



Technical Report

**TRAINING COURSE
ON**

Water Policies and Policy Analysis
6-10 December 2015
Amman, Jordan

**Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
and
International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)**



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Name of the project

Capacity Development for Agriculture and Water management for Iraq and Regional countries

Partners

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)
National Center for Agricultural Research and extension (NCARE) - Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Purpose

To enhance Capacity Development of government officials and researchers who are engaged in irrigation projects and agricultural development in Iraq and other countries.

Specific objectives of the training course on Water policy and policies analysis

Up-to-date knowledge and enhanced capacity in water policies, policy analysis and design, implementation, management, and reporting of agricultural research related to water-use efficiency, drought monitoring, and crop improvement for sustainable agricultural production.

Specific outputs

9 professionally-trained NARS partners from Iraq, 2 from Jordan and 7 from other countries: 2 from Algeria, 2 from Egypt, 2 from Somalia, 1 from Iran on Improving Water policy and policies analysis with emphasis on dry land agriculture. While 9 Iraqis, 2 Jordanians, 1 Algerian and 1 Egyptian are funded by JICA, the others are sponsored by Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD).

Specific outcomes

Design, implement, manage, analyze and report on research and development in water policy and policies analysis and acquire up-to-date information on research and practical activities in Water policy and policies analysis in each participating country.



GENERAL OVERVIEW

Water Management and the MENA Region managing water scarcity is one of the major international challenges. Governments show an increasing demand for developing and implementing broad policies to deal with the management and allocation of the limited amounts of fresh water resources in their countries. This implies effective and efficient water management, access to safe drinking water and sustainable development of the economic sectors such as agriculture.

As within the planned activities in the framework of **ICARDA-JICA** training program activities targeting Iraq, a training course on “**Water Policies and Policy Analysis**” was delivered to the Iraqi researchers with the participation of trainees from other West Asia and North African Countries (WANA) ; Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Iran and Somalia.

ICARDA is considered a valued partner for MENA countries to formulate integrated water management policies. The course offers a comprehensive training programme by building and giving the opportunity of sharing the expertise and experience of ICARDA and of the participants. In a period of one week, the course provides the participants the knowledge and skills necessary to engage in water policies, water management and policy analysis activities. The course offers the opportunity to create a viable network between the leading training institutions (ICARDA, JICA and NCARE) and the participants and provide those attendees with the key personal skills to use this network to effectively manage their interests on water management and water policies activities.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the above training course was the development and the enhancement of the participant’s on theoretical and contextual knowledge regarding water policies and policy analysis. The course therefore was designed to ensure that participants reached the following objectives:

- Developing and reinforcing participants’ knowledge and understanding of water policies and policy analysis;
- Empowering participants with the required skills to formulate and implement successful water management policies;
- Stimulate cooperation between JICA, ICARDA and the MENA countries (through participants), as well as reinforcing regional cooperation by networking and benchmarking.

TARGETED AUDIENCE

The target audience for the course were National Agricultural Researchers and Technical Staff Officers in Iraq as part of the JICA training program in this country. However, other participants from WANA countries involved in water and natural resources management and agricultural policies in their respective institutions who expressed high interest and necessity for their participation were also



included in the audience. This gave an opportunity for the trainers to emphasize the importance of collaboration among policy makers and technicians to be taken into account when developing and designing harmonized strategies and policies for water management in the agriculture sector.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Mr. Charles Kleinermann, Head, ICARDA Capacity Development Unit (CDU) – (c.kleinermann@cgiar.org)

Dr. Aden Aw-Hassan, Director, Social, Economic, Policy Research Program (SEPRP) (a.aw-hassan@cgiar.org)

Dr Boubaker Dhehibi, ICARDA, SEPRP, Course Coordinator (b.dhehibi@cgiar.org)

COURSE STRUCTURE

Course instruction was organized through tutorial and practical sessions, which provided participants with hands-on experience using different data sets, software packages and policies analysis framework such SWOT (Strengthens, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) and other tools (see Annex I).

The course covered the following themes / sub-themes:

- **Theme I: Water policies and policy analysis: Overview, concepts and approaches**
 - Agricultural and natural resources policy analysis: Basic concepts and theoretical background for policy analysis
 - Instruments and institutions in policy formulation
 - Agricultural water policies: different supply and management approaches
 - Water pricing: As one of the economic instruments for water management
- **Theme II: Policies to support agricultural production**
 - Input subsidy policies
 - Marketing policies
 - Mechanization policies
 - Agricultural extension and research policies
 - Case study: Agricultural water policies in Jordan
- **Theme III: Policies and technologies for sustainable use of water in dry areas**
 - A policy option for valuing irrigation water in the dry areas
 - Case study: Water valuation in Syria
 - Case Study: Institutional decomposition and analysis of irrigation water sectors
 - Informing water policies and governance mechanisms through effective agricultural innovation systems
 - Case study: Mechanical raised-bed planting in Egypt



➤ **Theme IV: Policies of natural resources management (NRM)**

- Economic tools for policy analysis
- Macro-instruments of agricultural policies
- Water and salinity control policies in perspectives: The case of Iraq
- Policies options and strategies in NRM
- Case study: Policy and institutional options for management of salinity issues in Iraq's agricultural sector

➤ **Theme V: Gender in water policies**

- Principles of integrated water resources management (IWRM) and their gender implications
- Gender-responsive water management and policies

COURSE IMPLEMENTATION

The course counted with the participation of 6 countries of the region. The course was attended during the entire week by 18 participants, from whom five were women (Annex III). The part regarding the course instruction was delivered by 6 scientists from the Social, Economic, Policy and Research (SEPR) Program from ICARDA and one scientist from the National Center for Agricultural Research and Extension (NCARE) in Jordan (Annex II). Five thematic areas were covered by this training course: (i) Concepts and approaches for water policies and policy analysis; (ii) Policies to support agriculture production; (iii) Policies and technologies for sustainable use of water in dry areas; (iv) Policies of natural resources management, and (v) Gender in water policies.

The training was conducted and implemented jointly by ICARDA Social, Economic and Policy Research (SEPR) Program Scientists and ICARDA Capacity Development Unit (CDU) with the collaboration of the National Center for Agricultural Research and Extension (NCARE) in Jordan.

GROUP ASSESSMENT

Given that the main outcomes of the training were to enhance the knowledge and skills of the participants on water policies and policy analysis processes in dry land areas, the selection process and assessment of the trainees were made in two steps. The first step consists of the participants based on their CV's, application form, and criteria of selection requested on the invitation letters but also taking into account their understanding of basic water policies concepts, policy analysis and its application.

The post-training assessment, based on groups discussions and interactions, where participants were asked to break up into country groups and reflect on the various sessions covered in the training course. The participants were also asked to record the most relevant information from the sessions and explain how they were going to apply this information when they return to their home. Results from this exercise showed a significant increase in the participants' understanding of the basic water and agricultural policies concepts, with significant increase in the



understanding of policies analysis tools. There was a slight increase in the understanding in application of policies assessment tools. Generally, results from the groups discussion indicate that the average participants' understanding of all three sections is now on par.

GENERAL COURSE EVALUATION by TRAINEES

Various evaluations were carried out during the course, including a specific evaluation for each part of the course (Annex IV).

Regarding the overall methodology of the training course, most of participants qualified it as very good (6%) and good (33%), 61 % evaluated it as excellent. Participants expressed their interest in giving more opportunity to open discussions and practical exercises.

Taking into account the topic of the course, 56% of the participants considered that the delivered material was adequate, 6% considered it too low, and 38% participants considered it too high. Some of them commented that the varying experiences among participants were good, and that it would have been useful to get the experiences of local data users in terms of type of data required and challenges in accessing quality data.

The organization of the course was well perceived in general. 61% qualified it as excellent, 32% very good and 7% good.

CONCLUSION

The water policies and policy analysis course had positive responses from the participants. The satisfaction survey was returned with high scores within the scale of 1-5 (lowest to highest). Overall most participants found the course interesting and appreciated the interactive learning approach, especially the group activities and the opportunity to converse in their own language. There were also comments or requests for more training courses related to the water management topics (technical, economic and environmental) to be conducted, including follow-up workshops and joint possible research for development collaborative projects. Throughout the course, participants were given opportunities to raise issues that they were concerned within each thematica area. Some of the main comments or issues raised were:

- More applied subjects which present the impact of ICARDA projects which held in other countries
- Understand the process on how to move from policy recommendations to policy change;
- New ways in design of irrigation network by using criteria in water policy and water management
- Advanced techniques for analysis on management approaches
- Increasing the field visit related to the course



Annex I: Course Program

Day, time	Topic	Persons
Saturday 05 December 2015 – Arrival of participants		
Day 1: Sunday 06 December 2015		
<i>Overview, Concepts and Approaches</i>		
09:00 – 09:45	Opening ceremony	Dr Aden Aw-Hassan, CDU and JICA representative
09:45 – 10:00	Course Overview (Contents, Schedule)	Dr Aymen Frija & Dr Boubaker Dhehibi (SEPRP-ICARDA)
10:00 – 10:30	<i>Group photo and coffee break</i>	
10:30 – 11:30	Agricultural and natural resources policy analysis: Basic concepts and theoretical background for policy analysis	Dr Aden Aw Hassan (SEPRP-ICARDA)
11:30 – 12:30	Instruments and institutions in policy formulation	Dr Aden Aw Hassan (SEPRP-ICARDA)
12:30 – 13:30	<i>lunch break</i>	
13:30 – 14:45	Agricultural water policies: different supply and management approaches	Dr Aymen Frija (SEPRP-ICARDA)
14:45 – 16:00	Water pricing: As one of the economic instruments for water management	Dr Aymen Frija (SEPRP-ICARDA)
Day 2: Monday 07 December 2015		
<i>Policies to support agricultural production</i>		
09:00 – 10:15	Input subsidy policies	Dr Samia Akroush (NCARE-Jordan)
10:15 – 10:30	<i>coffee and tea break</i>	
10:30 – 11:30	Marketing policies	Dr Samia Akroush (NCARE-Jordan)
11:30 – 12:30	Mechanisation policies	Dr Samia Akroush (NCARE-Jordan)
12:30 – 13:30	<i>lunch break</i>	
13:30 – 14:45	Agricultural extension and research policies	Dr Samia Akroush (NCARE-Jordan)
15:00 – 16:30	Case study: Agricultural water policies in Jordan	Dr Samia Akroush (NCARE-Jordan)



Day 3: Tuesday 08 December 2015		
<i>Policies and technologies for sustainable use of water in dry areas</i>		
09:00 – 10:15	A policy option for valuing irrigation water in the dry areas	Dr Yigezu A Yigezu (SEPRP-ICARDA)
10:15 – 10:30	<i>coffee and tea break</i>	
10:30 – 11:30	Case study: Water valuation in Syria	Dr Yigezu A Yigezu (SEPRP-ICARDA)
11:30 – 12:30	Case Study: Institutional decomposition and analysis of irrigation water sectors	Dr Aymen Frija (SEPRP-ICARDA)
12:30 – 13:30	<i>lunch break</i>	
13:30 – 14:45	Informing water policies and governance mechanisms through effective agricultural innovation systems	Dr Shinan Kassam (SEPRP-ICARDA)
14:45 – 16:00	Case study: Mechanical raised-bed planting in Egypt	Dr Shinan Kassam (SEPRP-ICARDA)
Day 4: Wednesday 09 December 2015		
<i>Policies of natural resources management (PNRM)</i>		
09:00 – 10:15	Economic tools for policy analysis	Dr Boubaker Dhehibi (SEPRP-ICARDA)
10:15 – 10:30	<i>coffee and tea break</i>	
10:30 – 11:30	Macro-instruments of agricultural policies	Dr Boubaker Dhehibi (SEPRP-ICARDA)
11:30 – 12:30	Water and salinity control policies in perspectives: The case of Iraq	Dr Boubaker Dhehibi (SEPRP-ICARDA)
12:30 – 13:30	<i>lunch break</i>	
13:30 – 14:45	Policies options and strategies in NRM	Dr Boubaker Dhehibi (SEPRP-ICARDA)
14:45 – 16:00	Case study: Policy and institutional options for management of salinity issues in Iraq's agricultural sector	Dr Boubaker Dhehibi (SEPRP-ICARDA)
Day 5: Thursday 10 December 2015		
<i>Gender in water policies (GWP) and closing</i>		
09:00 – 10:15	Principles of integrated water resources management (IWRM) and their gender implications	Dr Dina Najjar (SEPRP-ICARDA)
10:15 – 10:30	<i>coffee and tea break</i>	
10:30 – 11:30	Gender-responsive water management and policies	Dr Dina Najjar (SEPRP-ICARDA)
11:30 – 13:00	Presentation of water and agricultural policies issues in Iraq, Iran, Jordan, Egypt and Algeria by participants	Course participants and facilitated by Dr Boubaker Dhehibi (SEPRP-ICARDA)
13:00 – 14:00	<i>lunch break</i>	
14:00 – 14:45	General discussion	SEPR Team - ICARDA
14:45 – 15:30	Course evaluation and recommendations	CDU - ICARDA
15:30 – 16:00	Closing ceremony: Award of certificates and closing session	SEPRP – CDU and JICA representative
Friday 11 December 2015 – Departure of participants		

Annex II: Trainers

Trainers	Name & Surname	Institution	E-mail
1	Dr. Boubaker Dhehibi	SEPRP- ICARDA	b.dhehibi@cgiar.org
2	Dr. Aymen Frija	SEPRP- ICARDA	a.frija@cgiar.org
3	Dr. Aden Aw-Hassan	SEPRP- ICARDA	a.aw-hassan@cgiar.org
4	Dr. Samia Akroush	NCARE-Jordan	samia_akroush@yahoo.com
5	Dr. Dina Najjar	SEPRP- ICARDA	d.najjar@cgiar.org
6	Dr. Shinan Kassam	SEPRP- ICARDA	s.kassam@cgiar.org
7	Dr. Yigezu Yigezu	SEPRP- ICARDA	y.yigezu@cgiar.org



Dr. Aden Aw-Hassan is an agricultural economist and the Director of the Social, Economic, Policy research program of ICARDA. His main skills and interests include micro-economic analysis related to farm households; production economics of agricultural enterprises with the focus on identifying major production constraints and finding ways of improving productivity and competitiveness; analysis of trends in food systems and projections of future food systems scenarios; agricultural market value chains with a focus on identifying transaction costs and inefficiencies in agricultural markets; farmer associations as a vehicle of development- enabling access to services, inputs and credit, and bargaining power; livelihood analysis of rural livelihoods; tracking technology adoption and research impact assessment; farm income impacts of climate change and policy analysis. Aden has close to 35 years of research and teaching experience. He has published more than 100 research publications in peer reviewed journals, book chapters, international conferences, working papers and proceedings.



Dr. Samia Akroush is the Director of the Socio-Economic Directorate at the National Center for Agricultural Research and Extension (NCARE) in Jordan. Her research activities include conducting socio-economic baseline studies, feasibility studies, and adoption and impact assessment studies of applied agricultural research in many national and regional projects. She coordinates and leads teams in many national and regional projects. She has many research studies concerning economic and financial analysis and evaluation of projects and Formulation of questionnaires and field surveys, conducting benefits—cost analysis, econometric, socio-economic, and feasibility studies. Participated and presented papers in many regional and international conferences. She has a PhD in Agricultural Economics from Aleppo University, Syria, in collaboration with the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Area (ICARDA).



Dr. Dina Najjar has joined the Social, Economics and Policy Research Program of ICARDA as an Associate Social and Gender Scientist on 27 February 2014. She is a socio-cultural anthropologist by training and completed her PhD in Anthropology in 2013 from the University of Western Ontario. She also holds a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture and a Diploma of Ingenieur Agricole from the American University of Beirut in 2003, an Ecosystem Restoration Post-graduate Certificate from Niagara College in 2004, and a Masters in Natural Resource Management from the University of Manitoba in 2008. Dina's research interests include gender-responsive agricultural extension, rural women's empowerment and equality, women's access to and control over land, gender in agricultural innovations, and the consequences of the recent Revolution in Egypt. She is currently working on gender

empowerment through agricultural innovations and decent work in areas which include Egypt, India, Morocco, Sudan, Ethiopia and Uzbekistan.



Dr. Boubaker Dhehibi is an Agricultural Resource Economist Specialist in the Social, Economics and Policy Research Program (SEPRP) at ICARDA. He is distinguished for his research and teaching on production economics, climate change, economics of natural resources management, applied micro-econometrics, food demand analysis, international trade, economic modeling, competitiveness and productivity analysis of the agriculture sector in MENA region, growth analysis and economics of development. He has published more than 80 research publications in peer reviewed journals, book chapters, international conferences, working papers and proceedings.



Dr. Aymen Frija holds a PhD in agricultural economics from Ghent University (Belgium) and MSc in Agricultural Economics from the Higher School of Agriculture of Montpellier (ENSAM) France. He is specialized in economic modeling with a focus on natural resources policies and governance. From 2009 to 2011, he was working as a postdoctoral fellow at Ghent University, within a research group specialized in agricultural water policy analysis in developing countries. In late 2011, he joined the College of Agriculture of Mograne (Carthage University/Tunisia) where he was working as assistant professor and researcher. He is currently working at the Social, Economic and Policy Research Program (SEPRP) at the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA). His current research interests include economic modelling, farm efficiency and productivity analysis, agricultural water management, institutional performances analysis, and conservation agriculture economics.



Dr. Yigezu Atnafe Yigezu specializes in various topics in international development (production economics, natural resource and environmental economics, policy analysis, technology adoption, impact assessment, and bio-economic modeling of production systems). Yigezu's quantitative skills include: mathematical programming, stochastic dynamic programming, computable general equilibrium (CGE) and input-output (IO) modeling and Econometrics. Yigezu earned both his MSc (2005) and PhD (2009) degrees in Agricultural Economics from Purdue University, U.S.A. He has been working with the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) as an Agricultural Economist since June 2010. Prior to his graduate studies, Yigezu has also worked for over 14 years with a number of development and research organizations. Yigezu has published 10 refereed journal articles, 4 working papers, 5 research reports, 2 book chapters, and over 15 conference proceedings



Dr. Shinan Kassam holds a PhD in resource management and environmental studies from the University of British Columbia (Vancouver), from where he also obtained earlier degrees in agricultural economics (B.Sc. (Agr.), MSc.). Through judicious application of quantitative, qualitative and mixed method designs, his research is aimed at better understanding how communities within dry areas manage and cope with different facets of risk, and how the process of agricultural innovation can be enhanced through joint research and learning. How household decisions are influenced by environmental shocks, market forces, government policies, rural infrastructure, household assets (human, physical, financial and social), natural resource endowments, social and cultural norms, as well as competing interests for farm and off-farm income motivates much of my R4D engagement. He is currently engaged in research activities within the MENA region (Jordan, Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco), Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan) and more recently in Eritrea.

Prior to joining ICARDA, he was based in Syria and Central Asia (Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan) with the Aga Khan Development Network, where he held senior level positions in the management and implementation of multi-input area development programmes (rural development, community based public health, early childhood education, civil society enhancement, microfinance). His focus on quality of life, as opposed to a more narrow concentration on livelihoods, stems from this engagement and through an embracement of the notion that while agricultural innovation is an important driver for economic growth within many developing economies, there are a multitude of other influences (sectoral, national, international, social, historical and cultural) which either enhance or impede the nature and speed of agricultural innovation. A need for understanding trade-offs becomes important in this regard, and therefore requires a paradigm shift in conventional thinking related to agricultural innovation.



Annex III: Trainees List of Contacts

Name/Country	Position/Specialization/Institution	Contact
Mr. Mourad ELASRI / Algeria	Recherché/Agricultural General/Hydraulics Agricol/Institute Technical the heats culture (ITGC)	Mobile:+213775014695
		E-mail:mouradmouradelasri@outlook.fr
Mr. Essam Mohamed Zaki Mohamed / Egypt	Researcher/ Agricultural Economics/ Agricultural Economic Researcher Institute (AERI)- Agricultural Research center	Mobile: 002 01222826829
		E-mail: ssm_zaki@yahoo.com
Ms. Hiba Turki Mahmood Qassab Bashi / Iraq	Engineer /Ministry of Water Resources / center for study and engineering designs.	Mobile: 009647709648076
		E-mail: hibaa_turky@yahoo.com
Mr. Asaad Abdul Ameer Abdullah Alameer / Iraq	Agricultural Engineer /Ministry of Water Resources /center for study and engineering designs	Mobile: 009647702868854
		E-mail: Assad_Abd2011@yahoo.com
Mr. Husam Salman Abdulhamza Al-Hadrawi / Iraq	Engineer /Ministry of Water Resources / general authority for irrigation and reclamation projects	Mobile:009647810652316
		E-mail: husamsalaman@yahoo.com
Mr. Zaman Jawad Khlaif Al-Maliki / Iraq	Agricultural Engineer /Ministry of Water Resources / National Center of Water Resources Managment	Mobile:009647700125979
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		E-mail: zainab2014.zk@gmail.com
Mr. Ammar Hazim Ali Al- Ameri / Iraq	Political science /Ministry of Water Resources /	Mobile:009647712236246
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		E-mail: wzainab25@yahoo.com
Mr. Aysar Salim Sahib Al- Mimar / Iraq	legal /Ministry of Water Resources /	Mobile: 009647702190879
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Ms. Nawal Mehdi Shaker Jarah / Iraq	Chief- Engineer /Ministry of Water Resources / general authority for irrigation and reclamation projects	Mobile: 07801068365
		E-mail: n_aljarah@yahoo.com
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		E-mail: malek_aburomman@yahoo.com

Annex IV: General Course Evaluation

I. Contents of the course:

Item/rating/percentage	OVERALL AVERAGE
Relevance of the course to your job 1=Not relevant; 5=Very relevant	4.0
Accomplishment of subject matter 1=Inadequate 5=Very comprehensive	4.5
Clarity of course objectives 1=Not clear; 5=Very clear	4.5
Level of lectures 1=Too basic 5=Too	4.0
Time allocated for discussions 1=Too short 5=Too long	3.2
Interaction with participants enrolled in the course 1=Very low 5=Very high	4.1
Overall, how would you rate this course 1=Poor 5=Excellent	4.5

II. Schedule and time allocation:

Item/rating/percentage	OVERALL AVERAGE
Percentage of Time allocated to lectures 1=Too short 5=Too long	3.8
Usefulness of Lectures 1=not useful 5=useful	4.7

III. Teaching aids:

Item/rating/percentage	OVERALL AVERAGE
Effectiveness of teaching aids in general 1=Not effective 5=Very effective	4.4
Clarity of slides/overheads/Powerpoint 1=Not clear 5=Very clear	4.6
Handouts and material 1=Not useful 5=Very useful	4.3



IV. Administrative arrangements:

Item/rating/percentage 1=NI 5=Excellent	OVERALL AVERAGE
Pre-course communication	4.6
Travel arrangements	4.3
Quality of the accommodation	4.4
Payment of allowance on time	4.0
Transportation	4.4
Lecture rooms	4.6

V. Your comments and suggestions on the course:

1. Please state the three most important ideas/concepts that you learned from this course
 - Water policies and subsidy policies
 - How to connect the decision makers and implementation groups (farmers)
 - How to transfer knowledge to end users
 - Importance of social-economic activity
 - Institutional decomposition and analysis of irrigation water sector
 - Relationship between Gender and the decision maker
 - Responsive water management and policies in Gender
 - Water quality management/using water economically to optimize crop yield and water availability
 - Changing farmer behaviors to cultivate alternative crops to increase water and land productivity under current situation
 - How to reclaim the ground, and bring it back after damage due to Salinity
 - Positive aspects of agricultural machinery in its higher and distinctive production
2. Suggestions for future improvement of the courses
 - Increasing the field visit related to the course
 - It is useful if expectation of the training courses is requested prior to the training.
 - To arrange much time for discussion to get more benefit from each other.
 - Supplying/distributing materials before the lecture
 - Need for translation of Arabic



3. Do you recommend this course to be repeated in the future?

Yes

No

100%

0%

End