

United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund
Project #:A5-32
Date and Quarter Updated: (Oct – Dec 2012) (4th Quarter)

Participating UN Organisation: FAO	UNDAF Priority Area: Inclusive Economic Growth
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				
Geo. Location	National				
Project Cost	US \$5,000,000				
Duration	36 months				
Approval Date (SC)	6/27/2010	Starting Date	7 /02/2010	Completion Date	07/02/2013
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	1. GoI and partners have improved knowledge and evidence base for the
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	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 and implement the agriculture sector investment strategy in line with national priorities
Activities	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 (major items)	1. Computers and Monitors 2. Servers 3. Consultant staffing for the training and studies/surveys

USD (59%)

Funds Committed	US\$ 3,006,873	% of approved	60.14 %
Funds Disbursed	US\$ 2,827,645	% of approved	56.55 %
Forecast final date	2 July 2013	Delay (months)	

Direct Beneficiaries	Number of Beneficiaries (target)	% of planned (current status)
Men	250	11.6%
Women	50	20%
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.	100 %
	MOA /COSIT/NAPWG/ University staff trained and complete identification and analysis of agriculture growth indicators.	100 %
	MOA /COSIT/NAPWG/ University staff trained and complete investment climate survey.	100 %
	MOA /COSIT/NAPWG/ University staff trained and complete labor market survey.	15 %
	MOA /COSIT/NAPWG/ University staff trained and complete value chain study.	100 %
	MOA /COSIT/NAPWG/ University staff trained and complete trade volume analysis.	100 %

GOI better able to formulate and implement the National Agriculture Policy	MoA trained on developing a National Agriculture Policy and writing the final version.	20 %
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.	20 %

Qualitative achievements against objectives and results

Regarding the studies and capacity building:

- The Growth Diagnostics, Value Chain Analysis and Trade Volume are final.
- UNESCO contracts on ICS and Labour Survey so far are going according to schedule.
- Training on Growth Diagnostics& Agricultural Indicators, Value Chain, Trade Volume and Investment Climate has been completed.

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

- Start immediately with Phase 2, finding an effective way to do that, given that most of it should happen in Baghdad. Best option, considering the circumstances, is to outsource it. UN has decided not to extend any project funded through ITF, including I-AGES, which has created an immense time pressure on the project. In addition, logistical support at UNAMI is totally inadequate to ensure on-site (i.e. MoFA) continuous presence of FAO international staff.,
- Evaluate the constraints of the PSSU and support it a.s.a.p. to improve its efficiency.

Main implementation constraints & challenges (2-3 sentences)

Extreme time pressure on the project, due to past delays from the Iraqi side and impossibility to extend the project implementation time. On the conditions of under-performance of PSSU, due to their constraints (institutional) that are recurring, the challenge to complete the project on time is accentuated.