



Jeeddah 2017
42nd ANNUAL MEETING
ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP

Youth Engagement in Agriculture Production



16 May 2017 | 12:00 to 14:00 hrs

Amouaj, Hilton Hotel, Jeddah
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Relevance of the Event

The general theme for 42nd Annual Meeting of the Islamic Development Bank Group (IsDB) is about "Youth." In line with this theme, IsDB and the International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA) are organizing a side event titled "**Youth engagement in agriculture production: Developing technologies that appeal to youth to make farming an attractive career option**".

Unemployment is highest among young people but unlike past generations, the current generation has access to technologies that show them the world of possible alternatives. The hard work of primary agricultural production and low incomes is not attractive to many of the youth even in poor areas. The average age of farmers is between 40 and 50 years in many places, and it is steadily increasing. If food security for the future is to be achieved, some young people will have to take up primary production.

The deliberations of the event will explore various kinds of production technologies appealing to young people that can bring them back to play active role in agriculture production. These technologies can include improved irrigation systems that use sensors to control water flows based on plant needs, or can automatically adjust fertilizer and pesticide application rates based on growing conditions as well as use of solar pumps. Greenhouse and other protected agricultural technologies can permit high value agricultural production in even the most marginal lands and provide higher incomes from primary production than has been possible in the past.

SIDE EVENT

IsDB - ICBA Joint Event

Developing technologies
that appeal to youth to make
farming an attractive career
option

Purpose

To better understand the importance of young generation farmers and their requirements (enabling environments) to have access to modern technologies and capacity building.

Highlight the role that both IsDB and ICBA can play to achieve food security in member countries through supporting young farmers and bringing lessons from the field. The seminar outcome will be used in the follow-up to further develop a framework for IsDB to guide their investments in the enabling environments to farmers to increase productivity.



Objectives

- Discussing the role of young generation farmers in boosting agriculture productivity to achieve food security in IsDB-member countries;
- Exploring the agricultural production technologies that have high impact on improving the livelihood of farmers, especially in marginal environments;
- Raising awareness on best practices of IsDB and ICBA in supporting farmers with enhanced technologies, including building their capacities.

Target Audience

- Policymakers of IsDB member countries;
- Research institutions;
- University professionals;
- Regional and international research organizations;
- NGOs and other organizations working for youth in agriculture.

Program (02:00 hours)

Event Registration will start at 11:30 am; 16th May 2017, Amouaj Hall, Hilton Hotel

Master of Ceremony: Ms. Zaib Shahzad

Recitation from the **Holy Quran** 5 minutes

Opening Remarks:

- **Mr. Amadou Thierno Diallo**, *Director, Agriculture & Rural Development Department, IsDB* 10 minutes
- **Prof. Abdulrahman Sultan Alsharhan**, *Chairman, Board of Directors, ICBA* 10 minutes
- Keynote Address by **Mr. Gilbert F. Hougbo**, *President IFAD* 15 minutes
- Attractive farming technologies for young farmers: **Dr. Dionysia Angeliki Lyra**, *Halophyte Agronomist, ICBA* 15 minutes

Panel Discussion

40 minutes

Moderator: **Ms. Seta Tutundjian**; *Director, Partnerships and Knowledge Management, ICBA*

Panelists

- **Prof. Dr. Suleman Bin. Ali Al Khateeb**, *Head of Agriculture Production and Extension, Ministry of Agriculture of Saudi Arabia*
- **Dr. Ismahane Elouafi**, *Director General, ICBA*
- **Dr. Mohammad Ahmed Zubair**, *Lead Economist, IsDB*
- **Dr. Yahya Yousuf**, *Research Advisor, Al Watnia Agri Co.*
- **Dr. Ali Ershadi**, *CEO of Spatial DSS, LLC and post Doctoral Fellow at KAUST*
- **Mr. Abdulrahman Rashid Alshamsi**, *Owner of Swing Fish Company, UAE, Successful entrepreneurial farmer from IsDB-member country*

Q&A with audience 15 minutes

Concluding remarks:

Mr. Mohamed Jamal Al-Saati, *Director, Country Programs Department, IsDB* 10 minutes