



IRFFI/UNDG IRAQ TRUST FUND (UNDG ITF)
ANNUAL PROGRAMME NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT
REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2011

Programme Title & Number
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme Title: Developing Iraqi Agricultural and Agro-Industrial Data, Information Systems and Analytical Capacities • Programme Number (if applicable) A5-30 • MDTF Office Atlas Number:

Country, Locality(s), Thematic Area(s)
<i>Iraq</i> Agriculture and Food Security Sub-Sector : Agriculture and Water Resources

Participating Organization(s)
<i>Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nation (FAO)</i> <i>United Nations Industrial Development organization (UNIDO)</i>

Implementing Partners
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Agriculture. • Ministry of Planning and Development Coordination. • Ministry of Water resources.

Programme/Project Cost (US\$)	
MDTF Fund Contribution:	USD \$1,340,000
Agency Contribution • by Agency (if applicable)	
Government Contribution	USD \$500, 000
Other Contribution (donor)	
TOTAL:	USD \$ 1,840,000

Programme Duration (months)	
Overall Duration:	18 Months
Start Date	27 May 2010
End Date or Revised End Date,	31May 2012
Operational Closure Date	
Expected Financial Closure Date	

Programme Assessments/Mid-Term Evaluation
Assessment Completed - if applicable <i>please attach</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Date: _____ Mid-Evaluation Report – if applicable <i>please attach</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Date: _____

Submitted By
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Name: Hilal Mohammed ○ Title: Project Manager ○ Participating Organization (Lead): FAO ○ Email address: hilal.mohammed@faoiraq.org

I. Purpose

- Provide the main outputs and outcomes/objectives of the programme.

Output 1: GoI is better able to collect and analyze agriculture data for effective planning in agriculture sector.

Output 2: GoI is better able to collect and analyze agro industrial agriculture data for effective planning in agro industrial sector.

Output 3: GoI Agriculture and Agro- Industry Development and Investment Strategy.

- Explain how the Programme relates to the Strategic (UN) Planning Framework guiding the operations of the Fund/JP.

The Iraqi National Development Strategy (NDS) and the International Compact with Iraq (ICI) have mandated a comprehensive reform of the agricultural sector, including the reduction of State subsidies, the development of effective agricultural markets, and private sector led growth. Currently, there are significant sector specific “gaps” in planning information, which hinders the Government of Iraq (GoI) from effectively developing agricultural policies and implementing agricultural interventions. Without accurate agriculture and agro-industry data, private sector entrepreneurs and investors are also reluctant to embark on business ventures in the agriculture sector.

The United Nation’s Assistance Strategy 2008-2010 for Iraq, highlights the critical importance of comprehensive data collection and analysis of activities in coordination with the GoI as well as maintaining an up-to-date database of indicators that tracks achievements towards articulated outcomes and outputs.

II. Resources

Financial Resources:

- Provide information on other funding resources available to the project, if applicable.
Not Applicable.
- Provide details on any budget revisions approved by the appropriate decision-making body, if applicable.
Not applicable.
- Provide information on good practices and constraints in the mechanics of the financial process, times to get transfers, identification of potential bottlenecks, need for better coordination, etc.

The collaboration between FAO-UNIDO and the counterpart ministries offers the opportunity for all the partners to pool their complementary expertise for efficient utilization of the financial resources. Complementary technical expertise between the two agencies is parallel with their commitment to improve administrative efficiency and lower operational costs of project implementation. So far there has been no constraint to the financial process.

Human Resources:

- National Staff: Provide details on the number and type (operation/programme).

During the reporting period the local staff recruited in Amman office to assist the project to provide their services. In addition

- International Staff: Provide details on the number and type (operation/programme)

A Program Manager based in Amman, Jordan. In addition, during the reporting period, an international statistics specialist was temporarily employed by FAO to work with MoA representative to finalize the questionnaire design which will be used during national census. UNIDO has recruited project manager will be responsible on UNIDO part.

III. Implementation and Monitoring Arrangements

- Summarize the implementation mechanisms primarily utilized and how they are adapted to achieve maximum impact given the operating context.

The implementation and management of this program will be the responsibility of both agencies involved: FAO as the lead agency and UNIDO in partnership. FAO will manage the agriculture portion of data collection, analysis, and reporting, while UNIDO will supervise the agro-industrial components of these activities. COSIT is responsible for the data collection for the entire 18 Governorates in Iraq. For KRG data collection, it will be done by Kurdistan Regional Statistical Office (KRSO) through COSIT implementation. COSIT will remain responsible for all data collection, analysis and reporting. FAO and UNIDO will support and guide COSIT at every stage of project implementation. FAO and UNIDO will provide overall guidance to the agriculture and agro-industry data collection through its expertise available, supported by specialized technical missions as required. It is foreseen, unless security and operational conditions evolve significantly during the course of implementation that FAO and UNIDO's personnel will be located in Baghdad - and will technically report to the Programme Management Team, made up of, UNIDO and FAO technical experts and project manager, in Iraq and in Amman.

The project will be managed at different levels as follows:

1. Project Steering Committee (PSC)

The project steering committee (PSC) will be chaired by MoPDC/COSIT, and comprised of FAO, UNIDO, MoA, MoIM, KRSO, and possible representatives from the private sector. The PSC is responsible for oversight of programme implementation and to provide general policy guidance of the programme. The PSC will meet on a quarterly basis. In the first meeting the PSC will identify its mechanisms of work and precise frequency of the meetings.

2. UN Coordination

FAO and UNIDO will coordinate their roles towards the survey's support under the programme leadership of FAO, through their participation in the STC.

3. Responsibilities

Since the project is an effort in capacity building and ownership by Government of Iraq, supported by FAO and UNIDO, the following division of labor delineates the responsibilities of each partner:

COSIT: develop survey plans, tools, manage the survey and coordinate the day-to-day work of the surveyors and data analysts.

Line Ministries and relevant stakeholders: ministries involved will participate in identifying the survey indicators; contribute to identify the detailed informational and technological needs in doing the survey properly; identify qualified COSIT participants for the training, and utilize the survey outcome. These ministries will undertake the following responsibilities:

- a. Participate in the consultation stage to identify the needs in conducting the needed agricultural survey
- b. Participate in identifying the trainees
- c. Participate in discussing the results of the survey

- d. Assist in report writing or advising where required
- e. Participate in the dissemination stage
- f. Participate in the in-depth analysis discussions

FAO: Manage the programme, lead the UN side, and coordinate the outside training and capacity building activities and provide the quality assurance and the technical backstopping. The role of FAO will be identified in the following aspects:

- a. Capacity building in Collection, Analysis and Reporting by COSIT
- b. Technical backstopping in coordination with UNIDO and COSIT
- c. Coordinating the UN effort to help Iraqi national in terms of capacity building, training, study tours, technical revisions, etc.
- d. Quality assurance through mobilizing the quality assurance of the implemented activities by COSIT.
- e. Managing the steering committee and the technical committee in coordination with COSIT.

UNIDO: UNIDO is expected to assume the following responsibilities, using their own respective core resources:

- a. Capacity building in Collection, Analysis and Reporting by COSIT
- b. Coordinating the UN effort to help Iraqi national in terms of capacity building, training, study tours, technical revisions, etc.
- c. Quality assurance through mobilizing the quality assurance of the implemented activities by COSIT.
- d. Provide overall technical assistance
- e. Participate in the Programme steering Committee and technical committee.

- Provide details on the procurement procedures utilized and explain variances in standard procedures.

The standard FAO/UNIDO procurement procedures were followed for this project. The procurement is done through a process that follows the sequence:

- identification of inputs or services required, undertaken jointly by FAO/Iraqi Line Ministry;
 - preparation of detailed specifications, BoQ, drawings, delivery time and destination undertaken by FAO and the Iraqi Line Ministry and endorsed by the latter;
 - list of local potential suppliers provided by the Iraqi Line Ministry to be included by FAO in its invitations to bid;
 - tenders launched by FAO inviting local and international potential suppliers;
 - technical review of the offers received and preparation of recommendation carried out jointly by FAO/Iraqi Line Ministry and endorsed by the latter; and
 - Purchase orders or contracts issued by FAO.
- Provide details on the monitoring system(s) that are being used and how you identify and incorporate lessons learned into the ongoing project.

In order to assess the progress of project activities, in-house financial and narrative progress reports are used on a regular basis. One such report is a monthly field activity report to follow-up on the project activities in relation to the work plan. Another report is a monthly report provided by the financial department of the Iraq offices of both UN agencies detailing the expenditure of project funds. A Project Management Unit (PMU) with offices in Amman, Jordan evaluate these reports along with other reports to monitor and assess the progress of projects.

The implementation of this project is also supported by the FAO Project Task Force (PTF) meetings held with the lead technical units. These units have the prime responsibility of ensuring that technical supervision is provided and maximum results achieved during the project implementation, notwithstanding the challenging operating context and remote management. A number of project activities such as trainings and study tours have been carried out outside of Iraq to ensure the safe encounter between FAO technical officers and Iraqi experts involved in the project implementation.

In addition, there are Project Steering Committee (PSC) meetings. The PSC meetings happen regularly (at least once every six months) in the FAO-Iraq, Amman office. Given the complex operating context and challenges posed by the security situation in Iraq, the PSC meetings are opportunities used to discuss problems as well as achievements while ensuring full transparency and accountability of activities throughout project implementation.

The above meetings provide the forum for lessons learnt to be discussed and applied to the continuation of the project.

- Report on any assessments, evaluations or studies undertaken.
Not applicable.

IV. Results

- Provide a summary of Programme progress in relation to planned outcomes and outputs; explain any variance in achieved versus planned outputs during the reporting period.

Training for Iraqis under the project regarding Data Analysis, SQL and SPSS has been successfully completed.

Procurement of 60 PDAs and five lap tops devices were procured and received officially by COSIT.

Training for fifteen participants from MoA and COSIT on Questionnaire Designing, Data Collection and Analyzing Using PDA and SPSS from 29 May until 7 June 2011 in Amman, Jordan was successfully conducted. The main objectives training programmes are:

- How to use the advanced statistical techniques in questionnaire design and Personal Digital assistant, the assumptions made by each method, how to set up the analysis using SPSS and how to interpret the results.
- Provide the participants with the knowledge and skills that contribute to the development of administrative capabilities and raising the effectiveness of their performance, and promoting positive attitudes they have towards their responsibilities.

The quality of the census data is the outcome of deploying the modern technologies in data collection, processing, and communication, therefore procurement of services (Personal Digital Assistant software) and related trainings focus on the accuracy, completeness, consistency and integrity will take place in the coming period. The technical proposal was finalized and the contract will be issued soon.

UNIDO built the capacity of COSIT/to produce agriculture and industrial statistics reports and publications.

Agro industry report writing training commenced and the training components and TOR were agreed upon between the partners.

The main output of the project will be the combined report. This was prepared by CSO, FAO and UNIDO where they employ jointly the results of the pilot agriculture and industry censuses which were conducted under the project. The end result of the project, the data and reports, will be disseminated by FAO to all stakeholders, including, GOI, MOP, MOA, MOI, and Iraq Private Sector in order to help stakeholders and decision makers in development planning and policy making.

- Report on the key outputs achieved in the reporting period including # and nature of the activities (inputs), % of completion and beneficiaries.

Quantitative achievements against objectives and results			
GoI is better able to collect and analyze agriculture and agro-industry data for effective planning in agriculture sector	Identification of information needs and information gaps in consultation with key stakeholder groups, namely the major information users and policy makers.	% of planned	100 %
	Building the technical capacity of COSIT/KRSO and the MoA in the field of agricultural data collection and analysis in the identified areas of need. Training starting in February 2011.	% of planned	100 %
Data Collection Methodology Agreement, Coding, and Business Rules	The final questionnaire design and questions completed and signed off on, methodology for survey and project agreed on along with timeline of activities. Business Rules and Coding for PDA programming are also completed.	% of planned	100 %
Specifications and Procurement of training and PDA/computers for data collection and reporting	Specifications have been agreed on for the PDA, computers, and the training programme (to be held in Amman). Procurement almost complete and delivery of PDA and laptops in February 2011. 60 PDA and 5 Laptops.	% of planned	100 %
	Procurement of services (Personal Digital Assistant software), The technical specifications were prepared and it is in tendering process.	% of planned	80 %
Current agriculture production levels and potential identified from survey results	COSIT will conduct data collection, analysis and reporting with support from FAO/UNIDO	% of planned	100%
	COSIT will analyze data with expertise support from FAO/UNIDO	% of planned	100 %
	Build the capacity of COSIT/to produce agriculture and industrial statistics reports and publications	% of planned	100 %
	COSIT trained in analysis of agriculture and agro-industry data with technical reporting	% of planned	100 %

	abilities improved.		
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- Explain, if relevant, delays in programme implementation, the nature of the constraints, actions taken to mitigate future delays and lessons learned in the process.

A program change of scope requested due to rejection of the idea of standalone agriculture survey with the newly planned Agriculture Census 2011 by COSIT in 2011. Based on the newly committed Census by COSIT, it was decided with COSIT that the most beneficial route would be to avoid duplication and to instead support the much more comprehensive Agriculture Census 2011 through this project. Although, the UNIDO piece of doing the weekly agro-industry production mapping will remain the same, and the training component of the project stays the same for both agencies, the main change is the switch from Survey to Census design.

Justification

This project plays an important role in developing analytical and information capacity of government counterparts in Iraq, which accommodates evidence based approach to developing agricultural and agro-industry strategy. Furthermore, it is much more beneficial to conduct a pilot census rather than a standalone agriculture survey, to provide a more substantial use of the project for Iraq.

It was recommended by Ministry of Planning/COSIT that the project cannot be continue as a standalone Agriculture Survey due to its danger of repetition of already planned Agriculture Census 2011 to be conducted by COSIT. Therefore, based on the rejection letter of the Agriculture Survey idea (attached) and the recommendation in the technical meeting from COSIT of a Agriculture Census 2011 support instead, the project scope was modified. Keeping in mind the distinct impact of this project through support of the Agriculture Census 2011, through training and procurement, and avoiding repetition of efforts, the scope change is requested.

The request from GoI on this change of project aim is to make sure of a more important impact of the project by supporting a full official agriculture survey questionnaire, instead of a customized small scaled FAO agriculture survey. The different between the census and survey being the sample size and the number of indicators and questions used in census being much higher, giving a much more realistic picture of the agriculture sector in Iraq. Therefore, with the scope change, FAO can contribute more to the work of GoI through the training, questionnaire design, and procurement that will be covered under this project in doing the sample testing within 4-5 governorates as phase I of the full census that COSIT will conduct in 2011.

After the second technical meeting with high delegations from COSIT, it was decided that the project questionnaire which is currently based on agriculture survey basis (customized FAO/COSIT questionnaire), should be transformed into a pilot agriculture census. This will serve a greater purpose to Iraq, by providing training, procurement, and pilot study for the full Agriculture Census that will be done in 2011 by COSIT. Not only, will this solve the problem of any repetition that could occur with a standalone survey, but also the project would heavily complement the work of the full census by providing support in training, procurement, questionnaire design, methodology, and field testing.

Under this project, now the questionnaire will be expanded from survey questions to census questions, meaning substantial expansion of agriculture indicators, with however reduction in sample governorates. This means no changes in the procurement and training plan, but a change in questionnaire, methodology, and sample size.

The final questionnaire design, methodology, and coding are responsibility of COSIT since the project has now been transformed from Agriculture Survey to Agriculture Census Pilot Project, which requires final approval and design by GoI. However, FAO is supporting in designing the questionnaire and methodology at this point with COSIT. Other UN agencies will have opportunity to review the draft questionnaire for comments and changes also.

After the training has been completed, the census implementation will start. The Reports developed by FAO/UNIDO/MoP will use the training and the census pilot results from this project as the final project output and for lessons learned in the full agriculture census 2011 for Iraq which COSIT will conduct.

- List the key partnerships and collaborations, and explain how such relationships impact on the achievement of results.

UNIDO and FAO have the overall responsibility for the implementation of the project and the appropriate use of donor fund. Also, in line with their administrative rules and regulations, the two agencies will take all decisions regarding staff recruitment, contractual agreements, technical assistance, backstopping and project supervision, and procurement, monitoring and reporting.

The project enhanced trust, inter-organizational co-ordination and cooperation through the use of stakeholders' workshops and also seek to build on existing co-ordination initiatives aimed at strengthening economic recovery in the region.

- Other highlights and cross-cutting issues pertinent to the results being reported on.

Gender

Women constitute a substantial proportion of the poor. Despite given pronounced cultural and religious views in the governorate, women are being encouraged to participate in project activities and in the leadership positions in producer groups and associations established by the project.

Environment

Technologies and work processes are designed to have minimal impact on the environment. The project promotes technologies that do not adversely affect the environment of the targeted project areas. Technologies employed are relevant, appropriate, and environmentally sustainable.

Employment Generation

Following the training of beneficiaries, the project provides them with toolkits to encourage self-employment. The establishment of Producer Groups will contribute to employment generation. By developing and strengthening its linkages with other FAO/UNIDO programmes in the central region of the country, the project has generated important 'spill-over effects' and continues to act as a magnet to attract additional and complimentary investments from the private sector. These investments are contributing to the expansion of opportunities in the governorate.

Social/Trust Building in Conflict Areas

The village elders, community leaders, district and sub-district officials, mayors of cities and the beneficiaries through their associations continue to participating in the selection of beneficiaries. In addition, throughout the process, these stakeholders were involved in the identification of VTC locations and decisions on the kind of income generating activities that are implemented. These steps have ensured that there is active community participation to enhance trust which is essential in the implementation of the project.

- Provide an assessment of the programme/ project based on performance indicators as per approved project document using the template in Section VIII, if applicable.

Programme Title:	Developing Iraqi Agricultural and Agro-Industrial Data, Information Systems and Analytical Capacities						
NDS/ICI priority/ goal(s):	NDS Goals: NDS Pillar 1: Strengthening the foundations of Economic Growth - Developing the institutional structure to promote industrial sector competitiveness; NDS Pillar 2: Revitalizing the private sector; NDS Pillar 3: Improving the quality of life. ICI Goal/Benchmark: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benchmarks: 4.6.4. Improve institutional and regulatory underpinnings of public agriculture 						
UNCT Outcome	Enabling environment created for sustaining agricultural development and food security						
Sector Outcome	Sector Outcome 1: Contribute to enhanced production and productivity in the agricultural sector						
JP Outcome 1	Contribute to enhanced production and productivity in the agricultural sector			NDS / ICI Priorities: strengthening economic growth/developing institutional structure; promoting industrial sector; carry out investment plans to improve agricultural information services			
JP Outputs	UN Agency Specific Output	UN Agency	Partner	Indicators	Source of Data	Baseline Data	Indicator Target
JP Output 1: GoI is better able to collect and analyze agriculture data for effective planning in agriculture sector	GoI is better able to collect and analyze agriculture data for effective planning in agriculture sector	FAO/UNIDO	COSIT/KRSO	Information needs assessment of Agriculture and Agro-Industry seasonal production data completed	Project Manager/CTA	No	Yes
				Number of Ministry of Planning/COSIT staff (male/female) trained in agricultural data collection and analysis using new technology	Ministry of Planning, COSIT, MoA, MoI	0	15-25
				Capacity development needs assessment available	Project Manager/CTA	No	Yes
				Database with relevant data on food security and agricultural available	Ministry of Planning, COSIT, MoA, MoI	No comprehensive database available	Database with complete dataset available

Future Work Plan (if applicable)

- Summarize the projected activities and expenditures for the following reporting period (1 January-31 December 2011), using the lessons learned during the previous reporting period.

		Sector Outcome (s): - Strengthen agricultural and agro-industry information services through									
		JP Outcome(s): - Enhanced production and productivity in the agricultural sector.									
UN Organization- specific Annual targets	Major Activities	Time Frame (by activity)								Implementing Partner	
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8		
JP Output 1: GoI is better able to collect and analyze agriculture data for effective planning in agriculture sector											
JP Output 2: GoI is better able to collect and analyze agro-industrial agriculture data for effective planning in agro-industrial sector											
FAO / UNIDO	Identification of information needs and information gaps in consultation with key stakeholder groups, namely the major information users and policy makers	X									FAO/UNIDO
	Conducting a needs assessment for COSIT's agricultural data collection and technology capacities	X									FAO/UNIDO
	Building the technical capacity of COSIT/KRSO and the MoA in the field of agricultural data collection and analysis in the identified areas of need		X								FAO
	Build the capacity of COSIT/KRSO in the field of agro-industry data collection and analysis and dissemination		X								UNIDO
	COSIT will conduct data collection, analysis and reporting with support from FAO/UNIDO			X							FAO/UNIDO
	Support the GOI in identifying the current agro-industry production levels and potential				X	X					UNIDO
	Build the capacity of COSIT/to produce industrial statistics reports and publications						X	X			UNIDO
	Dissemination of results and reports to all stakeholders, including, GOI, MOP, MOA, MOI, and Iraq Private Sector , using website and final report							X	X		FAO/UNIDO

- Indicate any major adjustments in strategies, targets or key outcomes and outputs planned.