



## Expected outputs

1. Integrated water and land management strategies for selected benchmark sites,
2. Enhanced knowledge, skills and qualifications for key stakeholders,
3. New livelihoods alternatives developed or existing livelihoods improved through diversified farming systems,
4. Improved capacity of extension and research institutions.

## Expected Impacts

- Increased incomes and improved livelihoods in rural households,
- Improved access to water and other natural resources by rural communities,
- Decreased pressure on land and water resources,
- Reduced degradation of land and water resources.



### Contact information:

Dr. Fadi Karam  
Irrigation and Water Management Specialist,  
WLI Project Coordinator  
[f.karam@cgiar.org](mailto:f.karam@cgiar.org)

Dr. Theib Oweis,  
Director, Integrated Water and Land Management, ICARDA  
[t.oweis@cgiar.org](mailto:t.oweis@cgiar.org)

Dr. Scott Christiansen,  
Senior Agricultural Advisor, United States Agency for International  
Development (USAID)  
[schristiansen@usaid.gov](mailto:schristiansen@usaid.gov)

Dr. Sandra Russo,  
Director, Program Development and Associate Director of  
Transnational & Global Studies Center, University of Florida  
[srusso@ufic.ufl.edu](mailto:srusso@ufic.ufl.edu)

Visit us on the web at:

<http://www.icarda.org/WLI/>



# Middle East Water and Livelihoods Initiative (WLI)



Improving rural livelihoods through sustainable water and land management





## Middle East Water and Livelihoods Initiative (WLI)

# Middle East Water and Livelihoods Initiative (WLI)

Improving livelihoods through sustainable water and land management in the Middle East

This will ensure more sustainable ecosystems and improved rural livelihoods. Emphasis is given to building on local knowledge by using existing data, social capital, research linkages, partnerships and proven methodologies and technologies in the region thereby ensuring the sustainability of the impacts achieved. The Initiative also draws from a wide pool of multi-disciplinary expertise from within and outside the region and targets the three major agro-ecosystems in the region – rainfed, irrigated and rangeland.



## Addressing a regional challenge...

Funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and managed by the International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA), WLI is established to improve the livelihoods of rural households and communities in the Middle East where water scarcity, land degradation, and water quality deterioration are prevalent.

## Who are WLI's partners?

- CGIAR Centers:
  - International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA),
  - International Water Management Institute (IWMI), and
  - International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).
- U.S. Universities
  - Texas A&M University (TAMU),
  - University of California at Davis (UCD),
  - University of California at Riverside (UCR),
  - University of Florida (UF),
  - University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC), and
  - Utah State University (USU).
- Regional Universities
  - American University in Cairo (AUC),
  - American University of Beirut (AUB), and
  - University of Jordan (UJ).
- Key stakeholders at the benchmark sites include:
  - National Agricultural Research and Extension Systems (NARES),
  - National universities,
  - Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and
  - Farmer Interest Groups.

## Where?

The Initiative operates in seven countries namely: Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria and Yemen.

## How?

Water and land management strategies designed to increase water productivity and reverse current trends of overusing scarce water resources will initially be pilot-tested in one or two benchmark sites per country and then out-scaled to other areas within the country and the region.



## Other cross cutting issues

- Gender integration
- Extension – technology dissemination
- Capacity building

WLI's activities are also linked with ICARDA's CWANA (Central, West Asia, and North Africa) water benchmarks project, which operates in most of WLI's partnering countries.