

Leveraging Research for Sustainable Development in the Arab Region

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International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas

A CGIAR Research Center

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Issues facing the Arab Region

- Water scarcity, and climate change
- Land degradation / desertification
- Food security, loss of agricultural productivity and agro-biodiversity
- Poverty and marginalization
- Population movement and rapid urbanization
- Political instability and conflict



ICARDA is a **Decentralized R4D** International Institute on **Dryland Agriculture** combining **Component** Research and **Systems** Research



Strategic Research Priorities



Enhancing water, land productivity

- Rainfed, irrigated (Blue and Grey), and agro-pastoral farming
- Reversal of environmental degradation ٠
- Enhance intensification

Adaptation to Climate Change

Conventional and molecular breeding to develop climate-smart crops and livestock



Genetic Resources

- Mining crop diversity to develop germplasm resistant to heat, drought, cold, disease, higher nutrients
- International public goods (open access)

ICARDA's contribution to SDGs



Systems Research







Climate change: historical records from ICARDA stations



Climate Change: Expected change in Precipitation



Climate Change: Projected droughts by 2100



Tools



Improving locally adapted crops for climate resilience and drought resistance



Changing demographics due to migration



Mapping and monitoring the fragile landscapes

Impact of war on agriculture in Yemen



Enhancing water productivity for food security

- Modernization of irrigation systems and improving the efficiency of surface irrigation
- Supplemental irrigation (Systems and management)
- Deficit Irrigation as a water management strategy for water scarce areas
- Modifying cropping patterns to enhance water productivity
- Use of geo-informatics for monitoring and management



Increasing water productivity in wheat through raised-bed technology

Increasing wheat crop productivity and food security while saving on water resources



Farmer practices (Evaporation)



Mechanized Raised-bed technology



- Reduce applied water by 30%
- Increased yields by 25%
- Reduced seed rate by 50%

Adopted on 700,000 feddans across Egypt in 6 years. Egyptian Government National Campaign is targeting 1.8 million feddans by 2020.

Out-scaling proven technologies







ICARDA New initiatives



DryArc Initiative



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'Leaving no one behind'



Desert farming

- Less than 200 mm rainfall
- Water: harvested (green), extracted (fresh or saline) or reused (grey, treated wastewater)
- Integrated Farming Systems combinations of production systems
- Job creation in, and out of, agricultural sector
- Sustainability: circular economy and improved livelihoods



Thank you

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