

Central Asia Climate Smart Agriculture Workshop

Developing interdisciplinary interventions which address food security under a changing climate. The interlinked challenges of food security, climate change, DRR and energy.

Provisional dates: 12-14 July 2016

Location: Park Hotel, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Conference Organizers: FAO, GACSA, CAREC, ICARDA, CACAARI, CEU, WB (TBC)

Updated agenda and background documents are being posted at: www.fao.org/europe/events/detail-events/en/c/410970/

Workshop scope

Although relatively new, Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) is attracting increasing interest and attention in various parts of the world including in Central Asia. FAO and other partners have a number of on-going and forthcoming projects which deal with different aspects of the CSA approach. Given the importance of conceiving and planning well integrated interventions capturing synergies and avoiding trade-offs, the workshop is intended to bring together different national and regional stakeholders to raise the understanding and capacity to undertake CSA approaches as well as determine collective priority interventions at national and regional levels and how these will relate to ongoing and new projects. In addition participants will be introduced to relevant international processes, such as the Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) and how they can interact and be involved in its various components (in particular the action groups). Conference participants will identify key challenges to their countries' agricultural and economic development posed by climate change, agricultural options with CSA potential as well as key gaps and barriers for achieving identified priority areas. Final objective is to prioritise areas of intervention and related knowledge, tools and technical support needed to be addressed through collective efforts. Outcomes of the workshop will also feed into the implementation of a number of new projects including the Second Phase of the Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management (CACILM-II) and FAO's Economics and Policy Innovations for Climate-Smart Agriculture (EPIC) programme.

Workshop Draft Agenda

Day 1 :: Tuesday 12 July

Session 1: Opening Session

Session provides an overview and sets the objectives of the workshop from the perspective of the different organizing partners.

Session 2: CSA fundamentals from concept to reality

Session builds the understanding of CSA, why it was created and how it is implemented. Speakers showcase the methodologies and tools used to identify context specific interventions and create the needed enabling environment, policy and legislation to overcome barriers and allow, especially farmers, to transition to the identified CSA farming systems and approaches. Finally the session will show how governments and international processes are supporting the adoption of the concept and what regional activities are already happening in Central Asia.

Session 3: Relevant CSA agricultural and landscape interventions for Central Asia

Presenters from international institutions as well as national actors will provide examples of agricultural systems and practices as well as landscape interventions which have been identified to address specific challenges in the Central Asia region. The session will also highlight major research areas being coordinated across the region, including specific work on climate change adaptation.

Session 4: Understanding the Central Asia environment, social and economic context

Different national stakeholders provide an overview of the socio, economic and environmental contexts and the main challenges and priorities within different communities, especially rural communities and food producers. The session will highlight what are the key needs for CSA approach and the key responses that need to be undertaken, especially in meeting future climate and food security challenges.

Day 2 :: Wednesday 13 July

Session 5: Developing a CSA national programme, setting the baselines and priorities

The session will bring together all the elements of the previous sessions and allow participants to start the process of developing a national CSA approach. CSA is context specific and needs to be undertaken through an evidence based and methodological approach. CSA approach allows the optimal agricultural and landscape interventions to be identified and allows their adoption by creating the needed capacity, institutional, policy and legislative frameworks. The session will therefore allow participants to set the different baselines, identify current and potential future shocks (especially climate) and set the priorities for operationalizing CSA in each country. The session will look at what are the potential CSA solutions for each country, who are the key stakeholders to be involved, what is the needed enabling environment and who would be the potential partners for implementation.

Session 6: Closing plenary, identify opportunities, next steps and way ahead

The session will allow participants to review the results of the workshop and agree on next steps and way forward in developing CSA approaches in Central Asia.

Day 3 :: Thursday 14 July

Separate work sessions will be organized by different partners, please indicate which session you would be interested in attending to allow the organizers to arrange the correct room sizes.

Work session 1: CSA knowledge, research and capacity building

Session will allow participants to get into deeper depth the current requirements in regards to capacity and knowledge to allow, especially farmers, to address the challenges of climate change. In particular the session will look at "current gaps" that research, development and extension should be tackling in concerted effort.

Work session 2: CSA implementation in Central Asia

Session will allow participants to get into deeper depth into the new FAO EPIC and CALCIM-II projects and undertake discussions on the modalities of implementation, including data needed, assessments, methodologies and work plans.

Note separate agendas and working documents will be provided for this session