

KRASS: Seeking for sustainable development

Since independence, a range of agrarian reforms in Uzbekistan have focused on structural transformations of land use. As a result, large-scale collective and state farms have been dismantled into quasi-private farms and individual (subsidiary) household plots. On a daily basis, the large rural population must now cope with saline and impoverished soils. Issues such as food security, environmental safeguarding and sustainable economic development are now major priorities. Addressing these challenges of the 21st century requires competent agricultural systems. This is a difficult task, particularly given that agricultural support services that provide updated findings, training and education centres, consulting, etc. are not well-developed and are in great demand. The need and demand for rural support and advisory services are evident but so far the supply has been unable to match them.



KRASS: Seeking for innovations, efficiencies and talent



KRASS (Khorezm Rural Advisory Support Service) engages skilled people to look for innovations that will use resources efficiently and therefore contribute to self-sustained agricultural production and rational land and water use for sustainable development. This will also increase the living standards of the rural population. KRASS pays special attention to the rural youth in order to improve their skills, employment opportunities and motivation for progress.

Established in November 2008 by a private initiative group of local agricultural experts including researchers, practitioners and teachers, KRASS cooperates with the government and local and international NGOs to support agricultural reform and development in this changing socio-economic period.

KRASS is founded as a self-governing, independent, non-governmental, not-for-profit and non-political organization with the support of ZEF, the Centre for Development

Research of the University of Bonn, Germany.

KRASS: Seeking for partners in action

The founders of KRASS hope to build awareness and provide educational opportunities for the rural population in Uzbekistan as a way to improve livelihoods, ease poverty and increase environmental sustainability through agricultural support services. This is envisaged via partnerships for action in:

- ◆ Agro-research and consulting to support the agricultural population in analyzing their problems and finding appropriate solutions and to support the elaboration of farm development and farm business plans;
- ◆ Agro-teaching and education to upgrade knowledge and experience by training farmers and agricultural advisors in methodologies and development of sustainable agricultural practices;



- ◆ Disseminating best practices and innovations through extension aid materials such as handouts, folders, bulletins and booklets for the farming population;
- ◆ Agro-planning, monitoring and evaluation to implement environmental assessments and render technical assistance and logistical support to research and development activities, and to maintain a functional database for planning, monitoring and evaluation.



KRASS: offering the right partners

KRASS is governed by a Board that is staffed by the Director, Deputy Director, financial manager and the General Meeting (Chairperson and other members). Citizens of Uzbekistan who accept the charter of KRASS can become a member. The founders of **KRASS** have gained expertise and knowledge during M.Sc. and Ph.D. studies abroad (in Germany), via long-term employment in research & development organizations, and via employment in national structures throughout the country. Hence **KRASS** has strong ties with national structures such as Urgench State University, the Cotton Research Institute, Mamun Academy, TIIM and international organizations such as ICARDA, CIMMYT, DLR, GTZ, ZEF, UNESCO, and the University of Wuerzburg.

For more information please visit our website:
www.KRASS.uz

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