

United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund

Project #:A5-25

Date and Quarter Updated: 03 October 2010 (July-September 2010, 3rd 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)	11/10/2008	Starting Date	15/10/2008	Completion Date	15 Oct 2010, extended 10/04/2011
Project Description	<p>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.</p>				

Development Goal and Immediate Objectives	
<p>The development goal of the project is to improve food security and nutrition for the Iraqi people with increased domestic production of vegetable crops.</p> <p>The immediate objectives of the project are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 - Vegetable crops improvement programme 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

	<p>developed and implemented.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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.
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. - 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 (150 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.

Funds Committed	USD 1,209,517	% of approved	42.77%
Funds Disbursed	USD 1,118,288	% of approved	39.54%
Forecast final date	10/04/2011	Delay (months)	6

Direct Beneficiaries	Number of Beneficiaries	% of planned (current status)
Men	145	97%
Women	36	97%
Children	n.a.	
IDPs	n.a.	
Others	n.a.	
Indirect beneficiaries		
Employment generation (men/women)		

Quantitative achievements against objectives and results			
Procurement of office automation equipment	Completed.	% of planned	100%
Baseline data assessment	Baseline data assessment of vegetable seed production and marketing completed.	% of planned	100%
Procurement of farm equipment	Internationally procured remaining farm equipment (e.g., mould board ploughs, ditchers and ridgers) being delivered to MoA. Local procurement of ridger for 80hp tractors for use in seed production farm underway.	% of planned	97%
Greenhouses construction	Revisiting of 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	93%
Procurement of vegetable seed testing laboratory equipment	Endorsement of the technical bid evaluation received from Iraqi Ministry of Agriculture. Issuance of purchase orders to the selected bidders for supply of vegetable seed testing laboratory equipment under process.	% of planned	90%
Vegetable seed processing plant	Technical bid evaluation of the offers received against the tender for supply of vegetable seed processing plants under process	% of planned	80%
International Training of Trainers (ToT) on vegetable seed technology	Completed. Training on vegetable crops varietal development and evaluation, vegetable seed production and marketing and vegetable seeds quality control.	% of planned	100%
Study tour on vegetable seed sector	Completed. 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 progress. In-country training programme on: i) vegetable crops varietal development and evaluation, ii) vegetable seed production and marketing, iii) vegetable seed quality control, and iv) vegetable seed sector entrepreneurship development participated by total 120 trainees comprised of technical personnel in vegetable seed technology and private sector.	% of planned	95%
National Vegetable Seed Workshop	Completed. The National Vegetable Seed Workshop participated by Iraqi public and private sectors, USDA, GNIS and FAO reviewed the status of seed sector and recommended action plan for further development of Iraq's seed sector.	% of planned	100%

Qualitative achievements against objectives and results

The project has made major achievements in the area of seed safety improvement, increasing crop and vegetable production potential through improvement in seed quality and use of greenhouse technology. The rehabilitation and procurement of the seed quality testing and farm equipment are ongoing with all tenders completed and under evaluation.

Major achievements were made in equipment technology transfer area, including the delivery of the farm machineries, which 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.

Several training sessions have also been completed under this project as major outputs of the project.

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 courses on seed technology have improved practical skill of the Iraqi technical personnel in which the resource persons were the participants of the training of trainers programme held abroad.

A national training course on vegetable sector entrepreneurship development has greatly benefitted the private sector interested to take up vegetable seed marketing as business option. In the National Vegetable Seed Workshop, critical review of the present status of vegetable seed sector in Iraq was undertaken, constraints, issues and opportunities identified and strategy and action plan recommendations were prepared for further development of the sector building on the present programme achievement

The two major activities in this project- procurement/installation of modern seed equipment and training are ongoing; however an extension was requested to accommodate completion due to the magnitude of the training beneficiaries and the highly technical complexity of equipment to be procured (internationally).

The project has achieved 100% beneficiary rate already, and therefore all the remaining training will be extra to maximize use of remaining funds. The extra beneficiary in-country training will improve practical skill of the Iraqi technical personnel in which the MoA staff will learn about seed quality control.

The procurement of greenhouse is extremely important to this project and requires extension time due to its length in construction time as it is one of the first efforts in Iraq to setup Multiplan greenhouses with proper tap irrigation system.

Main implementation constrains & challenges

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.