

Call for papers

Researchers **currently based at academic institutions in Uzbekistan** are invited to contribute to the conference by submitting articles summarising their work in up to 1000 words prepared in English language in line with international requirements until 10 September 2018 to **agriknowledge2018@gmail.com**. Accepted papers will be announced by 1 October 2018. Based on a peer review process, a limited number of contributions will be selected for presentation during the conference. Contributions are welcome on the following topics:

- Reforms in agriculture
- Introduction of innovative technologies in agriculture
- Development of postgraduate education and quality of research
- Impacts of climate change on agriculture
- Land use dynamics
- Farm restructuring and labour relations
- Sustainable land and water resource management
- Cooperative and collective relations in rural areas
- The development of value chains in agriculture

Registration & conference fee

The conference can be attended free of charge, but a registration with the conference office **by 15 October 2018** is required via **agriknowledge2018@gmail.com**. Participants are responsible for their own accommodation and travel arrangements and costs. A limited number of travel grants will be available.

Location & languages

The conference will be held in the conference facilities of the Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanization Engineers (TIIAME), 39 Kari Niyazov Street, Tashkent.

The conference language is English. Simultaneous translation from/to Russian will be provided during selected sessions.

Organising Committee

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Academic Conference
**Social science knowledge
and sustainable agricultural
development along
the Silk Road**



30 October – 1 November 2018

Tashkent | Uzbekistan

In several recent resolutions, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan has acknowledged the need to **further develop the national educational system and strengthen the international collaboration of research institutions in Uzbekistan**. Acknowledging these directives, this conference highlights the intention of the organisers to support higher education in the social sciences related to agriculture and sustainable economic development in Central Asia.

Since ancient times, the Silk Road has served as a hub for the exchange of valued commodities, ideas and people between Asia and Europe. Emerging from a socialist world order, the countries of Central Asia opted for their unique paths of transition. However, **agriculture has remained important for rural employment and livelihoods**. Questions of irrigation management, land reform, food security and export earnings from agriculture highlight the importance of the sector for economic development across the region.

The region faces a variety of challenges for **sustainable agricultural development**, defined here as a trajectory that meets the needs of current resource users without compromising the resource use of future generations in economic, social and ecological respects.

A particularly acute challenge, which will be exacerbated by climate change, is the pressure on water supply that results from inefficient management, dilapidated water infrastructure, specific water needs of industrialised crop production and the diversion of water for electricity generation. The internationally recognised desiccation of the Aral Sea epitomises these threats.

The academic community has presented a range of solutions, from micro-level options such as technical tools, drought resistant crop varieties, participatory water management, up to macro-level approaches of coordinated transnational water flow and trade liberalisation. However, these suggestions often lack an **integrated view that accounts for the complex interrelations among the threats to sustainability**. By incorporating knowledge from especially from the natural and engineering sciences, the strong empirical foundation and analytical rigour of the social and economic sciences seem well suited to contribute to such a project of enlightenment. They may play a key role in shaping collective decisions by pointing out facts, processing empirical and theoretical knowledge, and outlining options for action. In order to generate such a beneficial impact, the social sciences of agricultural development require an academic environment that links cutting edge research to higher education at international standards.

During three days, the conference aims to provide a **platform for knowledge exchange, discussion and networking in the tradition of the historical Silk Road**. The conference will be structured around three sub-themes:

- Social science contributions to the agricultural reform agenda
- Higher education and knowledge for agricultural development in Central Asia
- How to promote and implement agricultural innovations

These themes will be explored and discussed by invited plenary speakers, panel discussions and paper presentations. Interactive sessions will involve regional policy stakeholders and representatives of international donor organisations.

One aim of the conference will be to summarise the findings of the international collaborative research project "AGRICCHANGE – Institutional change in land and labour relations of Central Asia's irrigated agriculture" financially supported by the Volkswagen Foundation.

Panel speakers



Iskandar Abdullaev
Executive Director of the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC), Almaty, Kazakhstan



Kamiljon Akramov
Research Fellow and Leader of the Central Asia Program, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Washington DC, USA



Nodir Djanibekov
Research Associate and coordinator of the AGRICHANGE project at IAMO in Halle (Saale), Germany



Thomas Herzfeld
Director at IAMO and Professor of Agricultural Economics at Martin Luther University in Halle (Saale), Germany



Anna-Katharina Hornidge
Head of the Department of Social Sciences, Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research, and Professor of Sociology, University of Bremen, Germany



Phatima Mamardashvili
Assistant Professor, Head of the Agricultural Policy Research Center at the International School of Economics (ISET), Tbilisi State University, Georgia



Martin Petrick
Coordinator of the AGRICHANGE project at IAMO and Professor of Agricultural Economics at Martin Luther University in Halle (Saale), Germany



Richard Pomfret
Professor of Economics at Adelaide University, Australia, and Visiting Professor of Economics at the Johns Hopkins University SAIS Bologna Center, Italy



Uktam Umurzakov
Professor of Agricultural Economics, Rector of the Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanization Engineers (TIIME), Uzbekistan