

PRESS RELEASE

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Beirut



Aly Abou Sabaa appointed ICARDA Director General

Aly Abou Sabaa will take up the post of Director General of the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) on October 15th, 2016. The appointment of the former Vice President of the African Bank for Development (AfDB) has been confirmed by the Chair of ICARDA's Board of Trustees, Margret Thalwitz. The current General Director, Dr. Mahmoud Solh, will step down after ten years of service in this position.

Aly Abou Sabaa, an Egyptian national and civil engineer by training, brings 33 years of professional experience to ICARDA, with a focus on strategic leadership in the fields of sustainable development, operational and policy-based lending, as well as project and portfolio management.

At AfDB, Aly Abou Sabaa provided leadership in the preparation and execution of the Bank's main strategies which had transformational impact on the lives of millions of people in Africa. He was in charge of resource mobilization and the management of a US \$11 billion portfolio in the areas of agriculture, water, natural resources management, climate change, green development, governance, women and youth, as well as human and infrastructural development. His experience spans more than 35 countries in the Middle East, Africa, Asia and the United States of America.

Aly Abou Sabaa studied in Egypt and the USA where he earned a Masters of Science in civil engineering. He is married and a father of three children.

Margret Thalwitz, Chair of the ICARDA Board of Trustees said "On behalf of the Trustees, I am very pleased to announce the appointment of Aly Abou Sabaa as Director General of ICARDA. He is an outstanding executive in the development field and not only an effective leader, but an experienced administrator and a gifted strategist with a global reputation for representing key investments in agriculture, water, climate change, green growth, infrastructure, and natural resources."

"Dr. Mahmoud Solh has been a brilliant Director General of ICARDA and has transformed its presence across the dry areas and the world. The Trustees are confident that Mr. Abou Sabaa will be a worthy successor."

Aly Abou Sabaa said "It is an honor to be asked to become ICARDA's Director General and to follow in the footsteps of Mahmoud Solh, who has done an exceptional effort to position ICARDA as the key research organization in the dry areas, fostering excellence in research and partnerships. For many years I have looked to ICARDA as a model of research, development and international outreach. I am of course very excited to take up this

responsibility and to work and collaborate with members of ICARDA's Board of Trustees and its staff who are admired for doing a wonderful job, even during difficult times. I am greatly looking forward to working with them so that together we could take ICARDA up to the next level."

Dr Mahmoud Solh said "Aly Abou Sabaa is an excellent choice to lead ICARDA. The Center and its unparalleled research work and collection of genetic resources will be in very good hands. Aly Abou Sabaa is a well-respected leader with extensive experience. I am confident that he will build on ICARDA's recent successes to ensure the Center continues to excel in its mission."

About ICARDA

The International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) is a global agricultural research organization working with countries in the world's dry and marginal areas to deliver sustainable systems solutions that increase productivity, improve rural nutrition, and strengthen national food security. ICARDA is a member of the CGIAR Consortium. www.icarda.org

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