

Community Action in Integrated and Market Oriented Feed-Livestock Production in Central and South Asia

Summary of the First Project Steering Committee Meeting

The First Steering Committee Meeting of the ICARDA-IFAD Community Action in Integrated and Market Oriented Feed-Livestock Production in Central and South Asia Project was held in Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan, on 13 September 2007. The Meeting was attended by a representative from IFAD, the Heads and the collaborating scientists from Pakistan, the CAC-NARS and scientists from ICARDA Headquarters in Aleppo, Syria, and its Regional office for CAC in Tashkent. The Meeting was hosted by the Institute of Livestock, Veterinary, and Rangelands located in Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan.

First Project Steering Committee Meeting, 13 September 2007 (Thursday)

In the opening remarks, Dr. Raj Paroda, ADG for International Cooperation, ICARDA, welcomed all Steering Committee members and thanked them for the continued support of the project activities. He mentioned that the importance of the Community Action in Integrated and Market Oriented Feed-Livestock Production in Central and South Asia Project bringing all national partners together had been discussed at the First Regional Workshop. He emphasized that for the success of the project it is necessary to organize traveling workshops for the policy makers, to apply an advanced planning for development of new projects. Dr. Paroda noted that linking of this project to other ongoing development projects in Kazakhstan and Tajikistan is also desirable. In this regard he stated that conservation of rangeland and livestock genetic resources in each country involved to the project is a very perspective area where support can be provided by the CACILM Programme and international donors, such as IFAD, ADB and others. At the end of his statement, Dr. Paroda expressed support of the project on behalf of Dr. Mahmoud Solh, Director General of ICARDA, and thanked Dr. Carla de Gregorio, Grants Coordinator for Asia and the Pacific Division of IFAD, for participation in the Meeting.

In her presentation, Dr. Barbara Rischkowsky, Project Coordinator, ICARDA, made an overview of the progress achieved by the project. She emphasized both achievements of the project and difficulties occurred during its implementation. Dr. Rischkowsky also discussed the budget utilization for the first year of the project. She noted that part of the funds allocated for the first year of the project was not used, and that these funds can be used in future provided that IFAD approves a no cost extension of the project from 31 May 2009 to 31 Dec. 2009.

During the discussion Dr. Carla de Gregorio advised that the decision on no cost extension can be made not earlier than at the Second Steering Committee Meeting in 2008.

It was also agreed that all progress reports will be submitted to IFAD by the end of September 2007, and the progress reports for the period July – December 2007 will be due by February 2008.

The Meeting continued with the presentations of workplans and budgets by the National Coordinators from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Pakistan for the period July 2007 – December 2008.

After a discussion of the national workplans and budgets the Steering Committee members approved them.

At the end of the Meeting Drs. De Gregorio, Paroda, and Nurgaziev thanked all members for attending the meeting and active participation in both Regional Workshop and Steering Committee Meeting.

Decisions of the Project Steering Committee

The following decisions were made at the Meeting:

1. To approve the project workplan for the period July 2007 – December 2008. In the workplan, expected outputs/milestones should be indicated for each activity along with a time line;
2. To approve the project budget for the period July 2007 – December 2008. One third of the annual budget will be added to the national project budgets of Pakistan and Tajikistan because in each country there are two project sites and two research teams;
3. More attention should be paid to the socioeconomic evaluation of the technologies and impact assessment. The linkage between socioeconomics and the Themes 2 and 3 has to be made clearer and more explicit;
4. The First Review Mission of IFAD' independent consultant to three Central Asian countries and Pakistan will take place in early March 2008;
5. The National Planning Workshops for the second year will be organized in October 2008;
6. Second Regional Workshop and Steering Committee Meeting will be hosted by Pakistan in November 2008. One or two policy makers should be invited to the Regional Workshop from each Central Asian country participating in the project and Pakistan;
7. Proceedings of the First Regional Workshop and Steering Committee Meeting and presentations made during both meetings should be provided to all participants soon.