

**PROGRAM
ACTIVITY
HIGHLIGHTS**

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Central Asian Farmers Benefit from Irrigation Modernization Projects



Farmer in Kyrgyz Republic in his field

Millions of people across Central Asia depend directly or indirectly on irrigated agriculture. Reliable water is crucial for farmers to ensure agricultural productivity. The Central Asia Water and Energy Program

(CAWEP) collaborates with stakeholders across the region to improve water management and to integrate effective tools to ensure farmers get reliable water. Many farmers in the region benefit from improved infrastructure, new technologies, and capacity building in water-efficient irrigation and climate-smart agriculture. A new [video](#) documents the positive impacts irrigation modernization projects are having for farmers across Central Asia. To inform reforms and investments in the irrigation sector, CAWEP is assessing irrigation service delivery and irrigation performance across region.

Regional Preparatory Workshop for UN 2023 Water Conference



Participants of the workshop

On September 20, 2022, CAWEP and [International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea](#) (IFAS) hosted a Regional Preparatory Workshop “Central Asia towards the UN 2023 Water Conference” in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. The half-day workshop familiarized 86 participants (23 women) with the goals, objectives, and principles of the UN 2023 Water Conference that will take place in March 2023, in New York. Participants discussed the vision of Central Asian countries on the themes of Interactive Dialogues and the Water Action Agenda, and the outcomes of the Regional Forum on Water Cooperation in Central Asia that was convened by CAWEP and the Executive Committee of IFAS (EC-IFAS) at the Second High-Level Water Action Conference in Dushanbe in June this year. The summary of the Regional Forum delivered by the CAWEP Program Manager to the Plenary Session of the conference, called on Central Asian countries to consider preparing a Joint Statement of cooperation to be delivered at the UN 2023 Water Conference.

Representatives of the governments of Central Asian countries, relevant United Nations bodies, international organizations, NGOs, academic institutions, the scientific community, the private sector, and

other stakeholders participated in the event. Country representatives agreed to finalize a draft Joint Statement for UN 2023, summarizing their respective commitments to regional cooperation.

Regional Development Partner Coordination Meeting



Participants of the coordination meeting

On September 20, 2022, EC-IFAS convened its 3rd Development Partner Coordination meeting. There were 66 participants (18 women), including delegations from each of five Central Asian countries, bilateral donors, and multilateral development organizations. The meeting reviewed implementation progress for the Aral Sea Basin Program 4 (ASBP-4) and heard updates from all development partners on the progress of their related programs and projects.

The main goal of ASBP-4 is to implement joint actions and prospective programs to overcome the Aral Sea crisis and strengthen regional cooperation through targeted actions at the national, regional, and international levels to improve sustainable water management, and environmental and socio-economic outcomes from the use and management of water across the Aral Sea basin.

EC-IFAS requested support from development partners in establishing a monitoring and reporting system for ASBP-4.

EC-IFAS Reforms – Working Group Meeting



On September 21-22, 2022, in Tashkent, EC-IFAS hosted the 8th meeting of the Working Group on IFAS Reforms, organized and financed by CAWEP. The meeting focused on Stage 3 of the reform deliberations and discussed the organizational structure of IFAS. The objective being to agree on effective and sustainable institutional arrangement to deliver on an agreed expanded mandate for IFAS, and to respond to emerging challenges as well as addressing existing environmental and socio-economic problems of the use and protection of water resources of the region.

Most members of the Working Group agreed on important steps for institutional improvement relating to simplifications for efficiency and stability. Further bilateral consultations are being conducted to seek full agreement in advance of taking recommendations to a November meeting of the IFAS Board for decision. Further meetings are planned for 2023 to consider the 4th and 5th stage of the reform deliberations – namely, improving the financing mechanisms for the sustainability of IFAS, and improving the legal framework for IFAS.

New Assessment of Kazakh Hydromet



Hydromet specialist monitoring weather measurements

Weather and climate change cause disasters that impact water management, agriculture, transport and other aspects of the economy. Monitoring the climate and short-term weather changes helps to improve weather forecasting that enables better preparedness for different extreme weather events.

CAWEP, in partnership with the Austrian Central Institute of Meteorology and Geodynamics (ZAMG) assessed the national hydrometeorological service of Kazakhstan (Kazhydromet). The assessment has informed the World Bank's Country Climate and Development Report (CCDR) for Kazakhstan and assisted the Government of Kazakhstan, and specifically Kazhydromet, in recognizing opportunities for improved monitoring, forecasting, projection, and warning systems for climate-related hazards.

The assessment provided practical recommendations that can be efficiently implemented, to respond to the growing need for timely and quality information across government, businesses, and community. Full text is available [here](#).

Central Asian Experts Share Experiences in Safety of Hydraulic Structures



Participants of the study tour listen to the welcoming speech by organizers

Hydraulic structures – dams, reservoirs, canals, embankments – are critical infrastructure for the economies of Central Asian countries. Their sustainable management, operation and maintenance are important for regional stability and continued economic development. Ensuring the safety of these structures and preventing accidents is thus a key priority.

Many hydraulic structures in Central Asia are on transboundary rivers, which means coordinated efforts are required for maintenance or rehabilitation to ensure their integrity and safety. Currently, the management of hydraulic structures is neither adequate nor consistent across the region. Standardized safety concepts need to be adopted, and advanced monitoring and early warning methods introduced. The capacity of the institutions responsible for maintenance and operations needs to be improved.

CAWEP, in partnership with [International Water Assessment Centre](#), arranged an International Workshop on the Safety of Hydraulic Structures in Central Asia. The workshop was supported by the Minister of the Environment of the Slovak Republic Ján Budaj, and was held in Bratislava, Slovakia. There were 50 participants (10 women), including civil servants and specialists from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Slovakia, as well as representatives of international organizations and regional bodies.

The workshop shared international best practices in the management of hydraulic structures and their safety, including European methods of water management based on the Slovak practical experience. Based on its results, proposals will be developed for further cooperation in the management of water resources and the safety of hydraulic structures in Central Asia.

Energy Sector Modernization in Uzbekistan

Despite efforts to improve energy efficiency in Uzbekistan, electricity demand continues to grow steadily in conjunction with population growth. The industrial sector is the largest consumer of electricity (41 percent) followed by residential (24 percent), agriculture (21 percent), then commercial (11 percent). The energy sector is not highly diversified but is highly dependent on natural gas. Gas accounts for 86 percent of primary energy consumption and more than 80 percent of electricity. It is also a major export commodity, but reserves are being depleted. Gas has significant implicit subsidies because of differences between export and domestic prices. This makes the domestic energy system vulnerable to rising export prices. Uzbekistan is seeking to adopt sustainable energy transition pathways.

CAWEP is supporting World Bank efforts to modernize Uzbekistan power transmission system planning and operations, through the introduction of digital technologies that enhance energy security, regional connectivity and electricity trade, and through strengthening institutional capacity. Digitalization will enable enhanced monitoring, automation, and control of the power system, and generate climate co-benefits. New systems will optimize generation dispatch, transmission network and reserve allocations, potentially reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Transmission network reinforcement and expansion will facilitate large-scale penetration of renewables into the grid, as well as reducing system losses.

CAWEP recently conducted a study tour to Georgia for seven officials from the National Electricity Grid of Uzbekistan, to help learn about approaches to digitization. The focus was on the advanced practices of the Georgia State Electrosystem (GSE) in SCADA/EMS, digitalization, and cyber security.

CAWEP presents its 2021 progress report

The [progress report](#) describes the activities and management of the Central Asia Water and Energy Program (CAWEP) for the period January 1–December 31, 2021. It is the fourth Annual Report for the third phase (2018–2022) of the program. It describes activities implemented in water and energy sectors across Central Asia by the program. The report also includes information on each country's activities implemented in these sectors.

CAWEP's long-term vision is to promote sustainable development and livelihood security in Central Asia and Afghanistan. This aligns with the World Bank's regional engagement framework that aims to strengthen connectivity and increase the economic value of water and energy resources in the region. CAWEP efforts are also aligned with the Climate Change Action Plan of the World Bank Group.



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CAWEP funds initiatives that improve water and energy management, strengthen national and regional institutions, and facilitate regional dialogue on water and energy security.

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