

Announcement — International Workshop

Innovations in Marginal Water Resources Use for Resilient Agriculture and Food Security

Date: 11-13 December 2017

Venue: Radisson Blu Hotel, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Background

The workshop aims to set out the water and food security challenges in Central Asian countries. It will present information on innovative technologies on the use of marginal water resources and their associated environmental impact, asking how they can be used to meet increasing demand in good quality water. A special focus will be on the role of science and its achievements that can be undertaken to improve water and food security in the marginal environments of the Central Asia region.

The main objectives are:

- **to produce more nutritious food with less water:** Innovative technologies are required to ensure sustainable food production. They are needed to improve crop yields: implement efficient irrigation strategies; reuse of drainage water and use of water resources of marginal quality; produce smarter ways to use fertilizer and water; and create more sustainable crop-livestock production.
- **to focus on human capacities and institutional framework:** Agricultural development in Central Asian countries lies mainly in the hands of smallholders, a large majority of whom are women. Therefore, new institutional arrangements are needed that centralize the responsibility for water regulation, yet decentralize water management responsibility and increase user ownership and participation.
- **to improve the value chain:** From production, post-harvest handling, processing, retailing, consumption to distribution and trade, efficient water and food recycling strategies can be addressed. It can help secure environmental water requirements when reuse of treated water is not culturally acceptable for other uses.
- **to use best practices:** Increase support of smallholder farmers in public and private sector to scale up best practices and adoption of self-reliant approaches for utilization of non-conventional water and land resources.
- **industries have to reduce wastewater and minimize the quantity of processed water needed:** This method has proven to be technically feasible. The demand reduction and efficiency approach should be an integral part of modern water resources management in the Central Asian river basins.

Main Sessions

- Session I.** Policy framework for water governance and integrated water resources management to produce more nutritious food with less water.
- Session II.** Strengthened institutional capacity to manage water resources, to provide access to information and data on water resources, and to promote the inter-institutional and inter-regional exchange of information and data on water resources.
- Session III.** Innovative technologies on local desalination and decontamination of water and soil; alternatives for water, lands and bio-resources use.
- Session IV.** Policy framework for water governance and integrated water resources management to produce more nutritious food with less water
- Session V.** Indigenous Knowledge and Practices on Dry Lands Water Resources Management: Research & Education Challenges

This workshop will include discussions in groups bringing together decision-makers and experts and presentations by key experts and discussion groups to identify weaknesses and strengths in applying innovative technologies and approaches for using marginal water resources for sustainable agriculture and food security.

Presentations will include contributions from specialists from research and expert community working in the area of developing innovations in marginal water resources use.



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Organizers

The Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources, Republic of Uzbekistan

The Academy of Sciences, Republic of Uzbekistan

International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA), United Arab Emirates

Partners

USAID, GIZ, EU, ICARDA, University of Nevada, Reno, International Dryland Platform for Research and Education at Tottori University, Kyoto University, FAO/CACILM 2

Coordinators

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Discussion sessions in the format of break-out sessions will target specific topics to elaborate on recommendations and/or Tashkent Protocol on Integrated Use of Water Resources (including alternatives sources of water and bio-resources).

Targeted Participants

The workshop is expected to bring together representatives of national, regional and international public and private organizations and institutions including:

- Decision-makers from government agencies;
- Mid-level professionals;
- Experts from research community who focus their efforts on the water and food security, use of marginal water resources and their associated environmental impact, development of water and food recycling strategies, efficient irrigation practices, efficient use of fertilizer and water and others;
- Experts from international organizations (ICBA, USAID, GIZ, EU Delegation in Uzbekistan, ICARDA, IWMI, Japanese Universities, University of Nevada, Reno and others), the Regional Environmental and Educational Centers and other national, regional, and international centers of excellence;
- Representatives of the private sector (Natural Resource Management, Environment etc.);
- Representatives of NGOs and water technology companies and others.

Workshop Language

The working language of the workshop will be English and Russian.

Date

The workshop will be held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, from 11 to 13 December 2017. All selected and invited participants will receive information with logistic details.

Venue

Radisson Blu Hotel, Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

Visa

Participants are responsible to ensure that they have a valid Uzbek visa. The necessary information will be communicated to all concerned people.

Participants are responsible for making their own arrangements to secure the visas which may be required when making stop-overs in countries other than Uzbekistan due to flight connections and to enter Uzbekistan.

Deadline for Registration

October, 30th, 2017

Organizers and point of contact

Coordinators

Dr. Ismahane Elouafi, Director General, ICBA, Dubai, UAE

Dr. Shavkat Khamraev, Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Academician Begzod Yuldashev, Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Organizers

Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan

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