

# Better crop germplasm and management for improved production of wheat, barley and pulse and forage legumes in Iraq

## 1. ICARDA training (2005/2006)

The following six short-term training courses were held at ICARDA with a total of 26 participants from Iraq. Courses and participants are listed below. Funding was provided by the project.

- 1) Seed enterprise development and management, 13-24 November 2005. Three (3) trainees:  
As well as seed management training, the trainees were able to interact on the purchase of seed cleaning plants for Mosul requested by the Minister and MOA from the project Capital allocation, as well as interact and develop links with scientists from other countries such as Afghanistan, Syria, Pakistan and Yemen.
- 2) Chemical and Physical Soil Analysis: 23-27 April 2006. Ten (10) trainees:
- 3) Insect taxonomy, anatomy and biological control: 23 April 23-4 May 2006. One (1) trainee:
- 4) Plant taxonomy/herbarium/seed bank management: 7-11 May 2006. Completed – 2 participants:
- 5) Analysis of feed stuffs including microbiological tests for feed and food stuffs: 11-22 June 2006. Two (2) trainees:
- 6) Experimental designs, data analysis, field plot techniques, scientific writing, and data presentation: 25 June - 6 July 2006.  
These trainees spent a half-day with the ICARDA Farm/Agronomy groups inspecting and discussing zero-tillage work and seeing a demonstration of the recently-purchased National Agro-Industries zero-till seeder. This will help them assemble and operate the three similar seeders supplied to Ninevah for zero-till research and demonstrations. This will assist establishment of zero-till trials and demonstrations in the 2006/07 cropping. They also participated in a half-day discussion on project operations and plans with ICARDA scientists involved in the project, especially concerning performance of crops in 2005/06 demonstrations and the October 2006 reporting/planning meeting.

## 2. ICARDA training (2006-2007):

The following seven short-term training courses were held at ICARDA with a total of 34 participants from Iraq. Courses and participants are listed below. Most of funding was provided by the project.

- 1) Automated library and information operations: 12-23 November 2006 (1 trainee)
- 2) Utilization of Expert Systems in Agricultural Research and Production, 5-16 November 2006 (4 trainees)
- 3) Seed Health Testing Course: 19-29 March 2007 (6 Iraqi trainees)
- 4) Weed Management Training: 19-29 March 2007 (3 Iraqi trainees)
- 5) Variety Management and Seed Quality Assurance: 6-17 May 2007 (3 trainees)
- 6) Integrated Crop and Livestock Production funded by JICA/ICARDA: 8-26 April 2007 (10 trainees)
- 7) Water Management for Improved Water Use Efficiency in the Dry Areas- Water Harvesting funded by JICA/ICARDA: 7 May - 7 June, 2007 (4 trainees)

**Farmers' visit:** 20-24 May, 2007 (8 farmers and 4 Ninevah DOA staff)

This visit to inspect and discuss ICARDA on-station and on-farm trials was designed to provide a wide coverage of methodologies and technologies on agronomic management with specific emphasis on replicated large scale application of no-till direct sowing, weed management, wheat, barley, chickpea, lentil, forage legume, and faba bean variety testing trials/demonstrations and on-farm trials in farmers' fields. Participants were employees from Ninevah Agricultural Directorate:

**Conference attendance:**

The project supported Dr Suaad R Abdullah, an entomologist from Mosul University, to attend the 9th Arab Congress of Plant Protection (ACPP) organized by the Arab Society for Plant Protection (ASPP) in collaboration with the General Commission for Scientific Agricultural Research in Damascus, Syria, on 19-23 November 2006. Dr Abdullah had previously visited ICARDA for the Project Reporting/Planning meeting in October 2006 and discussed a small IPDM program for the project with the ICARDA IPDM group (Drs Bayaa, Kumari, Yahyaoui, Bohssini, Abang). Her attendance at the meeting and conference are part of an initiative to involve the University of Mosul more in the project and provide plant protection expertise and students into project activities in Ninevah.