



Navigating Change: Agricultural Sustainability and Rural Development in Central Asia

14-15 October 2025

Venue: Conference Room SHB501
Westminster International University in Tashkent
Tashkent, 97-A Amir Temur St.

Conference Agenda

The conference is organized jointly by
Westminster International University in Tashkent (WIUT)
and Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO)

DAY 1: 14 October 2025

Tashkent time

9:00 – 9:30 Registration of participants

9:30 – 9:45 **Welcome Address**

Komiljon Karimov

Westminster International University in Tashkent (WIUT), Uzbekistan

Thomas Herzfeld

Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO), Germany

TBC

Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Uzbekistan

Martin Fischer

German Space Agency (DLR), Germany

9:45 – 10:30 **Keynote 1**

Moderator: Bakhrom Mirkasimov (WIUT)

Heterogeneity of agrarian transition: Lessons for an inclusive change

Thomas Herzfeld

Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO), Germany

10:30 – 12:00 **Session 1: Agricultural policies**

Moderator: Nodir Djanibekov (IAMO)

Food system transition in Central Asia: New perspectives for research

Irene Mestre

French Institute for Central Asian Studies, Kyrgyzstan

An agricultural value chain revolution in Central Asia? Evidence from the livestock sector

Sarah Robinson

Justus Liebig University Giessen, Germany

The impact of policy reforms on agricultural and rural growth in the CAREC region

Adrian Neal

Asian Development Bank, Greece

Farmers' risk preferences and perceptions of land use rights

Zafar Kurbanov

Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO), Germany

12:00 – 13:00 **Group photo and lunch break with Poster Session 1**

DAY 1: 14 October 2025

13:00 – 14:30

Session 2: Institutions

Moderator: Irina Hopp (Justus Liebig University Giessen)

Risk, time, and cotton: Do institutional framework explain differences in farmers, preferences within a country?

Abdusame Tadjiev

Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO), Germany

Land ownership, risk perception and crop diversification: Evidence from Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan

Jie Feng

Beijing Institute of Technology, China

Livestock value chains in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan: Structural weaknesses, institutional bottlenecks, and opportunities for inclusive transformation

Irina Hopp

Justus Liebig University Giessen, Germany

14:30 – 15:00

Coffee break

15:00 – 16:30

Session 3: Adoption 1

Moderator: Muhammad Bilal (WIUT)

Laser-land levelling adoption and its impact on crop income in Uzbekistan

Mashkhura Babadjanova

Leibniz Institute for Agrarian Development in Transformation Economies (IAMO), Germany

Role of institutional factors in multiple sustainable agricultural practices: Evidence from the Samarkand region in Uzbekistan

Pishenbay Umirbekov

Westminster International University in Tashkent (WIUT), Uzbekistan

Adapting quinoa to salinity, climate stress, and local diets in Central Asia: Insights from a QuinAS project

Damir Esenaliev

Leibniz Institute of Vegetable and Ornamental Crops (IGZ), Germany

16:30 – 17:00

Coffee break

DAY 1: 14 October 2025

17:00 – 18:30

Session 4: Adoption 2

Moderator: Abdusame Tadjiev (IAMO)

Impact of cluster policy on adoption of sustainable agricultural practices

Alexandra Stocksclaeder
Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany

Understanding farmers' decisions to adopt biological crop protection approaches in Uzbekistan

Jakhongir Babadjanov
FAO, Uzbekistan

Assessing the potential of carbon finance to enhance adoption of conservation agriculture in Uzbekistan

Alexey Volkov
International Strategic Center for Agri Food Developmet (ISCAD), Uzbekistan

DAY 2: 15 October 2025

09:30 – 10:15

Keynote 2

Moderator: Bekzod Zakirov (CPRO/WIUT)

Migration and rural development: Changemaker or dealbreaker?

Isabel Lambrecht

International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Tajikistan

10:15 – 11:00

Keynote 3

Moderator: Nilufar Rashitova (WIUT)

Sustainable livestock development in Central Asia

Pierre Jean Gerber

World Bank, Uzbekistan / Wageningen University and Research

11:00 – 11:30

Coffee break

11:30 – 13:00

Session 5: Rural growth

Moderator: Jie Feng (Beijing Institute of Technology)

Strengthening agricultural innovation systems through multi-actor platforms: The case of SASRI in Southern Uzbekistan

Boubaker Dhehibi

International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), Tunisia

Green entrepreneurship in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan: Preliminary findings from a comparative qualitative study

Philipp Schroeder

Nazarbayev University, Kazakhstan

Consumer preferences and willingness to pay for credence attributes in dried fruits and nuts: Evidence from Central Asia

Emil Begimkulov

Rhein-Waal University of Applied Sciences, Germany

13:00 – 14:00

Lunch break with Poster Session 2

DAY 2: 15 October 2025

14:00 – 15:30

Session 6: Labor and migration

Moderator: Mohru Mardonova (IFPRI)

Does migration drive or impede agricultural productivity? Panel data evidence from rural Tajikistan, 2015-2023

Jovidon Aliev

International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Tajikistan

Agricultural reform, kinship networks, and female labor participation: Evidence from Central Asia

Pengshan Pan

New Uzbekistan University, Uzbekistan

Rural youth perspectives on land ownership and decision-making power: A Gendered analysis from Central Asia

Nagima Shukurbekova

University of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan

15:30 – 16:00

Coffee break

16:00 – 17:30

Session 7: Water

Moderator: Marlen Tynaliyev (IAMO)

How do water and energy security shape food insecurity and diet quality? Evidence from wintertime in rural Tajikistan

Mohru Mardonova

International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Tajikistan

Water scarcity and decision-making: Risk and time preferences of smallholder farmers in Kyrgyzstan

Marlen Tynaliyev

Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO), Germany

Innovative technologies for agricultural sustainability in Karakalpakstan: Application of Google Earth Engine platform

Bekmurat Abdikairov

Institute of Agriculture and Agrotechnologies of Karakalpakstan, Uzbekistan

17:30

Conference Closing

Poster presentations

Day 1: 14 October

12:00 – 13:00 **Poster session 1**

Digital shifts in the fields: Women's emerging roles in rural agriculture in Central Asia

Zalina Enikeeva
University of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan

Public perception of environmental problems in Central Asia: Results from Life in Transition survey

Imomjon Khamidov
International Agriculture University, Uzbekistan

Do SME food processors with certification perform better than those without? A case study from Kyrgyzstan

Emil Begimkulov
Rhein-Waal University of Applied Sciences, Germany

Circularity practices awareness among cotton farmers in Qashqadaryo region, Uzbekistan

Anastasia Salnikova
New Uzbekistan University, Uzbekistan

Day 2: 15 October

13:00 – 14:00 **Poster session 2**

Enhancing water use efficiency in corn cultivation: A review of drip irrigation and mulching practices

Erkinbay Tleubergenov
Institute of Agriculture and Agrotechnologies of Karakalpakstan, Uzbekistan

Comparative study of economic traits of mung bean varieties and samples from the collection

Aydos Djarasov
Institute of Agriculture and Agrotechnologies of Karakalpakstan, Uzbekistan

Agricultural growth and related emissions in Uzbekistan

Etenesh Bekele Asfaw
Formerly CPRO/WIUT, Macedonia

Socio-economic assessment of existing agroforestry production systems for fruit and nut production in Uzbekistan

Md Sofiullah
Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences, Germany