

Enhancing Innovation and Technology Dissemination for Sustainable Agricultural Productivity in Arab Countries through consolidation of center of excellence across the region with focus on innovations and scaling in agro-pastoral farming systems in West Asia

Report

Dissemination of elite cactus pear accessions to farmers in Jordan

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Introduction

The Cactaceae family consists of about 1600 species that is widely cultivated in arid and semiarid regions worldwide where food and fodder resources are limited. for fruits, forage, fodder, and as a vegetable. Among these species of the Cactaceae, Opuntia and mainly Cactus pear (*Opuntia ficus-indica* L.) is the most important species that has significant role in agriculture (Le Houerou, 1996). Cactus pear was domesticated about 90 centuries ago and diffused into South America, European countries, Meddle east and North Africa (Inglese et al., 2002). Cactus pear provides good quality foods (fruits, juices, marmalades), cosmetics, and medicinal products and plays an important economic role as a forage and fodder provider for subsistence agriculture with minimal agronomic inputs and for their resistance to drought, additionally, cactus pear can also be used in agro-forestry systems with different annual crops (Potgier, 1995; Inglese et al 2002; Reyes-Agüero, et al 2005; Osuna-Martinez. et al. 2014).

Cactus pear fruits are generally consumed in fresh, but it can also be processed and preserved in forms of juices, jam, syrups and other products. Cactus pear fruits have a range of nutritional values and health benefits, they are rich in Vitamins, vitamins and they have antioxidant properties and high content of bioactive compounds (Kuti, 2004; Feugang, 2007; Fernández-López et al., 2010; Cherkaoui-Malki et al., 2104; Andreu et al., 2017; FAO, 2018). The fruits provide alternative income which contribute to an improved and sustainable income generation for rural poor families in differ part of the world.

Cactus pear is well known in Jordan and cultivated in many areas for fruit production. for its fruits, which have a good market value. The cultivated area of this plant in Jordan is estimated at 300 ha mainly in the Jordan Valley, Madaba area and Irbid area. Cactus in Jordan is planted under different land managements. Cactus pear is commonly planted at the edges of farms and gardens as a fence, the fruit production of these plantations consumed mainly by the family and could be sold in the nearby markets.

Many farmers in Jordan panted cactus with other tress such as fruits and olives. However, in the poor areas and stony soils that are not suitable for other crops, cactus pear is planted alone. In Some area like Mleeh, cactus pear is planted under extensive production system where cactus pear is considered one of the main sources of live hood of the Mleeh community. Due to the good prices of cactus pear fruits in Jordan, the interest of cactus pear plantation is increasing.

Within the collaboration program between the National Center for Agricultural Research (NARC) and the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), more than 100 accessions of cactus pear were introduced and planted in Muchaqqer station. These accessions have different genetic characteristics in terms of productivity, specifications and purpose of use and were collected from different countries such as Italy, Brazil, America, Argentina, Tunisia, Morocco, Mexico and other countries. This activity is sponsored by AFSED (The Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development). These new cactus pear accessions are an opportunity to help farmers to diversify their products and income. Therefore, the National

Center for Agricultural Research arranged to disseminate these materials to interested farmers.



Objective

- Select and identify the most productive elite cactus pear accessions that suit Jordanian cropping systems
- Provide elite cactus pear accessions planting along with training materials to the interested farmers
- Provide advisory services and to impart training on cactus pear crop requirement and managements
- Identify the efficient method to create awareness of the cactus pear accession
- Increasing agricultural production diversity and enhance the farmers livelihoods

Procedures

Out of these 100 accessions, 50 fruiting type cactus pear accessions were selected to be distributed to the farmers, these accessions showed good performance, they produce fruits with different flavors and colors ranging from red, yellow to green also they vary in terms of colors, productivity and different in terms of days to maturity date: there are early, moderate and late maturity accessions (Annex 1).

In partnership with the National Agricultural Research Center (NARC), the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) organized several farmers' field days in Muchaqqer Research station to show the new accessions and demonstrate their diversity and performance under Jordan field conditions. In addition to increase the awareness of local farmers and enhance their knowledge about cactus pear fruit production,

benefits, use and management. Additionally, a short video was broadcasted through the national TV showing the cactus pear accession diversity. Afterward, a huge interest from farmers and different stakeholders was raised and many requests from farmers were sent to clarify the possibilities of obtaining theses accessions.

These new cactus pear accessions offer an opportunity to help small holders to diversify their products and increase their income. To promote uptake, the NARC arranged in 2020 to distribute the planting materials of these new accessions to farmers who are interested in planting these new accessions, along with panting materials a hard copy of factsheet about cactus pear was handled to improve technical capability of cactus production for each farmer (Annex 2). A short survey was conducted involving all the beneficiaries of cactus pear accession with overall objectives of Identifying the most efficient method to create awareness of the cactus pear accession also to determine the reason behind creating the interest of growing the new cactus accessions (Annex 3). The total number of farmers who beatified from cactus pear disseminating was 120 farmers (Annex 4).

Main findings

Most of the famers know about the cactus pear new accessions through the local media (newspapers) as well as the broadcasted TV program.

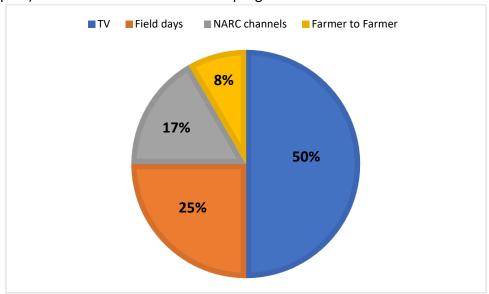


Figure 1. How do farmers know about the new cactus pear accessions?

The new cactus pear accessions created the interested of 25% of the farmers to start cactus pear growing (Figure 2).

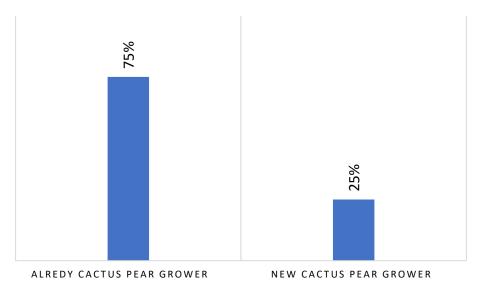


Figure 2: Beneficiaries familiarity of cactus pear plantations

More than 60% of the farmers are interested in the new cactus pear accession plantation for their own consumption, while 34% are looking for new marketing opportunities (Figure 3)

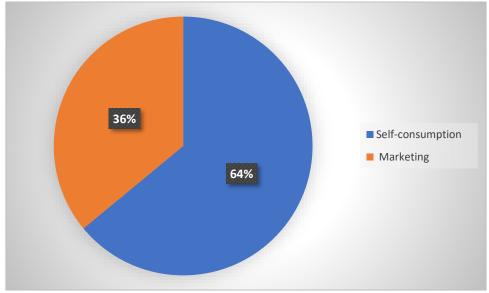


Figure 3. The purpose of new cactus pear accession plantation

The new cactus pear accessions have boosted the interest of 11% of the farmers to start planting cactus pear as new crop, while the farmers who already have cactus plantation think that the new cactus accessions will have better prices in the local market which will increase their income (Figure 4)

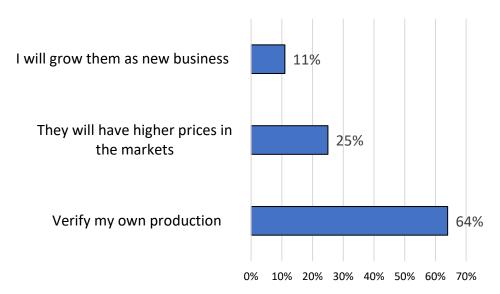


Figure 4: Why the farmer is interested in the new cactus accessions

Case study: Champion farmer

Mr. Mohamed Al Nabulsi is a farmer who is interested in cactus planation, he started growing cactus 15 years ago by intercropping cactus plantation with other fruit trees. The purpose was to uproot the cactus trees when the fruit trees start to produce but he figured out that cactus pear plantations are more profitable, they are very low inputs and the market for cactus fruits is very promising in Jordan. Therefore, he uprooted the fruit trees and now he is on the process of expanding cactus planation area.

Mr. Nabulsi attended one field day about cactus pear conducted I Muchaqqer station and he was among the farmers who received 15 accessions of new cactus accessions.

When we visited his farm to follow up on these accessions' performance, he mentioned that the new accessions are performing very well. Although he is familiar with cactus pear plantation but attending the field day enabled him to improve his knowledge about the best agronomic practices of cactus pear plantation. When planting the new accessions, he followed the recommendations relate to the plant spicing and the planting methods and this resulted in good plant growth, from his experience in cactus marketing, he think the new accessions will enable him to increase his profitably as more awareness about the benefits of cactus pear fruits is emerged among consumers.

He is interested in expanding the area of cactus plantations and he requested to provide more planting materials if possible.





Conclusion

Cactus pear accessions present an opportunity to help farmers in Jordan diversify their products and increase their income based on the fact that the market for cactus fruits is very promising in Jordan. The diversity of these accession creates the interest of many farmers to start growing cactus pear. The cactus germplasm collection at Mushaqqar research station has been playing an important role for the high adoption rate of farmers request to introduce cactus pear in their farms. It is considered as a successful collaboration program between NARC and ICARDA. However, there is a need to make sure this germplasm is well maintained and with no risk of being contaminated by the Cochineal which is already found in the northern part of Jordan.

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Annex 1. List of elite cactus pear accessions distributes to farmers in Jordan

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Accession	Accession
RC Rossa di casttelsardo	8_Leavis_74010
RSS Rossa San sperate	47_Mornag B_74076
M2 Rossa di macomer	46_Mornag B_74076
Trunzara Red San Cono	34_Caref 58_69219
15- Borj El Farag-69248	31_Burbank Azrou_69223
Red Santa Margherita Belice	15_Sicile Le folin_73063
Red San Cono	2_17_25
Red Roccapalumba	2_11_85
Trunzara red Bronte	2_25_15
Yellow Santa Margherita Belice	37_Thala_69241
Yellow San Cono	38_Sbeitla_74071
Yellow Roccapalumba	26_Montarnaud_69239
Yellow Belpasso	6_Ain Boudriess_96245
Trunzara yellow Bronte	22_El Borouj_75018
Trunzara yellow San Cono	13_Bab Toza_74115
GSH Gialla di sarroch	2_Leavis SP5_74112
M1 Gialla di Macomer	1364
10_Bianca_69235	2_26_21
Spineless	Seedless Margherita
Seedless Roccapalumba	V1_ COPENA V1
BB Bianca de Bonacardo	41_Sbeitla_69242
M3 Bianca di Macomer	30_Mdjez El Bab_73952
Tunzara Bianca bronte	29_Matmata_69242
White Roccapalumba	26_Djebel Bargou_68247
White San Cono	24_73058





النظم الرعوية و الرعوية الزراعية

برنامج CGIAR لأبحاث الثروة الحيوانية يهدف إلى زيادة إنتاجية أنظمة الثروة الحيوانية الغذاء الزراعة بطرق مستدامة في جميع دول العالم النامية

موارد الأعلاف البديلة: استخدام الشجيرات الرعوية من أجل تنمية مستدامة

الصبار Opuntia ficus-indica (L.) Mill: نبات علف مستدام للمناطق الجافة

الصبار Opuntia ficus-indica (L.) Mill نبات شجيري يتحمل الجفاف ذو فوائد غذائية وصحية. يمكن أن يمتلك القدرة على التأقلم مع البيئات القاسية ، يمكن أن ينتج المادة العلفية مع الحد الأدنى من المدخلات الزراعية ويمكن استخدامه كمصدر لسد الفجوات في تغذية الماشية

يزرع الصبار على نطاق واسع في المناطق القاحلة وشبه المناطق القاحلة في جميع أنحاء العالم ، مع أهمية متزايدة كمحصول علفي ، وخصوصاً خلال فترات الجفاف ونقص النباتات العلقية الأخرى . نبات الصبار هو عبارة عن شجيرة أو نبات يشبه الأشجار دائم الخضرة يمكن أن يصل متوسط ارتفاعه إلى 6 أمتار . يتكون جذع النبات من أفرع متحورة تأخذ شكل أوراق بيضاوية عريضة أو مستطيلة متطاولة ومغطاة طبقة شمعية رقيقة جداً .



- نبات متحمل للجفاف
- نبات دائم الخضرة
- نبات سهل من حيث الزراعة، العناية و الاستخدام
 - من الأنواع النباتية متعددة الاستعمالات
 - نو قدرة عالية على تزويد العلف
- يساهم في حل مشكلة سقى الماشية في المناطق الجافة
 - ذو استساغة عالية
 - نبات غني بالكربو هيدرات القابلة للذوبان



لنبات الصبار إمكانات كبيرة لتحسين الإنتاجية في المناطق القاحلة وشبه القاحلة. يتبع نبات الصبار نمط نظام أيض الحمض العصاري (أحد طرق التمثيل الضوئي في النباتات) و ينتج عن هذا النمط صفات متكيفة لتحمل ظروف الجفاف القاسية. وهذا يجعل من الصبار خيار مثالي كوسيلة "تأمين ضد الجفاف". إن نظام الجذور السطحية الأفقية الانتشار في نبات الصبار ، تعطي النبات القدرة القصوى على استغلال أي كمية من الأمطار حتى و لو كانت محدودة. يمكن لنبات الصبار أن يوفر الأعلاف حيث ينتج كمية كبيرة من الأعلاف الخضراء المستساغة في أكثر الفترات حرجاً على مدار السنة التي تشتد الحاجة فيها للعلف ؛ حيث يحتوي العلف الناتج عن نبات الصبار الطاقة والمعادن والفيتامينات. من جهة أخرى فإن ألواح الصبار العصارية (الكفوف) الصبار عصاري تعتبر بمثابة مصدر للمياه الماشية في المناطق الجافة حيث تقلل من استهلاك الحيوان لمياه الشرب.

البحر الأبيض المتوسط، الشرق الأوسط، شمال و جنوب إفريقيا









Survey on Dissemination of elite cactus pear accessions to farmers in Jordan

Objectives

- Identify the most efficient method to create awareness of the cactus pear accession
- Determine the reason behind creating the interest of growing the new cactus accessions

Far	mer name
	1. How does the farmer know about the new cactus pear accessions?
	□TV
	□ Field days
	☐ Farmer to Farmer
	□NARC chandelles
	2. Are you familiar with cactus pear planation?
	□Cactus pear grower
	□New cactus pear grower
	3. Why you are interested in cactus plantations
	□ Self-consumption
	□Marketing
	4. Why you are interested in the new cactus accessions
	□Verify my own production
	\Box they will have higher prices in the markets
	□I will grow them as new business

Annex 4. List of new cactus pear accessions dissemination beneficiaries

Personal information including Name, Business Title, Email, Phones, Images and GPS points included in this report have been authorized in writing or verbally by the data subject.

	وطنى للبحوث الزراعية كز إقليمي المشغر		
	2020		
العنوان	التوقيع	اسم المزارع / المستفيد	المرقم
ما دي السير	250	صبى موسى الساكان	1
مادي السير	F	طاع طامل السلحات	2
عيون موسين	E West	اورار لطفي نعية س	3
عورا لصاع	CAT	زع وس عولای	4
عور الصانى	age .	alg g w seles	5
عور الصائي	- Jus	مندر عرف جو کای	6
لب	- Abstr	عادل كرم العيامي	7
لب	C-0,40	طارق ريم العيامي	8
لب	Jato	سامي عدد النياكي	9
لب	<u></u>	عدنات فريم القياى	10
مرما	2001	احد سعد مناع	11
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ديرعلا	- किट्रा	ادام موسى أبورية	13
المشغر	_ 200	علاد ملالاے	14
١رب	-525	عد سويدان	15
علو ب	الم المالية	العادى	16
عان	-50	أحد يد ابا مع	17
علوث	aje	مند خؤا د على لعادى	18
السلط	1	عد جال الصايدة	19

العنوان	ـ التوقيع	امنع المزارع / المستقيد	الرقم
حسبان	as	عرملاح ساكر	21
عنور الصائى	_seg	عادرك عولا	22
عذرالعاب		عنان المصري	23
عذرالصان	- John	بلال عبرلله العيوم	24
لب	100.9	صابي نفر المند د	25
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لب	-50	طائل نضر العتري	27
الارب	Carif Goto	فياج الزبوو	28
الاناف	GB	ریا دعدیش	29
الايرى	2	و-سامه المنزيد	30
الأدرى	Osames	د اسامه محد	31
الأزرت	عسما	عے خدی	32
ماكيا	CERE	على أهر مناع	33
فأدما	4	نا بنه احد ناع	34
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العثوان	التوقيع	اسم المزارع / المستقيد	الرقم
عان	and a	صنة الله سي الفاعور	41
عاب	-	ملامه منفور أبوران	42
الأرن	علاء	عنلة مستى الناعور	43
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ارب	جالب	خالدالدينات	48
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عد-العاه	A SHOT	باب الور	53
	عريبك	عرعم لحد المامن -	54
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ارب	<u></u>	عے فی محد الشاقرہ	57
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العثوان	التوقيع	اسم المزارع / المستفيد	الرقم
العزر		لاقد العددات	61
الغدا	BING	اسماعيل العدمات	62
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العنار	- P	حسن عارف الغاجر	64
المنزى		رر عطه افاده	65
البقية		audorlisisse	66
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ارب		عادت حدادت	99
اريد		ريا من حوامقة	100

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