

## Strengthening the Development of Green Skills within the Central Asian Regional Economic Cooperation Program

✓ From April 3-5, 2025, the second meeting of the Working Group on "Strengthening the Development of Green Skills within the Central Asian Regional Economic Cooperation Program" took place in Baku, Azerbaijan. This key event marked a significant milestone in advancing cooperation among CAREC program member countries in developing human capital and preparing skilled professionals for sustainable economic growth in the region.

✓ The Working Group was established to identify approaches to training and retraining a workforce that meets the modern demands of the global economy and education integration. The second meeting brought together representatives of member governments, experts, educational organizations, and the private sector to discuss specific steps and implement the Skills Development Strategy.

✓ During the multi-day meeting, Primkul Sholpankulovich Ibragimov, First Deputy Chairman of the Board - Rector Doctor of Veterinary Sciences, Professor, emphasized the importance of further deepening strategic cooperation in agricultural education and science within CAREC, creating a unified educational space between universities, and conducting joint scientific research. He showcased KazNARU's achievements to CAREC member countries and highlighted programs such as:

- Joint educational programs with Wageningen University (Netherlands);
- Crop Production and Technology;
- Veterinary Sanitation and Technology;
- Forest Resources and Forestry;
- Agribusiness (MBA) – all fundamental for establishing specialized research platforms for innovative solutions and agricultural research.

✓ "KazNARU is implementing a number of important initiatives with more than 40 scientific organizations of the People's Republic of China. Together with China Agricultural University and Dayu Irrigation Group Co., Ltd., we have created the 'Kazakhstan-China International Laboratory for Efficient Water Use with IT Technologies.' In collaboration with Lanzhou University, we established the 'Kazakhstan-China Center for Smart Agriculture,' aimed at implementing modern technologies and innovations in agriculture. Current results of research on sustainable biodiversity use are already benefiting local farmers," said Primkul Sholpankulovich.

Additionally, he shared KazNARU's experience in attracting investments and proposed new initiatives to develop scientific potential and strengthen international ties.

✓ Overall, the Working Group participants showed great interest in Kazakhstan's scientific achievements in its journey to becoming an international educational hub. Special attention was paid to creating branches of leading foreign universities and joint work with production associations in the country.

The meeting addressed key challenges related to analyzing current labor market trends and the necessity of adapting educational programs. Discussions included ways to improve professional competence, stimulate lifelong learning programs, and expand access to education for youth, women, and socially vulnerable groups.

✓ The CAREC Working Group approved an action plan for the upcoming period, including initiatives such as:

- Creating a regional platform for experience exchange among CAREC countries in education and vocational training;
- Introducing digital learning tools and developing retraining programs for workforce preparation for digital economy challenges;
- Forming partnerships between government agencies, educational institutions, and the private sector for practical knowledge application;
- Assessing labor market needs to design adapted curricula for various regions;
- Establishing a regional agro-innovation center for developing and testing water-saving technologies;
- Creating inter-university programs on digital agriculture, teaching the application of artificial intelligence, robotics, and Big Data in the agricultural sector;
- Promoting youth involvement in agricultural development through digital platforms, social networks, and agro-influencers.

✓ At the conclusion of the meeting, with participation from deputy ministers of education from member countries, a Memorandum of Understanding was adopted on "Strengthening Regional Cooperation in Skills Development among CAREC Member States at a High Level." From the Kazakh side, the Memorandum was signed by Gulzhan Sagidullayevna Zharasova, Deputy Chairperson of the Higher and Postgraduate Education Committee of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Press Service of KazNARU.



