Short report from December 05, 2022 Consultative workshop

On December 5, 2022, a Consultative Workshop was held on the topic: "The role of climate information data and services in managing climate risks in Uzbekistan", as part of the One CGIAR Initiative F2R CWANA, WP5 implemented by the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), Alliance Bioversity International – CIAT (ABC) and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in partnership with the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan and the Senate Committee of the Oliy Majlis (Parliament) of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The event was attended by important national stakeholders in Uzbekistan including the Senate of the Oliy Majlis (Parliament) of the Republic of Uzbekistan on development of the Aral Sea region and ecology, the Ministry of Innovative Development, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Water Resources, the State Committee for Geology and Mineral Resources, Uzhydromet, the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan, employees and specialists of the Samarkand Regional Center for Agricultural Services (AKIS), representatives of the higher educational institutions of Samarkand region, as well as a media representative.

F2R CWANA initiative aims at creating sustainable agri-food systems in the region, including Uzbekistan, that can work even under the negative effects of climate change. At the same time, ways of adapting to climate change and mitigating its consequences are presented, which consider the unique wealth of biological diversity,

The work package (WP5) intends to increase the agriculture resilience of anchor countries to climate change by providing accessible and up-to-date climate information through digital tools. The accumulated knowledge and available scientific data from the Initiative developed by the CGIAR shall be integrated into local platforms and systems of national centers for agricultural research.

Important part of discussion was brainstorming in two groups: (@Sarah – below are the questions)

Brainstorming session 1: Brainstorming main problems and challenges for climate information data and services that agricultural food value chain (FVC) actors need to be able to manage climate risks in Uzbekistan

Q1.1 *Types of innovations needed*: What are the types of climatic information data, services and digital innovations that are needed by the end-users (e.g. farmers) and the stakeholders in the food value chain to be able to manage climate risks and improve climate resilience in Uzbekistan?

Q1.2 *Extension/types of innovations available*: What types of innovations already exist in the market and what are the obstacles, if any, preventing them from achieving full impact on the ground? (Institutional, policies, regulations, technical, financial, etc.)

Brainstorming session 2: The best ways of scaling climatic information data, services and digital innovations:

Q3. What are the best ways to promote and scale up impactful climatic information data, services and digital tools innovations (products, services, business concepts, solutions, new geographic markets, etc. aimed at agrifood systems) in Uzbekistan?

Q4. What types of effective partnerships exist in Uzbekistan and are additionally required for the acceleration of innovation development to contribute to adaptation measures and interventions?

The participants stated that Uzbekistan is one of the countries strongly affected by climate change and that if additional measures to save resources have not been developed, it may lead to shortage in water resources, desertification and land degradation, climate change, which in turn will cause instability in agricultural production and the food security may be threatened.

Despite these challenges, Uzbekistan has the potential to build sustainable agri-food commodity systems. Currently, climate change mitigation and adaptation measures are reflected in sectoral strategies and development programs of the country, such as the Development Strategies for 2022-2026, the Innovative Development Strategies for 2019-2021 and the Concept of Environmental Protection until 2030. Implementation of transformational adaptation measures to reduce risk, especially for vulnerable groups, are envisaged in the Agricultural Development Strategy (2020-2030), the Concept for the Development of the Water Sector for 2020-2030 and natural strategy for water management and development of the irrigation sector (2021-2023).

During discussions, the workshop participants emphasized that the Work Package (WP5) under the CGIAR F2R-CAWACA initiatives would help scale up agricultural production in climate-affected countries if accessible and up-to-date climate information was identified using digital tools. The accumulated knowledge and research of scientific data within the framework of the initiative are necessary to unite in the international platform and the system of national centers for agricultural research.

Speakers during the brainstorming proposed to widely disseminate the experience of CGIAR (IWMI) after the launch of the Incubator / Accelerator Program for scaling innovations and digital tools, especially in agriculture for climate risk management in Uzbekistan.

In addition, the practical application of the accumulated experience was considered.

Participants discussed the next steps while listening to the results of the group discussions at the section meetings:

1) Creating sustainable agro-food systems in Uzbekistan that can operate under the adverse effects of climate change.

2) Adapting to climate change, taking into account the unique wealth of soil and biological diversity, as well as helping to improve the ecological situation and preserve water resources, choosing, applying, and implementing best practices for mitigating its consequences.

3) development and implementation of additional resource-saving measures aimed at slowing down the processes of desertification and land degradation, drought and other dangerous events that lead to instability in agricultural production and threaten the country's food security.

4) In order to increase the resilience of Uzbekistan's agricultural sector to climate change and climate risk management, issues such as implementing a program to expand innovation and digital tools in agriculture were at the center of discussions.

As part of the consultative seminar, events dedicated to December 5 - World Soil Day and - World Mountain Day (on December 11) were also held. They discussed issues such as mountain ecosystems, soils and in general, land, water resources, biodiversity conservation.

At the end of the consultation seminar, appropriate recommendations were developed based on the suggestions made.