

INSTITUTE PROFILE

Agricultural Research and Extension Authority (AREA), Yemen

Agricultural research system in Yemen is young. In the mid 50's the first research department was established in Al Koud region, belonging cotton crop. Ten years later, named as Agricultural Research Station. In the 70's the agricultural research was expanded to include additional crops and regions, and reorganized, creating a new Agricultural Research Center. Different research departments were found in Tuhama and Southern Highlands, and developed later to an agricultural research station in Ta'az region. This consequent development in agricultural research resulted establishment the Agricultural Research and Extension Authority (AREA) in 1983 by cooperation with World Bank and Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

AREA consists of a main headquarter located at 100 km South part of Sana'a nearby Thamar city, and 8 research stations and 6 national centers representing different agro-ecological conditions in the country.

• Mission

AREA mission is to implement the government policy and plans in terms of developing the agricultural production both plant and livestock sectors, through scientific and applied research, coordinate agricultural research at national level, technical evaluation and certify research findings. However, AREA responsibilities are:

- * Endorse and implement agricultural research policy, plans and programs and disseminate its findings.
- * Develop and adapt agricultural technology that contribute in improving agricultural productivity and sustainability of resources.
- * Socio-economic studies to achieve economic efficiency in using agricultural inputs.
- * Identify agricultural research priorities consistent with general policy of the country and national economic needs.
- * Adopt and transfer locally developed agricultural



AREA, Yemen

- technology and disseminate to farmers and beneficiaries.
- * Develop the skills of agricultural specialists, extension agents and technicians through training, specialized courses, workshops, and conferences.
- * Maintain strong research ties with local, Arab, regional, and international institutions.

• Organization and Structure

AREA has a management council, headed by the AREA chairman and consists of:

- * AREA Chairman
- * Deputies of AREA Chairman (2 members)
- * Representatives of Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Water and Environment, Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research
- * Agricultural Faculties
- * Three experts in the field of agricultural and rural development

Presently, AREA comprises a distributed network of 8 research stations in three different agro-ecological zones, and 6 specialized agricultural research centers at the national level. Research stations spread in Ta'az, Thamar, Sana'a, Al Koud/Abean, Al Mkala, Sardood/Al Hudaieda, Sai'oun/Hader Moot and Ma'reb. Specialized National

Agricultural Research and Extension Authority (AREA), Yemen

Research Centers include: Livestock Research Center, Food and Post-Harvest Research Center, Renewable Natural Resources Program, National Center for Plant Genetic Resources, National Center for Agricultural Training, National Center for Agricultural Media.

There are 64 Ph.D and 81 M.Sc scientific staff as well as 212 B.Sc research assistants working at AREA. Support staff comprises 236 technicians, 276 administrative and 613 field assistants and laborers. The total staff of AREA in Yemen is about 1500.

• Agricultural Research Programs at AREA

AREA manages all research activities through the following programs:

- Genetic Improvement Program
- Crop Management Program
- Natural Resource Management Program
- Livestock Research Program
- Post-Harvest Technologies Program
- Socio-economic Studies Program
- Technology Transfer Research Program

Major Achievements

AREA has awarded many international prizes such as the second prize of the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD) in 1998, and the prize of Global Forum for Agricultural Research (GFAR) in 2003. During the last few years, AREA has successfully declined the food gap and conserves environmental resources especially rational use of irrigation water. It introduces and transfers covering agriculture to the mountains to maximize the economic return of land and water resources. AREA focused its activities on institutional strengthening and capacity building of research staff; it has been created an internal network and website. Improved crops using new agricultural technology (wheat, barley, maize, cotton, legumes, and onions) has been developed and produced. The authority staff surveyed different agro-ecological zones to document plant species and created GIS maps. AREA researchers succeeded in producing manure from agricultural by-products, and in improving sheep races. Information tools and printed materials prepared and disseminated to farmers and beneficiaries, however, agricultural exhibitions, field days, seminars, and demonstrations were conducted.



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