

**United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund**  
**Project #:A5-25**  
**Date and Quarter Updated: (Oct.-Dec. 2011, 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter)**

**Participating UN Organisation: FAO** **Sector: Agriculture and Food Security**

**Government of Iraq – Responsible Line Ministry: Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)**

<b>Title</b>	Rehabilitation and Development of the National Vegetable Seed Industry in Iraq				
<b>Geo. Location</b>	Governorates of Baghdad, Babil and Kerbala				
<b>Project Cost</b>	USD\$ 2 828 263				
<b>Duration</b>	2 years				
<b>SC Approval Date</b>	11/10/2008	<b>Starting Date</b>	15/10/2008	<b>Completion Date</b>	15/10/2010 extended to 10.03.2012
<b>Project Description</b>	<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**

The development goal of the project is to improve food security and nutrition for the Iraqi people with increased domestic production of vegetable crops.

The immediate objectives of the project are:

- 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**

<b>Outputs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Construction of greenhouses for varietal improvement and seed production.</li> <li>- Equipment for seed production, processing and quality control procured and installed.</li> <li>- Buildings for seed processing plant and seed testing laboratories constructed/ rehabilitated</li> <li>- Vegetable crops improvement programme rehabilitated.</li> <li>- Model vegetable seed production farm, processing plant and quality control laboratories for vegetable seed established.</li> <li>- Vegetable seed quality control standards established</li> <li>- Modules for vegetable seed sector study tour, overseas and in-country training developed and implemented.</li> <li>- GOI assisted in the implementation of seed policy and regulatory framework.</li> <li>- Skills and knowledge constraints of the workers at the sectoral level overcome.</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Vegetable seed production added value created.</li> <li>- Module of business development designed for capacity building.</li> </ul>
<b>Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preparation of technical specifications, tendering, contract award, construction of greenhouses (15 units).</li> <li>- 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).</li> <li>- Installation of vegetable seed processing machines (3 units) and setting up of seed testing equipment at the laboratories (2 sets).</li> <li>- Organize vegetable seed workshop/seed review seminars</li> <li>- Undertake baseline survey vegetable seed production and marketing.</li> <li>- Identify suitable farm for vegetables crops improvement and early generation seed production, initiate germplasm collection, setting up guidelines</li> <li>- Conservation, introduction of promising lines and their evaluation to identify suitable varieties, varieties maintenance.</li> <li>- Setting up guidelines and initiation of works on breeders and foundation seed production in the farms.</li> <li>- Assist State Company for Horticulture and Forestry in planning future programme in vegetable seed production.</li> <li>- Technical guidelines to the private sector in vegetable seed production.</li> <li>- Review and update of vegetable seed quality control standards.</li> <li>- Organize vegetable seed sector study tour abroad (3 specialists).</li> <li>- Organize vegetable seed technology training courses overseas (25 technicians).</li> <li>- 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).</li> <li>- Organizing workshop/seminar on principles of private sector support outlined in the National Seed Policy and on the provision of seed laws.</li> <li>- Private sector assessment of skills enhancement needs on vegetable seed production, processing and entrepreneurship development undertaken and programmes initiated.</li> </ul>
<b>Procurement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vegetable seed production farm equipment.</li> <li>• Vegetable seed processing plant.</li> <li>• Vegetable seed testing equipment</li> <li>• Office automation (computer) equipment.</li> </ul>

<b>Funds Committed</b>	USD 2,686,145	<b>% of approved</b>	95%
<b>Funds Disbursed</b>	USD 2,507,039	<b>% of approved</b>	88.64%
<b>Forecast final date</b>	10/03/2012	<b>Delay (months)</b>	15

<b>Direct Beneficiaries</b>	<b>Number of Beneficiaries</b>	<b>% of planned (current status)</b>
Men	166	100%
Women	45	100%
Children	n.a.	
IDPs	n.a.	
Others	n.a.	
Indirect beneficiaries	1266	99%
Employment generation (men/women)	0	0

<b>Quantitative achievements against objectives and results</b>		<b>% of planned</b>
Computer and office automation for database management	Procurement of computer and office automation equipment has been completed	100%
Procurement of farm equipment	Both internationally and locally procured remaining farm equipment farm equipments for use in seed production farm delivered to MoA.	100%
Greenhouses construction	Upon issuance of purchase order for supply and construction of climate-controlled greenhouses in the three locations of project implementation areas, the equipments delivered and installation being completed.	100%
Procurement of vegetable seed testing laboratory equipment	Vegetable seed testing equipment to be used by the State Company for Horticulture and Forestry of the Ministry of Agriculture delivered.	100%
Baseline data assessment	Baseline data assessment of vegetable seed production and marketing undertaken based on field information collection.	100%
Vegetable seed processing plants	Purchase order has been issued and delivery process is initiated.	90%
International Training of Trainers (ToT) on vegetable seed technology	Participated by MoA technical trainees, conduct of training on vegetable crops varietal development and evaluation (9 persons), vegetable seed production and marketing (9 persons) and vegetable seeds quality control (7 persons) completed.	100%
Study tour on vegetable seed sector	A two-week international study tour programme on vegetable seed sector participated by 3 senior officials of Iraqi MoA undertaken.	100%
In-country training programme	In-country training programme on: i) vegetable crops varietal development and evaluation, ii) vegetable seed production and marketing, iii) vegetable seed quality control, iv) vegetable seed sector entrepreneurship development, and v) vegetable seed database management participated by total 150 trainees comprised of technical personnel in vegetable seed technology and private sector.	100%
National Vegetable Seed Workshop	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.	100%

<b>Qualitative achievements against objectives and results</b>
<p>Delivery of the farm machineries 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.</p> <p>Upon the installation of the climate-controlled greenhouses, the stations of the State Company for Horticulture and Forestry, MoA would have added capacity for varietal screening and other crop improvement aspects.</p> <p>Three senior officials of the Iraqi MoA including the National Project Coordinator and two seed experts undertook a two-week vegetable seed sector tour to the Netherlands and Itlay to have first hand information on various aspects of the vegetable seed programme (including crop improvement, varietal maintenance, seed multiplication, seed processing, quality control, marketing, etc). They visited research institutes and centres for vegetable crops improvement, vegetable seed processing and packaging plants, seed marketing facilities in both the public and private sectors and informed themselves with the latest techniques developed on vegetable seed technology.</p>

Purchased order issued for the supply of climate-controlled greenhouses (total quantity 15) to be used by SCHF, Ministry of Agriculture for vegetable crops varietal crops screening and evaluation. The installation of the facilities is underway

The technical specifications of the vegetable seed processing plants were revised upon receipt of offers against the tender floated first time. The offers were few in numbers and all the equipment required for the seed processing system were not quoted. Therefore reviewing again the Iraqi needs vis-à-vis the equipment available in the market, the technical specifications were revisited and prepared for re-tendering

#### **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.