

The MENA Grand Challenge *of* The Two Degree Initiative



Stakeholder Meeting Information Booklet
22-24 June 2020



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MENA Grand Challenge

The Two Degree Initiative



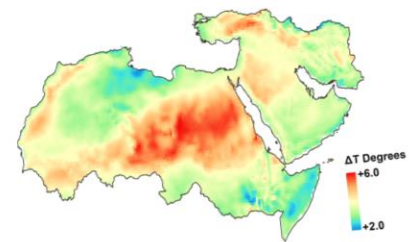
The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) is a region highly vulnerable to climate change which in turn drives its increasing socioeconomic challenges. Along with water scarcity exacerbated by climate change, food security is constrained by the demand from a rapidly growing population, challenging policies, inadequate crop productivity, leading to heavy dependence on food imports, migration of people, and geopolitical conflicts. Agriculture and agri-food systems remain fragile and a radical transformation is necessary to meet future needs under a changing climate.

Understanding the need of the hour, the alliance of the Global Commission on Adaptation, CGIAR, and the World Resources Institute have initiated the Two Degree Initiative (2DI) which aims to address the challenges and opportunities in eight key hotspots across the world to strengthen their climate change preparedness and adaptation capabilities in a comprehensive manner.

One of the hotspot areas of 2DI is the MENA region. The International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA), with partners, is leading the MENA Grand Challenge (MENA-GC). The MENA-GC partnership consists of CGIAR partners (IWMI, WorldFish, and IFPRI), the Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands in Egypt, Wageningen University, the World Resources Institute (WRI) and the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS).

The MENA-GC focuses on the opportunities of public-private partnerships identified as potential major "Climate Smart Lifts". It is hypothesized that these Lifts facilitate food security and resilience of socio-ecological systems to climate change in the MENA region. It was a two-year effort to identify this mega hypothesis based on interactions with stakeholders at various occasions since mid 2018. These Lifts are conceptualized in the figure on the next page. The focus will be on all the four major agroecosystems in MENA (irrigated, rainfed, rangelands and deserts).

Prepared by scientists from ICARDA, IFPRI, WorldFish, IWMI and Wageningen University, for the CGIAR 2DI.
Contact Ajit Govind a.govind@cgiar.org



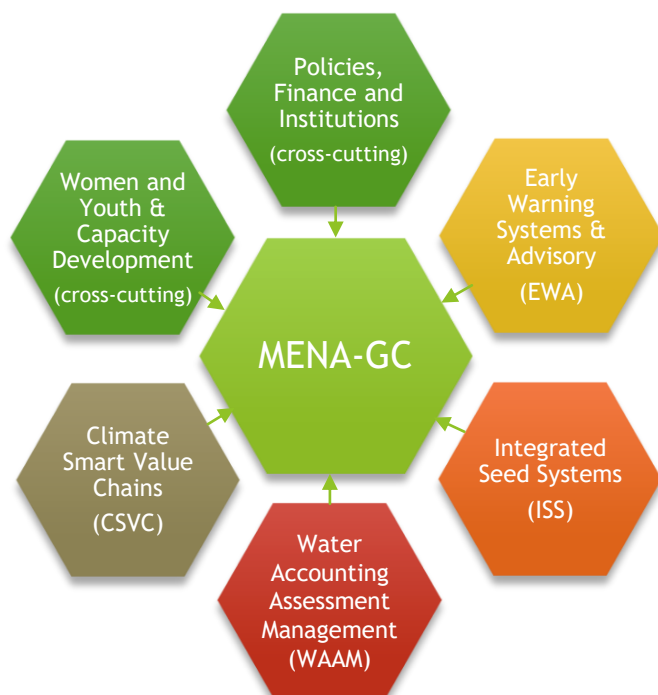
Climate Vulnerability of MENA



Rangelands of MENA



Rainfed Agriculture



The different R4D “Lifts” that collectively enhances the Climate Smartness of MENA

As an initial step of the MENA-GC mission, we start with a collective conversation with a broad range of key stakeholders in the region. These ‘listening cum learning workshops’ conducted through a series of webinars will provide a forum to know from a stakeholders’ perspective what new knowledge, partnerships, instruments and R4D projects are needed to materialize these R4D Lifts in the MENA. The webinars will prompt discussions on the following points:

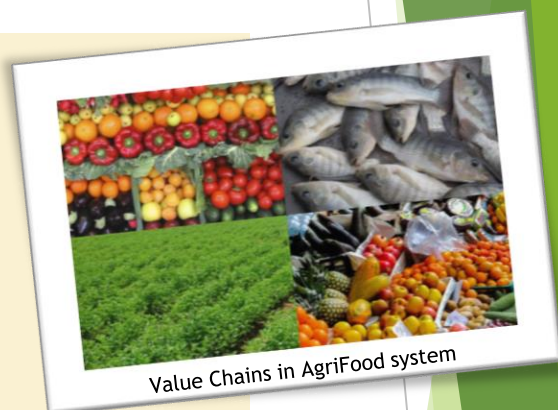
- Identify the prospects and hurdles in implementing climate-smart solutions across MENA.
- Identify plausible public-private partnerships.
- Try to develop smaller R4D projects and test cases which may have an impact on the ground.
- Identify potential donors that are interested to fund/co-fund certain projects.
- Identify the prospects of scalability of projects to create an impact on the ground.

Theme of MENA-GC

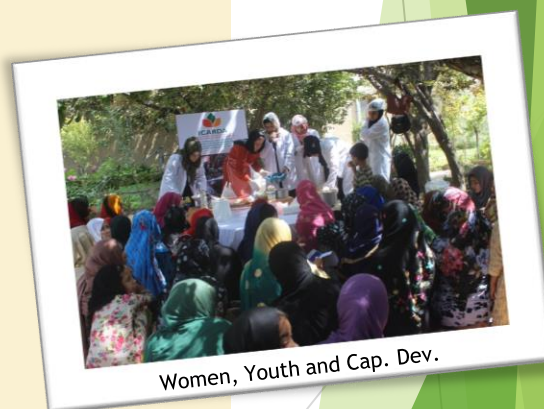
Fostering sustainable rural livelihoods to minimize fragility in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) under a changing climate and economy: The role of Public-Private-Farmer Partnership, Water management, Climate-friendly Agribusiness value chains and Early Warning Systems and Advisories.



Desert Farming



Value Chains in AgriFood system



Women, Youth and Cap. Dev.

Stakeholder Kick-off Meeting

June 22, 2020, 1300-1500hrs Cairo Local Time (CEST)

Time (CEST)	Activity	Person
1300-1305	Welcome, Opening Remarks, General Instructions and Plan of Webinar	Bart De Steenhuijsen Piters (Bart) <i>Facilitator of this event . Senior Research Coordinator , Wageningen University along with ICARDA staff</i>
1305-1310	Inauguration of the MENA-GC on behalf of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Egypt.	Melle Leenstra <i>Agricultural Counsellor to Egypt and Jordan Ministry of Agriculture Nature and Food Quality Netherlands</i>
1310-1320	The Two Degree Initiative: Transforming food systems.	Bruce Campbell <i>Director of the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS)</i>
1320-1325	Defining a demand-led research agenda: WRI-GCA-CGIAR partnership in building resilience in the AgriFood sector.	Christina R. del Rio <i>Action Track Co-Manager, Global Commission on Adaptation</i> Rebecca Carter <i>Deputy Director, Climate Resilience Practice World Resources Institute</i>
1325-1335	Presentation of the MENA-GC of 2DI. Analysis of survey responses and the way forward in the MENA-GC mission.	Jacques Wery <i>Deputy Director General, ICARDA</i> Ajit Govind <i>(Climatologist ICARDA and CCAFS Focal Point)</i>
1335-1340	MENA-GC team Introduction and the stakeholders doing pitches.	Bart explains the guidelines for the next section and also welcomes each presenter doing the pitch
1340-1435	General MENA-GC pitches by 5-7 stakeholders addressing the issue of enhancing climate smartness in the MENA. Pitches will be 5 min.	Bart and the MENA-GC team (moderator) Brief QA sessions will be followed after each pitch for a maximum of two minutes. Bart and team announces the questions from the audience raised via chat.
1435-1455	Brief Introduction on the Thematic R4D Lifts webinars and plan for the next two days.	R4D Lift Leaders <i>Briefly inform stakeholders what to expect and how to prepare.</i>
1455-1500	Brief QA session and Wrap-up	MENA-GC team

Contact a.govind@cgiar.org for more details or for participation



Climate Smart Value Chains (CSVC) Lift

23 June 1100-1300hrs (CEST)

Bezaiet Dessalegn (ICARDA) and Harrison Karisa (WorldFish)

This webinar intends to deliberate on the role of sustainable diversification of the agricultural system to enhance the production, consumption, and marketing of nutritious food as a strategy to build socio-ecological resilience and withstand shocks induced by climate variability, market instability, growing trends in population growth and scarcity of key natural resources. It aims to initiate a regional conversation on common and dominant challenges related to the Lift, plausible short and long-term solutions, potential partnerships (private-public, cross-sectoral, and regional), and institutional frameworks required for sustainable solutions.

Key outcomes of the discussion will be used to validate or reject commonly held understandings and explore opportunities (project-based, as well as national and/or regional level interventions) to address the growing regional challenges to sustainable diversification; and vegetables, fruits and fish value chains. The insights gained from the webinar will be used to inform the development of plausible solutions that build resilience and enhance food and nutritional security at scale.

Time (CEST)	Agenda	
11:00-11:05	Brief introduction of the event and expectations and welcome participants	Bezaiet Dessalegn, Social Sciences Specialist, ICARDA
11:05-11:15	Brief introduction of the Lift	Jacques Wery, Deputy Director General for Research, ICARDA
11:15-12:50	Brief stakeholder pitches followed by discussion . Facilitated by Bart de Steenhuijsen Piters, Wageningen University & Research (WUR) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nicoline de Haan - Interim Director of the CGIAR Gender Platform Dina Salah – Sub-Regional Director, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Egypt Melle Leenstra - Agricultural Counsellor at the Dutch Embassy, Cairo, Egypt Josse Dorra Fiani - President, Knowledge Economy Foundation Managing Director, Knowledge Co for Sustainable Development, Egypt Jean Luc Graziato, Director of Carrefour Egypt Amira El Hanafi - Director Central Laboratory for Aquaculture Research (CLAR), Egypt Ayman Rostom – Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Skretting, Egypt 	
12:50-13:00	Wrap-up and Synthesis and way forward	Harrison Charo Karisa (WorldFish)

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WorldFish



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Integrated Seed Systems (ISS) Lift

23 June 1400-1600hrs (CEST)

Zewdie Bishaw (ICARDA), Marja Thijssen (WUR), Abdoul Aziz Niane (ICARDA)

Integrated Seed System (ISS) recognizes the value of formal and informal seed systems and cherishes the diversity of systems and pathways by which seed of different crops is produced, marketed and exchanged, and used by farmers with different needs. It ensures the availability, access and use of quality seed of crop varieties and species at scale and combined with integrated crop management technologies increase agricultural production and productivity, enhance food and nutrition security and build resilient rural livelihoods. This webinar discusses key aspects of supporting the development of ISS, in the context of climate smartness in the MENA region. It aims to start a dialogue with the various vital stakeholders for the establishment of an effective partnership on this topic, to take leadership in selected R4D activities addressing the development of climate-proof, robust and resilient seed systems in the region. Specifically, we will discuss the current situation in terms of the current challenges, key entry points and priorities for improvement, and strategic partnerships in terms of implementation and funding.

Time (CEST)	Activity	Remarks
14.00-14.15	Introduction of ISS in the context of MENA-GC and analysis of Survey response focused on the Lift	Chair: Zewdie Bishaw Facilitator: Bart Steenhuijsen
14.15-14.30	Introduction of the panel and participants	Bart Steenhuijsen
14.30-14.35	Brief pause / buffer time	Buffer time to catch up for mic/camera adjustment etc.
14.35-15.35	Three-minute pitches by stakeholders on the following topics. Each pitch is followed by a discussion with selected experts and questions from the audience. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A pluralistic seed sector: essential for resilience, innovation and sustainable growth – how to promote the development of ISS? Farmers are affected in different ways by climate change – where is support most needed? The seed sector is affected by climate change in different ways – how to improve performance? Review of seed regulatory frameworks is needed – which topics to focus on? 	Short pitches by experts based on the analysis of the results of the seed survey and exchange among stakeholders.
15.35-16.00	Wrap-up, synthesis and way forward	Lift Leaders facilitated by Bart

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Early Warning Systems and Advisories (EWA) Lift

24 June 1100-1300hrs (CEST)

Ajit Govind (ICARDA) and Giriraj Amarnath (IWMI)

This webinar discusses all the possible aspects of Early Warning Systems and Advisories (EWA) in the context of climate smartness in the MENA's AgriFood sector. It aims to start a regional dialogue with the stakeholders that may lead to effective partnerships in the MENA in the EWA sector. Down the lane, this partnership can take leadership in various R4D activities that address various issues related to climate change adaptation, mitigation and pro-resilience activities in the AgriFood systems in the region. We will discuss the diversity of the currently available EWA types (digital, mass-media, radio, newspapers), hurdles of their implementation, strategic partnerships needed for implementation, finance and funding mechanisms needed for startups etc. We will cover both Early Warning Systems (EWS) and Advisories in the EWA Lift on a wide range of topics such as weather forecasting, drought EWS, pest and diseases EWS, conflict and migration, e-Extension, policy advisories, fertilizer recommendation etc. to name a few.

Time (CEST)	Activity	Remarks
11.00-11.15	Opening Remarks, Program plan, Introduction of the panel and participants	Chaired by Ajit Govind (ICARDA) and Giriraj Amarnath (IWMI), Facilitated by Bart Steenhuijsen (WUR)
11.15-11.27	Role of EWAs towards Enhanced Climate Smartness of MENA's AgriFood Sector.	David Bergvisnson (ex-DG ICRISAT, aWhere Inc.)
11.27-11.35	Analysis of Survey response focused on the EWA Lift	Ajit Govind
11-35-12.35	Six 5-minute pitches by stakeholders. Each pitch followed by a five-minute discussion targeted on the following points. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current status of EWA in MENA • Hurdles of EWA (ICT, CapDev, Knowledge, PPP) • Scalability issues(digital connectivity, awareness) • Partnerships needed (public-private alliance) • Finance and Funding • Policies and Socioeconomics. 	Stakeholder pitches across a broad spectrum of EWA topics. This will be facilitated by Bart and moderated by the chairs and the plenary speaker.
12.35-13.00	Synthesis, way forward and wrap-up	Lift Leaders

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Water Accounting, Assessment and Management (WAAM) Lift

24 June 1400-1600hrs (CEST)

Amgad Elmahdi (IWMI), and Vinay Nangia (ICARDA)

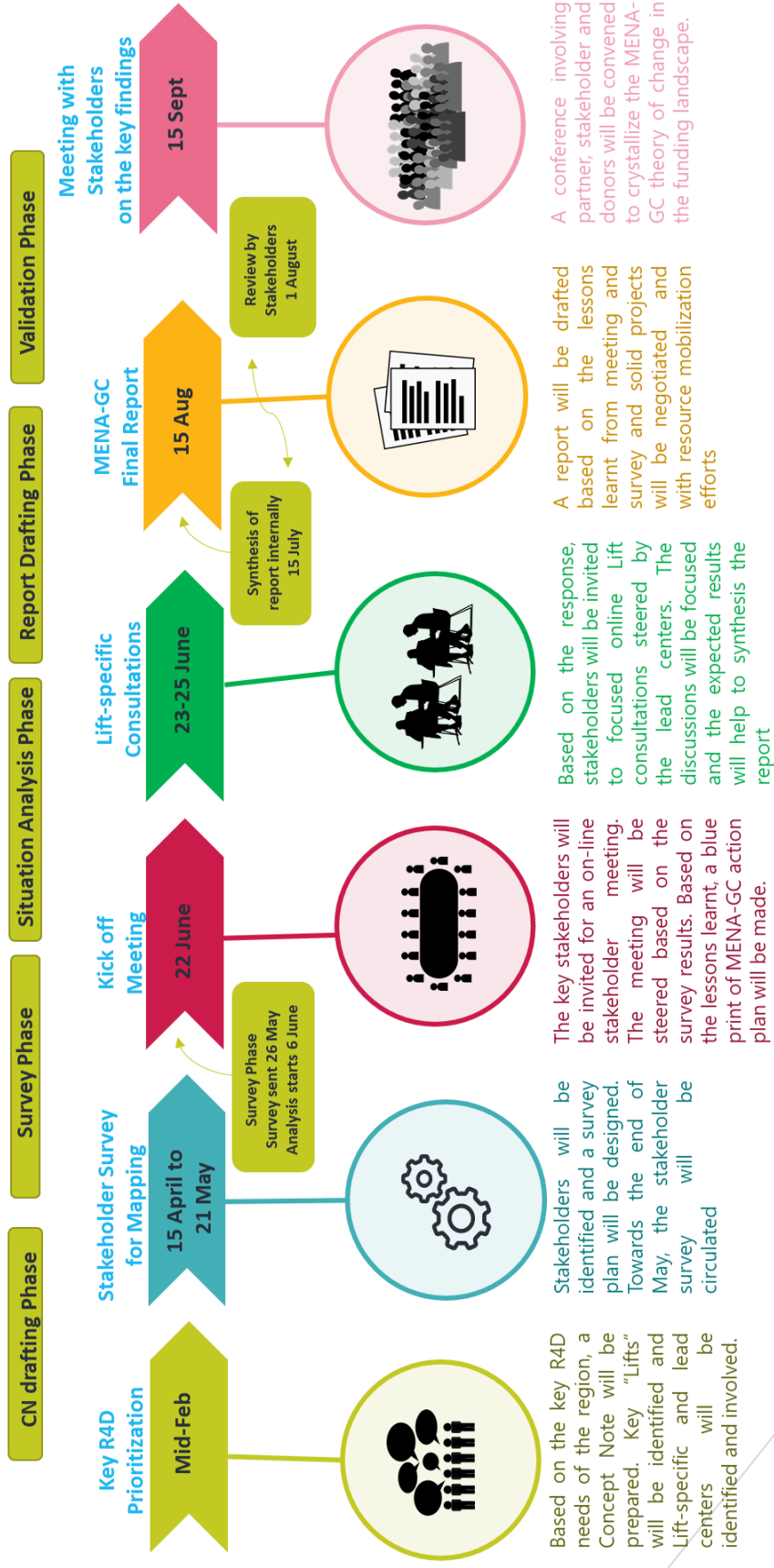
This consultation webinar aims to co-design and co-create - through an active discussion with stakeholders in the MENA region - a powerful water accounting, assessment and management framework to ensure sustainable use, management and governance of water in MENA to minimize vulnerability under a changing and variable climate and socioeconomic pressures from farm-scheme-basin-national levels. It will discuss the current situation in terms of the diversity of WAAM types, hurdles of their implementation, strategic partnerships needed for implementation, finance, and funding mechanisms needed for startups etc. Furthermore, it will also highlight current and future policies and socioeconomics as well as the need for capacity development of WAAM and the prospects of its scalability across the region using example case studies and impact analysis as far as possible to develop effective partnerships in the MENA to take leadership in various potential R4D activities .

Time (CEST)	Activity	Remarks
14.00-14.10	Introduction of the webinar and setting the scene	Stefan Uhlenbrook (IWMI)
14.10-14.30	Introduction of the WAAM Lift in the context of MENA-GC Panel Discussion	Lift Leaders facilitated by Stefan Uhlenbrook
14.30-14.45	Take general comments	Facilitated by Bart Steenhuijsen (WUR)
14.45-15.45	Five 5-minute pitches by stakeholders. Each pitch followed by a five-minute discussion targeted on the following points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementers: Current situation and Hurdles of WAAM activities (FAO-NENA Domitille Vallee) • Innovation & Scalability: (Susan Amrose, MIT-GEAR Lab) • Industry: (Driss Ennaaney, Netafim North Africa) • Finance and Funding: (Tessa Terpstra -MENA Envoy NL) • Policies and Socioeconomics: (Lebdi Fethi) 	Open comments and discussions related to the LIFT and perspectives from implementers, donors, industry, R&D, and policies.
15.45-16.00	Wrap-up, synthesis and way forward	Lift Leaders facilitated by Bart.

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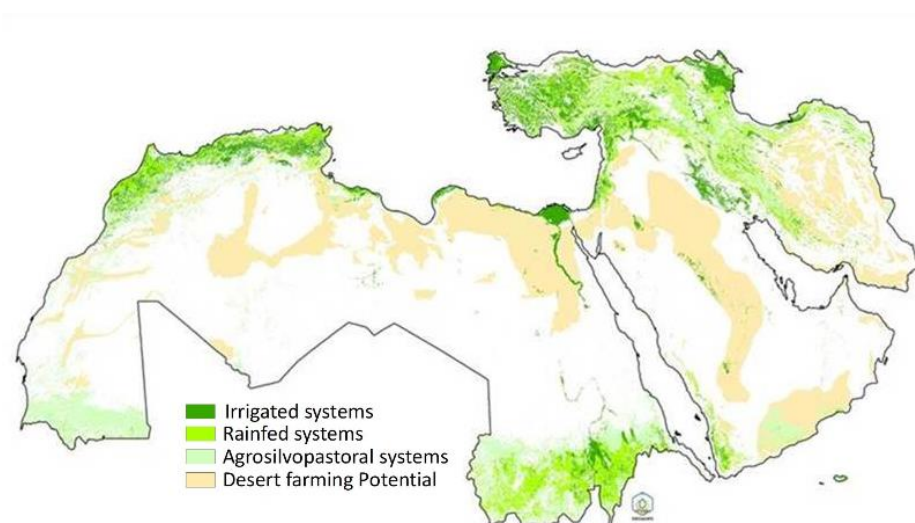


Where are we heading ?



Some Useful Contacts

Item	Contact Person	Contact email
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R4D Lifts Contacts		
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• Integrated Seed Systems (ISS) Lift	Zewdie Bishaw Marja Thijssen	z.bishaw@cgiar.org marja.thijssen@wur.nl
• Early Warning Systems & Advisories (EWA) Lift	Ajit Govind Giriraj Amarnath	a.govind@cgiar.org a.giriraj@cgiar.org
• Water Accounting, Assessment and Management (WAAM) Lift	Vinay Nangia Amgad Elmahdi	v.nangia@cgiar.org a.elmahdi@cgiar.org
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Source: This map was prepared by the GeoAgro Unit, ICARDA, prepared under the DryArc Initiative