

1. INTRODUCTION

Since 1 April 1996 within the framework of sub-project WUFMAS (EU Tacis, WARMAP Project) the actual use of agricultural inputs and crop yields were measured on 360 sample fields throughout the Aral Sea Basin. Such measurements are valuable because the unified methodology of measurements was used in all fields. Representative fields were selected in farms located in different climatic conditions, so in fact all those fields were indicators of the real situation in agricultural sector of the region.

Working program of sub-project WUFMAS is aimed at survey of actual use of inputs and agricultural production. As far as it was possible actual use of inputs and output received were measured at the border of each field such. All the efforts were applied to achieve more precise and objective measurements and data validation system was used to reveal faulty data.

Apart from this, another objective of WUFMAS program is creation of users' friendly database. Decision makers of different levels and planners of agricultural development and water resources use in the ministries, design and scientific and research institutes, rayons' departments of Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resource, state farms managers and private farmers, as well as consultants for preparation of feasibility studies and commercial companies-suppliers of agricultural inputs can be such users.

In 1998 due to the budget constraints number of sample fields was reduced to 240 fields in 12 pairs of farms.

Aim of this report is to summarise some data collected during agricultural year from October 1997 to November 1998, including all operations on winter crops. It also comprises the results of preliminary data analyses and interpretation, although it is supposed that some issues required special studies than it was done in this report. This report differs from 1997 WUFMAS report because it contains many retrospective data for the period from 1996 to 1998 in order to be able to get an impression about trends in agricultural production and water resources management in the whole region.

As it was said before the detailed analyses of data and development of recommendations to the governments of five republics was not the aim of this report. However, accomplished analyses in this report allowed to develop some recommendations on increase of agricultural production in sample farms. For details of these recommendations see WUFMAS 1999 Report.