

**Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management (CACILM)
CACILM Multicountry Program Framework Support Project (CMPF-SP)**

**YEAR END 2007 REPORT of
THE NATIONAL SECRETARIAT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN
Draft**

**Prepared by
CACILM National Secretariat
of the Republic of Uzbekistan**

**Head of the NSEC
Dr. Raisa Taryannikova**

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ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	- Asian Development Bank
CACILM	- Central Asian Countries Initiative for Sustainable Land Management
CMPF	- CACILM Multicountry Partnership Framework
CMPF-SP	- CACILM Multicountry Partnership Framework Support Project
FAO	- Food and Agriculture Organization
GEF	- Global Environment Facility
GM	- Global Mechanism
GTZ	- German Agency for Technical Cooperation
ICARDA	- International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas
LoA	- Letter of Agreement
MSEC	- CACILM Multicountry Secretariat
NCC	- National Coordination Council
NPF	- National Program Framework for Sustainable Land Management
NSEC	- National Secretariat
SLM	- Sustainable Land Management
SLM-CB	- Sustainable Land Management Capacity Building
SLM-IS	- Sustainable Land Management Information System
SLM-KM	- Sustainable Land Management Knowledge Management
SLM-R	- Sustainable Land Management Research
UNCCD	- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDP	- United Nations Development Program

I. National Implementation of CACILM

A. Summary of Institutional Arrangements Achieved

Technical assistance provided by ADB, led to forming and completing activities for establishment of strong institutional and coordination mechanism for realization CACILM Program in Uzbekistan. Coordination of activities on CACILM implementation the Republic of Uzbekistan Government entrusted (Resolution of RUz Cabinet of Ministers № 03/49-2 of 25.02.2006) to the Center of Hydrometeorological Service under Cabinet of Ministers (Uzhydromet) which is responsible organization for implementation of UNCCD obligations.

To control overall implementation of National Programming Framework in the Republic of Uzbekistan a National Coordination Council (NCC) has been established. The National Coordination Council (NCC) has been established in accordance with Statute on NCC. In accordance with internal order of Uzhydromet of March 5, 2007 time framework and list of the NCC have been determined. The NCC consists of 15 representatives of key ministries and agencies, NGO, scientific institutions and international organizations accredited in Uzbekistan. The Chair of the NCC is Prof. V.Chub, General Director of Uzhydromet.

The NCC is responsible for supervision of the status control and progress in implementation of the NPF and CACILM-1 projects in the Republic of Uzbekistan, and determination of the strategic policy and priority project proposals for the CACILM Phase 2 through wide consultations and discussions with all groups of stakeholders, short-term field trips and communication activities. (Annex 1).

For the reporting period two NCC Meetings have been conducted.

The first NCC Meeting took place on 19 April, 2007. At the Meeting the following basic decision have been made: (i) approve the Work Plan of the NCC and the NSEC for 2007; (ii) start preparing project proposals for CACILM Phase 2; (iii) recommend the National Administrative Agencies (responsible bodies) for SLM-Research, SLM-IS components of the CACILM CMPF SP- the following organizations are recommended and (iv) representatives NCC for work in the Multicountry Steering Committee.

The second NCC Meeting was held on 23 October, 2007. The basic results of the Meeting were as follows: approval of NCC/NSEC activities and confirmation of NSEC Progress Report for the period March-October, 2007, and consideration and discussion of project proposal concepts entered to the NSEC. It was stressed that the presented concepts correspond to priorities and main objectives of NPF of the Republic of Uzbekistan and it is necessary to continue activities on involving stakeholders in new project proposals preparation on other Project areas of the NPF and searching of international partners and financial resources.

In the NCC Meetings took part NCC members, invited representatives of international and national agencies.

At the first CACILM Steering Committee (CSC) Meeting (30-31 October, 2007, Bishkek) took part two NCC members delegated for work in CSC from the Republic of Uzbekistan: Mr. Bakhtiyor Kadyrov – UNCCD Focal Point, Deputy of General Director of Uzhydromet and Mr.

Umid Abdullaev, Director of Institute “Uzgiplomeliiovodhoz”, Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources of RUz. From NSEC Mrs.Raisa Taryannikova – the Head of NSEC participated in the Meeting and presented NCC and NSEC Progress Report for the period March-October, 2007. The representatives of the Republic of Uzbekistan took part in discussions on CAC’s progress reports CACILM, sub-projects supported by GEF and multicountry projects and in consideration and approval of Work plans for 2008 as well as in discussions on future finance resources mobilization.

The CACILM National Secretariat was established 29 March, 2007 and approved by Prof. V.Chub, General Director of Uzhydromet in accordance with rules and regulation of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Office for NSEC has been given as in-kind contribution of the Government and located at the following address: 72, K.Makhsumov str., Tashkent, building of the Centre of Hydrometeorological Service at Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan (Uzhydromet). (List of NSEC staff is annexed).

For CACILM Programm implementation started ADB and Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan have signed LoA dated 16 December, 2006 (from Uzbekistan’s side it has been signed by Prof. Victor Chub – Minister, General Director of Uzhydromet) on providing finance support of up to 5 000 \$ equivalent to the Interim National Secretariat for the implementation of the following activities: (i) eestablishment of a National Coordination Council (NCC); (ii) establishment of a National Secretariat; (iii) recruitment of staff for the National Secretariat; and (iv) preparation and submission of a Work Plan and Budget for the operation of the National Coordination Council and the National Secretariat for the period 1 March 2007 to May 2009.

Results of the Interim Secretariat activities for the period : December, 2006 – March, 2007 have been presented in “Work Plan of the Republic of Uzbekistan” report dated of April 16, 2007 and approved by the NCC and the MSEC. Financial report and related documents have been transfer to ADB office in Manila to Ms. Judy Vermudo, ADB CACILM on 16 April, 2007.

NSEC has carried out activities on equipment purchase in accordance with established rules. The equipment has been delivered 17 September, 2007. All the documents were forwarded to ADB on 17 October, 2007.

B. Summary of interventions for Sustainable Land Management in Uzbekistan

National Programming Framework (NPF), being a driving force of strategic objectives of CACILM, determines definitely priority areas of program activities on introducing SLM in the Republic of Uzbekistan and makes significant contribution in common priorities of the national development. NPF has been approved by National Working Group of UNCCD (protocol #16 of 10.02.2006). Coordination of activities on NPF and MPF implementation the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan entrusted (Resolution of RUz Cabinet of Ministers № 03/49-2 of 25.02.2006) to the Center of Hydrometeorological Service under Cabinet of Ministers (Uzhydromet). which is responsible national organization for implementation of UNCCD obligations.

Recently passed regulations,decrees, decisions related to sustainable land management that is important for CACILM

1. On 9 August, 2007 the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan signed decree “On joining to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes” and “” On joining to Convention on Entitlement on Navigational Use of Transboundary Watercourses”. The decree is very important impulse for adaptation of principles of integrated

water management and environmentally-friendly use of transboundary water resources on the national and regional level.

2. On 30 October, 2007 the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan adopted decree “On measures for radical enhancement of the irrigation system for land improvement”. This decree stipulated: (i) determine among the most important priorities of agriculture development for the period 2008-2012, radical improving of condition of irrigated lands; (ii) adopt proposal to establish under Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Uzbekistan “Fund for improving of condition of irrigated lands “ main objectives of which are as follows: a) organization and target address financing on the system basis of irrigated works, renewal and exploitation of collector-drainage network and infrastructure, purchasing of equipment including on terms of leasing, as well as rendering governmental assistance to agricultural workers; (b) development of a long-term and middle-term governmental program for improving of condition of irrigated lands. The main sources the Fund forming will be inpayments to Governmental budget on single land tax paid by agricultural producers, targeted budget provisions, tax credits of international financial institutes and banks as well as national and international grants and others. The Fund is out of payment any taxes, duties and allocations to governmental target funds and the custom execution charges. Works and services fulfilling by contracting and other service organizations until 2012 are out of taxes and customs fees (except the custom execution charges) for five-years period.

3. The Government of Uzbekistan has backed up an initiative of Uzhydromet on establishment of Regional Drought Center of Central Asian Countries. Technical Workshop on preparation towards Terms of Reference for a Regional Drought Center in Central Asia was held 20-21 November, 2007 in Tashkent under support of OSCE. Mr.Kanysh Nurymkereyev – Deputy of Head of MSEC and an international Consultant of CMPF-SP SLM-Information System Component participated in the Meeting as well.

II. Results of 2007 Workplan Implementation

In accordance with approved Work plan and budget for 2007 the NCC and the NSEC activities have been concentrated on the following activities:

Component 1: NCC oversight of NPF

1.1 NCC Oversight of NPF Implementation

For achieving objectives and desired results on SLM the NCC supervises and coordinates activities on NPF implementation through organization of workshops, meetings, seminars, field trips and trainings with participation of stakeholders and caring out of activities on information dissemination and exchange as well as preparing new national and multicountry project proposals..

On the base of the NCC recommendations, the NSEC assists and supports national scientific and design organizations in preparation of project proposals for CACILM Phase II. The NSEC conducts meetings and discussions with project applicants on proposed target tasks, outputs and project scale and possibilities for widening stakeholder participation in accordance with strategic goals and multi-program approach of CACILM Phase 2.

The project proposals have been submitted to NSEC is given in Table 2.1.

Table 1. List of Project Proposals for Phase 2 submitted to the NSEC

	Title	Conformity with NPF	Implementing Agency	NSEC supporting activity
A. Regional level				
1	Diversification of agricultural crops and intensification of crop production for SLM and improving of living standards of CA farmers	Programming area 5, 2a	ICARDA	Comments have been prepared Endorsement letter
2	Conservation agriculture for SM of land and water resources and improving of living standards of farmers in main agro-climatic zones of CA	Programming area 5, 2a	ICARDA	Comments have been prepared Endorsement letter
B. National level				
1	Development of Local Water Ponds Management System in Amudarya River Delta and Pre Aral region	Programming area 5, 2a	IFAS	Continuous consultations, technical assistance on preparation of the project concept in accordance with the GEF requirements Organization of discussions of the project concept with stakeholders on the project territory (Karakalpakstan, Nukus, 19-20 September, 2007)
2	Water and land resources management in Fergana valley	Programming area 6	UNDP	Consultations with donors, discussion of the project concept
3	Rangeland Management	Programming area 4	Research Institute of Soil Science and Agro chemistry, The Scientific Production Center of Agriculture, Uzhydromet	Continuous consultations, technical assistance on preparation of the project concept in accordance with the GEF requirements
4	Afforestation of the dried Aral Seabed with using up-to-date forestry methods	Programming area 4	State Production Center of Forestry management IFAS	Continuous consultations, technical assistance on preparation of the project concept in accordance with the GEF requirements Consultations with donors

Concepts of new project proposals for CACILM Phase 2 presented in the table 1 have been considered and discussed at the second NCC Meeting in October, 2007. Members of NCC recommend further steps for their improving and rework.

In August-September, 2007 the NCC and NSEC conducted field visits to the Fergana valley and the Republic of Karakalpakstan to be informed with current problems, and for discussions and consultations with stakeholders on proposed projects for CACILM Phase 2. The meetings and consultations promote clear understanding of CACILM objectives and NPF priority issues, and provide feed back and consensus between different groups of stakeholders at local and national levels.

1.2 *NCC Oversight of CACILM GEF Funded SLM Projects*

In the Republic of Uzbekistan in the scope of CACILM Phase-1 the following two GEF funded projects are fulfilled:

(a) «Achieving of Ecosystem Stability on the Exposed the Aral Seabed and the Kyzylkum desert“.

(b) “Land improvement in Bukhara, Navoi and Kashkadarya Regions“. The GEF granted 3 million \$ in support to the investment project.

Above mentioned projects will begin their activities in the nearest time. Mechanisms of implementation and coordination with the NCC and NSEC are being discussed and should be worked through in the initial stage of heir implementation.

1.3 *NCC Oversight of CACILM SLM Multicountry Components*

SLM-Research

NCC supports and facilitate ICARDA and responsible national agency (“Uzgiplomeliiovodhoz” Institute (UZGIP), Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources) in implementation of CMPF SLM-Research Component/ Members of NCC participated in the inception workshop and conducted a set of meetings and discussions with representatives of NCC of CAC, MSEC, and CMPF Components.

Agreement on partner researches between ICARDA and the Republic of Uzbekistan for the period from 15 June, 2007 to 31 July, 2009 has been signed. ICARDA signed a contract with independent NGO - “Agro-business and enterprise” for carrying out of social-economic investigations.

At present the activities in the scope of SLM –Research Component are currently actively underway: technical programm and conceptual research prospectus on SLM have been prepared; the research sites have been chosen and financing of field research has been opened.

Initial report on implementation of SLM –Research Component in Uzbekistan has been presented at the second NCC Meeting (23 October, 2007) by Dr. Rakhim Ikramov – National Coordinator of SLM-R in the Republic of Uzbekistan. Questions of NCC and NSEC Members concerned to scheme of the research experiment, organic fertilizer system, taking into account

temperature of water at the research sites, training program and others. After discussion and opinion exchange initial report on SLM-R has been approved by NCC.

SLM-Information System

The NSEC prepared comments on the draft of the SLM-Information Systems project proposal prepared by FAO and presented them to the MSEC. As the National Administrative Agency “Uzgiplomeliiovodhoz” Institute (UZGIP), Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources has been chosen and appointed by decision of NCC.

NCC Members representing responsible organizations in the area of land degradation and SLM, took part in meetings and discussions on SLM-Information System Component with Mr. Kanysh Nurymkereyev – Deputy of Head of MSEC and an international Consultant of CMPF-SP SLM-Information System Component during their mission to Uzbekistan at 20-26 November, 2007. When the meetings main issues have been discussed concerning adequate provision the organizations with specialists, software, satellite data and GIS data-bases using in Uzbekistan, as well as needs and expectations from the Component and potential partners for SLM-Information System Component implementation. MSEC noted good organization of the Mission.

SLM-Knowledge Management

NCC was informed on the Component progress, on CACILM Knowledge Network Training Workshop which was held in Bishkek, 10-11 July, 2007, as well as the CKN website and on posting on the web-site information on activities connected with CACILM implementation in Uzbekistan.

In December, 2007 NSEC presented draft of Knowledge Dissemination Plan for 2008 which had been prepared under consultations with the NCC members.

At present preparation of information brochure “Land Management in Uzbekistan” is carrying out under supervision of NCC and under financial support of the GTZ.

SLM-Capacity building

NCC members and NSEC has considered application of Regional office UNDP to GEF for preparation of Multinational capacity building project and promoted submission and approval the document by Government and National Operational GEF Focal Point. The corresponding endorsement letters have been prepared and forwarded to UNDP and GEF (24 September, 2007).

1.4 *Results from other activities of the NCC and NSEC*

In the scope of activities on communication and outreach and stakeholders involvement the NSEC staff made presentations on the workshops (1) organized by FAO TCP project - “Assessment of Forestry Ongoing Condition in the Republic of Uzbekistan” (12-14 July, 2007), by (2) UNDP – “Problems of Desertification and Climate Change” (24 July, 2007). (3) “NewWater Project” EU – Expert Workshop “On requirements of ecological steams for delta ecosystems” (19-20 September, 2007). In the presentations information on progress in implementation of the UN CCD and program CACILM activities was given to involve wide range

of stakeholders to the process of combat desertification and land degradation and introducing of sustainable land management principles.

The NSEC jointly with Uzhydromet organized the Round Table dedicated to international combat desertification day. Representatives of involved Ministries and agencies, NGO and mass media participated in the meeting. Presentations on related to UNCCD and CACILM activities in Uzbekistan and interconnections between desertification and climate change issues have been presented. Press-release has been prepared and distributed for meeting participants.

Technical Workshop on preparation towards Terms of Reference for a Regional Drought Center in Central Asia was held 20-21 November, 2007 in Tashkent under support of OSCE.

NSEC was responsible for preparation and conducting the event. Members of NCC and NSEC took part in discussion of future planned activities of the Center.

For reported period active work on cooperation with international and donor organizations has been carried out.

List of major meetings NCC and NSEC members with donors is given below in table 2.

Table 2..

No	Meeting objective	Date	Participants (donors)	Results
1	Discussion of issues on possible cooperation in the scope of ecological and economical projects of OSCE	30.04.07	<u>OSCE</u> M-r Bernard Snow – Coordinator of Ecological and Economical Activities Ms. Sara Nodstrem Ms. Anna Zotova Mr. Ulugbek Ruziev <u>CACILM</u> B.Kadyrov R.Taryannikova And others	OSCE jointly with UN CCD and WMO provide support for establishment of Regional Drought Management Center. The CACILM NSEC provides synergy between the Center and CACILM
2	Discussion of perspectives of cooperation on ICARDA on-going and planned research projects	18.09.07	ICARDA Dr. Radg Gupta Mr. Z.I.Khalikulov. Mr. A. Mirzabaev CACILM Prof.V.E/Chub- Chair of NCC Mr.B.Kadyrov Mrs.R.Taryannikova And others.	Ways of cooperation in the area of agrometeorology and forecasts of crop productivity have been outlined. Issues of capacity building, trainings and other. have been discussed.
3	Discussion of perspectives of joint cooperation with IFAS Agency	19.09.07	IFAS Agency Nukus branch Mr. Usman Buranov	Ways of cooperation in the area of environmental flow management and preparation of the project proposal on the Phase 2 CACILM have been outlined .
4	Discussion of perspectives of joint cooperation on Phase 2 with UNDP Uzbekistan	22.09.07	UNDP Mr. Anvar Nasretdinov	Ways of cooperation in the area of IWRM as well as preparation of the project proposal on Phase 2 CACILM have been outlined.

5	Discussion of future prospects for future cooperation in the scope of a new EC Programm on food security	17.12.07	<u>ETC Ecoculture</u> Dr.Jean-Marie L.Diop <u>CACILM</u> Mr.B.Kadyrov Mrs.G. Khasankhanova. Mrs.N.Shulgina	Exchange of contact details and information material for possible future cooperation has been fulfilled.
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As results of the meetings some ways of cooperation with international and donor organization have been outlined and information on CACILM program activities have been distributed to facilitate contacts and interactions in the future.

Component 2: NSEC Monitoring&Reporting of NPF to NCC

Objective of the Monitoring and Evaluation of NSEC is facilitating of an effective coordination of NPF and CACILM implementation. Main functions of NSEC for that as follows:

- (i) Collection and consolidation of project reports into common format for analysis and assessment of NPF implementation results;
- (ii) Preparation of recommendations on improving of NPF implementation for presentation for NCC review;
- (iii) Analysis of results of CMPF component implementation and preparation of recommendations on their improving.

In accordance with MSEC recommendations when M&A system development, NSEC was guided by following documents:

- 1 Guideline on coordination (December, 2007)
- 2 Draft of CACILM Monitoring and Evaluation Manual (October, 2007)
- 3 Guideline on CACILM Monitoring and Evaluation (December, 2007)
- 4 CACILM Multicountry Programing Framework Project (particularly, Annex D « Monitoring and Evaluation System»)
- 5 National Programming Framework of the Republic of Uzbekistan, particularly «Monitoring and Evaluation System»
- 6 NSEC Workplan (particularly, Component 2 «Monitoring and Reporting»)

2.1. Database of SLM Projects

NSEC activities on the component have been directed to forming of CACILM project database (CPDB) with the aim of consolidation of project reports into common format for presentation to NCC consideration. CPDB will be posted to CKN web-site and stored at NSEC library to provide wide access of all the stakeholder groups to project documentation and information.

NSEC has collected project documents and prepared baseline situation description, which reflects status of the project, objectives and outcomes, structure, resources, participants and planned activities as well as logic framework, monitoring and evaluation indicators and etc. Available information on NPF projects is summarized in table 3. Location of the projects illustrated at the map. (Annex 4).

Table 3. Available information on NPF projects

Project name	Multicountry projects				National projects of NPF	
	SLM-R	SLM-IS	SLM-KM	SLM-CB	AES-UNDP	LIP-ADB
Geographic location	Dzhizak and Navoi	Geographic NPF framework	Geographic NPF framework		Bukhara and Karakalpakstan	Kashkadarya, Navoi, Bukhara
Implementing Agency	ICARDA	ADB/MSEC	ADB	UNDP	UNDP	ADB
Project implementation partners	+	+	+		+	
Sectoral activities	Land and water SM	Development of SLM-IS and capacity building	Knowledge management and information dissemination on SLM	Capacity building		
Project status	being implemented	Stage of mobilization and ToR preparation	being implemented	In the process of preparation	Planned launch – January, 2008	In the process of approval
Beginning data	15.06.07		01.07.07		January 2008	
Completion data	31.07.09		31.07.09		December, 2011	
Project resources	GEF	GEF/ADB	GEF/ADB		GEF	GEF/ADB
Project proposal	+ CKN web-site	+ CKN web-site	+ CKN web-site		+ CKN web-site	+ CKN web-site
Reporting	Report for 2007		Information Dissemination Plan		not budgeted	
Contact person	+	+	+		+	

Other related activities have been included in the Data base. These are donor SLM projects which have not been included to the NPF and governmental programs and projects as well as official information on SLM (decrees, letters of Agreement and other).

The NSEC has carried out review of national program and project results as well as best practices and lesson learned in the country in the area of SLM. The information has been presented in Progress Report of NSEC (October, 2007) and stored in CPDB.

2.2. Monitoring and Evaluation of Project of NPF

As above mentioned, in 2008 two NPF projects will be launched. The NSEC regularly contacts with implementing agencies of NPF projects – UNDP, ADB and tracks of their progress and facilitating the project approval from the side of Uzhydromet

Project name	Period	Implementing Agencies	Financing	State
Achieving of Ecosystem Stability on the Exposed the Aral Seabed and the	2007-2010	UNDP the Main Forestry Department of the	931 thousand \$	Approved/signed by GEF 28 August 2007

Kyzylkum desert (GEF grant)		Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources, Uzhydromet		The Government Decision (№03/49-2 от 17.12.07) on signing the project by the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources UNDP is recruiting the project staff
Land improvement in Bukhara, Navoi and Kashkadarya Regions. (loan of ADB + GEF grant)	2007-2012	ADB the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources (Project implementation team (PIT))	Loan of 60,2.mln \$ + 3 mln \$ GEF grant	Agreement between RUz Government and ADB on Loan 2245/2246(SF) was signed 27.09.07 and joint into force 09.11.2007 Draft of Financing Agreement between Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan and ADB was prepared and passed to Mr.R.Azimov– Deputy Prime Minister on 14.12.07 Final approval expected in January, 2008 after signing mentioned above Agreement by the Government

NSEK has been prepared initial project information on «Achieving of Ecosystem Stability on the Exposed the Aral Seabed and the Kyzylkum desert» project for introduction to CACILM M&E.

It is necessary to note that costs for preparation of initial report, regular reporting for the Project Steering Committee, and for conducting trilateral meeting and communications have not been foreseen in the budget on the monitoring and reporting plan (Annex 5). Moreover information exchange between the NSEC and UNDP is not adequate. NSEC members have to ask for the information and invitations on the project meetings and workshops. The problem will constrain NSEC activities on monitoring and revealing the NPF project progress.

The second NPF project - " Land improvement in Bukhara, Navoi and Kashkadarya Regions" being an investment project financed by the GEF jointly with ADB loan, is in the stage of preparation of final approval in ADB. Resident Mission of ADB in Uzbekistan regularly informs NSEC on matter status and expected dates of the project documents approval.

For improving of NSEC activities on M&E and reporting it is necessary:

- Abidance of CACILM M&E and coordination mechanisms by implementing agencies and NPF projects
- Provision NSEC with project reports on implementation (i) project strategy and indicators of project logical framework; (ii) objectives and plan of activities on M&E and budget; (iii) project work plan and program of participation, training, awareness and capacity building;
- Provision SLM and key indicators and safeguards.
- Preparation of common M&E and reporting format for submitting to NSEC from NPF projects.

2.3. Other Monitoring and Evaluation Activities

MSEC and ADB/CACILM makes a considerable contribution to NSEC capacity building. Workshop on Monitoring and Evaluation has been conducted on 29-31 October, 2007 in Bishkek. The Project implementation and monitoring specialists and heads of CAC NSEC specialists participated in the Meeting.

The main objective of the Workshop was capacity building of NSEC on the M&E system of SLM projects, on the base of drafts of Guideline on CACILM Monitoring and Evaluation and coordination and ADB Guideline on Result Management System based on matrix of structure and project monitoring. Training program of the Workshop included theoretical course and practical exercises as well as discussions in groups to provide better understanding M&E system. In the preparation period the MSEC were determined key issues and prepared necessary instructions and questionnaires for discussion. NSEC specialists were trained using methods and instruments - «Results based Monitoring & Evaluation» (Mr. Mourad Turki, consultant, sociologist, mturki@gnet.tn).

Component 3. NSEC Support to CMPF-SP SLM Components

3.1. SLM Research Component:

a) Start-up Support to SLM-R: NSEC facilitates ICARDA and national responsible agency (The Scientific Production Center of Agriculture of the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources) in mobilization of the project and conducting the Inception Workshop. The NSEC takes part in the Uzbekistan's presentation preparation and in common and group discussions at the Workshop and in other activities.

NSEC has regular contacts with ICARDA Regional Office, coordinator and specialists of the SLM-R component. ICARDA timely gives required information, sends protocols, concepts and reports and inform on new directions and programs of research and meetings with donor and research institutions and etc.

b) Monitoring and Evaluation SLM-R: NSEC facilitate considering of initial report on SLM-R in Uzbekistan and two project proposals for CACILM Phase II from ICARDA at the NCC Meeting (23 October, 2007). The presentation has been given by national coordinator of the investigations - Dr. Rakhim Ikramov and ICARDA project proposals – be Dr. Raj Gupta.

In December, 2007 national report on SLM-R has been submitted to NSEC. The report consists of 4 chapters and Annex. In chapter 2 has been indicated partner organizations of the project. List of activities carried out and prepared documents. (Technical program of researches for the Republic of Uzbekistan); (ii) Agreement between the Scientific Production Center of Agriculture of the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources and ICARDA on SLM-R; (iii) Terms of References for independent NNO “Agro-business and enterprise ” on social-economical investigations and (iv) national vision of a research SLM prospect of Uzbekistan.

The main part of the report dedicated to methodological aspects of researches, namely, scheme of experimental investigations, testing of equipment, activities at Djizak side (coordinator - Mr. Kh. Makhsadov) and Samarqand side (coordinator – Mr. S. Yusupov) and other organization issues.

For effective monitoring of the project results the following information will be useful: (i) structure of development and plan of monitoring; (ii) key indicators of project logical structure and indicators based on results planned by a project; (iii) workplan and schedule of activities

implementation, resources; (iv) plan of local stakeholders participation including women; (v) training program and publications as well as key indicators on thematic areas and technological options of researches, safeguards. Additionally for the monitoring NSEC are required results of social-economic assessment on the project areas and GIS maps of side locations.

3.2 *SLM Information System Component*

a) Start-up Support to SLM-IS: NSEC prepared and submitted to MSEC comments on initial project document CMPF SLM-IS prepared by FAO. NSEC presented to MSEC decision of NCC on appointment of “Uzgiplomeliiovodhoz” Institute (UZGIP) of Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources as national responsible agency for the SLM-IS component of CMPF.

NSEC facilitated organization of mission of MSEC Mr. Kanysh Nurymkereyev – Deputy of Head of MSEC and an international consultant of CMPF-SP SLM-Information System Component. NSEC jointly with the national organization responsible for the component, program of meetings and consultations has been prepared and rendered assistance in making contacts and information collection. Mission participants conducted meetings with specialists of key organizations, institutes and training centers of Uzbekistan involved in the development of information systems for combat land degradation and SLM. Main result of the mission is gaining information on capacity and experience of national institutes and their expectations from SLM-IS component implementation. Information on used information technologies, software and GIS/RS data bases has been collected as well as available materials on relevant projects and information products.

b) Monitoring and Evaluation. NSEC proposes that for NCC consideration it is useful to present report on initial mission of ADB/MSEC, draft of ToR, list of potential partners-participants of SLM-IS network, project logical structure, schedule and plan of monitoring, project resources as well as program of training and capacity development of the institutions.

3.3. *SLM Information Knowledge Component*

a) Start-up Support to SLM-KM:

Representatives of NSEC listened to the initial presentation of SLM-KM which was made at inception workshop of SLM-R component in Tashkent, in July, 2007 and participated in its discussions. After completion of the Workshop ADB specialist responsible for the CMPF component met with NSEC staff for more detailed discussions planned activities in the scope of SLM-KM

b) Implementation:

Representative of NSEC participated in Orientation Workshop of CACILM Knowledge Network, which was held 4-5 July, 2007 in Bishkek and in training on management and basic use of CKN web-site. Using the knowledge gained during the training a web-page has been established in Administration corner of the web-site. The page regularly replenished. At present it includes information on current state of the matter, and basic official documents and reports on NCC and NSEC activities.

NSEC is carried out organizational activities (terms of references development, searching of appropriate experts, collection of documents necessary for conclusion of their contracts) for

specialist recruitment for preparation of information brochure “Land management in Uzbekistan”. Issue if the brochure is financed by GTZ. After preparation of the brochure it will be distributed among stakeholders at different levels and posted to the CKN web-site for awareness raising and making new contacts.

By request of ADB NSEC prepared draft of Knowledge Dissemination Plan for 2008 and presented it for submission.

3.4 *SLM capacity building*

a) *Start-up Support*

NSEC facilitated and traced process of consideration and approval of project Proposal on SLM capacity building at national level. Corresponding endorsement letters from Government and GEF Operational Focal Point in Uzbekistan have been prepared and forwarded to UNDP.

Component 4: Administration

4.1 Progress reports:

Letter of agreement (TA 6357-REG) on Provision of financing for establishment of CACILM National Coordination Council and National Secretariat for the period of 1 March 2007 to 31 December, 2009 has been signed 15 of May, 2007.

The following reports have been prepared and approved for 2007:

“Work Plan of the Republic of Uzbekistan” – 16 April, 2007

“Progress report of the Republic of Uzbekistan” – 27 September, 2007

Presentations on activities carried out in the scope of CACILM program implementation have been prepared and given at NCC Meetings (19 April, 2007 and 23 October, 2007) and for the first CACILM Steering Committee (CSC) Meeting (30-31 October, 2007, Bishkek).

IV. Recommendations for NSEC UZB Activities 2008 Workplan

For successful NSEC Work Plan implementation NSEC need MSEC/ADB and GTZ support in the following:

- Preparation and making agreements/memorandums between NSEC and NPF/GEF;
- Projects on M&O, coordination and reporting realization;
- Conducting a set of training Workshops and trainings of NSEC personnel on standard procedures of ADB, GTZ and GEF;
- Reworking NPF Log frames and preparation of an uniform format for M&O reporting;
- Developing of Training tours plan of NCC/NSEC in CACILM project areas;
- Creation of CKN web-site in Russian and improving the site for promotion of easier access for stakeholders at diverse levels;
- Development of CACILM logo.

It is necessary to provide in budget of expenditures financing for translation of CACILM and SLM information distributed among stakeholders in the national language, as well as financing of short-term consultants for conducting reviews, analysis, needs assessment and working out recommendations and proposals on NPF activities implementation when it is necessary.

V. Recommendations of NSEC/NCC for MSEC Workplan 2008

It is recommended to organize and conduct trainings on:

- Procedures of ADB and GTZ on M&O approaches and methods;
- Finance management and reporting according to ADB and GTZ requirements;
- CKN web-site management and usage;
- Log frames development;
- Result based planning;
- Project proposal preparation;
- Joint participation methods;
- Social-economic and risks assessment;
- SLM methods and cost-benefit analysis for NPF Program areas;
- English.

It is necessary to arrange a regular exchange of SLM best practices and experience through training tours, participation in international workshops and field visits in CACILM project areas.

For NSEC/NCC capacity development it would be useful to organize participation of their members in existing training programs/courses of GTZ on relevant areas and in the Sub-regional Training Program on Land Management (SRTP).

VI. Any other Issues o be addressed