

**United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund**  
**Project #:A5-25**  
**Date and Quarter Updated: January-March 2010 (1st Quarter)**

**Participating UN Organisation: FAO** **Sector: Agriculture and Food Security**  
**Government of Iraq – Responsible Line Ministry: Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)**

<b>Title</b>	Rehabilitation and Development of the National Vegetable Seed Industry in Iraq				
<b>Geographic Location</b>	Governorates of Baghdad, Babil and Kerbala				
<b>Project Cost</b>	USD\$ 2 828 263				
<b>Duration</b>	2 years				
<b>Approval Date (SC)</b>	07/10/2008	<b>Starting Date</b>	07/10/2008	<b>Completion Date</b>	07/10/2010
<b>Project Description</b>	The project aims to improve food security and nutrition for the Iraqi people with increased domestic production of vegetable crops. This will be brought about by improved seeds use of locally adapted varieties of the major vegetable crops, by rehabilitation of the infrastructure in the government research centres and by enhancing seed production and quality control capacity. The project activities will be concentrated in the major vegetable growing areas of Iraq which are located in the Central and Southern regions. The implementing partner of the project will be the Iraqi Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) with active participation of State Company for Horticulture and Forestry (SCHF) and State Board for Seed Testing and Certification (SBSTC). At the end of the project it is envisaged that the capacity of the government research centres in production of foundation seed of improved vegetable varieties would be enhanced significantly, the damaged infrastructures would be rehabilitated with provision of the equipment for production, processing and quality control resulting in viable local seed multiplication and supply in place with considerable participation of private sector. The technical capabilities of Iraqi human resources will be enhanced.				

**Development Goal and Immediate Objectives**

The development goal of the project is to improve food security and nutrition for the Iraqi people with increased domestic production of vegetable crops.

The immediate objectives of the project are:

- Rehabilitation of damaged infrastructure in the vegetable seed sector
- Enhancement of technical capacity in vegetable seed research and seed production and support to private sector in vegetable seed industry.

**Outputs, Key activities and Procurement**

<b>Outputs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Construction of greenhouses for varietal improvement and seed production.</li> <li>- Equipment for seed production, processing and quality control procured and installed.</li> <li>- Buildings for seed processing plant and seed testing laboratories constructed/rehabilitated</li> <li>- Vegetable crops improvement programme rehabilitated.</li> <li>- Model vegetable seed production farm, processing plant and quality control laboratories for vegetable seed established.</li> <li>- Vegetable seed quality control standards established</li> </ul>
----------------	--

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Modules for vegetable seed sector study tour, overseas and in-country training developed and implemented.</li> <li>- GOI assisted in the implementation of seed policy and regulatory framework.</li> <li>- Skills and knowledge constraints of the workers at the sectoral level overcome.</li> <li>- Vegetable seed production added value created.</li> <li>- Module of business development designed for capacity building.</li> </ul>
<b>Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preparation of technical specifications, tendering, contract award, construction of greenhouses (18 units).</li> <li>- Preparation of technical specification, issuance of purchase order through bidding process, procurement of equipment for seed production farm equipment (3 sets), vegetable seed processing plants (3 units). Vegetable seed testing equipment (2 sets), office automation (4 sets).</li> <li>- Installation of vegetable seed processing machines (1 unit) and setting up of seed testing equipment at the laboratories (2 sets).</li> <li>- Organize vegetable seed workshop/seed review seminars</li> <li>- Undertake baseline survey vegetable seed production and marketing.</li> <li>- Identify suitable farm for vegetables crops improvement and early generation seed production, initiate germplasm collection, setting up guidelines</li> <li>- Conservation, introduction of promising lines and their evaluation to identify suitable varieties, varieties maintenance.</li> <li>- Setting up guidelines and initiation of works on breeders and foundation seed production in the farms.</li> <li>- Provision of inputs for seed production.</li> <li>- Assist State Company for Horticulture and Forestry in planning future programme in vegetable seed production.</li> <li>- Technical guidelines to the private sector in vegetable seed production.</li> <li>- Organize vegetable seed production meetings participated by government and private sector.</li> <li>- Review and update of vegetable seed quality control standards.</li> <li>- Organize vegetable seed sector study tour abroad (3 specialists).</li> <li>- Organize vegetable seed technology training courses overseas (25 technicians).</li> <li>- In-country training programme on vegetable varietal development and evaluation, vegetable seed production and marketing, vegetable seeds quality control, database management and entrepreneurship development (135 persons).</li> <li>- Organizing workshop/seminar on principles of private sector support outlined in the National Seed Policy and on the provision of seed laws.</li> <li>- Private sector assessment of skills enhancement needs on vegetable seed production, processing and entrepreneurship development undertaken and programmes initiated.</li> </ul>
<b>Procurement (major items)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vegetable seed production farm equipment.</li> <li>• Vegetable seed processing plant.</li> <li>• Vegetable seed testing equipment</li> <li>• Office automation (computer) equipment.</li> </ul>

<b>Funds Committed</b>	USD 259,689	<b>% of approved</b>	9.2%
<b>Funds Disbursed</b>	USD 732,649	<b>% of approved</b>	25.9%
<b>Forecast final date</b>	07/10/2010	<b>Delay (months)</b>	N/A

<b>Direct Beneficiaries</b>	<b>Number of Beneficiaries</b>	<b>% of planned (current status)</b>
Men	18	96%
Women	10	96%
Children	n.a.	

IDPs	n.a.	
Others	n.a.	
Indirect beneficiaries		
Employment generation (men/women)		

The utilization of the climate-controlled greenhouses will facilitate the Iraqi scientists for varietal evaluation and screening all the year round.

<b>Quantitative achievements against objectives and results</b>			
Procurement of office automation equipment	Procurement of office automation equipment has been completed	<b>% of planned</b>	100%
Procurement of farm equipment	Procurement of four-wheel drive small tractor undertaken and delivery to the MoA effected for use in the greenhouses. Bid evaluation endorsed by MoA for purchase order issuance of other seed production farm equipments.	<b>% of planned</b>	95%
Greenhouses construction	Technical specifications of the greenhouses revised with additional information on climate and production environments received from the beneficiary MoA for construction of greenhouses in the three locations of project implementation	<b>% of planned</b>	85%
Procurement of vegetable seed testing laboratory equipment	Tenders requested for the supply of equipment for vegetable seed testing laboratory equipment.	<b>% of planned</b>	85%
Baseline data assessment	Field data collection for the baseline data assessment of vegetable seed production and marketing undertaken.	<b>% of planned</b>	98%
Vegetable seed processing plant	Technical specifications of the vegetable seed processing plant drafted upon receiving the baseline information and needs assessment for Iraq	<b>% of planned</b>	70%
International Training of Trainers (ToT) on vegetable seed technology	Participated by MoA technical trainees, conduct of training on vegetable crops varietal development and evaluation (9 persons), vegetable seed production and marketing (9 persons) and vegetable seeds quality control (7 persons) completed.	<b>% of planned</b>	100%
Study tour on vegetable seed sector	Programme for international study tour of Iraqi MoA officials on vegetable seed sector finalized with host institutions	<b>% of planned</b>	85%

<b>Qualitative achievements against objectives and results</b>
<p>Delivery of the farm machineries including tractors has enhanced the technical capacity of the MoA in vegetable crops improvement and early generation seeds production. Upon completion of baseline and needs assessment for the kinds and capacity of equipment for varietal evaluation, seed processing and quality control, procurement action of the required equipments has started that would be valuable in vegetable seed supply in the country for a medium term.</p> <p>A two week vegetable seed sector study tour to the Netherlands and Italy to be undertaken by three senior officials of the Iraqi MoA will further will enable them to learn more on developed technologies in different aspects and help for long-term production planning and regulatory framework for Iraq among others.</p>

<b>Main implementation constrains &amp; challenges</b>
General implementation and monitoring aspects are affected due to the prevailing situation in Iraq. The general peace, law and order problem in Iraq creates problem for any expatriate staff to visit. Even local staffs have

problems visiting concerned offices, research centres and farms. Consequently information flow from the field to Amman has been slow.

This definitely affects the implementation of this remote-controlled project implementation. As expected, progress may be slow and output not as set in the work plan. However, it should catch up once peace and stability returns to Iraq. Other than this there are no other problems.