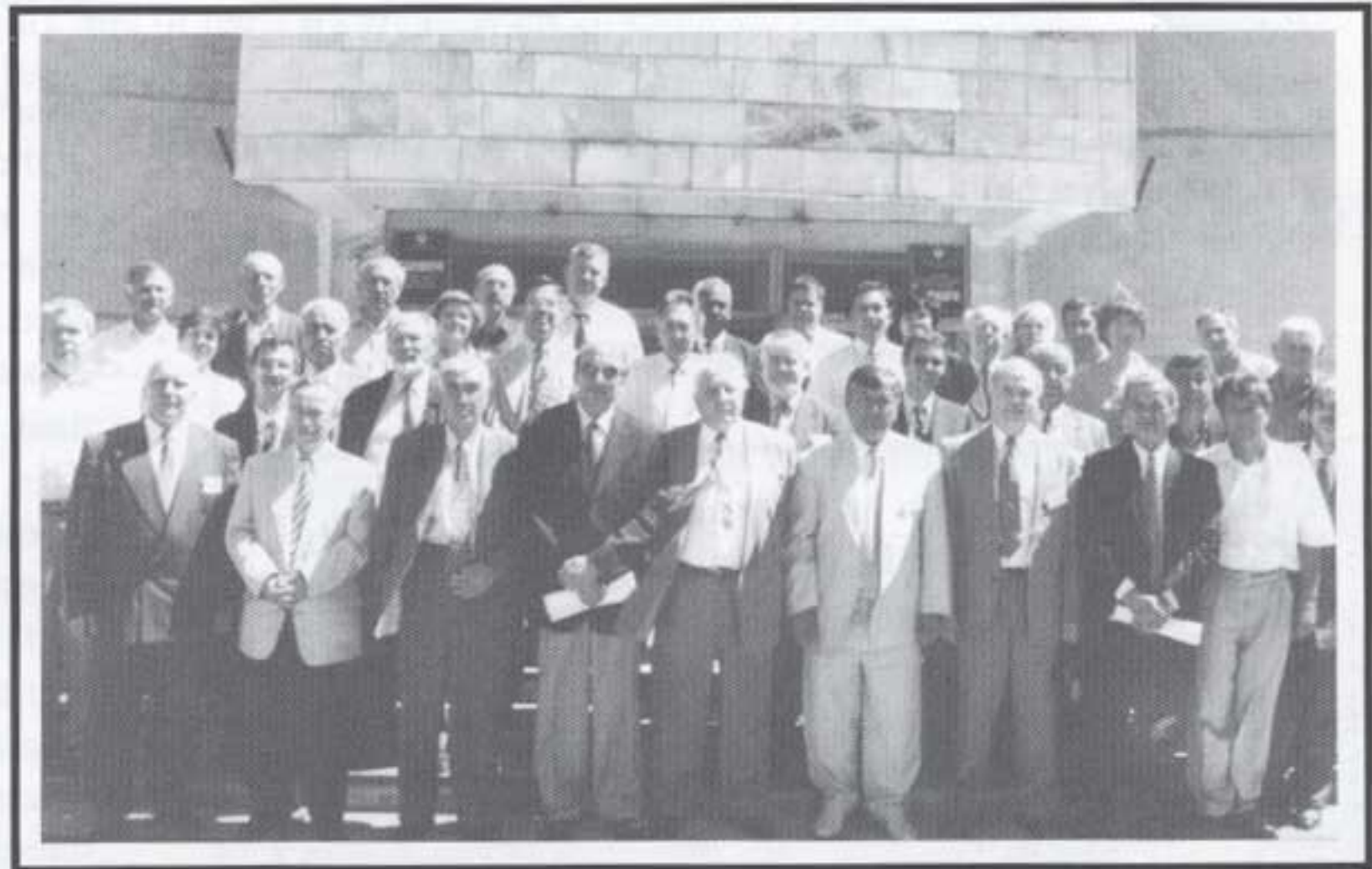


## On-Farm Soil and Water Management for Sustainable Agricultural Systems

Turkmenistan being lost forever.

### Workshop on "On-Farm Soil and Water Management in Central Asia"

A workshop on "On-farm soil and water management in Central Asia" was organized in Tashkent, 17 to 19 May 1999, by ICARDA in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources (MAWR) of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and the Scientific Information Center of the Interstate Coordination Water Commission (SIC-ICWC). The PFU provided logistical support in its organization. The Workshop was attended by more than 40 participants. These included: key specialists on water issues from five Central Asian States - Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tadjikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan; Water Research Group from ICARDA; two representatives from IWMI; Director General of SIC-ICWC; Deputy Minister of MAWR; representatives of EPIC/USAID program; TACIS, and the US Embassy in Uzbekistan. The objective of the workshop was to introduce ICARDA's on-farm water and soil management research activities in the region and to get feedback from local specialists on overall situation and priority research areas on soil and water resources, management and constraints as well as socioeconomic and policy aspects affecting on-farm water management issues in Central Asia. The workshop proceedings are being developed by Dr Fawzi Karajeh, Marginal-quality Water Specialist of ICARDA, Aleppo, Syria (e-mail: F.Karajeh@CGIAR.ORG).



*Participants in the workshop*

### Irrigation and Water Resources System

A mission from the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), consisting of Dr S. Prathapar, Regional Director of IWMI-Pakistan and Mr T. Bangaragoda from IWMI Headquarters, visited Uzbekistan, 16-22 April, to visit relevant institutions. Plans to organize a one-day meeting in Tashkent were finalized to discuss major issues relating to irrigation and water resources system in Central Asia.

A Meeting on River Basin Issues in Central Asia was organized by the IWMI in the afternoon of 19 May following the "On-farm soil and water workshop". Dr S. Prathapar, IWMI representative for CAC made a presentation on IWMI activities and their relevance to the Central Asia situation. Thereafter, another presentation was made by Dr W. Bastiaansen, IWMI Consultant. The Meeting was successful in terms of getting NARS' feedback on both institutional and river basin level issues.

### Collaborative Research Activities on On-farm Water Management Initiated in Kazakstan

ICARDA initiated two collaborative research activities on on-farm water management with the Kazak Research Institute of Water Management in March 1999. These include:

- Irrigation technology and desalinization of irrigated lands in the area of the Arys-Turkestan Channel, and
- Utilization of purified waste waters from Almaty city for fodder crops production.