исмаилова Ирина (Ismailova Irina)	Таджикистан (Tajikistan)	Председатель (Chairman)	НПО «Человек и природа» (“Man and Nature” NGO)	4/36-2, Lomonosov Street, Dushanbe, Tajikistan	Email: iris_taj@mail.ru
13	Исмаилова Сабина (Ismailova Sabina)	Туркменистан (Turkmenistan)	Консультант (Consultant)	Научно-консалтинговый центр «Алтын Умут» (“Altyn Umut” Scientific and Consulting Center)	Street, UZA, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan	Tel: 99312276461, Fax: 99312276461, Home: 99312351276, Mob: 99366310927, Email: jumakuliev@mail.ru
Фермерские организации (Farmer Organizations)						
14	Гигинеишвили Лери (Gigineishvili Leri)	Грузия (Georgia)	Директор (Director)	«Дом фермеров» (“House of Farmers”)	6, Vukol Beridze street, Tibilisi, Georgia	Tel: +99532932835, Home: +99532331484, Mob: +99577434589, Email: leri@caucasus.net
15	Шарипов Азизбек (Sharipov Azizbek)	Таджикистан (Tajikistan)	Председатель (Chairman)	Национальная ассоциация дехканских хозяйств (National Association of Dekhkan Farms)	44, Rudaki avenue, Dushanbe 734025, Tajikistan	Tel: +992 37 2212033, 2271813, Email: union_farm@mail.ru
16	Медеубаев Рахим (Medeubaev Rahym)	Казахстан (Kazakhstan)	Начальник департамента фермерства (Head of Farming)	Красноводопадская селекционная станция (Krasnavodopadskaya Breeding Station)	487210 v. "Krasny Vodopad" Saryagachsky district, South-	Tel/Fax : 772537- 59038, Mob: 77014409162, Home: 77253775416, Email: alshorazov_53@mail.ru, anarbai_68@mail.ru,

			Department)		Kazakhstan region	medeubayev_r@mail.ru
17	Байрамов Мурат (Bayramov Murat)	Туркменистан (Turkmenistan)	Фермер (Farmer)			
Другие (Others)						
18	Мару Ажит (Dr. Maru Ajit)		Старший сотрудник (Senior knowledge Officer)	Global Forum on Agricultural Research (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
19	Кристин Дэвис (Dr. Kristin Davis)		Директор (Director)	Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS)	c/o Agridea, Eschikon 28, 8315 Lindau, Switzerland	Tel: +41 (0)52 354 97 64, Mob: +41 (0)79 886 75 30, Fax: +41 (0)52 354 97 97, Email: kristin.davis@g-fras.org
20	Халикулов Закир (Dr. Khalikulov Zakir)	Узбекистан (Uzbekistan)	И.о. Главы ОРП (Acting Head of PFU)	CGIAR-CAC, ICARDA	P.O. Box 4564, Tashkent 100000, Uzbekistan	Tel: +998 71 23721-30/69/04, Fax: +998 71 1207125, Email: Z.Khalikulov@cgiar.org
21	Пулатов Алим (Dr. Pulatov Alim)	Узбекистан (Uzbekistan)	Руководитель ЭкоГИС центра (Head of EcoGIS center)	Ташкентский Институт иригации и мелиорации (Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Melioration)	39, Qori Niyoziy Street, Tashkent 100000, Uzbekistan	Tel: +99871 237 09 58, Fax: +99871 237 54 39, E-mail: alimpulatov@mail.ru
22	Ташматов Алишер (Tashmatov Alisher)	Узбекистан (Uzbekistan)	Менеджер проекта (Project Manager)	UNDP, Uzbekistan	29, Istikbol Street, Tashkent 100008, Uzbekistan	Tel/Fax: +99871 239 44 36, Mob: +998 97 485 93 57, Email: alisher.tashmatov@undpaffiliates.org
23	Мирзабаев Алишер (Mirzabaev Alisher)	Узбекистан (Uzbekistan)		CGIAR-CAC, ICARDA	P.O. Box 4564, Tashkent 100000, Uzbekistan	Tel: +998 71 23721-30/69/04, Fax: +998 71 1207125, Email: a.mirzabaev@cgiar.org
24	Косимов Шерзод (Qosimov Sherzod)	Узбекистан (Uzbekistan)	Специалист по ИТ (IT Specialist)	CGIAR-CAC, ICARDA	P.O. Box 4564, Tashkent 100000, Uzbekistan	Tel: +998 71 23721-30/69/04, Fax: +998 71 1207125, Email: q.sherzod@cgiar.org
25	Эргашев Алишер (Ergashev Alisher)	Узбекистан (Uzbekistan)	Ассистент Исполнительного секретаря (Assistant Executive Secretary)	АСНИОЦАК (CACAARI)	P.O. Box 4564, Tashkent 100000, Uzbekistan	Tel: +998 71 23721-30/69/04, Fax: +998 71 1207125, Email: A.Ergashev@cgiar.org

**Charter of
Consortium of Farmers Organizations for Agricultural Research for Development in
Central Asia and the Caucasus
(CFO-CAC)**

PREAMBLE

1. The Farmer Organizations 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 Farmer Organizations 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 Farmer Organizations 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 Farmer Organizations for Agricultural Research for Development in Central Asia and the Caucasus" (CFO-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 in Central Asia and the Caucasus Region for the benefit of the farmers and other ARD stakeholders.

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

- provide a platform for dialogue on critical issues related to ARD 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 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 bilateral priorities through and with support from CACAARI;
- assist in strengthening of organizational and management capability of FOs for ARD; 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 training, 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 Farmer Organization groups, etc.);
- to actively participate in determining the direction, content and conduct of ARD at the national and regional;
- to generate, document and disseminate information, knowledge and skills relevant to ARD;
- to share knowledge, experiences, expertise, and replicate successful practices and lessons learned in engaging with ARD;
- to document the entire partnership process in ARD so as to share with farmers in their local 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 FOs dealing with ARD in the CAC Region (Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan) and littoral 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 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 Farmer Organizations of all the eight countries.

ii). The Executive Secretary of CAC-CFO 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 FOs 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 FOs 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-CFO Strategy for improving ARD 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 FOs 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-CFO 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.

**Charter of
Consortium of Non-Governmental Organizations for Agricultural Research for
Development in Central Asia and the Caucasus
(CNGO-CAC)**

PREAMBLE

1. The Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) associated with agricultural research and innovation for development (ARD) in Central Asia and South 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 NGOs 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 NGOs 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 Non-Governmental Organizations for Agricultural Research for Development in Central Asia and the Caucasus" (CNGO-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 in Central Asia and the Caucasus Region for the benefit of farmers and other stakeholders.

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

- provide a platform for dialogue on critical issues related to ARD 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 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 bilateral priorities through and with support from CACAARI;
- assist in strengthening of organizational and management capability of NGOs for ARD; and
- strengthen, through CACAARI, 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 training, 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 (ARD agenda, advocacy, facilitator), regional (solidarity; ARD agenda, advocacy) and global (solidarity with other NGO groups, ARD agenda, advocacy) levels in partnership with other ARD stakeholders and through CACAARI;
- to actively participate in determining the direction, content and conduct of ARD at the national and regional;
- to generate, document and disseminate information, knowledge and skills relevant to ARD;
- to share knowledge, experiences, expertise, and replicate successful practices and lessons learned in engaging with ARD;
- to document the entire partnership process in ARD so as to share with farmers in their local 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;
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MEMBERSHIP

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

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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 NGOs of all the eight countries.

ii). The Executive Secretary of CAC-NGO 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 NGOs 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 NGOs 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 be convened by the Chairperson.

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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 shall be deputed to act as Executive Secretary to the Association upon approval of the Chairperson of CNGO-CAC Steering Committee.

19. If the office of the Chairperson becomes vacant for any reason, the Executive Secretary shall fill the position of the Chairperson till such time the Steering Committee elects another Chairperson and member to the Executive 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.

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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.

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