

United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund

Project #:A5-25

Date and Quarter Updated: 05 July 2010 (April-June 2010, 2nd Quarter)

Participating UN Organisation: FAO

Sector: Agriculture and Food Security

Government of Iraq – Responsible Line Ministry: Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)

Title	Rehabilitation and Development of the National Vegetable Seed Industry in Iraq				
Geographic Location	Governorates of Baghdad, Babil and Kerbala				
Project Cost	USD\$ 2,828,263				
Duration	2 years				
Approval Date (SC)	07/10/2008	Starting Date	07/10/2008	Completion Date	07/10/2010
Project Description	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

Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Construction of greenhouses for varietal improvement and seed production. - Equipment for seed production, processing and quality control procured and installed. - Buildings for seed processing plant and seed testing laboratories constructed/rehabilitated - Model vegetable seed production farm, processing plant and quality control laboratories for vegetable seed established. - Vegetable seed quality control standards 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.
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Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preparation of technical specifications, tendering, contract award, construction of greenhouses (18 units). - 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). - Installation of vegetable seed processing machines (3 units) and setting up of seed testing equipment at the laboratories (2 sets). - Organize vegetable seed workshop/seed review seminars - Undertake baseline survey vegetable seed production and marketing. - Identify suitable farm for vegetables crops improvement and early generation seed production, initiate germplasm collection, setting up guidelines - Conservation, introduction of promising lines and their evaluation to identify suitable varieties, varieties maintenance. - Setting up guidelines and initiation of works on breeders and foundation seed production in the farms. - Provision of inputs for seed production. - Assist State Company for Horticulture and Forestry in planning future programme in vegetable seed production. - Technical guidelines to the private sector in vegetable seed production. - Organize vegetable seed production meetings participated by government and private sector. - Review and update of vegetable seed quality control standards. - Organize vegetable seed sector study tour abroad (3 specialists). - Organize vegetable seed technology training courses overseas (25 technicians). - 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). - Organizing workshop/seminar on principles of private sector support outlined in the National Seed Policy and on the provision of seed laws. - Private sector assessment of skills enhancement needs on vegetable seed production, processing and entrepreneurship development undertaken and programmes initiated.
Procurement (major items)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vegetable seed production farm equipment. • Vegetable seed processing plant. • Vegetable seed testing equipment. • Office automation (computer) equipment.

Situation as of 30/06/10

Funds Committed	USD 1,190,238	% of approved	6.33%
Funds Disbursed	USD 1,011,123	% of approved	42.08%
Forecast final date	07/10/2010	Delay (months)	N/A

Direct Beneficiaries	Number of Beneficiaries	% of planned (current status)
Men	20,000	96%
Women	11,000	96%
Children		
IDPs		
Others		
Indirect beneficiaries		
Employment generation (men/women)		
Quantitative achievements against objectives and results		

Procurement of office automation equipment	Procurement of office automation equipment has been completed	% of planned	100%
Procurement of farm equipment	Procurement of four-wheel drive small tractors undertaken and delivery to the MoA effected for use in the greenhouses. Four-wheel 85hp tractor and power tiller for 35hp tractors delivered to the MoA for use in seed farm operations. Upon issuance of purchase order, the delivery of other seed production farm equipments underway.	% of planned	96%
Greenhouses construction	Under technical bid evaluation after tenders were received from potential suppliers for construction of climate-controlled greenhouses in the three locations of project implementation areas.	% of planned	50%
Procurement of vegetable seed testing laboratory equipment	Technical bid evaluation completed. Under Iraqi Ministry of Agriculture endorsement process prior to issuance of purchase order to the selected bidders for supply of vegetable seed testing laboratory equipment..	% of planned	80%
Baseline data assessment	Baseline data assessment of vegetable seed production and marketing undertaken based on field information collection.	% of planned	100%
Vegetable seed processing plant	Final draft of technical specifications of the vegetable seed processing plants under review by the FAO Technical Division (AGP) prior to clearance for tendering.	% of planned	75%
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.	% of planned	100%
Study tour on vegetable seed sector	A two-week international study tour programme on vegetable seed sector participated by 3 senior officials of Iraqi MoA undertaken.	% of planned	100%
In-country training programme	In-country training programme on varietal development and evaluation to be participated by 30 technical personnel in vegetable seed technology	% of planned	85%
National Vegetable Seed Workshop	The Workshop will review the status of vegetable seed sector and recommend action plan for Iraq's vegetable seed sector growth.	% of planned	50%

Qualitative achievements against objectives and results

Delivery of the farm machineries has enhanced the technical capacity of the MoA in vegetable crops improvement and early generation seeds production.

Delivery and installation of equipments for seed processing and testing would be valuable in further strengthening vegetable crops varietal improvement, early generation seed production , vegetable seeds quality control and their adequate supply as per the country's needs.

A two week vegetable seed sector study tour to the Netherlands and Italy was undertaken by three senior officials of the Iraqi MoA. The tour has given opportunity to learn more on developed technologies in different aspects and help for long-term action planning and regulatory framework for Iraq among others.

The in-country training will improve practical skill of the Iraqi technical personnel in which the resource persons will be the participants of the training of trainers programme held abroad.

Currently a National Vegetable Seed Workshop is under planning phase, with objective of reviewing the present status of vegetable seed sector in Iraq and preparing recommended action plan with various players' responsibilities for seed sector growth.

Main implementation constrains & challenges