

A MODEL APPROACH TO RESEARCH-PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS

for thriving rural livelihoods in marginal lands

The Oasis City: Urban and Rural Resilience Program

Date Palm, Climate Change & Building Materials

When: November 16, 15:00 – 16:30

Where: Green Zone, Room 4



COME & LEARN HOW WE CAN BUILD HOLISTIC CITIES IN DESERTS

Climate change adaptation approaches at the nexus of best available science and traditional knowledge systems

Protecting people, culture, livelihoods and eco-systems

Building Date Palm Oasis Cities

- Introduction to the Urban and Rural Areas Resilience Programme: Adaptation of COP21 Paris Agreement
- Technology development and transfer: Date palm and advancements in technology
- Agro-biodiversity and agricultural capacities of date palm oases
Adaptation of date palm within oases agro-climatic conditions, including products and bio-products
- Developing capacity as part of improving livelihoods in the oasis regions
Bottom up-top down approaches to capacity building and stakeholder incentives

Joining hands for an innovative and holistic approach to sustainable development

ICARDA, Foster + Partners Sustainability Group, UN Habitat, Sultan Al Qaboos University, UAE Ministry of Presidential Affairs, Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agriculture, Marrakech Date Palm Project

Partner for Biodiversity and Date Palm expertise:



The Idea: Date Palm Oasis Cities Responding to Paris Agreement

An out-of-box coalescing of expertise has come together to propose The Oasis City: Urban and Rural Resilience Program – an initiative that aims to create viable and alternative livelihood strategies for oases inhabitants while protecting and conserving the biodiversity and cultural knowledge in marginal lands. Responding to COP21 Paris Agreement, the initiative is built on fusion of science advances and traditional knowledge to build the resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change in order to protect people, livelihoods and eco-systems in the fragile oasis eco-systems. An underlying component is linking rural livelihoods to urban planning for sustainable development in deserts. And the vehicle for achieving this vision is date palm – a plant native to deserts of Middle East and North Africa.

Why Date Palm?

Date palm, deeply rooted in the culture and tradition of Middle East and North African countries, can play an important role in unifying economic growth and development in desert with conservation of biodiversity and rural livelihoods in oases. The plant provides staple food and nutrition for people, while the tree and leaves are used as feed and fuel, as building material in the construction of houses and boats, and in a wide range of bio-products.

Aside from multiple uses, date palm also creates favorable micro-climate for other plants: fruit trees, vegetables, and animal feed crops in deserts. Different oases micro-climates produce adapted varieties with varying qualities of dates, which determines their utility for products and bio-products.

Conjoining Tradition & Science for Sustainable Development

The agro-biodiversity of date palm plants determine the agricultural capacities of oases and thus, instrumental in shaping desert economies.

However, the date palm production is declining in the region in spite of the plant's unique role in the Middle East and North Africa region. The production faces serious problems from outdated technologies. Pests, particularly the lesser date moth, stem borers, and Dubas bug, drastically reduce date palm productivity, and can cause up to 30 percent of production loss in Middle East and North Africa.

The date palm research partnership of ICARDA with Gulf Cooperation Council countries and Iraq has led to improved methods and innovations in date palm production that have helped countries improve date palm quality and yields.

The Oasis Cities Programme leverages these advances in date palm production technologies to fuel sustainable development that can lead to economic growth, creates jobs and build resilience, while preserving the traditions and culture in oases eco-systems.

Modernizing Date Palm Production for Building Oasis Cities

- **Biotechnology advances** – fingerprinting of date palm varieties
- **Integrated Pest Management** – optimizing date palm production with less or no chemicals
- **Agricultural innovations** – cost-reducing liquid pollination techniques that improve product yield & quality
- **Post harvest improvements** – new time- and cost-saving fruit drying techniques
- **Capacity building** – skills training and technology transfer to countries

Join us to know more about solutions for sustainable development in deserts

A research-private sector partnership for thriving rural livelihoods in marginal lands

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