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International Water Resources Association (IWRA)
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Towards establishing a water management knowledge system in Central Asia

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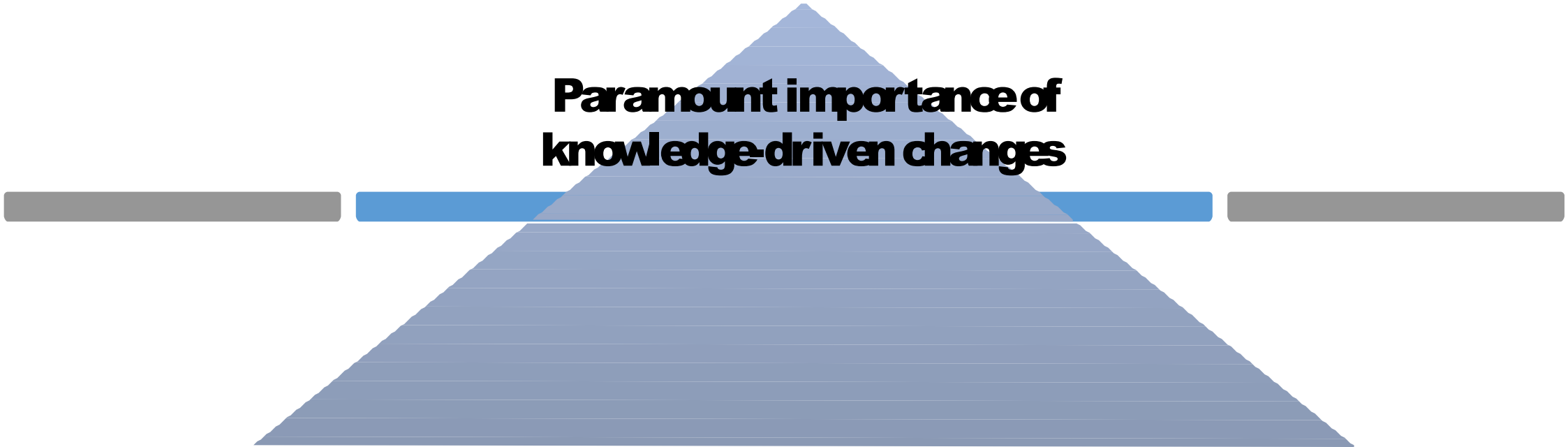
Key water challenges in Central Asia



Knowledge constraints

- Limited access to available knowledge and absence of effective knowledge transfer mechanisms.

- Knowledge of various links between water, food, energy, ecosystems and climate change is incomplete, and nested within different sectors and scientific communities. This is especially so in the transboundary water management setting.

STRUCTURE
of Interstate Coordination Water Commission of Central Asian states

FOUNDERS OF ICWC

Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan	Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation of the Kyrgyz Republic	Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan	Ministry of Water Resources of Turkmenistan	Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan
Committee for Water Resources	*Department of Water Management and Land Reclamation*			*Water Resources Department*

ICWC

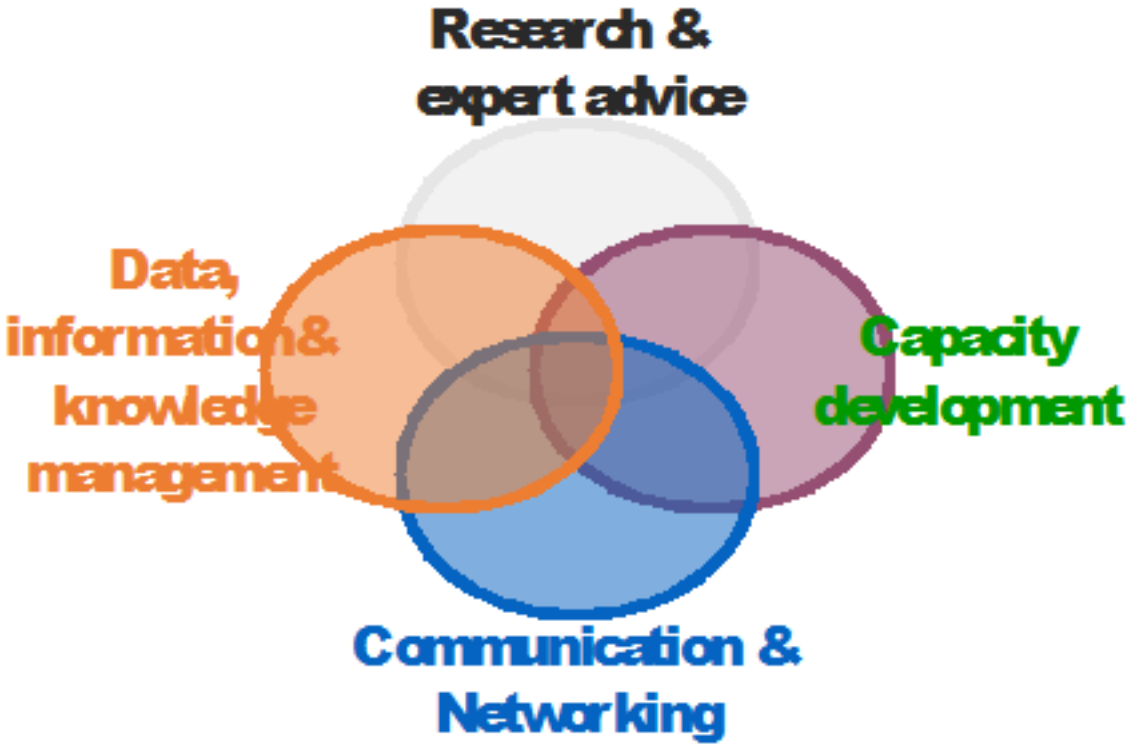
Secretariat

- Scientific Information Center (SIC ICWC)
- BWO "Syrdarya"
- BWO "Amudarya"
- Coordination Metrological Center (CMC ICWC)
- ICWC Training Centre

- Kazakh Branch
- Kyrgyz Branch
- Tajik Branch

SIC ICWC: What we do

- Established in 1992
- Accredited in Uzbekistan
- Branches in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan
- Provides technical and administrative support to ICWC activities in the region and worldwide



Knowledge Base

Information System to Support Policy Makers & Practitioners

Database, models, future scenario and analytics: BWOs, WMOs, hydrometeoservices, water users

Locally Relevant Knowledge Generation & Sharing

Joint projects, research & networking:

WMOs, research institutions, regional organisations, international partners (*GWP, IWMI, GIZ, ICARDA, SDC, WWC, etc*), professional networks (*INBO, ICID, IWRA, etc*)

Capacity Development in Partnership with Educational Institutions

Face-to-face & distance learning:

Kazakh National Technical University, Kazakh-German University, Kyrgyz National Agricultural University, Kyrgyz National Agrarian University, Kyrgyz-Russian Slavic University, Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Melioration, UNESCO-IHE, Moscow State University, etc.

Innovative Cycle of Knowledge Transfer

From *knowledge generators* such as research institutions through *information centers* where information is translated into user-friendly and easily understandable language to *information disseminators* who convey it to *farmers* and receive their feedback

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IMRM in Fergana project (SDC) – Kg, Tj, Uzb

Strengthened institutional & legal framework for IWRM; social mobilization; water saving; how to live under water stress

Water & Land Productivity Improvement at Plot Level (SDC) – Kg, Tj, Uzb

Focus on end water users; innovative cycle of knowledge transfer to farmers

Stabilization of the Dried Bed of the Aral Sea, 2005-2007 & Monitoring of the Amudarya River Delta, 2009-2012 (GIZ)

Ecosystems need

Regional Research Network "Water in Central Asia" – CAWa Project

A sound scientific and a reliable regional data basis for the development of sustainable water management strategies in Central Asia.

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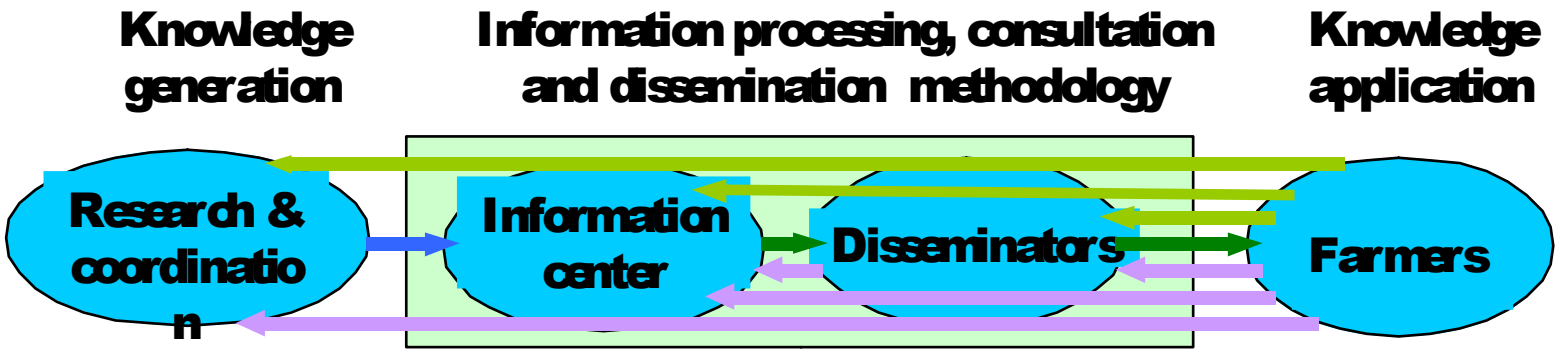
Information flow between different actors in agricultural extension services



Farmers needs/innovations assessment

Requested information/training/consultations on new technologies

Feedback on consultations/trainings (quality control)

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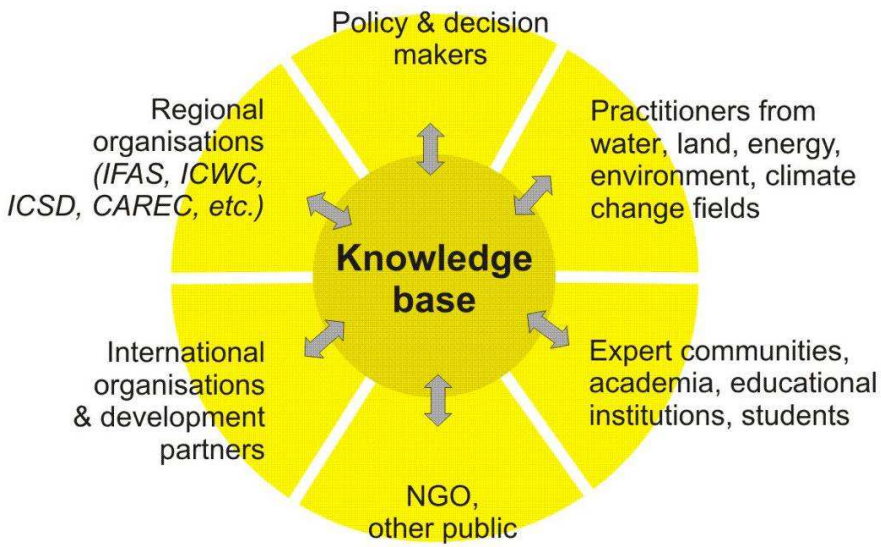
Knowledge providers and consumers



Plans to renovate the existing knowledge base on two important ways:

- Enhance regional ownership through the involvement of a broader community of experts and practitioners across the region;
- Focus on target groups' (knowledge consumers) needs and preferences in knowledge dissemination in order for them to use knowledge in a meaningful and effective way.

Add value through:

- adaptation of global and regional knowledge to local conditions,
- facilitation of regional knowledge exchange,
- continuous learning and education,
- promotion of knowledge transfer to end users,
- support to decision makers and practitioners.

Way Forward

Establish Water Management Knowledge Centres in Central Asia as part of global knowledge hub (FAO, GCIAGR, UN-Water, ICID, etc):

- be a part of public water and agriculture governance system, be linked to environmental sector and connected to knowledge sources at regional and global levels;
- aim at long-term improvement of water and natural resources use and conservation for the benefit of people and ecosystems;
- identify actual needs of practitioners, work among practitioners, strive to meet their demands, and bridge a gap between science and practice;
- rely on experienced practitioners and on practicing scientists, who deal with both research and practical applications
- able to validate proposed solutions on pilot sites;
- suggest affordable solutions that are community focused, cost effective, feasible, and environmentally friendly.