

### Climate Resilient Integrated Water Resources Management in the Zarafshan River Basin: Establishing Cooperation with Universities



**Oyture Anarbekov, CARITAS-Switzerland** *Climate Resilient IWRM in the Zarafshan River Basin Project funded by Govt of Switzerland* 

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## Introduction



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- 12-year Initiative
- Inception phase: 15.08.2022 31.05.2023
- Phase 1: 01.06.2023 31.05.2027
- Phase 2 & 3: to come







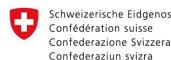
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## **Universities/Institutes**

- "Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and **Agricultural Mechanization Engineers**" **National Research University**
- Including Bukhara branch of NRU TIIAME



 Samarkand Agroinnovations and Research University





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## Areas of cooperation with NAS



Supporting 2 female PhD students for later involvement in project implementation evidenced high levels of support and willingness to engage.

Involvement of master student's diplomas research to project's pilot site

Working with SamATI specifically "economics and business" faculty to conduct baseline surveys within ZRB

Promotion of innovative technologies and approaches into curriculum.

Engagement of Researchers into project study topics

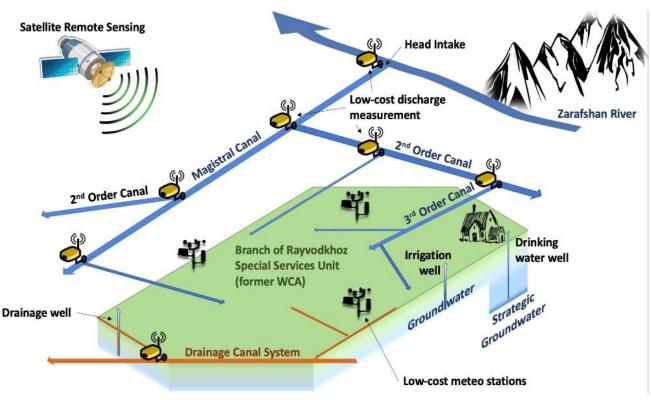
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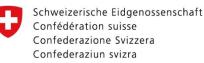
#### CARITAS Schweiz Suisse Svizzera



## **Engagement NAS research** Establishment of ZRB Councils into project activities



- - Development of River Basin plan
  - Basin development scenarios considering future water demand from agriculture, housing, industry and tourism, as well as the environment
  - Analyses of satellite imagery and water monitoring data (by HSOL) for assessing irrigation performance
  - integration of climate-resilience and multisectoral IWRM
  - Analysis of the economic value of water in productive use within the agricultural sector, and comparative analysis of the economic and intrinsic value of water within other sectors
  - the transboundary as well as to the regional dialogue on water cooperation



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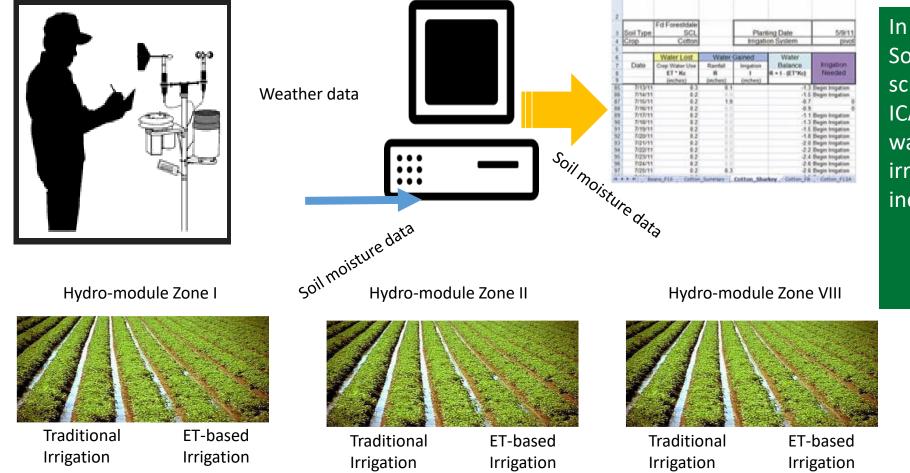
## A unified system of data collection and management is established in a pilot irrigation system in the ZRB



WWCS in CRIWRM focuses on effective weather-based irrigation advisory services but supports agriculture and livelihood more generally by providing weather data-based agronomic decision support and more reliable early alerts for extreme events.

Source: Amudar.io

### **Weather station-based Irrigation Scheduling**



In Uzbekistan, switching from Soviet-era irrigation scheduling method to ICARDA's smart system, there was on average 32% saving of irrigation water and 50% increase in water productivity

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Save approx. 30-35% irrigation water at the field level without adversely affecting yields

Russian version of Reference ET calculator



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# Unified system of data collection and management is established in a pilot irrigation system in the ZRB



Concept of Water Resources Dvpt 2030 Concept of Agricultural Dvpt 2030

- Introduce water-energy saving techs in 2 mln ha by 2030, drip irrigation itself in 600 thousand ha
- Innovative techs in water accounting made a priority in the country's 2020-2030
  National Agricultural Development Strategy and its corresponding roadmap.

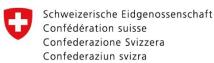
Head Water Intake – Big Karshi Main Canal



Off-Farm irrigation canal (2-order canal)



On-farm irrigation canal

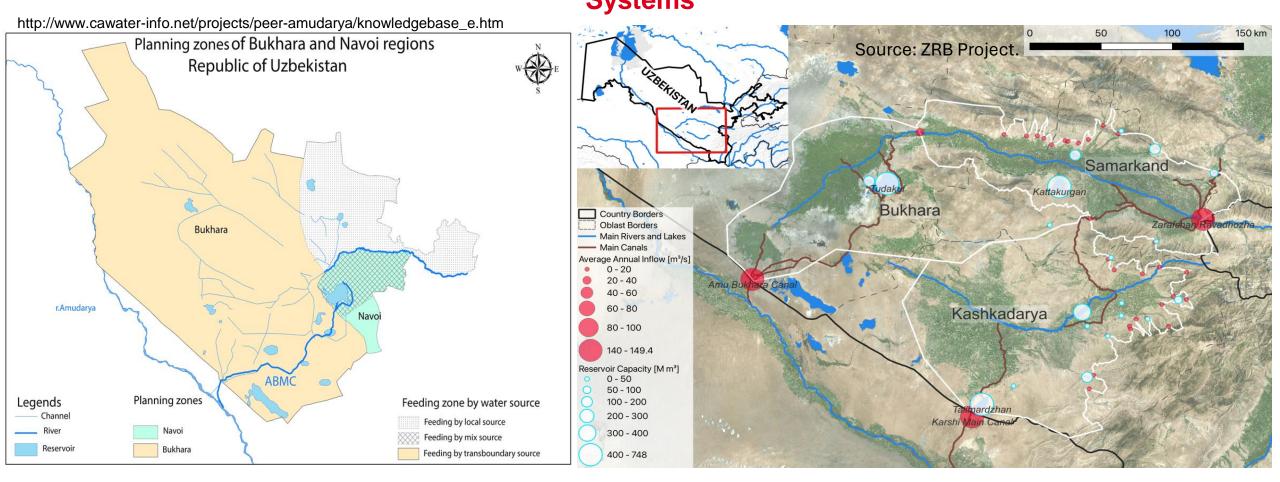


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#### Nexus Research within Amu-Bukhara Irrigation System – Zarafshan – Kashqadarya Water Systems



- > Approximately 8.3 billion cubic meters of water are pumped annually.
- > Pumping water up to 200 meters is costly and results in significant CO2 emissions, especially interlinkages btw Zarafshan Irrigation system and Amu-Bukhara irrigation system.
- > About 1.1 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent are emitted annually.
- > Climate change, population growth, and increased water extraction from the Amu Darya will further strain this already limited water resource.





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## Integration of Universities and Extension centers

- Integration of Universities and Extension centres like AKIS, "Fermerlar maktabi", "Suvchilar maktabi".
- Those two schools teach about water saving technologies, water use efficiency, climate change and overall challenges in agriculture etc.







## Thank you for your attention



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