

Kyrgyzstan: Water Demands of Future Generations

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At present, the population of Kyrgyzstan is 5 million 276 thousand but after 40 years it will exceed 7 million and will double by 2100.

The actual irrigated area in Kyrgyzstan amounts to 1.022 Mha. According to experts there is an objective need for measures to improve existing irrigated lands and develop new ones.

The annual amount of water resources, which are usually regarded as the resources of river runoff in Kyrgyzstan is about 50 km³. While the entire runoff is formed on the territory of the country, it uses no more than 9 km³ per year. Water intake is planned to increase almost two-fold due to the population growth, a need for ensuring food growing and industrial development [1]

Kyrgyzstan, like all the nations of the world, is faced with challenges, including:

- financial crisis: increase in food prices, shortage of funds;
- population growth: unemployment and migration of the population;
- climate change: increase in the number of dangerous physical-geographical processes and phenomena;
- food security: reduction in the area under wheat (main crop), the volume of its production and yield, which indicates to vulnerability of Kyrgyzstan to provide food to the country's population [4]. Virtually all challenges are related to provision of water resources. Kyrgyzstan set the course for implementation of integrated water resources management principles, improvement of water management, and reformation of the water sector.

Based on the Decree of the Provisional Government of the Kyrgyz Republic of 20 May 2010, the State Committee on Water and Land Reclamation was established and entrusted with water resources management.

The main practical steps in this direction are: adoption of the Water Code (2005), establishment of the National Council on Water (2006), the State Committee on Water and Land Reclamation (2010), two Basin Councils - Jalal-Abad and Talas (2009), successful elaboration of two Basin Plans on development, use and protection of water resources for transboundary Talas and Kugart rivers (2009 - 2010). Five Basin Water Management Authorities, Basin Councils in each main river basin, Unified National Information System on Water, and Commissions on Irrigation and Drainage and Dam Safety [2,3] are expected to be established

References

1. Main provisions of the National Strategy on Water Resources Use in the Kyrgyz Republic, 1998.
2. Presentation for the visit of UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon in CA, April 2010.
3. Presentation on Food Security in Kyrgyzstan, May 2011.
4. State of agriculture in Kyrgyzstan, Y. Abdurasulov, Professor, Doctor of agricultural science, Kyrgyz National Agrarian University named after Skryabin.