

**United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund**  
**Project #:A5-32**  
**Date and Quarter Updated: (April- June 2012) (2<sup>nd</sup> 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>SC Approval Date</b>	6/27/2010	<b>Starting Date</b>	7 /02/2010	<b>Completion Date</b>	7/02/2013
<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>				

<b>Development Goal and Immediate Objectives</b>
<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>

<b>Outputs, Key activities and Procurement</b>	
<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>3.1 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\$ 525,725	<b>% of approved</b>	10.51%
<b>Funds Disbursed</b>	US\$ 1,934,000	<b>% of approved</b>	38.68%
<b>Forecast final date</b>	2 July 2013	<b>Delay (months)</b>	

<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.	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.	65 %
	MOA /COSIT/NAPWG/ University staff trained and complete trade volume analysis.	65 %
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 first meeting of the PSSU was held in Amman in February 26-27 2012.</p> <p>During this meeting, the PSSU representatives were briefed in detail on the I-AGES project, and reconfirmed their tasks. The PSSU members posed a number of problems from their side, related to the fact that all the PSSU members are already occupied with a different function, they are not remunerated for any work related to I-AGES, and have no logistical or administrative support (incl. office space, etc.). (<i>Minutes of meeting could be added</i>)</p> <p>Regarding the studies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Growth Diagnostics component is being finalized on the basis of the comments received from PSSU.</li> <li>- The Value Chain Analysis study is sent to PSSU for comments.</li> <li>- Trade volume study is being finalized with current data.</li> <li>- The Investment Climate Review is being negotiated for outsourcing in some components – those regarding the conduct of the survey in Iraq.</li> <li>- The Labor Survey is being negotiated-approaching a finalization now – with UNESCO, following the withdraw of ILO.</li> </ul> <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>- Intensify communication between FAO technical and operational team with PSSU and PSC to obtain maximum cooperation possible from their side:</li> </ul>

- Plan the implementation of primary research with the PSSU (ICA and LS, since the MoA has promised to provide enumerators);
- Evaluate the constraints of the PSSU and support it a.s.a.p. to improve its efficiency.

- Growth Diagnostic Study:

The study is being finalized, based on PSSU comments. Training has been procured and is planned to start in September 2012.

- Investment climate review:

Negotiations for its partial outsourcing are ongoing. Training has been procured and is planned to start in September 2012.

- Value chain study:

FAO is expecting feedback from the Iraqi authorities (PSSU) on the first draft of Value Chain. Training has been procured and is planned to start in September 2012.

- The Trade Volume Analysis:

The final draft of trade volume is being completed. Training has been procured and is planned to start in September 2012.

- Labour survey

The UN-UN Agreement has been prepared and already cleared by FAO HQ. UNESCO is proceeding on the same from their end. Upon receiving clearance on both sides and finalizing, the agreement is expected to be signed in July-August.

Training has been outsourced already, preparatory work started and training is expected to be held in September-October 2012.

<b>Main implementation constraints &amp; challenges (2-3 sentences)</b>
Delay in the establishment of an effective working environment for the PSSU, due to institutional constraints, or possible under-performance from PSC/PSSU will delay the implementation of the studies.