

ICARDA News
INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
IN THE DRY AREAS

P.O. Box 5466, Aleppo, Syria
Phone: (963-21) 2213433, 2213477, 2225112, 2225012
Fax: (963-21) 2213490, 2225105; E-mail: ICARDA@CGIAR.ORG

ICARDA Welcomes United Nations Desertification Network Delegates



A group of international delegates in Syria to launch Thematic Programme Network 4 of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification visited ICARDA headquarters on 7 July to learn more about the Center's work.

Aleppo, Syria (25 July): Some 50 delegates working on a United Nations-led initiative to combat desertification visited ICARDA headquarters on 7 July to learn more about the Center's work in dryland agriculture and natural resources management.

The delegates, from several countries in Asia, were in Syria to launch Thematic Programme Network 4 (TPN4) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). They were welcomed by ICARDA Director General Prof. Dr Adel El-Beltagy, who described the Center's many activities related to desertification and encouraged the participants in their efforts.

"Desertification is a serious problem, one that ICARDA has been working to alleviate, in a variety of ways, since the Center's founding," Prof. Dr El-Beltagy said.

The delegates were briefed on ICARDA's work in human resource development, water harvesting, genetic resources, geographical information systems, small ruminants, biotechnology, soil and water, computer and biometric services, and information and library services.

"Your tour of the Center should give you a good understanding of our research and our technologies, but be sure not to overlook our efforts in training. Human capacity building is a part of virtually every program and project, in one form or another," Prof. Dr El-Beltagy said. He assured the group of ICARDA's support for training within the framework of TPN4.

Syria is the host country for the network, entitled Water Resources Management for Agriculture in Arid, Semi-arid and Sub-humid Lands, which will promote cost-effective approaches for the use of scarce water resources, work to minimize further soil degradation caused by salinization, and test methodologies for the reclamation and use of already degraded soils.