

# MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

**THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, IRAQ**

AND

**THE INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH IN THE DRY AREAS (ICARDA)**

CONCERNING

**ACIAR PROJECT NO. CIM/2004/024:**

**BETTER CROP GERmplasm AND MANAGEMENT FOR IMPROVED PRODUCTION OF  
WHEAT, BARLEY AND PULSE AND FORAGE LEGUMES IN IRAQ**

This Memorandum of Understanding between the legal representative of the Ministry of Agriculture, Iraq ("**the Ministry of Agriculture**") and the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas ("**ICARDA**") lays out the responsibilities and requirements of the two parties concerning cooperation within Project No. CIM/2004/024: *Better Crop Germplasm and Management for Improved Production of Wheat, Barley and Pulse and Forage Legumes in Iraq*, ("**the Project**"), supported by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research ("**ACIAR**").

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 Redevelopment of the agricultural sector is identified as a high priority by the Iraqi National Development Strategy (2005-2007). The Australian Government, through AusAID, is committed to supporting international efforts to rebuild Iraq's agricultural sector. Following discussions at ACIAR in November 2003 with the Iraqi Interim Agriculture Minister Dr Abdul Amir Al-Abood, in May 2004 ACIAR proposed a project to support the improvement of wheat, barley and pulse legumes in Iraq.
- 1.2 The Australian Crawford Fund sponsored the visit of six senior Iraqi scientists to Australia during September-October 2004, to help develop scientific linkages between institutions in Iraq and Australia. The six Iraqi scientists met with many international scientists and had detailed discussions with ACIAR and ICARDA concerning the proposed Project.
- 1.3 The full proposal, including the project activities, work plan and implementation, was discussed and developed in detail at a workshop attended by representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture of Iraq, ICARDA, Australian partners and ACIAR, held at ICARDA in November 2004.
- 1.4 The final project proposal was submitted to ACIAR by ICARDA in March 2005, supported by a letter from the Ministry of Agriculture (attached as Annex 1).
- 1.5 ACIAR has agreed to support the project with a grant of AUD (Australian dollars) 1,200,680. ICARDA, as the Commissioned Organisation, has concluded an Agreement with ACIAR to undertake the Project.

## **2. Project Duration and Grant Closing Date**

- 2.1 The Project commenced on 1 May 2005 and will be completed within a period of three years and two months, concluding on 30 June 2008.

## **3. Program of Work**

- 3.1 The Project Document, including the budget, is attached as Annex 2 and forms an integral part of this Memorandum of Understanding.
- 3.2 The Project aims to contribute to the redevelopment of the dryland cropping sector in northern Iraq through the testing, promotion and dissemination of improved crop cultivars and crop management practices. The Project has four major objectives:
- (1) To identify, promote and widely disseminate amongst farmers in the rainfed cropping regions of northern Iraq "best-bet" improved varieties and crop management systems for wheat, barley and pulse and forage legumes.
  - (2) To introduce, evaluate and select improved germplasm of wheat, barley and pulse and forage legumes for adaptation to rainfed farming systems in northern Iraq.
  - (3) To identify, evaluate and select improved cropping system management options suited to rainfed farming systems in northern Iraq.
  - (4) To enhance the capacity of Iraqi research and extension program to identify and evaluate potentially valuable germplasm and better crop/soil management technologies and promote their adoption by farmers

## **4. Responsibilities of the Parties**

- 4.1 ICARDA is responsible for the overall management of the project and has concluded a project agreement with ACIAR. ICARDA will:
- (a) coordinate the activities of all Project partners, including the Ministry of Agriculture, the Australian partners and ICARDA scientists, including organizing annual Project planning meetings;
  - (b) assist in identifying available "best bet" technologies and in identifying new options for further testing and evaluation;
  - (c) provide germplasm and technical assistance in cropping system management;
  - (d) advise and train Iraqi staff in the implementation of baseline surveys and in activities related to assessing the potential adoption and impact of improved agricultural technologies.
  - (e) participate fully in the design, monitoring and evaluation of demonstrations and research trials;
  - (f) provide training and other capacity building for Iraqi partners;

Where feasible, ICARDA will also link the Project with other planned activities in Nineveh Province coordinated by ICARDA, for example within the next phase of the Mashreq/Maghreb project.

- 4.2 The Ministry of Agriculture will be primarily responsible for implementing the demonstration program in the three agroclimatic zones in Nineveh Governorate and the research trials in the research station(s).

The Ministry of Agriculture will:

- (a) appoint a full-time Project Manager who will coordinate all activities within Iraq and coordinate activities with the Project Manager at ICARDA.
- (b) designate the necessary staff in each agroclimatic zone that will be responsible for implementing the demonstration program under Objective 1, and will assign scientists that will be responsible for the research program under Objectives 2 and 3.
- (c) identify and nominate the staff that will participate in training, visits to Australian institutes and other capacity-building activities.
- (d) be responsible for managing the project funds allocated for activities within Iraq.

4.3 The Australian partners in the Project, namely the Department of Agriculture of Western Australia, the Centre for Legumes in Mediterranean Agriculture (CLIMA), and the University of Adelaide, will:

- (a) contribute to project planning and design and the identification of 'best-best' technologies,
- (b) provide germplasm for research,
- (c) provide technical assistance and training in crop improvement, agronomy, integrated pest and weed management, tillage systems, etc.

## 5. Project Managers

5.1 Dr. Colin Piggin, Director, MP4 Crop and Livestock Production Systems, is the designated Project Manager at ICARDA. All correspondence regarding collaboration in the project shall be addressed to:

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Dr. Colin Piggin | Tel.: + 963-21 2213433 / 2213477 / 2225112                         |
| Director MP4     | Fax: + 963-21 2213490  |
| ICARDA           | e-mail: <a href="mailto:c.piggin@cgiar.org">c.piggin@cgiar.org</a> |
| P.O. Box 5466    |  |
| Aleppo, Syria    |  |

ICARDA shall immediately notify the Ministry of Agriculture of any change in staff responsible for this project.

5.2 Dr. Abdul Sattar Asmair Jassim, Director, Agricultural Directorate of Ninevah, shall be responsible for the execution of the Project on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture. All correspondence regarding collaboration in the project shall be addressed to:

|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Dr. Abdul Sattar Asmair Jassim | Tel: 0770 1607473 (mobile)   |
| Director                       | + 964 60 816786 (city)   |
| Agricultural Directorate       |  |
| Mosul                          | e-mail: <a href="mailto:agrimosul@yahoo.com">agrimosul@yahoo.com</a> |
| Ninevah                        |  |

The Ministry of Agriculture shall immediately notify ICARDA of any change in staff responsible for this project.

## 6. Implementation

- 6.1 The Project will be implemented according to the work plan as specified in Table 3.3.a of the Project Document.
- 6.2 Detailed annual work plans will be agreed at the Annual Project Coordination and Planning Meetings.
- 6.3 Any changes to the work plan considered necessary by either party to assist achievement of the objectives of the project needs the mutual agreement of both parties.
- 6.4 The Ministry has agreed to appoint a Technical Management committee to oversee the Project activities in Iraq, comprising the following members:

|  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| Project Manager                            | Dr. Abdul Sattar        |
| Director General of Agricultural Extension | Dr. Awad Abbas          |
| Director General of Agricultural Research  | Dr. Saleh Bader         |
| Seed Production                            | Dr. Nakd Khamis         |
| Breeder                                    | Dr. Adnan Adary         |
| Economist, Mosul University                | Dr. Salim Younis Sultan |

## 7. Budget and Financial Arrangements

- 7.1 The budget is specified in the Project Document in Annex 2. The budget provides for:
- (a) Funds expended by ICARDA for activities to support the Iraqi partners (e.g., travel of Iraqis to ICARDA, training, provision of materials and supplies sent to Iraq, etc) (PART A);
  - (b) Funds expended by Australian partners to support the Iraqi partners (e.g. travel to participate in project meetings and workshops; training; provision of materials sent to Iraq) (PART B);
  - (c) Funds to be utilized by the Ministry of Agriculture for expenditures within Iraq (PART C).

ICARDA, the collaborating Australian partners and the Ministry of Agriculture will also contribute to the project through the in-kind contribution of their staff time, overheads and infrastructure, as indicated in PART E of the budget.

- 7.2 The Ministry of Agriculture agrees to spend the funds available exclusively for the agreed activities, according to the work plan and timeframe as specified in the Project Document and agreed in annual work plans.

### 7.3 *Transfer of Funds:*

ACIAR transfers funds to ICARDA in six monthly installments, as specified in the budget (PART D). ICARDA is responsible for transferring funds to Project partners.

#### (a) *Research Operating Expenses:*

ICARDA will transfer the funds for research operating expenses in Iraq, according to the budget and schedule in PART C of the budget.

The first transfer shall be made in July 2005. Subsequent transfers shall be made following acquittal of the previous payment, as specified under section 7.5, below.

ICARDA will transfer the funds to a bank account specified by the Ministry of Agriculture, or by other appropriate means as agreed between ICARDA and the Ministry of Agriculture.

(b) *Capital Equipment:*

ICARDA and the Ministry of Agriculture shall agree on the items of equipment to be purchased locally within Iraq and to be purchased outside Iraq.

For equipment to be purchased within Iraq, the Ministry of Agriculture will provide ICARDA with estimated costs. ICARDA will transfer funds to cover those costs according to the same arrangements as for research operating expenses, above.

For equipment to be purchased outside Iraq, ICARDA will undertake the purchase of this equipment on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, according to ICARDA's internationally approved procurement procedures, and arrange for shipment to Iraq.

7.4 The Ministry of Agriculture shall not incur expenditure in excess of the budget for each period without prior written approval of the ICARDA Project Manager. Unless otherwise agreed, ICARDA shall not be liable for any additional costs incurred outside the agreed budget.

7.5 *Financial Reporting*

ICARDA is responsible for financial reporting to ACIAR at the end of each six month period.

Similarly, the Ministry of Agriculture shall provide ICARDA with a financial statement every six months detailing actual expenditure incurred in the previous six months.

Additional funds will be disbursed only on receipt of the financial statement for the previous six months.

Financial statements will be submitted to the Project Manager, Dr. Colin Piggin.

7.6 The Ministry of Agriculture shall maintain records and documents adequate to reflect operations related to the implementation of the Project until the completion of the Project and retain and adequately store such records and documents for one year thereafter.

## **8. Progress Reports**

8.1 ICARDA is responsible for providing ACIAR with Annual Progress Reports at the end of each Project year. A Final Report is due within 60 days of completion of the Project.

8.2 Similarly, the Ministry of Agriculture shall provide ICARDA with an Annual Report on activities in Iraq, according to the following schedule, or on dates specified by the Project Manager:

|                           |              |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| Annual Report for Year 1: | 30 June 2006 |
| Annual Report for Year 2: | 30 June 2007 |
| Final Report:             | July 2008    |

8.3 The reports will be submitted electronically to the Project Manager, Dr. Colin Piggin, who will include them in the reports to ACIAR.

**9. Publications**

9.1 Any publication of the results of this joint Project shall be made only after approval by both parties (ICARDA and the Ministry of Agriculture) and with appropriate recognition of each party's contributions.

**10. Intellectual Property Rights**

10.1 All inventions, improvements, original works and/or discoveries, which are conceived or made during the collaborative project by one or more employees of either party will remain the property of that party, which will have the right to seek intellectual property protection. Each party would grant the other party the right to use such inventions, improvement, original works and/or discoveries internally for research purposes only. Each party will not transfer to third parties or sell or commercialize in any form the intellectual property conceived or made during collaborative projects without prior written approval of the other party.

**11. Terms of Agreement**

11.1 This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into effect on the date of signing by official representatives of both parties and shall remain in effect for the duration of the Project.

11.2 This Memorandum of Understanding may be amended upon written request of either party and by written consent of both parties.

11.3 This Memorandum of Understanding shall be drawn up in two originals in the English language whereby each of the contracting parties shall receive one original, signed by both parties.

As agreed by the contracting parties and signed by their authorized representatives as shown below,

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Dr. Ali Al-Bahadly

Name: Prof. Dr. Adel El-Beltagy

Title: Minister of Agriculture

Title: Director General

The Ministry of Agriculture, Iraq

The International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## ANNEX 1

Republic of Iraq  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Office of the Minister

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

جمهورية العراق  
وزارة الزراعة  
مكتب الوزير

Ref. No. :  
Date : / /200


العدد :  
التاريخ :  
م ٢٠٠ / /  
هـ ١٤ / /

From: Minister of Agriculture <dr\_Sawsan 2003@yahoo.com >  
To: <e.bailey @cgiar.org>

Dear.Dr. Adel Al- Beltagy,

I am writing to confirm that the Ministry of Agriculture supports the proposal on "Better crop germplasm and management for improved production of wheat, barley and pulses and forage legumes in Iraq " submitted to ACIAR by the international center in the dry areas ( ICARDA ). The Ministry of Agriculture has participated in the development of the proposal and looks forward to working with ICARDA in implementing the project in Iraq.

Best Regards,

  
Dr. Sawsan Al- Sherifi  
Minister of Agriculture  
/March/2005

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بغداد - ساحة الإمداد  
هـ ٧١٩٥٣٨١ / ٧١٨٦٦١١ / ٧١٨٦١٠٧  
البريد الإلكتروني : E - mail : Minis - of - agr @ yahoo. Com