



Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management

ENG PYC

[Main](#) [About Project](#) [News](#) [Agroecosystems](#) [Technologies](#) [Events](#)

ARTICLES

Establishing pistachio plantations in arid lands of Kyrgyzstan

Date: 29.10.2015.



Pistachio, with its strong root system, is known for its soil and water protection role in the arid foothills and low hills of the Central Asia region. Kyrgyzstan shares 33% of the biggest wild pistachio forest which covers an area of 300,000 hectares.

The tract of Achy in Kyrgyzstan has more than 600 hectares of grazing land. In 2009, Rasuljan Khaitov, a local farmer began subduing 5 hectares of land by planting 7,600 seedlings of Akbari variety pistachio, almond and peach, and fenced the territory using 6 km of barbed wire. It usually takes six years before the pistachio tree gives its first yield. For cost recovery he sowed wheat, barley, peas, tomatoes and melons between the rows with an initial investment of 391 USD. To overcome his irrigation related difficulties, last year Rasuljan began developing drip irrigation system to save water and schedule watering. For this he received assistance from CACILM II project.

In 2015, Rasuljan implemented drip irrigation on a part of his garden. A well has been drilled and siphon waters melons, vegetables and trees. From the intercropped wheat Rasuljan gained 106 USD per ha, i.e. the profitability rate reached 22%. Within four years there was total cost recovery. Rasuljan's Akbari variety plantation, fixed by a 4x8 scheme, is expected to provide approximately 6240 kg of harvest per ha worth approximately 40,000 USD income by 2019. Rasuljan now wants to spread his experience among farmers of Southern Kyrgyzstan. Within CACILM II, Rasuljan Khaitov's experience has been published in Uzbek and Russian languages and distributed among farmers on field day workshops.

The technology of drip irrigation is still new in the arid locations of Kyrgyzstan. But it is steadily expanding. In 2014, drip irrigation systems covered 140 hectares in Kyrgyzstan. In 2015, this area is expected to reach 1,000 hectares.

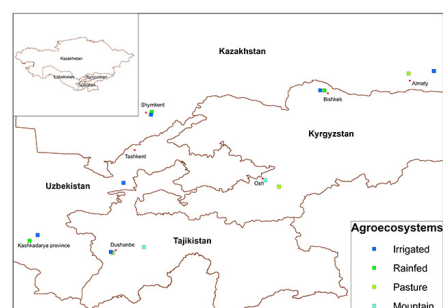
[Resources](#)
[Infographics](#)

Project Purpose

Acting as an information repository and knowledge hub, this website helps to increase the use of innovations developed by the well-established CACILM Project in Central Asia. Its synthesis, compilation, and dissemination of current research provide a secure knowledge base that policymakers and other stakeholders can access and utilize to develop sustainable strategies capable of addressing the region's severe land degradation.

The Project is funded by [IFAD](#) and led by [ICARDA](#) under framework of CGIAR Research Program on [Dryland Systems](#).

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[TECHNOLOGIES](#)
[Licorice](#)
[Indigo](#)
[Phosphogypsum](#)
[Energy-efficient greenhouses](#)
[Integrated Pest Management and Plant Protection](#)
[DEMO PLOTS](#)


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- [ABOUT THE PROJECT](#)
- [PUBLICATIONS](#)
- [PHOTO AND VIDEO](#)
- [ARTICLES](#)
- [EVENTS](#)

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- [ТОО КНИИПИА](#)
- [КНАУ](#)
- [КНИИР](#)
- [ИКАРДА](#)

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