

Forage options for smallholder livestock in water-scarce environments of Afghanistan

Plant propagation, nursery management, pasture production and enterprise development training

Amman, Jordan during 7 – 13 April 2018

Venue: Ayass Hotel – Amman, Jordan



Rational: The ACIAR forage project aims to improve the livelihoods of smallholder livestock farmers in the mixed crop-livestock areas of Afghanistan that have limited access to water. In particular, the project will increase the availability of feed resources through providing seeds of improved forage varieties and developing technical options for better integration and management of forage legumes in current cropping systems.

Course participants: Bomani Afzali, Lana Roish, Nadia Nabi Zada, Najia Noori, Rahila Azizi, Sayli Khusravbekova and Aideen Tamana.

Trainers: Mounir Louhaichi and Hassan Sawsan (ICARDA), Brad Nutt (Murdoch University), Hayley Norman (CSIRO) and Yngve Braaten (KIT).

Objective: The objective of the workshop is to train female researchers and farmers from Afghanistan in forage shrub propagation, seed processing and seed testing. Forage shrub propagation and seed testing represents a good opportunity for women in rural Afghanistan to improve resilience of smallholder systems and to develop new business opportunities. In addition, a gender component is integrated in this workshop.

The Course topics: The training course will include both theoretical and practical training:

- 1- Measuring seed quality and germination
- 2- Plant propagation and nursery management
- 3- Pasture production Estimation of forage biomass
- 4- Visit to women led nursery (enterprise development)
- 5- Gender study

Note: This project is funded by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR). The training was scheduled for October 2017 in Australia, however the trainees were unable to obtain visas. Jordan is now the location for this training as ICARDA have good facilities and access to the forage shrubs that we need for the training.

Final Training Agenda

07 – 13 April 2018

Saturday, 7 April 2018		
All day	Participants arrive - walk to casual dinner near hotel	Airport pick up - Hotel
Sunday, 8 April 2018		
8.30 – 10.00	Introductions - all participants to introduce themselves. Where are you from? What is your role? What do you want to teach and/or learn?	Hotel
10.00 – 10.30	Coffee break	
10.30 – 11.00	Team to refine training objectives - is anything missing or not required?	
11.00 – 12.30	Lecture: Measuring seed quality and germination	
12.30 – 13:30	Lunch at hotel	
13:30 – 14:30	Lecture: Shrub propagation from seed and cuttings	
14.30 – 16.00	Lecture: Basic ruminant nutrition	
4pm onwards	Free evening	
Monday, 9 April 2018		
08.30 – 16.00	Practical exercises (lab): Setting up seed germination tests and cleaning seed (shrub and legume)	Research station (Lab & greenhouse)
	Visit ICARDA pastoratum (field gene bank for shrubs and trees)	
	Practice estimation of biomass using semi-destructive technique (reference unit)	
	Lunch break	
	Practical session on cuttings and planting seeds	
	Visit historical/holy site: Mount Nebo in Madaba	
16.00	Return to Amman	
4pm onwards	Free evening	
Tuesday, 10 April 2018		
8:30 – 14: 00	Field visit to the research facility of the USAID SEED project (Sustainable Environment and Economic Development)	USAID SEED project Sabha
14.00	Quick lunch	
15.00	Return to Amman	
19.00	Formal dinner	Rim El Bawadi
Wednesday, 11 April 2018		
08.30 – 9.30	Lecture: Legume biology and N fixation	Hotel
9.30 – 10.30	Lecture: Plant nutrition	
10.30 – 11.00	Coffee Break	

11.00 – 12.30	Lecture: Livestock utilization and nutrition	
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch at hotel	
13.30 – 15.00	Discussion: Review of what we have learned - is there anything else or points of clarification?	
15.00 – 16.00	Look at seed germination work and discuss outcomes	
4pm onwards	Free evening	
Thursday, 12 April 2018		
08.00 – 10.00	Gender initiative – Individual Interviews (Part 1)	Hotel
10.00 – 10.30	Coffee break	
10.30 – 12.30	Gender initiative – Individual Interviews (Part 2)	
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch at hotel	
13.30 – 14.00	Closing workshop (certificates)	
14.30 – 15.45	Gender initiative – Individual Interviews (Part 3)	
15.45 – 17.45	Focus Group Discussion (FGD)	
TBD	Departure: Drop at the airport	ICARDA



Airport Transfers:

Hotel: Ayass Hotel www.ayasshotel.com

Address: Al Madina Al Munawara Street, Amman, Jordan.

Phone number: (06) 550 2550

In case of emergency please contact:

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