



CACIP Regional consultation

Press release

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Regional workshop in Tajikistan focuses on climate change impacts in Central Asia

Dushanbe, September 27, 2019. - More than 60 delegates from five Central Asian countries have gathered in the capital of Tajikistan today to discuss the land degradation, climate impacts and climate change mitigation issues in the region.

The event is a joint collaboration of the International Center for Agricultural Research in the dry Areas (ICARDA) and Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Program for Aral Sea Basin (CAMP4ASB), led by the Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia (CAREC). The Regional workshop is supported by the Academy of Agricultural Sciences of Tajikistan and the Committee of Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Changing weather patterns, the melting of glaciers and frequent droughts have become an unpleasant fact for the 72-million population of the Central Asian region, predominantly residing in the rural areas.

"All Central Asian countries are among the most vulnerable to climate change on the Eurasian continent," said Dr. Ram Sharma, Regional Coordinator of ICARDA for Central Asia and the Caucasus. "Taking into account that agriculture remains the main economic factor, natural disasters caused by climate change pose a serious threat to the food security, negatively affecting crop yields, livestock productivity and soil fertility."

Scientific and technological advances such as big data could be a key to address climate change impacts in the region. "We can process the 'Big Data' to generate valuable information such as rainfall, drought, weather and vegetation index, etc., to determine what sorts of crops can be grown in certain areas," Dr. Sharma stated. "The obtained information can also help farmers increase their yields."

During the sessions, participants from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan were introduced to the demo version of the Central Asian Climate Information Platform (CACIP), issues of environmental degradation as well as ecosystem services concept.

About CACIP

CACIP will help stakeholders to access, analyse, and visualize public-domain data to support improved awareness, assessment, and decision support on climate change. This is expected to make available comprehensive and up-to-date relevant



data and information, linking with high-quality datasets (including time series and spatial information) from global, regional, and local sources. The project includes five Central Asian countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

About ICARDA

ICARDA is an international organization undertaking research for development. We provide innovative, science-based solutions for countries across the non-tropical dry areas. Our research aims to reduce poverty and enhance food, water, and nutritional security and environmental health, in the face of global challenges, including climate change.

Since its establishment in 1977, ICARDA has implemented research-for-development programs in 50 countries across the world's dry areas - from Morocco in North Africa to Bangladesh in South Asia.

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