

# Lebanon and Syria Inception Workshop on the CGIAR F2R-CWANA Initiative

F2R-CWANA: From Fragility to Resilience in the Central and West Asia and North  
Africa



**F2R-CWANA Lebanon Inception Workshop  
Program  
4 July 2022  
Beirut, Lebanon**









# Lebanon & Syria Inception Workshop

## F2R-CWANA Initiative



### Background

CGIAR's F2R-CWANA Initiative builds resilient agri-food systems in the region, primed to withstand the impact of climate change and generate better livelihoods for rural communities. At its core, this initiative will provide options for climate adaptation and mitigation that respond to, and are effective for, smallholder farmers in CWANA with a view to scaling up and out the best bet solutions. It recognizes the unique biodiversity richness of this center of origin of many species, and it promotes its conservation of soil, ecology and water resources in-situ and ex-situ. It is aware of the complex political interactions between countries in the region, and it bridges borders to deliver and widely deploy technologies.

### Anchor Countries

The F2R-CWANA initiative has five planned regional anchor countries – Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Uzbekistan, Sudan, representing diverse needs and social contexts. Turkey and Syria, both member countries of the CGIAR, will participate in this initiative with their own funding.

### One CGIAR

All CGIAR Research Centers are engaged in a reform process ("One CGIAR") to achieve better impact through more strategically integrated research, unified governance, an integrated structure, and new research modalities. The One CGIAR transformation is supported by CGIAR donors who have committed to increased funding as a result of these reforms.

The reform provides an opportunity for a fresh strategy to shape a stronger, more relevant science agenda for today's dynamic world. It integrates CGIAR's capabilities, knowledge, assets, people, and global presence for a new era of interconnected and partnership-driven research toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and it will operate as a cohesive organization with a single mission, seamlessly leveraging all of our capabilities and assets to deliver real benefits to people and our planet.

Through integrated systems research, CGIAR and country partners are striving for impact to create sustainable and resilient food, land, and water systems, and meet SDG targets through strategically designed global initiatives.

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## F2R-CWANA Initiative



### LEBANON and SYRIA BACKGROUND

The CWANA region covers a vast swathe of land across Central Asia, West Asia, and North Africa and contains a vast diversity of cultures and agro-ecological systems. What unifies this area is a relative semi-arid and aridness that will become more extreme with ongoing climate change. The region is expected to experience an increase in the severity and frequency of hot temperatures, agricultural and ecological droughts, precipitation droughts, floods, climate variability, and climate change compound events with significant consequences for society and the environment.

Despite the region's acute water scarcity, lack of arable land, and unsustainable surface and groundwater extraction (for agricultural purposes) in countries like Syria and Lebanon, where availability of many food commodities is reliant on imports, irrigated agriculture is the predominant method representing 30 per cent of the total planted areas in CWANA region..

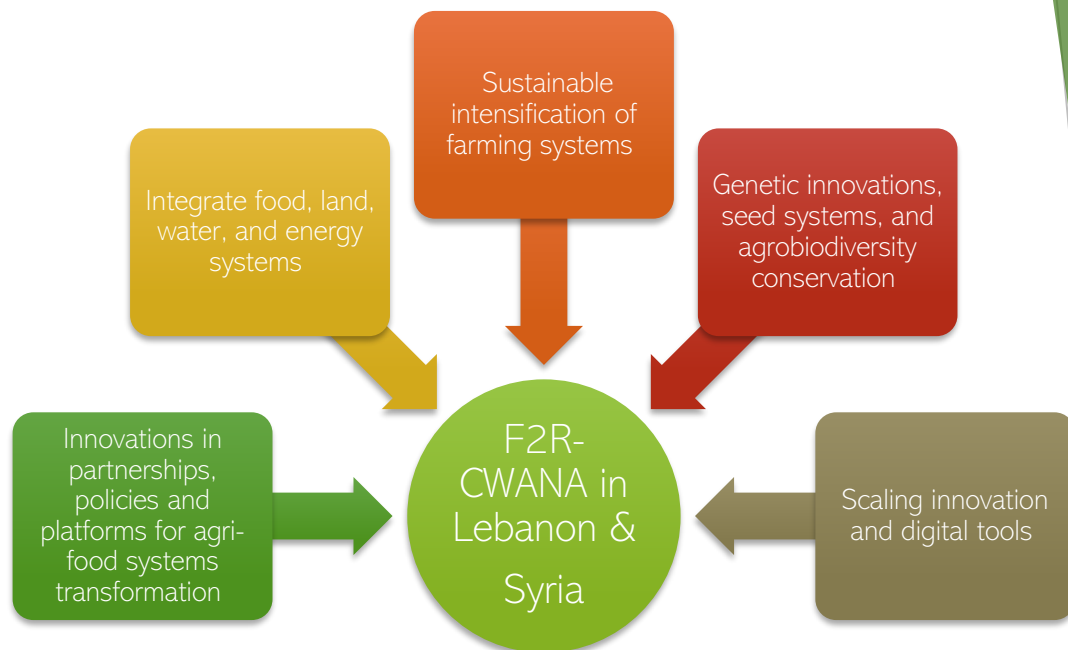
Yet the CWANA regional agri-food systems are highly vulnerable to overuse of the limited natural resources, the biophysical effects of present and future climate change and their interplay with societal pressures, e.g., gender inequalities, youth unemployment, demographic shifts, a predominance of small, non-specialized smallholding; and institutional and economic pressures. Many of the countries in CWANA are fragile and conflict-affected.

Syria and Lebanon are among the most vulnerable countries in terms of climate change. Without additional measures of resource conservation, the countries may face a shortage of water resources because of changing rainfall patterns and water pollution, building on the agricultural lands in both countries, population increase, economic crises, conflicts and migration due to that , increased desertification; and land degradation, which will cause instability in agricultural production and pose a threat to the country's food security.

Despite these challenges, the momentum is high for building resilient agri-food systems

- in the case of Lebanon. Climate change mitigation and adaptation measures are reflected in the new national agricultural strategy developed by Lebanon in 2020 for the next 5 years. The strategy acknowledges the need for improving farmers livelihoods, increasing agricultural production and value chains, improve institutional frameworks and adaptation to climate change with sustainability of agro-food systems and natural resources. The F2R-CWANA Initiative directly contributes to these goals.
- In the case of Syria, as a country coming out of a recent conflict where agriculture infrastructure have been destroyed, and farmers in many part of the country have been displaced inside and outside the country, the same strategies and measures have been adopted in the national strategy, taking into consideration the need to rehabilitate the agriculture sector in general to at least pre-conflict time as Syria was self sufficient in most of the food commodities, with needed modifications for sustainable use of natural resources which were neglected and overused in the past.





### F2R-CWANA research areas in Lebanon and Syria

#### F2R-CWANA in Lebanon and Syria

To address agricultural resilience challenges in Lebanon and Syria, F2R-CWANA works with partners to test and upscale the following innovations:

- Farm-to-basin smart tools for water efficiency and management
- CGIAR Accelerator and Open Innovation Program
- The Rural Investment and Policy Analysis Modeling Toolkit
- Toolbox of Nature-based Solutions for people and the planet
- Promoting in-situ conservation of CWANA dryland agrobiodiversity
- Participatory Product Profile Performances
- Resilient food and feed crops adapted to MENA region
- Scale-appropriate mechanization for CWANA
- Weather station-based irrigation advisory system

Together, these innovations will help Lebanese and Syrian stakeholders become more resilient to the worsening effects of climate change.



#### Objectives of the workshop

CGIAR is excited to kick off its first F2R-CWANA national inception workshop in Lebanon with the participation of Syria jointly with its NARS partners aims to develop a common vision of F2R-CWANA impact in both countries and validate an action plan for F2R-CWANA activities.

Specific objectives include:

- 1) Introduce the F2R-CWANA, its work packages, activities, timeline, objectives, anticipated output and outcomes
- 2) Present and discuss in-depth with stakeholders the planned activities in each of Lebanon and Syria
- 3) Validate work plans around activities with stakeholders so that activities build on previous related efforts and are not duplicating ongoing activities
- 4) Identify the key partners (demand, innovation, scaling) who will be engaged during the implementation (what is their role and responsibilities)
- 5) To build relationships with stakeholders and understand their needs as they relate to F2R-CWANA
- 6) Identify capacity development needs,
- 7) To discuss specific opportunities for collaboration
- 8) To establish ways forward for engagement and implementation of joint activities.

# F2R-CWANA Lebanon and Syria Inception Workshop

4<sup>th</sup> of July 2022, 8:30-16:00 Beirut time (GMT+3)

Time (Beirut)	Activity	Presenter / Facilitator
8:30 – 9:00	Registration	
9:00 – 9:45	Opening Remarks Welcoming Speech  F2R-CWANA under the portfolio of CGIAR global initiatives in Systems Transformation  Relevance of F2R-CWANA in the CWANA region amongst other initiatives	Prof. Michael Afram, ICARDA BOT Chairman and the president of LARI, Lebanon  Dr. Martin Kropff, Global Director, Resilient Agri-food Systems Science Area (RAFS)  Mr. Aly Abousabaa, Regional Director, Central and West Asia and North Africa (CWANA); Director General of ICARDA
09:45– 10:15	Introduction to the "F2R-CWANA" Project	
	<b>Session 1: Introduction to F2R-CWANA</b>  The purpose of this session is to introduce F2R-CWANA, providing background information about its objectives, timeline, proposed activities and expected outputs.  Q&A	Michael Baum, F2R-CWANA Initiative Lead Maha Al-Zu'bi, F2R-CWANA Co-Lead (online)
10:15 – 11:30	F2R-CWANA Activities, Partners, Capacity Development Needs in Lebanon and Syria	
	<b>Session 2-A: Introduction to F2R-CWANA in Lebanon and Syria</b>  The purpose of this session is to present and discuss WP1 and WP2, Innovation Platform, and National Stakeholders Alliance work plans and clarify roles and responsibilities for activities in Syria and Lebanon based on input received from partners.  WP1: Innovations in partnerships, policies and platforms for agri-food systems transformation F2R-CWANA Innovation Platform National Stakeholder Alliance  WP2: Genetic innovations, seed systems, and agrobiodiversity conservation	Dr. Boubaker Dhehibi, (online)  WP2 Member  Dr. Zewdie Bishaw (online)
11:30 – 11:45	Coffee Break	



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4<sup>th</sup> of July 2022, 8:30-16:00 Beirut time (GMT+3)

Time (GMT)	Activity	Presenter / Facilitator
11:45 - 13:00	<b>F2R-CWANA Activities, Partners, Capacity Development Needs in Syria and Lebanon</b>	
	<b>Session 2-B: Introduction to F2R-CWANA in Lebanon and Syria</b>  The purpose of this session is to present and discuss WP3 and WP4 work plans and clarify roles and responsibilities for activities in Lebanon and Syria based on input received from partners.  WP3: Sustainable intensification of farming systems  WP4: Integrated food, land, water and energy systems	     Dr. Mangi Lal JAT (online)   Dr. Maha Al-Zu'bi (online)
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 - 15:00	<b>F2R-CWANA Activities, Partners, Capacity Development Needs in Lebanon and Syria</b>	
	<b>Session 2-C: Introduction to F2R-CWANA in Lebanon and Syria</b>  The purpose of this session is to present and discuss WP5 work plans and clarify roles and responsibilities for activities in Lebanon and Syria based on input received from partners.  WP5: Scaling innovation and digital tools  Q and A	     Dr. Oytüre Anarbekov (online)
15:00 -15:15	<b>Wrap-up and Closing</b>	<b>Michael Baum, F2R-CWANA Initiative Lead</b> <b>Maha Al-Zu'bi, F2R-CWANA Co-Lead</b>



## Important Contacts

Item	Contact Person	Contact Email
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<b>F2R-CWANA WPs Contacts</b>		
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WP2: Genetic innovations, seed systems, and agrobiodiversity conservation	Zewdie Bishaw	<a href="mailto:z.bishaw@cgiar.org">z.bishaw@cgiar.org</a>
WP3: Sustainable intensification of farming systems	Mangi Lal JAT	<a href="mailto:m.jat@cgiar.org">m.jat@cgiar.org</a>
WP4: Integrated food, land, water and energy systems	Maha Al-Zu'bi	<a href="mailto:m.al-zubi@cgiar.org">m.al-zubi@cgiar.org</a>
WP5: Scaling innovation and digital tools	Oytüre Anarbekov	<a href="mailto:o.anarbekov@cgiar.org">o.anarbekov@cgiar.org</a>

## Venue

**Beirut, Verdun, Radisson Blu Hotel**

