RESEARCH PROGRAM ON Dryland Systems

CGIAR

meeting minutes

Date: Thursday, 8 January 2015

Location: Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Inter-disciplinary Research Team (IRT) meeting, CA

In attendance:

No.	Name	Institution	CRP-DS/Position
1	Akmal Akramkhanov	ICARDA	Representative, ICARDA
2	Akmal Karimov	IWMI	Center Focal Point, IWMI
3	Jozef Turok	ICARDA	Flagship Coordinator, ICARDA
4	Kristina Toderich	ICBA	Representative, International Center for Biosaline Agriculture
5	Muhabbat Turdieva	Bioversity International	Center Focal Point, Bioversity
6			
7	Nozilakhon Mukhamedova	IWMI	Representative, IWMI
8	Ram Sharma	ICARDA	Representative, ICARDA
9	Ravza Mavlyanova	AVRDC	Representative, World Vegetable Center (AVRDC)
10	Rusudan Mdivani	CIP	Center Focal Point, CIP
11	Botir Dosov	ICARDA	Innovation Platforms Activity Leader

Apologies:

No.	Name	Institution	CRP-DS/Position
1	Asia Khamzina	ZEF	Representative, Center for Development Research (ZEF), University of Bonn
2	Shukhrat Mukhamedjanov	SIC ICWC	Representative, Scientific-Information Center of the Interstate Coordination Water Commission of the Central Asia (SIC ICWC)
3	Ombaev Abdirakhman Moldanazaruly	Kazagroinnovation	Representative, Kazagroinnovation
4	Barbara Rischkowsky	ICARDA	Representative, ICARDA
5	Nurali Saidov	ICARDA	Representative, ICARDA

Observers:

No.	Name	Institution	CRP-DS/Position
1	Sherzod Qosimov	ICARDA	Web Manager
2	Rustam Ibragimov	ICARDA	Deputy Head of Program

			Facilitation Unit, CA
3	Mutalib Begmuratov	ICARDA	Communication Officer
4			

Announcements

- No announcements
-

Agenda points

1. Introduction of agenda

Discussion:

Dr Akmal Karimov welcomed IRT meeting participants to the IWMI office conference room, and gave the floor to Dr Jozef Turok.

1. Jozef Turok welcomed the participants and introduced the agenda in brief. The items for discussion were details of the Research Management Committee (RMC) meeting in Nairobi, the annual report for 2014, communications work and the POWB for 2015. Akmal Karimov also joined in welcoming the participants.

Action points:

⇨ No action point

⇨

2. Functions of IRT team

Discussion:

Jozef Turok briefed the participants about the functions of the IRT and its composition. He also mentioned that all IRT members should meet formally at least twice a year and that the suggested dates for this year were the week starting on 23 February 2015 and the week starting on 17 August 2015. He said that the key changes in the Dryland Systems CRP this year included an overall cut by 50%, a reduction in the number of Action Sites, a pronounced focus on a systems approach, and Action Site-based allocation of resources through POWB.

Action points:

⇨ No action point

⇨

3. Research Management Committee meeting in Nairobi

Discussion:

Jozef Turok briefed the participants on the RMC meeting in Nairobi on 9-10 December 2014. He spoke about the annual reporting process and the CRP task force. He also listed some documents approved at the meeting such as terms of reference for the different DS CRP bodies (IRT, Action Site coordinator, flagship region coordinator, Center coordinator, and RMC) as well as a youth strategy, a risk management plan, a capacity development strategy, and branding

guidelines. He also informed those present of an online program management tool developed for the CRP. Muhabbat Turdieva said that it would be good to have an online tool that could be filled in with information on any activities and events by the Centers for internal use. She said Bioversity uses a tool called "Weekly" internally. It was agreed to develop such tool on the basis of Bioversity's experience. In addition, Ram Sharma suggested that Mutalib Begmuratov develop a single template for reporting on training events (Action: MB).

Action points:

- ⇨ Sherzod Qosimov to develop an internal tool for reporting
- ⇨ Mutalib Begmuratov to develop a single template for reporting on training events
- ⇨

4. Dryland Systems annual report

Discussion:

Botir Dosov made a presentation on the format of the annual report for 2014 and procedures for compiling it. He also said that a new sub-section on CRP DS cluster activities will be created at cac-program.org to upload any relevant information. Activity leaders and other scientists were requested to provide inputs for the annual report by no later than 18 January (Action: BD/ALL).

Action points:

- ⇨ All team members to provide inputs for the annual report
- ⇨

5. Plan of work and budget for 2015

Discussion:

Jozef Turok said that the POWB for 2015 was approved and the funds were allocated for research activities. He distributed print-outs with budget allocation information. In 2015 research work is planned to be done only in the Fergana Valley and the Aral Sea Region. He emphasized that outputs need to be reported on in 6 and 12 months. He also mentioned feedback on the POWB for 2015 received at the Nairobi meeting. One point was that it was necessary to demonstrate a systems approach in the POWB, but activities were still compartmentalized. He said there is a prospect for cooperation with the German institute IAMO on enhancing systems approach in implementing CRP DS in the CA region. He also said that ICRAF will be involved in the CRP. He noted that for out-scaling research results, cooperation with donor and development agencies would be essential. He added that a number of visits from World Bank, USAID, IDB in autumn 2014 demonstrate the increasing interest of these agencies in multidisciplinary, site-specific research in the Action Sites. As for CRP DS Action Sites, he also said that the Rasht Valley was considered a second-tier Action Site in 2015. The POWB will be re-circulated, reviewed and completed by end of January 2015 (Action: JT/ALL).

Action points:

- ⇨ All team members to review and complete POWB
- ⇨

5. Communications work

Discussion:

Mutalib Begmuratov briefed the participants on recent changes in the communications component of the CRP, including the recruitment of a communications coordinator. Muhabbat Turdieva and Ram Sharma suggested making sure that the website content is up-to-date (Action: MB).

Action points:

- ⇨ Mutalib Begmuratov to ensure website content is up to date
- ⇨

Next meeting scheduled: Tashkent, 23 February 2015 and the week starting 17 August 2015

Minutes taken by: __Mutalib Begmuratov_____

Document approved by: __Jozef Turok_____

List of Annexes

1. No Annex

Annexes

Please paste below according to order above