

United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund
Project #:A5-32
Date and Quarter Updated: (October-December, 2011) (4th Quarter)

Participating UN Organisation: FAO

Sector: Agriculture and Food Security

Government of Iraq- Responsible Line Ministry: Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)

Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation (MoPDC)

Title	Iraq Agricultural Growth and Employment Support (I-AGES) Program				
Geographic Location	National				
Project Cost	US \$5,000,000				
Duration	36 months				
Approval Date (SC)	6/27/2010	Starting Date	7 /02/2010	Completion Date	7/01/2013
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 & implement the agriculture sector investment strategy 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\$ 1,217,435	% of approved	24%
Funds Disbursed	US\$ 1,057,220	% of approved	21%
Forecast final date	2 July 2013	Delay (months)	

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.	75 %
	MOA /COSIT/NAPWG/ University staff trained and complete identification and analysis of agriculture growth indicators.	75 %
	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.	50 %
	MOA /COSIT/NAPWG/ University staff trained and complete trade volume analysis.	50 %
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>After nominated their members, the GoI has formally established the PSC and the PSSU. The first meeting of the PSC was held in Amman in November 2011.</p> <p>During this meeting, the PSC :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Took note of the one –year delay of the whole program, occurring at the beginning (2010) and agreed to extend the program with one year period (ending June 2014); - Agreed and endorsed the Terms of Reference of the PSC and required a PSC meeting every 6 months; - Agreed that the established PSSU is structured to include 5 working teams corresponding to each of the 5 studies. Each team is composed by 5 people maximum: one expert supported by specialists and support staff; - Agreed on the modus operandi of the first phase of I-AGES; - Agreed and endorsed the time schedule for each of the 5 diagnostics and trainings and for the Phase 2 of the I-AGES Program; - Agreed that the PSC will invite a KRG Representative at the next PSC meetings; - Agreed that the PSC will publish the results of each component of the I-AGES program on a dedicated website or on the Ministry of Agriculture’s website. <p>Regarding the studies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Growth Diagnostics component has been completed and sent for comments to key stakeholders; - The first draft of the Value Chain Analysis has been completed in November, using secondary data. At this

time, the possibility to analyse more products is under discussion with the Iraqi authorities;

- The first draft of the Trade Volume Analysis has been completed in December but it will be updated and reviewed in the following months;
- The Investment Climate Review is delayed due to the necessity to collect primary data (depending on the establishment of the PSSU)
- The Labor Survey is delayed due to administrative constraints existing on the ILO side.

To ensure the successful completion of the project, I-AGES staff will prioritise the following objectives over the coming weeks:

- Organise a.s.a.p. the first PSSU meeting to:
 - Enhance the communication between the FAO technical team and the PSSU;
 - Start the implementation of primary research with the PSSU (ICA);
 - Formally agree upon the implementation of the training program with the PSSU;
 - Evaluate the constraints of the PSSU and support it a.s.a.p. to improve its efficiency.
- 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 to give the Iraqi authorities the expertise to collect primary data.
- 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.
At this time, we assume that the study may be updated soon cause the possibility to analyse more products is still under discussion with the Iraqi authorities;
- The Trade Volume Analysis:
The first draft of the Trade Volume analysis has been completed in December. However, an update of trade data used in the analysis and an internal review will begin next month.
- 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 review of the I-AGES work plan has been endorsed during the PSC meeting. During this event, the different stakeholders agreed on a training program and outline for each of the 5 studies. For each study (except for the Labour survey), a research organisation will be contracted to train the PSSU and the CSO.

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 an effective working environment for the PSSU, due to institutional constraints, will delay the implementation of the studies.