On-Farm Water Management in Central Asia. (A06-karimov071024-Oral)

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Abstract:

On-farm water management is key to the development of a new water strategy in Central Asia. Difficulties, associated with the transition period with economic and living standards decline, followed by an increase in the number of independent water users due to the fragmentation of large collective farms (1,000 to 10,000 ha) into small farms (1.0 to 10.0 ha), have complicated the measurement of, allocation of and distribution of water. The research activities discussed here, and intended to increase agricultural productivity and the sustainability of rainfed and irrigated cropping systems through the optimal use of water resources, were funded by the ADB through the ICARDA. They were conducted between 2000 and 2002 in foothill areas and valley zones at 22 experimental sites in all five of the Central Asian countries. Priority constraints of soil-water use were identified, and different technologies were tested. For foothill areas, soil erosion and low water productivity were identified as priority problems. In valleys, water deficits and soil salinity, complicated by a socio-economic decline in living standards, were the major problems.

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