

**Multi-stakeholder Forum:
Turning Agricultural and Environmental Challenges into Opportunities for Investment and Innovation in the Aral Sea Basin**

*8-9 August 2019
City Palace Hotel
Tashkent, Uzbekistan*

8 August 2019 Thursday	
09:30-10:00	Registration of participants
10:00-10:40	<p>Welcome address: Prof. Dr. Ibrokhim Abdurakhmonov – Minister, Ministry of Innovative Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan Mr. Jamshid Hodjaev – Minister, Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan Dr. Ismahane Elouafi – Director General of the International Center for Biosaline Agriculture Mr. Boriy Alikhanov - Deputy Speaker, Head of the Deputy Group of the Ecology group, Chairman of the Committee on Ecology and Environmental Protection of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan Dr. Vadim Sokolov - Head of Agency of IFAS for Aral Sea Program and GEF Projects, Tashkent, Uzbekistan</p>
10:40-11:10	Coffee Break
11:10-13:00	<p>Moderator: Dr Dilorom Fayzieva , Deputat of Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan Member of the Committee on International Affairs and Inter-Parliamentary Relations</p> <p>Introductory statements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Islamic Development Bank (IDB), Mr Khusan Khasanov, Field Representative Uzbekistan, Tashkent - United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Gary Robbins, Director at Uzbekistan Country Office, USAID/Central Asia - United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Daniel Tsegai, Programme Officer External Relations, Policy and Advocacy Unit - Food Agriculture Organization, Mr Ruhiza Jean Boroto, Secretary of the Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture (WASAG), Land and Water Division - Eurasian Centre for Food Security, Dr. Prof. Alexey Shoba, Moscow State University <p>Ministry of Innovative Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan Concept about “Aral Sea region – ecological innovations and technologies zone”, Mr Abdusalom Ishimov, Head, Department for the Development of the System of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources, Ministry of Innovative Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan</p> <p>ICBA expertise in turning Agricultural and Environmental Challenges into Opportunities for Investment and Innovation. Dr. Kristina Toderich and Aziz Karimov, ICBA-CAC Regional Office, Tashkent, Uzbekistan, International Platform for Drylands Research and Education, Tottori University, Japan</p>
13:00-14:00	Lunch
14:00-14:50	<p>Forum key speakers: Innovation Approaches to Promote Saline Agriculture Development and Social Stability in the Aral Sea Basin Countries. Dr Murat Ganiev, International Innovation Center for Aral Sea Basin (IICAS), Nukus, Karakalpakstan Water and Salinity Management in Central Asia, Akmal Karimov, Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural</p>

	Mechanization Engineers, Tashkent, Uzbekistan
14:50-15:00	Discussions and recommendations
15:00-16:00	<p>Selected Presentations with focus on Central Asia:</p> <p>Regional Cooperation in CAREC: integration indicators, knowledge corridors and capacity needs. Dr. Iskandar Abdullaev, Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Institute, China</p> <p>Digital saline agriculture towards ensuring food security and nutrition quality in the Aral Sea Basin – Dr. Mariya Konyushkova, Eurasian Food Security Center, Moscow State University, Moscow</p> <p>Innovative wheat breeding technology using novel genetic resources of related wild species. Prof. Hisashi Tsujimoto, Arid Land Research Center, Tottori University, Japan</p>
16:40:17:00	Coffee Break
17:00-18:00	<p>Panel discussion and the way forward</p> <p>Forecast and action-plan to tackle salinization and improve regional development and incomes in Aral-sea basin countries</p> <p>A program of concrete actions to improve food security and incomes of the rural population by addressing issues of salinization and waterlogging (or increasing soil fertility?) in the Aral Sea Basin countries</p>
18:30 - 21:00	Dinner
9 August 2019 Friday	
09:30 -9:40	Moderator: Group assignment
09:40 -11:00	<p>Working Group 1. Discussion of proposal:</p> <p>Moderators: Mr Ruhiza Jean Boroto, Secretary of the Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture (WASAG), FAO; Dr Aziz Karimov, International Center for Biosaline Agriculture for Central Asia and Caucasus (ICBA-CAC)</p> <p>Scaling up of adapted forage crop-livestock innovative approaches for climate resilience and food security in the neighborhood of the former Aral Sea</p> <p>Food and feed security through introduction of diverse and highly nutritive climate-resilient alternative crops in Central Asian marginal environments. Dr Botir Khaitov , ICBA-CAC and Amal Magzoub, ICBA Dubai</p> <p>Working Group 2. Discussion of proposal:</p> <p>Moderators: Dr Daniel Tsegai, Programme Officer External Relations, Policy and Advocacy Unit United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD); Dr Kristina Toderich, International Center for Biosaline Agriculture for Central Asia and Caucasus (ICBA-CAC)</p> <p>Empowering decision-makers’ preparedness to manage the impacts of droughts on food and water security in Central Asia and Mongolia through development of a knowledge-transferring system</p>

11:00-11:30	Coffee break
11:30: 12:30	Presentations of working group discussions
12:30-13:30	Recommendations on the way forward and conclusions
13:30-14:30	Lunch