



IRFFI/UNDG IRAQ TRUST FUND (UNDG ITF)

ANNUAL PROGRAMME NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2009

Submitted by:

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Country and Thematic Area:

Iraq
Old Cluster: Agriculture, Food Security,
Environment and Natural Resources Management

New Sector: Agriculture and Food Security

Programme No: A5-16

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

Participating Organization(s):

FAO – Food and Agriculture Organization of the
UN

Implementing Partners:

- Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)

Programme Budget (from the Fund):
US\$5,383,460

Programme Duration (in months):24 months

Start date: 18/05/2006

End date: 31/03/2010

- *Original end date: 18/05/2008*
- *Revised end date, if applicable 31/03/2010*
- *Operational Closure Date,31/03/2011 if applicable:*

Budget Revisions/Extensions:

List budget revisions and extensions, with

approval dates, if applicable:
First Extension: 18 November 2008
Second Extension: 31 March 2009
Third Extension: 30 September 2009
Fourth Extension: 31 March 2010

I. Purpose

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

Main objectives:

- To improve food security and nutrition in Iraq through the rehabilitation and improvement of the national seed programme. This will promote the availability and use of high quality seeds of adapted varieties by farmers and provide the foundation for a sustainable seed industry.
- To formulate a national seed policy. Prior to the formulation of a national seed policy a review of the current seed legislation will be conducted.
- To rehabilitate damaged infrastructure for variety development and evaluation, variety maintenance, initial seed multiplication and seed quality control, the project aims to increase the capacity of the national seed industry.
- To supply required equipment.
- To provide technical training to improve the capacity of key human resources in the national seed industry.

Outputs

- A clear and concise national seed policy formulated in a participatory manner and launched by the Ministry of Agriculture to serve as the blueprint for guiding the development of the national seed industry.
- Current seed legislation reviewed and up-graded to align with the new policy objectives.
- A strong and clearly mandated National Seed Council composed of representatives from all relevant seed industry stakeholders (Government and private sector) established.
- Full specifications for the laboratory and field equipment formulated and required repairs and reconstruction of buildings completed.
- Essential buildings and infrastructure for the seed programme repaired and reconstructed and procured equipment installed.
- Breeder seeds of wheat (0.0750 tonne), barley (0.0250 tonne), maize (0.2 tonne) and rice (1 tonne) locally produced.
- Foundation seeds of wheat (50 tonne), barley (5 tonne), maize (5 tonne) and rice (20 tonne) produced.
- Variety maintenance techniques and procedures for the target crops developed.

- Existing database for seed quality control operations improved and strengthened.
- Transportation and communication system in SBSTC for field inspection, seed processing plants and other seed quality control operations improved.
- 34 Iraqi scientists and 2 senior staff of MoA exposed to modern developments regarding improving national seed industry in variety development and evaluation, variety maintenance, seed production and marketing systems and seed quality control.
- In service training for staff involved in various components of the national seed programme conducted.

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 within the framework of the International Compact with Iraq (ICI). In addition, project activities support 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 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.

Not applicable

Provide details on any budget revisions approved by the appropriate decision-making body, if applicable. Not applicable.

A budget revision, movement of funds between project budget components, was approved by the UNDG-ITF SCSO on the following dates:

- First approval was granted on December 1, 2008 to cover the project extension period until March 31, 2010.
- Second approval was granted on April 1, 2009 to cover the project extension period until September 30, 2009.
- The third approval was granted on September 2, 2009 to cover the project extension period until March 31, 2010.

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. Not applicable.

Human Resources

National Staff: Provide details on the number and type (operation/programme). One National Programme Coordinator based in Iraq. Role includes: support of programme coordination, formulation of workplan, and assistance in the implementation of program activities.

One Project Assistant based in Amman. 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 Manger (Chief Technical Adviser) based in Amman, Jordan. Role includes: 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 State Board for Agricultural Research (SBAR) for implementation of major activities and 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 will be in constant communication with the National Project Coordinator (NPC) in Iraq via telephone, e-mail and video conferencing. The NPC will also travel to Amman when necessary to discuss programme planning, monitoring, and technical specification and bids evaluation review on procurement issues. The Project Steering Committee also located in Amman, will provide 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 in the field 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. FAO executes the following procurement procedures.

- 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 recommendation carried out jointly by FAO/Iraqi Line Ministry and endorsed by the latter; and
- purchase orders or contracts issued by FAO.

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 needful 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 workplan. The Technical Division would advise through available communication channels and makes backstopping field visits.

Report on any assessments, evaluations or studies undertaken.

No assessments, evaluations or studies were undertaken during this reporting period.

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 major outputs achieved during the reporting period have contributed in the targeted outcome.

Seed Law:

- The drafting of Seed Law in line with the Government of the Iraq adopted National Seed Policy of 2008. It is anticipated that the Seed Law upon enactment following the country's procedure will provide an enabling environment as regulator framework towards further growth and development of the Iraqi seed sector. FAO has been informed that necessary actions are being taken up by the Government of Iraq for purpose of validation of the draft which is on way to the competent authorities for the purpose of promulgation and adoption into seed law.

Equipment Procured and Infrastructure Rehabilitated:

- Procurement and supply of field equipment, seed processing machines and seed testing equipment would contribute to enhanced capacity for variety maintenance, production of breeders and foundations classes seeds, seed multiplication and quality control for growth and development of national seed industry;
- The completion and handover of the seed testing laboratory buildings at two locations – Al-Suwaira (Wassit Governorate) and Al-Qadisiyah (Qadisiyah Governorate) and handing over to the Government will strengthen the seed testing and quality control capacities of the MoA by providing the ideal infrastructures for installation and use of the project delivered seed testing equipments.

Training activities:

- The participants of the external training programme (ToT programme) have started transferring newly acquired skills and techniques in the areas of seed technology to the technical staff of the Iraqi MoA through in-service training within the country. The internal training will be a continuous process to disseminate technologies among a larger number of national technical manpower in order to enhance seed programme technical capacity
- The international training undertaken on installation, operation and maintenance has enabled skills transferred to the Iraqis for proper handling of the project supplied maize cob dryers.

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

The key outputs achieved in the reporting period were as follows:

Draft Seed Law Submitted to the Government:

Necessary feedback from Iraqi seed industry stakeholders on the draft of the comprehensive Seed Law has been obtained and collated by the Ministry of Agriculture. After further fine-tuning in a stakeholders' final legislative review meeting the draft law was submitted to the Government in for enactment as per formal institutional procedure. The seed law is in line with the Iraqi National Seed Policy document adopted by the Government in 2008 as blueprint for the growth of the national seed industry. The Seed Policy was formulated under the technical assistance of FAO. As improved seeds are the fundamental agricultural inputs for sustainable crop production and means of attaining food security, a viable seed industry is therefore essential for development of Iraq's agriculture and economy by offering opportunities for employment and sustainable livelihoods for rural households throughout the country. It

is anticipated that the Seed Law will provide an enabling environment as regulatory framework towards this end.

The Seed Law was drafted following a review of existing Iraqi legislations addressing seed aspects. The seed law aims to upgrade legislation concerning Iraq's seed industry and comprehensively address all aspects of seed programme chain e.g. oversight and coordination, crop improvement, variety release and registration, seed production and processing, quality control, seed marketing, imports, etc.

Equipment Procured and Infrastructure Rehabilitated:

The percentage of project activities completion is as follows:

- Seed legislative review undertaken by seed industry stake holders representing both public and private sectors from Iraq and drafting of upgraded Seed Law – 100% of planned;
- Internal seed technology training course participated by 60 Iraqi MoA staff as in-service training programme – 100% of planned;
- International training on maize cob dryers installation, operation and maintenance participated by 3 Iraqis – 100% of planned;
- procurement of farm equipment, seed processing machines and seed testing equipment – 95% of planned;
- procurement of seed certifications tags – 90% of planned;
- construction and installation of greenhouses – 100% of planned;
- construction of seed testing laboratory buildings and hand-over– 100% 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.

Delay was experienced in the finalization of the design and the preparation of the bill of quantities of the seed testing laboratory buildings due to unavailability of adequate technical resources in the line ministry. Collection of soil samples from construction sites and preparation of analysis report took longer than anticipated. With delay experienced in the construction activities of the present on-going project, it would be wise for future projects to have the Government of Iraq take responsibility of such civil works.

Delay in procurement of certain equipment (e.g. rice seed testing equipments) and laboratory materials (e.g. seed certification tags, repair of greenhouses damaged) is being experienced due to the need for repeat tendering in absence of adequate number of responses and time taken for providing the samples meeting quality standards by suppliers. Taking into consideration the need to enhance the Iraqis' capacity to handle the supplied equipments, training on operation and maintenance of equipments by the suppliers should be part of the procurement process.

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

Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)

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 Board for Agricultural Research (SBAR) and the State Board for Seed Testing and Certification (SBSTC). The SBAR has the mandate to undertake crop improvement programme and supply of early generation seeds, 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.

The SBAR and SBSTC staff, as implementing partners, routinely participate in the process of rehabilitation and improvement of the infrastructures for their institutions through the scheduled assessments, development of required specifications and installation activities. The process of re-establishment of the technical capacities of these institutions involves the training of trainers through overseas fellowships and study tours. The externally-trained staff members who have been trained overseas in the ToT programme are involved in the training of local staff in their institutions through on-the-job and in-service training courses in various seed industry disciplines. The technical agenda of putting in place, once again, the multi-year seed production cycle in the agricultural research centres and the re-strengthening of the seed quality control operations of SBSTC will be determined by the trained staff upon rehabilitation of the physical infrastructures and installation of required equipment and machinery.

Public and Private Sector

The Seed Law in line with the Iraq National Seed Policy was drafted through a participatory process involving all seed industry stakeholders both in the public and private sectors. The outcomes of this process will not only enhance ownership by the Iraqi nationals but will also forge closer collaborative linkages between stakeholders during implementation thereby ensuring success. The new Seed Law provides a comprehensive regulatory framework to ensure availability of quality seeds to farmers. There will likely be an emergence of private sector interests in the seed sector, after enactment of seed law. Appropriate seed regulations will be put in place. It is envisioned that operating in a competitive environment, these private initiatives may propel the development and delivery of greater supplies of better quality seeds to farmers in a more sustainable manner in the longer-term.

During the activities implementation, Universities have been invited and civil societies and NGOs have been involved where 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 aims to create around 500 job opportunities in connection with rehabilitation activities and increased seed production. In the longer term the private sector aims to increase seed production and increase 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 period of 31 March 2010, the following activities are planned:

- assist the Ministry of Agriculture in the enactment of Seed Law and undertake seed law publication;
 - procurement of equipment for rice seed testing and seed certification tags for seed testing laboratories;
 - provide technical support to the MoA on variety maintenance techniques, breeders seeds and foundations seeds production;
 - organize farmers' seed sector visit in the country.
 - provide technical support to MoA in the operation and management of farm tools, seed processing machines and seed testing equipment.
 - technical support to MoA 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 Existing pieces of seed legislation reviewed and appropriate recommendations given for further actions on improvement of national seed legislation	Indicator 1.1 Draft national seed law available	No specific Seed Law in the country	One fundamental Seed Law	Draft of national seed law available	Meetings/seminars with seed industry stakeholders International Legal Consultant's report.	The FAO fine-tuned and finalized draft of the Seed Law submitted to the MoA for necessary action on enactment upon receiving stakeholders' comments on the initial draft.
IP Output 1.2 A clear and concise national seed policy formulated through a participatory process and launched by the Ministry of Agriculture to serve as the blue print for guiding the development of the national seed industry	Indicator 1.2 A national seed policy document prepared Official promulgation of the document by MOA	No national seed policy available	Iraq National Seed Policy drafted. Promulgation of the Policy by MoA.	Iraq National Seed Policy formulated. Policy promulgated by MoA.	A national seed workshop held Number and type of institutions represented in the workshop Promulgated Policy document printed and distributed among	Proceedings document of the National Seed Workshop finalized for publication.

					stakeholders	
IP Output 1.3 A strong and clearly mandated National Seed Board with Government representatives in the executive position and nonvoting private sector representatives of seed industry stakeholders in an advisory capacity put in place and functioning	Indicator 1.3 A reactivated National Seed Board in place	Existing Board needing re-structuring	A re-structured all stakeholders' represented National Seed Council in place	Under progress	Under progress	Implementation of the National Seed Policy with re-constitution of the National Seed Council under progress
IP Outcome 2						
IP Output 2.1 Essential buildings repaired and new ones constructed	Indicator 2.1 Repairs and construction works completed	Seed labs and greenhouses construction required	Seed labs construction – 2 units; greenhouse construction – 4 units	Construction of seed testing lab buildings completed and handed over to MoA. Greenhouses construction installation completed	FAO Resident Engineer's report on construction completion and receipt document by MoA. MoA report of greenhouse construction and installation	
IP Output 2.2 Thirty tonnes of wheat breeder seed, 47 tonnes barley breeder seed, 1 tonne rice breeder seed and 0.20 tonnes maize breeder seed locally produced	Indicator 2.2 Breeder seed locally produced	Breeders seed production system needs to be put in place	Breeders 30 tonnes wheat, 47 tonnes barley, 1 tonne rice and 0.20 tonnes maize	Wheat breeder seed 25 tonnes, barley breeder seed 3.5 tonnes produced;	Field inspection reports of SBSTC, production records of research centres, processed and	Estimated breeder seed production for the next reporting period: maize 0.25 metric tonne, rice 5 tonnes.

					stored breeder seed. MoA communication	
IP Output 2.3 Variety maintenance techniques and procedures for the target crops developed	Indicator 2.3 Field application of maintenance techniques and procedures	Maintenance technique needs to be put into place.	4 crops (wheat, barley, rice and maize)	Maintenance techniques applied in targeted 4 crops (wheat, barley, rice and maize)	Number and training conducted for variety maintenance Improved quality of breeder seed from inspection records of SBSTC	
IP Output 2.4 Existing database for seed quality control operations improved and strengthened	Indicator 2.4 A new functional database A varietal catalogue detailing the characteristics of available varieties produced.	Earlier prepared crops varietal database looted/lost during upheaval	Varietal database and catalogue of 4 crops (wheat, barley, rice and maize)	Computers procured. Training. Thirty staff of the SBSTC and SBAR to be trained in the in-country training course on variety maintenance and database management	10 new computers procured and installed Five staff members of SBSTC and SBAR trained abroad in variety maintenance and use and management of database	
IP Output 2.5 Transportation and communication system in SBSTC for field	Indicator 2.5 4 new vehicles imported 12 non-functioning	Transportation and communication	Means of transportation (vehicle on hire – 1	Means of transportation (vehicle on hire – 1 unit)	Rented vehicles in use for field activities	As per agreed with the Government based on new assessment of needs and situation.

inspection, seed processing plants and other seed quality control operations improved	vehicles repaired 5 units of communication systems imported and installed	needs improvement	unit) – communication (internet – 1 unit)	– communication (internet – 1 unit)	Communication system (internet) in use	
IP Outcome 3						
IP Outcome 3.1 Exposure of 24 Iraqi scientists and 2 senior staff to the latest international technologies and developments in improving national seed industry in variety development and evaluation, variety maintenance, seed production and marketing systems and seed quality control	Indicator 3.1 24 Iraqi scientists trained abroad 2 senior staff complete study tours abroad	No externally trained technical personnel. No study tour undertaken.	24 Iraqi scientists take part in Training of Trainers (ToT) programme overseas	37 Iraqi scientists trained overseas in seed technology ToT programme. Six specialists of Iraqi MoA including two senior officials undertook seed sector study tour in four countries. Three Iraqis undertook international training on maize dryers handling	Study tour reports by participants. Reports prepared by host institutions on training programmes accomplished	The study tour covered Australia, India, Egypt and Syria. Additional seed sector tour and overseas training on variety verification and GMO detection using PCR techniques was organized in the request of the MoA. An international training on maize seed dryers installation, operation and maintenance was organized based on needs assessment.
IP Outcome 3.2 In-service training conducted for staff involved in various components of the national seed programme	Indicator 3.2 4 courses conducted involving a total of 115 staff	In-service training not conducted.	4 in-service training course to train 115 technical staff	4 in-service training with 115 technicians participants conducted (training	Training report prepared by MoA with schedule, venue, resource persons and	

				course on seed production and marketing 25 persons, training course on seed quality control 30 persons, training course on variety maintenance and database management 30 persons)	number of participants in each course	
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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
GMO	Genetically modified organism
GOSM	General Organization for Seed Multiplication
ICARDA	International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas
ICI	International Compact with Iraq
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
NDS	National Development Strategy
NPC	National Project Coordinator
PCR	Polymerase chain reaction
SBAR	State Board for Agricultural Research
SBSTC	State Board for Seed Testing and Certification
TCES	Special Emergency Programmes Services, FAO