

**Press release**  
**July 26, 2018**

## **ICARDA and the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development sign agreement to boost investment in agricultural research in the Arab region**

**Cairo, Egypt** – Representatives from the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) and the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD) consolidated their joint commitment to enhance cooperation in research, development, and capacity building in the field of agriculture.

The main purpose of the agreement signed today in Cairo is to join forces to explore new ways to enhance food and nutritional security in areas challenged by water scarcity, land degradation, and other effects of climate change.

The new alliance between AOAD and ICARDA will focus on enhancing food and nutritional security in the Arab countries. The joint efforts will include building scientific capacity, collaborating on aspects of water and land management, integrated crop-livestock production systems, and date palm production. Climate change adaptation is central to the efforts and focus of the alliance.

“This is a crucial time to invest in partnerships for research and technologies that can help institutions and farmers make real gains when it comes to adapting to the effects of climate change felt across the globe,” said Aly Abousabaa, director general of ICARDA, upon signing the Memorandum of Understanding.

The agreement commits both parties to specific actions to increase agricultural productivity and improve livelihoods in the dry areas.

“By signing this agreement today, we are taking significant steps toward creating alliances that can make real changes in the lives of people in the Arab region,” said Professor Ibrahim Adam Ahmed El-Dukheri, director general of AOAD.

The Memorandum of Understanding will have an immediate impact on sharing knowledge and building the capacities of partners and stakeholders in the dry areas. By establishing a new Arab platform for collaboration, the parties aim to engage regional and international stakeholders to invest in research for development that can contribute to the improvement of livelihoods of the resource-poor people in the dry areas.

The AOAD, established in 1970 and functioning under the umbrella of the League of Arab States with headquarters in Khartoum Sudan, works to assist member countries in developing and enhancing their respective agricultural sectors as well as to facilitate coordination amongst member states in the agricultural sector, with the aim of achieving a fully integrated Arab economy union, and food self-sufficiency.

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*The International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) is an international, autonomous non-profit research organization supported by CGIAR, a global research partnership for a food-secure future. ICARDA's mission is to reduce poverty, enhance food, water, and nutritional security, as well as environmental health in the face of global challenges, including climate change. We do this through innovative science, strategic partnerships, linking research to development and capacity development that take into account gender equality and the role of youth in transforming the dry areas. ICARDA works in partnership with governments, universities, civil society, national agricultural research organization, other CGIAR research Centers, and the private sector. With its temporary Headquarters in Beirut, Lebanon, ICARDA operates in regional and country offices across Africa, Asia and the Middle East. For more information: [www.icarda.org](http://www.icarda.org).*