

United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund
Project #:A5-19
Date and Quarter Updated: 1st July – 30th September, 2010 (3th quarter)

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

Title	Rehabilitation of Date Palm Sector in Iraq				
Geographic Location	Mid and Southern governorates of Iraq				
Project Cost	US\$ 8 011 117 (FAO and UNIDO combined) FAO budget: USD \$4,886,663				
Duration	18 months				
Approval Date (SC)	30/04/07	Starting Date	10/05/07	Completion Date	Original: 10/11/2008 Extension: 31/12/2010
Project Description	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

Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Date palm tissue culture laboratory set up - Modern date plantations established - IPM programme identified and developed. - Capability of entrepreneurs and staff in the date processing sector enhanced. - Selected date storage, packaging and processing facilities improved and enabled to act as models for the specific region. - Products of selected pilot enterprises meet international requirements. - New forms of cooperation along the value chain started. - Date marketing organization supported in promoting Iraq dates in international markets - Date Palm Research Institute upgraded and equipped according to the new tasks.
Activities	<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"> 1- Assessment of the date palm sector 2- Establishment of a tissue culture laboratory and a nursery

	<p>3- Establishment of demonstration plantations</p> <p>4- Inception workshop on Integrated Pest Management</p> <p>5- IPM activities</p> <p>6- Improving national legislation on import/export of new date palm varieties</p> <p>7- Rehabilitation of the date palm research institute</p> <p>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 & Critical Control Points (HACCP) and modern management practices</p> <p>9- Provision of in country training for entrepreneurs and managers through the above trained trainers</p> <p>10- Provision of training for technical staff through above trained trainers in the country in fields of GMP, HACCP, storage, packing and processing</p> <p>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</p> <p>12- Introduce HACCP plans in the selected enterprises through national trainers and provide assistance in applying standards requested in the target markets</p> <p>13- Conduct a study tour to learn from best practices in dates processing and marketing</p> <p>14- Organize study tours and participation in international fairs for promoting the date marketing (export)</p>
Procurement (major items)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment for the demonstration plantations • Equipment for IPM programme, including laboratory and field stations • Equipment the tissue culture laboratory, including glasshouse, multispan, and greenhouses • Equipment for the rehabilitation of a date palm processing and marketing company • Equipment for the pilot processing unit

Situation as of 30/09/10

Funds Committed (FAO)	USD 4,278,678	% of approved	87.6%
Funds Disbursed (FAO)	USD 4,041,312	% of approved	82.7%

Funds Committed* (UNIDO)	USD 2,793,110	% of approved	89.4%
Funds Disbursed (UNIDO)	USD 2,786,458	% of approved	89.2%
Forecast final date	31/12/2010	Delay (months)	26 months

Direct Beneficiaries	Number of Beneficiaries	% of planned (current status)
Men + Women	318 (FAO) + 71 (UNIDO)	100% (FAO) 100% (UNIDO)
Women	30 (UNIDO)	100% (UNIDO)
Children		
IDPs		
Others		
Indirect beneficiaries	41 UNIDO	100% (UNIDO)
Employment generation (men/women)		

Quantitative achievements against objectives and results			
Assessments made and sites selected	Completed. FAO and UNIDO conducted separate surveys which targeted agricultural production processing and marketing of date palm sector in Iraq.	% of planned	100
Date palm tissue culture laboratory set up	Completed. Tissue culture lab equipment has been procured and delivered.	% of planned	100
Modern date plantations established	Completed. Training completed on database management and GAP.	% of planned	100
IPM programme identified and developed. Training material (brochures, leaflet, etc) developed for local trainees and trainers with the assistance of international experts	Completed.	% 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).	% of planned	100
Pilot IPM/FFS programme to disseminate IPM techniques to farmers designed	Activity complete. The IPM equipment have been procured and delivered. Training on IPM/FFS was conducted at NCARE (Jordan).	% of planned	100
General Board for Date Palm (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 trainers.	Completed	% of planned	100
Conduct study tour to learn about existing forms of cooperation	Activity completed Two study tours were organized	% of planned	100
Organizing and executing training for GBDP experts for a specific course in tissue culture.	Activity is in progress.	% of planned	60
Date Factory certification (UNIDO)	All training, requirements, equipments and internal auditor training completed toward the factory certification by BRS company. Extra equipments was purchased to complete the hygiene requirements, All required documents was sent to the certified company, the remain few miner comments to complete.	% of planned	90

Qualitative achievements against objectives and results

The project has a sustainable impact in the date palm sector in job creation and economic development. Improvement of the 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.

Procurement component of project is completed with equipment delivery at project demonstration sites and the IPM field stations. Tissue culture laboratory construction was done. Depending on funding availability, procurement for the glasshouse will be completed. The tender was launched for it already.

Training part of the project is completed, except one remaining training in France or UAE. Contact was made with Cerbiotech Institute in France and Date Palm Research and Development Programme in UAE, with ongoing negotiation in order to reach an agreement for the training program, duration, and cost.

The upcoming evaluation of the project was discussed, and it will take place after end of the project.

Main Implementation Constraints & Challenges (2-3 sentences)