

**United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund**  
**Project #:A5-32**  
**Date and Quarter Updated: (July- September, 2011) (3rd Quarter)**

<b>Participating UN Organisation:</b> FAO	<b>Sector:</b> Agriculture and Food Security
<b>Government of Iraq- Responsible Line Ministry:</b> Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation (MoPDC)	

<b>Title</b>	Iraq Agricultural Growth and Employment Support (I-AGES) Program				
<b>Geo. Location</b>	National				
<b>Project Cost</b>	US \$5,000,000				
<b>Duration</b>	36 months				
<b>Approval Date</b>	6/27/2010	<b>Starting Date</b>	7 /02/2010	<b>Completion Date</b>	7/2/2013
<b>Project Description</b>	<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
<p><b>Development Goal:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Enabling environment created for sustaining agriculture development and food security.</li> <li>2. Enhanced production and productivity in the agricultural sector.</li> <li>3. Creation of efficient agricultural sector for poverty reduction and employment generation.</li> </ol> <p><b>Immediate Objectives:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Collaborate with Government partners in completion of evidence based studies and surveys.</li> <li>2. Enable and support the government in completion of an Agriculture Strategy.</li> <li>3. Enable and support the government in completion of an Agriculture Policy.</li> <li>4. Use of the Strategy and Policy to formulate National Projects.</li> </ol>

Outputs, Key activities and Procurement	
<b>Outputs</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. GoI and partners have improved knowledge and evidence base for the development of national agricultural policy and strategy</li> <li>2. GOI better able to formulate and implement the National Agriculture Policy</li> <li>3. GoI better able to develop and implement the agriculture sector investment strategy in line with national priorities</li> </ol>
<b>Activities</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>2.1 MoA trained on developing a National Agriculture Policy and writing the final version.</li> <li>3 MoA trained on developing a National Agriculture Sector Investment Strategy and writing the final version.</li> </ol>
<b>Procurement</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Computers and Monitors</li> <li>2. Servers</li> <li>3. Consultant staffing for the training and studies/surveys</li> </ol>

<b>Funds Committed</b>	US\$ 972,761*	<b>% of approved</b>	19.5%
<b>Funds Disbursed</b>	US\$ 654,766	<b>% of approved</b>	13%
<b>Forecast final date</b>	2 July 2013	<b>Delay (months)</b>	

*\* There has been a drop in commitments given the fact that we had to do some change under the staff funding positions in the current year*

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

<b>Quantitative achievements against objectives and results</b>		<b>% of planned</b>
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 %

<b>Qualitative achievements against objectives and results</b>
<p>The Government of Iraq nominated members to the PSSU and moved to establish the PSC. The first meeting of the PSC, which will aim to establish the PSSU, agree upon the training program and finalise the ToR for the PSC, will be held in Amman at the earliest convenience.</p> <p>The Growth Diagnostics component has been completed and has been circulated to key stakeholders. The Value Chain Analysis is envisioned to be completed in October, using secondary data, and the Trade Volume Analysis envisioned to be completed in December. The Investment Climate Review and Labor Survey, the latter of which will be implemented with support from ILO, are delayed due to the necessity to collect primary data and have them implemented by the PSSU.</p> <p>To ensure the successful completion of the project, I-AGES staff will prioritise the following objectives over the coming weeks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish the PSSU;</li> <li>• Engage with the PSSU and CSO to begin the implementation of primary research;</li> <li>• Agree upon the implementation of the training program; and,</li> </ul>

- Ensure effective coordination with the Government of Iraq (GoI) through assisting in the establishment of the Steering Committee and engagement with broader GoI agencies.

- Growth Diagnostic Study:

Training materials have been developed for implementing the growth diagnostic analysis. This includes both theoretical sections and practical implementation steps for both the manager of the study and the implementing analyst.

- Investment climate review:

Training manuals have been developed for the following areas: management, questionnaire development, sampling, data collection. Training workshops will be held with both analysts within the PSSU and CSO in research design and implementation.

- Value chain study:

Training manual has been developed. It is envisioned that a workshop will train PSSU and CSO staff in designing and implementing a primary value chain analysis as well as drawing policy recommendations. Another workshop will train enumerators in data collection using survey, interview and focus group methodologies.

- The Trade Volume Analysis:

The Trade Volume component has slightly changed in its implementation plan and the component was launched in August; The component will now employ solely secondary data in order to develop a database of traded agricultural commodities in Iraq rather than conduct a trade volume survey.

- Labour survey

Letter of Agreement has been prepared and under progress to be signed with ILO, which includes a Terms of Reference and a budget- will formalise the arrangement between ILO and FAO. This document has been agreed upon by ILO and FAO and has been submitted to FAO HQ.

- Training

A training program has been developed and forwarded to the Government of Iraq for their comments. No comments have yet to be received.

### **Main implementation constraints & challenges (2-3 sentences)**

Delay in the implementation of training will reduce the pace at which implementation of primary research can commence and the quality of the findings. Delay in the establishment of the PSSU, due to institutional constraints, will delay the implementation of the studies.