



Coordination meeting of the Executive Committee of IFAS with international development partners

(18 October 2021, Dushanbe, Tajikistan)

CONCEPT NOTE/ PROGRAM

Justification

By the Resolution of the IFAS Board of 29 June 2021, the “Action Program for Assistance to the countries of the Aral Sea Basin” (ASBP-4) was approved and the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea together with the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination and the Interstate Commission for Sustainable Development were instructed to ensure its implementation.

The main goal of the ASBP-4 is to implement joint actions and perspective programs to overcome the Aral Sea crisis and strengthen regional cooperation through targeted actions at the national, regional and international levels to improve the water management, environmental and socio-economic situation, increase the well-being of people and achieve sustainable development in the Aral Sea basin.

Taking into account the scope of the problems and the socio-economic situation, the countries of the region consider the ASBP-4 as an integral part of regional cooperation with the participation of the international community.

The project proposals included in the ASBP-4 assume attracting grants and preferential loans from international donors and development partners, international financial institutions and co-financing from the governments of Central Asian countries.

International development partners are also implementing various projects and programs to support the efforts of the countries in the region to ensure socio-economic development and environmental sustainability, including the CAHMP, CAMP4ASB, CAWEP (WB), “WAVE” (USAID), Nexus (EU), “Green Central Asia” (GIZ), “Blue Peace” (SDC) and etc.

Objectives

The Coordination meeting of the Executive Committee of IFAS with international development partners is aimed to present the ASBP-4, to strengthen and expand cooperation with development partners for exchange of information on ongoing activities and plans for the future, ensuring synergy in the implementation of projects and programs in the region. Also, the meeting will allow to exchange of information and opinions on the difficulties and obstacles face by the partners in the implementation of regional projects, ways to overcome them, and to improve the efficiency of the implemented measures.

In addition, during the meeting, it will be proposed to create a coordination platform of the Executive Committee of IFAS and international partners for regular meetings to exchange information and discuss existing issues on the implementation of projects in the region.

Participants

Representatives of the governments of Central Asian countries, structural divisions of IFAS, donor countries, international organizations and financial institutions are invited to participate in the meeting.

Structure and approaches

The program of the meeting consists of an introductory part, three sessions and summing up the results of the event. Within the framework of Session 1, the participants will be provided with general information about the ASBP-4, its directions and specific project proposals. In

Session 2, it is expected that the representatives of development partners will share information on their activities and plans for the future in the region. Session 3 involves the exchange of views on the possible participation of international development partners in the implementation of ASBP-4 projects, coordination and ensuring synergy of their project activities with the ASBP-4 and other opportunities for cooperation and interaction.

Expected results

The main expected outcomes of the meeting are:

- support of ASBP-4 from international development partners;
- willingness to participate in the implementation of appropriate ASBP-4 projects;
- support of the proposal to create a Coordination platform for international development partners and EC IFAS;
- appointment of focal points from international development partners for cooperation with EC IFAS.