

20
1999-2019



نزرع للغد

ICBA
AGRICULTURE FOR TOMORROW



ICBA at 20

A Look at History

Celebrating 20 Years of Achievement

Serving People in Marginal Environments

A photograph of a man in traditional white Arab attire (thobe and ghutra) standing in a lush grove of palm trees. The man is wearing sunglasses and has a beard. The background shows more palm trees and a clear blue sky. The foreground is slightly out of focus, showing the ground and some low-lying plants.

**Give me agriculture and
I will give you civilization.**

H.H. Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan

Image Credit: National Archives

Contents

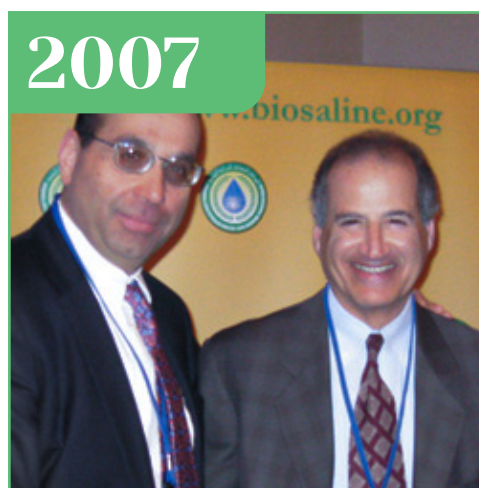


8 Birth of New Center

- 6 Foreword from the Director General
- 8 Birth of New Center
- 10 Beginning of Journey
- 11 First Director General and Board Chair
- 12 New Name
- 13 Genebank
- 14 New Partnerships
- 16 First International Symposium
- 17 First Training Course in Central Asia
- 18 First Multi-country Projects
- 20 Second Board Chair
- 21 Soil Survey for the Emirate of Abu Dhabi
- 22 Second Director General Assumes Office
- 23 New Board of Directors



18 First Multi-country Projects



22 Second Director General Assumes Office



25 Arab Water Academy

- 24 Strategic Plan 2008-2012
- 25 Arab Water Academy
- 26 ICBA Turns 10
- 28 UAE and IsDB Extend Support for ICBA
- 30 UAE Water Conservation Strategy
- 32 ICBA Welcomes Third Director General
- 34 Oman Salinity Strategy
- 36 New Strategy 2013-2023
- 38 New Brand Identity
- 40 Third Board Chair
- 42 Conference on Treated Wastewater Use
- 44 UAE and IsDB Renew Support for ICBA
- 46 Emirates Soil Museum
- 48 International Quinoa Conference
- 50 ICBA Ventures into Drone Technology
- 52 UAE State Ministers for Food Security and Advanced Sciences Visit ICBA
- 54 IsDB Group President Visits ICBA
- 56 Desert Life Sciences Center in UAE
- 58 New Board of Directors
- 60 ICBA and BADEA: Building Capacities in Africa
- 62 ICBA and Sida: Boosting Cooperation in Euphrates-Tigris River Basin
- 64 International Innovation Center for Aral Sea Basin
- 66 ICBA and USAID: Drought Management in Middle East, North Africa
- 68 ICBA and IFAD Cement Long-term Partnership
- 70 Open Day for UAE Farmers
- 72 ICBA and FAO Ink Landmark Agreements
- 74 Arab Women Leaders in Agriculture Program
- 76 ICBA People

2012



32 **ICBA Welcomes
Third Director
General**

2016



46 **Emirates
Soil Museum**



Dr. Ismahane Elouafi
Director General

Foreword from the Director General

When ICBA was formed in 1999 by the Government of the United Arab Emirates and the Islamic Development Bank, salinization was a major problem in many countries of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

So ICBA was tasked with finding solutions to effectively manage soil and water salinity and use different types of saline water in agriculture. Since then ICBA has done a great deal to develop and introduce suitable crops

and technologies to improve agriculture in salt-affected and other degraded environments.

They include salt-tolerant and halophytic crops; improved land and water management practices that control salinity, improve water use efficiency and rehabilitate degraded soils; controlled-environment and integrated agri-aquaculture systems; and many others.

But due to lack of concerted global action and long-term dedicated funding, among other things, salinization has been on the rise.



They include salt-tolerant and halophytic crops; improved land and water management practices that control salinity, improve water use efficiency and rehabilitate degraded soils; controlled-environment and integrated agri-aquaculture systems; and many others.

Every day since the early 1990s some 2,000 hectares of irrigated land in arid and semi-arid areas across 75 countries have been degraded by salt.

Over the years not only the scale but also the range of threats to food, water and income security of vulnerable communities around the world has increased.

In response, ICBA has expanded its mandate to deal with a broader set of challenges in marginal environments where around 1.7 billion people live.

Today ICBA identifies, tests and introduces climate-smart crops and resource-efficient technologies in different regions.

ICBA has been helping to improve food security and livelihoods for thousands of smallholder and marginal farmers from Africa to the Middle East to Central Asia.

For example, the center has been equipping smallholder and marginal farmers with stress-tolerant crops such as quinoa and pearl millet and skills to grow them so that they are better prepared for climate change-related risks.

To tackle water scarcity, ICBA has been promoting resource-efficient technologies like small-scale irrigation and the use of saline water and treated wastewater for food, feed and biofuel production.

Through climate change modeling and downscaling, ICBA has been helping decision-makers to address climate change effects on water and agriculture.

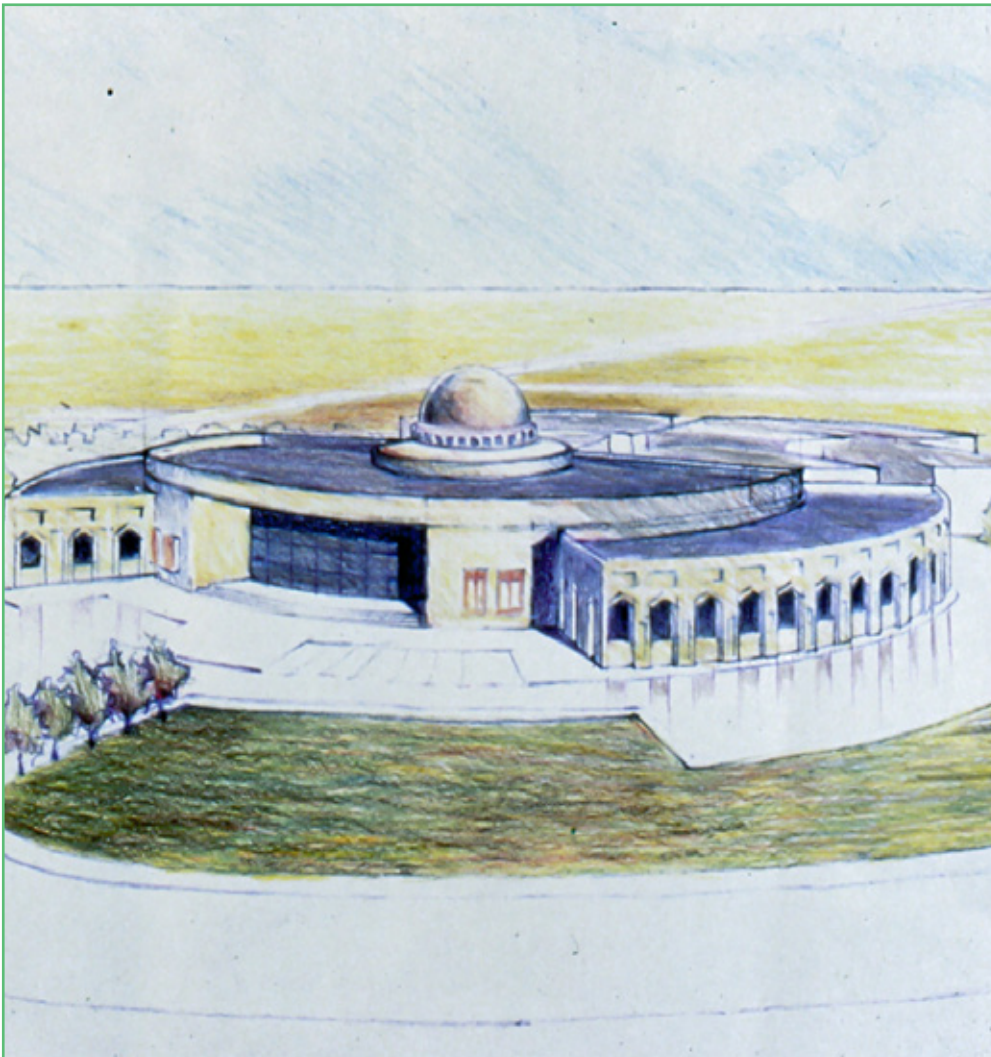
Over the years ICBA has also advised policymakers in many countries on agriculture, food, salinity and water management strategies.

A lot has been achieved since ICBA set out on its mission. But even more is yet to be done as the world population is projected to reach 8.5 billion by 2030 and future food security is threatened by climate change.

As the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development defines a plan of action for people, the planet and prosperity over the coming years, ICBA will also contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals.

So long as there are vulnerable farming communities around the world, ICBA will continue to work towards ensuring their food and nutrition security and improving their livelihoods.

Birth of New Center



1990

In the late 1980s and the early 1990s salinization was becoming a serious problem in many parts of the world. It caused growing concern in member countries of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation. So scientists and policymakers started looking into how saline soil and water resources could be used for agricultural and other purposes.



H.H. Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan was a strong advocate for agricultural development and cultivation of salt-tolerant plants in desert environments. H.H. Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan initiated and sponsored a major international conference on the cultivation of highly salt-tolerant plants in arid regions at the UAE University in Al Ain, the United Arab Emirates, in December 1990. This and another international conference in the same year at the Islamic Development Bank's headquarters in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, first put forward the idea of establishing a dedicated research and development center to promote biosaline agriculture in the Gulf region.

Beginning of Journey



1999

Focusing initially on the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, BAC began its operation in four programmatic areas:



Improving existing forage production systems



Developing new forage production systems



Assessing opportunities for coastal greening



Information management and technology demonstration

First Director General and Board Chair



1999

Dr. Mohammad Al-Attar, a marine biologist with a Ph.D. from the University College of North Wales, Bangor, the UK, joined the center in September 1999 as its first Director General and Chair of the Board of Directors. He was also chair of the Technical Advisory Committee which advised the IsDB on the establishment of BAC. And prior to his appointment, he was Deputy Director General for Research, Life and Environmental Sciences at the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research.

New Name



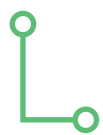
2000

On 10 December 2000 Dr. Mohammad Al-Attar officially announced that BAC had been renamed the International Center for Biosaline Agriculture in line with a decision to this effect by the Board of Directors and other stakeholders. The decision reflected the international scope of the center's activities.

Genebank



The genebank serves as a unique repository of plant genetic resources from around the world.



2000

ICBA established its genebank in 2000 with a mission to collect, preserve and distribute seeds of plant species with proven or potential salinity, heat and drought tolerance.

New Partnerships



2001

In February 2001 ICBA signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Environmental Research and Wildlife Development Agency (ERWDA). The document was signed by H.E. Mohammed Al Bowardi, Managing Director of ERWDA (right), and Dr. Mohammad Al-Attar, Director General of ICBA (left).



2001

In March 2001 ICBA entered into a collaborative agreement with the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT). Dr. William Dar, Director General of ICRISAT (left), and Dr. Mohammad Al-Attar, Director General of ICBA (right), exchanged copies of the Memorandum of Understanding in the presence of senior staff from both organizations in Hyderabad, India.

First International Symposium



2001

On 18-20 March 2001 more than 150 delegates from 22 countries, as well as representatives of ten regional and international organizations, attended an international symposium titled “Prospects of Saline Agriculture in the GCC Countries” in Dubai, the UAE. It was ICBA’s first international event. Organized in collaboration with the UAE Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the IsDB and the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), the symposium was held under the patronage of H.E. Saeed Bin Mohammed Al Raqbani, UAE Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

First Training Course in Central Asia



2003

On 12-21 May 2003 ICBA organized its first training course outside the UAE in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Titled “Biosaline agriculture and sustainable production systems”, the course brought together 25 agricultural professionals from governmental and non-governmental institutions in Central Asia and the Caucasus. The course was arranged in collaboration with ICARDA and co-funded by the Private Office of H.H. UAE President, the IsDB, the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) and the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom (DFID).

First Multi-country Projects



2004

In 2004 ICBA launched its first major multi-country project titled “Saving freshwater resources with salt-tolerant forage production in marginal areas of the West Asia and North Africa region - an opportunity to raise the incomes of the rural poor”. Worth 4m USD, the four-year project was supported by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD), OFID, a grant from the CGIAR Comprehensive Assessment of Water Management in Agriculture through the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), and in-kind contributions from ICBA and the national agricultural research systems in seven countries: Jordan, Oman, Palestine, Pakistan, Syria, Tunisia and the UAE.



2005

In 2005 ICBA, ICARDA and IWMI started a collaborative project “Enabling communities in the Aral Sea Basin to combat land and water resource degradation through the creation of ‘bright spots’”. The three-year project targeting Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan became ICBA’s first with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) as a donor. The project aimed to develop innovative income-generating strategies that make use of marginal water and soil resources. To facilitate the project, ICBA opened an office in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, in February 2005.

Second Board Chair



2005

In November 2005 ICBA welcomed Mr. Fawzi Hamad Al-Sultan as its new Chair of the Board of Directors (left). He joined the Board after many years of an illustrious career. From 2001 to 2004 he served as Secretary General of Kuwait's Higher Committee for Economic Development and Reform. And in 1993-2001 he was President of IFAD.

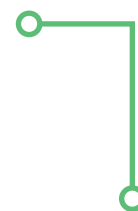
Soil Survey for the Emirate of Abu Dhabi



2007

On 17 January 2007 ICBA launched its largest collaborative project in the UAE. The Soil Survey for the Emirate of Abu Dhabi was officially inaugurated at Remah, a test site 30 km west of Al Ain. ICBA's senior management and staff were joined by H.E. Mr. Majid Al Mansouri, Secretary General of the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD), as well as staff from GRM International, an Australian contractor.

Second Director General Assumes Office



2007

Dr. Shawki Barghouti (left) took up the position of ICBA's Director General at the beginning of April 2007. He took over from Dr. Mohammad Al-Attar who had led the center since its inception in 1999. Prior to joining ICBA, Dr. Shawki Barghouti, a holder of a Ph.D. in Agricultural Development from the University of Wisconsin, the USA, had served with the World Bank in Washington, DC, as Advisor, Agricultural Science and Technology, as well as Manager of the Agriculture and Water Portfolio for South Asia. From 1997 to 1999, he served as Director General of ICRISAT in Hyderabad, India.

New Board of Directors



ICBA's new Board of Directors held its first meeting on 15 June 2007 to discuss a wide range of issues, including the new vision and strategy of the center. The Board included (sitting left to right) Mr. Majid Al Mansouri, Mr. Fawzi Hamad Al-Sultan (chair), Dr. Mona Bishay, Dr. Mohammad Al-Attar, Dr. Mahmoud Solh; (standing left to right) Dr. Shawki Barghouti (director general), Eng. Abdulla Mohammed Rafia, Mr. Mohamed Ennifar, and Dr. Mohammed Al Mulla.

Strategic Plan 2008-2012



2007

On 5-6 February 2007 ICBA organized a strategic planning meeting to discuss the center's vision and strategy for 2008-2012. Building on the center's mandate of biosaline agriculture, *New Horizons: ICBA's Strategic Plan 2008-2012* included new research priorities such as integrated water resources systems and marginal quality water. Under this strategy, ICBA started focusing efforts on helping water-scarce countries to improve the productivity, social equity and environmental sustainability of water use.

The key strategic areas were:

- Integrated water resources systems
- Marginal quality water resources
- Capacity building and knowledge sharing

Arab Water Academy

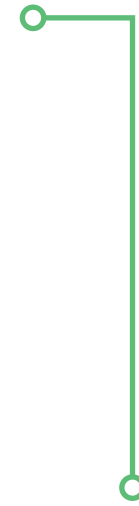


2008

The Arab Water Academy, an institution established by the Arab Water Council and co-hosted by ICBA and EAD, was officially launched on 6 July 2008 in Abu Dhabi, the UAE. The ceremony was held under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Hamdan Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister of the UAE and Chairman of the Board of EAD.

ICBA Turns 10





2009

2009 marked an important milestone in ICBA's history. The center turned 10. So ICBA organized a major event on 25-26 March 2009 under the patronage of H.E. Dr. Rashid Ahmad Bin Fahad, UAE Minister of Environment and Water, to celebrate the occasion.

Dignitaries in attendance included H.E. Dr. Rashid Ahmad Bin Fahad, UAE Minister of Environment and Water, H.E. Saeed Bin Mohammed Al Raqbani, Former UAE Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, H.E. Dr. Ahmed Mohamed Ali Al-Madani, President of the IsDB, H.E. Mr. Majid Al Mansouri, Secretary General of EAD.

UAE and IsDB Extend Support for ICBA





2010

On 12 April 2010 the UAE Government and the IsDB signed a revised and extended agreement concerning the financial support for ICBA. The agreement was signed by H.E. Dr. Rashid Ahmad Bin Fahad, UAE Minister of Environment and Water, and H.E. Dr. Ahmed Mohamed Ali Al-Madani, President of the IsDB Group, in the presence of senior representatives of the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the UAE. This support enabled the center to expand its research agenda on integrated water resources management, agricultural development and institutional development in marginal areas.

UAE

Water Conservation Strategy



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & WATER

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

WATER CONSERVATION STRATEGY

2010

إستراتيجية المحافظة على الموارد المائية في دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة

٢٠١٠



الإمارات العربية المتحدة
وزارة البيئة والمياه



2010

In late 2010 ICBA developed the United Arab Emirates Water Conservation Strategy in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Water of the UAE in response to the UAE Government's vision for sustainable development of natural resources and achievement of water security. The strategy provides a framework for sustainable management of the country's water resources over the period to 2021.

The document was prepared based on a scientific analysis of the main factors affecting the supply and demand for water in the country. This incorporated all water supplies – natural resources, desalination and reclaimed water – and all water uses. To implement the strategy, the Ministry of Environment and Water adopted its eight important initiatives to guide the comprehensive management of water as an integrated resource.

ICBA Welcomes Third Director General





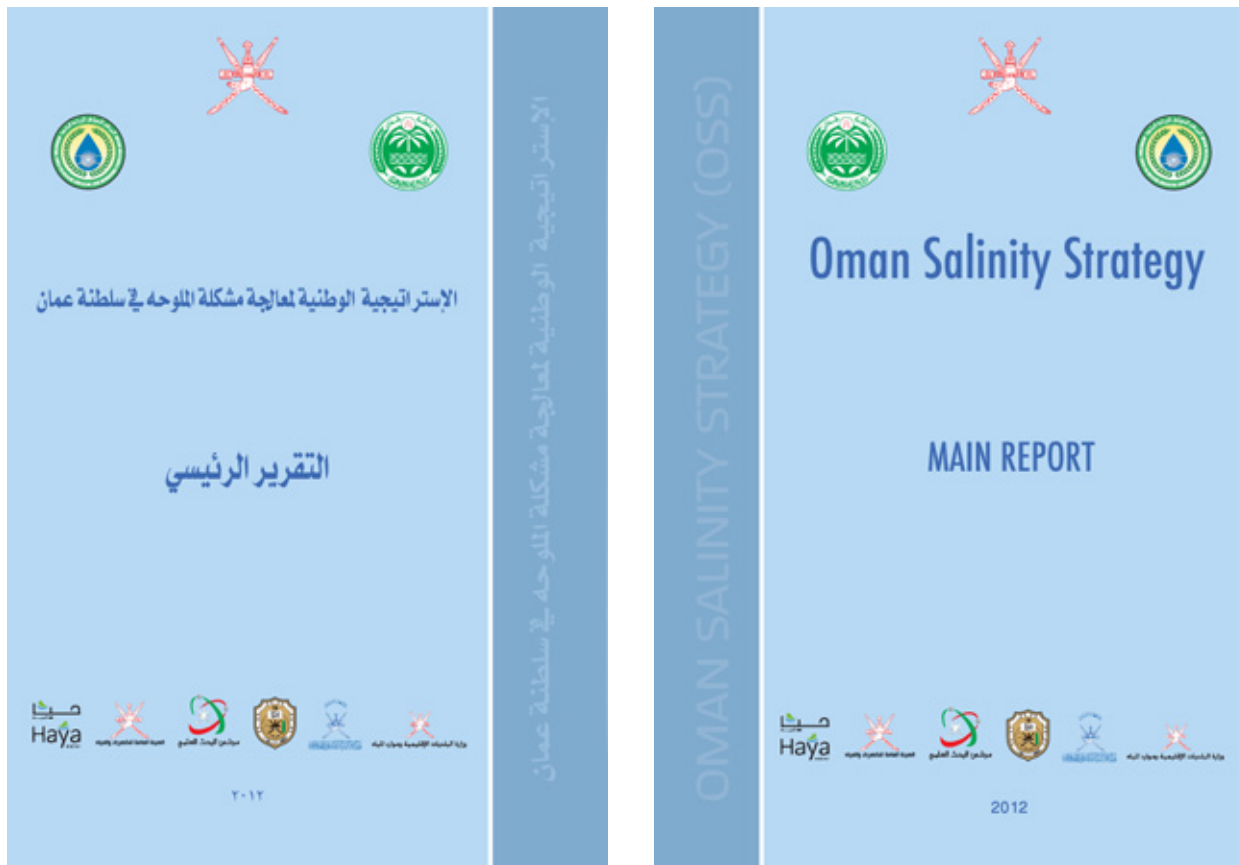
2012

In August 2012 Dr. Ismahane Elouafi, a dual national of Morocco and Canada, took up the position of Director General. Prior to her appointment, she was Director of Research Management and Partnerships Division at the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. She had also previously served as Senior Adviser to the Assistant Deputy Minister, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) Research Branch in Ottawa, Canada. She received a Ph.D. in Genetics from the University of Cordoba, Spain, in 2001. Dr. Ismahane Elouafi was welcomed by the Board of Directors, which included Mr. Fawzi Hamad Al-Sultan (chair); H.E. Abdelrahim Mohammed Abdullah Al Hammadi; H.E. Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak; Mr. Mohammad Jamal Alsaati; Dr. Khalida Bouzar; Mr. Adel Abdulla Al Hosani; Dr. Mahmoud Solh; and Dr. David J. Molden.

Oman

Salinity Strategy





2012

In October 2012 Oman launched its national strategy to combat salinity and protect water resources from pollution and salinity. ICBA played a major role in leading the formulation of the strategy in collaboration with the Directorate General of Agriculture and Livestock Research of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries of Oman.

The study indicated that excessive water use was the prime cause of salinization of agricultural soils in the country. It recommended alternative strategies to improve water use and monitoring, soil management and agricultural production in different soil and water conditions, strategic options to reduce seawater intrusion, and short-, medium- and long-term tactics to implement solutions across Oman.

New Strategy 2013–2023



2012

As the Strategic Plan 2008–2012 was expiring, ICBA held a foresight and strategic planning symposium in November 2012 to develop a new strategy. Key partners from national, regional and international organizations participated in a series of workshops to define the center's future direction considering the dynamics of land and water resources, and the likely impacts of climate change and other challenges to agricultural production in the next decade and beyond.



2013

The insights from the symposium informed the new strategy for 2013-2023. In March 2013 ICBA's Board of Directors approved the new ICBA Strategy 2013-2023, which took innovation as a core principle. The strategy placed a strong emphasis on innovative solutions to food and water security in marginal environments. It set a new course for ICBA's research and development programs.

New Brand Identity



نزرع للغد

ICBA

AGRICULTURE FOR TOMORROW



2014

In March 2014 ICBA launched its new brand identity. The new brand identity is the logical extension of ICBA's Strategy 2013-2023. It is based on the center's core values:

1. Professionalism and integrity
2. Partnership and teamwork
3. Excellence and innovation
4. People

ICBA also adopted a new logo which reflects the center's forward-looking vision.

Third Board Chair



2014

In 2014 ICBA welcomed Prof. Abdulrahman Sultan Alsharhan, an Emirati scientist, as the new Chair of the Board of Directors. Before his appointment, Prof. Abdulrahman Sultan Alsharhan had held various senior positions at the UAE University and the UAE Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, including Director of the UAE University's Desert and Marine Environment Research Center, Dean of the Faculty of Science of the UAE University, and Head of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Section.

He completed a B.Sc. in Geology in Cairo, Egypt, and received an M.Sc. and a Ph.D. in Geology from the University of South Carolina, the USA.



Other members of the new Board of Directors included Mr. Saif Mohammed Al Shara; Dr. Jaber Eidha Al Jaber; Mr. Mohammad Jamal Alsaati; Mr. Adel Abdulla Al Hosani; Ms. Roula Majdalani; Dr. Yvon Martel; and Dr. Amit Roy.

Conference on Treated Wastewater Use





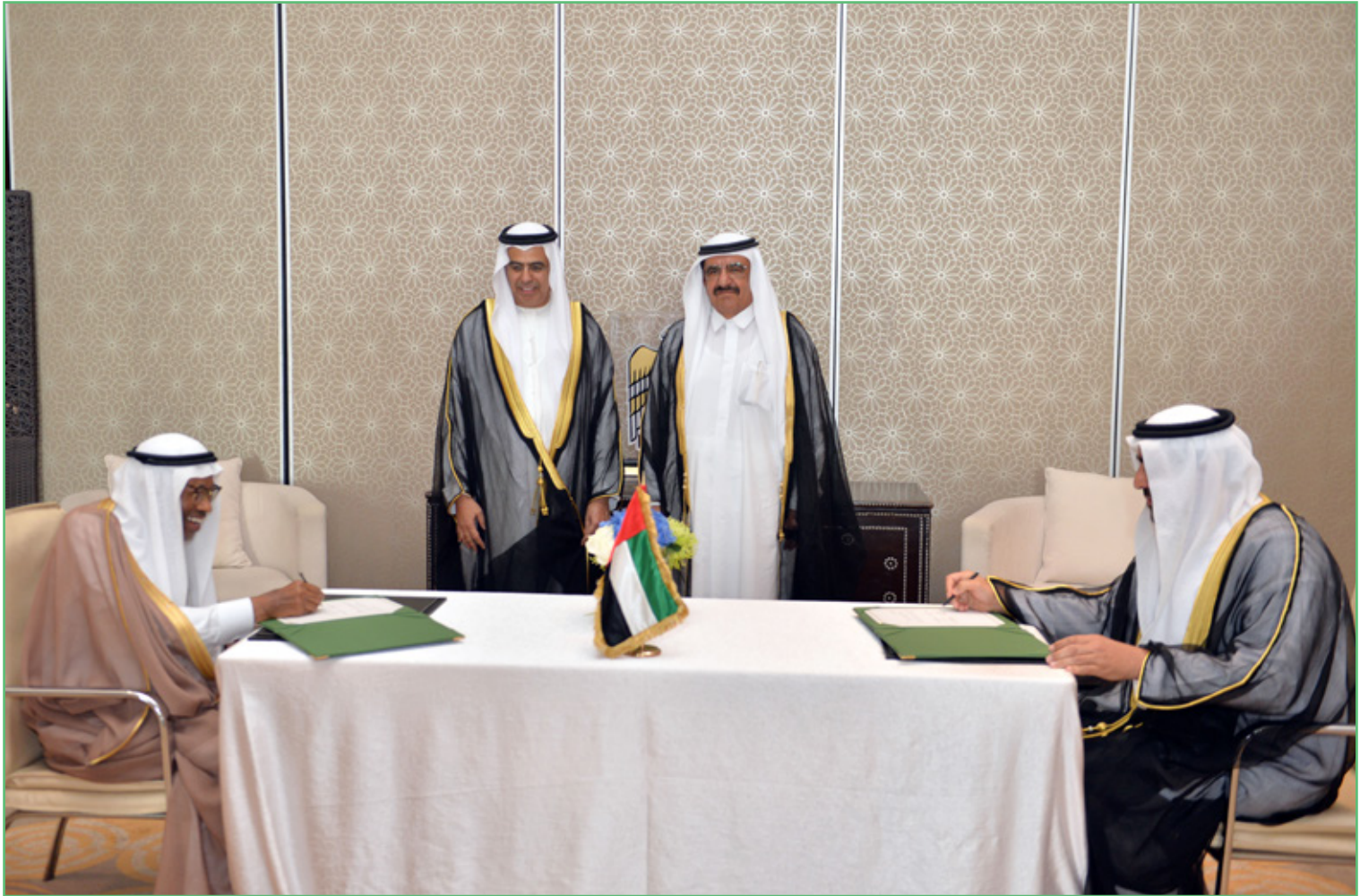
2014

On 14-16 January 2014 ICBA organized a major regional conference titled “Use of Treated Wastewater in Agricultural Production in the Arab World: Current Status and Future Prospects” in Dubai, the UAE. Held under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Minister of Finance and Deputy Ruler of Dubai, the conference brought together more than 120 leading Arab and international experts to discuss the challenges and opportunities of reusing treated wastewater for agricultural production in the Middle East and North Africa, share lessons learned, identify gaps and needs, as well as future directions. As an outcome of the conference, ICBA prepared an extensive report that highlights the main recommendations and insights.



UAE and IsDB Renew Support for ICBA





2014

2014 marked another milestone in ICBA's history as the UAE Government and the IsDB renewed their agreement to support ICBA. The agreement was signed in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on 24 June 2014 by President of the IsDB Group Dr. Ahmad Mohamed Ali and H.E. Dr. Rashid Ahmad Bin Fahad, the UAE Minister of Environment and Water, in the presence of H.H. Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Minister of Finance and Deputy Ruler of Dubai, and H.E. Obaid Humaid Al Tayer, UAE Minister of State for Financial Affairs.

Emirates Soil Museum





2016

In December 2016 ICBA and the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD) inaugurated the Emirates Soil Museum, a unique facility in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries and the Middle East and North Africa region. Based on the premises of ICBA in Dubai, the museum is dedicated to the role of soils in the environment, agriculture and food security, as well as types of soil found in the UAE. In addition to serving as an information hub, the museum is a critical element of building awareness around the issues of soil degradation and loss.

International Quinoa Conference





2016

In December 2016 ICBA organized one of the biggest international conferences dedicated to quinoa since 2013 was declared the International Year of Quinoa by the United Nations. Titled “Quinoa for Future Food and Nutrition Security in Marginal Environments”, the conference gathered in Dubai over 150 leaders, policymakers, scientists, experts and professionals from 46 countries.

ICBA Ventures into Drone Technology





2017

In March 2017 ICBA hosted an international training course on unmanned aerial vehicles for remote sensing and photogrammetry – the first of its kind in the Gulf region. Over 25 specialists from four countries, including 16 from the UAE, completed the specialized course organized in partnership with the Arabian Gulf University, Bahrain; BCN Drone Center, Spain; and Falcon Eye Drones, the UAE.

UAE State Ministers for Food Security and Advanced Sciences Visit ICBA





2018

In January 2018 H.E. Mariam bint Mohammed Saeed Hareb Almheiri, UAE Minister of State for Food Security, and H.E. Sarah bint Yousif Al Amiri, UAE Minister of State for Advanced Sciences, paid a special visit ICBA to learn about the center's advances in and contributions to agricultural science and technology.

H.E. Mariam Almheiri and H.E. Sarah Al Amiri toured ICBA's research facilities accompanied by Professor Abdulrahman Sultan Alsharhan, Chair of ICBA's Board of Directors, Dr. Ismahane Elouafi, ICBA's Director General, and Ms. Seta Tutundjian, Director of Partnerships and Knowledge Management Division.

IsDB Group President Visits ICBA





2018

In February 2018 H.E. Dr. Bandar M. H. Hajjar, President of the IsDB Group, paid his first visit to ICBA to learn about the center's advances in and contributions to agricultural research and development in different regions, and particularly IsDB member countries.

Desert Life Sciences Center in UAE





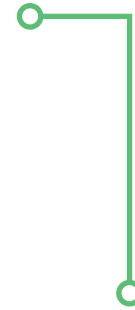
2018



In March 2018 ICBA and the BGI Group, the world's largest genomics research institution, agreed to establish a dedicated, cutting-edge genomics center in the UAE. Named the Desert Life Sciences Center, the new facility will conduct in-depth studies of the genome structure of stress-tolerant crops like quinoa, Amaranthus, Salicornia, and others. The agreement of intent was signed during a symposium on genomics in Abu Dhabi under the patronage of H.E. Mariam bint Mohammed Saeed Hareb Almheiri, UAE Minister of State for Food Security, and H.E. Sarah bint Yousif Al Amiri, UAE Minister of State for Advanced Sciences.

New Board of Directors





2018

In June 2018 H.E. Mariam bint Mohammed Saeed Hareb Almheiri, UAE Minister of State for Food Security, approved a new nine-member Board of Directors, comprising renowned leaders and experts from governmental and non-governmental organizations, donor agencies, and international research and development organizations. H.E. Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak, Managing Director of EAD, became the new Chair of the Board of Directors. Other members of the new Board of Directors include H.E. Mohamed Saif Al-Suwaidi; Mr. Mohammad Jamal Alsaati; Dr. Abdelouahhab Zaid; Dr. Kanayo F. Nwanze; Mr. Essa Abdulrahman Alhashmi; Dr. Ursula Schaefer-Preuss; Dr. Ren Wang; and Prof. Quentin Grafton.

ICBA and BADEA: Building Capacities in Africa





2018

For more than a decade ICBA has closely worked with the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) on a wide range of programs in African countries. Individual and institutional capacity development has been an integral part of this long-term collaboration.

In 2018 BADEA funded two major regional training courses by ICBA in Ghana and Benin respectively. Since 2007 BADEA has supported ten ICBA-led capacity-building programs for African scientists, extension specialists and government officials on, among other things, small-scale irrigation technologies in saline areas and reclamation of salt-affected lands. These programs have benefitted 212 specialists from 41 African countries.



ICBA and Sida: Boosting Cooperation in Euphrates-Tigris River Basin





2018

In 2018 ICBA successfully completed a five-year initiative called Collaborative Programme Euphrates and Tigris. Funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), the program helped to improve collaboration on water management between riparian countries of the Euphrates and Tigris River Basin. It enabled the countries to make progressive steps towards improved national and regional water management. The program also generated new information and knowledge on water use, services and impacts in the Euphrates and Tigris region.

The program was implemented jointly with the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), the American University of Beirut, ICARDA, Stockholm Environment Institute, the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute and national partner institutions.

International Innovation Center for Aral Sea Basin



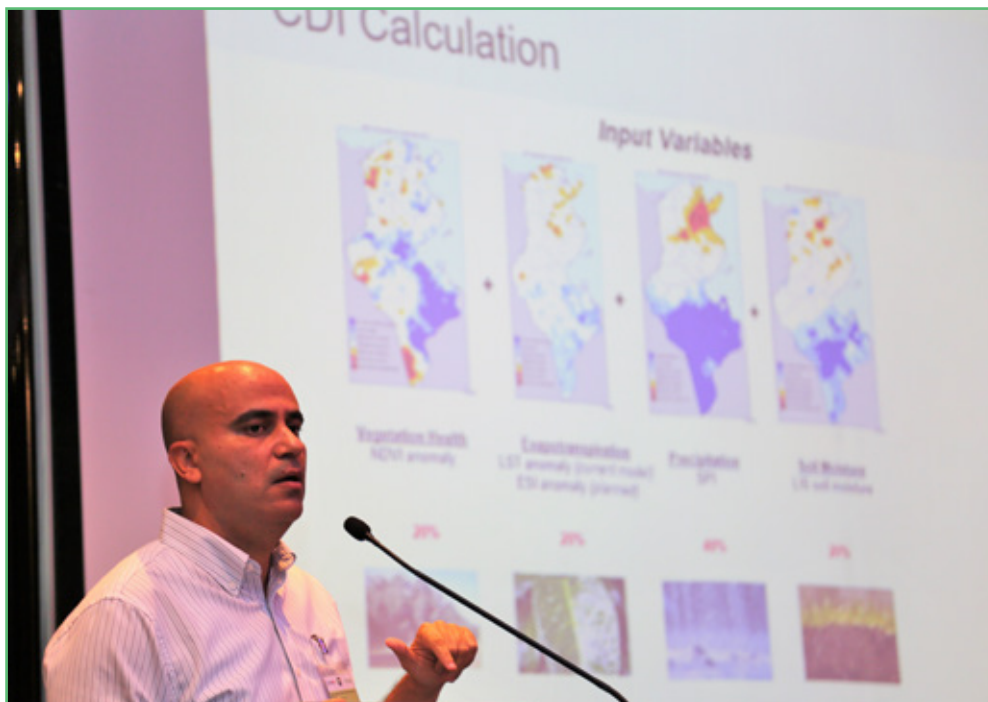


2018

In October 2018 ICBA and the Ministry of Innovative Development of Uzbekistan signed a Memorandum of Understanding to establish the International Innovation Center for the Aral Sea Basin under the President of Uzbekistan. In collaboration with ICBA and other international research, development and donor institutions, the new center will work towards addressing, among other things, problems of soil and water salinity, water scarcity and climate change impact in the Aral Sea region.

ICBA and USAID: Drought Management in Middle East, North Africa





2018

In 2018 ICBA successfully completed a project funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to establish a regional drought management system in the Middle East and North Africa. Together with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the University of Nebraska – Lincoln, ICBA developed drought monitoring systems for Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia and trained local specialists in operating these systems.



This project followed another USAID-funded project called the Management of Agriculture and Water Resources Development, implemented in 2009–2015 jointly with NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center. The project developed climate, water and crop models suited to the conditions of the region to support decision-making at different levels in Iraq, Jordan, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia and Yemen.

ICBA and IFAD

Cement Long-term Partnership





2018

On 13 November 2018 ICBA and IFAD signed a new agreement to strengthen collaboration on agricultural development and food security in developing countries, contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The agreement builds on nearly 15 years of cooperation between the two organizations in the Middle East and North Africa. The collaboration dates back to 2004 when ICBA began its first major multi-country project titled “Saving freshwater resources with salt-tolerant forage production in marginal areas of the West Asia and North Africa region - an opportunity to raise the incomes of the rural poor”.

In 2019 ICBA launched a four-year project funded by IFAD and BADEA. The project is aimed at improving food security and incomes of



smallholder farmers, particularly women, in salt-affected areas of seven sub-Saharan African countries: Botswana, The Gambia, Liberia, Mozambique, Namibia, Sierra Leone, and Togo.

Open Day for UAE Farmers





2019

On 20 February 2019 more than 100 leading farmers, agri-businesses, senior officials and representatives of different government entities from across the UAE visited a major showcase of tailor-made agri-solutions at ICBA in Dubai. The open day was aimed at presenting to local farmers, agri-businesses and other stakeholders a wide range of agri-technologies and crops that had been developed, tested and proven by ICBA and its partners to perform well in local conditions.



ICBA and FAO Ink Landmark Agreements





2019

In March 2019 ICBA and FAO signed two landmark agreements, expanding their cooperation on plant genetic resources, biosaline agriculture and climate change adaptation in the world's marginal environments. The first agreement was signed during an awards ceremony of the Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation in Abu Dhabi in the presence of H.H. Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahayan, UAE Minister of Tolerance, within the framework of Article 15 of the FAO International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. The second agreement was signed during an open day for UAE farmers at ICBA in Dubai in the presence of H.E. Mariam bint Mohammed Saeed Hareb Almheiri, UAE Minister of State for Food Security; H.E. Dr. Bandar M. H. Hajjar, President of the IsDB Group; and H.E. Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak, Managing Director of the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi and Chair of ICBA's Board of Directors.

Arab Women Leaders in Agriculture Program





2019

In June 2019 a select group of promising Arab women scientists from across the Middle East and North Africa region became the first fellows of the Arab Women Leaders in Agriculture program. The inaugural cohort included 22 women scientists from Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia. The first edition of the program was funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the IsDB and CGIAR Research Program on Wheat.

The program was initially piloted in May 2017 jointly with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the IsDB.

ICBA People



ICBA's people are at the heart of its continued growth and success. The center has gone from strength to strength over the past 20 years thanks to the dedication and contributions by its many employees, both past and present. ICBA is and will always be proud of its people.





INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR BIOSALINE AGRICULTURE

Agriculture for tomorrow

ICBA Headquarters

Al Ruwayyah 2, Academic City
P.O. Box 14660, Dubai
United Arab Emirates
Email: icba@biosaline.org.ae
Phone: +971 4 304 63 00

ICBA Central Asia and South Caucasus

6 Osiyo Street, P.O. Box 4375
Tashkent, 100083
Uzbekistan
Email: a.karimov@biosaline.org.ae
Phone: +998 71 237 21 69

www.biosaline.org

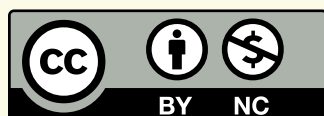
Proudly supported by:



الأمن الغذائي
FOOD SECURITY



Creative Commons License



This publication is distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License (CC BY-NC 4.0).

© 2019 ICBA.