



# Third Annual Meeting of the CAREC Working Group on Skills Development

## *Key achievements for 2025 and planned interventions for 2026*

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***Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, ADB***

**1-3 April, Istanbul, Turkey**



# Developing Regional Green Skills: TA snapshot

*Developing green skills in the CAREC region for emerging climate challenges*



**Output 1: Institutional framework** for regional cooperation for green skills development **established**

CAREC Skills Development Working Group established (February 2024). The Second annual meeting took place 3-5 April in Baku, AZE.



- Memorandum of Understanding (3 April 2025)



- Annual meetings, Rotating chairmanship (*Uzbekistan in 2024; Azerbaijan in 2025. Turkey in 2026*)



- Knowledge products. Peer learning.



**Output 2: Climate-smart agriculture university education** in the CAREC region **strengthened**

Accelerator program for Agriculture Universities in CAREC to strengthen their competitiveness and quality of education

Program leader:



WAGENINGEN  
UNIVERSITY & RESEARCH

- 9 largest Agriculture Universities from CAREC member countries participate in the program
- CAREC Agricultural Universities Network and Accelerator Program



**Output 3: Capacity of governments, education institutions, and the private sector on green skills, climate change, just transition strengthened**

To refocus on Green Skills Development

Program leader:



International Training Centre

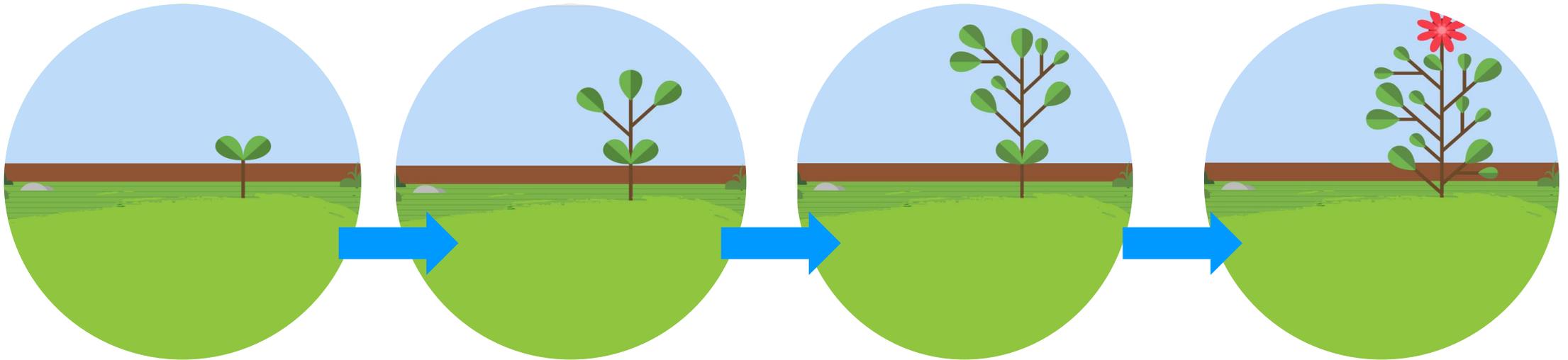
- Tailor-made training materials on mainstreaming green skills into TVET/ HE policies (online and in-person workshops)

# Signed Memorandum of Understanding

- ❖ Memorandum of Understanding “**On strengthening regional cooperation in skills development among CAREC member countries**”
- Provides an opportunity to use **multiple benefits of regional cooperation for creating networking opportunities for policymakers from CAREC countries.**
- Encourages **collaboration, sharing of best practices, building mutual trust for promoting open dialogue and communication to address regional issues collectively,** aligning policies across CAREC nations.



# Unleashing Skills for Green Jobs in the CAREC Region: A Pathway Towards Sustainable Learning and a Just Transition



Foundation course on just transition: framing the climate-job nexus in CAREC countries

**12-23 May 2025,  
online**

Navigating a changing landscape: how skills development can contribute to a just transition in CAREC countries

**10-12 September 2025,  
ITCILO Turin Campus**

Zooming into skills development and just transition priorities in CAREC countries

**22 September to 10  
October 2025, online**

From theory to practice: just transition policy lab for CAREC practitioners

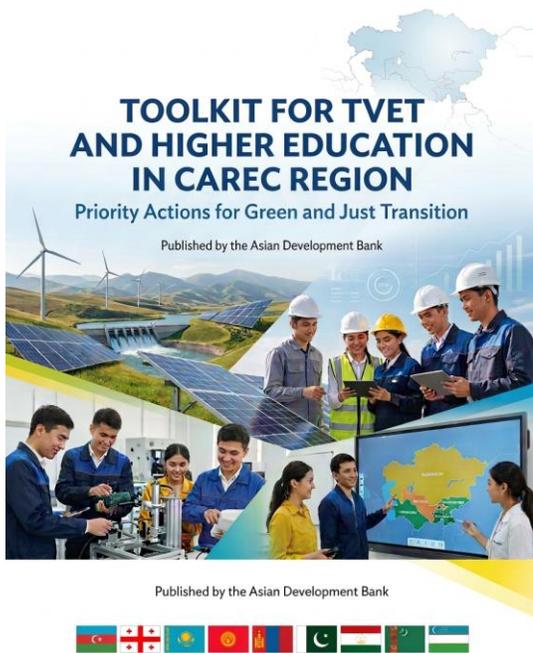
**04-06 November,  
Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan**

# ITCILO Training Program: Key Results

- ✓ **Selective Excellence:** 20 top-performing participants successfully certified out of 38 original nominees.
- ✓ **Policy Integration:** Developed country-specific action plans to mainstream green skills into TVET and Higher Education (HE) systems.
- ✓ **Knowledge Exchange:** Facilitated high-level dialogue and experience sharing among CAREC member countries.
- ✓ **Cross-Sector Alignment:** Promoted consistency between education, labor, and climate agendas to ensure a unified regional approach.



# Toolkit for TVET and Higher Education: Priority Actions for Green and Just Transition (validation stage)



## PRIORITY ACTIONS



Priority Action 1 Establish Leadership Commitment to Green and Just Transition



Priority Action 2 Build Capacity of Teachers and Staff



Priority Action 3 Integrate Green Skills and Sustainability Competencies into Curricula



Priority Action 4 Deploy Monitoring and Evaluation



Priority Action 5 Mobilize Private Sector

Priority Action 6 Champion Gender Equality and Inclusion



Priority Action 7 Promote Students as Change Agents

Priority Action 8 Promote Applied Research on Local Sustainability Issues

# CAREC Agricultural universities' network



9 regional  
agricultural  
universities



Developing green skills for efficient use of resources, developing climate-smart agriculture



Producing a competent workforce with new green skills, fostering faculty and students mobility, investing in common research initiatives



Serving as local repositories of knowledge, research, projects, policies, relevant private sector enterprises



Ensuring climate impact solutions are "tailored to the conditions and needs of each country and subregion"



Equipping relevant agricultural universities with the mechanisms to integrate green and just transition aspects into the skills development agenda for addressing environmental challenges

# Joint Agreement for Cooperation

## Positioning HE institutions as drivers of green development



Climate-smart agriculture education, research, and outreach across the region



Enhanced Just transition and inclusive growth through knowledge transfer and innovations



Regional Center for Green Agriculture



Connections between universities and industry for practical solutions in sustainable agriculture

Regional dialogue towards collective actions

in addressing climate change challenges

# Advancing agricultural innovation through structured regional collaboration: key results

- ✓ **Climate-Smart Agriculture:** Prioritizing CSA in education, research, and outreach to build sustainable food systems.
- ✓ **Innovation Engines:** Transforming universities from academic centers into drivers of knowledge-driven growth and economic shift.



- ✓ **Bridge to Practice:** Ensuring academic outputs are translated into field-ready solutions for the CAREC region.
- ✓ **Policy Alignment:** Supporting the transition from resource-dependent to knowledge-based agricultural economies.

# Selected high-impact regional proposals covering research, academics, and outreach

## Regional Center for Green Agriculture

- **A regional digital platform for climate-smart innovation and just agricultural transition,**
- Foster innovation, knowledge sharing, and collaboration that **empower farmers, researchers, and policymakers to build a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable future**
- Support **data harmonization, open-access platforms, and regional standards** to accelerate innovation and bridge the digital divide in rural areas

## Research on Pest Management and Surveillance Systems

- Harmonization and strengthening of **Regional surveillance, monitoring, and early-warning systems to ensure timely detection and coordinated response to transboundary threats**
- Projected climate variability affect the distribution, seasonal biology, and damaging potential of stink bug and bacterial blight across different agro-climatic zones
- **Climate-smart IPM strategies**—including biological control and non-chemical pest management tools

## Non-degree course: Green Inclusive Change for Sustainable Development

- **Equipping Master's-level degree students in environmental, ecological, and agricultural fields** with the critical social competencies necessary to translate their technical knowledge into equitable and effective sustainable development outcomes within the CAREC region

## Outreach course for Climate-Smart Pasture Management

- **Support professionals to assess pasture conditions** in real-life field context
- Collect data on the pasture conditions, and provide recommendations for **effective pasture management practices with the goal of enhancing productivity, ecosystem resilience, and the well-being of pastoral communities** in CAREC countries

# Plans for 2026: Mainstreaming green skills and just transition aspects into TVET/ HE policies and strategies in Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan



To stock-take international practices on mainstreaming green skills and just transition into TVET/HE policies.



To analyse national TVET/HE strategies, curricula, training materials in view of their alignment with national climate change commitments (Paris Agreement, NDCs)



To apply deliverables produced to develop knowledge of policy makers and stakeholders (inter-agency group members), enabling them to critically examine national practices, identify gaps, and



To develop practical capabilities of policy makers for critical assessment and upgrading of national TVET/HE strategies and related indicators through in-country training sessions



To adopt a policy proposal on mainstreaming green skills and just transition into the revised TVET/HE strategies and make suggestions on introduction of such into national climate

## Implementation set-up:

**Inter-agency working group,** comprising of the key national stakeholders, private-sector actors and employer representatives from selected industry sectors, TVET/ HE institutions and those involved in education-, employment-, economy-related strategic/ policies

# Plans for 2026: Implementation of regional cooperation proposals

## Regional Academic Mobility and Exchange



- Exchange of **25 faculty members and 25 students** from agricultural universities
- Assessment of ongoing **internship and exchange programs** to ensure impact

## Research Excellence and Publication



- Production of **at least 3 joint international articles in high-impact journals.**
- Specialized workshops to **equip faculty with professional skills for international journal submissions**

## Curricula Innovation and Outreach



- Development of at least **one non-degree course in priority emerging areas**
- **Outreach course designed** to bridge the gap between academic research and local community practices

# Plans for 2026: Regional Center for Green Agriculture



## Secure University Commitments

Formally identify and document what each university contribute (staffing, labs, research funding, and physical space), define the ultimate vision, purpose, and priority beneficiaries.



## Define Governance and Funding

Finalize the organogram and financial structure for the Digital Regional Center for Green Agriculture (RCGA).



## In-Country Buy-In

Perform face-to-face meetings with local stakeholders in member countries to align expectations with the center's goals.



## Launch

Establish the Digital hub for real-time data, satellite observations, and information exchange.



## Operationalize Knowledge Flows

Connect farmers, private enterprises, and universities through.



# Thank you!



From  
the People of Japan

