

# Feasibility Study of Establishing Regional Innovation Center in Samarkand Agricultural Institute

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# Introduction

- In today's globalized and knowledge-based economies, government alone cannot lead the way towards progress and societal change
- Different key stakeholders must assume a very active and productive role, through constructive interaction
- Universities need enhanced and active roles in innovation system of knowledge-based society

# Introduction

- ***Regional Innovation Center (RIC)*** is usually linked with college or university of the region in the capacity of research collaboration and business activities
- Therefore, the role of college or university becomes utmost important especially in developing countries

# Introduction

- This study was made in the framework of "Feasibility study for establishing Regional Innovation Center and Educational Innovation System in Samarkand Agricultural Institute (SAI), UZB" project, Korea, 2015.
- The tasks for reformulating SAI have been associated with:
  - Reorganization of university
  - Curriculum development,
  - Capacity building of faculty,
  - Establishment of RIC

# Actors involved in establishing RIC

Category	Participant institutions	Roles
<b>National &amp; Local government</b>	MAWR, Samarkand agricultural office	Administrative & legislative support, infrastructural development
<b>Academics</b>	SAI, research institutions	Improve variety development, education & training, develop responsive technology for continuous cropping
<b>Industries</b>	Processors	Processing of fruits & vegetables, contract farming
<b>Producers</b>	Farmers, smallholders	Contract farming, supply of stable quantity and quality products, collaborate with research institutes
<b>Other support organizations</b>	Banking and financial services, farming organizations	Low interest bank subsidies, Favorable conditions for the processing companies: e.g. tax free production

# Reorganization of university

Before executing RIC	Aims after executing RIC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Reorganization of SAI was formed based on path dependency.</li><li>- Even though main reforms were held, there are still constraints in modifying colleges and departments.</li><li>- Graduate courses are not offered in all colleges/faculties of SAI.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Depending on demand for professions such as biotechnology, food science, life and environmental science, new departments can be established.</li><li>- Vocational education and training for farmers is needed. Therefore department of Business school for farmers should be developed.</li><li>- Graduate courses will be established in all colleges/faculties of SAI.</li></ul>

# Curriculum development

Before executing RIC	Aims after executing RIC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Curriculum reforms are made according to the requirements of 'MHSSE' and 'MAWR' of Uzbekistan. Updates are usually made in terms of teaching hours, the main content is not changed considerably.</li><li>- Uzbekistan has not accepted ECTS or credit system yet</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Establishment of a new future-and market-oriented agriculture-based courses are needed.</li><li>- Credit system should be implemented in SAI.</li><li>- Curriculum of vocational education and training for farmers is needed to be established.</li></ul>

# Capacity building of faculty

Before executing RIC	Aims after executing RIC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- According to the requirements of MHSSE, since 2014, every teaching professional should take qualification exams on appropriate field.</li><li>- Existing system of teachers' training organization is mainly localized.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Enhancement of teachers' competence should be organized with more strong collaboration with relevant agricultural universities of Uzbekistan.</li><li>- Promotion of quality assurance procedures at national level is needed.</li><li>- Not only national but international competences are needed for teachers in order to be able to work in collaboration with foreign university colleagues.</li></ul>

# Establishment of RIC in SAI

Before executing RIC	Aims after executing RIC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-No RIC in SAI, weak linkages with farmers and other stakeholders.</li><li>-Farmers' collaboration with national research institutes is centralized which hinder development.</li><li>- Existing equipments in laboratories of SAI are outdated</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- RIC in SAI will be as a pioneer center in Uzbekistan, will promote technical, product, process, marketing, entrepreneurial and organizational innovations with farmers.</li><li>-SAI will benefit by integrating into RIC different stakeholders, e.g. farmers, processors, extension service officers.</li><li>-The role of banking and financial services, farmer organizations is important.</li><li>- SAI will be equipped with modern laboratory equipments</li></ul>

# Establishing of RIC in SAI

- Promote rural development in Samarkand region
- Support small scale famers' participation
- Postharvest technology development
- Creating employment and improved livelihoods

## Regional Innovation Center

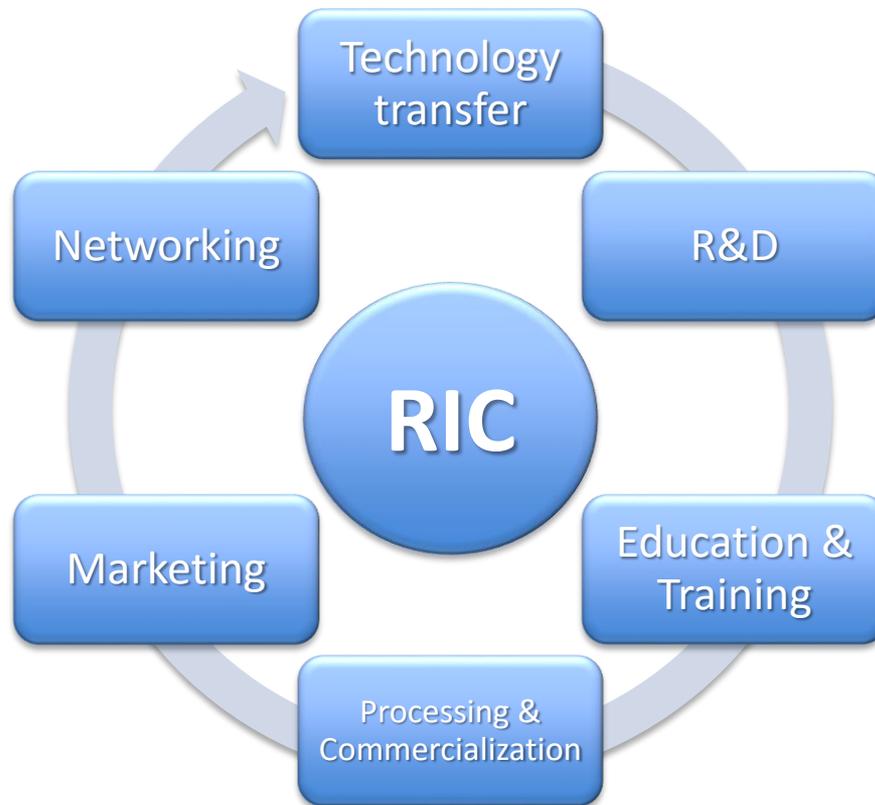
**MAWR**  
- Regional  
agricultural  
offices

**Universities**  
-SAI  
-Other related  
research  
institute

**Samarkand  
Regional  
Government**  
e.g.- Bulungur  
-Jambay and  
others

# Establishing of RIC in SAI

## Main Functions of RIC



# Operation plan of RIC in SAI

	Stage 1 (Infrastructural build-up period, 2016~2020 year)	Stage 2 (Infrastructural completion period, 2020~2023 year)	Stage 3 (Infrastructural application period, 2023~2025year)
Period of business (10 years)	4 years agreement (Initial agreement for 2 years + Additional agreement another 2 years)	3 years agreement	3 years agreement
Major business	Technological Development of Agricultural Production	Development of Agricultural Processing	Human Resource Development
Scale of support	Approximately 00 hundred million won annually	Approximately 00 hundred million won annually	Approximately 00 hundred million won annually
Allocation of expenses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Machinery +Organization : 70%</li> <li>▶ R&amp;D+Education : 30%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Machinery +Organization : 40%</li> <li>▶ Software(R&amp;D etc.) : 30%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Expenses for Infrastructural operation</li> <li>▶ Education +Commercialization+Marketing</li> </ul>
Functions of the center	▶ Infrastructural build-up of machinery and organization	▶ Infrastructural build-up of machinery, organization and software	▶ Infrastructural application of software
Research and development (Consortium)	5 Private teams, 2 Consortiums	10 Private teams, 4 Consortiums	15 Private teams, 6 Consortiums

# Conclusion

- Existing network of stakeholders is weak
- More close cooperation with stakeholders is needed to establish RIC in SAI
- We suggest that the divided departments of the university should work more closely to improve the quality of education and research
- SAI need to focus on extension for agri-business and strengthening lecturer's competency for development of professional human capitals

Thank you for your attention!

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Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations