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

Government of Iraq- Responsible Line Ministry: Ministry of Planning (MoP)

Title	Developing Iraqi Agricultural and Agro-Industrial Data, Information Systems and Analytical Capacities
Geo. Location	National
Project Cost	US $1,340,000
Duration	18 months
SC Approval Date	24.05.2010 **Starting Date** 26.05.2010 **Completion Date** 26.11.2011 extended to 31.05.2012
Project Description	The project's main objective is to conduct a substantial agriculture survey and to strengthen the Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation's Central Office for Statistics and Information Technology's (COSIT) agricultural and agro-industry information services, through the provision of capacity building activities, to produce comprehensive, reliable, and timely information. Training will be conducted in data collection, analysis, and technical reporting. This will include use of PDA and updated technology in exposure to new agricultural indicators. An agriculture and agro-industry survey will be conducted using updated technology and evidence based strategy will be proposed based on the results in final report. Another report will built on the linkages of other FAO, UNIDO, and other UN agencies reports. The sustainability of the project will be enhanced by interaction between COSIT and users of information (Government, Industry, Retailers, Private Investors), thus developing a product and process that meets the needs of a broad range of information consumers in the field of agricultural and agro-industrial planning. This project plays a critical role in addressing the priority of GoI in providing accurate data collection, analysis, and reporting for Agriculture, Agro-industry, Environment and Natural Resources Management. In addition, the project results will eventually accommodate the government in developing agriculture and industry policies related to pricing, tariffs, import/export agro-products balance, and subsidies.

Development Goal and Immediate Objectives

Development Goal:
1. Enhanced production and productivity in the agricultural sector.
2. Evidence based studies developed in use for developmental planning for food security and poverty reduction.

Immediate Objectives:
1. Strengthen agricultural and agro-industry information services through capacity building of Government officials in data collection and analysis
2. Conduct a substantive agriculture survey with new technology, indicators, and methodology.
3. Develop GoI Agriculture and Agro-Industry Development and Investment Strategy Proposal.

Outputs, Key activities and Procurement	
Outputs	1. GoI is better able to collect and analyze agriculture data for effective planning in agriculture sector 2. Capacity of COSIT/KRSO in the field of agro-industry data collection and analysis and dissemination strengthened 3. Current agriculture agro-industry production levels and potential identified from survey results 4. Strategy to promote and develop the Iraqi agro-industry sector and developing guidelines for investment in the sector developed
Activities	1.1 Identification of information needs and information gaps in consultation with key stakeholder groups, namely the major information users and policy makers 1.2 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 2.1 Ministry of Planning/COSIT staff trained in agricultural data collection and analysis using new technology 2.2 Training on technical reporting for Ministry of Planning/COSIT staff 3.1 COSIT will conduct data collection, analysis and reporting with support from FAO/UNIDO 3.2 COSIT will analyze data with expertise support from FAO/UNIDO 3.3 Build the capacity of COSIT/to produce agriculture and industrial statistics reports and publications 3.4 COSIT trained in analysis of agriculture and agro-industry data with technical reporting abilities improved. 4.1 Investment Guidelines and proposal produced in report. 4.2 Proposed agriculture strategy produced in report. 4.3 Links to other studies and analysis work reported. 4.4 Dissemination of results and reports to all stakeholders, using website, workshop, and final report.
Procurement	1. GIS/GPS PDA 2. Laptops

Funds Committed (FAO)	US$ 739,412	**% of approved**	88.0 %
Funds Disbursed (FAO)	US$ 589,412	**% of approved**	70.16 %
Final date	31-05-2012	**Delay (months)**	6 months

Funds Committed (UNIDO)	US$ 451,927	**% of approved**	96.0 %
Funds Disbursed (UNIDO)	US$ 430,671	**% of approved**	91.4 %
Final date	31-05-2012	**Delay (months)**	6 months

Direct Beneficiaries	**Number of Beneficiaries**	**% of planned (current status)**
Men	90	100%
Women	40	100%
Children	0	0%
IDPs	0	0%
Others		
Indirect beneficiaries	50,000	0%
Employment generation (men/women)	150	0%

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.	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.	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.	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 completed and delivery of PDA and laptops was done. 60 PDA and 5 Laptops.	100 %
	Procurement of services (Personal Digital Assistant software), The technical specifications were prepared and it is in tendering process.	80 %
Current agriculture production levels and potential identified from survey results	COSIT will conduct data collection, analysis and reporting with support from FAO/UNIDO	100%
	COSIT will analyze data with expertise support from FAO/UNIDO	100%
	Build the capacity of COSIT/to produce agriculture and industrial statistics reports and publications	100%
	COSIT trained in analysis of agriculture and agro-industry data with technical reporting abilities improved.	100%

Qualitative achievements against objectives and results
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. Procurement component: The equipment provided to the ministry has better enabled them for data collection process. In this regard a purchase order for the procurement of services (Personal Digital Assistant software) was issued, the company already started the software process and the delivery of this service will be delivered soon. training component: All training components under this project were completed, except one additional training on the PDA software which will take place in Baghdad by the experts from the same company that design the software, in coordination with CSO. The main output of the project will be the combined report, the final report is completed, and 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 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. ***UNIDO Part:*** In the first Agro-industry survey 2007, PDA technology was introduced the first time to COSIT, MOP

But as the PDA was programmed in Java language at that time and part of the survey form was using Alphabetic, so it was too complicated so we decide to split the Alphabetic part form others, 8 pages was programmed directly through the PDA and 2 pages was filled in the field and the data entered later.

Now with this project, we jumped farther step, we switch to Android language instead of Java, as it is powerful and we can program normal mobiles to be used as data collector, we used 2 types of mobiles NOKIA and SAMSUNG, and in this stage we fully programmed the mobile with the full survey form, Zero papers survey.

Also UNIDO did another program in Android for the semi-annual survey for the Industrial division in COSIT so they can use to update their data twice a year.

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

Agro industry report writing training was successfully conducted.

Main implementation constrains & challenges (2-3 sentences)
Scope Change. 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 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 was requested and approved.