



PRESS RELEASE

Launch of a new global CGIAR Research Program to be discussed in Tashkent



Tashkent (8 June 2012) – Ways to improve the resilience of the most vulnerable and intensify the productivity of the sustainable agro-ecosystems in Central Asia will be a major focus of discussions during the Regional Inception Workshop to be organized by the CGIAR Program Facilitation Unit in Tashkent.

Eight Centers of the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) together with international development agencies, research-for-development fora and partner organizations from more than 40 countries have launched an inception phase of CGIAR Research Program 1.1 (CRP1.1) titled “Integrated and Sustainable Agricultural Production Systems for Improved Food Security and Livelihoods in Dry Areas”. It aims to develop technology, policy and institutional innovations for agricultural sector to improve livelihoods of the most vulnerable rural populations in the dry areas, using an integrated systems approach.

Dry areas cover 41% of the earth's land area and are home to more than one-third of its population. Drylands face serious environmental constraints, which are likely to worsen as a result of climate change. Traditional research and development approaches, focusing on a particular commodity or system component, have largely failed because of the complexity of the dryland systems. CRP1.1 will use an integrated approach, looking at the system as a whole, to promote and support innovation.

The purpose of the Regional Inception Workshop, to be held on 12-14 June 2012 in Conference Room of Dedeman Hotel in Tashkent, is to bring together partners working in the target areas identified for CRP 1.1 in Central Asia and the Caucasus (CAC). CAC is one of the five Regions globally where the CRP1.1 approach will be implemented. More specifically, the participants will review key hypotheses and research questions; discuss, validate and agree on outputs and activities for the Action Sites, and develop implementation plans. Characterization data compiled for the three Action Sites will be presented and reviewed. The Workshop will be attended by about 100 participants representing the different partner groups from all five Central Asian countries, international research centres and development agencies.

An overview of the results of the workshop will be posted on website
<http://www.icarda.cgiar.org/cac/>

###