

This Annual Report is a compilation of all the country reports and technical papers presented by NARS at the Regional Technical Coordination Meeting with slight editing

Foreword

ICARDA's Arabian Peninsula Regional Program (APRP) serves the seven countries of the Arabian Peninsula (Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Oman, UAE and Yemen). The program addresses three priority themes:

I-Water resource management

II-Rangeland and forages

III-Protected Agriculture

ICARDA/APRP is operating from ICARDA regional office in Dubai, UAE with full support from the Head Quarter in Aleppo, Syria. In addition to the technical support from HQ Research programs and Units, three full time Scientists are based in Dubai to serve the region. The three internationally recruited scientists are: Dr. Ahmed Moustafa, Protected Agriculture Specialist; Dr. Ahmed Osman, Pasture Forage and Range Ecologist; and Dr. Asadullah Al-Ajmi, Water / Irrigation Management Specialist (until May 2003). The project has been started in 2000 with the financial support of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD), The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the OPEC Fund for International Development (OPEC).

This report is a consolidation of all the technical reports and papers of the NARS scientists presented at the Regional Technical Coordination Meetings (RTCM) held at ICARDA in Aleppo, Syria from 7 to 9 December 2003.

A summary of achievements during the reported season is presented to include research activities, capacity buildings and training, information technology and networking and publications.

ICARDA-APRP would like to thank the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD), The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the OPEC Fund for International Development (OPEC) for the financial support they provided for this project.

Particular thanks go to the Management and Scientists of the NARS of APRP countries for their dedication and hard work during this season and for their support to the program. Special thanks go to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in UAE for hosting ICARDA- APRP office in Dubai.

Finally, many thanks go to ICARDA Management, Programs, Units and Scientists for their support and technical backstopping.

Ahmad T. Moustafa
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