

About **ICARDA - FAO - AARINENA – CIHEAM**

International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA):

ICARDA serves the entire developing world for the improvement of lentil, barley and faba bean; all dry-area developing countries for the improvement of on-farm water-use efficiency, rangeland and small-ruminant production; and the West and Central Asia and North Africa region for the improvement of bread and durum wheats, chickpea, and farming systems. ICARDA's research provides global benefits of poverty alleviation through productivity improvements integrated with sustainable natural-resource management practices. ICARDA meets this challenge through research, training, and dissemination of information in partnership with the national agricultural research and development systems. The results of research are transferred through ICARDA's cooperation with national and regional research institutions, with universities and ministries of agriculture, and through the technical assistance and training provided by the Center. In addition to its role in supporting research through technical contributions and capacity building, it plays a catalytic role in enhancing regional and international cooperation. Its collaboration with the WANA NARS takes place through its regional programs in five sub-regions in WANA. National and regional coordination meetings are held annually to plan and review research in areas of common interest. ICARDA has 27 regional and sub-regional research networks in the WANA region, which address major agricultural problems and issues.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO): FAO works towards raising the levels of nutrition and the standards of living of peoples, securing improvements in the efficiency of the production and distribution of all food and agricultural products, and improving the conditions of rural populations, thus contributing towards an expanding world economy. Therefore, one of the major tasks of FAO is to ensure that the benefits of biotechnology will be shared by people in the North and South, in both large and small, and rich and poor countries. FAO's strategy is to concentrate on providing information, monitoring and advice; facilitating access to the new technologies, providing a forum for the review of trends; developing appropriate guidelines and codes to facilitate environmentally sound and equitable harnessing of modern biotechnology; helping developing countries to identify biotechnology needs and priorities and to assess socioeconomic impacts; and strengthening the overall biotechnological capabilities of the developing countries.

Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East and North Africa (AARINENA):

AARINENA conducts its activities in five sub-regions in the Near East and North Africa: Maghreb, Nile Valley and Red Sea, Mashreq, Arabian Peninsula, and West and Central Asia. It aims to foster the development of agricultural research in the region; promote the exchange of agricultural, scientific and technical experience and information; encourage the establishment of appropriate cooperative research and training programs in accordance with identified regional, bilateral or national needs and priorities; advise member institutions on issues pertinent to research organization and management; and strengthen cross-linkages between national, regional and international research centers and organizations, including universities, through involvement in jointly planned research and training programs. AARINENA provides a good forum for conducting research at the regional level.

Centre International de Hautes Études Agronomiques Méditerranéennes (CIHEAM):

CIHEAM is an intergovernmental organization with 13 member countries. Its four institutes (Bari/Italy, Chania/Greece, Montpellier/France, and Zaragoza/Spain) provide post-graduate education at the MS level on topics relevant to the Mediterranean region. CIHEAM manages Mediterranean research networks, promotes the organization of specialized education cycles in member countries, holds seminars and workshops bringing together technicians and scientists specialized in Mediterranean agriculture, and publishes the review: "*Options Méditerranéennes*." Through these activities, CIHEAM promotes North/South dialogue and international cooperation for agricultural development in the Mediterranean region. It contributes to human resources capacity building in the region and to strengthening agricultural research systems.

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**THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
SYSTEMS
IN THE WEST ASIA AND NORTH AFRICA REGION**

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