



Iraq Horticulture Development Program

Paving the Way for a More
Competitive Horticulture Sector



Kingdom of the Netherlands



The Iraq Horticulture Development Program (IHD) is a four-year development project funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands and implemented by ECO consult in cooperation with Delphy. The project aims at increasing the horticulture sector's competitiveness and expanding opportunities in the value chain through introducing innovative climate smart agriculture (CSA) technologies and efficient irrigation, improving postharvest practices and promoting knowledge transfer among counterparts and partner organizations.

Iraq's agriculture sector declined considerably during the last few decades due to the lack of investment, isolation from the global economy and limited access to technology. Iraq has been dependent on importing a significant portion of its food. However, Iraqi agribusinesses and markets are just beginning to modernize their operations in order to compete with imports and meet local demands. After the government and the oil sector, agriculture is the country's third largest employer and contributor to the economy. The IHD program will contribute towards developing a vibrant and efficient horticulture sector that supports national plans for economic growth in Iraq while saving water, improving food security and creating job opportunities for Iraqi citizens.

Project Significance

The IHD program is designed to improve the horticulture sector's competitiveness, increase resilience of market systems and enhance the knowledge base among partner organizations on sustainable agriculture practices. The program will significantly impact the country's deteriorated economy by providing farming communities new job opportunities, stability and income.

Due to conflict and climate change impact, food security became another concern in Iraq, with the potential to further deteriorate instability. We believe that introducing local farmers to innovative agriculture practices will have a significant impact on improving the security situation by contributing to the livelihood of vulnerable communities and farmers.

Through the project, a cluster of outreach interventions and training sessions will be implemented to demonstrate different systems and technologies, build awareness and knowledge among counterpart organizations and enhance the capacity of farmers. Such training sessions will assist in organizing value chains of major sustainable farming products from the initial cultivation stage to postharvest and entering markets.



Project Objectives

- Introduce and showcase innovative farming technologies that are best suited for the Iraqi climate. Those technologies will demonstrate efficient farming techniques to enable farmers to save water and produce high quality and higher yield products
- Improve postharvest management practices to enhance the quality of yields and create market linkages to optimize the sector's post-harvest value chains
- Enhance the knowledge transfer among counterparts and partner organizations in efficient and sustainable horticulture management



Project Activities

- Supporting linkages and cooperation among partners in the Netherlands, Jordan and Iraq.
- Channeling Dutch innovations and technologies in cultivation and postharvest systems to the Iraqi markets.
- Building joint research and knowledge platforms in the region to tackle specific challenges.
- Building on existing infrastructure and systems in Jordan and provide access to Iraqi farmers, engineers, and researchers through training and placement programs.
- Focusing the project on high-value interventions that will bring immediate benefits to the sector.
- Building capacities and enhancing skills for continuous improvements.
- Leveraging resources to support the viable farming options and improvements in the horticulture sector chain.
- Achieving Social inclusion and gender equality.



Focus Areas (project locations)



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The “Iraq Horticulture Development Program” is based on the concept of increasing productivity through technology adoption and expanding the value chain operations

What does IHD mean for you?



Farmers:

- Access to improved agricultural technology
- Access to markets
- Capacity Building
- Knowledge Exchange
- Operational Technical Support



Iraqi Workforce:

- Capacity Building and access to training
- Access to employment opportunities
- Livelihood improvements for communities
- Market linkages
- Access to improved agricultural technology



Research and Advisory Institutions:

- Training and collaboration
- Capacity building
- Knowledge exchange
- Providing a suitable environment for research and development