

United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund

Project #:A5-32

Date and Quarter Updated: 1 October- 31 December 2010 (4th Quarter)

Participating UN Organisation: FAO

Sector: Agriculture and Food Security

GoI- Responsible Line Ministry: Ministry of Agriculture - Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation

Title	Iraq Agricultural Growth and Employment Support (I-AGES) Program				
Geo. Location	National				
Project Cost	US \$5,000,000				
Duration	36 months				
Approval Date	27.06.2010	Starting Date	02.07.2010	Completion Date	02.07.2013
Project Description	<p>The purpose of the I-AGES program is to create an enabling environment that maximizes agricultural growth/diversification and employment generation in support of poverty reduction and food security. This will be achieved by removing binding constraints to growth at the policy, institutional and agrarian systems level through the strengthening of public sector investment, and by providing greater space for the private sector in this most important economic area.</p> <p>The proposed Iraq Agricultural Growth and Employment Generation Support (I-AGES) program has been designed as a nationally led priority investment program, aimed at undertaking urgent analytical and diagnostic work in Phase I (surveys and studies), to then develop for the first time a National Agricultural Policy and National Agricultural Investment Strategy in Phase 2, supported by the implementation of National Priority Programmes implemented through the national budget – as the primary tool of policy.</p> <p>I-AGES addresses two primary national investment priorities (i) the need for an evidence-based national agricultural policy and investment strategy to promote rapid economic diversification and (ii) sustained non-public sector employment generation.</p>				

Development Goal and Immediate Objectives

Development Goal:

1. Enabling environment created for sustaining agriculture development and food security.
2. Enhanced production and productivity in the agricultural sector.
3. Creation of efficient agricultural sector for poverty reduction and employment generation.

Immediate Objectives:

1. Collaborate with Government partners in completion of evidence based studies and surveys.
2. Enable and support the government in completion of an Agriculture Strategy.
3. Enable and support the government in completion of an Agriculture Policy.
4. Use of the Strategy and Policy to formulate National Projects.

Outputs, Key activities and Procurement

Outputs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. GoI and partners have improved knowledge and evidence base for the development of national agricultural policy and strategy 2. GOI better able to formulate and implement the National Agriculture Policy 3. GoI better able to develop and implement the agriculture sector investment strategy in line with national priorities
Activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 MOA /COSIT/NAPWG/ University staff trained and completed growth diagnostic design, identification and analysis of agriculture growth indicators, investment climate survey, labor market survey, value chain study, trade volume analysis. 2.1 MoA trained on developing a National Agriculture Policy and writing the final version. 3.1 MoA trained on developing a National Agriculture Sector Investment Strategy and writing the final version.
Procurement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Computers and Monitors 2. Servers 3. Consultant staffing for the training and studies/surveys

Funds Committed	US\$ 0	% of approved	0%
Funds Disbursed	US\$ 0		0%
Forecast final date	30-11-2011	Delay (months)	

** New project. Figures not available yet. Baby budget not available.*

Direct Beneficiaries	Number of Beneficiaries	% of planned (current status)
Men	250	0%
Women	50	0%
Children	0	0%
IDPs	0	0%
Others		
Indirect beneficiaries	15,000	0%
Employment generation (men/women)	300	0%

Quantitative achievements against objectives and results		% of planned
GoI and partners have improved knowledge and evidence base for the development of national agricultural policy and strategy	MOA /COSIT/NAPWG/ University staff trained and completed growth diagnostic design.	0 %
	MOA /COSIT/NAPWG/ University staff trained and complete identification and analysis of agriculture growth indicators.	0 %
	MOA /COSIT/NAPWG/ University staff trained and complete investment climate survey.	15 %
	MOA /COSIT/NAPWG/ University staff trained and complete labor market survey.	15 %
	MOA /COSIT/NAPWG/ University staff trained and complete value chain study.	0 %
	MOA /COSIT/NAPWG/ University staff trained and complete trade volume analysis.	15 %
GOI better able to formulate and implement the National Agriculture Policy	MoA trained on developing a National Agriculture Policy and writing the final version.	0 %
GoI better able to develop and implement the agriculture sector investment strategy in line with national priorities	MoA trained on developing a National Agriculture Sector Investment Strategy and writing the final version.	0 %

Qualitative achievements against objectives and results
<p>This project contributes to capacity building of Government of Iraq in conducting evidence based studies and surveys and using the results in formulation of Agricultural Strategy and Policy. This process is new to certain sectors within Iraq, including Agriculture; therefore it makes this project extremely important.</p> <p>I-AGES work continued in 2010 since the kickoff of the project in June 2010. This included preparation for primary research, secondary data collection and stakeholder management.</p> <p>Evidence based studies in phase I have been discussed and procurement will be completed for Trade Volume Study after clearance from FAO HQ during February.</p> <p>For the other studies and surveys Letter of Agreement and Tendering is being drafted and procurement will be completed in the next 2 months.</p> <p>Once the procurement is completed, the studies and surveys will commence.</p> <p>The training which is part of each of the 5 studies within phase I will be commenced as soon as the procurement for the studies are completed.</p> <p>Given the Ministry of Agriculture's non-participation in the project, which delayed November's Inter Ministerial Task Force (IMTF) meeting, Central Statistical Office (CSO) staff visited FAO Iraq on the 22nd December 2010. This meeting introduced key CSO technical staff to I-AGES, especially Phase 1 diagnostics and key technical areas where CSO participation is required (sampling, questionnaire design etc.. CSO agreed to be involved in the diagnostic work to include the following key areas: sampling, questionnaire design, data analysis and dissemination. This development will allow for the results of Phase 1 diagnostics to be viewed as official statistics.</p> <p>I-AGES technical staff made contact with the World Bank Enterprise Analysis Unit (EAU) in December. The EAU agreed to allow the streamlining of the investment climate methodologies to allow for comparability between the agricultural sector and the manufacturing and services sector.</p>

Main implementation constrains & challenges (2-3 sentences)
<p>In December Iraq formed a new Government under the leadership of al-Maliki. A new Minister for Agriculture, Izeldeen al-Doula, was announced. This meant reintroducing the project to new Minister and team.</p> <p>This led to delay in setting up the IMTF and proceeding with endorsement of I-AGES workplan and phase I activities.</p> <p>UNIDO stated that they are unable to conduct the trade volume component of I-AGES. Alternative options are being investigated with IIER being one.</p>