

United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund

Project #: A5 - 16

Date and Quarter Updated: 18 April 2010 (January-March 2010, 1st Quarter)

Participating UN Organisation: FAO

Sector: Agriculture and Food Security

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

Title	Rehabilitation and Development of the National Seed Industry in Iraq				
Geographic Location	Nationwide coverage for the strategy and technical assistance. Seed policy and legislation. Physical rehabilitation in North, Centre and South.				
Project Cost	USD 5 383 460				
Duration	12 months				
Approval Date (SC)	20/4/2006	Starting Date	18/05/2006	Completion Date	Original: 18/05/2008 Extension: 31/03/2010
Project Description	This project aims to increase domestic food production thus improving food security and nutrition for the Iraqi people. This will be done through the formulation of a national seed policy; revision and updating of existing seed legislation; improvement of coordination and oversight arrangements; rehabilitation of damaged seed production infrastructure in government research centres and the State Board for Seed Testing and Certification; training of selected personnel in key seed industry disciplines.				

Development Goal and Immediate Objectives

The development goal of the project is to improve food security and nutrition in Iraq through the rehabilitation and improvement of the national seed programme. This will promote the availability and use of high quality seeds of adapted varieties to farmers and provide the foundation of a sustainable seed industry.

The immediate objectives are to:

1. Enhance the performance of the national seed industry through formulation of a national seed policy, review and up-grade of the seed legislation in place and improvement of coordination and oversight of arrangement.
2. Increase the capacity of the national seed industry through rehabilitation of the damaged infrastructure for variety development and evaluation, variety maintenance, initial seed multiplication and seed quality control.
3. Improve the quality of key human resources in the national seed industry through training.

Outputs, Key activities and Procurement

Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A national seed policy formulated, existing seed legislation reviewed and recommendations provided for further improvement - A functional seed programme coordination and oversight body, the National Seed Council, put in place - Existing database for seed quality control operations improved and strengthened - Transportation and communication system in SBSTC for field inspection - Seed processing plants and other seed quality control operations improved with procurement of essential equipment - Essential buildings for seed testing laboratories constructed - Adapted varieties characterized and breeder seeds produced in the research stations - Variety maintenance techniques and procedures for the targeted crops developed - Foundation seed production undertaken for wheat, barley, maize and rice using breeder seeds from the research stations
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exposure of 2 senior Iraqi staff and 32 scientists to the latest international technologies and development in improving national seed industry - In-service training of 115 Iraqi technical staff in different areas of seed technology
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organize a national seed workshop followed by a national seed policy forum and draft a national seed policy - Prepare full TOR, structure and mandate of a National Seed Council - Undertake review of existing seed legislation - Undertake laboratory building construction works as well as install equipment and machines in seed laboratories and research stations - Seeds production and quality control: assist research stations in the production of breeder seeds; assist in production of foundation seed production in the centres - Develop required techniques and procedures for variety maintenance; - Capacity building: arrange study tour overseas for 2 senior staff; organize fellowships abroad on seed technology of targeted crops for 32 participants; conduct in-service training on variety maintenance, variety development and evaluation, seed production and marketing system, and seed quality control; organize in-service training for 115 technical personnel in area of seed technology including use and management of improved database.
Procurement (major items)	Agricultural equipment, green houses, seed processing plant, and seed testing equipment.

Funds Committed	USD 212,599	% of approved	3.9%
Funds Disbursed	USD 4,386,937	% of approved	81.5%
Forecast final date	30/06/2010	Delay (months)	N/A

Direct Beneficiaries	Number of Beneficiaries	% of planned (current status)
Men	138	99%
Women	15	99%
Children	n.a.	
IDPs	n.a.	
Others	n.a.	
Indirect beneficiaries		
Employment generation (men/women)		

Quantitative achievements against objectives and results			
Formulation of National Seed Policy document	National Seed Policy document formulated following the national seed policy forum. The document has been adopted by the Government of Iraq	% of planned	100%
Preparation of Seed Law draft	Final draft of the Seed Law prepared by seed industry stakeholders during the final seed legislative review.	% of planned	100%
Installation of mobile seed processing plants.	8 units installed including the vertical bucket elevators are now fully operational	% of planned	100%
Procurement of additional office automation equipment	Additional unit of laptop, printer and scanner needed for the use of project coordinator at the MoA was undertaken.	% of planned	100%
Procurement of farm machinery, seed testing equipment and laboratory commodities	The procurement of the small remaining four wheel drive tractor was done.	% of planned	100%
Procurement of laboratory commodities	Upon bid evaluation and technical clearance for procurement of 1 million seed certification tags, the purchase order was issued to the supplier.	% of planned	100%

Construction of greenhouses	Four units of greenhouses with climate control facilities were delivered and installed.	% of planned	100%
Construction of Seed quality control labs	The construction of seed testing laboratories being undertaken.	% of planned	100%
Procurement of rice seed lab	Retendering was undertaken with revised technical specifications of the equipments as inadequate responses were received in response to the first tendering. Endorsement of the bid evaluation received from the MoA for procurement.	% of planned	90%
International Training of Trainers (ToT) programme	Training programme on corn dryer installation, maintenance and operation to occur.	% of planned	100%
Seed technology in-service training	In-service training course on variety verification and database management completed for 30 technical personnel belonging to SBSTC, SBAR of the MoA	% of planned	100%
Seed growers farmers training	Programme for the training and visit of 20 seed growers farmers finalized	% of planned	50%

Qualitative achievements against objectives and results

The MoA is currently taking appropriate action on advance the Seed law through the parliamentary process for adaptation and enactment. FAO is preparing publications of the National Seed Policy draft law as a hardcopy and in electronic form to create wider awareness among the stakeholders.

Main implementation constrains & challenges (2-3 sentences)

There has been no new constraint during the reporting period. 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.