
ICARDA's Mandate and Mission

ICARDA's Charter, written in 1975, assigned the following Mandate to the Center:

“...promoting improved and more productive agriculture in developing countries having a dry, subtropical or temperate climate through research and training activities, conducted primarily in the countries of the Near East, North Africa and the Mediterranean region in order to raise the standard of living and promote the social, economic and nutritional well-being of peoples of developing countries.” Specific objectives include: “(a) to serve as an international center for research into and the improvement of barley, lentils and broad beans (*Vicia faba*); (b) to serve as a regional center in cooperation with other appropriate international agricultural research centers, for research in other crops of major importance to the region, such as wheat and chickpea; (c) to conduct research into and develop, promote and demonstrate improved systems of cropping, farming and livestock husbandry; (d) to collaborate with and foster cooperation and communication among other national, regional and international institutions in the adaptation, testing and demonstration of improved crops, farming and livestock systems; and (e) to foster and support training in research and other activities carried out in the furtherance of its objectives.”

Revised Mission Statement

(According to the evolving Strategy of ICARDA,
embodied in its Medium-Term Plan 1998-2000, approved by TAC)

ICARDA serves the entire developing world for the improvement of barley, lentil, and faba bean; and dry-area developing countries for the on-farm management of water, improvement of nutrition and productivity of small ruminants (sheep and goats), and rehabilitation and management of rangelands. In the Central and West Asia and North Africa (CWANA) region, ICARDA is responsible for the improvement of durum and bread wheats, chickpea, pasture and forage legumes and farming systems; and for the protection and enhancement of the natural resource base of water, land, and biodiversity. ICARDA's research contributes to poverty alleviation through productivity improvements integrated with sustainable natural resource management, and the Center's research outputs constitute international public goods.

ICARDA's mission is to improve the welfare of poor people through research and training in the dry areas of the developing world, by increasing the production, productivity and nutritional quality of food, while preserving and enhancing the natural resource base.