



IRFFI/UNDG IRAQ TRUST FUND (UNDG ITF)
ANNUAL PROGRAMME NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT
REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2009

Submitted by:

Food and Agriculture Organization of the
United Nations
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Country and Thematic Area:
Agriculture and Food Security

Programme No: A5-25

Programme Title: Rehabilitation and
Development of the National Vegetable Seed
Industry in Iraq

Participating Organization(s):

FAO – Food and Agriculture Organization of the
United Nations

Implementing Partners:

- Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)

Programme Budget (from the Fund):
US\$2,828,263

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Programme Duration (in months):24 months

Start date: 07/10/2008

End date: 07/10/2010

- *Original end date:* 07/10/2010
- *Revised end date, if applicable*
- *Operational Closure Date, if applicable:*

Budget Revisions/Extensions:

*List budget revisions and extensions, with
approval dates, if applicable*

I. Purpose

Provide the main outputs and outcomes/objectives of the programme.

Main Outcomes:

- Rehabilitated damaged infrastructure in the vegetable seed sector.
- Enhanced technical capacity in vegetable seed research and production.
- Supported Private sector in the vegetable seed industry

Main Objectives:

- Improve food security and nutrition for the Iraqi people.
- Increased domestic production of vegetable crops.
- Rehabilitation of damaged infrastructure in the vegetable seed sector.
- Enhance technical capacity in vegetable seed research and seed production and provision of support to the private sector in vegetable seed industry.

Expected outputs

- Greenhouses for varietal improvement and seed production procured and installed.
- Equipment for seed production, processing and quality control procured and installed.
- Vegetable crops improvement programme rehabilitated.
- Model production farm, processing plant and quality control laboratories for vegetable seed established.
- Modules for vegetable seed sector study tour, overseas and in-country training developed and implemented.
- GOI assisted in the implementation of seed policy and regulatory framework.
- Skills and knowledge constraints of the workers at the sectoral level overcome.
- Vegetable seed production added value created.
- Module of business development designed for capacity building.

Explain how the Programme relates to the Strategic (UN) Planning Framework guiding the operations of the Fund.

FAO ensures that project activities are integrated into the overall UN Assistance Strategy for Iraq. Project activities support to the Millennium Development Goals. This project was designed to achieve the following:

- Enhanced and sustainable long-term food production and natural resource management;
- rehabilitated and reconstructed infrastructure;
- strengthened institutional capacity;
- formulated legislation, policy and strategy;
- increased employment and income-generation;
- enhanced environmental restoration and conservation.

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

MDGs main goals of focus in this project are:

- Goal 1 “Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.” Goal 1 will be achieved through the increase of domestic food production, job creation and promotion of income-generating activities.
- Goal 3 “Promote gender equality and empower women.” Goal 3 will be achieved through the participation of women in the project activities.

The project will also indirectly contribute to the following MDGs:

- Goal 2 “Achieve Universal Primary Education;”
- Goal 4 “Reduce Child Mortality;”
- Goal 5 “Improve maternal health;” and
- Goal 7 “Ensure environmental sustainability through capacity building/training interventions and the improved food security situation.”

II. Resources

Financial Resources

Provide information on other funding resources available to the project, if applicable. US\$0.3million in kind contribution by the MoA.

Provide details on any budget revisions approved by the appropriate decision-making body, if applicable.

Not applicable.

Provide information on good practices and constraints in the mechanics of the financial process, times to get transfers, identification of potential bottlenecks, need for better coordination, etc.

No constraints

Human Resource

National Staff: Provide details on the number and type (operation/programme)

One National Programme Coordinator (NPC) based in Iraq. Role includes: support of programme coordination, formulation of work plan, and assistance in the implementation of program activities.

One Project Coordinator based in Baghdad. Role includes: Assist International Project Manager in the implementation of activities of grass-roots projects with implementing partners.

International Staff: Provide details on the number and type (operation/programme)

One International Project Manager (Chief Technical Adviser) based in Amman, Jordan. Role includes: the overall project management.

III. Implementation and Monitoring Arrangements

Summarize the implementation mechanisms primarily utilized and how they are adapted to achieve maximum impact given the operating context.

Partnerships

FAO works very closely with the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) in Iraq in the implementation of activities. The main partners within the MoA are the State Company for Horticulture and Forestry (SCHF) for implementation of major activities and the State Board for Seed Testing and Certifications (SBSTC) for seed quality control aspects.

Remote-control management

Due to the prevailing poor security situation at present in Iraq, management by international staff is done from FAO-Iraq offices in Amman Jordan. Management decisions are influenced by periodic progress reports from the field. The Chief Technical Adviser stationed in Amman continues to be in constant communication with the National Project Coordinator (NPC) in Iraq via telephone, e-mail and video conferencing. The NPC travels frequently to Amman when necessary to discuss programme planning, monitoring, technical specifications and bids evaluation review on procurement issues. The Project Steering Committee located in Amman, provides guidance on the implementation of activities and recommend alternative course of actions when required.

Within the FAO system, the Special Emergency Programmes Service (TCES) of the Operations Division is responsible for operation of the project at the field level and works together with the Technical Division (AGPS) which is the Lead Technical Unit for technical-backstopping and the Procurement Division (AFSP) for procurement of equipment.

Provide details on the procurement procedures utilized and explain variances in standard procedures.

FAO standard procurement procedures apply without variance. In August 2004, FAO, in a written agreement with its key counterpart ministries, opted for strong involvement of the ministries in the procurement process. This involvement includes the following elements and which is being applied to date:

- identification of inputs or services required undertaken jointly by FAO/Iraqi Line Ministry;
- preparation of detailed specifications, bill of quantities, drawings, delivery time and destination undertaken by FAO and the Iraqi Line Ministry and endorsed by the latter;
- list of local potential suppliers provided by the Iraqi Line Ministry to be included by FAO in its invitations to bid;
- tenders launched by FAO inviting local and international potential suppliers;
- technical review of the offers received and preparation of recommendations carried out jointly by FAO/Iraqi Line Ministry and endorsed by the latter; and
- Purchase Orders or Contracts issued by FAO.

No variance in standard procurement has been required.

Provide details on the monitoring system(s) that are being used and how you identify and incorporate lessons learned into the ongoing project.

Physical monitoring visits to the programme implementation sites by the international staff stationed in Amman are not possible due to the prevailing poor security situation. Constant communication occurs between Amman and Baghdad (the NPC and Iraqi MoA) on activities implementation status, progress and constraints. Periodic reports prepared by the field and dissemination of relevant information are the key monitoring tools. Decisions are taken as quickly as possible for any needed alternative actions.

As the monitoring system put in place, a monthly progress report from the NPC in the field is received by the CTA who in turn prepares a quarterly monitoring report consisting of parameters, such as project activities as outlined in the work plan, projected dates for the completion of the outlined activities and current status of each project activities both in terms of time and status of work. The CTA then submits the reports to the OiC of FAO-Iraq Programme for necessary action and on-forwarding to the Operations Division at headquarters.

Periodically the Technical Division is apprised of the progress of the work activities in relation to the agreed upon work plan. The Technical Division would advise through available communication channels and makes backstopping field visits.

Report on any assessments, evaluations or studies undertaken.

There is currently no reporting for this section.

IV. Results

Provide a summary of Programme progress in relation to planned outcomes and outputs; explain any variance in achieved versus planned outputs during the reporting period.

The following are the major outputs achieved during the reporting period which have contributed to the targeted outcome:

- Conduct of baseline data and needs assessment has been undertaken which has presented the existing situation in the targeted areas of vegetable production, vegetable seed supply, the quality vegetable seed needs of farmers, and verified the needs for seed sector equipment and training.
- Procurement of office automation equipment (e.g. desktop computer, laptop computer, printer, scanners, etc) has been undertaken. Use of these equipments by the staff of the MoA has further strengthened partner organization's capacity for efficient effective collaboration in activities implementation.
- Study tour in the vegetable seed sector undertaken by four Iraqi Officials provided them opportunity to have the first hand information on status of technology available outside the country.
- Training of trainers (ToT) programme organized internationally in excellent research and training centres abroad has benefited 25 Iraqi technical personnel who were imparted state of art techniques and skills in the field of vegetable seed technology. These trained personnel are already preparing in-country training programmes where a larger number of Iraqis seed technicians will take part.
- Farm equipment procured (e.g. tractors). Delivery to the Iraqi MoA is underway.
- Procurement of Seed testing equipment ongoing.

Report on the key outputs achieved in the reporting period including # and nature of the activities (inputs), % of completion and beneficiaries.

Key outputs achieved in reporting period are as follows:

Study Tour and Training Programme:

Four Iraqis comprised of three seed technical personnel of the Iraqi MoA including the National Project Coordinator and one seed entrepreneur representing the private sector visited India for a period of two weeks to have first hand information on various aspects of the vegetable seed programme (including crop improvement, varietal maintenance, seed multiplication, seed processing, quality control, marketing, etc). They visited the facilities for plant genetic resources conservation and utilization, research centres, vegetable seed processing and packaging plants, seed markets in both the public and private sectors and informed themselves with the latest technologies developed on vegetable seed technology. The participants of the tour also explored with their host country counterparts for possible future collaboration. Achievement 100% of planned.

Three Training of trainers (ToT) courses attended by Iraqi technical personnel with duration of about one month each as below have been completed:

- varietal development and evaluation – organized in India with 7 participants,
- seed production and marketing – organized in Brazil with 9 participants , and
- seed quality control – organized in the Netherlands with 9 participants.

The training targeted technology transfer in the major vegetable crops of Iraq (e.g. tomato, eggplant, cucumber, okra and muskmelon). Achievement 100% of planned.

Baseline Data Assessment:

Baseline data assessment undertaken with the collection of information on vegetable production, and vegetable seed production and marketing from primary sources comprised of farming households and with the use of secondary data. The findings of the assessment are being utilized to further verify the technology transfer and capacity development needs in vegetable seed sector. The data would be further utilized to measure the progress made on different measurable indicators with the implementation of the project activities. Achievement 100% of planned

Procurement:

Procurement of office automation equipment to facilitate working, communication and database management of the seed technical personnel of the State Company for Horticulture and Forestry (SCHF) has been completed and the equipments delivered. Few equipment for vegetable seed farm has been delivered and already in use. Other farm equipments (numbering 15 items) are being delivered after issuance of the purchase order. The technical specifications of the seed testing equipment (numbering 45 items) have been finalized and international tenders launched. Evaluation of bids received is underway with the assistance of the FAO Technical Division. Finalization of the technical specifications for climate-controlled greenhouses to be used for vegetable varietal screening and evaluation is underway. Achievement 50% of planned.

Explain, if relevant, delays in programme implementation, the nature of the constraints, actions taken to mitigate future delays and lessons learned in the process.

Some delay was experienced in the conduct of the baseline data assessment primarily in the collection of primary data due to the prevailing security situation. That further delayed the identification of equipment

needed specifically for seed testing and processing purposes thus delaying the procurement process. The baseline information and needs assessment are required in order to finalize the procurement and capacity building programmes outlined in the project.

List the key partnerships and collaborations, and explain how such relationships impact on the achievement of results.

Ministry of Agriculture

The project is designed by FAO and implemented by the Iraqi Ministry of Agriculture. Generally there is a high level of collaboration extended from the counterpart Ministry taking into account the security situation prevalent in Iraq. FAO provides technical support to the main development agencies of the Iraqi MoA namely State Company for Horticulture and Forestry (SCHF) and the State Board for Seed Testing and Certification (SBSTC). The SCHF has the mandate to improve vegetable crops and seed supply, whereas SBSTC is the national seed certification agency for Iraq. A close working collaboration with these two agencies would ensure the achievement of project objectives with regards to variety maintenance, seed production, processing, quality control, human capacity development and sustainability of the project.

Private Sector

Individuals from the private sector are included in training programmes like skills enhancement and entrepreneurship development to provide further impetus for the involvement of the private sector in the vegetable seed production and marketing. Iraq's National Seed Policy strongly supports the growth of a national seed sector where the private sector will play a major role in marketing. The government will facilitate the process through enactment of appropriate seed law to provide an enabling environment.

During the implementation of activities, the Universities, civil societies, NGOs, private sector (producer and sellers) will be invited to participate wherever necessary. This practice of collaboration with stakeholders in the seed industry will continue.

Other highlights and cross-cutting issues pertinent to the results being reported on.

In the short-term the project beneficiary will be the Government institution and its staff. In the longer term through skills development and technology transfer where gender balance will be maintained amongst the beneficiaries, the private sector will be involved in seed production and marketing with a bigger role and there will be associated employment opportunities.

V. Future Work Plan (if applicable)

Summarize the projected activities and expenditures for the following reporting period (1 January-31 December 2010), using the lessons learned during the previous reporting period.

For the remaining period up to the project end date of 07 October 2010, the following activities are planned:

- Delivery of vegetable seed production farm machineries and seed testing equipment;
- Procurement of climate-controlled greenhouses;
- Procurement process for pilot vegetable seed processing plant;

- Procurement of Seed Testing Equipment;
- implementation of in-country training programmes on vegetable seed technology;
- procurement of inputs and initiation of early generation seed production of target vegetables;
- Implement remaining leg of the seed sector study tour;
- Organize national vegetable seed workshop and assist MoA in vegetable seed sector planning.
- Provide technical assistance to SCHF in seed multiplication and quality control programme.

Indicate any major adjustments in strategies, targets or key outcomes and outputs planned.

Not applicable.

VI. Performance Indicators (optional)

Fill the table in this section to report on the indicators set at the output level as per the approved results framework in the programme document. (Please see Annex I)

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baselines	Planned Indicator Targets	Achieved Indicator Targets	Means of Verification	Comments (if any)
IP Outcome 1						
IP Output 1.1 Construction of greenhouses for varietal improvement and seed production	Indicator 1.1 Foundation seed production;	No vegetable seed production programme	5 kg of seeds	On-going activity	On-going activity	The activity is on-going.
IP Output 1.2 Equipment for seed production, processing and quality control procured and installed	Indicator 1.2 Quantity of seed produced and tested	No vegetable seed produced and tested	2 metric tonnes	On-going activity	On-going activity	The activity is on-going.
IP Output 1.3 Buildings for seed processing plant and seed testing laboratories constructed/rehabilitated	Indicator 1.3 Number of buildings rehabilitated/ constructed	Buildings needing rehabilitation (1 – seed processing plant, 2 – seed testing lab)	3 buildings	On-going activity	On-going activity	The MoA has commenced the rehabilitation of the physical infrastructures.
IP Outcome 2						
IP Output 2.1 Vegetable crops improvement programme rehabilitated	Indicator 2.1 Improved varieties of major vegetable crops	No improved varieties available through national research	6 varieties of major vegetable crops	On-going activity	On-going activity	Seed collection of local vegetables undertaken.

		system				
IP Output 2.2 Model production farm, processing plant and quality control laboratories for vegetable seed established	Indicators 2.2 Functional farms, seed proceeding plant and laboratories	Farm land available, but no research and production activities; no functional seed processing plant, absence of vegetable seed testing laboratory	Seed Farm – 1; Vegetable seed processing plant – 1; Vegetable seeds internal quality control labs - 2	Office automation equipment procured	Delivery records.	Under progress.
IP Output 2.3 Vegetable seed quality control standards established	Indicator 2.3 Field and seeds standards	No field and seed standard defined for vegetable crops	Field and seeds standards for 10 vegetables	On-going activity	On-going activity	The activity is on-going.
IP Output 2.4 Modules for vegetable seed sector study tour, overseas and in-country training developed and implemented	Indicator 2.4 Study tour and training	There has been no study tour and training programme conducted in the vegetable seed sector	Participants of study tour (one study tour 3 participants), external training (3 courses – 25 trained in Trainers of Training, ToT programme and the number of trained people in internal training (5 courses – 135	Vegetable seed sector study tour undertaken by four Iraqi participants. ToT programme participated by 25	Tour report by participants. Training report by host institutions.	Additional leg of study tour and in-country training to undertake in the next reporting period.

			persons)	Iraqi technical personnel		
IP Outcome 3						
IP Output 3.1 GOI assisted in the implementation of seed policy and regulatory framework (at Macro Level)	Indicator 3.1 Seed Law	National seed law promulgated by Government; Seed Law drafted	Seed Law promulgated	Draft Seed Law submitted to the Government.	MoA communication.	The Government taking necessary action on seed law enactment.
IP Output 3.2 Skill and knowledge constraints of the workers at the sectoral level overcome (at Meso Level)*	Indicator 3.2 Trained workers	No trained workers in vegetable seed sector	Trained workers in vegetable seed production, processing and packaging - 25	On-going activity	On-going activity	The activity is on-going.
IP Output 3.3 Vegetable seed product added value created (at Micro Level)	Indicator 3.3 Vegetable seed	No vegetable seed multiplication programme at present	Vegetable seed produced and packaged – 2 MT	On-going activity	On-going activity	The activity is on-going.
IP Output 3.4 Module of business development designed for capacity building (at Micro Level)	Training	No training programme	3 Training sessions -	On-going activity	On-going activity	The activity is on-going.

VII. Abbreviations and Acronyms

List the main abbreviations and acronyms that are used in the report.

AFSP	Procurement Services, FAO
AGPS	Seed and Plant Genetic Resources Service, FAO
CTA	Chief Technical Adviser
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
ICI	International Compact with Iraq
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
NDS	National Development Strategy
NPC	National Project Coordinator
SBSTC	State Board for Seed Testing and Certification
SCHF	State Company for Horticulture and Forestry
TCES	Special Emergency Programmes Services, FAO
ToR	Terms of Reference
ToT	Training of Trainers