

First Women Field Training Seminar
“Alternative forage crops for animal feeding in winter on household farms”

Kristina Toderich

Location: Almash Abdambetova household farm, Shirkat Koybak

Date: 03 July 2015

Participants:

Total number of participants: 27 persons, including:

- Dr. Kristina Toderich, ICBA, trainer
- Dr Zulfiya Sultanova, Plant Breeding specialist, Nukus Branch of Tashkent Agrarian University, trainer
- Mrs Liliya Gismatulina, Smarkand State University (assistant of Dr Kristina Toderich;
- 11 men: 4 administrative leaders of the Koybak Sherkat farm; 3 former teachers; Dr. Toshpulot Rajabov (Samarkand State University) and two technical technicians; Dr. Davlet Edenbaev, sorghum and pearl millet breeder, consultant during field mission
- 13 women including young school girls.

Main purpose of the training: to familiarize the participants with new forage crops (ICBA germplasm –about 16 cultivars and improved lines) provided by Dr. K. Toderich in March 2015.

Brief summary: During the seminar Drs. Kristina Toderich and Zulfiya Sultanova explained the characteristics of each crop, its main use, such as forage, food, oil production, and nutritional value. Special emphasis was given to cultivation techniques; especially root zone salinity management, irrigation regime, and pest control. The training seminar was recorded as a video.

The household and land area of Ms. Almash Adambetova’s family was used for demonstrations. Her two young boys , who didn’t have special job in the village, had taken good care for seed planting, weed control and cultivar maintenance. The area allocated to each new forage crops was small, but enough to show -case the opportunities for poplars, apple, apricot, mulberry, Russian olive trees and different kinds of berry semi-shrubs to grow on saline lands. Vegetable legumes also showed promising results, especially mung bean ‘Durдона‘ variety, cow pea, and long bean ‘Oltin Soch’ variety, in forages salt tolerant alfalfa from ICBA was intercropped between tree rows.

The Abdambetova family allocated larger land areas to sunflower, topinambur (artichoke), sorghum, pearl millet and early maturity maize, which they are going to use as silage or dry stover for animals (they own goat, sheep, four large cattle, two donkeys and one horse).

Recommended follow up action: The women of 4 neighboring villages expressed their interest in establishing a ‘Women Learning Alliance’ and nominated Almash Adambetova as their

leader. She speaks three languages and is eager to assist with dissemination of information on arid fodder production' and livestock feeding systems at district level if national researchers and ICARDA-ICBA partners will provide her with brochures, leaflets,; brief reports and other information. The women agreed to learn through sms mails and active participation in seed collection, clearing and sharing for free. A list of their phone numbers was prepared and shared.