

WMO

The **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)**, founded in 1950, is a specialized agency of the United Nations for weather, climate, and water. WMO contributes to understanding the impacts of climate variability/change on agriculture. It also promotes capacity building in the application of meteorological and climatological data and products in assessing the impacts of climate variability/change.

AARINENA

Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East and North Africa (AARINENA) was established in 1985 as an autonomous body and a platform for agricultural research and innovation in the West Asia and North Africa region. Their mission is to contribute to the enhancement of agricultural and rural development in member countries through fostering agricultural research and technology development and by strengthening collaboration among them and with the outside world.

FAO

FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) leads international efforts to defeat hunger. They help developing countries and countries in transition modernize and improve agriculture, forestry and fisheries practices and ensure good nutrition for all.

ICARDA

The International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) mission is to contribute to the improvement of livelihoods of the resource-poor in dry areas by enhancing food security and alleviating poverty through research and partnerships to achieve sustainable increases in agricultural productivity and income, while ensuring the efficient and more equitable use and conservation of natural resources.

International Workshop on Adaptation to Climate Change in Agriculture in West Asia and North Africa

For more information on this workshop please contact:

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World
Meteorological
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Weather • Climate • Water



Association of
Agricultural
Research
Institutions in the
Near East and
North Africa



Food and
Agriculture
Organization



ICARDA
International Center
for Agricultural
Research in the Dry
Areas



Kuwait Institute of
Scientific Research



Announcement

International Workshop on Adaptation to Climate Change in Agriculture in West Asia and North Africa

**Kuwait City, Kuwait
14-17 November 2011**

INTRODUCTION

The countries of West Asia and North Africa (WANA) have long had the challenge of providing sustainable livelihoods for their populations in the fragile ecosystems of semi-arid and arid areas facing the challenging issues of absolute water scarcity, drought, land degradation and desertification. In addition to these, the region also has to deal with other issues including a significant increase in population, poverty, a geo-politically fragile environment, gender imbalance, weak investment in agricultural research for development and constraints in human resources and institutional capacities.

Climate change is already a reality in WANA and it places additional constraints on the already fragile ecosystems of dry areas and limited natural resources in WANA. There is evidence of the global decline in food production; and the developing countries in WANA will be hit the hardest. A striking example of the potential impacts is the Nile delta with 6 million people which will be directly affected by sea-level rise. Hence there is an urgency to develop, and strengthen further, research and technology transfer on adaptation, mitigation and production system resilience.

The Fourth Assessment Report of the WMO/UNEP Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released in 2007, suggested several adaptation strategies to deal with projected climatic changes which include, changing crop varieties; enhancing more efficient water use; appropriate scheduling of cropping activities; adoption of more effective pest, disease and weed management practices and insurance; and making better use of seasonal climate forecasts to reduce production risks. A comprehensive and integrated approach to planning and implementing the climate change adaptation strategies across the wide range of agroecosystems in different countries in WANA could help both the

planners and the local communities to deal effectively with the projected impacts.

The International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) and its partners organized in February 2010 an International Conference on "Food Security and Climate Change in Dry Areas" in Amman, Jordan on 1-4 February 2010. The Amman Declaration called for initiatives to enhance food security and reduce vulnerability to climate change which include establishment of a regional commission for food security and climate change, a regional network for weather monitoring and establishment of a knowledge system on the adaptation and resilience practices.

It is with this background that the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East and North Africa (AARINENA), the Food Agriculture Organization (FAO), ICARDA, and Ohio State University are organizing the International Workshop on Adaptation to Climate Change in Agriculture in West Asia and North Africa in Kuwait City, Kuwait, from 14 to 17 November 2011.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

- To provide a better understanding and assessment of the climate change impacts on agriculture and the associated vulnerability in the WANA region;
- To discuss and develop informed decisions on practical adaptation strategies for the agricultural sector in the WANA region;
- To discuss and suggest the appropriate ways to promote adaptation planning and implementation and its integration into the sustainable development planning in different countries in the WANA region; and

- To develop an appropriate mechanism for continuous information exchange on climate change impacts and adaptation amongst the different countries in the WANA region.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES OF THE WORKSHOP

Senior experts in the field of climate change, agrometeorology, as well as members from AARINENA will be invited to prepare state-of-the-art discussion papers to address the above objectives. The programme for the meeting will be designed to engage all the participants in discussions on each of these discussion papers and develop a Climate Change Adaptation Framework for the WANA region that could enhance cooperation among WANA countries to better manage climate change risks; and enhance integration of adaptation with mitigation and sustainable agricultural development in WANA.

Proceedings of the Meeting will be published by WMO, AARINENA, FAO, ICARDA, and Ohio State University and will be widely distributed.

PARTICIPATION

This workshop aims to bring together experts from the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs), the National Agricultural Research Systems (NARSs), key decision-makers, and practitioners to discuss real world applications and innovative techniques for coping with climate change and offering recommendations for planning and implementing an effective Climate Change Adaptation Framework for WANA.