IFAS: ACHIEVMENTS AND GAPS

Kyrgyzstan Tajikistan Turkmenistan Uzbekistan Kazakhstan

International Conference
„Water Unites – Strengthening Regional Cooperation on Water Management in Central Asia“

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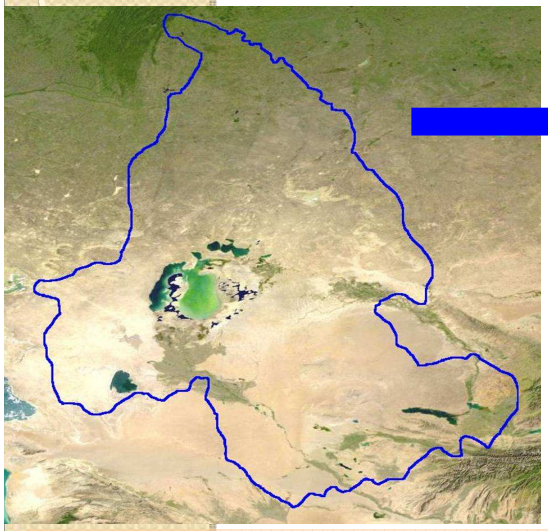
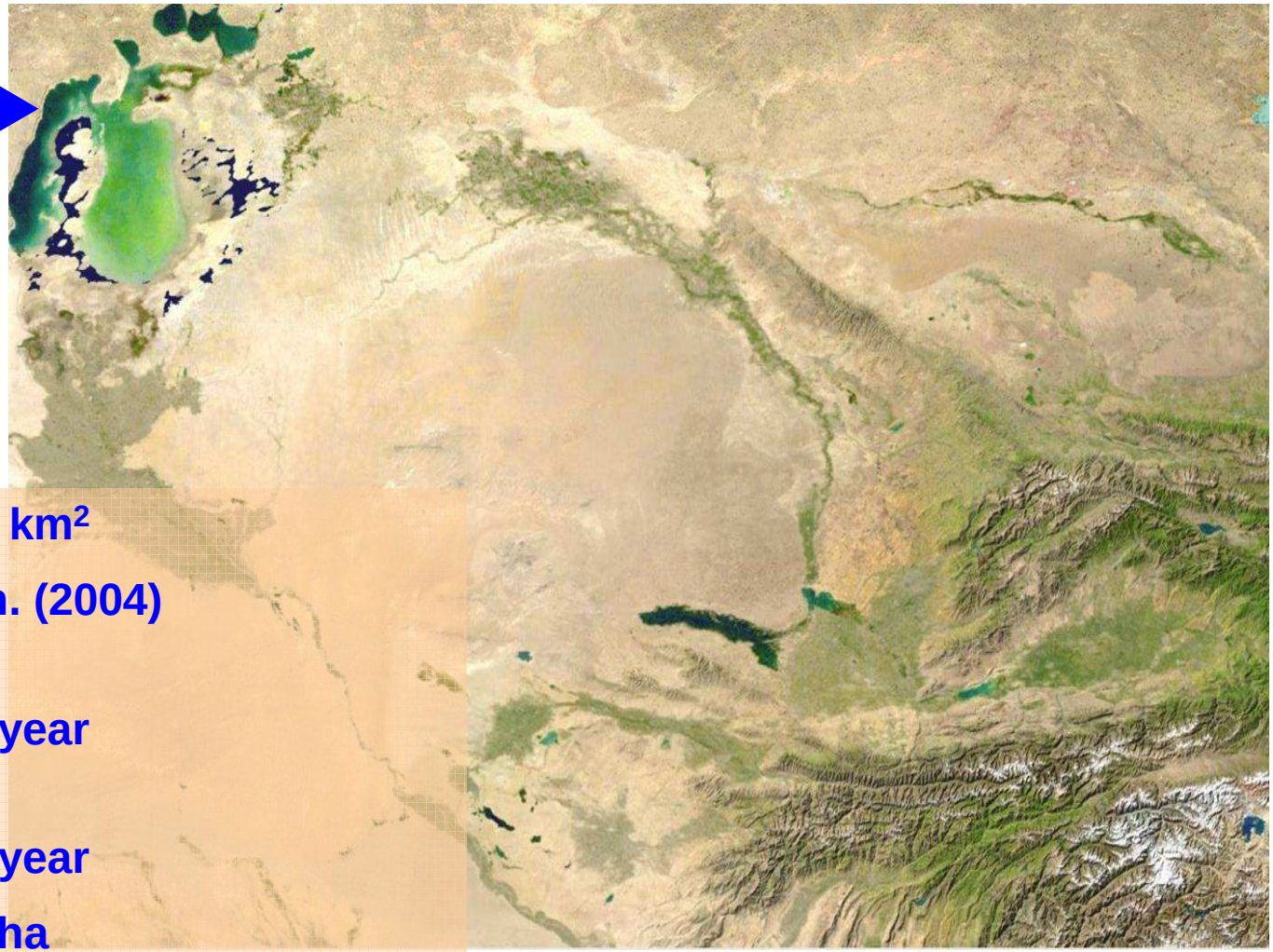
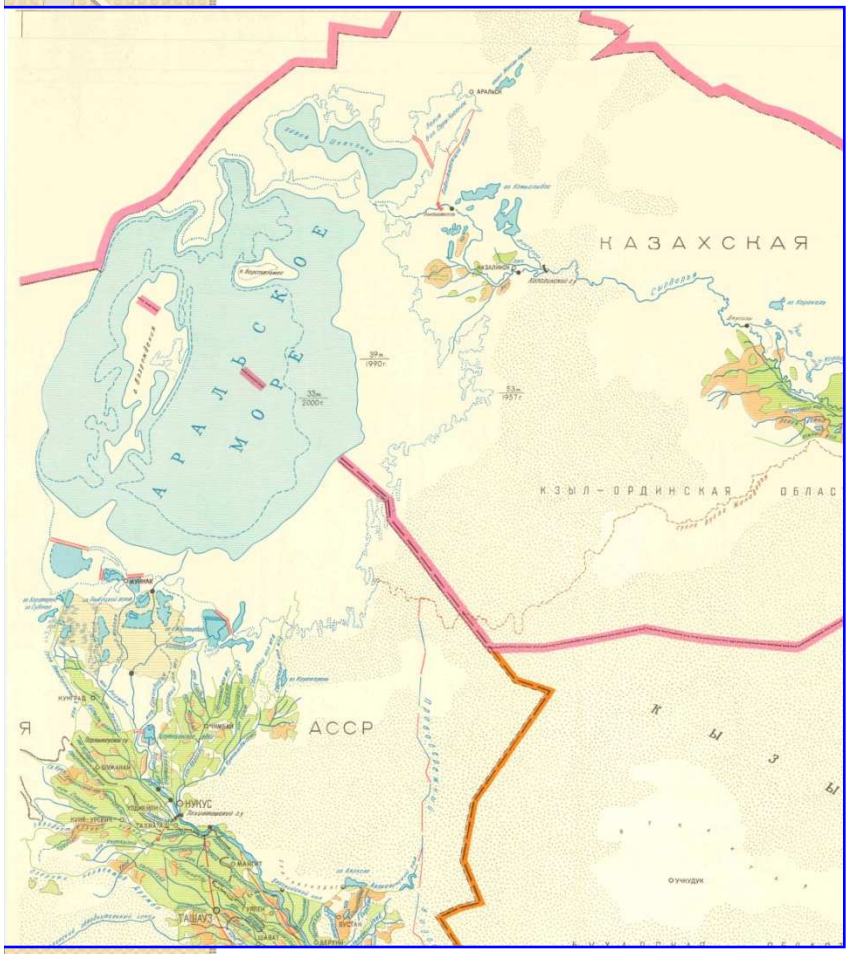
THE ARAL SEA BASIN GENERAL INFORMATION





Area:	**1.5 mln. km^2**
Population:	**43,8 mln. (2004)**
Forming water resources:	**115km^3/year**
Available water resources:	**133km^3/year**
Irrigated area:	**8,2 mln.ha**
Main rivers:	**Amu-Darya & Sir-Darya**
Climate:	**continental, arid & semiarid**

THE ARAL SEA FIGURES



Area:	**68000 km^2**
Volume:	**1083 km^3**
Level:	**53-53.6m**
Mineralization:	**9-12 g/l**
LxWxH:	**428kmx234kmx69m**

WATER BALANCE:

Inflow:	**55 km^3/year**
Precipitation:	**8-9 km3/year**
Evaporation:	**63-64 km3/year**

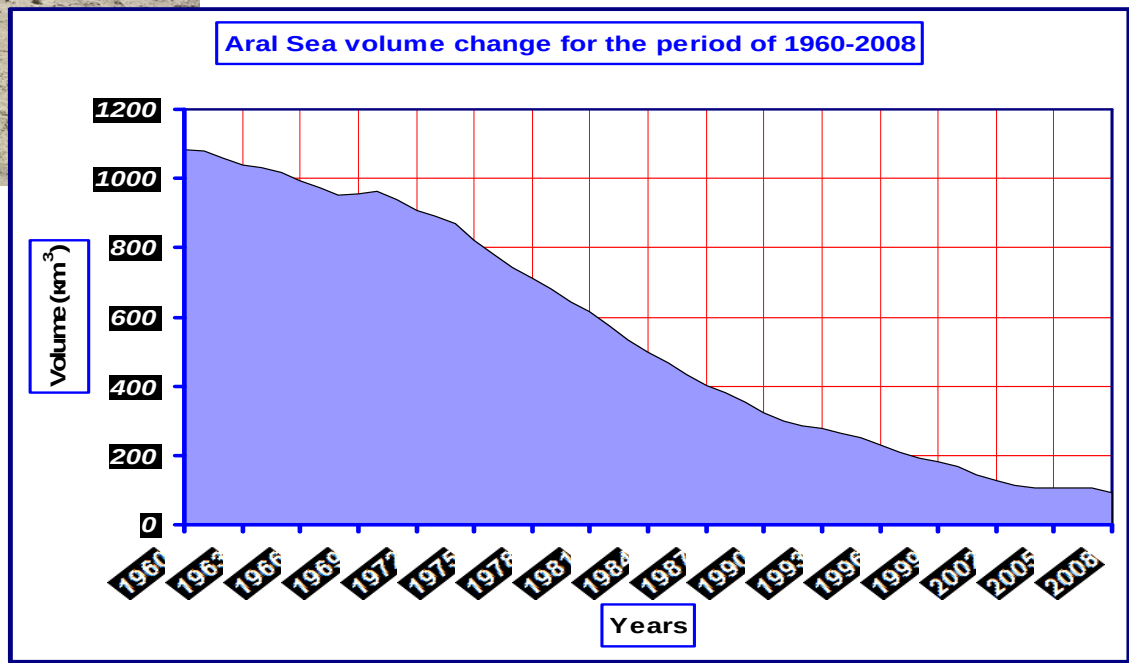
THE ARAL SEA DISASTER

The Aral Sea in different years			
1853	1973	1997	2007

INDICATORS	Unit	years		
		1960	1990	01.01.2008
Water level	m	53,40	38.24	28,60* (41,84)**
Volume	km^3	1083	323	93,1 (65,4* + 27,7**)
Surface area	thous. km^2	68,90	36.4	12,37 (9,1* + 3,27**)
Mineralization	g/l	9,90		100-120* (17)**
Flow in Priaralye	km^3/year	63	12.50	2,105 (on Amu-Darya)

*The Large Aral Sea *The Small Aral Sea

ARAL SEA DISASTER CONSEQUENCES



IFAS INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR SAVING THE ARAL SEA

FOUNDER-COUNTRIES:

- REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN
- KYRGYZ REPUBLIC
- REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN
- TURKMENISTAN
- REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

The main objectives of the Fund creation was saving the Aral Sea, mitigation of consequences of its crisis, awareness of the international community about this catastrophe, attraction of funds of five basin states, international organizations and donors to improve ecological and socio-economical situations in the Aral Sea Basin.

IFAS CONSTITUTIVE DOCUMENTS

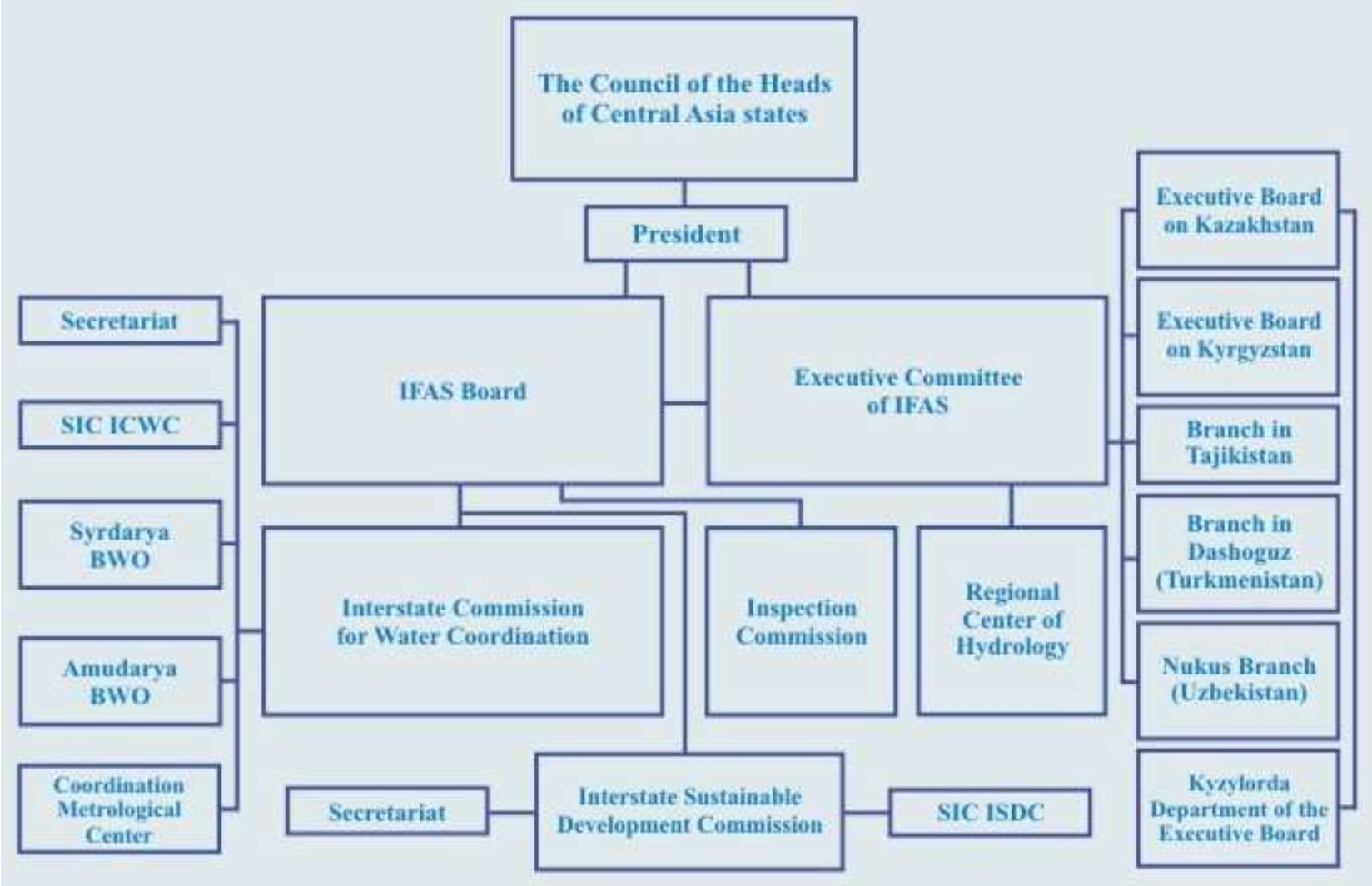
- Principal scheme of IFAS governance (Almaty, 1997)
- Regulation of the International Fund for saving the Aral Sea (Ashgabat, 1999)
- Agreement between Governments of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Republic of Uzbekistan on status of IFAS and its organizations (Ashgabat, 1999)

IFAS FINANCING

Republic of Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Republic of Uzbekistan – 0.3% from the profitable part of annuak budget

Kyrgyz Republic and Republic of Tajikistan - 0.3% from the profitable part of annuak budget

IFAS STRUCTURE



ASBP-1 MEASURES ON DISASTER MITIGATION

Approved: *by Heads of Central Asian states in 1994.*

Main objectives: *Stabilization of the environmental states in the Aral Sea Bain, Rehabilitation of the ecological systems in Priaralye, Improvement of water and soil resources management in the Aral Sea basin, Creation of governance structure for the planning and implementation of the Program measures.*

ASBP-1 financing: *47.7 million USD grants and about 278 million USD loans*

ASBP-2 MEASURES ON SITUATION IMPROVEMENT

Initiated: *by Heads of Central Asian states in 2002.*

Approved: *by IFAS Board in 2003.*

Main objective: *Improvement of ecological and socio-economic situations in the Aral Sea basin.*

Includes: *14 priorities, united in 4 blocs: water economy, social-economic, ecological & monitoring of environment*

ASBP-2 MEASURES ON SITUATION IMPROVEMENT

- *improvement of social situation of population in the region,*
- *solution of complex water economic problems;*
- *restoration of ecological systems and the environment monitoring;*
- *providing population with safe drinking water;*
- *improvement of public health and education;*
- *adaptation to market conditions;*
- *restoration of ecosystems of Priaralye;*
- *creation of local reservoirs in deltas of the Amu Darya and Syr-Darya rivers;*
- *developing the drained bottom and restoration of the northern part of the Aral Sea.*

Considerable efforts are also aimed at assistance in sustainable natural resources management and the strengthening of regional cooperation.

IFAS INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

- Signing of Memoranda of understanding
- Development of partnership
- Membership in the water related international partnership organizations (WWC, APWF)
- Donors' meetings

The most important is Memorandum of understanding between UNECE, UNESCAP and IFAS, signed by President of IFAS H.E. Emomali Rahmon and Executive Secretaries of UNECE Mrs, Brigita Schmognerova and UNESCAP Mr, Kim Hak-Su in 2004 in Dushanbe.

It was the first step to strength cooperation between IFAS and UN institutions for the implementation of initiative of Central Asian states to give IFAS the status of UN institution.

IFAS PUBLIC AWARENESS

- Organization of the Conferences, Forums, exhibitions and other events on national, regional and international levels;
- Participation and addresses at the World Water Fora, Summits and other international water events;

A special emphasis of Tajikistan initiatives on the declaring of the International Year of Fresh Water (2003) and International Decade for Actions «Water for life» (2005-2015) by UN General Assembly was also made on aggravating ecological disaster of the Aral Sea and mobilizing of efforts of the world community for its saving.

International Fresh Water Forum (2003);

International Conference on regional cooperation in transboundary river basins;

International Conference on water related disaster reduction (2008).

IFAS PUBLIC AWARENESS

Summit of the Heads of IFAS member-countries (2002, Dushanbe);

IFAS Board meetings - 9;

Expeditions – ARAL-2003, ARAL-2004, expeditions to flow formation zone in 2005-2006

Organization of the Round tables, seminars, trainings etc.;

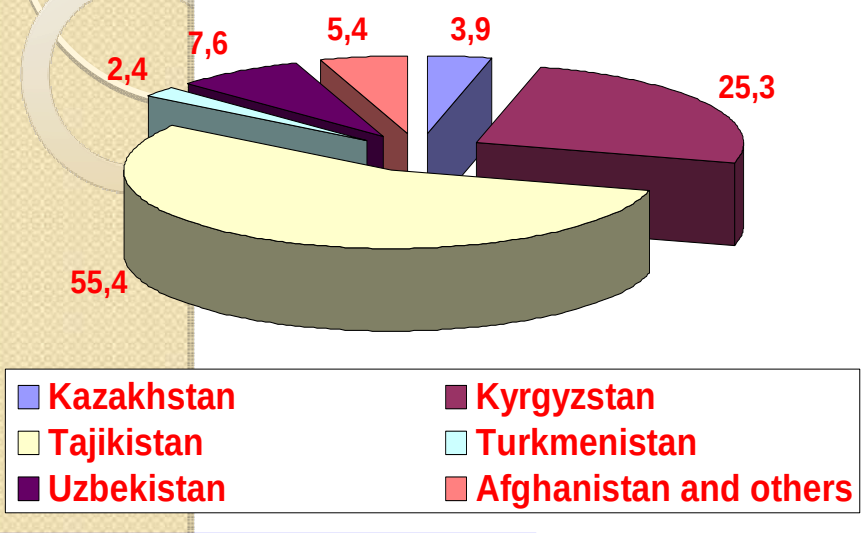
Organization of photo-exhibitions, demonstration of films etc on the Aral Sea basin problems;

Launching of the IFAS web-site: www.ec-ifas.org

Publication of materials on the Aral Sea basin problems;

Statements through Mass-medias.

IFAS ACHIEVEMENTS



- *Conflict-free water resources management;*
- *Development and implementation of ASBP-2;*
- *Establishment of the Regional Center of Hydrology;*
- *Rehabilitation of the Small Aral Sea.*

IFAS ACHIEVEMENTS

- *Improvement of environment monitoring systems;*
- *Addressing social problems of the region;*
- *Rehabilitation water economic infrastructures;*
- *Enhancement of international cooperation;*
- *Awareness of the international community on the Aral Sea crisis;*
- *Strengthening regional cooperation.*

Development of zero draft of the Central Asian Water Doctrine

IFAS GAPS

- *Inappropriate level of IFAS Board members from some countries;*
- *EC IFAS members from other countries have started to execute their obligations in Dushanbe only in two years (in 2004) and left Dushanbe in a year (in 2005);*
- *EC IFAS has been financed only by Tajikistan (though upon decision of Heads of IFAS member-countries all CA states should do it);*
- *Low execution by member-countries their commitment concerning payment of membership fees;*

IFAS GAPS

- *Delaying the rotation of IFAS Chairmanship in 2005;*
- *Donors' activity decay for the period of 2003-2006;*
- *Certain difficulties related with functioning of some of IFAS structural organizations;*
- *Mastery of BWO-s empowered to convey water to the Aral Sea in accordance with Amudarya and Syrdarya Master plans and quotes approved by ICWC.*

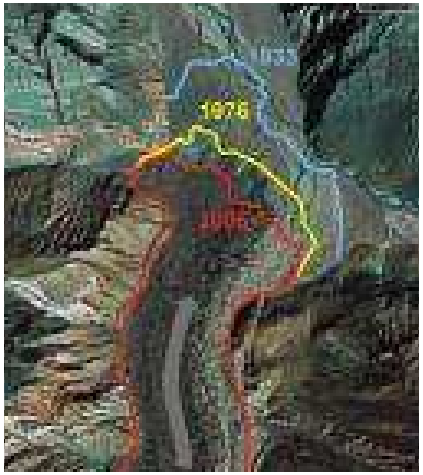
THE ARAL SEA BASIN NEW CHALLENGES

Climate Change: *In the period from 1956 till 1990 the glacial resources of Central Asia reduced more than tree times and continue reducing with average intensity about 0,6-0,8% a year on glaciations area and about 0,1% on ice volume;*

Increasing of population: *Since 1960 population of the Aral Sea basin has increased more than 3 times (14 mln. in 1960 vs 43.8 mln in 2004). Rate of growth is 1.0-1.5% annually;*

Developing economy: *Rate of growth is 7.0-10% annually*

Reducing river run off due to climate change (10-30%), increasing water consumption (15-20%) due to population growth and development of economy can lead to the new big challenge in the region!



IFAS FURTHER STEPS

- *Taking urgent measures on adaptation to new challenges;*
- *Mobilization of efforts of all stakeholders;*
- *More harmonious cooperation of the basin countries;*
- *Support of donors and international organizations;*

Giving IFAS the status of observer in the UN General Assembly can become very important for improving of situation in the Aral Sea basin. Adoption of such Resolution by UN GA, indeed, will become significant basis for following building up of interaction and enhancing of cooperation between IFAS and UN.

THANK YOU!