

**United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund**  
**Project #:A5-19**  
**Date and Quarter Updated: 1<sup>st</sup> January – 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2010 (1<sup>th</sup> quarter)**

**Participation UN Organisation:** FAO & UNIDO  
**Sector:** Agriculture and Food Security  
**Government of Iraq – Responsible Line Ministry:** Ministry of Agriculture & Ministry of Trade

<b>Title</b>	Rehabilitation of Date Palm Sector in Iraq				
<b>Geographic Location</b>	Mid and Southern governorates of Iraq				
<b>Project Cost</b>	US\$ 8 011 117 (FAO and UNIDO combined) FAO budget: USD 4,886,663				
<b>Duration</b>	18 months				
<b>Approval Date (SC)</b>	30/04/07	<b>Starting Date</b>	10/05/07	<b>Completion Date</b>	Original: 10/11/2008 Extension: 30/6/2010
<b>Project Description</b>	This project contributes to: job creation and community building in rural areas of mid and southern Iraq; food security through the development of modern plantations; development of a date palm cultivation programme, including setting up of a tissue culture lab, fertilisation and irrigation schedule, pruning, pollen harvesting, pollination, thinning, harvesting of date plantations and development of a suitable integrated pest management system. The project will also rehabilitate selected storage, packing and processing units and build the capacity of support institutions such as Date Palm Research and Training Centre (DPRTC).				

#### Development Goal and Immediate Objectives

The development goal of this project is to create productive employment and improve food security through increased agricultural production and productivity. This will be achieved by improving on-farm and post-harvest practices and building the capacity of research and development institutes and entrepreneurs.

The immediate objectives are:

- Rehabilitation and modernization of the date production system.
- Introduction of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) aiming to control the main date palm pests and diseases in respect of local eco-systems.
- Improvement of the date value chain from harvest to market in order to meet local demand and international requirements. This will result in better access to markets and higher farm income.
- Strengthened capacities and capabilities of support institutions to create a date palm research and training centre (DPRTC) focusing on post harvest activities.

#### Outputs, Key Activities and Procurement

<b>Outputs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Date palm tissue culture laboratory set up</li> <li>- Modern date plantations established</li> <li>- IPM programme identified and developed.</li> <li>- Capability of entrepreneurs and staff in the date processing sector enhanced.</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Selected date storage, packaging and processing facilities improved and enabled to act as models for the specific region.</li> <li>- Products of selected pilot enterprises meet international requirements.</li> <li>- New forms of cooperation along the value chain started.</li> <li>- Date marketing organization supported in promoting Iraq dates in international markets</li> <li>- Date Palm Research Institute upgraded and equipped according to the new tasks.</li> </ul>
<b>Activities</b>	<p>The list of activities has been updated during the last project steering committee meeting held in April 2009 in order to match the current situation in Iraq:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1- Assessment of the date palm sector</li> <li>2- Establishment of a tissue culture laboratory and a nursery</li> <li>3- Establishment of demonstration plantations</li> <li>4- Inception workshop on Integrated Pest Management</li> <li>5- IPM activities</li> <li>6- Improving national legislation on import/export of new date palm varieties</li> <li>7- Rehabilitation of the date palm research institute</li> <li>8- Establishing a pool of at least 15 trainers capable of assisting enterprises in technology and product development, as well as, in introducing Good Management Practices (GMP) and Hazard Analysis &amp; Critical Control Points (HACCP) and modern management practices</li> <li>9- Provision of in country training for entrepreneurs and managers through the above trained trainers</li> <li>10- Provision of training for technical staff through above trained trainers in the country in fields of GMP, HACCP, storage, packing and processing</li> <li>11- Rehabilitate selected model facilities in order to meet requirements for hygienic storing, packaging and processing of dates through the provision of new equipment for storing, packaging lines and processing units for dates and installation in the selected pilot enterprises</li> <li>12- Introduce HACCP plans in the selected enterprises through national trainers and provide assistance in applying standards requested in the target markets</li> <li>13- Conduct a study tour to learn from best practices in dates processing and marketing</li> <li>14- Organize study tours and participation in international fairs for promoting the date marketing (export)</li> </ol>
<b>Procurement (major items)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equipment for the demonstration plantations</li> <li>• Equipment for IPM programme, including laboratory and field stations</li> <li>• Equipment the tissue culture laboratory, including glasshouse, multispan, and greenhouses</li> <li>• Equipment for the rehabilitation of a date palm processing and marketing company</li> <li>• Equipment for the pilot processing unit</li> </ul>

### Situation as of 30/03/10

Funds Committed (FAO)	USD 568,354	% of approved	11.6%
Funds Disbursed (FAO)	USD 3,601,071	% of approved	73.7%
Funds Committed* (UNIDO)	39,000	% of approved	1.2%
Funds Disbursed (UNIDO)	USD 2,769,467	% of approved	91,00%
Forecast final date	30/06/2010	Delay (months)	20 month

Direct Beneficiaries	Number of Beneficiaries	% of planned (current status)
Men + Women	318 (FAO) + ( 71 UNIDO)	80% (FAO) 100% (UNIDO)
Women	30 UNIDO	
Children		

IDPs		
Others		
Indirect beneficiaries	40 UNIDO	
Employment generation (men/women)		

<b>Quantitative achievements against objectives and results</b>			
Assessments made and sites selected	FAO and UNIDO conducted separate surveys which targeted agricultural production processing and marketing of date palm sector in Iraq. The results of these surveys will be consolidated into a comprehensive document for further use by the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Trade.	% of planned	100
Date palm tissue culture laboratory set up	Tissue culture lab equipment has been procured and delivered. Movement of project funds for the construction of tissue culture laboratory has been approved by the UNDG. Construction commenced during December 2009.	% of planned	80
Modern date plantations established	Equipments have been procured and delivered. Training on database management and GAP has been conducted and the training manuals on GAP have been finalized and printing on process.	% of planned	95
IPM programme identified and developed. Training material (brochures, leaflet, etc) developed for local trainees and trainers with the assistance of international experts	Activity complete. All the equipment purchased has been delivered and being installed by the General Board for Date Plam (GBDP). Training programme was developed.	% of planned	100
IPM training programme suitable for Iraqi conditions designed and training conducted	Activity complete. 38 GBDP extension staff have been trained on IPM.	% of planned	100
TOT for IPM/FFS potential facilitators (local staff of plant protection and extension dept) carried out	Activity complete. Two international IPM trainings have been conducted in ICARDA (Syria). Unfortunately, due to difficulties in obtaining visas the training scheduled in Egypt had to be cancelled.	% of planned	100
Pilot IPM/FFS programme to disseminate IPM techniques to farmers designed	The IPM equipment have been procured and delivered. Training on IPM/FFS was conducted at NCARE (Jordan). IPM/FFS manuals for national training have been printed. Still awaiting government approval of the importation of bio-control agents.	% of planned	90
GBDP upgraded and equipped according to the new tasks	Activity is on-going. GBDP is to install equipments	% of planned	80
Provision of new equipment for storing, packaging lines and processing units for dates	Completed	% of planned	100
Training on good hygienic practices and introduction of HACCP plans in selected enterprises through national	Completed	% of planned	100

trainers.			
Conduct study tour to learn about existing forms of cooperation	Activity completed; two study tours were organized	% of planned	100
Date Factory certification	All training, requirements, equipments and internal auditor training completed toward the factory certification by BRS company. Remaining activities in progress.	<b>% of planned</b>	70

### Qualitative achievements against objectives and results

1. The assessment survey, design, development, and mode of implementation of project with the counterpart ministries and assessment of the project needs have been completed. Equipment at project demonstration sites and the IPM field stations have been delivered. Capacities of the counterpart ministerial staff in date palm production, IPM, post harvest handling, date processing, packaging, marketing, and hygienic practices have been enhanced through international and national trainings, workshops and study tours.
2. Tissue culture laboratory construction is in progress. Procurement and installation of one Multiplan and 5 greenhouses have been completed.
3. A meeting between the project CTA and Desk Officer from HQ was held in Amman on 12 January to review the project activities. During the meeting it was decided to hold National GAP Trainings through a joint FAO-UNIDO activity to train the farmers/date growers. This meeting followed by meeting of the project CTA with his counterpart UNIDO counterpart for implementation of this activity. The CTA prepared the TORs for the National GAP trainings and prepared an implementation plan in consultation with the GBDP staff in Baghdad, UNIDO NPC Baghdad and FAO National Agricultural Coordinator in Baghdad.
4. Technical Meeting held on 18 February reviewed progress of the project along with the challenges. Objective of the meeting was to brief the new DG GBDP on the project activities. The meeting also focused on the IPM component to pursue the GBDP for installation of the equipment delivered under this component. The new DG committed to make use of the IPM equipment in coordination with mass rearing laboratories at Abu Ghraib and Basra University.
5. Fifteen manuals on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) for date palm production have been finalized, and printing is under process
6. National trainings on propagation of date palm through tissue culture, good agricultural practices, and IPM has been completed. Through these three national trainings 94 GBDP extension workers have been trained.
7. IPM equipment has been procured and delivered to the GBDP, and basic training on IPM/FFS principles, with a focus to use bio-control agents against date palm pests and diseases, provided to the GBDP/MoA staff to strengthen the IPM services at selected locations in Center and South of Iraq.
8. New form of cooperation along the value chain has been initiated.
9. Human capacity building: Strengthening the relation with sister institutes and support the participation in international conferences and international network especially in date palm processing and packaging.

### Main Implementation Constraints & Challenges (2-3 sentences)

1. Security continues to hamper the movement of international and national staff and consultants into the project area. The lack of movement for project-related staff has created a number of challenges for the implementation of project activities.