

Soil and Water Management for Sustainable Agricultural Systems

Projects in Kazakstan

Two Projects in Kazakstan; one on Marginal Water (Sorbulak site, Almaty Region) and the other on Irrigation and Drainage (Arys-Turkestan Canal) have been conducted by the Kazak Water Management Research Institute located in Taraz. In both projects soil, water and crop analyses have been conducted in accordance with the workplan.

Irrigation and Water Resources Systems

Drs. R. Prathapar (IWMI-PAkistan), Chris Perri (IWMI Consultant) and V. Horinkova during their visit to Tashkent (15-18 November) visited PFU on 18 November. They discussed with Dr. Beniwal, Head, PFU, the arrangements for locating an IWMI scientist from the region in PFU in the new project on "Integrated management of irrigated farming in Fergana Valley" to be supported by Swiss Development Corporation (SDC). IWMI proposes to appoint Dr. Horinkova as its representative in Central Asia.

The Collaborators Completed a Review on Soil and Water Resources in Kazakstan

Drs. Fawzi Karajeh and Chris Studer, on-farm water specialists of ICARDA, visited Kazakstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, 13-18 August. They observed the on-going collaborative activities at two sites in Kazakstan: Sorbulak (Almaty region, Marginal Water Use) and Arys-Turkestan Canal (Irrigation and Soil Salinity). Their visit coincided with the start of the harvest of fodder crops in the Project "Marginal Water Use for Fodder Production" at Sorbulak site, and sampling of soil, water and plants at both the sites in Kazakstan.

Efforts to Develop Soil Maps for Project Sites

Dr. Eddy De-Pauw, ICARDA's Senior Agroecologist, visited Uzbekistan and Kazakstan in connection with developing soil maps for the integrated sites of the on-farm soil and water project. He visited the Boykozon site with Uzbek collaborating scientists on 03 November, and the Sorbulak site in Kazakstan with Kazak collaborators on 10 November. GIS will be used to map these two integrated sites.

A Project on On-Farm Soil and Water Management in Central Asia Submitted to ADB

A new Project "On-Farm Soil and Water Resources Management for Sustainable Agriculture Development in Central Asia" jointly prepared by the Central Asian NARS and ICARDA, has been submitted to ADB for financial support. The Project will address some of important issues associated with soil, crop and water management in Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The project objectives are to (i) increase agricultural productivity and production through improved management of cropping systems, including optimal use of water and improved management of soils and nutrients; and (ii) achieve sustainable irrigated cropping systems through an appropriate farm-level management of irrigation and drainage and the safe use of marginal water sources. The project will be implemented through collaboration between ICARDA and national scientists, building on available national research results and new technologies for sustainable use of land and water resources.

A New Project on Water Management in Fergana Valley Submitted to SDC-Switzerland

A new Project "Water Management in Fergana Valley" has been submitted by IWMI for financial support to SDC of Switzerland. The Project work will be carried out in Fergana Valley in close cooperation with the NARS of Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan. IWMI will coordinate the Project in collaboration with the Scientific Information Center of Interstate Coordination Water Commission (SIC-ICWC).