

Developments in Tillage and Cropping Systems in Central Asia. (A06-suleimenov035204-Oral)

Authors:

- M.Suleimenov* - *ICARDA, Tashkent*
- M.Pala - *ICARDA, Aleppo*
- J.Kaskarbaev - *Central Asia National Programs*
- F.Khasanova - *Central Asia National Programs*
- L.Martynova - *Central Asia National Programs*

Abstract:

Central Asia (CA) includes 3 major climatic areas: the northern Kazakhstan steppes with sharp continental semiarid climate where spring wheat as major crop, the southern CA with cold dry sub-tropics where wheat and cotton are major crops, the middle CA climatically is closer to the south but cooler with winter wheat as major crop. In northern Kazakhstan conservation tillage is a generally adopted practice since 1960s. In recent studies (2000-2001) reduced conservation tillage and zero-tillage provided higher spring wheat grain yields provided adequate nitrogen fertilizer was applied. In rainfed conditions of middle CA, conservation tillage and plowing gave almost the same grain yield. In irrigation agriculture opportunities for minimizing soil tillage were found in Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. Studies on crop rotations indicate possibility of introducing alternatives to grain crops for more diversified and sustainable production, more profitability and better soil fertility management.

Corresponding Author Information:

Mekhlis Suleimenov	phone: (+998-71) 1372169
ICARDA, Tashkent	fax: (+998-71) 1207125
ICARDA, Uzbekistan Office,	e-mail:
P.O.Box 4564, Tashkent	M.Suleimenov@icarda.org.uz
Tashkent 4564	
Uzbekistan	

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