

ICARDA has been working with partners in Azerbaijan since 1998 and together has developed national research priorities, focusing on germplasm enhancement of wheat, barley, chickpea, and lentil to boost yields, and the promotion of sustainable natural resource management and conservation agricultural practices.

ICARDA's ties with Azerbaijan

Working together for sustainable agricultural development, food security, and better livelihoods



Farmers enjoy income boost from no-till sunflower after winter wheat in the Ter-ter and Barda districts, sites of ICARDA's conservation agriculture projects

Role of agriculture in Azerbaijan

Area

Land area: 83,000 km²

Agricultural area: 48,000 km²
(58% of total land area)

People

Population: 9.5 million

Rural population: 4.5 million

Labor force in agriculture: 38.3%

GDP

GDP per capita: US\$10,700

GDP due to agriculture: 6%



Azerbaijan's agricultural sector

Azerbaijan's connection with agriculture is deep rooted, it being among the handful of countries where crops and nomadic cattle husbandry first emerged. Archaeological excavations reveal the practice of growing cereals dates back up to 10,000 years in the region.

Over the past 10 years, the government has given priority to the agricultural sector providing subsidies to help reduce production costs. Since 2001, agricultural producers have been exempt from most taxes, leading agricultural production to increase from US\$1.5 billion to US\$6.1 billion. These measures have increased the country's self-sufficiency in food production. Crop production and cattle breeding has tripled, and poultry meat production quadrupled. As a result, rural poverty has dropped from 44% in 2002 to 27% in 2005 and nutrition is also improving.