

Regional workshop

Salt- and Drought-Tolerant Fodders in Integrated Livestock Systems in the Arabian Peninsula

November 3-5, 2015, International Center for Biosaline Agriculture, Dubai, United Arab Emirates



وزارة البيئة والمياه
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & WATER



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ICARDA
Science for Better Livelihoods in Dry Areas

Organizers:

Ministry of Environment and Water (MoEW) United Arab Emirates

International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA), United Arab Emirates

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Arab Emirates

International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), Arabian Peninsula Regional Program, United Arab Emirates

Partners (ministries, universities and stakeholders):

- Kingdom of Bahrain
- Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- State of Kuwait
- State of Qatar
- Sultanate of Oman
- United Arab Emirates

Workshop coordinators:

Dr. M. Belhaj Fraj (ICBA)
Dr. N. Rihani (FAO)
Dr. A. Belgacem (ICARDA)

Rational and aims

The Arabian Peninsula region is characterized by a harsh climate, scarce and saline water, and limited arable land, which makes it very difficult to cultivate conventional fodder crops for livestock feeding. There is an increasing demand for livestock, driven by relatively high levels of consumption, and the region relies heavily on imported feed to meet the increasing needs for livestock feeding.

Several salt- and drought-tolerant species, halophytes, shrubs and fodder trees can be grown in the drylands of the Arabian Peninsula and there is potential for domestication of some promising species of native desert grasses. Therefore, the aims of the workshop are:

- To review the state-of-the-art knowledge on cultivation and feeding value of salt- and drought-tolerant fodders and similar feed resources and identify knowledge gaps;
- To take stock of success stories of integration of such feed resources in livestock systems in the Arabian Peninsula and in similar environments;
- To discuss the strategies for wider adoption of technological packages for improving livestock feeding by using salt- and drought-tolerant fodder crops and similar feed resources in the region;
- To review and agree on policy options for the valorisation of salt- and drought-tolerant fodders and other locally available feed resources in the region.

International experts:

- Dr. A. Belgacem, ICARDA
- Dr. H. Ben Salem, ICARDA
- Dr. M. A. Bhatti, FAO
- Dr. A. Dakheel, ICBA
- Dr. H. ElShair, ICBA
- Dr. S. Ismail, ICBA
- Dr. H. Makkar, FAO
- Dr. M. Neffati, FAO
- Dr. D. Revell, FAO
- Dr. N. Rihani, FAO
- Dr. M. Tibbo, FAO

Workshop main sessions:

1. **Fodder production and environmental aspects** — Chair Dr. H. Ben Salem, ICARDA
2. **Nutritional values and livestock feeding strategies** — Chair Dr. N. Rihani, FAO
3. **Policies, institutional, marketing and technology transfer** — Chair MoEW, UAE
4. **Review and adoption of the recommendations and policies for the future** — Chair Dr. S. Ismail, ICBA

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